

## **DG's OPENING SPEECH FOR FOUNDATION TRAINING PROGRAM COHORT SEVEN AT BMA ON 29 AUGUST 2024**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Guests,

Esteemed Trainers,

And most importantly, the course participants of Cohort 7 of the Kenya Coast Guard Foundation Training Program,

Good morning!

It is with great honor and immense pleasure that I stand before you today as we commence this Foundation Training Program for the seventh cohort of the Kenya Coast Guard Service. This is a continuation of the exciting and transformative journey that has been undertaken since initiation of this program. This journey is tailored to shape you into the protectors of our nation's territorial sovereignty and guardians of our vast coastline among other duties as outlined under the Kenya Coast Guard Service Act, No. 11 of 2018.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new trainees under this cohort. Your presence here today is a testament to your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to serving our great nation. Congratulations on taking this significant step towards a noble and rewarding venture.

The Kenya Coast Guard Service plays a critical role in safeguarding our maritime interests. Our duties extend beyond patrolling our territorial waters and enforcing maritime laws; we are tasked with ensuring the safety and security of our coastal communities, protecting our natural marine resources, and contributing to national and regional stability. This is a responsibility that we do not take lightly, and we expect each one of you to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

As you embark on this training program, you will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to excel in your duties. The curriculum has been designed to cover various aspects of maritime security,

including navigation, search and rescue operations, environmental protection, and combatting illicit activities such as smuggling and piracy. Our esteemed trainers, who are experts in their respective fields, will guide you through theoretical lessons, practical exercises, and real-life simulations, ensuring that you are well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

This training course is not only about physical endurance and tactical proficiency; it is also about building character, fostering teamwork, and developing leadership qualities. You will be challenged to step out of your comfort zones, to push your limits, and to work collaboratively with your peers. Remember, the strength of the Kenya Coast Guard lies in the unity and cohesion of its members.

To our distinguished trainers and staff from UNODC, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast dedication and commitment to nurturing the next generation of coast guard officers. Your expertise and mentorship are invaluable, and I am confident that under your guidance, Cohort 7 will emerge as a formidable force, ready to serve and protect with honor and distinction.

As we move forward, let us be reminded of the core values that define the Kenya Coast Guard Service: duty, honor, and respect. Let these values guide you in every decision you make and every action you take. Uphold the legacy of those who have come before you and strive to leave a lasting impact on those who will follow.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the journey ahead will be demanding, but it will also be immensely rewarding. Embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and excel. Stay focused, stay disciplined, and stay committed to the mission at hand.

Once again, I welcome you and wish you all the very best in your training throughout the entire period. Together, we will continue to safeguard our nation's maritime heritage as we build a stronger, more capable, and fully autonomous KCGS. Join me as I declare this training officially opened!

**Thank you.**

**ASANTENI SANA**

