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Press Release

Kenya to celebrate 1st African Day of the Seas and Oceans

Kenya will observe its 1st African Day of the Seas and Oceans together other maritime nations and administrations around Africa on July 25th. The theme of this year's celebrations is "*Harnessing the Blue economy in achieving the African Union Agenda 2063*". The Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) is leading Kenyans into observing the day by carrying out maritime outreach programmes and creating awareness about Kenya's Blue economy to the public and in institutions of learning in order to encourage Kenyans to actively participate in the development and growth of the nation's Blue economy and maritime sector. KMA in partnership with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and stakeholders in the maritime sector has also finalized work on the Integrated National Maritime Policy which incorporates the African Union's Maritime Vision and Strategy on the maximization of the country's Blue economy prospective.

The day was declared as Africa's Day of the Seas and Oceans by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2015 in order to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by urging African states to develop sustainable thriving blue economies in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner.

The African Day of the Seas and Oceans was established as part of Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy to affirm the potential of Africa's Blue economy and progress it further, and is aimed at helping African nations reflect on their rich marine resources and how they can best utilize and optimize their maritime resources to contribute to Africa's economic growth and transformation. A blue economy is an ocean- based economy which contributes to the wellbeing of citizens in an economically and environmentally sustainable way.

According to the African Union, Africa's Blue economy/ ocean economy is three times the size of its landmass and shall be a major contributor to the continent's transformation and growth through enhancement and dissemination of knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an African-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, fishing and exploitation of deep sea mineral and other resources.

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