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- IN THIS ISSUE
- NEWS WITHIN OUR SHORES
- NIMASA, AMNESTY OFFICE PARTNER TO CURB MARITIME CRIMES

NSCDC RAIDS ILLEGAL OIL DUMP, ARRESTS TWO IN RIVERS

LAGOS BEGINS RENOVATION OF SIX JETTIES TO BOOST WATER TRANSPORTATION

BUHARI REAPPOINTS BALA USMAN AS NPA MD, CHANGES BOARD CHAIRMAN
- FOREIGN WATCH
- COVID-19: BRAZIL INCLUDES PORT WORKERS IN VACCINE PRIORITY GROUP

CHINA AUTHORISES COAST GUARD TO FIRE ON FOREIGN VESSELS

NIMASA, AMNESTY OFFICE PARTNER TO CURB MARITIME CRIMES

by World Stage Group

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has declared its intention to work in partnership with the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) in the fight against piracy and other crimes in the country's maritime domain. Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, disclosed this in Abuja during a working visit to the interim Sole Administrator of PAP, Col. Milland Dixon Dikio (rtd.).

Jamoh underscored the importance of collaboration among relevant agencies and communities in the quest for maritime security, saying, "We should be working together in partnership to help us appreciate and evaluate the challenges from our various perspectives and collectively come up with solutions that would work for all of us, and the country at large.

"Security problems more often than not have a local content. So, as the country's maritime regulatory agency, we want to partner the amnesty programme, which interfaces with the littoral communities, to nip the security challenges in the bud, and stand our nation in good stead for the optimisation of our huge maritime resources.

"Jamoh has prioritised advocacy for inter-agency cooperation in the fight against maritime insecurity since his appointment last year.

He stated, "We cannot proffer solution to the issues and crisis in the Niger Delta without the collaboration of the Presidential Amnesty Programme.

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LAGOS BEGINS RENOVATION OF SIX JETTIES TO BOOST WATER TRANSPORTATION

by Ships & Ports

The Lagos State Government has started the renovation of six jetties across the metropolis and construction of ferry terminal at Badagry to meet the current demand for water transportation in the state.

This was contained in a statement issued on Friday in Lagos by the General Manager, Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, to commemorate 600 days milestone of Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration.

Emmanuel listed the jetties being renovated to include Liverpool, Ebute Ero, Bayeku, Mile 2, Ijegun Egba, and Oke Ira-Nla.

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NSCDC RAIDS ILLEGAL OIL DUMP, ARRESTS TWO IN RIVERS

by Ships & Ports

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) said they smashed an illegal dump used in storing and transporting adulterated petroleum products at the Rumuomasi axis of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The NSCDC said a total of 119 gallons of adulterated Automated Gas Oil was seized, while two suspects were arrested in connection with the crime during the raid.

The Corps spokesman, Rivers State command, Oguntuae Michael, disclosed this shortly after conducting journalists round the site located at 34 Arochukwu Street, Rumumasi in Port Harcourt, Rivers State capital.

"Two days ago, through our intelligence, we were able to discover this particular dump established here in a residential area. It is not acceptable because the products themselves are hazardous. We discovered 119 gallons filled with AGO which is popularly known as diesel. A suspect was arrested with a vehicle.

"The landlord of this place is being interrogated to know the level of his involvement with this particular crime, as well as the driver of the vehicle that was arrested.

Michael said the feat was achieved following a special taskforce set up by the State Commandant, Muktar Lawal, to identify illegal dumps across the state, describing the illicit act as a waiting disaster that was averted.

Giving the breakdown of the seized items, he said, the Anti vandal team of the Command arrested a suspect by name Ezike Shoke with a Volkswagen Jetta car loaded with suspected....

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Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Hadiza Bala Usman

COVID-19: BRAZIL INCLUDES PORT WORKERS IN VACCINE PRIORITY GROUP

by Ship & Ports

Brazil is the first country in the Americas to include port workers, as well as other transport professionals in Brazil, in the priority group in the National Plan of Vaccination against COVID-19.

Although there is no date for vaccinations to start yet, the group's access to vaccine provides relief to these essential workers, who have continued working since the beginning of the pandemic, according to officials.

The port of Paranaguá is located in the state of Paraná, in southern Brazil. In the Paraná State Health Department's plan, which follows the National Vaccination Plan – define the priority group adding truck drivers, road and rail passengers, air transport workers, and port workers, there are at least 51,637 workers.

Brazil's Minister of Infrastructure, Tarcísio Gomes de Freitas, said, "This is great news for our workers who continued, even throughout the pandemic, to provide a great service to our country. These professionals will have the support of the Federal Government to ensure vaccination as a priority group and we will ensure the safety and conditions they need to continue on roads, ports and railroads."

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BUHARI REAPPOINTS BALA USMAN AS NPA MD, CHANGES BOARD CHAIRMAN

by Ships & Ports

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the re-appointment of Hadiza Bala Usman as Managing Director of Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), for an additional five-year tenure.

This was announced in a statement by Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, and made available to State House Correspondents on Thursday.

Also approved is the reconstitution of the Non-Executive Board of the NPA, with Emmanuel Olajide Adesoye (from South-West zone) as Chairman. Adesoye was the Chairman of the Board since 2015 until last year when he was replaced by Akinwunmi Ricketts.

Ricketts, from the south-south geopolitical zone of the country, now becomes an ordinary member of the Board alongside Ekenyem Nwafor-Orizu (South-East zone); Ghazali Mohammed Mijinyawa (North-East zone), Mustapha Amin Dutse (North-West zone), and Abdulwahab Adesina (North-Central zone).

The President has equally approved Board members for the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), who will oversee the selection of a new Managing Director for the organization. They are: Muhammad K. Ahmad, OON, (Chairman), Chief Henry Okolo, Imamuddin Talba, Ambassador Usman Sarki, Ali Haruna, Engr. Simeone Atakulu, Zubaida Mahey Rasheed, Dr Mustapha Abiodun Akinkunmi, Engr. Oladele Amoda, and Dr Nkiru Balonwu.

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CHINA AUTHORISES COAST GUARD TO FIRE ON FOREIGN VESSELS

by Ships & Ports

China passed a law on Friday that for the first time explicitly allows its coast guard to fire on foreign vessels, a move that could make the contested waters around China more choppy.

China has maritime sovereignty disputes with Japan in the East China Sea and with several Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea. It has sent its coast guard to chase away fishing vessels from other countries, sometimes resulting in the sinking of these vessels.

China's top legislative body, the National People's Congress standing committee, passed the Coast Guard Law on Friday, according to state media reports.

According to draft wording in the bill published earlier, the coast guard is allowed to use "all necessary means" to stop or prevent threats from foreign vessels.

The bill specifies the circumstances under which different kind of weapons – hand-held, ship borne or airborne – can be used.

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