



SEA EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH CENTRE LTD/GTE RC1422713

Nurturing Transport, Sanitizing Marines

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6th April 2020

RE: FREIGHT FORWARDERS AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

We are very pleased to be able to provide our preliminary research on the above subject firstly to government agencies, freight forwarders and maritime stakeholders in Nigeria and globally.

Firstly the International Maritime Organization in their corona virus (COVID-19) - preliminary list of recommendation for Government and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6 Page 2 Said:

The Secretary-General also wishes to reiterate the message contained in his most recent statement concerning the pandemic which, for ease of reference, is set out below:

"In these difficult times, the ability for shipping services and seafarers to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and foodstuffs, will be central to responding to, and eventually overcoming, this pandemic.

It is, therefore, crucially important that the flow of commerce by sea should not be unnecessarily disrupted. At the same time, the safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment must also remain paramount.

One of the goals of IMO, as stated in its Convention, is to ensure availability of shipping services to the commerce of the world, for the benefit of humanity. I urge all IMO Member States to bear this in mind when framing their policy decisions with regard to the corona virus. Defeating the virus must be the first priority, but global trade, in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly manner must be able to continue, too.

Secondly, address by **H.E. MUHAMMADU BUHARI, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. SUNDAY 29TH MARCH, 2020.**

Paragraph 42, "All sea port in Lagos shall remain operational in accordance with the guild lines I issued earlier. Vehicles and drivers conveying essential cargos from these ports to other part of the country will be screened thoroughly before departure by the Port Health Authority."

Thirdly, FIATA shorthand description of freight forwarders as the “architect of transport” IMO insistence that “shipping services and seafarers to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and foodstuffs, will be central to responding to, and eventually overcoming, this pandemic” and President MUHAMMADU BUHARI orders that “All sea port in Lagos shall remain operational” illustrates the commercial importance of the freight forwarders as an indispensable members of the international trade globally.

IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6 Annex, page 3: **Measures to ensure health protection in ports**

Governments and relevant national authorities are recommended in paragraph 6 to:

“Ensure those working in ports and having access to ships are provided with appropriate personal protection equipment (which could include masks, hand sanitizers and other means of preventing the spread of the virus) prior to contact with seafarers”.

AIM:

To reiterate the importance of the provision of appropriate personal protection equipment to freight forwarders as providers of essential services in the Port, draw the attention of the maritime regulating agencies, Nigeria Ministry of Transport, Nigeria Port Authority, Nigeria Shipper’s council and The Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarders to the safety and operational loop holes that may hinder the free flow of goods and services during this crucial period in Nigeria maritime sector and finally as an addendum to the solution proffered in the first press release by the research department.

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FINDINGS FROM TUESDAY 31ST MARCH TO FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2020

Below is a table representing health preventive measure provided by Government agencies to the general public. (Case study of four major ports in Lagos State)

PORTS	SANITIZERS	MASKS	OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES
Apapa Port Complex Port	NILL	NILL	NILL
Tincan Island Complex Port	NILL	NILL	NILL

Ports and Terminal multi services Ltd. Port	NILL	NILL	NILL
Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Port	NILL	NILL	NILL

NOTE: These government agencies and terminal operators provided sanitizers and face mask in their offices but not to the general public operating in the ports.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON DUTY:

- ❖ Nigeria Custom Services
- ❖ National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency
- ❖ State Security Service
- ❖ Nigeria Police Service(Anti Bomb Squad)

BANKS ON DUTY

PORTS	BANKS
Apapa Port Complex Port	FAIRLY OPENED (ACCESS BANK AND ZENITH BANK)
Tincan Island Complex Port	FAIRLY OPENED (ACCESS BANK)
Ports and Terminal multi services Ltd. port	NILL
Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Port	NO DATA

**BUSES TRANSPORTING FREIGHT FOWARDERS FROM VARIOUS BUS-
STOPS IN LAGOS PROVIDED BY NIGERIA SHIPPERS COUNCIL AVAILABLE
AT THE VARIOUS BUS-STOPS:**

BUSTOPS	AVAILABILITY
Ikotun via Ejigbo,Cele and Apapa	Available
Ikorodu via Keri, Maryland	Available
Ojuelegba via Stadium,Costain and Ijora	Available
Badagry via Trade fair,Iyana	Available
Ogba via Ikeja, Maryland	Available
Sango1st Bridge via iyana Ipaja, Ikejaalong Oshodi	Available
Ajah via Lekki-Marina/CMS	Available

SOCIAL DISTANCING

PORTS	CUSTOM OFFICES (INSIDE)	CUSTOM OFFICES (ACROSS THE WINDOWS)	INSIDE INSPECTION TERMINALS	OUTSIDE INSPECTION TERMINAL	INSIDE TERMINAL OFFICES	OUTSIDE TERMINAL WINDOWS
Apapa Port Complex Port	60%	0%	0%	0%	70%	0%
Tincan Island Complex Port	80%	0%	0%	0%	70%	0%
Ports and Terminal	92%	0%	0%	0%	73%	0%

multi services						
Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Port	59%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%