

**REMARKS BY KENYA PORTS AUTHORITY MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAPT. WILLIAM K. RUTO, AFNI, MBS, DURING THE 4TH ACEK
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD ON 18TH–20TH
AUGUST 2025 AT SAROVA WHITESANDS, MOMBASA.**

The Hon. Opiyo Wandayi, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Energy & Petroleum,

H.E Abdulswamad Sherrif Nassir, Governor Mombasa County,

Principal Secretaries present,

President of ACEK Eng. Jane Mutulili,

Distinguished Guests,

Consulting and Professional Engineers,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It's with great pleasure and honor to join you for this year's 4th Annual International Conference of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK).

Foremost, congratulations to you, Eng. Jane Mutulili, the President of ACEK, and the entire organizing committee for hosting such an incredible event in Mombasa. To host this kind of event in a coastal city that blends historical richness with modern transformation is a befitting tribute to the spirit of the Engineering Association.

This year's engineering conference edition, themed "Engineering the Future: Driving Innovation and Navigating the Industry 4.0–5.0 Transition," is timely and inspiring.

We are reminded of Albert Einstein's powerful words: "Scientists investigate that which already is; engineers create that which has never been." This quote precisely captures the essence of the profession.

Engineering forms the backbone of modern society, powering the infrastructure, the technologies, and the systems that simplify our lives. This conference is not just a celebration of excellence; it is a rallying call

for all of us to reflect, reimagine, and reaffirm the vital role engineers play in shaping our society and driving economic growth.

As we transition from Industry 4.0 to 5.0, the demands on engineers are growing not only to innovate but also to demonstrate leadership, ethics, integrity, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusivity to earn public trust.

Today, with the emerging of technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and automation, this presents both challenges and exciting opportunities for the engineering profession. These new technologies require new competencies, such as adaptability, collaboration, and ethics, for engineers to evolve as visionary leaders in a rapidly transforming world.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

At the Kenya Ports Authority, engineering remains central to our development strategy. The success of the ports now connected to over 33 shipping lines and more than 80 seaports globally, is testament of dedication of our engineers, whose contributions have been instrumental in positioning the port as a regional maritime logistics leader. This strong foundation of excellence continues to drive high performance, with the port of Mombasa recording an impressive throughput of 40.99 million metric tons, with container traffic increasing to 2 million TEUs in 2024. Equally we have continued to witness significant growth at our second commercial Port of Lamu which now continues to receive vessels regularly.

Engineering has played a critical role in enhancing operational efficiency and competitiveness across major infrastructure projects, including the recently constructed Shimonzi Fish Port, the revitalization of Kisumu Port, the extension of Berth 19B, crucial dredging operations, and the strategic Dongo Kundu special economic zone (SEZs) development initiative.

Environmental stewardship remains a top priority to the Authority's strategy guided by the Green Port Policy, running through 2028. We are adopting electric and hybrid cargo handling equipment, marking a significant shift toward a cleaner port operation. Plans are also underway to carry out feasibility studies to support the development of e-mobility infrastructure within port facilities.

To position our ports as a regional green port hub, the Authority is investing in green energy initiatives, including installation of a 415 V, 500 kVA shore power facility and 1.55 MW of solar PV capacity, with plans aimed at scaling up to 10 MW. Additionally, in meeting the rising export demand of horticultural products, the Authority has invested in cold chain logistics infrastructure, an initiative that aims to cut the carbon footprint of the supply chain by over 70%.

To conclude, may I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge all of you for your Leadership, and immense contribution to the society. I urge the entire engineering fraternity to continue with this remarkable journey of transforming lives and paving the way for a brighter future. Together, we can shape our nation that is inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous. You are welcome to visit the Port of Mombasa.

Thank you.