

CARRYING TRADE, CARRYING RISKS: RECOGNIZING THE RESILIENCE OF KENYA'S GLOBAL SEAFARING WORKFORCE.

Today, as the global maritime community marks the IMO's Day of the Seafarer under the theme "*Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks,*" we at the Kenya Ships Agents Association (KSAA) want to pause and talk about the people who actually keep the global economy afloat.

There are 1.8 million seafarers worldwide, and more than 10,000 of them are our own active, highly skilled Kenyan mariners who form the absolute backbone of East Africa's blue economy.

As the maritime gateway through the Port of Mombasa, our members see the reality of this life every single day. It is a relationship built on deep, mutual reliance. Global shipping carriers provide the massive infrastructure the vessels, the technology, the global networks, and the investments that create these vital career paths. They provide the platforms where our Kenyan workforce can showcase their incredible skill across the globe, whether they are commanding international container fleets, working offshore marine services, or driving the rapid growth we are seeing in global cruise tourism.

But infrastructure is just cold steel without the human heart inside it. The carriers provide the ships, but the seafarers give them life.

And right now, that life is harder than ever. Today's seafarers are being thrust into volatile geopolitical crossfires, navigating high-risk zones like the Red Sea and other choke points. They are enduring intense mental strain and the quiet, heavy weight of deep isolation from their families for months on end. They aren't just moving cargo; they are risking their lives to ensure that vital medicines, food, and daily essentials actually make it to Kenyan households.

They are essential workers in the truest sense of the words.

Because carriers and seafarers depend so heavily on one another to keep the world moving, KSAA and its members believe our responsibility doesn't end when a ship leaves the dock. We remain unyielding in our advocacy for crew safety, mental welfare, and fair working conditions. We stand firmly behind the seafarers who carry our world through every storm, and we thank them for their service.

#DayoftheSeafarer