



## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE WORLD'S LARGEST NON-GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL SHIP DOCKED IN SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE

Tomorrow, Thursday 17 May at 9:00 am the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship "the Africa Mercy", left the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife to set sail to Liberia to start its first campaign.

The former Danish rail ferry "Droning Ingrid", has been converted into "**the Africa Mercy**" the newest hospital ship of **Mercy Ships**, which will provide free healthcare and community development services to the poorest people of Africa – [www.nde.es](http://www.nde.es).

Converting the ferry into a state-of-the-art floating hospital ship cost over 45 million euros, but now it contains six state-of-the-art operating theaters, 78-bed recovery ward, and medical imaging suite with x-ray, CAT scan, and remote diagnostics. Also it carries all the supplies needed for the agriculture and constructions projects.

Captain Jurryan Schutte from Holland and his crew left England on the 4th of May. After a short visit of 4 days in Holland they sailed to the Canaries where it received its last maritime inspection before sailing on to Africa .

Since 1978, Mercy Ships has assisted over 54 developing nations, with help valued at over 500 million euros. Treated more than 360.000 people in village medical and dental clinics, performed more than 26.000 surgeries and completed more than 900 community development projects.

The director of Mercy Ships Spain, Ricardo Menzies, said: "*The Africa Mercy has a greater capacity than the three previous ships combined. There is tremendous need in the world and we hope that this will be the first of a number of ships that will enable us to help an increasing number of people each year*”.

All the crew on board the Africa Mercy will be volunteer professionals from around the world. Doctors, dentists, nurses, community developers, teachers, builders, cooks, seamen, engineers, and many others will donate their time and skills to the effort.

For further information on Mercy Ships, please visit our website at: [www.nde.es](http://www.nde.es)

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[http://www.nde.es/es/press\\_es.php](http://www.nde.es/es/press_es.php)

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## AFRICA MERCY – FACTS

- Formerly 'Droning Ingrid'
- 16,572 tonnes
- 474 berths for crew
- 78 bed ward
- 6 operating theatres
- X-ray room
- CT scanner
- Dental clinic
- Pharmacy
- School – up to 60 pupils
- Length: 499 feet
- Breadth: 78 feet



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