

DG REMARKS DURING THE RECEPTION CEREMONY OF THE THREE MISSING FISHERMEN FROM NGOMENI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

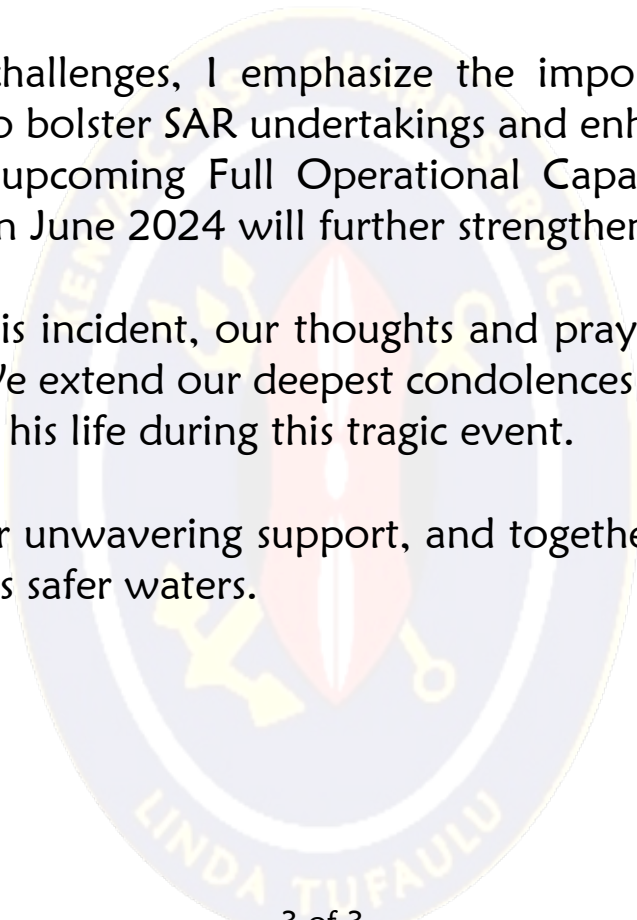
Honorable CS Mvurya, Chairman KMA Board of Directors, DG KMA, distinguished representatives from various agencies, esteemed Crew of the KCGS Doria, BMU Representatives, families from Ngomeni, and members of the Press, thank you for joining us on this significant occasion.

I stand before you today to share both a challenging chapter and a testament to resilience within the maritime community. On November 30, 2023, we received an overdue report for four fishermen aboard the vessel “Jodari.” The ensuing seven-day Search and Rescue operation, despite our dedicated efforts, faced formidable weather conditions that unfortunately yielded no positive outcome.

However, our commitment to resolving the situation persisted. Utilizing Maritime Domain Awareness tools and collaboration with stakeholders, we received news on December 25, 2023, that the four missing fishermen had been rescued by the Fishing Vessel LU QING YUAN YU 108 on December 24, 2023. Regrettably, one life was lost during the ordeal.

To validate this information, we reached out to the China Overseas Fisheries Association, confirming the rescue of three fishermen. Subsequently, on December 26, 2023, our flagship vessel, KCGS Doria, successfully recovered three Kenyan fishermen along with one outboard engine.

This incident underscores the need for enhanced capabilities in Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement. Annually, KCGS handles over 900 SAR cases, with 62% occurring within the Coastal zone, impacting small fishing boats significantly.



In light of these challenges, I emphasize the importance of acquiring additional vessels to bolster SAR undertakings and enhance Maritime Law Enforcement. The upcoming Full Operational Capability of our KCGS Operation Center in June 2024 will further strengthen our capacity.

As we reflect on this incident, our thoughts and prayers remain with the affected families. We extend our deepest condolences to the family of the fisherman who lost his life during this tragic event.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and together, we will continue to navigate towards safer waters.



