

PORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER SERVICES – KENYA EXPERIENCE

Port Meteorological Officer: Ali J. Mafimbo
Port: Mombasa
Ship Volume: Average of 3 per day

Ships mainly from:

- Far East
- Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Rim countries.
- Europe
- Americas.

STATUS OF VOS

2 Kenya Navy Ships (Auxillary)

PRESENT FUNCTIONS OF THE PMO

- Visit and check on Instruments/Give any advice to VOS ships.
- Attend to any other requirements of VOS ships within our means.
- Perform any monitoring duties as may from time to time be required by WMO or any other Marine organization.
- Train seafarers in marine Meteorological Observations.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

The main objective is to enhance the National VOS programme to meet National and International requirements.

We believe this can be achieved by

Developing a regional VOS programme in the WIO region through the proposed Western Indian Ocean Marine Application Project (WIOMAP), which is still at the development stage and being strongly supported by WMO.

In this Project VOS is envisaged to be a component of the observing module of WIOMAP.

MAJOR NATIONAL CHALLENGES.

1. Acquisition of Meteorological equipments to loan to ships.
2. Blackout on Kenya Marine Meteorological services in terms of issuing of weather broadcasts to ships in the high seas. This is due to Kenya losing its role as an issuing service within region VIII(S).
3. Cost recovery policy of the Department poses a big threat to ship recruitment. eg. Shipping Trawlers.
4. Port office poorly equipped with facilities for instruments testing and comparisons.
5. Technological changes; remote sensing of data availability vis avis VOS programme and budget constraints.

WAY FORWARD.

1. Development and consequent implementation of the WIOMAP project gives a ray of hope for not only Kenya but most of the countries in the region.
2. The establishment of a whole section on Marine Meteorology and Oceanographic services in the Kenya Meteorological Department gives hope to VOS enhancement in the country.
3. The Kenya PMO's vast Network gained through participation of WMO fora like this gives an enabling environment to boost the VOS programme in the country.
4. In the political arena, the introduction of the East African Community , will facilitate higher prioritisation of marine policies that is high in the mandate of the Union.

By Ali J. Mafimbo

PMO – Mombasa, Kenya
