

**REMARKS BY KENYA PORTS AUTHORITY MANAGING DIRECTOR  
CAPT. WILLIAM RUTO *AFNI, MBS* DURING THE RECEPTION OF  
CRUISE VESSEL MS CRYSTAL SYMPHONY ON 31ST MARCH 2025 AT  
THE PORT OF MOMBASA.**

- **Mombasa County Government representative,**
- **Kenya Tourism Board Representative,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Members of the 4th Estate**
- **Colleagues**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning.**

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we welcome cruise vessel MS Crystal Symphony on her maiden call to the Port of Mombasa. This is an auspicious occasion for our port and our country, as we celebrate new connections and the spirit of exploration.

The arrival of crystal symphony once again strengthens our port's role as a gateway to exciting cruise experiences. We take great pride in providing world-class facilities and ensuring seamless services for all visiting vessels to the Port of Mombasa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this year, KPA had the privilege of receiving three first caller vessels and one cruise liner introducing a service to the port of Mombasa. This reflects the commendable progress achieved in the promotion of cruise tourism in our country. It is also a testament to Kenya

Ports Authority's strategy, which has prioritized the development of a modern cruise terminal and other infrastructure to enhance passenger experience at the Port of Mombasa.

This achievement is attributed to the continuous partnership with our stakeholders notably, Kenya Tourism Board, Shipping Agents, cruise liners, the private sector, and other industry players. We are very appreciative of your support.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Tourism is one of our largest sources of foreign earnings therefore the arrival of MS Crystal Symphony brings us a promise of a meaningful impact to our tourism industry.

As an Authority we are committed to promoting sustainable cruise tourism through continued infrastructural development, collaboration with other agencies and implementation of marketing strategies to attract more cruise liners.

I also wish to acknowledge government's effort one being the implementation of favorable visa policy among other initiatives to increase passenger numbers to our country.

As I conclude I wish to commend the captain and crew, for your dedication and professionalism in bringing this ship safely to our shores. May your journey continue to be smooth and successful as you navigate the world's oceans.

To the distinguished guests and passengers, we say ***Karibu*** as we invite you to explore all that Mombasa has to offer from our rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes and the warm hospitality of our people. We are confident that your time here will be filled with memorable experiences that will make you eager to return.

Now in line with our tradition at the Kenya Ports Authority it's my honour to present the first certificate of call and a plaque to the Ship Master marking this historic visit to the port of Mombasa.

Thank you and welcome once more.

**God Bless you.**