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EMPOWER NSC AS REGULATOR, SAYS MARITIME EXPERTS, AMID FOREIGN SURCHARGE ON NIGERIAN IMPORTERS

by Ben Eguzozie

Amid a vexatious introduction of arbitrary surcharges by some international shipping firms on Nigerian importers, some maritime experts at the Nigerian Shippers Association (NSA), Rivers-Bayelsa chapters, have advised the Nigerian federal government to urgently empower the Shippers Council (NSC), being the country's maritime regulator, to protect all shippers.

"By empowering NSC, what we mean is that the federal Ministry of Transportation should join hands with the Shippers Council, and issue a strong statement to all shipping firms operating in Nigeria, demanding they rescind the surcharges," the maritime experts told Business A.M. in Port Harcourt.

Ofon Udofia, chairman of the Nigerian Shippers Association (NSA) Rivers-Bayelsa chapters, who captured the stand of shippers in the region, told Business A.M. in an interview that, "the transport ministry and the Shippers Council, as federal government agencies overseeing the transportation sector where maritime is also domiciled, should join forces to demand for the reversal of the new charges, in order to protect all Nigerian shippers and other port users."

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JAPPAUL EXITS OIL SECTOR, TO RAISE N27 BILLION AS IT SWITCHES TO MINING

by Chike Olisah

Indigenous oil Services company, Japaul Oil and Maritime Services Plc, has concluded plans to raise N27 billion (\$70 million) in a share offer come November 2020.

Money raised will be used to finance its switch to mining, as crude oil exploration and production operations wane due to the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

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NIGERIAN OIL MOGUL JAILED IN UK DENIES COURT RULING

by Alfred Olufemi

A Nigerian oil magnate sentenced to 10 months imprisonment in the United Kingdom, Abdulrahman Bashir, has reacted to an earlier report by PREMIUM TIMES.

Mr Bashir, who is the Group Managing Director of Rahamaniyya Oil and Gas, through his lawyer, Dada Awosika, said the two firms involved in the case continued to maintain a "mutual business relationship".

In February, Justice Butcher of the England and Wales high court ruled that Mr Bashir be imprisoned for 10 months for breaching multiple orders of the court in a pending suit instituted by Sahara Energy Resources Ltd, PREMIUM TIMES reported.

Those orders required Rahamaniyya Oil and Gas Ltd, of which Mr Bashir is the CEO and controller, to comply with requests for the release of 6,400.69MT gas oil to Sahara Energy Resource Ltd or its agent from Rahamaniyya Oil and Gas Ltd, Jetty 6.436181, Ibafor, Kirikiri Waterfront, of Aero Maritime Street, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria ("the Terminal").

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IMO UNVEILS THEME OF 2021 WORLD MARITIME DAY

by Jite Eriabie

"Seafarers: At the core of shipping's future" has been selected as the World Maritime theme for 2021, reflecting a clear need to raise awareness of seafarers' vital role in world trade and increase their visibility.

The focus on seafarers comes as the COVID-19 pandemic has placed extraordinary and unprecedented demands on seafarers. Hundreds of thousands faced and are still facing extended sea times, going months at sea without seeing families and loved ones. The crew change crisis in 2020 has highlighted seafarers' exceptional contribution as key and essential workers, on the front line of delivering world trade through a pandemic and in ordinary times.

The IMO Council, meeting for its 32nd extraordinary session held by correspondence, endorsed the theme following a proposal by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim.

The theme will provide flexibility to the Secretariat, Member States and NGOs in consultative status to focus on seafarers as the people at the heart of shipping...

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ONDO RECEIVES OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE ON DEEP SEAPORT

by Eromosele Abiodun

The Ondo State Government has taken a major step towards actualising the dream of establishing a seaport in the state with the presentation of the Outline Business Case (OBC) by the firm handling the project.

OBC is one of the critical requirements preceding port declaration and showcases the project as a multipurpose Deep Sea Port. The Governor of the State, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, while receiving the OBC, expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation by his administration at establishing a port in Ondo. He added that the confidence of the consulting firm on the viability of the project was a pointer to its eventual success.

The governor said the avalanche of resources the state is blessed with, within its riverine communities coupled with the fact that the state has the longest coastline in Nigeria, would make the proposed port the hub for the West Africa sub-region.

"This port is very important to me, to the people of the state, Nigeria and indeed West Africa. We are going to pursue this dream with vigour," he said.

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This aerial picture taken on August 16, 2020, shows

SOMALI PIRATES LAUNCH FIRST SUCCESSFUL HIJACKING TANKER IN 3 YEARS

by Ships & Ports

Somali pirates have attacked a Panama-flagged chemical tanker off the Horn of Africa.

This is happening when some other Somali pirates released three Iranian hostages held for five years, according to sources. The three Iranians are the last of the crew of the Iranian fishing vessel FV Siraj, which was captured by pirates on March 22, 2015.

The attack on the Panama-flagged tanker, which occurred 180 nautical miles southwest of Socotra, is the first successful hijack in Somali waters since 2017.

The vessel, identified at the 8,100 dwt Aegean II, was allegedly hijacked by six armed pirates on late 16 August 2020 after having suffered engine issues.

The tanker was en route from the UAE to Mogadishu with 20 crew members on board at the time of the incident.

"It is likely that the vessel slowed giving attackers 'eyes on' the vessel, and the ability to plan an opportunistic attack. The vessel was indicating that Armed Guards were embarked however this is not believed to be the case.

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