

Nancy Wakarima Karigithu
Bio-Note



Principal Secretary, State Department for Maritime and Shipping Affairs

Mrs. Karigithu who is currently the Principal Secretary, State Department for Maritime and Shipping Affairs in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development holds a Bachelor's degree in law from the University of Nairobi and a master's degree in International Maritime law from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta. She was the Director General (DG) of Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) where she served as such for nine (9) years. She also served as the Chair of the International Maritime Authority (IMO) for three (3) terms and she currently sits on the Board of Governors of the World Maritime University (WMU), based in Malmo, Sweden.

She has a working experience of 30 years, 26 of them in the maritime industry. As the first substantive Director General of Kenya Maritime Authority where she served for 9 years, she updated the legal framework for maritime activities in Kenya, business plans, annual operating budgets and generally advising the Government on maritime issues.

Previous work experience includes a stint State Counsel in the Office of the Attorney General, Senior Legal Officer at the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) where she rose to the post of an acting Assistant Corporation Secretary. In 1995 Mrs. Karigithu resigned from KPA to set up a private legal consultancy firm, she also consulted extensively for IMO in sub-Saharan Africa in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the East African Community and the African Union (AU). Between 2004 and 2005, she served as Transport Expert for the African Union. In this capacity she engaged on advising governments in the region on the setting up of independent maritime administrations and strengthening of maritime legal frameworks.

Mrs. Karigithu is a regular speaker at international conferences and seminars on topics dealing with maritime transport, safety and security as well as strengthening maritime administrations.

She was involved in the setting up and launch of the **Association of Women in the Maritime Sector in Eastern & Southern Africa (WOMESA)** where she served for two terms as a Chairperson and now sits on the governing council. **WOMESA** is a first regional body which brings together women professionals in the maritime sector of 26 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. She was instrumental in organizing the first ever Heads of Maritime Administrations and Ship Registrars Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya in October 2013, and which has since formed into the Association of Maritime Administration in Africa.