

SPEECH BY HON. GEN. EDWARD KATUMBA WAMALA, MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND CHAIR OF ISCOS ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS, AT THE 8TH MEETING OF THE ISCOS ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS, 17TH MARCH 2023, LIVINGSTONE, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

- **Honorable Frank Museba Tayali, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Republic of Zambia;**
- **Honorable Salim Mvurya, Minister of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Kenya;**
- **Honorable Fredy Atupele Mwakibete (MP), Deputy Minister Representing the Honorable Prof. Makame Mnyaa Mbarawa (MP), Minister of Works and Transport of the United Republic of Tanzania;**
- **Honorable Marie Chantal Nijimbere, Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Burundi;**
- **His Excellency Dr. Alemu Sime, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;**
- **Honorable Hara Jacob Hlangabeza, Minister of Transport and Public Works of the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Honorable Mohamed Abdulkadir Mohamed, Minister of Ports and Marine Transport of the Federal Government of Somalia;**
- **His Excellency Mr. Moataz Anwar, Ambassador of Egypt in Zambia, Representing His Excellency General Kamel ElWazir, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Egypt;**
- **Her Excellency Mónica Patrício Clemente Mussa, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique to Zambia, Representing His Excellency Mateus Magala, Minister of**

Transport and Communications of the Republic of Mozambique;

- **Mr. Ali Ahamda Moelevou, Representing Hon. Bianfri Tarmidi, Minister of Maritime and Air Transport of the Union of Comoros;**
- **Mr. Alan Renaud James, Permanent Secretary, Representing His Excellency Antony Derjacques, Minister for Transport of the Republic of Seychelles;**
- **Dr. Loveness Masuka-Dumwa, Chief Director, Inland Water Ways, Representing Honorable F.T. Mhona (MP), Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe;**
- **Members of the ISCOS Coordination Committee;**
- **The Secretary General of ISCOS;**
- **Representatives of the High Commissions, Regional Economic Commissions, Stakeholders of the Shipping Industry, Development Partners and representatives of the Maritime, Shipping and Logistics Institutions Present;**
- **Members of the Press Present;**
- **Distinguished Delegates Present;**
- **Ladies, and gentlemen,**

Good Morning,

As Chair of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers, I am pleased and indeed privileged to welcome you all to the 8th meeting of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers. I bring you warm greetings and best wishes from the Government, and the people of Uganda.

Let me start by paying tribute to the Republic of Zambia under the good leadership of H.E. Hakainde Hichilema for accepting to host this important Meeting and for the wonderful reception accorded to all delegations. I am particularly grateful to our host Minister, the Minister of Transport and Logistics, Hon. Frank Museba Tayali for the effort he has put into make this meeting a success.

Before I progress my speech, allow me to take this special opportunity to thank all states represented here from all over the region, for honouring our invitation and accepting to be here with us today, and for your contribution in the Consultative Forum of Maritime Experts who met earlier in the Week. Your presence here amidst many pressing issues in your respective countries is testimony to the importance to which you attach the agenda of collaboration in the Shipping and Maritime Sector.

Honourable Ministers, As you may already know, shipping is the main facilitator of international business; carrying over 90% of global trade. As emerging markets, efficient shipping and Maritime services should be central in our priorities. Today, shipping supports a lot of human activity, and has become essential to humanity's wellbeing because without it, international trade connectivity between nations would be impossible.

Distinguished delegates, we are all aware of the aspirations of our continent under initiatives such as Revised African Maritime Transport Charter (AMTC) 2010, African Integrated Maritime

Strategy (AIMS) 2050, African Continental Free Trade agreement (AfCFTA) and agenda 2063 which envision a developed continent driven by a liberalised trade regime with free movement of people and goods. To achieve these aspiration, shipping and trade facilitation must play a critical role. I am happy to note that with ISCOS' expanded mandate covering the Eastern, Northern, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean States of Africa, we have a platform that can assist us to contribute positively towards realization of the African dream.

Honourable Ministers, ladies, and gentlemen,

You may recall that at the 7th Meeting of the ISCOS Assembly of Ministers of March 2022, we as African and regional states decry the lack of sufficient collaboration protocols in this sector, with many of the states pursuing unilateral approaches which are in most cases very costly and at the same time less effective. And, like I said in my letter of invitation to this Assembly, our international trade which is largely transported by sea is subjected to policies which would better be addressed through collaboration. I also noted that the international nature of Shipping and Maritime affairs, the technical nature, complexities and geographical location of issues involved, the shared overseas trading partners and regimes, and many other international shipping aspects form part of the compelling reasons for regional collaboration in this sector.

Honorable Ministers, we know that Cargo for the region was still principally transported by foreign owned carriers, and as a region, we

neither have sufficient control in the movement of our own cargo nor are we coordinated enough to support each other in this area, exposing us to adverse conditions in trade in addition to paying out huge amounts of foreign currency.

If we do share maritime bodies, facilities and shipping service providers, then the economical thing to do is to develop and share protocols among ourselves which can enable us to benefit from collective synergies, help us to pull resources together for regional Maritime initiatives, and inspire collective negotiation of trade arrangements with overseas trade partners. I also noted that the Africa Maritime Charter encourages regional groupings in pursuit of common goals, and that the states using the Atlantic Ocean as their passage for international trade are well organised under the Maritime Organisation for Western and Central Africa (MOWCA).

I am duly informed that, ISCOS is in the process of developing a regional Maritime Transport Policy which will assist us on legislation, harmonisation of industry procedures and standards, guide investment mechanisms, spur collaboration for industry growth and assist in elimination of duplication of efforts across the region. This policy is envisaged to point the entire region in the same maritime and shipping strategic direction hence accelerating industry growth. I appeal to ISCOS Member States to Fastrack the review of the draft policy once presented to us to ensure it serves as a catalyst for greater collaboration and efficiency in our shipping industry.

Honourable Ministers, ladies, and gentlemen,

As Chair of this Assembly, I appreciate the tremendous work ISCOS continues to do in the region in the line of enabling regional states to develop their Maritime Economies. In the area of offering Expert Advisories to the Member States, ISCOS' expert analysis identified that ISCOS founding four Member States lose a total US \$ 500 Million per Annum due to the wrong application of INCOTERMS by importing on Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) basis meaning that even money for Insurance is sent abroad when we have our own Insurance companies, leading to the export of the much needed foreign currency, losing jobs to foreign registered insurance firms. I know that my CEO Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA, Uganda) is around – and I wish to urge all the countries that have not localized MCI to work with ISCOS so that we can save the billions of dollars paid out to foreign insurance companies.

Honourable Ministers, ladies, and gentlemen,

On behalf of ISCOS fraternity, I take this special opportunity to officially thank the Democratic Republic of Congo for honouring our invitation to join ISCOS that was extended to the regional states during the 7th Assembly of Ministers held in Entebbe, Uganda last year. With great honour, I welcome the Democratic Republic of Congo to the ISCOS family. DRC membership to ISCOS increases our capacity as we continue to promote and protect our Maritime interests.

From the discussions I have had with my colleagues, I am made to understand that States have expressed willingness to join ISCOS and that they are still navigating their internal Process of Applying for their membership. I congratulate these countries for the progress made and appeal to our neighbours who have not made the decision to kindly do so. Like what my colleagues have said, what is at stake is what should make us to be serious on this matter.

I am also informed that some of you colleagues have been inquiring about membership contributions to ISCOS. I wish to inform you that ISCOS does not have a fixed membership contribution. Members contribution is decided by Members themselves based on programmes to be undertaken by the Secretariat as approved by Members. I therefore, request you to come in the organisation and lets decide together how we need to run this organisation.

Honourable colleagues, as you may already know, ISCOS' was established to serve as a Standing Committee by the four founding Members. Today, the mandate of ISCOS has extended to cover the Eastern, Southern, Northern and the Indian Ocean States of Africa and as such, its name needs to reflect its geographical reach and mandate.

In this regard, I wish to announce that going forward, ISCOS will be renamed as *Maritime Organisation of the Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA)* after all due processes have been followed.

As I conclude Honourable Colleagues, I wish to thank the Secretariat and the technical team at the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Republic of Zambia for the excellent arrangements for this meeting, adequate documentation and for the hospitality accorded to all delegations.

I also wish to thank our technical experts for the depth of issues discussed and for the very good recommendations.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to the Coordination Committee for the wonderful preparatory work done for this meeting and to you esteemed delegates for being part of this great event.

With those few remarks, It is now my honour to wish this session of the ISCOS Assembly, very fruitful deliberations and request that within your very short stay here, you kindly find some time to visit the wonderful Victoria Falls and other areas of attraction in Zambia as this will give you another perspective of Zambia that you may have never known.

Thank you very much.

For God and My Country