



SAMSA 2020/SG/AAMA /03

24 July 2020

ENGLISH ONLY

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN DAY OF THE SEAS AND OCEANS: 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020.**

Dear Delegates

I greet you on behalf of the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA). This is to notify Members States of the upcoming celebration of the **6<sup>th</sup> African Day of the Seas and Oceans**, taking place on the 25 July 2020.

Even though this year there is no confirmed theme from the African Union, we are all reminded of the purpose of the African Day of The Seas and Oceans, is to foster wealth creation from Africa's seas and oceans by urging African States to develop a sustainable and thriving Blue Economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner.

The oceans and seas are home to some spectacular marine life. Protecting Africa's oceans and seas is no longer a mere option but rather a responsibility that should be taken seriously by each and every person who calls Africa home. Sustainability in the context of the Blue Economy means using our ability to use our ocean space as opportunities for development, new energy possibilities, protecting areas through biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and provision of food security. Additionally through sustainable use of the potential mineral wealth of the ocean floor, offsetting our own emissions in the fight against climate change, building sustainable trade which connects all markets for the benefits of all and creating a sustainable space for marine tourism, we see the strong role Africa has to play.

Undeniably, Africa is endowed with many natural resources ready for the taking by her people. Africa has embraced the Blue Economy for solutions to the economic problems and developmental needs prevalent in the continent, and it is through the Blue Economy that the continent can provide sustainable economic development of the oceans, seas, coasts and inland water ways, in order to deliver the resources that can satisfy human needs as well as providing jobs. It is thus clear that achieving the objectives of the Blue Economy is vital to securing Africa's prosperity.

By celebrating the African oceans and seas on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July each year, we are reminded of the role we play in achieving the Africa we so desire and this year should be no different.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

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Maritime administrations are once again encouraged to mark this day and to share with the AAMA Secretariat specific efforts/activities taking place in their countries, which will be uploaded onto the official AAMA website.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

*Nkondlo*

**Kind Regards**

**Mrs Nasipi Kondlo**

**On behalf of AAMA Secretariat Head  
South Africa  
South African Maritime Safety Authority [SAMSA]**

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