

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA) HABIB ABDULLAHI TO THE ONE DAY SENSITIZATION FORUM ON THE INTRODUCTION OF E-PAYMENT REVENUE COLLECTION /PAYMENT PLATFORM ON THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2014.

On behalf of the Management of Nigerian Ports Authority, I welcome you to this epoch making occasion designed to address a key performance indicator in our service delivery efforts to you our esteemed customers and stakeholders.

On assumption of office, it became imperative for this Management to seek ways of improving the revenue of the Authority without compromising efficiency and to provide comfort for our customers. The drive for this robust engagement was the realization that there is a direct correlation between the levels of revenue collected by the Authority and her capacity to provide infrastructural facilities or fund other transformation initiatives that would engender economic growth within the ports environment and improve service delivery to our stakeholders.

Management consequently unveiled the following broad initiatives to deliver our vision for overall transformation of the Nigerian Ports Authority. This includes;

1. Identify and block all avenues of revenue leakages.
2. Invest in massive infrastructural renewal and development geared towards deepening the channels to attract larger vessels; and
3. Automate and integrate our various ports nationwide using the same information technology platform, thereby improving efficiency and reducing manual intervention in our processes.

Today's sensitization forum for the introduction of e-payment is part of this strategic initiative designed to address the payment challenges faced by our stakeholders and customers in their business relationship with us.

The Nigerian Ports Authority acknowledges the problems our customers and other stakeholders have encountered in making payments for business dealings with us. Complaints of delays in payment confirmation, leading to vessel delays and other harrowing experiences are common place. We have therefore responded with a solution that guarantees multiple payment channels and reduces reconciliation challenges to the barest minimum.

Some of the benefits of the e-payment platform include:

- Instant Payment confirmation
- Elimination of human interface in the payment procedures
- Improve vessel Turn Around Time
- Reduce cost of doing business in our ports which impacts the national economy.
- Going forward, we expect the introduction of this platform to eliminate among others;
- Delay in confirmation of payment of provisional bills across the ports.
- Long documentation and payment confirmation procedures arising from the above
- Unnecessary delay of vessel in Port awaiting payment confirmation leading to demurrage payment by ships.

- Delay in the 48 hours clearing process

As we review the processes and procedures for the e-payment system with the NPA during this forum, we believe Terminal Operators [Concessionaires], Shipping Companies, Lessees and other stakeholders will take advantage of the platform that has been provided to improve service delivery with the Nigerian Ports Authority.

I wish you a productive interactive session.

Thank you!!!