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## NIMASA, AIR FORCE DEPLOY ASSETS FOR MARITIME SECURITY

by Joseph Olaoluwa

Air assets acquired under the Deep Blue Project, domiciled with the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency are set for deployment by the Nigerian Air Force in support of the Federal Government's maritime security effort.

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, made this announcement when the Director-General of NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, paid a working visit to the Nigerian Air Force headquarters in Abuja, according to a statement issued by NIMASA Head of Corporate Communications, Philip Kyanet.

The statement titled 'Maritime security: NIMASA, Air Force set to deploy assets for Deep Blue Project' was emailed to our correspondent on Thursday.

The NIMASA DG requested adequate arrangement to receive and deploy the two special mission aircraft expected in the country in the next few months.

Jamoh commended the Nigerian Air Force for its commitment to capacity development

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## MILITARY DESTROYS ILLEGAL REFINERIES, RECOVERS STOLEN CRUDE

by Ship & Ports

The Defence Headquarters says military men have intensified their aggressive fight against crude oil theft, pipeline vandalism, bunkering, economic saboteurs and other criminal activities in the country.

The Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Maj.-Gen. John Enenche, said on Friday in Abuja that between Sept. 12 and Sept. 17, the military arrested seven suspected oil thieves, discovered barrels of stolen crude oil and destroyed numbers of illegal refineries in the South- South and South West zones.

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## NIGERIA READY FOR MARITIME BANK, SAYS AMAECHI

by Ship & Ports

Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi has reiterated Nigeria's readiness to go on with the Regional Maritime Development Bank Project provided two-third of member states accept the decision reached by the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA).

Amaechi disclosed this shortly after declaring open the meeting of MOWCA Committee of Experts on the Regional Maritime Development Bank Project and Interim Board of Directors on Tuesday in Lagos.

MOWCA member states having identified the major deficit in the development of indigenous participation in the regional maritime sector or and associated value chain, had, via a resolution at an annual general session, resolved to establish a maritime bank focused on the growth and development of shipping in West and Central Africa.

Consequently, the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Transportation, was mandated to take necessary steps for the actualization of the bank.

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Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, inspecting activities around the Marina coastline on Tuesday.

## AUSTRALIA BANS SHIP FOR UNDERPAYING CREW

by Ships & Ports

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has banned the Panama-flagged bulk carrier AC Sesoda for underpaying its crew.

AMSA boarded the ship at Mourilyan in Queensland on Thursday, September 10, 2020 to investigate allegations about underpayment.

During AMSA's investigation, evidence emerged that a number of crew members had only been paid half of their wages since October 2019.

AMSA said that the crew was underpaid by more than AU \$118,000.

"The ship's master and Taiwanese operator, Sincere Industrial Corporation, attempted to conceal the underpayment from AMSA inspectors by only producing a fabricated wage record which indicated that these seafarers had been paid in full," AMSA said.

"A second wage record showed that these seafarers had in fact been deliberately underpaid, while some senior members of the crew had been paid above their agreed rates."

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## GOVERNMENT BANS BARGE OPERATIONS ON MARINA COASTLINE

by Economic Confidential

The Federal Government, in conjunction with Lagos State Government, on Tuesday ordered the stoppage of barge operations, which have desecrated the Marina coastline.

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) is to revoke barging approvals granted some companies operating in the area.

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, who inspected activities around the Marina coastline, made the stop-work order during a visit on Tuesday.

Amaechi and Sanwo-Olu found the unwholesome activities on the coastline shocking and unacceptable. The Minister spoke of an urgent need to sanitise the entire Marina coastline and restore its glory.

He ordered that trucks must immediately stop coming to Marina to load. Amaechi said the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) did not grant anyone the permission to carry out barging operations, insisting that all such activities must stop immediately.

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PHOTO CREDIT: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

## WAKASHIO: JAPAN DISPATCHES INVESTIGATION TEAM TO MAURITIUS

by Ships & Ports

Japan said on Friday it will send a five-man team to Mauritius to investigate the grounding of a Japanese-owned ship, MV Wakashio, off the country's coast.

The bulk carrier, owned by Japan's Nagashiki Shipping and chartered by Mitsui OSK, ran aground on a reef off Mauritius on July 25 and later began leaking oil into the pristine waters around the Indian Ocean island.

The Japanese government said in a statement that it would send a team of five people to Mauritius on Sept. 20. Japan previously told Mauritius it would offer support on an "unprecedented scale".

Scientists say the full impact of the spill is still unfolding but the damage could affect Mauritius and its tourism-dependent economy for decades. Mitsui OSK last week said it would contribute about 1 billion yen (\$9.4 million) to help Mauritius fight the environmental impact of the incident.

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