



OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS (AAMA) AT THE 2ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE PRIDEINN PARADISE SHINZU HOTEL MOMBASA KENYA ON TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2018

I welcome you all to the 2nd Session of the Executive Committee (EXCO) of the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) in my capacity as Chairman.

The AAMA Executive Committee is made up of representatives of **Central Africa** (Cameroun & Cape Verde); **West Africa** (Cote d'Ivoire & Ghana), **East Africa** (Tanzania & Comoros) **Southern Africa** (Mozambique and South Africa), **North Africa** (Egypt & Sudan) **and Uganda** representing land-locked countries. This was done to ensure geographical spread.

You would recall that the Executive Committee of AAMA held its 1st Session at Arab Academy of Science Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria Egypt on 18th September 2017. The AASTMT which enjoys an observer status in AAMA ensured that all logistics were put in place for a hitch free meeting. Our stay in Alexandria was indeed memorable. We once again express our gratitude to the Arab Academy, the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety (EAMS) and the Egyptian government.

At the 1st Session of EXCO, (seven out of twelve member countries were in attendance). The countries were Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Mozambique, Ghana, Tanzania and (Port of Douala) –Cameroun.

The proceedings of the 1st Session of EXCO resulted in a number of resolutions, which is why we have again gathered here to deliberate and agree

on the way forward in ensuring that Africa's Maritime Domain remain competitive and capable of attracting investment to grow the African Economy.

The report of the 1st Session and the Resolutions reached were circulated to all AAMA Member countries early October 2017 to keep members abreast with the actions of the EXCO. This is in tandem with our collective resolve to drive a coordinated approach to develop the African Maritime Industry.

I am happy that today we are gathered in the beautiful City of Mombasa, courtesy of the Kenya Maritime Authority. I remember the joy expressed by delegates when we received the notification from Kenya Maritime Authority on the 18th of September 2017, expressing their willingness to host the 2nd Session of EXCO. For all intents and purposes Kenya is host to AAMA. Recall that Kenya hosted the 1st conference of AAMA in 2012.

Early notifications of the 2nd Session of EXCO were sent out by the Secretariat team and my office to ensure a wider participation and attendance. We have in our midst today delegation from Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Egypt, Republic of Sudan, and Mozambique. I welcome you all my co-heads of Maritime Administrations for finding time out of your very busy schedules to attend the 2nd Session of EXCO. It is my hope that one day all the representatives of the various regions that make up EXCO will have the opportunity to sit together to brainstorm on the way forward.

The decision to extend the hosting of the EXCO Sessions to non- member countries is part of the drive by EXCO to ensure a wider participation of all Member Countries of AAMA in the affairs of this continental body. Apart from the statutory EXCO Members expected at this meeting, I am also happy to note the presence of our brothers from Kenya and Seychelles. Seychelles was invited as a future host of AAMA conference in 2019. Regrettably Namibia just informed us that they would no longer be able to attend this meeting. It is my

hope that as time goes on we will have greater number of participants at the Sessions of EXCO.

We had also extended invitation to the Secretary General of IMO, but the presence of IMO could not be assured because we all understand the busy schedule the organization runs. This notwithstanding, the IMO Secretary General has continued to play out the assurance given during the 3rd AAMA Conference that IMO would continue to partner with Africa in the aspect of human capacity. Recently, an invitation was issued by the Secretary General of IMO to selected Heads of African Maritime Administrations to a meeting with the Technical Cooperation Committee of the IMO within the 1st week of March 2018, at the meeting, the new guideline on how to access technical cooperation programme for 2018 would be unveiled amongst other pertinent issues to be discussed.

My fellow Heads of Maritime Administrations in Africa, you will also recall that concerted efforts were made to pay a courtesy visit to the Chairperson, African Union Commission (AU). We have established contact with the office of the AU Chairperson and they have agreed to fix a date for the courtesy visit. It is my hope that once that date is fixed all of us here will participate in that meeting in Ethiopia.

You all recall that it was during the 1st Session of EXCO that it was collectively agreed that steps should be taken to address the underrepresentation of Africa in IMO Council and Secretariat. Even though concerted efforts were made in this regard, African Continent was only able to secure 5 out of 20 Seats under Category C of IMO Council for the biennial 2018-2019. May I at this juncture, in my capacity as Chairman of AAMA once again congratulate South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco and Liberia for their election to IMO Council and for keeping Africa on the map of IMO and global maritime industry.

It is my belief that my Brothers on the seat will be representing not only their own interest but also those of other African Countries to ensure that Africa's voice is heard when maritime global issues are discussed. This is not to say that it is the end of the road for others, I am sure that for a number of Countries that had indicated interest and actually ran this race, lessons have been learnt and the future remains bright.

Without trying to delve into the full Agenda of this meeting, let us not forget that we are gathered here to improve among others, the capacity, capability and performance of African's Maritime Administrations, with emphasis on human capacity development, technology and information sharing.

I want to reiterate that as Maritime Administrations, it is our responsibility to give effect to the decisions made by our various heads of government during the adoption of various Maritime Instruments and Charters such as the African Maritime Transport charter, African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) 2050, the 2016 Lome Charter amongst others, by ensuring the ratification, domestication and full implementation of these instruments aimed at ensuring the competitiveness of Africa's Maritime Domain.

I therefore call on all of us, to give this meeting our full participation; as a lot still needs to be done to achieve the mile stone set out in our tenure, bearing in mind that resolutions reached would be presented to the General Assembly for adoption during the 4th AAMA conference scheduled for Egypt in the second quarter of 2018.

I wish to show my personal gratitude to our Host, My Brother and friend, Mr. Kosmas Cherop, the Ag. Director- General Kenya Maritime Authority, his very able Staff, Mr. John Omingo, Director Commercial Shipping and Ms. Lucy Munuthu and all those who worked behind the scene to ensure that this meeting

