

MEMO



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NSC NEWS INPUT FOR WEBSITE

Please find attached NSC News story input for upload to the Council's website.

Soft copy has been sent to the official e-mail.

Submitted for your necessary action and information.

Rakiya Dhikru-Yagboyaju

August 18, 2023

Nigerian Shippers Council harps on Inland Dry Ports to ease congestion

...presents manual to South-East stakeholders

Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) and the Federal Ministry of Transportation have restated their commitment to creating an enabling environment for actualisation and optimal functioning of Inland Dry Port (IDP) projects in the country, to ease congestion at seaports.

Barrister Emmanuel Jime, the Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigerian Shippers Council, stated this over the weekend in Aba, the commercial hub of Abia State, during a sensitisation/presentation of operational manual for inland dry ports to stakeholders.

Jime, who was represented by Mrs. Ify Okolue, Director, Inland Transport Services said the Council is at the forefront of the Federal Government's efforts to establish IDPs across the country.

He said the strategic policy will not only aid in relieving congestion at the country's ports, but also bring shipping and port services closer to the doorsteps of importers and exporters, thereby catalysing smoother trade operations.

"Establishment of IDPs, will enhance revenue generation to the country, as well as the host states, stimulate agricultural production for exports, thereby ensuring economic diversification and ensure generation of employment opportunities for youths, thereby stemming insecurity and other criminalities in the society", he said.

Jime said the proposed inland dry port at Ntigha, in Isiala-Ngwa North local government area of Abia State, entrusted to Eastgate Inland Container Limited through a concession, is one of the six legacy projects of the Federal Government.

Other gazetted inland dry ports in Nigeria are Heipang, Jos, Plateau State; Funtua, Katsina State; Dala, Kano State; Jauri, Maiduguri, Borno State and Erummu, Ibadan in Oyo State.

The Inland Dry Port projects are being nurtured, through public-private partnership (PPP), leveraging the innovative build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.

Contained in the operational manual is the description of processes and procedures underpinning the operational activities of inland dry ports.

The manual features a comprehensive explanation of dry port functions and activities, precise layout designs that shape the port's architecture, clear delineation of activities to be executed at the dry port with step-by-step operational sequences.

It also contains an elucidation of dry port operation procedure for both export and import activities, alignment of dry port practices based on global best practices, enduring standards and quality control in all aspects of dry port operations.

Some of the stakeholders in attendance were the Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA), Abia Shippers Association, International Traders Association, Aba finished leather makers, Garment makers, National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), among others.

The IDP operational manual had been previously launched in Lagos on August 2, 2022, in Kano on July 15, 2022, and Port Harcourt, Rivers State on August 9, 2022.

August 20, 2023

Shippers Council meets with Alex Otti to Actualize Isiala Ngwa Dry Port

The Council met with the Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti, to seek the state's support for the realization of the IDP project at Isiala Ngwa. The purpose of the meeting was to push for a faster and more effective delivery of this much-needed and innovative project, which will directly impact the economy of Abia State, the South Eastern region and indeed the nation as a whole.

The high-powered delegation from the Council led by the Director Inland Transport Services, Mrs Ify Okolue, had on the entourage, the MD/CEO Eastgate Container Terminal, Bill Nkedirim, Chairman Eastgate Terminal Limited & former MD, Shippers' Council, Kinglsey Usoh, Member, Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN), Increase Uche, Deputy Director Public Private Partnership, (PPP) NSC, Isa Audu, among others.

Addressing the Executive Governor of Abia State, the representative of the Executive Secretary of the Council, Mrs Ify Okolue, emphasized the importance of the tripartite efforts of the Federal and State Governments as well as the private investors in the actualization of the project. She went on to explain the advantages of having the dry port situated at Isiala Ngwa noting that it was strategically located to serve as a catalyst for supporting neighbouring states of Imo, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Rivers and Bayelsa States, thereby enhancing the overall maritime infrastructure in the South East region.

The Dry Port, she said, is expected to assist in decongesting the seaport, bring shipping services to the door steps of shippers and assist in the overall reduction of cost of transporting cargoes to the hinterland and landlocked countries.

Responding to the ES, the Executive Governor of the state Dr. Alex Otti, affirmed the State's commitment to the actualization of the project. He however requested that the details of the initial project proposal be reviewed with a technical committee he will constitute, in order to avoid false starts and design workable plans for the swift realization of this project.

Honourable Ginger Onwusibe, the Honourable Member representing Isiala Ngwa North and South Federal Constituency led the delegation to the Governor's house.

The technical committee responsible is expected to be made up of the following: Facilitators- Shippers' Council, Concessionaire- Eastgate Terminal Limited, Nigerian Railway, State Transport Commissioners and members of the Government House, among others.

When actualized, the Ntigha Inland Dry Port, Isiala Ngwa will enhance revenue generation, improve the IGR of Abia State, and generate employment opportunities thereby reducing crime and insecurity in the South East.