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NIGERIA NAVAL OFFICERS ATTACK PIRATES, RESCUE CHINESE VESSEL

by Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide

Coordinator of Defence Media Operations, Major General John Enenche, yesterday disclosed that the Nigerian Navy intercepted a Chinese vessel, which was attacked by pirates, off the Coast of Cote D' Ivoire.

Enenche, who revealed this in Abuja at a routine update on various operations of the Nigerian Armed Forces, said the pirates seized the vessel and directed it towards Nigerian waters.

He said the Navy officers through an opposed boarding of the vessel arrested 10 pirates, rescues 18 crew members comprising Chinese, Ghanaians and Ivorians, adding, "The Nigerian Navy was alerted of the pirate attack and immediately, the Nigerian Navy Ship NGURU was dispatched to intercept the vessel.

"On intercepting the vessel about 140 nautical miles south of Lagos Fairway Buoy, the pirates refused to comply with orders of the Nigerian Navy Ship, hence the officers had to conduct an opposed boarding of the vessel."

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CUSTOMS SEIZES N1BN CANNABIS IN LAGOS

by Oluwatoyin Amao

Operatives of the Western Marine Command, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) have intercepted drugs suspected to be cannabis sativa valued at N1,002,050,000 during a seagoing patrol on Lagos waters.

The Controller of the command, Olugboyega Peters, disclosed this in a statement in Lagos on Thursday. Peters described the seizure as the "largest single seizure" of such drugs on the waters in the history of the Nigeria Customs Service.

According to him, the suspected smugglers seen from afar with the drugs dived into the water to escape upon sighting customs officers approaching to make the seizure

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INVESTIGATION: BETWEEN NIGERIA AND BENIN REPUBLIC, CORRUPT SECURITY OFFICIALS HELP BREACH COVID-19 TRAVEL BAN

by Adejumo Kabir

Across the globe, countries are in a race against time to curb the spread of the deadly virus and to rescue what they can of lives and the economy from its wreckage. But as a reporter, I wanted to see how the restriction of movement has affected travel by sea between Nigeria and it's West African coastal neighbors.

To move across Lagos in spite of the lockdown of the city, all it takes is to wake up early and carry enough cash to bribe corrupt security agents. At the jetty, I wondered if the people were aware that Liverpool is part of Lagos, the epicenter of coronavirus infection in Nigeria. Passengers were seen in their numbers, without obeying the social distance rule, ready to journey to Ikorodu, Ojo, Ebute-Metta and other parts of Lagos. There, buying and selling were going on as usual.

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An artist's impression of the completed Nigeria's Lekki port project. Illustration courtesy of Lekki.

MARITIME INDUSTRY COMES TOGETHER TO ENSURE SAFE CONTINUATION OF GLOBAL SHIPPING

by Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide

Specialist travel management company, ATP Marine & Energy, is working with the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) to help seafarers return home, or continue to travel to ships, during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The initiative sees ATP Marine & Energy work alongside IMEC members, industry bodies and regulators in an example of the unprecedented efforts required to ensure that seafarers are able to travel around the world when there are almost no scheduled flights operating. Safeguarding the travel of ship's crew is essential to keep global cargo moving.

Using travel industry expertise and the knowledge of the most required port-connecting routes, ATP Marine & Energy supports global marine companies in finding the most efficient options to allow seafarers to get where they are needed, whether that's via traditional airline routes or charters.

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MASSIVE NIGERIA PORT MOVES FORWARD WITH FUNDING FROM EPC CONTRACTOR

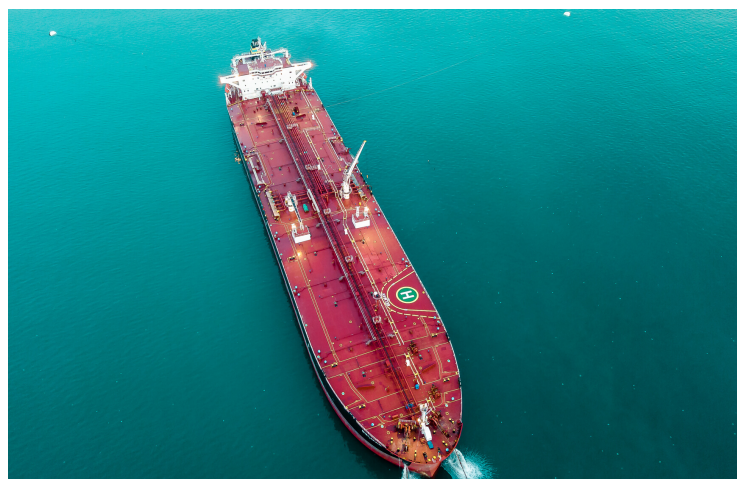
by Shem Oirere

Nigeria's \$1.675 billion Lekki deep sea port development has received \$221 million in equity funding from China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), the Chinese marine contractor that had earlier won the engineering, procurement and construction contract for the project that is expected to be the deepest in Sub Saharan Africa.

Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited (LPLEL), a joint venture of Singapore-based Tolaram Group (75%), Nigeria's Federal Government through the Nigerian Ports Agency (5%) and the Lagos State Government (20%), said in a statement in early April the CHEC funding "will greatly contribute to fast tracking the timely delivery of the project and bring about economic prosperity to Nigeria as a whole."

Other components of the port project include construction of infrastructure for water supply and distribution and wastewater treatment, a 30MW power plant for port operations, communications networks and acquisition of container terminal equipment such as ship-to-shore cranes at the quay and gantry stacking cranes at the container yard.

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YANG MING HOLDS NAMING CEREMONY FOR 2,800 TEU NEW SHIPS

by Yogender Pancholi

Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp held the naming ceremony for two of its 2,800 TEU class full container vessels YM Celebrity & YM Continent at CSBC's Kaohsiung shipyard on May 20th. The series of ten 2,800 TEU full container vessels constructed at CSBC shipyard is expected to be delivered and added to Yang Ming's fleet from this May throughout the second quarter of 2021.

This type of vessels has a nominal capacity of 2,940 TEU and is equipped with 353 plugs for reefer containers. With a length of 209.75 meters, a width of 32.8 meters, a draft of 11.2 meters, the ships are designed to cruise at a speed up to 21 knots. The new vessels adopt the energy-saving Sea Sword Bow technology and the exclusive Full Spade Rubber design to offer greater operational efficiency and eco-friendly advantages. The newbuilding's are equipped with Total Watch System (multifunction workstation for Radar/Chart radar/ECDIS/Conning/Route planning) to enable safer and more efficient navigation. In addition, they also have global satellite broadband and network layout capabilities which will enable Yang Ming's global fleet to attain more competitive advantages in environmental protection and fleet management.

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