



DG'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,

The Chairman, KMA Board of Directors,

The Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority

Our esteemed Stakeholders,

The citizens of Lamu County,

Distinguished guests and the entire KMA fraternity,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a significant day for KMA and the people of Lamu as we witness the formal commissioning of the first KMA search and rescue boat in Lamu. It does reiterate our commitment to promote safe water transport practices in Lamu and its environs. Your presence in this special occasion is indeed humbling. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been said that "If you want to go fast, go alone, If you want to go far, go together." The Kenya Maritime Authority recognizes that enhancing maritime safety and security is a challenging task that can only be successful from strategic concerted efforts of all stakeholders and inclusiveness of the public's concerns. We believe in the spirit of working together with all our partners in Lamu: the County Government, the County Commissioner, the

Kenya Ports Authority, the Kenya Wildlife Services, the Fisheries department and most important of all, we believe in empowering the citizens of Lamu to recognize and practice a water safety culture.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The acquisition of the KMA search and rescue boat demonstrates our desire to work with the people of Lamu to promote safe water transport practices and enhance safety of life at sea. We have great hopes and plans for the people of Lamu as it relates to ensuring that water transport is safe and secure to enable all citizens reap the full benefits that arise from sustained maritime safety and security. If water transport is safe and secure, then the benefits from the usage of maritime transport thrive and are evident in the optimum use of maritime resources, available opportunities and the overall economic productivity from maritime returns.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A journey of a thousand miles, begins with a single step. We have taken that step together with all of you today. This is a new beginning and anticipation of greater things to come. As Kenya Maritime Authority strives to advance its maritime safety and security strategies in the island, it will continue to engage with you and work with you all towards a common vision of having zero casualty rates on our waters.

Thank You!

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Mr. Cosmas K. Cherop

Ag. Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority

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