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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS WITHIN OUR SHORES

FG APPROVES CONSTRUCTION OF \$462M 'DEEP SEAPORT' AT BONNY

MARITIME WORKERS NAME SHIPPING COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR OSHODI-APAPA GRIDLOCK

NIGERIA CONSIDERS PRIVATISING NNPC UNDER PROPOSED OIL REFORM BILL

SIFAX OPENS NEW TERMINAL AT IJORA

FOREIGN WATCH

IMO'S WEBSITE RESTORED AFTER CYBER ATTACK

FOUNDER OF BUNKER SUPPLIER SENTEK CHARGED FOR OIL THEFT

FG APPROVES CONSTRUCTION OF \$462M 'DEEP SEAPORT' AT BONNY

by Patience Danjuma

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the construction of a deep seaport at Bonny at the cost of \$461,924,369.

The Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, made this known when he briefed State House correspondents on the outcome of the 18th virtual meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

Amaechi said that FEC meeting also approved award of contracts for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Port Harcourt-Maiduguri eastern narrow gauge railway, with new branch lines and trans-shipment facilities.

He said, "The Federal Executive Council today, approved the award of contract for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Port Harcourt to Maiduguri Eastern Narrow Gauge Railway, with new branch lines and trans-shipment facilities.

"It also approved the construction of a deep seaport in Bonny under PPP (public private partnership) and construction of a railway industrial park in Port Harcourt.

"The railway line will be at the cost of \$3,020,279,549. The industrial park, which is under PPP, at no cost to federal government, will cost \$241,154,389.31.

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NIGERIA CONSIDERS PRIVATISING NNPC UNDER PROPOSED OIL REFORM BILL

by Samson Abayomi

The long-awaited oil reform bill in Nigeria is expected to privatise the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC).

As reported in Reuters, the bill, which is currently in Parliament for discussion, amends changes to deepwater royalties and scrap major regulatory agencies in favour of new bodies. The legislation aims to revise the country's oil and gas exploration laws.

The bill suggests making the NNPC into a limited liability firm into which the finance and petroleum ministers will transfer NNPC assets, stated the source. Then, the federal government will pay cash for shares of the company and it will operate as a commercial entity state fund, the sourced reported.

The aim is to help the company to raise funds.

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MARITIME WORKERS NAME SHIPPING COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR OSHODI-APAPA GRIDLOCK

by Victor Ahiuma-Young

Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, MWUN, has named four shipping companies it said were responsible for the intractable gridlock on Oshodi-Apapa Expressway and has issued a 21-day ultimatum to the Federal and state governments to call the affected companies to order, failing which members will withdraw their services from the nation's ports.

According to a statement by the President-General of the Union, Prince Adewale Adeyanju, the companies are MAERSK LINE, PIL(Pacific International Lines), MSC(Mediterranean Shipping Company, S.A.) and MOL (Mitsui Osk Lines).

He accused them of not having holding bays in absolute disregard of regulations and standards which provide that a shipping company must have a holding bay before beginning operations.

The Union claimed the said shipping companies deliberately delay trucks laden with containers to attract demurrage daily from already over-burdened union members, truck owners and their drivers.

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Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, ENL Consortium and Chairman, Seaport Terminal Operators Association of Nigeria (STOAN), Princess Vicky Haastrup; Ojora of Ijoraland, Oba Fatai Oyeyinka; Group Managing Director, SIFAX Group, Adekunle Oyinloye; Managing Director, Instarmac Nigeria, Wale Afolabi, and Executive Director, Marine and Operations, Nigerian Ports Authority, Onari Brown at the commissioning of the new SIFAX Container Terminal at Ijora Causeway, Lagos, on Wednesday.

IMO'S WEBSITE RESTORED AFTER CYBER ATTACK

by Ships & Ports

The website of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is up and running, the UN body confirmed on its Twitter account on Friday.

The IMO used the social media account as one of the primary sources of communication with the public after its website went down on September 30, following a 'sophisticated cyber-attack'.

The attack impacted a number of other web-based services of the organization.

"The email system, including other Internal and external collaboration platforms, are working as normal. The platform used for virtual meeting with simultaneous interpretation has been unaffected and continued to function, without issue," the IMO said on October 2.

The organization explained the cyber-attack breached robust security measures in place.

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SIFAX OPENS NEW TERMINAL AT IJORA

by Oluwatoyin Amao

SIFAX Group has opened a new container terminal in Lagos as a response to the difficulties experienced by stakeholders in accessing the Lagos ports.

Speaking at the commissioning of the facility situated along the Ebute Metta Creek, Ijora, Lagos, the Executive Vice Chairman of SIFAX Group, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, said the company decided to invest in the facility to make the process of cargo clearing a wonderful experience as opposed to what is obtainable currently.

Afolabi, who was represented by the Group Managing Director of SIFAX, Adekunle Oyinloye, said the new terminal, which would be a model facility and sits on 11 acres of land, will leverage on technology and innovations to deliver an unparalleled customer experience as well as cutting-edge inland container services.

He said, "The SIFAX Container Terminal, Ijora, Lagos is our modest response to a major issue in the maritime industry – access to Lagos ports. The logistics nightmare occasioned by the traffic congestion experienced by port users compelled the group to look for a solution that addresses these seemingly intractable problems. With this terminal, agents, truckers and consignees don't have to go to the ports before getting their consignments cleared."

Afolabi said consignments would be transferred primarily through barges from both Apapa and Tin Can Island ports to the new facility, adding that the good road network in the area also offers clients faster and efficient cargo clearing.

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IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, PHOTO CREDIT: IMO

FOUNDER OF BUNKER SUPPLIER SENTEK CHARGED FOR OIL THEFT

by Ship & Ports

The founder and Managing Director of Singapore's homegrown bunker supplier Sentek Marine & Trading has been charged for his alleged involvement in bunker oil theft, it was reported.

Last Thursday, Pai Keng Pheng was charged with abetting the offence of dishonestly receiving stolen property, according to the charge sheet seen by Singapore's Business Times.

The charge sheet stated that about 2,916 tonnes of marine gas oil (MGO) worth nearly \$1.4million had been transferred from Shell's Pulau Bukom refinery in Singapore to bunker tanker Sentek 22 in March 2017.

The charge against Pai on this case is not the first. In 2018, individuals from Sentek, Shell and others have been charged for their roles in the theft, first uncovered in 2017.

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