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NPA, INTELS CLAIM, COUNTER CLAIM ROCKS MARITIME INDUSTRY

by Godwin Oritse

The Nigerian maritime industry is in some form of confusion as the Nigerian Port Authority, NPA, terminated the boat service contract of the Integrated Logistics Limited, Intels, an action the firm said it had a restraining court order on the Authority.

A marine notice circulated last week by the NPA to all stakeholders directed that all marine services through Intels be stopped forthwith.

NPA stated: "Service Boats operations (Previously) handled by a Third Party Company, the Integrated Logistics Services (Intels) Nigeria Limited have been terminated".

The marine notice signed by NPA's Harbour Master, Capt Daniel Hosea, said that every boat movement must be reported and booked at the office of the Harbour Master.

"By this notice, all Service Boat Owners and Operators are to do transactions directly in each of the Port Complex of the Nigerian Ports Authority.

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REEFER SHIP ATTACKED OFFSHORE NIGERIA. TWO CREW MEMBERS KIDNAPPED

by MarineLink

Maritime security intelligence agencies have reported that the Water Phoenix reefer vessel was boarded Tuesday morning off Nigeria by an unknown number of persons and that two Russian nationals have been kidnapped.

Apart from the two crewmembers who have, reportedly, been kidnapped, the rest of the crew managed to retreat into the citadel.

The Water Phoenix is a reefer owned by the Dutch company Seatrade Groningen.

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BAYELSA SEEKS NIMASA'S SUPPORT TO HARNESS MARITIME POTENTIAL

by Eromosele Abiodun

Governor of Bayelsa State, Senator Duoye Diri, has called on the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to partner with the state to harness its maritime potential for economic prosperity.

Specifically, he said maritime security was key to attracting investors to the state, calling on the agency to consider the state in its blue economy project. Diri, who stated this when he paid a courtesy visit to NIMASA, pointed out that maritime was key in efforts to wean Nigeria from its dependence on crude oil.

Diri appealed to NIMASA to increase its presence in Bayelsa State, especially in the area of domain awareness, to ensure security in the state's maritime environment and build confidence in investments in the state's huge maritime potential.

"A lot of countries are moving away from fossil fuel and maritime gives Nigeria an alternative. All the eight local governments in our state can be accessed by water.

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CBN Governor Godwin Emefiele

PIRACY, OTHER HIGH SEAS CRIMES RISE IN ASIA

by Ships & Ports

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, piracy and other crimes have surged in Asian waters in the first seven months of the year, many committed by a Philippines-based Islamist group linked to Islamic State, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Especially hard hit have been the Sulu Sea and coastal areas of the southern Philippines, said the report by Babel Street, an open source data analysis company based in Virginia.

The author, McDaniel Wicker, a former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer and a company vice president, said rising crime in that area carried significant security implications. The Sulu Sea, he said, is a key shipping route and controlling crime there would require shifting regional security forces from other areas where they also are needed.

"There's also a very serious global Islamic terror threat tied up in this," Wicker continued, referring to the Abu Sayyaf Group, which is based in the southern Philippines and has links to Islamic State.

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CBN MAKES E-MARINE INSURANCE MANDATORY FOR FORM M

by Economic Confidential

The Central Bank of Nigeria has made digital marine insurance certificate a mandatory requirement to obtain Form M.

The bank disclosed this in a circular titled 'Integration of digital marine insurance certificate with e-Form on the Nigeria trade portal' issued by the Director, Trade and Exchange Department, Dr. O.S. Nnaji, on Wednesday.

It also discontinued the use of the hard copy marine insurance certificate for processing e-Form M.

The circular read, "This is to inform all authorised dealers, Nigeria Customs Service and the general public that the Nigerian Insurers Association digital marine insurance certificates has been integrated with e-Form M on the Nigeria trade portal.

."Consequently, the NIA's marine insurance certificate shall with effect from Monday September 14, 2020 be part of documentation requirements for the processing of e-form M.

"For avoidance of doubt, the use of hard copy marine insurance certificates for processing e-Form M is hereby discontinued from the effective date of this circular."

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Illustrative picture. PHOTO: SHIPS & PORTS archive

MOL PLEDGES \$9.4 MILLION FOR DAMAGE RECOVERY FROM WAKASHIO SPILL

by Ships & Ports

Japanese shipping major Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) plans to contribute a total fund of about ¥1billion (\$9.4 million) over several years to support the recovery of environmental damage caused by the Wakashio fuel spill in Mauritius.

The company, who chartered the ship that ran aground in July and subsequently leaked fuel before breaking apart in August, said it was working with the Japanese government on the relief measures.

In cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, the company will focus on mangrove protection and nurturing by cleaning the mangrove forest system affected by the spill, planting new mangrove trees, and conservation of biodiversity beneath mangrove forests.

MOL added it plans to assign a portion of the funds to local NGOs, and public agencies, sending personnel to Mauritius to help with clean-up and restoration projects as well as supporting the local fishery and tourism industry.

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