



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

## **MEASURES IN PLACE TO ENSURE OPERATIONS CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED AT THE PORT OF MOMBASA**

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Dear stakeholders,

As you are aware COVID-19 is a worldwide pandemic threatening to wipe out human lives and the Port of Mombasa just like many other industries is not exceptional.

I therefore wish to share the latest update and the efforts being undertaken by the Kenya Ports Authority management to control the spread of the virus.

To be able to combat the spread of the virus, the Authority has embarked on mass testing of its staff at the Port of Mombasa.

Following the mass testing exercise, over 600 employees have been tested out of which 13 were found to be positive of the COVID-19 and are undergoing treatment. These new cases now brings the total of positive cases to 22. Regrettably two of them succumbed to the disease. On a positive note three have fully recovered and discharged from hospital. The testing is still ongoing and our target is to reach a sample of 1000 staff.

All those who had contacts with the patients have been identified and are being monitored in quarantine within Mombasa.



The KPA management wishes to reiterate its commitment in fighting the scourge; we have already instituted several serious measures to control the spread of the virus in the Port.

Following the outbreak of the killer disease we appointed a committee of senior managers to plan, manage and coordinate the Authority's preparedness to combat the virus. We appreciate the Committee's efforts which has since enhanced KPA's preparedness by making concerted efforts to acquire preventive equipment and facilities.

We have so far put up 129 handwashing points with antiseptic soap and placed sanitizer dispensers at various areas. These include all entry gates, buildings, offices and operation areas and most importantly staff are regularly issued with face masks. We now have screen notices at the Port entrances especially at gate 24 which prompt everyone to wear a mask before entering the Port compound. Equally important, we are also using Public Address System to keep reminding ourselves of the prevention measures.

It is also important to note that we have enabled our on-line cargo documentation processes to facilitate our customers clear cargo electronically and decongest human traffic within the Port.

Fumigation has also been carried out in the entire port while Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) have been acquired for clinical staff and those with close interaction with vessels such as pilots, security officers among others.

The management has also released staff above 58 years of age and those with pre-medical conditions to work from respective homes to avoid crowds at the workplace in line with the government circular.



## **Business continuity**

Ports are in the category of essential service providers and therefore the Port of Mombasa still operates 24/7 during this period.

To ensure operations are not interrupted, as key facilitators of maritime trade, we have in conjunction with the Port Public Health officers rolled out detailed procedures to handle the vessels as follows:

1. Mandatory Pre-arrival Reporting on board must be undertaken at least 48 hours before the vessel arrival in Kenya's territorial waters. Masters of ships must therefore submit a duly completed and compulsory Maritime Declaration of Health form to the Port Health officer.
2. Masters shall regularly update the Port Health Office on the health status of the crew on board.
3. All arriving vessels with crew/passengers with recent travel history to countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must undergo special monitoring and Port Health must issue restricted pratique.
4. Every ship entering Kenya from a country with confirmed cases of COVID-19 is subjected to rigorous inspection in the designated location as directed by the Harbour Master in consultations with Port Health Office.
5. If at any time during a vessel's stay at port, any health risk is reported, a Port Health Officer shall conduct assessments on a case by case basis to manage the risk and eliminate contamination other crew port personnel and others.

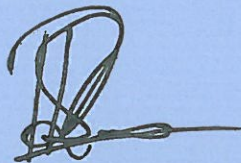


6. Crew/passengers with any of these symptoms (fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, cough or shortness of breathing) the Master Must report to the Port Health Office.
7. Crew/passengers of vessels from confirmed COVID-19 countries will **Not** be granted shore passes. Only Kenyans and foreigners with valid residence permits will be allowed to disembark after presentation of Health Declaration forms and by the health Authorities.
8. All visitors (dockworkers, agents, surveyors, port state inspectors) to a ship from countries confirmed with COVID-19 cases must be informed about the precautionary measures while on board. It shall be prohibited for anyone to board a vessel before the completion of the health inspection of the crew or passengers. All visitors to use protective disposable mask and latex gloves while on board and should dispose them on board before disembarking in a special disposal bin.
9. Masters of all ships due to arrive in a Kenyan port are required to declare their last 10 ports of call or voyage memo for the last three months, whichever is higher, and confirm that there is no crew showing symptoms of COVID-19 on board.
10. So far, no crew of any ship calling at the Port has tested positive. This demystifies the misconception that COVID-19 at the Port is being transmitted by cargo ships.
11. Ships agents, if possible, should use alternative means of contacting the vessels instead of boarding the vessels, so as to minimize potential contamination risk.



12. Ship crew change is temporarily suspended until further notice. The exception is given to Kenyan crew and persons with valid resident permits.
13. The Masters of vessels shall be required to provide sanitizers at the ship's gangway for persons entering and upon exit.
14. Garbage from vessels arriving from confirmed COVID-19 countries will not be allowed to be discharged at any Kenyan Port.
15. We have temporarily suspended bagging services at the quayside for any arriving ship from April 24 because it exposes port users to possible spread of COVID-19 because of the following practices:
  - (i) The numbers involved are high both at the bagging plant equipment and those loading onto the trucks from the conveyor belt.
  - (ii) Social distancing is difficult to maintain during this operation.

Once again, we would like to assure the entire port community that the Port is operating 24/7 and there are no plans to close business.



Eng. Rashid Salim  
**AG. MANAGING DIRECTOR**



