



**REMARKS BY THE AG. DIRECTOR GENERAL, KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY, MR COSMAS CHEROP AT THE OCCASSION OF THE WORLD MARITIME DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT PRIDE IN PARADISE CONVENTION CENTRE AT 9.00 AM.**

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The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Urban Housing Development;

The Chairman Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA);

The Acting Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority;

The Managing Director, KPA;

The Managing Director, Kenya Ferry,

Heads of other Government and Shipping Companies,

H.E, the Governor, Mombasa County,

The County Commissioner, Mombasa,

Consulate representatives,

The Chairperson, Seafarers Union of Kenya,

The maritime and shipping fraternity,

Seafarers Union of Kenya,

Distinguished Guests,

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

This year's World Maritime Day theme is significant as it draws our attention to Kenya's maritime industry; "Shipping: Indispensable in the World" .

It draws our attention to our shipping sector, shipping safety and security of shipping, Maritime Education and Training, marine environment all aimed at facilitating international trade on safe and secure oceans, while protecting the marine environment.

Since the celebration of the last World Maritime Day, there have been several developments in the maritime and shipping sector:

The volume of traffic that was handled at the Port of Mombasa continued to grow during the past year. During 2015, a total of 1,076,118 TEUs were handled, up from 1,012,102 in 2014. In the same period, 26.73 million tonnes were handled, up from 24.01 million in 2014. This came hand in hand with the extensive infrastructural development that has taken place and continues to progress at the Port of Mombasa. The most notable is the launch of the first phase of the Second Container Terminal with a capacity of half a million TEUs.

Following the National Maritime Conference held in Nairobi in 2014, the need for an Integrated Maritime Policy became vital. The policy was to develop a sustainable use of our marine resources to generate opportunities in the sector, thus progressing the National Maritime Strategy.

The African Union has been instrumental in the growth of trade both on the continent and with the rest of the world. During the last one year, several bilateral agreements intended to promote trade have been signed.

To enhance the safety of shipping, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) passed an amendment on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention on Container Weight Verification, which came into force on 1st July 2016. KMA, in partnership with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) took the lead in the preparation and implementation of the amendment. It is now two months, since the amendment came into force, and monitoring of the implementation is ongoing.

The Blue economy concept has now been fully recognized as the vehicle that will deliver the African continent to greater heights in economic development.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

maritime transport continues to be the most important mode of transport for international trade. Over 90% of Kenya's international trade, and indeed for the region, is conveyed by ships. With the steady growth in volumes of traffic being handled at the port, it is noteworthy that there is increased business in the sector, which more Kenyans ought to take advantage of for improved living standards. Agreeably, Kenya, and indeed the rest of the world cannot do without shipping, for it is the backbone of the economy and all aspects of our lives.

**Finally**, on this special day of World Maritime Day, KMA as the regulator of maritime affairs in Kenya urges you to support the maritime agenda and shipping in our country for sustainable development in order to boost opportunities for wealth creation and generation of jobs for Kenyans and contribute towards transforming Kenya into a prosperous maritime nation.