

**Speech of Ronny Matatiken,
Deputy Director of RCOOC (Regional Coordination Operational Centre)**

IORIS launch by CRIMARIO in Seychelles

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Minister Abdallah Saïd Sarouma of Comoros

Son Excellence Lionel Majesté-Larrouy, Ambassadeur de France auprès des Seychelles

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome to the Seychelles Islands and address you on behalf of the Government of Seychelles and to say how grateful we are to the EU to convene this Official Launching of the Indian Ocean Regional Information System for the countries who is part of the EU MASE Project.

It is an opportune moment to renew contacts and discuss problems of mutual interests that poses a threat to the safety and security of the Maritime Domain of the Indian Ocean Region. As you may be aware, maritime security is based on the legitimate implementation of international Treaties regarding the laws on the sea and other related legal instruments and codes of conduct to all maritime nations in the world.

Let me start by quoting HE Mr. **President Faure on sustainable development of the SADC Blue Economy and Maritime Security at the 38th SADC Summit.**

I quote "It is important to note that a portion of our goods and services make it through our region's shores and oceans onwards to the rest of the world. Our Southern part of the world has a commendable collective stretch of seashore, a wide collective oceanic territory and with it, highly relevant and important exclusive economic zones...."Furthermore, it is of utmost importance that we collectively talk on the curbing of international maritime crimes. These will create a more attractive business environment; will attract investors and foreign direct investment to our region "end quote.

With that said Maritime Domain Awareness is a component of and a key enabler for Maritime Security and Blue Economy. Without the effective understanding on what is happening globally and within our region could affect the security, safety, economy or environment of our nations. With Area of Interest of 28 million square kilometers and an Area of Responsibility almost 15 million square kilometers for RCOOC and RMIFC therefore information Exchanges between our nations and organizations is paramount to build trusts.

With information, we can build on knowledge and understanding. In order to achieve that we have to have a reliable and uniform medium to connect us within this extensive global linkage. This is where IORIS comes in.

A regional platform to ensure that information's and operational exchanges between Regional Centers, National Centers and Local or international organizations.

The maritime domain is an ever changing threat environment, from piracy to maritime terrorism, Illegal Unregulated Unreported Fisheries activities to many more transnational organized crime that utilize the weaknesses within our maritime environment.

This new system will further expand our reach and have an appreciation through exchanges of information and operations as mandated by the two regional centers with capabilities to coordinate operations on a regional level within the western Indian Ocean region.

We are also here to highlight the strong partnership between our governments and private partners in enhancing a safe and secure Indian oceans region.

On behalf of the Seychelles Government, we are proud to have worked with all our partners on this important project. This is just the start as there are more steps to be taken to improve on the effectiveness and capabilities of this system. All of us especially present here today, recognize the importance of securing the Indian Oceans region.

Our small islands nation has always turned out to the ocean for our survival. These accomplishments are important reminders as to why we need to continue to invest into our maritime security. If there is no shipping, there is no shopping!

The Seychelles Government remains steadfast in its friendship and commitment to ensure a secure and safe Indian Ocean region.

I thank you all for your kind attention

Thank you.