



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Press brief

#### **Kenya Maritime Authority sensitizes Rwandan Shippers on global practices**

The Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) in collaboration with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) has organized a trade facilitation workshop on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at the Lemigo Hotel, Rwanda to sensitize shippers in Rwanda on the amendment to the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) which enters into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. The amendment will make it mandatory for a shipper of a packed container(s) using merchant ships to verify the gross mass of the container prior to its delivery for loading at a Port. The forum will also sensitize the business community on correct export and import practices in order to streamline industry practices within the region and increase profitability of the maritime sector.

The forum is also aimed at equipping stakeholders in the maritime sector with a practical knowledge of use of appropriate International Commercial Terms commonly referred to as INCOTERMS. Incoterms are a set of international rules governing the relationship between a buyer and a seller in the international sale contract.

The workshop will empower Rwandese shippers along the Northern Corridor transit axis to compete globally and increase the economic benefits realized from international trade. Stakeholders in the industry will also be sensitized on how to protect themselves against liabilities when they participate in international sale agreements.

Growth in global trade volumes and other complexities have changed the trading operating environment and have brought into attention the inefficient clearance procedures and national security concerns. Traders are faced with slow, cumbersome and costly customs/trade clearance processes and lost business opportunities. The logistics cost in some parts of the world is 4% to 9% of the value of goods compared to the estimated 30% to 40% for goods passing through the

Port of Mombasa. Studies have shown that implementation of trade facilitation measures have many benefits including: increase of government revenue; expansion of trade and investments; increase of employment opportunities; improved savings and profits for traders.

The education of the Rwandese shippers, who use the Port of Mombasa, on the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) new regulations on Container Weights Verification is important since all shippers will be required to verify the gross mass of containers before they are allowed to load onto ships. The mandatory law governing Safety of Life at Sea is set to come into force on 1st July, 2016. When the law comes into force, shippers who do not comply with the regulations will not have their containers loaded onto ships and risk having their registration withdrawn.

Other topics that will be covered during the forum include: Inter-agency collaboration in trade facilitation – A Port Community perspective.

A similar shippers forum has also been organized by KMA in partnership with the Northern Corridor Transit Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, Uganda to educate Ugandan shippers on the amendment to the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) which enters into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

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