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NPA TO RECEIVE SHIPLOADS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND FOOD ITEMS IN LAGOS PORT

by Ruth Okwumbu

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) will receive 16 ships laden with petroleum products, food items and other goods over the next 14 days.

According to its publication, 'Shipping Position,' which was released on Saturday, the receipts of the shipment will last from June 6 through June 20.

According to the publication viewed by NAN, the ships are expected to arrive at the Lagos Port Complex.

Among the expected items to be received are frozen fish, base oil, general cargo, bulk salt, bulk clinker, butane gas, bulk wheat and soya beans.

The NPA also noted in its publication that 23 ships had arrived the ports, waiting to berth with containers, general cargo and petrol, while 17 other ships were at the ports discharging containers, petrol, butane, bulk fertilizer, bulk wheat, general cargo and frozen fish.

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NIGERIA HANDS OVER VESSEL, CREW SUSPECTED OF PIRACY TO GHANA

by Premium Times

The Nigerian government has handed over the Vessel, Marine 707, suspected to be carrying out illegal activities in the Gulf of Guinea to the Ghanaian authorities for further investigation and possible prosecution. Nigeria also handed over 51 crew members including 48 Ghanaians and three south Korea nationals to the government of Ghana and Korea respectively. The vessel which had authorization to fish in Ghana and Benin waters was arrested by the Nigerian Navy on May 18, 2020 around the southwest of Lagos waters with her Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched off after being suspected to be used for piracy or being used as a mother ship to conduct piracy in the Gulf of Guinea was handed over to they NIMASA after preliminary investigations by the Navy.

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NIGERIA: UNDERUTILISED EASTERN SEAPORTS

by Hellenic Shipping news

Prospects of revival of the country's eastern seaports heightened last Thursday at the occasion of the inauguration of the new Board of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) by the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi.

Describing them as underutilized, the Chairman of the new Board, Akin Ricketts, lamented over their state, while noting that such a situation had far-reaching impact on the country's economy, as it was responsible for the congestion which has crippled business at the western ports of Apapa and Tin Can Island; all in Lagos.

Ricketts then pledged that his new board would strive to resolve the situation by improving the conditions of the eastern ports. The eastern ports comprise Port Harcourt and Onne (Rivers State), Delta in Warri (Delta State) and Calabar (Cross River State). As envisaged, the eastern ports are to service the eastern part of the country comprising states located east of the River Niger.

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Maersk first female, Nigerian Country Manager Lara Lana

MAERSK APPOINTS LANA AS FIRST FEMALE, NIGERIAN COUNTRY MANAGER

by Oluwatoyin Amao

For the first time since it began operating in the country, Danish shipping giant Maersk has appointed a female Nigerian, Lara Lana, to head its business unit in Africa's most populous nation. Lana will serve as Maersk Nigeria Country Manager from 1st June 2020.

It is the first time a Nigerian will be appointed into the position. Before now, Maersk Nigeria was overseen by a Managing Director, who also doubled as the cluster head for the West and Central Africa sub-region.

Lana takes over from Gildas Tohouo who served as Managing Director until December 2019.

Lana has been with A.P. Moller-Maersk since 2002 where she has held various positions in West Africa and the United Kingdom for Maersk, Maersk Logistics/Damco and Safmarine.

She will be responsible for the business planning and execution for Maersk in Nigeria through optimization of company's product portfolio and improved customer satisfaction," Maersk said in a statement issued by its Africa Communications Manager, Kerry Rosser.

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U.S. TRADE SLUMPS TO 10-YEAR LOW

by Ship & Ports

U.S. trade in goods and services plunged in April to the lowest level in almost a decade as the Covid-19 pandemic stifled demand and hindered logistics.

Exports declined from the prior month by 20.5%, the biggest drop in comparable data back to 1992, to \$151.3 billion. Imports decreased 13.7%, also the most since 1992, to \$200.7 billion. Combined, the value of U.S. exports and imports decreased to \$352 billion, the lowest since May 2010, Commerce Department data released Thursday showed.

The overall gap in goods and services trade expanded to \$49.4 billion, matching the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists and the widest since August, from a revised \$42.3 billion in March. Foreign trade was already easing prior to the pandemic, and now, faced with supply-chain disruptions, a previously incomprehensible surge in U.S. unemployment and a drop-off in demand, the world's largest economy has pulled back more dramatically. Tensions between the U.S. and China have been escalating, with President Donald Trump blaming the Asian nation for misleading the world about the scale and risk of the coronavirus outbreak.

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CHINA CANCELS SOME U.S. FARM SHIPMENTS, MARITIME EXECUTIVES SAY

by Wall Street Journal

Chinese state-controlled companies have canceled some shipments from U.S. farm exporters, according to maritime officials, as tensions between Washington and Beijing rise over China's handling of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and the coronavirus pandemic.

"A handful of shipments of livestock feed, corn, pork, cotton and some meat imports are pushed back," said a senior Chinese shipping executive involved in China farm imports who asked not to be identified and who has been briefed on Beijing's move.

"Private Chinese exporters are not part of this, but it could escalate, depending on how the relationship between the U.S. and China goes forward," this executive said.

A second Chinese shipping executive said China state importers have canceled between 15,000 and 20,000 metric tons of U.S. pork shipments, about 10 days' worth of orders. Beijing is also holding back some U.S. shipments of corn and cotton, he said, and further actions would depend on Washington's response to China's tightening grip on Hong Kong.

If Washington escalates in its response, this executive said, "We could be back at another round of tariffs and limitations," he said. "There is a lot of anger here, because Hong Kong is a red line."

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