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NIGERIA APPROVES NEW LPG GUIDELINES FOR INVESTORS

by Sihle Qekeeshe

In a bid to accommodate more Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) investors and operators across Nigeria, the Department of Petroleum Resources has introduced new guidelines as part of its policy on natural gas development.

The guidelines form part of the Department's measures to increase the availability of LPG across the country and to meet a target of five million metric tons of domestic, commercial and industrial LPG utilization in the next 10 years.

"We have a lot of people coming into the sector to invest, and the DPR is on the ground to ensure that they follow the regulatory requirements. We have brought out new guidelines to encourage investors and anybody that wants to operate in the sector to follow the guidelines," noted Ayorinde Cardoso, Zonal Operations Controller of the DPR.

The Nigerian government – through the National Gas Expansion Program – has committed to making gas accessible and affordable for its citizens, as well as encouraged stakeholders to invest in the country's LPG sector to accelerate the development of the domestic gas market

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APAPA GRIDLOCK: MARITIME WORKERS BEGIN 3 DAY WARNING STRIKE ON WEDNESDAY

by Victor Ahiuma-Young

Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, MWUN announced that the three days warning strike to protest the total take-over of the Apapa- Oshodi Expressway by heavy-duty trucks that have been inflicting untold hardship on other road users, would now start on Wednesday, December 9, instead of December 6th as earlier stated.

President General of MWUN, Prince Adeyanju Adewale, told Vanguard that the two days shift was to allow for the sensitization of other stakeholders in the Maritime sector.

According to him, "we have decided to put the warning strike on hold till Wednesday December 9, to sensitise other stakeholders in the ports why we have to embark on the warning strike. Since the information became public, many of them have been calling and begging for time.

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'MARITIME LEADERS PREDICT GLOOMY 2021

by Joseph Olaoluwa

Stakeholders have predicted a bleak future for the maritime sector in Nigeria.

These were submissions made in a webinar titled "CEOs' maritime sector outlook Y2021," and organised by the Nigeria and Entrepreneurship Summit & Honors on Tuesday.

Former President, Shipowners Association of Nigeria, Greg Ogbeifun, while analysing the sector for the next year, said the future was bleak due to the lack of the required human resource to drive the industry. He said, "The year 2021 looks very bleak. I don't think we should look at setting out any new agenda for the year 2021.

"Rather we as an industry should go back to some of the programmes we set out to achieve in the past few years which has not been achieved and see how to drive the programmes to conclusion."

He added, "We cannot be talking about the maritime industry where a nation with so much import and export of dry, liquid and specialised cargo are carried by foreign ships.

"This country does not have one single ship involved in international trade except NLNG using theirs for business, even though all their ships are registered outside of this country.

"Former Director-General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Dakuku Peterside, expressed worry over the cabotage aspect of the industry.

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HADIZA BALA USMAN: FIGHTING CORRUPTION IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN NIGERIAN PORTS

by Haleem Olatunji

Hadiza Bala Usman, managing director of Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), says fighting corruption and ensuring compliance with existing laws is a challenge at the ports.

Speaking on Arise TV on Thursday, the NPA boss said some private companies lay claim to signed agreements which are against regulatory obligations.

She said the ports authority challenged the fees collected by Ocean Marine Solutions Limited (OMSL), a maritime security company, for securing vessels on Nigerian waters. Usman explained that the maritime company received \$17 million between January and July 2020 of which no share was remitted to the federal government.

"On OMSL, it is the secure anchorage area where vessels are made to pay for being secured within the Nigerian ports. And this started in 2013 to provide that platform in partnership with the Nigerian Navy. Fast forward to 2017, we felt that it wasn't necessary for people to be paying money to secure their vessels on waters. It is the responsibility of the government through Navy and NIMASA to secure at zero cost to the owners.

"On Intels (a logistics and facilities services provider in the maritime and oil and gas sectors), we have the issue of non-compliance with treasury single account (TSA). They realise that have to comply and after a lot of pushbacks they complied.

"Now their contractual relationship with us on service boats has expired but they have gone to court to request for them to remain as the first-party provider which is ridiculous."

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SINGAPORE TASKFORCE DEVELOPS AUDIT PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE CREW CHANGE

by Lee Hong Liang

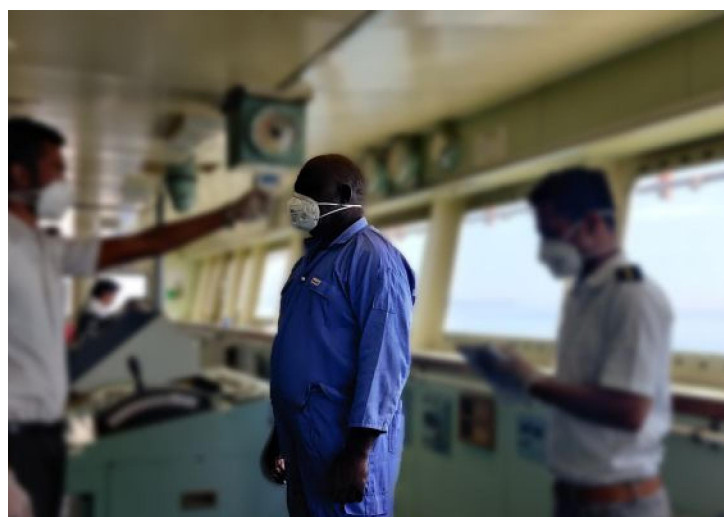
A Singapore-based taskforce has developed a CrewSafe audit programme based on Singapore's crew change model, to establish safe and scalable 'corridors' for crew change amidst the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The Singapore Shipping Tripartite Alliance Resilience (SG-STAR) Fund Taskforce (SFTF) is led by the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), with members from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Singapore Maritime Officers' Union, and Singapore Organisation of Seamen.

The SG-STAR Fund is recently joined with support from more international organisations such as Global Maritime Forum Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce, Intertanko, Norwegian Shipowners' Association, and World Shipping Council, as well as seven port authorities from Abu Dhabi, Antwerp, Barcelona, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Sines, and Vancouver.

"Singapore takes our responsibility to facilitate safe crew change seriously. We are pleased to work with our global tripartite partners to accelerate the development of practical solutions for crew change amid the pandemic," said Quah Ley Hoon, chief executive of MPA.

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IRAQ TO HONOR OPEC OIL-CUT DECISIONS AS MONTHLY EXPORTS RISE

by Khalid Al-Ansary and Kadhim Ajrash

Iraq will remain committed to OPEC's decisions on oil output as it nudges crude exports higher in December.

The country will export 2.8 million barrels a day this month, Oil Minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar said Sunday, up from 2.7 million in November. It will start shipping a new medium grade of its flagship Basrah crude in January and try to maximize its output of light oil, he told reporters in Baghdad.

Iraq is interested in increasing prices rather than sales volumes, and several companies are bidding to buy oil in its first pre-payment deal for long-term supply, he said. Baghdad is seeking a \$2 billion upfront payment in exchange for a long-term crude contract. The proposal is unusual among oil producing-nations, and it underscores the country's financial distress and need for cash.

Jabbar's comments were his first public remarks on oil since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies such as Russia agreed last week to boost output in January by 500,000 barrels a day. Iraq, OPEC's second-biggest producer, is struggling to pay its bills with crude prices at current levels and has been chafing under its output cap.

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