



**Chairman's Speech: Launch of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA)
Search & Rescue Boat in Lamu County: 24 February, 2016**

Our Chief Guest, His Excellency, the Governor of Lamu County, Mr. Issa Timamy,

The County Commissioner, Lamu,

Our esteemed Stakeholders,

The citizens of Lamu County,

The Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority,

Distinguished guests and the entire KMA fraternity,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all to join KMA in launching its first search and rescue boat in Lamu County. You will be elated to learn that even though KMA has acquired other boats for Mombasa and Kisumu counties, Lamu is the first county to host a launch of a KMA search and rescue boat. Indeed, the Authority recognizes the great maritime potential of Lamu County and its prospective to progress further for the economic benefit of its people and the country in general. **Ladies and gentlemen,** your exceptional involvement and overwhelming support to make this day memorable through your attendance and participation cannot be taken for granted. Thank you all.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You will be pleased to learn that the creation of the Kenya Maritime Authority in June 2004 marked a defining moment in the conduct of

maritime affairs in Kenya. KMA, whose mandate is to regulate, coordinate and oversee maritime activities in the country for the maximum socio-economic benefit of stakeholders, and has been in the forefront in:

- ✓ Promoting maritime safety and security on Kenyan waters and instilling a water safety culture among Kenyans;
- ✓ Advising the Government on legislative and other measures necessary for the implementation of relevant international conventions, treaties, agreements to which Kenya is a party;
- ✓ Discharging flag and Port State responsibilities efficiently and effectively by taking into consideration international maritime conventions, treaties, agreements and other international instruments;
- ✓ Overseeing matters pertaining to training, recruitment and welfare of seafarers;
- ✓ Ensuring the fair and humane treatment of our seafarers working onboard foreign vessels;
- ✓ Planning, monitoring and evaluating seafarers' training programmes to ensure conformity with standards laid down in international maritime conventions;
- ✓ Enforcing safety of shipping including compliance with construction regulations; maintenance of safety standards and safety of navigation rules;
- ✓ Conducting regular inspection of ships to ensure maritime safety and prevention of maritime pollution;
- ✓ Upgrading our maritime search and rescue operations at the RMRCC and
- ✓ Conducting investigations into maritime casualties including wreck.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The acquisition of the boat is timely for the Authority considering its crucial role as a regulator and pacesetter in the maritime industry and the need to set practical relevant examples on water safety concerns.

The boat is also part of an elaborate search and rescue program that the Authority is developing for Lamu and will boost search and rescue missions in the entire Lamu region and adjacent islands. The KMA boat will also enhance response time to distress calls at sea, thus playing a significant role in the promotion of safety of life at sea.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to point out that the KMA search and rescue boat will also play a vital role in enhancing the Authority's collaborative efforts in maritime safety, security and enforcement matters in Lamu, with the County Government and other maritime agencies like the Maritime Police, the Kenya Ports Authority, the Kenya Wildlife Service's and the Fisheries department.

The boat will also aid in security patrols on water and enable the Authority experience the challenges lamu boat owners and operators face daily on the island's waters, thus enabling KMA to address boat operators concerns more effectively.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With the launch of the KMA search and rescue boat, the Authority will boost its experience and strategies in search and rescue as well as reinforce

its maritime safety and security role, whilst improving the quality of its services to the public.

KMA is also cognizant of the challenges faced by the users of water transport in Lamu and will continue to reinforce its sensitization efforts to the public with the aim of empowering and instilling in them a water safety culture.

Ladies and gentlemen,

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.” “Keep your eyes on the goal and just keep taking the next step towards it.”

We believe that our aspirations for a sustainable, safe and secure waters in Lamu is possible if we all work together as a team and progress forward in harmony towards the same goal: promoting maritime safety and security on our waters and making water transport in Lamu safe and secure for all.

Thank You!

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Mr. Mwalimu Digore

Chairman, Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority

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