

PORT COMMUNITY HOLDS 2ND THINK TANK FORUM: 9TH MARCH 2018

The Mombasa Port stakeholders held their second Think Tank Forum and annual review of the Port Community Charter on 1st March, 2018 at the Pride Inn Resort, Mombasa. The forum was notably presided by Mr. James Macharia, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development (MOTIHUD) accompanied by Prof. Paul Maringa, Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport and Mrs. Nancy Karigithu, Principal Secretary, State Department of Shipping and Maritime affairs. Other key participants in the forum were Cosmas Cherop, former Ag. Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority, Catherine Wairi, Managing Director - Kenya Ports Authority, Gilbert Langat- Chairperson of the Port Community Charter and Chief Executive Officer of the Shippers Council of East Africa and James Nganga, a representative from Trademark East Africa.



Mombasa Port stakeholders listen attentively during the 2nd Port Community Think Tank forum.

The forum was aimed at enhancing coordination amongst cargo interveners, improving productivity and efficiency at the Port of Mombasa and along the Northern Corridor, reducing cost and increasing ease of doing business and reviewing the Port Charter.

Participants in the meeting articulated the achievements of the Port Community Charter, identified the challenges to the Charter's implementation and recommended measures needed to enhance the effectiveness of the Charter. Delegates also engaged in interactive discussions on important thematic issues required to unlock the potential of the Charter, issues for consideration in the Charter's review including incorporation of drivers to the Blue economy development. The forum's deliberations also highlighted issues in Maritime transport, port operations and the Corridor.

Speaking to participants, James Macharia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, reiterated the importance of the Port Community Charter.

“Without the success of the Port Charter, we have no chance of achieving a successful regional integration,” he said.

Mr. Macharia also noted that silo mentality hindered the success and development of the Port Community Charter and should be shunned as it results to inefficiencies, unnecessary overlays and wastage of resources. He also encouraged stakeholders to support and utilize the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) considering its huge potential to address logistical challenges experienced at the Port of Mombasa and along the transport chain.

“ Let us remember that we are making our country competitive for business within and beyond Africa,” Prof. Maringa, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport added, “Ultimately what we want is dependability, efficiency and competitiveness in our processes.”

“Business should be left to operate in an environment that is competitive, cost-effective and efficient,” restated Gilbert Langat, the Chairperson of the Port Community Charter, “We are hopeful that the voice of the private sector will be entrenched in the regulatory framework of Kenya Maritime Authority.