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REPS SEEK RELOCATION OF OIL TANK FARMS

by Ship & Ports

The House of Representatives has called for the relocation of oil tank farms from residential areas nationwide. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila made the call while inaugurating an adhoc committee on the need to relocate tank farms in residential areas of Ijegan, Kirikiri and other areas.

According to him, sitting tank farms in residential areas pose a great risk to the lives of the people living in those areas. He said, "Tank farms across the country serve an essential function. They are stores of economic value and a critical part of the energy distribution infrastructure in the country.

"However, we cannot continue to ignore the undeniable fact that the location of many of these tank farms in places of residence or close to areas of high traffic represents a clear and present risk to the people that live and work in those places.

"Therefore, the House of Representatives has resolved to investigate how these tank farms came to be in these places, and more importantly, what needs to be done about them to prevent further disaster from occurring on our watch."

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TANKER ATTACKED, 13 CREW KIDNAPPED, GULF OF GUINEA UPDATE

by Mikhail Voytenko

Alison Management Corp. as management company of the chemical/bunkering tanker MV Curacao Trader , IMO No:9340908 advises that its vessel was attacked by pirates approx. 210 miles off the coast of Benin at 1100 hrs local time on 17th July.

13 out of its 19 Ukranian and Russian crew members have been taken hostage by the pirates – as a result the ship is currently drifting with limited man power on board.

Chemical tanker CURACAO TRADER was attacked at around 1100 UTC Jul 17 in Gulf of Guinea, 230 nm south of Lagos, Nigeria, while en route from Lome Togo to undefined port. Pirates boarded tanker and kidnapped 15 crew, according to Dryad/IMB report.

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SAMSUNG UNVEILS MARITIME INNOVATIONS TO MODERNISE SHIPBUILDING IN NIGERIA

by Peter Uzoho

Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) is developing innovative methods to facilitate smart shipping by undertaking thorough research across their multiple research centres in Geoje, Daeduk and Pangyo in Korea.

According to a statement issued by the company, the aim is not only to transform Samsung's shipyard at Geoje into a smart shipyard, but also transfer the wealth of technological knowhow from Korea to Nigeria, cultivating smart shipping in Nigeria as well.

The statement added that the innovations currently being worked on have the potential to bring about radical changes in the shipping industry, fostering the use of ecofriendly technology, a switch to digitised management and self-reliance on inspection for offshore engineering and more.

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Managing Director NPA Hadiza Bala-Usman with Executive Chairman of the Ocean Marine Solutions, OMS, Capt Idahosa Wells Okunbo

PIRACY, ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENTS DOUBLE IN ASIA

by Jite Eriabie

The number of attacks on ships in the key waterway of the Singapore Straits doubled in the first half of the year to 16 incidents according to ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).

The increase in incidents in the Singapore Strait in the first half of the year was mirrored in the Asian region in general with 51 incidents of armed robbery and piracy reported in Asia in the first half of the year nearly double the number of 28 in the same period a year earlier.

While the number of incidents was up the severity was generally low with 74% in ReCAAP's 'Cat 4' which means the perpetrators were not armed/crew not harmed

.However, the increase in incidents is a concern to ReCAAP. "We are concerned with this increase since even small crimes if they are not addressed can encourage criminals to commit more serious acts in future," Masafumi Kuroki, executive director of ReCAAP ISC, said on Thursday.

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NEED TO RESPECT SENATE'S DECISION ON SAA

by This Day

Oluchi Chibuzor stresses the need for all parties to respect the National Assembly's decision on the Secured Anchorage Area to save Nigeria from the embarrassing attacks by pirates on vessels on Nigerian waters.

In late 2019, a report by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel on piracy and criminal activity in Nigeria's territorial waters revealed that Nigeria lost approximately \$2.8 billion in 2018, due to crude oil and maritime crimes.

Nigeria has a 853km long coastline that runs through seven of the Southern States of the Federation, Lagos, Ondo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

With this vast coastline, it is nearly impossible for the security services in charge of manning Nigeria's waters to do so alone, hence the collaboration between the Nigerian Navy and a private security company, Ocean Marine Solution Limited (OMSL) to protect vessels coming to Nigeria.

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RUSSIA STRENGTHENS AFRICAN TIES IN ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS

by Ships & Ports

In recent years Russia has moved to expand its role in African commodities industries, aiming to build on a legacy of Soviet influence to gain greater access to the continent's natural resources.

Traditionally, Russian companies have operated in both sub-Saharan and North Africa, working in gold, gem, manganese and bauxite mining, as well as on oil, gas and nuclear projects.

The Soviet Union built influence in Africa by supporting independence movements, education programs for African students, and military and economic cooperation. The collapse of the Soviet Union and Russia's subsequent economic decline saw these links diminish in the 1990s.

Russia is now seeking to revive its relationships on the continent, hoping to capitalize on disillusionment with existing Western and Chinese partners. Russian officials have committed to provide turnkey commodities projects, and offered cooperation in other sectors, including arms and medical supplies to African countries.

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