

**SPEECH BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR CAPTAIN WILLIAM K. RUTO,
AFNI, MBS DURING CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY ON 07TH MARCH 2025 AT THE KPA HEADQUARTERS.**

- **Senior Managers present**
- **Invited guests**
- **Colleagues**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to join you today as we celebrate International Women's Day 2025. This is a special day which is dedicated to appreciating and recognizing the contributions of our women in society.

We also mark this day to honour their achievements but also identify the barriers that still exists, even as we continue to champion for more gender equality and women empowerment.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Accelerate Action for Gender Equality." This is a rallying call for each of us to be purposeful, taking action to address challenges and obstacles that have contributed to the attainment of gender parity in our society.

On my own behalf and on behalf of Kenya Ports Authority, I wish to celebrate every woman in our society and the immense contributions to our society. Specifically, I also wish to appreciate our women in the Maritime and Shipping Industry. I am truly amazed at your abilities and determination to break the glass ceiling particularly in this male dominated industry. From the operations, marine, Engineering, logistics and even in the administration roles, your contribution to the success of our organization is inspirational and commendable.

Even as we celebrate these wins, we are making deliberate efforts to create an environment where our women can thrive. We have made strides in promoting gender equality at KPA by implementing policies that foster inclusivity, introducing mentorship programs that empower women to take on leadership roles, ensuring a balanced workforce in terms of gender as well as ensuring a safe and comfortable working spaces for our women.

Equally we are working on solutions to eliminate barriers that have prevented women from embracing the traditionally male-dominated sectors, such as port operations, logistics, and maritime technology. We are doing this by investing in education and skills training for women, supporting their involvement in key decision-making roles, and promoting policies that create equal opportunities at every level of our organization.

Today, I call on all of us here, as leaders, as employees, as partners, to take up the mantle of accelerating action for gender equality. Let us work together to create a culture of mentorship and support for young women entering the workforce, to offer training that will prepare them for leadership, and to advocate for policies that empower women to excel in their chosen fields.

To the women of Kenya Ports Authority, I salute your hard work, dedication, and leadership. Your contributions are immeasurable, and your impact is profound. You are breaking barriers, setting new standards, and inspiring future generations of women in the maritime industry. You are the backbone of Kenya's ports and a key driver of our nation's economic development.

As a port Authority, we are committed to accelerating gender equality for a future where every woman is empowered to lead, to innovate, and to succeed.

Happy International Women's Day 2025!

Thank you and God bless you all!