



PRESS BRIEF

Kenya Maritime Authority to maintain water safety during the Lamu Cultural Festival

The Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) has partnered with the Lamu County Government, the Lamu Cultural Promotion group and local lifesaving groups to safeguard, instill a water safety culture among the public and respond to water emergencies during the upcoming Lamu Cultural Festival scheduled to begin on 10th November, 2016 in Lamu. As a key stakeholder in Lamu, the Authority has sponsored key dhow races which include the Kasa and Mashua races and donated 100 life jackets to the participants with the aim of encouraging boat operators and owners to practice water safety guidelines and contribute towards making water transport in Lamu safer.

Considering that the Lamu cultural festival attracts multitudes of visitors to the island from various parts of the country and internationally who will use water transport to arrive to the main island, the presence of the Maritime regulator during the festival will ensure that maritime safety is guaranteed for all and necessary water safety precautions are not overlooked. The presence of the Authority will also ensure that the water activities and sports scheduled for the festival are secure and vessels being operated are seaworthy in order to avert water accidents.

Maritime transport is the lifeline of Lamu County where people and property are transported to and from Lamu by water crafts. Considering that during the festival,

people from various regions in the country and overseas visit Lamu, safeguarding water safety and sensitizing the public and visitors on water safety precautions is a key emphasis during the cultural festival event.

Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) is a statutory body mandated to regulate, coordinate and oversee maritime affairs in Kenya through ensuring maritime safety and security among other functions.

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