

THE BMA NEWSLETTER

A World Class Centre for Maritime Education and Training





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Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Dear September 2026 Intake Cadets,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) and congratulate you on joining our growing family of Maritime professionals.

Your admission marks the beginning of an exciting and transformative journey. A career in the Maritime sector comes with great responsibility, as the industry remains a key driver of global trade, economic growth and sustainable development. It therefore requires professionals who are competent, disciplined, innovative and committed to excellence.

During your second week at the Academy, you undertook regimental training, culminating in the Regimental Pass-Out Ceremony. This milestone signifies more than the completion of an initial phase of your training. It reflects the development of discipline, teamwork, resilience, leadership and responsibility qualities that will serve you throughout your Maritime careers.

As you now begin your academic and professional training in Nautical Science, Marine Engineering and Maritime Transport Operations, I urge you to carry these values with you. Be disciplined in your studies, committed to practical training, respectful of your trainers and fellow cadets, and open to continuous learning.

BMA is committed to equipping you with the knowledge, skills and practical experience necessary to excel in the maritime and Blue Economy sectors. Make full use of the opportunities available, embrace technology and innovation, and uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

Your journey will have challenges, but every challenge is an opportunity to grow. Dream boldly, work diligently and remain focused on your goals.

On behalf of the Board, Management and the entire BMA fraternity, I wish you a successful and fulfilling academic journey.

Dr. Eric Katana
Chief Executive Officer
Bandari Maritime Academy

Cadets Begin Maritime Training as Kenya Targets 35,000 Seafarers

By John Ndegwa

As Kenya steps up efforts to unlock the full economic potential of its maritime sector, with the Government targeting the training of 35,000 seafarers and the placement of 20,900 Kenyan seafarers in employment opportunities locally and internationally, over 200 cadets enrolled in the September 2026 intake have started their Maritime and Shipping training at Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA).

The new cohort marks another important step in the country's efforts to develop a highly skilled maritime workforce capable of meeting the demands of Kenya's growing blue economy and the global shipping industry.

Welcoming the new Cadets to the Academy, BMA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Eric Katana, said the Academy remains committed to equipping young Kenyans with the knowledge, skills and practical competencies required to compete for opportunities in the local and international maritime industry.

THE QUOTE

“The September 2026 intake marks the start of a transformative journey. At Bandari Maritime Academy, we are committed to equipping our cadets with the skills, discipline and values to become competent maritime professionals and seize opportunities in Kenya's growing Blue Economy.”

— Dr. Eric Katana, Chief Executive Officer, Bandari Maritime Academy

The cadets are undergoing a structured training programme designed to instil discipline, professionalism, teamwork and technical competence, while preparing them for the demanding nature of maritime careers. The training combines classroom instruction with practical learning, simulation and other hands-on experiences essential for developing competent maritime professionals.

BMA Senior Deputy Director and Academy Registrar, Dr. Irene Mugo, emphasized the importance of discipline and commitment among the new cadets, noting that successful maritime careers require not only academic knowledge but also strong character, resilience and adherence to professional standards.

The September intake Cadets also underwent regimental training, an important component of the Academy's orientation programme aimed at fostering discipline, leadership, teamwork and a strong sense of responsibility among cadets.

According to Senior Principal Trainer I in Nautical Science, (Rtd) Major Franklyne Toniok, the regimental programme provides cadets with a strong foundation as they transition into the rigorous academic and practical demands of maritime education.

As Kenya positions itself to take greater advantage of its strategic location along the Indian Ocean and expand its participation in the global maritime economy, institutions such as BMA are playing a critical role in producing competent seafarers.

For the September 2026 cohort, the journey begins with discipline, training and determination—with the ultimate goal of joining a new generation of Kenyan maritime professionals ready to serve both locally and across the world.



Senior Principal Trainer I in Nautical Science, (Rtd) Major Franklyne Toniok inspects a guard of honour during the Regimental training Pass out parade at the Academy on 14th September 2026.



Bandari Maritime Academy Cadets during the Regimental training Pass out parade at the Academy on 14th September 2026.



Cadets during the Regimental training Pass out parade at the Academy on 14th September 2026.



Cadets during the Regimental training Pass out parade at the Academy on 14th September 2026.

BMA Cadet advances Marine Engineering career through International Onboard training.

By John Ndegwa

Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) Marine Engineering cadet Edwin Kiogora is gaining valuable international exposure and practical industry experience through the 2026 Smart Integrated Global Onboard Training Programme in Busan, South Korea.

The programme provides Edwin with an opportunity to translate the theoretical knowledge and technical skills acquired at BMA into practical experience in a real maritime working environment. Through onboard training, he is developing hands-on competencies in marine engineering operations while gaining exposure to international standards, modern shipboard technologies, safety procedures and professional practices.

Sea time is a critical component of maritime education and training, as it enables cadets to bridge the gap between classroom learning and actual shipboard operations. It allows them to develop technical competence, discipline, teamwork, communication, problem-solving and safety awareness essential attributes for successful careers at sea.

For Marine Engineering cadets such as Edwin, sea-time training provides an opportunity to gain practical experience in areas such as machinery operations, maintenance, engine-room procedures and the safe operation of shipboard systems under the guidance of experienced maritime professionals. Edwin's participation in the international onboard training programme demonstrates the value of industry partnerships and global exposure in preparing BMA cadets for the competitive international maritime labour market.

The experience further supports BMA's commitment to producing competent maritime human resource for sustainable development and positioning its cadets to meet the evolving demands of the global shipping industry.

As Edwin continues his training in South Korea, his journey serves as an inspiring example of how practical experience, international exposure and quality maritime education can help shape the next generation of maritime professionals.



“Sea time transforms knowledge into competence, bridging the gap between the classroom and the real world while equipping cadets with the skills, discipline and global exposure needed to become the maritime professionals of tomorrow.” Cadet Edwin Kiogora



A Message from Korea – BMA Cadet Edwin Kiogora



Greetings from Busan, Korea!

I am proud and grateful to be undertaking the 2026 Smart Integrated Global Onboard Training (GOBT) Programme, an experience that is transforming my journey as a Marine Engineering cadet at Bandari Maritime Academy.

Training here is demanding, but equally rewarding. I am gaining world-class technical skills, valuable international exposure and a deeper appreciation of the discipline, teamwork and professionalism required in the maritime industry.

This experience is shaping me into a more confident and competent global seafarer while opening my eyes to exciting international career opportunities. Every day presents a new lesson and a chance to grow.

To my fellow cadets at Bandari Maritime Academy, my message is simple: Stay focused, remain disciplined and never give up. Study hard, work diligently and always be ready for opportunities. Your chance will come.

I am proud to represent Kenya and carry the Kenyan flag with pride here in Korea.

Thank you.



From Ethiopia to Mombasa: Hami's journey towards a career at Sea



The transition from hotel and tourism management to maritime work, however, required more than academic qualifications. It required specialized training and certification to prepare him for the demands of working at sea. That need eventually brought him to Mombasa.

He travelled from Ethiopia to Kenya to undertake the six-day STCW Basic Safety Training Course at Bandari Maritime Academy. His decision to train at BMA followed months of research, during which he closely followed the Academy and its activities on social media.

The distance between Addis Ababa and Nairobi is approximately 1,054 kilometers (655 miles), but the journey did not discourage him. Instead, his determination to pursue his maritime ambitions led him to choose an institution he regarded as one of the leading maritime training centres in the East African region.

He was particularly impressed by the training facilities and the competence of the instructors. For someone making the transition from land-based hospitality to the maritime industry, the practical nature of the training gave him an opportunity to gain skills relevant to life and work at sea.

"What I have experienced here is special," he said. "I must say that Kenya has invested in the infrastructure and facilities needed to support Bandari Maritime Academy in advancing its mandate and contributing to the growth of the Blue Economy."

For Hami, the training represented more than an academic requirement. It was another important step towards entering an industry that had captured his imagination long before he arrived in Mombasa.

His journey also highlighted the growing opportunities available in the maritime sector for young people in East Africa and beyond. As the global maritime industry continues to require skilled personnel, specialized training institutions play an important role in preparing aspiring seafarers for employment at sea.

Hami is encouraging young people in Ethiopia, Kenya, and across the East African region to explore opportunities in the maritime industry and acquire the skills and qualifications needed to pursue careers at sea.

He also urging aspiring seafarers from other countries to consider Bandari Maritime Academy for their maritime training.

For Hami, the journey from Ethiopia to Mombasa was ultimately about much more than distance. It was about determination, reinvention, and the courage to pursue a new professional path.

"I followed Bandari Maritime Academy closely through its social media platforms, and the way the Academy conducts its STCW Basic Safety Training convinced me that it was the best place for me to train," he said.



With his STCW Basic Safety Training completed, Hami left Mombasa one step closer to his dream of working at sea. His journey from Ethiopia to the shores of the Indian Ocean reflects the growing regional appeal of Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA).

STCW Basic Safety Training equips aspiring seafarers with essential skills in personal survival, fire prevention and firefighting, elementary first aid, and personal safety and social responsibilities. Through specialized facilities, practical training and experienced instructors, BMA continues to prepare seafarers from Kenya and beyond for opportunities in the global maritime industry.

For Hami, the journey from Addis Ababa to Mombasa was more than a trip across borders. It was a journey towards a dream he had carried for years—the dream of building a career at sea. An Ethiopian national, Hami was among the recent trainees who travelled to Kenya to undertake the STCW Basic Safety Training Course at Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) in Mombasa. His decision to pursue a career in the maritime industry came from an unconventional background. A graduate of Hotel and Tourism Management and Business Management, Hami had spent six years working in the hotel and tourism sector, gaining valuable experience in hospitality and customer service. But despite building a career on land, his ambition of working at sea never disappeared. For Hami, the attraction of the maritime industry, particularly the cruise ship sector, was closely linked to his experience in hospitality. He saw cruise ships as floating hotels—places where the skills he had acquired could be transferred to a completely different working environment. "Cruise ships are like five-star hotels, with the difference being the environment in which they operate," he said. Determined to bring his maritime dream closer to reality, Hami pursued another undergraduate degree in Business Management, keeping his long-term goal of working aboard cruise ships in mind.



From Galley Utility to Entertainer: Abdihafidh's Journey Across the Global Maritime Industry

By Raymond Zaka

For Abdihafidh Issack, a Bandari Maritime Academy alumnus, the journey into the maritime industry has been one of growth, resilience, and discovering new possibilities.

His career at sea began in the galley of an American cruise ship, where he worked as a Galley Utility. He later progressed to the position of an Ordinary Seaman, gaining valuable experience and exposure to the operations of a modern cruise vessel.

Now, Abdihafidh is preparing to return to the cruise industry once again—this time in a completely different role: as an entertainer.

He recently returned to Bandari Maritime Academy to undertake his STCW Basic Safety Training validation as he prepares to rejoin the cruise industry. For him, returning to the Academy represents more than simply renewing a mandatory certification.

It is another important step in a career that continues to evolve and demonstrates the importance of continuous training for seafarers seeking to build successful careers at sea.

According to Abdihafidh, STCW Basic Safety Training is an essential requirement for anyone aspiring to work aboard a ship, regardless of their professional background.



Abdihafidh onboard an American Cruise Ship.

His experience has given him a unique perspective on the wide range of opportunities available within the global maritime and cruise industries. Abdihafidh points out that modern cruise ships are much more than vessels that transport passengers from one destination to another. They function much like floating cities, bringing together professionals from diverse backgrounds to provide services and create memorable experiences for thousands of passengers.

From accountants and medical officers to hospitality professionals, chefs, DJs and entertainers, cruise ships require people with a broad range of skills and qualifications.

For young Kenyans exploring career opportunities, Abdihafidh believes this presents an important opportunity—provided they are willing to acquire the right qualifications and prepare themselves for the demands of working at sea.

His own career progression is a clear example of how diverse maritime opportunities can be.

“I started as a Galley Utility, progressed to Ordinary Seaman, and now, once I complete my STCW validation, I will be returning to work as an entertainer.”



“STCW Basic Safety Training is mandatory for those aspiring to work at sea. If you are a nurse and you want to work on a ship, go out and get your STCW,” he said.

Each stage of his journey has contributed to the experience and confidence he now carries into his next role.

As a Galley Utility, Abdihafidh was responsible for supporting the smooth operation of the ship's galley. The role involves maintaining cleanliness, sanitation, and order while assisting the culinary team in ensuring efficient food service operations. It is a demanding position that requires discipline, teamwork, and attention to detail. His subsequent experience as an Ordinary Seaman gave him exposure to another aspect of shipboard operations, further expanding his understanding of life and work at sea.

Now, as he prepares to join the cruise industry as an entertainer, Abdihafidh is demonstrating that a maritime career does not necessarily follow a single, predetermined path. The skills, experience and qualifications gained along the way can open doors to new opportunities and allow seafarers to explore different professional interests.

His recent return to Bandari Maritime Academy also highlights the critical role that continuous training plays in the careers of seafarers. In the international maritime industry, maintaining valid certifications is essential, and training institutions such as the Academy provide seafarers with the knowledge and competencies needed to meet international standards.

For Abdihafidh, returning to the Academy is therefore part of an ongoing professional journey rather than a return to where he started. His story is also one shared by many Bandari Maritime Academy alumni who have gone on to pursue careers in the international maritime industry. Their experiences demonstrate how internationally recognized training and certification can provide Kenyan seafarers with the foundation to compete for employment opportunities beyond the country's borders.



As the global cruise industry continues to create opportunities for professionals from different backgrounds, Abdihafidh's journey offers an encouraging message to Kenyan youth: a career at sea can take many forms. Whether one dreams of working in hospitality, entertainment, medicine, accounting, culinary services, or traditional seafaring roles, the first step is acquiring the appropriate training and certifications. Abdihafidh's progression—from Galley Utility, to Ordinary Seaman, and now to entertainer—shows what is possible when experience is combined with continuous training and a willingness to embrace new opportunities.

As he completes his STCW Basic Safety Training validation and prepares to embark on his next chapter, his journey stands as a testament to the diverse career pathways available in the global maritime industry. For Bandari Maritime Academy, his success reflects its commitment to equipping Kenyan seafarers with internationally recognized training and certifications that enable them to pursue rewarding careers at sea. For Abdihafidh, however, the journey continues. His next destination is not simply another ship—it is another opportunity to grow, perform, and demonstrate that with the right preparation, the possibilities at sea can be as wide as the ocean itself.

Beyond the Deck: BMA Cadets Take Their Voices to East Africa

By Selina Igadwa

What happens when maritime cadets trade the ship's deck for a debate stage? In Makerere University Kampala, Uganda, BMA cadets discovered that their voices could carry just as far as their maritime ambitions.

The cadets represented Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) at the East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC) 2026, hosted at Makerere University from 26 July to 1 August 2026. The regional championship brought together students from across East Africa for a week of debate, public speaking, intellectual exchange and cultural interaction.

For the BMA team, every round was a new challenge. Competing in the British Parliamentary format meant thinking quickly, listening carefully, building convincing arguments and responding confidently to opposing views.

After seven preliminary rounds, BMA successfully advanced to the Quarter-Finals, marking a significant achievement on a competitive regional stage. The experience gave the cadets an opportunity to sharpen skills that are essential both at sea and in the wider professional world communication, critical thinking, teamwork, confidence, leadership and the ability to make decisions under pressure.



Away from the debate floor, interaction with students and participants from different institutions and backgrounds offered the cadets a valuable lesson in cross-cultural engagement and regional networking. For BMA, their participation tells a bigger story. Maritime professionals operate in an increasingly interconnected world, where technical knowledge must be matched by the ability to communicate, collaborate and represent an institution with confidence. The Kampala experience therefore became more than a debating competition. It was an opportunity for BMA cadets to step beyond their technical training, test themselves in a new environment and demonstrate that a modern maritime professional need not only to know how to navigate a vessel, but also how to navigate ideas, conversations and leadership challenges.



Bandari Maritime Academy Cadets, Nicole Sulu and Khalid Mohamed during East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC) 2026 in Uganda.

My first EAUDC in Uganda was thrilling, humbling and inspiring. Reaching the quarter-finals in Debate and Public Speaking while representing my institution among East Africa's brightest young minds was an unforgettable experience. More than competition, it was a powerful lesson in youth leadership, ideas and the future of our region," Cadet Sulu.



Nicole Sulu during East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC) 2026 in Uganda.



Khalid Mohamed during East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC) 2026 in Uganda.

"We came as a debutant. We left as a contender. The quarter-finals were not the destination they were the announcement. BMA Debate has arrived, and this is only the beginning," Senior Career Service officer Samuel Dube.

Strengthening Maritime Training Through Global Partnerships



By Michael Njogah – Assistant Director Quality Assurance
Bandari Maritime Academy and
KBEST LEAD BMA

Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) successfully undertook a study tour to Nova Scotia, Canada, beginning on 3 July 2026, following an invitation from its project partner, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) – Ivany Campus.

The visit formed part of the Academy's ongoing efforts to strengthen international partnerships, benchmark best practices, and enhance the quality of maritime education and training.

One of the highlights of the visit was attending the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, a world-renowned cultural and military event that showcased the richness of global cultures, discipline, and tradition. The delegation also toured the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, where we gained valuable historical insights into the tragic sinking of the RMS Titanic, further appreciating Halifax's significant maritime heritage. The delegation toured the expansive NSCC Ivany Campus and explored several state-of-the-art training facilities, including Medical Health Sciences, Electrical Technology, Woodworking, Creative Technologies, Welding, and other technical programmes.



Bandari Maritime Academy CEO Dr. Eric Katana (centre) when he led at team from Bandari Maritime Academy to Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) - Ivany Campus, Nova Scotia, Canada. Dr. Katana was accompanied by Assistant Director Quality Assurance and Senior Business Development and Marketing officer Fatma Mzee.

The visit demonstrated the importance of modern learning environments that integrate technology, innovation, and industry needs into training delivery. A key takeaway for the Academy was the importance of continued investment in modern training resources, equipment, and innovation laboratories that connect classroom learning with real-world challenges. The institution's practical approach to skills development and applied learning provided valuable lessons that can inform the future growth of BMA.



The visit to the Nautical Institute was particularly inspiring. The delegation observed the implementation of maritime programmes that closely align with those offered by Bandari Maritime Academy. The exchange of experiences provided important insights into strengthening maritime education through enhanced practical training, greater use of simulation technology, and stronger links with the global maritime industry.

Equally impressive was the work undertaken by the Applied Sciences Department, particularly its close collaboration with industry in conducting applied research and developing practical solutions to emerging challenges. The Academy looks forward to continued knowledge sharing with NSCC on strategies for fostering innovation, industry partnerships, and commercialization of research.

The study tour reaffirmed the value of international collaboration in advancing technical and maritime education. Bandari Maritime Academy extends its sincere appreciation to Nova Scotia Community College for the warm hospitality and invaluable learning experience.

The Academy looks forward to building on this successful partnership through future exchanges, collaborative projects, and continued sharing of expertise.

Together, we are shaping the future of maritime education through partnership, innovation, and excellence.

“International collaboration is the compass guiding maritime education forward connecting institutions, advancing practical training, fostering innovation, and strengthening industry partnerships. Together, we can transform knowledge into skills, ideas into solutions, and opportunities into impact.” Dr. Katana said.



BMA CEO Dr. Eric Katana during the visit at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) - Ivany Campus, Nova Scotia, Canada

A new mandate: BMA’s student leaders begin their journey

By Selina Igadwa

It began with campaign messages, conversations and competing visions for student leadership. Across Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA), students and cadets engaged with candidates seeking their support in the 2026/2027 Bandari Maritime Academy Students’ Association (BMASA) elections.

On 5 August 2026, the campaign trail gave way to the ballot box. Overseen by the BMA Election Coordination Committee, chaired by Enock Okemwa, in collaboration with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the exercise provided students with a practical lesson in democracy, accountability and responsible leadership.



BMASA Chairperson Brian Otieno and Cadets celebrate after winning the student leadership elections held at the Academy.

When the votes were counted, Brian Otieno emerged Chairperson-elect with 150 votes, while Ramadhan Rahisi won the Treasurer’s position with 161 votes.

Stella Sau was elected Sports and Welfare Representative with 183 votes. Prisca Adhiambo, Newton Mwesigwa and Tom Simba were elected unopposed as Vice Chairperson, Secretary General and Academic Secretary respectively.

The peaceful and competitive exercise was commended by BMA Senior Deputy Director and Academy Registrar, Dr. Irene Mugo, who noted its importance in strengthening democratic values and civic responsibility among students and cadets. IEBC Mvita Constituency Senior Election Officer Masha Sudi similarly described the exercise as a practical learning experience in electoral procedures and governance.

The election victory was followed by the formal transition into office. The new BMASA Council took the oath of office, administered by BMA Senior Legal Officer Loy Lisa, in the presence of CEO Dr. Eric Katana.



“I am honoured to serve as the BMASA Sports and Welfare Representative. I look forward to working closely with fellow students to promote talent, teamwork, inclusivity and the wellbeing of every member of our Academy community.

Together, we can build a vibrant student body where everyone has an opportunity to participate, thrive and succeed.”
— Stella Sau, BMASA Sports and Welfare Representative

Congratulating the new leaders, Dr. Katana urged them to embrace integrity, unity, humility and service, challenging them to unite, mentor and empower fellow students.

“You have been entrusted with positions of responsibility. Hold these offices with zeal, dignity, humility and commitment.”

Outgoing BMASA Chairman Vincent Kagechu challenged the new council to build on the achievements of the previous leadership and continue making a positive contribution to the Academy.

The journey did not end with the oath. The new council subsequently undertook a four-day Leadership, Governance and Self-Conduct Induction Programme in Malindi, guided by Dr. Irene Mugo and facilitated by the Afrika Tulivu Organization.

The programme equipped the student leaders with practical knowledge on integrity, accountability, inclusivity, ethical conduct, responsible leadership, human rights and effective representation.

From the campaign trail to the ballot box, from victory to the oath of office and finally to induction, the new council’s journey has been one of learning, responsibility and service.



BBMA Senior Legal Officer Loy Lisa administers the Oath of office to the new elected Students leaders.



BMA CEO Dr. Eric Katana accompanied by Senior Deputy Director and Academy Registrar, Dr. Irene Mugo and Senior Deputy Director Corporate Services Evans Oyieyo during the election session at the Academy.

Bandari Maritime Academy Bill, 2025 cleared for next stage in Parliament

By John Ndegwa

For Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA), the journey towards becoming a stronger, more competitive and internationally recognized maritime institution has reached a significant turning point.

The proposed Bandari Maritime Academy Bill, 2025 has received clearance from the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, paving the way for the legislation to proceed to the next stages of parliamentary consideration.

While the development may appear to be a procedural step in the legislative process, its implications for the Academy and for Kenya's maritime sector are far-reaching.



National Assembly Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure Vice Chairperson Hon. Didmus Barasa during a committee session on 6th August, 2026.

For BMA, the proposed Act could provide the institutional stability necessary to pursue its long-term ambitions with greater clarity and confidence. A statutory framework would clearly define the Academy's mandate and governance structures while strengthening its institutional identity as a national centre for maritime education, training and research.

This is particularly important at a time when Kenya is positioning itself to take greater advantage of the Blue Economy, a sector with significant potential for employment creation, trade, investment, innovation and sustainable use of marine resources.

The maritime industry requires highly skilled professionals from seafarers and marine engineers to maritime transport and logistics specialists. A stronger BMA therefore has the potential to contribute directly to developing the human capital required to support Kenya's growing maritime ambitions.

Perhaps one of the most important benefits of a strengthened BMA will be its potential impact on young people.

A modern and well-positioned maritime academy can open pathways for Kenyan youth to pursue careers in shipping, marine engineering, nautical science, maritime transport and logistics, among other areas.

With the global maritime industry continuing to require competent and properly certified professionals, strengthening the country's capacity to train and prepare young Kenyans for both local and international opportunities is critical.

The proposed law could therefore help position BMA to expand its training capacity, strengthen industry partnerships, promote innovation and respond more effectively to emerging skills requirements within the maritime sector. The Bill also comes at a time when maritime education is becoming increasingly important to Kenya's economic competitiveness.

A stronger legal and institutional foundation would enable the Academy to pursue its mandate as a centre of excellence with greater focus on quality training, research, innovation and industry collaboration.



National Assembly Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure led by Vice Chairperson Hon. Didmus Barasa during a committee session on 6th August, 2026 where the committee paved the way the Proposed Bandari Maritime Bill, 2025 for its progression to the next stages in Parliament.

At its heart, the Bill seeks to establish Bandari Maritime Academy through an Act of Parliament and provide a clear legal framework for its functions, governance, management and administration. It will replace the existing framework established under the Bandari Maritime Academy Order, Legal Notice No. 233 of 2018.

For an institution with an increasingly important role in Kenya's maritime and blue economy agenda, having a comprehensive statutory foundation is more than a legal requirement. It is a strategic necessity.

The proposed legislation represents an important evolution in the institutional journey of BMA.

During a legal briefing at Parliament Buildings, the National Assembly's legal team guided Members of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure on the provisions and implications of the proposed Bill.

Committee Vice Chairperson, Hon. Didmus Barasa, who chaired the session on 6th August 2026, underscored the need for the proposed legislation to comply with the Constitution as it progresses through Parliament.

He noted that the Committee had no reservations about allowing the Bill to proceed, while emphasizing that Members could propose amendments at the appropriate stage.

The support expressed by Committee Members, including Hon. Komingoi Kibet (Bureti), Hon. Abdul Dawood (North Imenti) and Hon. Badi Twalib (Jomvu), reflects growing recognition of the strategic importance of maritime education and training to Kenya's economic development.

"We should allow it to move forward. Amendments can still be introduced by Members at the appropriate stage, and the Committee will also engage the sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Owen Baya," Hon. Barasa stated.

PICTORIAL PAGE



Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Eng. Aden Millah (second right), with Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Fikirini Jacobs (right), Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA) Chairman of the Board of Directors, Eng. Lung'anzi Chai Mangale (second left) and BMA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eric Katana (left) during a meeting at the Academy.



Bandari Maritime Academy new Cadets during the Regimantal training Pass out parade at the Academy On 14th September 2026.



BMA Customer Care relations officer Getrude Chao with BMA Trainer Julius Mshilla during an outreach and marketing activity in Bamburi ward. Over 300 Bamburi youth were empowered on Maritime careers through Bamburi Hope Forum organised by Bamburi Ward MCA Patrick Mbelle.



Bandari Maritime Academy Corporate Communication officer John Ndegwa receives a certificate from MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC) Dr. Ana Luis after participating in Storytelling training in Arusha, Tanzania.



Bandari Maritime Academy Director of the Board Grace Kaindi (third right), Senior Deputy Director Evans Oyieyo (second right), Senior Deputy Director Maritime Transport and Port operation Training Enock Okemwa (second left) and Office administrator Fatima Shemni during a benchmarking tour to Jakarta.

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