

Nahodha News

Kenya Maritime Authority
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Message from the Director General's Desk



Welcome to this edition, where we celebrate the milestones, we have achieved together and the vision that continues to guide our journey forward. Each story within these pages reflects our unwavering commitment to building a resilient, sustainable, and globally competitive maritime sector. I invite you to explore the impact of our work and the partnerships that drive our continued success.

As we move through 2026, we recognize your vital role in shaping the industry and advancing the blue economy. Together, through collaboration and strong partnerships, we can overcome challenges and reach new heights. We look forward to achieving greater milestones with you this year.

CPA OMAE NYARANDI
DIRECTOR GENERAL

African Maritime Leaders Meet in Mombasa to Shape Green Shipping Future

By Michelle Wanga



Mr Mohamed Ali - Kenya special envoy for climate change addresses delegates along side CPA Omae Nyarandi, Chairman of AAMA and Director of General of KMA

Leaders of the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) held high-level discussions on the maritime green transition and the Net Zero Framework (NZF) from 9–11 February 2025 in Mombasa, Kenya. The meeting followed the adoption of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Revised Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy in 2023, which calls for the global shipping sector to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by around 2050, with key checkpoints in 2030 and 2040.

About 70 African maritime leaders from 27 countries, alongside representatives from the African Union, gathered in Mombasa to deepen their technical understanding of the NZF and its potential implications for Africa. The aim was to help shape a unified African position ahead of the framework's expected adoption by IMO in October 2026. The meeting was officially launched by Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Ali Mohamed, and chaired by CPA Omae Nyarandi, Director General of the Kenya Maritime Authority and Chairman of AAMA.

"We are here to turn technical complexity into African leverage. Our discussion will ensure that Africa's participation in global maritime governance is organized, anticipatory, and coherent," said Nyarandi.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that Africa's contribution to these decisions is informed, aligned, and consequential."

Addressing the delegates, Mohamed emphasized the importance of shipping to the continent's economy.

"Shipping is the backbone of African trade. Over 90% of our external trade moves by sea. Any changes to global shipping rules will have direct operational, economic, and regulatory implications for our ports and administrations," he said.

He noted that Africa is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change impacts, highlighting the importance of discussions on the Net Zero Framework. However, he also pointed out that the transition to low-emission shipping systems



presents several opportunities for the continent. While the transition to low-emission shipping could create opportunities such as modernized ports, green investment, new fuel industries, and technological development, delegates also raised concerns about high transition costs, limited capacity, and possible disadvantages for African ports in global trade routes.

Mohamed emphasized that Africa's strength in the NZF negotiations lies in shared understanding, technical preparedness, coordinated action, and constructive engagement within the multilateral system, while safeguarding the continent's interests.



During the meeting, African maritime leaders reaffirmed AAMA as the executing continental body for maritime matters in Africa, responsible for coordinating technical maritime administration cooperation and representing Africa in global maritime policy processes.

Delegates also proposed the endorsement of a common African position on the Net Zero Framework that protects the continent from disproportionate negative impacts while promoting equity and climate justice in the global transition.

They further recommended that remedial and mitigation measures be incorporated within the IMO transition process to minimize adverse impacts on African economies and trade, while strengthening fairness and practical implementation.

The Net Zero Framework combines mandatory emissions reductions and carbon pricing for international shipping, marking the first global climate regulation aimed at achieving net-zero emissions from the shipping sector by 2050. While the framework represents a major transformation for global shipping, its implications for Africa are significant. The discussions mark an important step in ensuring Africa has a strong and unified voice in shaping the future of global maritime climate policy.

Kenya, Singapore Sign Deal to Boost Seafarer Jobs

Agreement allows Kenyan seafarers to work on Singapore-registered vessels, unlocking thousands of global job opportunities

By Augustine Kyalo,



CPA Omae Nyarandi, KMA Director General alongside representatives of Seafarers' Recruitment Agencies

Kenya has signed a new agreement with Singapore that will allow Kenyan seafarers to work more easily on Singapore-registered ships, thus opening access to thousands of international employment opportunities.

The agreement was signed between the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore during a forum on seafarer recruitment and placement held on February 17th 2026 at KMA Headquarters.

Speaking during a forum to discuss seafarers' recruitment and placement of Kenyan seafarers, KMA Director General CPA Omae Nyarandi described that the concluded Memorandum of Undertaking provides for mutual recognition of Seafarers' Certificates of Competency under Regulation I/10 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), he further described the agreement as a major breakthrough for Kenya's maritime sector.

“ This recognition agreement is a game-changer. It bridges Kenyan maritime talent with Singapore's global shipping network, unlocking thousands of opportunities while elevating Kenya's reputation in the international maritime community - CPA Nyarandi ”





Under the agreement, Kenyan seafarers will be able to use their Certificates of Competency to obtain endorsements from Singapore, which is among the world's leading maritime hubs. This will enable them to access more secure and better-paying jobs across Singapore's extensive global fleet.

Kenya has recently concluded seven mutual recognition agreements with major maritime administrations, including Panama, Palau, Liberia, Saudi Arabia, the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Singapore. The agreements collectively open employment pathways across more than 14,000 ships worldwide.

The signing follows Kenya's successful completion of an International Maritime Organization (IMO) independent evaluation in March 2025 under the STCW Convention, which confirmed that Kenya meets international standards in maritime training and certification.

KMA's Director General also revealed that the procurement of Seafarers' Secure Identification Documents has been completed, with the documents expected to be ready by April 2026.

According to KMA, more than 16,000 Kenyan seafarers have been registered and are eligible for Seafarer Identity Document (SID) cards, enabling them to pursue international employment.

Industry stakeholders will also benefit as recruitment and placement agencies will expand their market reach, while maritime training institutions stand to gain through collaboration opportunities with Singaporean academies in training and research.

KMA said the agreement is expected to increase foreign earnings through remittances from Kenyan seafarers working aboard Singapore-registered vessels, strengthening the country's economy. The new partnership positions Kenya as a growing player in the global maritime industry and strengthens its compliance with international standards, enhancing the country's visibility as a competitive supplier of skilled maritime labour.

Stakeholders Unite to Restore Efficiency at Mombasa Port

By Christine Wanjiru



Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) in collaboration with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) have stepped up efforts to address operational challenges at the Port of Mombasa, amid growing concern over congestion and costly delays disrupting trade along the Northern Corridor.

The renewed push follows a high-level breakfast meeting convened jointly by KMA and the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority, on February 20th 2026 bringing together key actors across Kenya's transport and logistics ecosystem.

"We are mandated to implement and make our logistics chain work," said the Director General of KMA, CPA Omae Nyarandi, "We are here to enhance transparency and accountability."

Senior officials from Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority and Kenya Railways Corporation joined shipping lines, freight forwarders and depot operators in a frank assessment of the challenges slowing cargo movement through the port.

Stakeholders identified long-stay containers, sluggish cargo evacuation, documentation gaps and container imbalances as the primary drivers of congestion. These inefficiencies, they warned, are driving up the cost of doing business and eroding the port's competitiveness as a key regional gateway.

There was broad consensus that the responsibility for resolving the bottlenecks lies across the entire supply chain. Public agencies committed to enhancing efficiency in customs clearance and rail evacuation, while private sector players were urged to improve documentation practices, maintain accurate records and embrace 24-hour operations during peak periods.

Among the immediate measures agreed upon are the relocation of long-stay containers to Container Freight Stations, accelerated clearance and disposal of uncollected cargo, improved gate flow management and expanded rail evacuation capacity. Stakeholders also called for the introduction of a structured Peak Season Policy and a coordinated approach to handling undocumented cargo.

The Kenya Maritime Authority signaled a tougher regulatory approach, starting with the rollout of operational standards for empty container depots. While emphasizing the importance of collaboration, the regulator warned that persistent non-compliance would attract stricter enforcement.

As one of East Africa's most strategic trade hubs, the Port of Mombasa remains central to regional commerce. Participants underscored the need for measurable commitments and sustained coordination to restore efficiency and protect the port's critical role in facilitating trade across the region.

Kenya, Indonesia Explore Stronger Maritime Cooperation

By Michelle Wanga



The Director General of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Omae Nyarandi, held a meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador to Kenya, T. B. H. Witjaksono Adji on March 6th 2026, to explore ways of strengthening maritime cooperation between Kenya and Indonesia.

During the discussions, the two leaders focused on expanding collaboration in the training and certification of seafarers. The initiative aims to enhance maritime skills and ensure professional standards are aligned with global maritime requirements.



Both sides also emphasized the importance of protecting the welfare of Kenyan and Indonesian seafarers. This includes promoting fair working conditions, safeguarding labour rights, and strengthening support systems for seafarers working in international waters.

In addition, the meeting explored opportunities for South-South technical cooperation between the two maritime nations. Such collaboration could promote knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the sharing of expertise in areas such as shipping and port management.

The engagement reflects growing maritime relations between Kenya and Indonesia and underscores the shared commitment of both countries to advancing cooperation in the maritime sector.



KMA Unveils National Plan to Strengthen Oil Spill Preparedness

By Abygael Mwashigadi



Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) has launched the National Marine Spills Response Contingency Plan, marking a major milestone in strengthening Kenya's preparedness and response to oil pollution in both coastal and inland waters.

The plan was unveiled on December 11, 2025, by Aden Millah Principal Secretary Shipping and Maritime. He described the initiative as a critical step in safeguarding Kenya's marine and navigable waters from the far-reaching impacts of hydrocarbon spills.

"This is a major milestone in our national efforts to protect our marine ecosystems, coastal livelihoods and the blue economy," said Millah, noting that increased vessel traffic and expanding port operations have heightened the risk of oil spills.

He emphasized that oil spill management is complex and requires coordinated action, adding that the plan strengthens collaboration between government agencies and the private sector to ensure effective emergency response.

The launch brought together key maritime stakeholders, including representatives from the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Kenya Navy, and Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), among others.

Head of Mission at the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Geir Arne Schei, underscored the need for regional cooperation, citing emerging risks linked to offshore oil and gas exploration and the global transition to alternative shipping fuels.

Similarly, Kenya Navy Fleet Deputy Commander Col. Robert Birech reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to enhancing maritime domain awareness and supporting implementation of the plan within the Western Indian Ocean.

KMA Chairman Ahmed Kolosh highlighted ongoing capacity-building efforts, revealing that over 1,000 responders have been trained in oil spill response through partnerships with stakeholders including the Oil Spill Mutual Aid Group and KPA.



Mr Geir Arne Schei, Head of Mission at the Norwegian Coastal Administration, addressing participants.

Industry News

KMA Director General CPA Omae Nyarandi emphasized that preparedness remains the country's strongest defense against marine pollution risks, particularly given Kenya's strategic coastal position and growing maritime activity.

The contingency plan establishes clear guidelines for managing major oil spills, outlining roles and responsibilities for all responding agencies. It is supported by technical manuals covering wildlife response, shoreline clean-up, and oil waste management, and introduces a unified multi-agency command system.

During the event, stakeholders also reviewed outcomes from the Masepolrex 25 exercise—a large-scale regional oil spill response drill conducted in July 2025 under the Indian Ocean Commission framework—which tested Kenya's readiness to handle Tier III pollution incidents.

The initiative aligns Kenya with its obligations under the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC), reinforcing the country's commitment to international maritime environmental standards.

Millah called on all stakeholders to support implementation of the plan and sign the Marine Spills Preparedness and Response Coordination Charter developed by KMA to formalize cooperation across agencies and partners.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility in protecting Kenya's marine environment and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the maritime sector.



PROCESS OF GETTING A CDC

The Applicant Should:

1. Complete the application form available on the website.
2. Have valid basic STCW Certificates. If certificates not issued by Kenya they are verified by the issuing authority.
3. Copy of National Identify Card.
4. Passport size photograph (white background)
5. Once documents are verified, applicant is advised to pay depending on new CDC (20\$), renewal (2\$), lost (25\$) and replacement (20\$).
6. Process of issuance is done within 3 days.



KMA in Pictures



KMA officers Michael Mbaru, Assistant Director, Marine Environment, and Luke Samba, Port Control Officer, engage a delegate during the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) Conference in Mombasa.



All set-KMA's Michael Mbaru and Luke Samba prepare to deliver presentations at the AAMA Conference in Mombasa.



Mr. Aden Millah, the Principal Secretary, Shipping and Maritime with Mr. Ahmed Kolosh, Chairman, KMA Board, during the official launch of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan, marking a key step in strengthening environmental response preparedness.



KMA employees in action during a dynamic team-building exercise designed to foster unity, trust, and collaboration.

KMA in Pictures



Inspiring young minds—KMA supports literacy by donating storybooks to Sacred Heart Primary School through the Refresh the Shelves Campaign.



Hands in the soil, eyes on the future: KMA employees and students plant fruit trees to champion sustainability under the 'Jaza Miti Campaign'.



CPA Omae Nyarandi, KMA's Director General, hosts EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA Commander Commodore João da Silva and delegation for talks on strengthening maritime information sharing and operational collaboration.



Overseeing progress—Mr. Ahmed Kolosh leads a site inspection of construction works at the KMA Kisumu Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

Facilitating Kenya's sustainable maritime development through progressive stewardship



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
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