

MACN PROJECT NIGERIA BULLETIN

The Newsletter on the MACN-CBi Port Project in Nigeria



Project Highlights from April - July 2022

In This Issue

New Members Join the Integrity Alliance - Truckers Associations

MACN/CBi Develops Training Programmes for Port Users - on NPPM

Strategic Collaboration to Address Bottlenecks to Cargo Clearance - Nigerian Shippers Council

Project Steering Committee Restates Commitment to Easing Cargo Clearance

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B20 Hub Switzerland recognises MACN Nigeria with "**Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award**"



Soji Apampa (CEO, CBi) and Cecilia Müller Torbrand (CEO, MACN) collecting the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Basel Institute of Governance

On June 30, 2022, the MACN Nigeria Project received the prestigious "**Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award**" at the 4th International Collective Action Conference 2022, hosted by the Basel Institute on Governance in Switzerland. With over 1260 individual votes for 37 nominated entries, the MACN Nigeria Project beat out competition from Anti-Corruption and Collective Action projects from countries such as Australia, Honduras, and South Korea.

(Continued on Page 2)

Continued from Page 1.....

The award was received in recognition of the depth of innovation and quality of partnership and collaboration among private sector, government, civil society and other maritime stakeholders in implementing sustainable port reforms, including the development of the world's first real-time maritime incident reporting tool and connected local HelpDesk that keeps seafarers calling at Nigerian ports safe from harassment, intimidation, extortion and corrupt demands by officials.



Informally called “The Nigerian Miracle”, the MACN Nigeria project has received global attention, resulting in requests for assistance in replicating Nigeria’s system from state and non-state actors in Ukraine, Egypt, India, Bangladesh, and Argentina.

As a result of the HelpDesk, the number of reported incidences of corrupt demands in

vessel clearance processes at Nigeria’s ports have decreased steadily from 268 cases in 2019 to 126 cases in 2020, 51 cases in 2021 and 10 cases so far in 2022. This decrease in incidents occurred while the total number of port calls by vessels to Nigeria’s ports or terminals, registered by the HelpDesk system, have increased or remained steady. Moreover, this data has been confirmed by the reported experiences of the many international shipping companies that visit Nigeria’s ports.

The MACN and CBI are immensely proud and grateful to all stakeholders whose support have made this possible. The project wants to especially recognise its partners - the Nigerian Presidency, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Nigerian Shippers’ Council (NSC), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Independent Corrupt Practice & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR) for their persistent support and commitment. This Outstanding Achievement Award and all previous project successes belong to Nigeria, demonstrates the positive contributions from Africa, and the power of working together through Collective Action.

About the Basel Institute on Governance -

Established in 2003, the Institute is an independent, non-profit organisation that acts at the B20 Hub for Collective Action. The Institute is focused on countering corruption and other financial crimes, and improving standards of governance. It is also an Institute of the United Nations (UN) Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network.

New Members Join the Integrity Alliance - Truckers' Associations

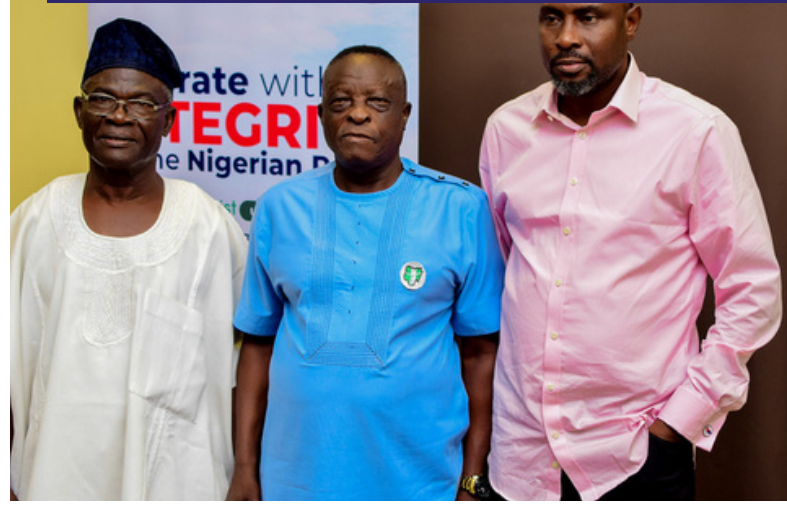


Key Stakeholders at the Truckers' Associations Conference

On July 20th, 2022, members of the maritime trucking and haulage industry gathered for a conference titled *"Addressing the Corruption Issue at Nigeria's Port Corridors: A Call for an Integrity Alliance Partnership."* The event, hosted by MACN/CBi, featured four technical sessions that explored the challenges faced along the port corridors, the need for data and statistical evidence to get more detailed insight into the problem, the tools available to truckers for addressing obstacles, and the strength of using a collective voice to obtain true reform.

The conference consisted of two (2) keynote addresses that explored the themes: Goods Transportation - Cargo Collection from Ports Terminal to Warehouse; Empty Container Return to Ports/Terminals; Challenges and the Way Forward, presented by Mr Adeyinka Aroyewun, National President - Council of Maritime Transport Unions and Association (COMTUA); and the Implication of Multiple Check-Points on Logistics Value Chain, presented by Chief Remi Ogungbemi, President - Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO),

L-R: Chief Remi Ogungbemi, AMATO President with a participant, and Mr Adeyinka Aroyewun, COMTUA President



Mrs Cynthia Akpomudiare - Director, Stakeholder Relations, CBI delivering a synopsis of the presentation of the keynote speakers

Lively engagement by participants during an open session to strategise collective approaches to challenges along the corridor

During the presentations, the two (2) keynote speakers highlighted the challenges faced by truckers to include the imposition of unfair fines and dues by multiple agencies; extortion by rogue Customs officers, port operators, port corridor checkpoint security personnel, unions, and even free-acting criminals along their routes; unnecessary delays by port officials which exposes truckers to the increased risk of violent attack and robbery by hoodlums; the confiscation of cargo by port administrators for minor infractions; and the over 30 illegal checkpoints along the inbound roads, which exponentially increases the risk of extortion.

In contrast, however, foreign haulage companies do not face such challenges or experiences as they are not subjected to the same policies.

On impact, discussants made clear that the artificial barriers created by the existing challenges along the port corridors is stifling the growth of local industries, bankrupting importers and freight forwarders, and pushing up an already high cost of doing business, which deters foreign investors and forces vessels to the berth at ports in neighbouring countries.

On solutions, the participants agreed to form a committee, with the support of CBI, to meet with port agencies to discuss and address the challenges faced by truckers while leaders of the truckers association recommended a review of the mandate of the Port Standing Task Team's (PSTT) to ensure its effectiveness. In his response, the Chief Executive of CBI, Mr Soji Apampa highlighted the importance of data and the need to collect and verify facts and figures in order to build a body of evidence that defines the scale and scope of challenges faced by truckers, including the main actors that create the challenges.

Mr Apampa informed the meeting that such a body of evidence would give truckers greater credibility than anecdotes, and will inform the types of solutions and interventions that are needed. Finally, Mr Apampa supported the formation of a committee to engage with port agencies, as a significant collective action outcome that should be championed. On the whole, all participants agreed that the three (3) pronged solution that should be achieved, using collective action, are: 1) document the *Standard Operating Procedures* that covers trucking operations to promote transparency; 2) develop a *Consequence Management Framework* for handling compliance failures by port officials; and 3) establish a *Grievance Resolution Mechanism* for dealing with non-compliance to the SOPs.

The event was attended by NARTO (Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners),

NACCIMA (Nigeria Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture), Nigerian Shippers Council, Lagos Chambers of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), AMATO, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, COMTUA, Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarders in Nigeria (CRFFN), the Association for Maritime Lawyers (NMLA) and ICPC among other stakeholders.

MACN/CBi Develops Training Programmes for Port Users - on NPPM

As part of the technical capacity support to key stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society, MACN/CBi have commenced the creation of a set of comprehensive trainings, using its Learning Management System (LMS). The trainings are designed to support port users - importers, exporters, port officials, and maritime associations - to improve their skills and knowledge of Nigeria's maritime industry in general, and specifically, port operations, which includes vessel and cargo processes as described in the Nigerian Port Process Manual (NPPM).



IN THE NEWS... PSTT IN ACTION

Friday, 5th August, 2022

THIS DAY



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BREAKING NEWS

Dabiri-Erewa: Visa to Dubai Now Impossible to Access for Male Nigerians Under 30 @ 46 mins ago

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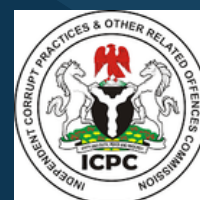


Since April 2022, the significant (and sometimes dangerous) work of the PSTT has been widely publicized in the national press, demonstrating the progress made in clearing the port access corridors, as part of efforts to ease cargo clearance at Lagos ports.

The first phase of **"Operation Free the Port Access Corridor"** initiative commenced in April 2022 and successfully cleared the port corridor leading to Apapa Port. Leveraging this momentum, the second phase of the initiative was flagged-off by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs Magdeline Ajani, in June 2022. During the flag-off event, the Permanent Secretary noted that the operation is an offshoot of the implementation of the

Nigerian Ports Process Manual, NPPM, of which its effective and successful implementation will change the narrative and Corruption Perception Index, CPI, by the Transparency International about Nigeria. (Vanguard, June 27, 2022).

On sustainability of the PSTT, the Permanent Secretary also restated the commitment of the Ministry to support the PSTT with logistics and operational resources to ensure that the PSTT team are robust and effective in the delivery of their mandate.



Strategic Collaboration to Address Bottlenecks to Cargo Clearance - *Nigerian Shippers' Council*

To address the reoccurring challenges faced by port users in cargo (import and export) clearance processes, and promote compliance to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at the ports, the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI) held a successful engagement with Mr Daniel J. Orume, Head of Complaints Unit of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC).

The meeting was aimed to discuss areas of support and partnership between CBI and NSC as part of efforts to steadily improve the response to complaints from port users, keeping in mind the time-sensitive nature of such complaints. As part of the capacity support, CBI offered to work with the NSC to revamp the functionality of its Port Self Service Portal (PSSP), which is currently non-operational and provide some physical IT equipment to support the Complaints unit.

In response, Mr Orume thanked MACN/CBI for offering its support and spoke to the need to strengthen the PSSP by integrating a robust case management component that enables the system to track, analyse, and respond to complaints from port users. Mr Orume equally asked for capacity support for the staff of the Complaints' Unit to learn how CBI's HelpDesk function operates.



L-R - Mr Apampa (CEO, CBI), Mr Orume (Head, Complaints Unit, Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Mr Oluajo (Anti-Corruption Adviser, CBI), Mr Okafor (IT Manager, CBI) - presenting the MACN/CBI Case Management System.

Project Steering Committee Restates Commitment to Easing Cargo Clearance at Nigeria's Ports

In May 2022, a meeting of the MACN Nigeria Project Steering committee was held to discuss how to take forward the key commitments from the highly successful multi-stakeholder Compliance Roundtable held on March 31 and determine the next steps in promoting transparency and efficiency at Nigeria's ports.

The committee, made up of senior level representatives from the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FoT), Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), the Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC), the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR), and Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), re-emphasized their focus on addressing the challenges around cargo-clearance, especially in view of the express support of the Executive Secretary of the NSC to collaborate with CBi/MACN through its Complaints Unit to intervene where cargo-related issues arise.

During the meeting, CBi and MACN pledged to support the NSC by integrating the MACN HelpDesk system into the NSC Complaints operations to improve responses to complaints and case management, provide on-the-job and

technical training support to the Complaints Unit, and facilitate collaboration between NSC Cargo/Vessel Clearance Officials, Logistics Officials, and representatives from NAGAFF, CRFFN, and other bodies to determine the common challenges faced and strengthen their capacity to address such challenges. The committee also implored the ICPC to serve as a "champion" by engaging and encouraging all port agencies to make compliance to SOPs a priority.



Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) in a Traffic Gridlock at the Apapa Port Access Road

On the activities of the Port Standing Task Team (PSTT), which is integral to easing cargo clearance, Mr. Fadipe (NSC) formally introduced the "Operation Free the Port Corridor" initiative. The initiative is designed to clear the port corridor at Lagos Ports of illegal checkpoints setup by security agencies.

In his presentation, Mr Fadipe explained that the initiative kicked-off on April 14, 2022, and had already made significant progress in clearing the Apapa port corridor, removing over 20 illegal checkpoints within a 2 kilometre stretch of the road. The exercise, he added,

was attended by the Honourable Minister of Transportation (represented by the Permanent Secretary), and 11 Senior Officials from the Ministry of Transportation, representatives from the Lagos State Government, NPA, DSS, PSTT, and members of the Nigerian Customs Service and Police Force.

Mr Fadipe informed the meeting that the next step would involve visiting other ports and terminals in Lagos and beyond, insofar as the PSTT has the resources to do their work, and work to ensure the sustainability of the initiative by engaging relevant stakeholders within the corridor.

Upcoming Activities

August 2022 - High-Level Meeting with Heads of Port Agencies

September 2022 - Port Users Conference

September 2022 - Project Steering Committee Meeting

November 2022 - Africa Regional Conference

December 2022 - 2nd Compliance Roundtable

Get involved! Join the Integrity Alliance

To sustain efforts and continue the ambition to drive positive change under this initiative, there is need to form strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors. On the private sector side, the Integrity Alliance Group is a key stakeholder group that can help to achieve the following:

- Monitor ongoing reforms at the Nigerian Ports specifically, and the Maritime Industry generally, in a bid to propose changes that would aid Ports efficiency.
- Assist to popularize/publicize the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and The Grievance Mechanism Portal - User Experience Diary - and other reporting helplines that enable importers, exporters and other port users to resolve issues and challenges faced.



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To Learn More About the Port Service Support Portal (PSSP)

The Port Service Support Portal is a complaints management and Port service support solution aimed at addressing business to business transaction problems in Nigerian Ports.

Please visit - www.pssp.ng

Contact Us

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