

REMARKS BY KPA MANAGING DIRECTOR CAPT. WILLIAM K. RUTO, AFNI, MBS, DURING THE RECEPTION OF MV VIKING SKY TO THE PORT OF MOMBASA ON 19TH MARCH 2025.

- **Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Ms. Rebecca Miano,**
- **Mombasa County Government Representatives**
- **Kenya Tourism Board Representatives,**
- **Members of the 4th Estate**
- **Colleagues**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

I am delighted to welcome you all to celebrate the arrival of cruise vessel **MV Viking Sky**. We are truly honored to be hosting MV Viking Sky, which is making a maiden call here at the Port of Mombasa.

Kenya and particularly the Port of Mombasa has enjoyed a very successful cruise season after receiving a fleet of vessels since the circuit begun in September last year. The highlight of these cruise vessel calls being the return of the Norwegian Dawn to Mombasa late last month.

MV Viking Sky's visit to our port today is therefore a welcome addition and a demonstration of our commitment to support cruise tourism and position Kenya as a premier destination for cruise tourism in the region.

MV Viking Sky, which is carrying 845 passengers and 469 crew from different nationalities will be staying in Mombasa for the next three days.

We are excited to also note that out of the 496 crew members nineteen are Kenyans. This is truly encouraging to see more of our young people contributing to the cruise tourism industry globally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya Ports Authority has continuously endeavored to enhance passenger experience for visitors to Mombasa. With the new passenger terminal, we are looking forward to increasing amenities to ensure our visitors are comfortable and enjoy their Kenya experience.

Equally With the port city's abundant cultural heritage and distinctive attractions, lively local culture, pristine sandy beaches, and welcoming hospitality of our communities, we are certain that every visitor will discover something truly cherished in the vibrant port city of Mombasa during their stay.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I also in a special way want to extend our gratitude to the Cruise Liner Viking Ocean Cruises and their shipping agent Sturrock Shipping K. Ltd, for choosing the Port of Mombasa as a Port of call. We recognize the trust you have placed in us, and we are committed to ensuring a seamless and memorable experience for both passengers and crew during your time here.

I also wish on behalf of the port community to extend a warm welcome to the passengers, captain, officers, and crew of this beautiful vessel. We are honored to have you here, and we are hoping this will be a continuation of the partnership between us.

Once again, I welcome you to the Port of Mombasa and I am confident that our partnership will flourish, and we will continue to see more ships gracing our Port. May your time here be filled with joy, discovery, and the promise of future returns.

Thank you.