



IFTAR RECEPTION FOR KMA STAKEHOLDERS AT NYALI BEACH HOTEL ON 29TH JULY 2016

His Excellency, the Governor, Mombasa County, Mr. Ali. Hassan. Joho,
The County Commissioner, Mombasa County, Mr. Mohammed Maalim,
The Chairman Board of Directors, Kenya Maritime Authority, Mr. Mwalimu Digore Kitambi,
KMA Board of Directors,
Our esteemed stakeholders,
Kenya Maritime Authority staff,

Ladies and gentleman,

“As-Salaam Alaykum”

It is a pleasure to welcome you, our noble stakeholders and I am truly honoured to be part of this iftar reception to break today’s fast and share in one of the great traditions of the Muslim faith. Let us give thanks that we live in a country founded on the principles of religious tolerance and mutual respect. We should however not forget that we come together this evening not only as people of faith but also as those who have taken on the mantle of responsibility of service to the maritime industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, this reception is our way of showing our commitment to and solidarity with all our stakeholders. We are because you are. All the milestones that have been achieved in the maritime industry are attributed to the partnerships that have been forged and fostered amongst us and certainly, with all of you.

On behalf of the Kenya Maritime Authority, I would like to express my gratitude for accepting our invitation to this year's iftar gathering. This is the month of solidarity, mercy and integration for our Muslim brothers.

Tonight is an opportunity for people of different faiths to come together in the spirit of respect and tolerance to share the richness of our beliefs and to enjoy the traditions of hospitality that are such an important part of the muslim community.

We cherish as Kenyans the freedom of religion, that is, the right to worship as we choose. And this is why at Kenya Maritime Authority we celebrate the sacred days of various faiths, since they are occasions to reflect on the teachings that so many religions share, to celebrate the diversity that defines our country Kenya.

For Muslims, Ramadhan is a time of reflection, a chance to demonstrate one's devotion to God through prayer and fasting. But it is also a time for family and friends to come together as we do tonight in a spirit of love and respect.

Ladies and gentlemen, from the onset, the authority has been mandated to regulate and oversee the maritime industry. Maritime safety and security are some of the Authority's core functions. The enactment of the new Merchant Shipping Act 2009 was a propelling factor in the fulfilment of the Authority's objectives and enhancement of service delivery by the Authority.

In partnership with our stakeholders we will continue to strengthen our national maritime administration through the enhancement of regulatory and institutional capacities for safety and security, promoting maritime training, coordinating search

and rescue, preventing maritime pollution and promoting preservation of the maritime environment as well as promoting trade facilitation and maritime investments.

Ladies and gentlemen, all the milestones realized in the maritime industry have been possible because of your continued support and belief in the Authority. And as we celebrate and show solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, we would also like to urge you to keep fostering the ties that we have for the betterment of the Maritime industry and the incessant growth and development of the Blue economy for our great nation Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let's capture some magical moments, let's create happy memories and let's surround ourselves with laughter and friendship as we celebrate this special occasion. On behalf of the KMA fraternity, I therefore wish our Muslim brothers and sisters Ramadan Kareem and Saum Maqbul during this Holy month of Ramadan.

Thank you