



NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY, HABIB ABDULLAHI ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF ELECTRONIC SHIP ENTRY NOTICE (e-SEN) AND TWO YEARS STEWARDSHIP OF THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT , ON WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER , 2014 AT EKO HOTEL

Major Stakeholders in the Nation's Maritime industry,

Members of NPA Executive Management,

Members of NPA General Management,

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a fulfilled honour and joy to welcome you all to this occasion, which coincides with the second year stewardship of the present executive management of Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) as well as the launching of the Electronic ship entry notice (E-SEN).

Today is indeed, a remarkable day in the life of present management of this Organization as it marks the end of the second year of our endeavors designed to make the Nation's seaports the leading and most efficient port in Africa.

In the last two years and in line with the mandate given to us as well as the Transformation agenda of President Goodluck Jonathan (GCFR), the present Management embarked on programs designed to improve efficiency of our operations.

All of you have been part of this significant milestone which has brought this very special and epoch making occasion.

As you are aware, the major determinant of a good efficient and user friendly port is hinged on vessel turn-around time, cargo dwell time, security of ships at berth, as well as safety of the channel.

Apart from this, Nigerian ports were also in need of huge resources for rehabilitation and modernization of its infrastructure in order to meet the demand of stakeholders. .

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to present our score card for the last two years.

MARINE AND OPERATIONS

In this area our efforts are anchored on the need to deliver an efficient port service in a safe, secure and customer friendly environment, in accordance with the international best practises.

To achieve this, Management has continued to pay attention to first and foremost, improving existing port infrastructures in the areas of rehabilitation of port quay walls and aprons, deepening of our channels, upgrading of our common user facilities and wreck removal from our channels.

As you are all aware, the biggest vessel to call at any port in West Africa (WAFMAX) with a length overall 232.33 metres and capacity of 4,500 TEUS requiring draught of 13.5 Meters has started visiting our ports due to our consistent dredging campaign. The weekly call of the WAFMAX vessel to Lagos and Onne port is a great achievement.

Generally, stakeholders and shipping companies have confirmed that the channel management and conservancy function of the Authority has continued to improve.

Analysis has confirmed that most of the ports recorded increase in the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of vessels mainly due to the capital and maintenance dredging of the channel by our Joint Venture (JV) Companies, namely the Lagos Channel Management (LCM) Company, for the management of the Lagos channel and

the Bonny Channel management (BCC) Company for the management of the Bonny channel.

These strategic developments have reflected in increasing cargo throughput to 77 Million metric tons in 2013 from 44,953,073 MT in 2005 excluding crude oil and gas.

Provision of Towage Services

In order to provide efficient towage service, the Government has approved the outsourcing of these services in Port Harcourt, Onne, Warri, and Calabar ports. Very soon, I assure you there will no more complaint in delays in ship movement in and out of the ports.

HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIROMENT

In recognition that excellence in environment, safety and health enhance efficient and successful Port Operations, an environmental health policy was formulated under the administration.

Major achievements here include

- ❖ Procurement of six (6) Nos Mercedes Benz (Actross 3332) fire engines with foam tenders, complete with accessories and one-year back-up spare parts.
- ❖ Supply of 2 Nos Mercedes Benz (Actross3332) fighting truck with aerial platform, complete accessories and one year back-up spare parts
- ❖ Supply of first aid intervention equipment
- ❖ Construction and supply of four (4) Nos Heavy Duty Fire Trucks
- ❖ Supply of six (6) Nos Land Rover (defender) fire tender with complete accessories and one-year back-up spare parts.

Development of Deep sea Ports

It is also a privilege that it is during this management that the Federal Government has approved the development of a deep sea port in Lekki under a PPP arrangement. Other similar projects located in Ibaka, Akwa Ibom state ,Olokola in Ondo and Ogun states ,Badagry ,Lagos state are also being considered.

ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Port Infrastructural Development

We have continued to make strides in improving existing port infrastructures in the areas of rehabilitation works. We have seen to the conclusion of East and West moles and upgrading and renovation of common user facilities.

Worth mentioning here is the completion of phase 4 and approval received for the commencement of the development of port facilities phase 4B at Onne Port Complex

Capital Projects

In pursuance of the development of our ports to ensure that they meet international standards in service delivery and satisfying the requirements of port users and stakeholders, Management has continued to; vigorously pursue major capital projects in all our port locations nation-wide. We therefore witnessed -

- Completion of the construction of 1.6km road at LPC.
- Completion of reconstruction of terminals B & C at old Warri Port
- Completion of the rehabilitation of rail track at LPC
- Continuation of the rehabilitation of TCIP quay wall and quay apron and third party projects which includes:
 - Initiation and completion of Island Berth on Lagos Channel by Oando and
 - Completion of Eko Support Services at Bullnose, Apapa

To further encourage private participation in port development, technical approvals were granted to Digisteel Ltd and MRS Oil & Gas to expand their services at Ogogoro and TCIP respectively.

We have also granted approval to Niger Dock for development of additional berth to its existing one at Snake Island. Similarly, we are processing a number of applications from prospective investors. Already applications from PTML and GDNL have been processed and recommended for requisite approval.

In order to accommodate the rapid expansion and development in the port, we are intensifying effort in the final production of a National Port Master Plan.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

At the commencement of this administration, it became imperative to seek ways of improving the revenue of the Authority without compromising efficiency and to provide comfort for all customers. Consequently Management unveiled the E-payment initiative to deliver our vision for overall transformation of the Authority.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as a number of you may recall, Sometimes in February 2014 we invited you, our esteemed stakeholders and customers to introduce the Electronic payment solution which has tremendously improved our operations.

This includes Identifying and blocking all avenues of revenue leakages, Investment in massive infrastructural renewal and development geared towards deepening the channels to attract larger vessels; and automate and integrate our various ports nationwide using the same information technology platform, thereby improving efficiency and reducing manual intervention in our processes.

I am glad to mention that this has already started yielding results

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 positively on the national economy.

Going forward, it is expected, that introduction of this platform would eliminate among others;

- Delays 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

The process has helped to improve service delivery between Terminal Operators [Concessionaires], Shipping Companies, Leases and other stakeholders and the Nigerian Ports Authority. This is evident from the recent 15.4% increase in cargo throughput recorded in the 1st half of 2014.

HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

TRAINING

This administration for the first time undertook a massive training plan both local and foreign that cut across every cadre of the workforce. In 2013 alone management trained 3,091 personnel out of the total work force of 4,245. This figure represents 90% of total workforce.

RECRUITMENT

Considering the huge responsibility of securing the ports in line with international standards, the present Management has successfully completed the recruitment and training of security men for the Authority. Similarly, we are in the process of recruitment of additional firemen and women.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

In line with the corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy of the organisation, the present Management undertook several projects. This includes:

Relief materials to 2012 flood victim

Relief materials to Bakassi returnees

Donation of buses to UNILAG

Donation of security boats to Navy and

Provision of social amenities (classrooms and health centres across the country)

LONG SERVICE AWARDS.

This management has resuscitated the long service award by honouring 321 personnel, who have served the organisation between 30-34 years as at 31st December, 2011. This is to show appreciation to the workforce.

We intend to make this an annual event.

CONCLUSION

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, in closing I want to reassure all stakeholders that this management is committed to the realization of the vision to make our ports the leading port in Africa. We shall continue at all times to remain focused on making our ports efficient and customer friendly.

Today in our resolve to continue to deliver efficient port services according to our mandate as an Authority, we have taken a giant stride to introduce another major initiative that will further drive with great speed the wheel of shipping in our ports. This is the Electronic Ship Entry Notice (e-SEN).

The Ship Entry Notice (SEN) process hitherto was done manually. Stakeholders purchased booklets of application forms, filled a leaflet and submit manually to the

designated SEN offices located in either the Western Ports or Eastern Ports Head offices depending on the port of call.

This manual process is fraught with challenges, such as, duplication of requests, slow response to requests due to delayed verification and validation of ship data. Important to note also, is the feedback from stakeholders revealing the inconvenience faced in traveling back and forth between designated SEN offices to pick up their SEN certificates and ports of discharge, loss of manpower hours in business and the risk involved in commuting.

Consequently, we have integrated an online payment platform on the E-SEN application. This is to simplify the payment processes to NPA and enhance the provision of a link to the world economy thereby encouraging international trade

While appreciating your presence, we have put together some of the achievements of this management in an electronic documentary enclosed in the Special Edition of the In-house journal –**Nigerian Ports Today** - folders given to you.

It is also my pleasure and privilege to formally introduce to you the Electronic Ship Entry (eSEN)

I invite you all to sit back and enjoy the event

Once again, I welcome you all.

Thank you and God bless.

Habib Abdullahi

Managing Director