



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM SAMOEI
RUTO, PHD, C.G.H., PRESIDENT AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KENYA DEFENCE
FORCES, DURING THE KENYA NAVY 60TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

DECEMBER 14, 2024

MTONGWE NAVAL BASE, MOMBASA

1. Today marks a significant milestone as we celebrate 60 years of the Kenya Navy's service to our nation. Since its inception in 1964, the Kenya Navy has played a critical role in safeguarding our sovereignty, securing our maritime borders, and upholding national and regional security. This anniversary is, therefore, not just a reflection of the time passed but a tribute to the exemplary professionalism, dedication, and courage that have defined the Kenya Navy's evolution into a highly respected maritime force.
2. Over the course of six decades, the Kenya Navy has steadily evolved into a respected force renowned for its discipline and excellence. Our naval officers and sailors have demonstrated inspiring patriotism, commitment to duty, and commendable courage, often under challenging circumstances. Their devotion, professionalism, and integrity have cemented the Kenya Navy's reputation as a reliable and capable maritime force.
3. As Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, I am immensely proud of the KDF's achievements as an institution, and particularly of the Kenya Navy, which is the youngest of the three services. Since independence, the Kenya Navy has participated in important national and international peace missions and major operations, such as Operation Exodus, Operation Mamba, and Operation Linda Nchi, including the amphibious landing in Kismayu under Operation Sledgehammer, which liberated the city. In these and many other anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean, the Kenya Navy has been consistent and effective, a critical factor of its success. Our gallant officers and sailors have also provided invaluable humanitarian support during disaster emergencies, such as flooding and mudslides, as well as search-and-rescue operations at sea, among others.



4. The Kenya Navy's contributions extend beyond military operations. I am pleased to highlight its indispensable role in enhancing our national defence capacity. As you know, the establishment of Kenya Shipyard Limited, with the Navy's provision of key technical personnel and infrastructure, has been crucial to this effort. Your role in this initiative amplifies our commitment to Kenya's transformation, particularly in developing our Blue Economy, which holds immense untapped potential. By investing in maritime infrastructure and enhancing its security, we not only improve our naval capabilities but also create opportunities for wealth generation and job creation.
5. The strategic importance of the Kenya Navy cannot be overstated. It serves as a deterrent to external aggression, a safeguard of our sovereignty, and a defender of our territorial integrity. Additionally, the Kenya Navy is a vital diplomatic tool, extending our influence in the West Indian Ocean region and beyond. Through joint exercises, patrols, humanitarian missions, and peace support operations, our Navy fosters cooperation and builds strong relationships with international partners and allies.
6. Ladies and gentlemen, it is a fact of development that no progress can take place in an insecure environment. Kenya Navy's overarching function is that of ensuring national defence against seaborne aggression, and, in this role, it must work with other security agencies. I am happy to note the excellent synergy between the Navy and the Kenya Coast Guard Service, which, together, form the cornerstone of our National Maritime Defence Strategy. These two institutions protect our coastline, combat illegal activities, secure our maritime resources and safeguard our sea lanes of communication and trade. Their collaboration exemplifies the spirit of multi-agency synergy and the whole-of-government approach that is essential for our national security.



7. As we celebrate this 60th anniversary, we must also look towards the future. In this respect, our strategic vision for the next 60 years is clear: We must continue enhancing our naval capabilities, embracing innovation and strengthening our partnerships. It is also imperative for us to invest in advanced technologies, modernise our fleet and escalate the skills and operational capacity of our personnel. Our singular focus will be on maintaining a high state of readiness to ensure that we can respond swiftly and effectively to an increasingly dynamic security environment.
8. As a force, we would not have reached this proud milestone without the sacrifice, vision and hard work of those who served before us. I join you in paying homage to our fallen heroes who paid the ultimate price for the peace we enjoy today. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the men and women of the Kenya Navy, both serving and retired. I honour your dedication, bravery and sacrifice, which form the bedrock of our success today. The Kenyan nation thanks you for your patriotic service.
9. As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and excellence. By working together as one team, we will overcome any challenge, transcend every obstacle, navigate the uncertainties of the future, and continue to make the Kenya Navy a source of pride for our nation.
10. Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the people of the Coast region and Mombasa County for your warm welcome.

Thank you.

God bless the Kenya Navy,

God bless the Kenya Defence Forces and the Republic of Kenya.

