

Nigerian

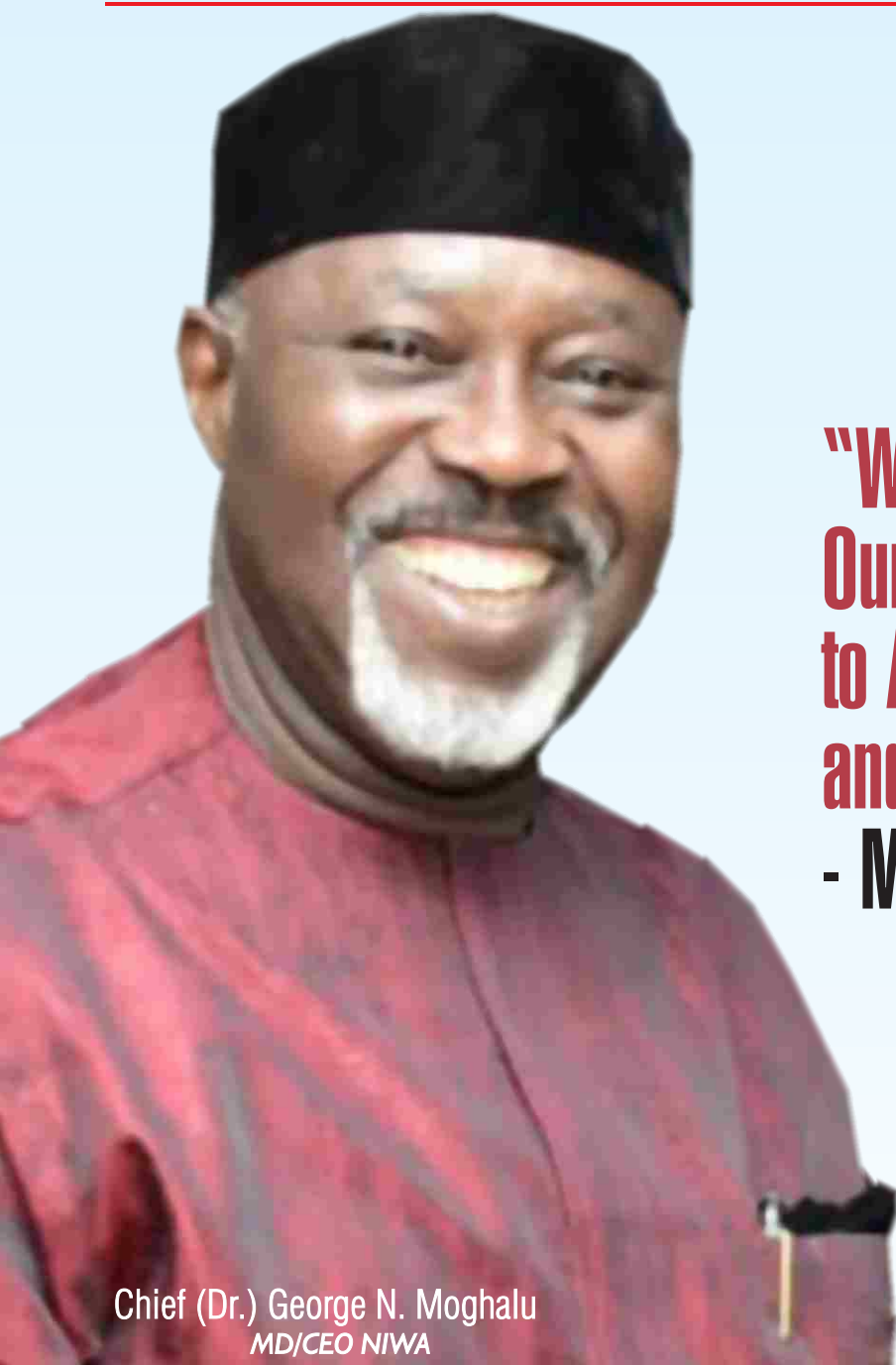
Waterways



"Providing Ways & Means on Nigerian Waters"

Issue No. 31 September 2020

Newsletter of the National Inland Waterways Authority



Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

**"We Are Developing
Our Inland Waterways
to Attract Investments
and Create Jobs"
- MD/CEO**

**Management
Enforces COVID-19
Guidelines**



WELCOME!

The Managing Director/CEO, Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu,
Management and Staff of NIWA heartily welcome all
Heads of Maritime Agencies to their

3rd Monthly Meeting

at its Headquarters in Lokoja.
We wish you exceptionally successful deliberations.



"Providing Ways & Means on Nigerian Waters"



IT'S A NEW DAWN

INTRO



With a deep sense of humility, I want to register my deepest gratitude to God Almighty, who has made it possible for me to attain the position of Acting General Manager, Corporate Affairs of this esteemed organisation after successfully working closely with my immediate past boss, Mr. Tayo Fadile for over two decades.

I want to count myself as one of the luckiest, as I kick start my noble task in this position. It is with a deep sense of honour that I am serving under our Managing Director/CEO Chief Dr. George N. Moghalu, a media

savvy boss, who has practiced Advertising and PR at the highest levels. Therefore, NIWA, specifically the Corporate Affairs Department, is blessed to have a boss who has a keen appreciation of the powers and importance of the media.

On behalf of the Department, I pledge to do my very best to give NIWA the maximum, positive visibility it needs as a leading Agency in the nation's maritime economy. I would also like to use this medium to solicit for the support and cooperation of the Management and Staff of NIWA as well as members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm in the quest to move NIWA to a greater height.

At this juncture, I warmly welcome you to another fresh edition of NIGERIAN WATERWAYS. This edition is loaded with fresh, informative and intellectually stimulating stories. You are going to find out the leading and vigorous role of the Managing Director/CEO in fight against the deadly Coronavirus Pandemic, the new Safety Guidelines on our waterways to avoid boat mishaps and contain of the killer Virus. The MD's maiden meeting with the media in Lokoja is one of our major stories. In our lead item, the MD/CEO unveils his strategic plans to develop the waterways to create jobs and attract private sector participation. We also share the cheery news of the appointments and redeployments of staff, including the elevation of yours truly.

MD's Visit to the Commissioner of Police FCT Command, Abuja and NIWA's objection to Lagos State's claims on waterways jurisdiction are given insightful coverage.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, NIWA continues to support waterways transportation initiatives, commissioning a 36-seater ferry in Yelwa-Yauri, Kebbi State. We have a full story and pictures.

It is indeed a rich package, which also features PhotoSpeak, a celebration of our people and events in pictures.

Happy Reading!

Jibril Darda'u

Ag. General Manager (Corporate Affairs)

Editor-In-Chief (Nigerian Waterways)

NIWA Set to Host Maritime Agency Heads

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) is to host the next monthly meeting of all Heads of Maritime Agencies at its Headquarters in Lokoja, Kogi State.

The first Monthly meeting was hosted by Nigeria Shippers Council (NSC) while the second meeting was hosted by Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). NIWA will play host to the august body in September 2020.

The meeting is to create synergy among agencies in the Maritime sector and to discuss Maritime Safety and Security, Port Efficiency and Inter-modal transport.

The Director-General NIMASA Dr. Bashir Jamoh, who hosted the last parley in Lagos, said the forum of CEOs of the agencies had given the maritime industry a platform to grow and contribute to



Chief (Dr.) Moghalu (2nd left) with Heads of Agencies in the Maritime sector....in Lagos

Nigeria's economic development.

NIGERIAN WATERWAYS welcomes all heads of Maritime Agencies to NIWA Headquarters, Lokoja, Kogi State.

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The newly commissioned 36-seater ferryboat

NIWA Commissions 36-Seater Ferry at Yelwa-Yauri



The Emir of Yauri, HRH Dr. Muhammadu Zayyanu Abdullahi cutting the tape to commission the boat supported by Distinguished Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah (I), NIWA MD/CEO Dr. George Moghalu (3rd r) and other dignitaries at Yelwa-Yauri, Kebbi State....recently.



The interior of the 36-seater boat

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has commissioned a 36-seater ferry boat at Yelwa-Yauri, Kebbi State recently.

In his opening remarks, The Managing Director of NIWA Chief Dr. George N. Moghalu thanked God for the opportunity given to the Authority to procure the 36-seater ferry boat on behalf of Distinguished Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah as part of his constituency project.

According to a press release signed by NIWA Spokesman Jibril Darda'u, Dr. Moghalu applauded the Distinguished Senator for his commitment and desire to create the enabling environment for water transportation to grow. He also acknowledged the kind support given to NIWA by the Yauri Emirate Council in fulfilling its official responsibilities.

Stressing the strategic and economic significance of water transportation, the MD/CEO said: "The importance of water transportation cannot be over emphasized for both facilitating the transportation of cargos and personnel in strengthening our economy and, at the same, time exploring tourism potentials of water transportation."

Dr. Moghalu sought the support of the government of Kebbi State to enable NIWA earn its revenue on the waterways. He said: "I am also appealing to the government of Kebbi State to

encourage NIWA by assisting it to ensure that companies, organizations and the public that are using NIWA's Right of Ways, which is 100 metres perpendicular from the point of river, are be made to pay their legitimate fees."

In his speech, Distinguished Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah promised to bring more developments to his people as the ferry being commissioned was just the beginning as two more ferries were in the works, one from Lagos and the other from China. He also said, in addition to the jetties he has built before in the Area, he was also planning, in conjunction with NIWA, to build a ferry terminal.

Thereafter, the Emir of Yelwa-Yauri HRH. Dr. Muhammed Zayyanu Abdullahi (CON) cut the tape to commission the new ferry boat for the general use of his people. There was a boat ride in compliance with the Covid-19 safety protocols.

Earlier, the Managing Director of NIWA had paid a courtesy call on the Emir. During the visit the Emir raised discussed the issues of litigations, clearing of water hyacinth/removal of wrecks and the development of the Inland Waterways for the optimum benefit of his people.

Responding, the MD/CEO promised to address all the issues raised by the Royal Father.

FG to Revive Calabar Waterways

By Nasiru Liman



His Excellency
President Muhammadu Buhari



Hon. Rotimi Amaechi
Honourable Minister for Transport



Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

There is hope for Calabar inland waterways to excel. The Managing Director/CEO Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu gave that positive outlook recently during a courtesy call on His Royal Eminence Edidem Okon Abosi Ofu V of Calabar in his palace in Calabar, Cross River State.

Dr. Moghalu reaffirmed his commitment to inject life into Calabar Waterways for stable and vibrant activities.

He told the Calabar monarch: "I am here to let you know that we are serious about reviving activities along the Calabar waterways. Hope is not lost." He emphasized that the present government was pulling resources to pump strength into the affairs of Nigerian waterways.

The MD/CEO gave the reassurance in response to the monarch's appeal to revive the spirit of business activities along waterways.

The Obong also refreshed the memories of his visitors to the fact that Calabar River, which connects Ibeno, has viable access to some gulf territories beyond the shores of Calabar. He appealed to the Managing Director for the acquisition of vessels in order to attract employment opportunities that were once the pride of youth of the area.

His Royal Eminence had an ally in Dr. George Moghalu, who said: "I

want to get your royal blessings because my administration will make sure that waterways are safe and activities return since it is the cheapest means of transport."

The MD said he toured the Area offices purposely to see how he could expedite action that guaranteed continuous flow of activities along the Calabar waterways.

Dr. George Moghalu, soon after the palace visit, met with stakeholders in the maritime industry to iron out issues fundamental to the success of waterways navigations. And in response to the complaint on sporadic accidents, the MD reassured them of his total readiness to lower the tempo of waterways mishaps between Calabar-Oron and Ibeno in Akwa-Ibom.

He further stated that more life jackets would be supplied while strict checks on boat operators' registration would remain in order to control and monitor compliance.

"We cannot continue to allow Nigerians die because of alleged operators on our waterways. We will ensure that every boat operator on our waterways is registered to allow proper monitoring of operations," he added.

NIWA to Partner with Police to Safeguard Waterways



The MD NIWA Chief (Dr.) Moghalu and CP Bala Ciroma, Commissioner of Police FCT command exchanging pleasantries (observing Covid-19 Protocol) during the MD's visit to the command's Headquarter in Abuja

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and the Nigeria Police have agreed to work together to safeguard the nation's waterways and their assets.

The understanding was reached recently when the Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu paid a courtesy visit to CP Bala Ciroma, the Commissioner of Police FCT Command, Abuja. The cooperation would enable the Authority to achieve its mandate for the waterways system.

The visit was as part of NIWA's effort in working with major stakeholders to boost and safe guard the waterways and support NIWA in achieving its mandates.

In his address, the MD/CEO, who was accompanied by senior staff of the Authority, said, "NIWA is very much ready to work hand in glove with the Nigeria Police in order to combat crime to the barest minimal on our waterways."

Dr. Moghalu noted that, "the security situation on our waterways is huge and needs an intelligence-led policing," pledging that his administration will give any kind of support requested by the Nigeria Police to battle crime on the waterways. He stressed that "the Nigeria Police should be willing to call on NIWA; we shall respond swiftly."

In his response, the Commissioner of Police, Bala Ciroma acknowledged the MD/CEO for the visit and promised to partner with NIWA to safeguard the waterways through intelligence gathering and collaboration with all critical stakeholders.

Management Appoints New Area Managers

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu has rejigged the personnel of the Authority's Area Offices nationwide for better service delivery, optimum performance and efficiency. The decision was taken at the management meeting held recently at the headquarters of NIWA in Lokoja, Kogi State.

The new appointments are as follows:

NEW AREA MANAGERS

S/N	NEW AREA MANAGERS	AREA OFFICES
1	Engr. Rufus Ogbonlato	Abuja Area Manager
2	Engr. Lucky Igboye	Lokoja Area Manager
3	Engr. Muhammed Dangana	Warri Area Manager
4	Mr. Maunde Naseer Adamu	Hadejia/Jam`are Area Manager
5	Mr. Chinedu Chukwudebelu	Portharcourt Area Manager
6	Mr. Okon Okon Etim	Calabar Area Manager
7	Barr. Queen Uba O. (Mrs.)	Onitsha Area Manager

REDEPLOYED AREA MANAGERS

S/N	REDEPLOYED AREA MANAGERS	AREA OFFICES
1	Barr. Shaibu Al-Hayat	Kaduna Area Office
2	Mr. Birma Yusuf	Yelwa-Yauri Area Office
3	Mr. Wathanafa Abubakar Marka	Eket Area Office
4	Mr. Muhammed S. Gonagi	Sokoto Area Office

RETAINED AREA MANAGERS

S/N	RETAINED AREA MANAGERS	AREA OFFICES
1	Engr. Sarah Braimoh	Lagos Area Manager
2	Engr. Tom Shaba Afeso	Yenagoa Area Manager
3	Mr. Abba John Martins	Jalingo Area Manager
4	Mr. Peter Ajagbe	Yola Area Manager
5	Mr. Adewale Akilapo	Minna Area Manager
6	Mr. MurtalaOgboye	Abeokuta Area Manager
7	Mall. Tahiru Ydamir	Maiduguri Area Manager
8	Mr. Idris Abubakar	Makurdi Area Manager
9	Mr. Jude Ogbue	Oguta Area Manager
10	Engr. Akintade Akinlade	Igbokoda Area Manager

RECALLED BACK TO HEADQUARTERS

S/N	NAMES	HEADQUARTERS
1	Surv. Adimoha Henry	Survey Department
2	Mr. Adamu Sagir	Research Planning & Environment
3	Ali Asebe Zainab	Human Resources/Admin Dept.
4	Mr. Bala Muhammed Bello	Marine Department
5	Engr. Danjuma Muhammed Kabir	Marine Department
6	Mr. Akwubo Boniface	Human Resources/Admin Dept.

3rd Mainland Bridge Repairs: NIWA Partners Tarzan to Ease Traffic

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) is to partner with Tarzan Marine Enterprise Nigeria Limited to ease waterways traffic in Lagos due to the partial closure of the Third Mainland Bridge for rehabilitation by the Federal Government.

NIWA's Area Manager, Lagos, Engr. Sarat Braimoh, who dropped the hint in Lagos recently, said: "NIWA has partnered with Tarzan Marine Enterprise Nigeria Limited to support the effort of NIWA. Already, we have opened new jetties at Lekki

Phase I. Also, we have set up another jetty at Oworonshoki by the end of Third Mainland Bridge so as to move passengers. We invite boat operators to be using the temporary jetties pending the time the partial closure will end."

The partial closure of the Third Mainland Bridge is expected to increase activities on the inland waterways. Accordingly, NIWA and other relevant agencies will embark on constant monitoring to ensure strict enforcement of the laid down rules and regulations to ensure Health and Safety Protocols.

Covid-19: NIWA Donates N10m to NCDC, Lagos



Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu
Chairman NCDC



Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

The Management of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), as part of the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) has donated the sum of N10M to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and Lagos State Government.

The money, which was shared equally between Centre and Lagos State will help the government fight the killer virus with vigour and determination.

The Management also urged all Nigerians to obey government directives on Covid-19 as the only way to restore sanity and ensure the safety of everybody in the country.

Meanwhile, the MD of NIWA Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu has directed that NIWA's infrastructures such as ferry terminals, dockyards, river ports, jetties, water crafts, barges and tugboats nationwide should be sanitized and the highest level of hygiene maintained.



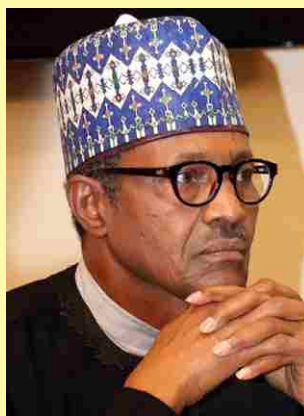
NIWA's Water Buses, Patrol Boats Join Fight Against Covid-19

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George Maghalu has ordered the immediate release of the Authority's water buses, scrub, patrol boats and other crafts for use by the relevant states and federal agencies in the fight against the covid-19 pandemic.

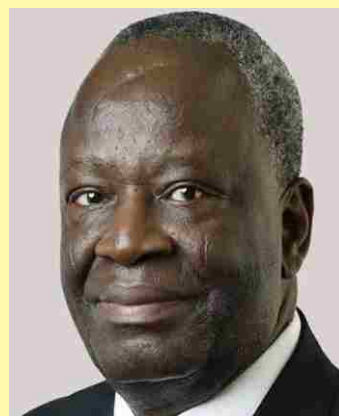
These crafts are useful for the moving of personnel and materials to and fro of the riverine communities as well as maintain security on our waterways.

While ordering the release, the MD/CEO further urged all waterways users to observe safety precautions, social distancing and other guidelines as given by the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19.

NIWA Felicitates with Gambari



President Muhammadu Buhari



Prof. Gambari

The Board, Management and Staff of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has congratulated a renowned Scholar-Diplomat, Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, on his appointment by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR as the new chief of staff to the President.

In a statement, The Managing Director of NIWA Chief (Dr.) George N. Mughalu said: "This is a well-deserved appointment following many years of meritorious service to the nation and indeed the world."

The MD further stated, "It is our prayers that God Almighty will grant you the courage and wisdom required in the successful discharge of the responsibilities of your new office as the chief of staff to the president."

Moghalu Appeals for Compliance to Covid-19 Protocols

■ NIWA Ready for Pandemic



Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu has appealed to Nigerians to obey all Covid-19 protocols set out by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in order to safe guard their lives and loved ones.

He issued the appeal in an exclusive interview with

NIGERIAN WATERWAYS at NIWA Headquarters, Lokoja. He stressed that it was no longer debatable that the deadly virus was real.

He also spoke on the Authority's state of readiness to deal with the deadly virus as well as its post-Covid strategies within workplace environments and on the waterways.

Dr. Moghalu said as well as making cash donations to critical states and agencies, NIWA also released its vessels to convey palliatives to communities where they were needed.

Explaining the Authority's efforts in the face of the deadly virus, Dr. Moghalu said: "For us, we have laid out ways of how to improve on our work habits, encourage our people to see to what extent we can work to be able to improve on our finances. The moment this started when they put the Presidential Task Force in place, NIWA contributed money. We gave a donation of N5million to the PTF; we also gave a donation of N5 million to the Lagos State Government. We provided hand sanitizers in the Headquarters and Area offices and asked them to provide more to the local communities, where we have jetties. We even released our vessels and gun boats for use for whatever palliatives the Federal Government may be wanting to send to the riverine communities."

On the safety of staff, the MD/CEO said the Authority has provided automated hand sanitizers, face masks, thermometers and rolled out strict operational guidelines across its Area Offices nationwide as part of measures to contain the disease.

According to Dr. Moghalu, the Authority also ensured that the Inland Waterways Police Command was enforcing all guidelines on the inland waterways as obtainable on the roads.

Earlier, NIWA, in compliance with the Federal Government directives through the NCDC Covid-19 Protocols, suspended some of its operations at its jetties and use of barges and ferries on the waterways.



COVID-19: NIWA Distributes Palliative to Staff

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu has approved the distribution of food items to all staff of the Authority to cushion the effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The palliatives, comprising rice and cooking oil, were

handed over to the staff by the General Manager, Human Resources Alhaji Usman Ndalada on behalf of the Managing Director. During the presentation ceremony at NIWA Headquarters in Lokoja, Alhaji Ndalada said the gesture was part of the MD/CEO's welfare programme to soften the blows of the Coronavirus lockdown.

Receiving the items on behalf of the general staff, the President of the Nigeria Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association (NIWA Branch) Comrade Muhammed A. Tanko and his counterpart Comrade Zainab Muhammed Chairperson Maritime Workers Union of

Nigeria (MWUN – NIWA Branch) thanked the Managing Director, and the management for the good gesture at this hard time of the lockdown, stressing it would go a long way to alleviate the pandemic-induced sufferings among the staff.

NIGERIAN WATERWAYS learned that each staff smiled home with a bag of rice and 5 litres of vegetable oil.

**“We Are Developing
Our Inland Waterways
to Attract Investments
and Create Jobs”**

- CHIEF (DR.) MOGHALU





Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu, in an interview with journalists in Lagos during his recent facility tour, elaborated on his plans to exploit the business opportunities on the waterways to attract sustainable investments. Excerpts:

What are some of the challenges you have observed as the CEO of NIWA?

The fact is that challenges are challenges and we have to look at them from the general aspect. First of all, the basic fundamental is that there is lack of awareness. This is one major issue I have found out. I have been here barely less than a year and have realized that a lot of people don't know about NIWA. I see this as a challenge that has to be addressed.

Secondly, unlike in the past, the resources available to government is not much anymore, so it requires us to think out of box to see what we can do to generate the needed resources internally to balance whatever we are going to get from national purse. With that we can carry out responsibilities of the Authority. So, funding is also a major challenge. I will work to make the waterways attractive, to explore its tourism and business potential.

Thirdly, the security of our waterways is also a challenge. We are working closely with the Marine Police and the Navy to address it. However, truth be told, these challenges are surmountable, and we are focused to solving them. Another area is that of staff training; building and developing manpower. This is a great challenge because you have to build them to being reliable professionals for them to understand your vision and core

mandate, and then see issues from your own perspective. Making the workforce see from your own mirror creates the likelihood of getting to your own destination with ease because there will be harmony of vision.

What are the major targets of NIWA in 2020?

First of all, we want to reposition NIWA. In 2020 we are looking at a NIWA with a more committed staff who understand their mandate. We want to massively build on our manpower, and to challenge them. We are also looking at a NIWA that has very improved services.

We will pursue debt recovery. Those who owe us must pay. Those who want our services must pay, and all these things must be properly documented so that we can have a high degree of accountability and transparency.

How much is NIWA being owed?

We are working on it. There are cases of underpayment and there are cases of people who don't want to pay even

On the Workforce:

“Making the workforce see from your own mirror creates the likelihood of getting to your own destination with ease because there will be harmony of vision.”

On Attracting Investments:

“I will work to make the waterways attractive to investors, to explore its tourism and business potential.”

when they are using our right of way; some even refuse to pay their passage fees. So we want to get this things documented to get them to pay. They must pay because there are tariffs clearly spelt out for services. So, we need to get things properly documented so that we can go after them to pay. We will work to make NIWA contribute to our national economy, improve on our GDP and boost government revenue in the long-term.

Is NIWA thinking of any programme that will help the youths in coastal communities?

First of all, if we develop our waterways, businesses will grow. For example, the other day when I visited Oguta River Port, I was shocked when I was being taken around by the crown prince. We found out that all the lands across the area had been bought up by private investors. Some bought their own to building big farms, some bought to build cargo sheds, some to build houses, some even hotels. I met an investor who said he wanted to build a hotel there, but when the river port was stopped, he had to stop because there was no point trying his investment there when he knew that the river port was not there. NIWA has effect on the economy of coastal areas. Anywhere ferries stop, you will see new towns developing, new businesses springing up, and it provides opportunities for indigenes and youths to get involved. The issue of unemployment in this country is such that it requires everybody. It is not only about the federal, state or local governments, it includes the agencies and private sector as government cannot provide all with employment. What government needs to do is to create an environment for the private sector to grow so that it can create employment. At the same time, we have to look at our education curriculum so that we can produce youths that are employable; not youths who have certificates but youths who can defend their certificates.



Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

How are our ports fairing?

Immediately after my appointment, I visited the Baro Port. That was my first visit and I went by waterways so that I could see the state of the channels. I have also gone to the Onitsha River Port. I went round seeing all ancillary services that will enhance businesses in the area. I have also gone to the Oguta Port. The Baro Port has been completed. The Onitsha Port is completed, Oguta Port is about 5% completed. Talking about readiness to use the ports, the Onitsha Port is undergoing a concession. If not for the challenge they had as regards to the concession process and petition by some persons who participated in the process, that caused us to go to the National Assembly and ICRC taking over to resolve the



The Waterfront, Marina, Lagos



Tourists at a Jetty

issues, the concession process for Onitsha Port would have been completed by now. The Baro Port is completed. It's a case of lack of funding or provision in the budget to address the issue, but I am determined to bring it back, because I need to know what the situation is on ground before I make a case, just like I am going to other river ports and all our area offices in about 25 States. As I go to areas where we have river ports, I also visit our offices and look at what our issues and challenges are with a view to finding solutions. I have also visited the Lokoja River Port, which is under construction. The stages where these projects are are such that we cannot afford to abandon them because government has made a lot of investment in them already. What is left for us now is to complete them and possibly concession them and put them into use, otherwise they will remain abandoned and resources already invested will be wasted, and I don't think that's a wise decision to take. That's where we are, and efforts are being made to complete and put them into use.

What is NIWA doing to utilise this natural transport infrastructure?

Nigeria is endowed with a wide maritime space. We are blessed with over 10,000km of waterways that link almost 28 States. Over 3,000km to 10,000km is navigable all year round. Our desire and determination is to open up the lakes to make sure that these channels are opened all year round. We are working to have a navigational aid and making sure that these channels are free. We are addressing the issue of insecurity, which the Ministry of Transport is determined to fight. The Nigerian Navy (NN) and Marine Police are also determined to fight insecurity on the waterways.

In the 60's and early 70's, through Sapele and Lagos, we had constant movements, we also had tourism potential; and this are the realities facing us, and NIWA is determined to

On Restoring Tourism on the Waterways:

“In the 60's and early 70's, through Sapele and Lagos, we had constant movements, we also had tourism potential; and these are the realities facing us, and NIWA is determined to bring back the good old days.”

bring back the good old days. If our waterways are free flowing, they have a lot of impact to make on our transport system and they will affect us positively. The life span of our roads will be longer. It will reduce the pressure on our roads. We are determined to see that we bring the good old days of safe and reliable water transportation. Recently, I held a meeting with a company on this issue, the discussions have gone very far, very soon we are going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and we will start Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) on water transportation.

With these laudable programmes, how much employment will you create?

We can achieve 5,000 employments if we succeed with the plans. We can generate even more.

NIWA Faults Lagos AG Over Waterways Jurisdiction



Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA



His Excellency Babajide Sanwo-Olu
Governor Lagos State

The Federal Government's regulatory agency on Inland Waterways in Nigeria, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has faulted the assertion of the Lagos State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Moyosoro Onigbanjo, SAN on the subsisting judgment of the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division on appeal number CA/L/886/2014, delivered on July 18, 2017.

Recall that the Lagos Attorney General, while quoting Justice Muktar of the Court of Appeal lead judgment that "All other Inland Waterways within Lagos State are within legislative competence of the Lagos State House of Assembly (LSHA) and revenue therein accruable to the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA)," had stated that the LSHA is competent to make laws in respect of same.

However, NIWA in a swift response, told the Lagos Attorney General to carefully revisit the content of the judgment which he might have read in haste or inadvertently did not accord the ruling deep consideration.

The Managing Director of NIWA, Dr. George Moghalu, noted that contrary to the assertions of Lagos State government that the Appeal Court judgment favored its regulation of the waterways, the court had in clear terms and without any ambiguity stated and held on page 27 of the copious judgment that "items 5 in the second schedule to the NIWA Act is the relevant provision for the navigable route that falls under exclusive legislative list and it provides that the intra-coastal routes from Badagry, along the Badagry Creek to Lagos through Lagos Lagoon to Iwopin along Omu River/Creek, Talifa Kivel to Ajelete, Akata, Aboko, Oluwa River to Okitipupa and on Gbekebo, Arogbo, Ofunama Benin Creek to Warri, and also the canal running from Araromi through Aiyetoro through Mashin Lagoon Igbokoda.

Dr. Moghalu further drew the attention of Lagos State

Government to the fact that the route runs through international and state boundaries and therefore is consistent with the provisions of the constitution being items on the exclusive list and which the Court of Appeal held "that revenue generated from the Federal route is payable to Federal Inland Waterways Authority"

Earlier, NIWA had expressed disgust with ongoing effort of Lagos House of Assembly (LSHA) to further tinker with dredging laws, in spite of recently reached understanding between the Authority and the State Government.

NIWA has already communicated its discomfort with the State Government, stressing the need to call the Assembly to order, as it sees the current gesture as "Hanky Panky" and threatening that the "unending face-off between NIWA and

“

The latest irritation is a sequel movement by Lagos State House of Assembly to ambush the regulatory power of NIWA and at the same time interfere in the activities of the dredging companies through the composition of a 7 Man Committee to investigate and make recommendations on dredging activities in Lagos State, a development NIWA considers as deliberate and subtle attempt to muzzle its mandate and expose it to national ridicule

”



Five Cowries terminal, Ikoyi, Lagos



Boats at a Lagos Jetty

Lagos State over dredging activities may enter another phase.”

“The Federal Government Waterways Regulatory agency frowns at the attempt by Lagos State House of Assembly to over reach itself on the extant mining laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which mandate NIWA to oversight access through the waterways,” Dr. George Moghalu said, describing the State Assembly’s move as an irritation”

In a letter to the Lagos State Government, the Managing Director added that “The latest irritation is a sequel movement by Lagos State House of Assembly to ambush the regulatory power of NIWA and at the same time interfere in the activities of the dredging companies through the composition of a 7 Man Committee to investigate and make recommendations on dredging activities in Lagos State, a development NIWA considers as deliberate and subtle attempt to muzzle its mandate and expose it to national ridicule.”

Dr. Moghalu, in his letter to the State Government and copied to the Secretary to the Federal Government, Boss Mustapha and the Hon. Minister of Transportation Rt. Hon. Rotimi Ameachi, also stressed the need for the State to “stop forthwith” the current posturing, which is a clear breach of peaceful resolution between NIWA and Lagos State Government over the clash.

There are issues arising from the operatives of any licensed operator of the Federal Government, section 14I of the Act or sections 15,16 or 17 of the regulation mode pursuant to the

above Act has made copious provision for its resolution.

The MD further informed the State Government of a ruling of the Court of Appeal in Mining Cadastral Office vs Petroleum and Transport Investment Ltd and another (2018) LPE IR 46046 which cleared the air on the vexed issue and further recognized waterway use permit exclusively within the ambit of NIWA.

“May I in simple words, emphasize in matters within the exclusive list of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are outside the legislative competence of the State Government as they are within the competence of the National Assembly,” Dr. Mughalu restated, urging the Lagos State Government to respectfully forward it’s interest on dredging and sundry waterways matters.”

Detailing the background to current impasse, the MD stated “that as a prelude to the full understanding of the matter under reference, you would recall that there was a recent clash between National Inland Waterways Authority and Lagos State Waterfront and Infrastructure Development, during which our staff or indeed companies registered with us were arrested by your staff and arraigned before Special Offences Court. The resolution of their imbroglio, I believe, is still under consideration.”

The Managing Director warned that LSHA's attempt to dabble into the matter may position logs in the ongoing efforts to reach amicable settlement of the vexed issues at hand.

MD's Reforms to Forge Ahead, NIWA InsistsWarns Sand Miners

The Acting General Manager (Corporate Affairs) of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Jibril Darda'u has said ongoing reforms in the Authority under the leadership of Dr. George Moghalu, would continue unabated.

Darda'u gave the assurance at a news conference in Onitsha, Anambra State, following accusations against the Authority by the Incorporated Trustees Board of Sand Miners.

The miners had accused NIWA of violating court order, multiple taxation, obstructing right of way, access fee and vandalism.

But Darda'u refuted the claims, describing them as ignorant allegations and distractions targeted at smearing Dr. Moghalu's image. He maintained that the Agency's activities were covered by its Enabling Act, saying it would not join issues with the sand miners since the matter was still in court.

Darda'u said: “NIWA, under Dr. Moghalu, is law abiding and would not go contrary to the Act guiding it. The issue is not about our



L-R: The Technical Adviser to the Managing Director Engr. Osita Anzodo, the Acting General Manager Corporate Affairs Mall. Jibril Dardau and Chief Chikalo, NIWA Counsel meeting the press at Onitsha Area Office.

MD/CEO, but NIWA's laws, which have been in existence before he came on board, and will continue even after him.

“Those using the sand miners to blackmail Dr. Moghalu won't succeed. His commitment to right the wrongs in the waterway system is unparalleled and won't be distracted.”

Photo SPEAK



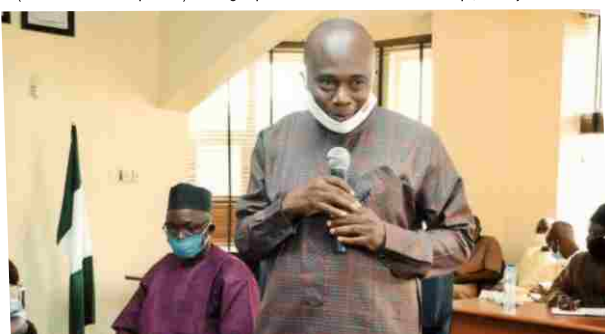
The Lagos Area Office Manager, Engr. Sarat Braimoh Presenting gift to the MD NIWA Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu during his visit to the area Office in Lagos



L-R: Alh. Danladi Ibrahim DM (Legal Services, Legal Adviser & Company Secretary), Alh. Muhammed Namarka GM (Finance & account) & Mrs. Uche Amadi GM (Business Development) during a press conference at NIWA Hqs, Lokoja



The Managing Director Chief Moghagu and Management Staff Inspecting ongoing work at Lokoja River Port



The Chairman Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Alh. Momoh Jimoh Adeiza during the press conference at NIWA headquarters, Lokoja



The Acting General Manager (Corporate Affairs) Alh. Jibril Darda'u moderating during the MD's Press Conference with Nigeria Union of Journalist Kogi State Council and Kogi State Correspondence Chapel at the Authority's Headquarter recently



Cross section of Boat operators during the stakeholder meeting in Lagos



Dr. Moghalu briefing the press after the stakeholder meeting with Boat Operators in Lagos



The MD NIWA, Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu presenting a gift to CP Bala Ciroma during his courtesy visit to the Command Headquarters in Abuja.



Chief Dr. Moghalu addressing a meeting of stakeholders and boat operators in Lagos



Dr. George Moghalu in a group photograph with CP Bala Ciroma and some management staff during the courtesy visit



The MD/CEO Chief (Dr.) in a group photograph with visiting members of the NUJ and Correspondents' Chapel, Kogi State Branch



Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu in a group photograph with staffs during his visit to Lagos Area Office



R-I: Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu MD NIWA, Emir of Yelwa-Yauri HRH. Dr. Muhammed Zayyanu Abdullahi (CON) in a discussion during the commissioning of 36-Seater Ferry at Yelwa-Yauri



MD meeting with cross section of Maritime Stakeholders during his visit to Lagos Area Office



Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

MY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MEDIA TO CHANGE THE NIWA NARRATIVE, BY DR. GEORGE N. MOGHALU

Since his assumption of office, the Managing Director/CEO Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu has worked tirelessly not just to reposition the Authority but also to create more awareness for its vital role in the Nigerian maritime economy. He is leading the charge to tell the NIWA story by filling the yawning information gaps. He believes a strong partnership with the vibrant Nigerian media can help change the narrative. Recently, the MD/CEO sat down with members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and Correspondents Chapel of Kogi State Council as part of his effort to forge a partnership with the media. It was his first meeting with Lokoja-based media since assumption of office.

But the MD/CEO was on a familiar terrain and in good

company. As a trained advertising executive and public relations consultant, has a keen understanding of how the media works.

In the wide ranging discussion, Dr. Moghalu made the persuasive argument that “we need the media to partner with NIWA for us to be able to market the Authority, so that we can fulfill the responsibility or to justify the confidence of government in putting NIWA in place in the first instance.”

He spoke on key issues such as opening the river channels to attract potential investors, the role of NIWA in a post Covid-19 era and Kogi State investment on inland waterways transportation. He also gave an update on Lokoja and Baro River Ports.

Excerpts:



The MD/CEO, Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu leading NIWA Management on a tour of Baro River Port

Since my assumption of duty as the Managing Director/CEO of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) like I was discussing with some of my colleagues, I am a lot worried of post-Covid, I have asked the Acting General Manager (Corporate Affairs) Mallam Jibril Darda'u to organize this kind of meeting with you but due to Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to do so. However, now with the easing of the first phase of the lockdown, I deem it necessary to meet you and interact with you. You are all welcome.

But let me start by saying that generally speaking, all Federal Government maritime agencies are either seen in Lagos or Abuja, but surprisingly this one is in Lokoja so some people don't know it exists. There are people who have commitments or obligations to fulfill to NIWA but they don't even know their commitments, they don't even know what NIWA stands for, they don't even know the role NIWA is supposed to play in the economy and things like that, so, I felt that NIWA is so grossly under reported, but the only way for me now to change that narrative is to partner with the media. That's the only way you the media can change the narrative, because it is the media that can tell the nation even the world over that there is a place called NIWA. As an organization the Management feels that we need the media to partner with NIWA for us to be able to market the Authority, so that we can fulfill the responsibility or to justify the confidence of government in putting NIWA in place in the first instance. Yes, we are meeting now for the first time, my happiness and excitement is that, if it is a jinx, I have broken the jinx now. I have directed the Acting General Manager Corporate Affairs that once I meet with you and before you leave I will like everybody's name written down for me and the organization you represent, contact phone number and email addresses, so that on my own I can reach out to the Chairman and ask questions so that we can relate. I want you to see me as part of you, I am a trained advertising Executive, am a PR consultant, so I am in the industry. I have headed Ministry of Information when I was in government in Abia State. So I have a lot of your colleagues as friends overtime. So we relate well, so I will make my number available to you, because you can reach me, you can give me information that can help us as an organization. I am not media shy, I will like to be advised and to be encouraged.

It is only when there is a good working relationship that

“NIWA is so grossly under reported, but the only way for me now to change that narrative is to partner with the media.”

you can give good advice on how we can sustain our efforts at NIWA. I am not as worried as I am about the Covid-19 now because Government has shown capacity at various levels, both Federal and State governments have shown capacity, we are confronting the Covid challenge as it is now being addressed. Government is investing resources, the private sector is supporting government vice versa; therefore we are addressing it. But my worry is what is the situation going to look like in post-Covid? What is going to happen to the economy? How do we re-energize our economy? How do we tune back, because if you look at the drop of the cost of our major source of sustenance, which is oil, and you look at the drop and the effect is going to have on our economy, because for example as you are aware the budget has been adjusted to reflect the current reality. For example, now as we speak, it is only level 14 and above that are working. Before, it used to be three days in a week but now is a complete week, but is still the level 14 and above that are working. It means that there is still a lot to be done for us to get back to the normal. So, I am concerned about what is going to be our fate both as a country and as individuals post-Covid. What are we going to do as leaders because everybody is a leader in his own right?

Honestly speaking, I am glad you came, I am very happy. Let me appeal to you to help us because you are in Kogi and NIWA Headquarters is in Kogi, so you have a role, a stake in this organization. I want to thank you again and sincerely from my heart for this visit, I want to say that this is not going to be one visit we are still going to be meeting again, feel free at all times, next one I will visit your own chapel.

On our next meeting I will come to the chapel to know the place to get myself familiarized with you so that we can understand in very clear terms that we are in this business together. Again, I want to say welcome to NIWA and thank you very much for coming.



Updates on Lokoja River Port

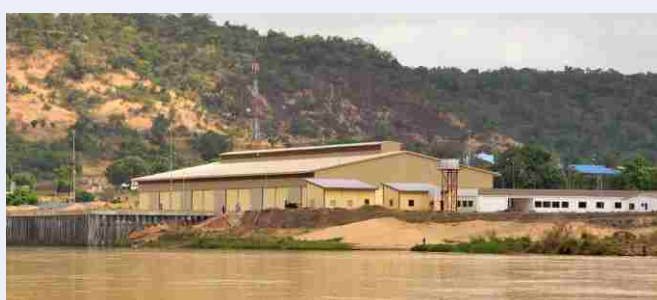
You are right when you say I am passionate about it for a lot of reasons. It is a lot of investment government has made in and must be completed; that is one, two, we need to have a River Port in Lokoja for a lot of reasons strategically.

This is where our headquarters is. The Confluence is the gateway that will help us move to the North, so we need a river port here as that was why the government started building the port in the first instance. It started the same time with the Baro River Port, but the construction is ongoing now, I can tell you authoritatively that the Federal Executive Council has approved a review of the contract value. It has been approved and the contractor has been communicated. In fact, few days back we had a meeting agreeing at the Management level to have another meeting with the contractor so that we can look and appraise their work schedule, because Federal Government has approved the review of the contract from over N4b to N6b now.

We are expecting, in a matter of a very short while, the

“The construction of Lokoja River Port is ongoing. I can tell you authoritatively that the Federal Executive Council has approved a review of the contract value.”

contractor will move back to site. You can take a trip there, we are very confident and committed to realizing that project. Here in NIWA, we are driven by the fact that we have to leave a sustainable legacy and at the same time also whatever investment government is making, we must make sure it is conclusive because when we start a project and don't finish it, what we have succeeded in doing is wasting resources that have been invested and if you don't complete it, it remains uncompleted and you cannot have the benefit of the investment you have made. So, we are committed to the completing that project because we know it is a very important project.



Updates on Baro River Port

The fact is that Baro River Port is well built, the equipment there are world class. Anybody can attest to that; it is a modern port. But if you notice, the access road to the port is a major challenge, if not because of the Covid-19 I would have visited Niger State but immediately after Covid-19 I will secure an appointment and see the State Governor and also meet with critical stakeholders in Niger State. We need to have an access road to the port because if the vessels come to Baro and discharge consignments those consignments have to be moved from there because Baro Port is not the end point. So, that is the major challenge.

On opening of the river channels

Yes, like everybody knows we have over 10,000km waterways today in this country but only over 3,000km is all year round navigable. There was a capital dredging that was done some years back. So, what we are pursuing now is what we call maintenance dredging so that's what we will be doing intermittently to make sure that these channels are free and open.

If you look at our procurement process of the 2019 you will find out that we are procuring a dredger. So we can also have some on our own, so that we too can be part of the maintenance dredging as regularly as possible to make sure that the channels are open for all year round navigation.

But dredging is something that even if you do capital dredging you must regularly do maintenance dredging so that the channels can remain open because we are talking about movement of silt. Silt comes from various areas as they can cause problems.

On the role of NIWA in strengthening the National Economy



One thing we are targeting which is one of the things I feel will give me joy at the end of the day is that we will move bulk cargoes through the inland waterways. I have said it in the cause of the interviews I had: what will give me joy by the time I leave office is, let river or water transportation be the transport means of choice both for passengers and cargos. By the time we improve on our cargo handling capacity in terms of movement of bulk cargos we could have saved the nation a lot of money because the damage that our road suffer because of the movement of bulk cargos of our goods is alarming.

For example, if you want to move 1,000 containers from Lagos Port, which is our major port, to the east what that means is, you have to put 1,000 trailers on the road and the pressure of 1,000 trailers on the road can be imagined because it is going to be a lot of problem but if we move this cargos on water, what we have succeeded in doing is by removing this trailers off roads so that our roads can survive. So, we are making great effort to see that all those key things we need to do in making sure that our jetties are put in place, because we have a lot of jetties, we have built and are still building some more that are to be put to functional use. So the potentials are there in strengthening the Economy.

NIWA's Role Post Covid-19

So, post-Covid-19, we want to emphasize and make greater efforts to see that the issue of movement of cargo and personnel on our waterways must be enshrined with Covid-19 protocols. Again, we have also talked about reducing all our tariffs across board; we are going to tinker with it to make sure we reduce them so that apart from making it attractive, we will also encourage people to get involved. Today, if you are not properly prepared in terms of obeying our protocols, you may not be able to use any of our jetties because you have to wear your face mask, hand wash, then sanitizer that we have provided in our operational points to make sure nobody goes outside the protocol and then create problems not only to himself but to us also. So there is quite a lot we are doing to make sure at the end of the day we are going to play a key role in ensuring that the effect of the pandemic on our national life is reduce to the barest minimum.



Amphibian Airport

It is not a bad idea. But first of all, you have to make sure all your inland waterways are navigable, you have to create that attraction, you have to develop that interest, and you have to market it to the people's consciousness before you take it to the level of building an amphibian airport. But our jetties are serving the same purpose.

Kogi State Government's Investment Plan for the Waterways

It may interest you to know that recently, a committee was inaugurated by the Kogi State Government that has to do with this issue of developing the inland waterways. I have talked to the Commissioner, I have talked to the head of PPP of the Government here; we have discussed. The potentials are there, there is nothing wrong in developing a ferry transport/passenger system here between Lokoja and Onitsha or even further down. But the point is that if you don't do it, the consciousness will not be there and people's interest will not be tickled for them to get fully involved. But you see, government is making every effort to de-emphasize governmental involvement in business, so anything that we can do to encourage the private sector to look for partnership that is one thing we are doing here.

Our business development department is engaging a lot of partners, business partners who have interest in partnering with us to look at these business potentials. We ask of business case and we build on it. A lot of them are talking with us. There is a company in Lagos that is serious about partnering with us to do ferry services from Lagos to Onitsha, Lagos to Warri, Lagos to Illushi, and Lagos to Kogi. We are discussing all these, what we want to do is to make sure that once we start we don't stop and for us to achieve this we are also involving the security agencies because you must have to look at the security of the waterways so that people don't regret getting themselves involved. Yesterday, we had a Management meeting discussing how to look at the possibility of moving bulk cargo on water between Lagos to Onitsha and Lagos to Port Harcourt. That was what we were discussing and we have a committee working on it and we want to do that immediately. We want to see how we can play a role in decongesting the ports to justify the confidence of the government in this place, to justify this investment, we want to play a key role, and we want to partner with all agencies of government to see that we can play a role in decongesting the ports, particularly Lagos ports.

MOGHALU: Maritime Agency Heads to Work Together for Safety on the Waterways

The Heads of all Maritime Agencies have agreed to work together to ensure safety on the nation's waterways. This was part of the resolutions reached by the CEOs during the last meeting held at NIMASA Headquarters in Lagos.

The Managing Director of NIWA Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu, who disclosed the resolutions, added that safety formed a major part of the discussion at the last meeting.

He said: "All the Maritime agencies had agreed to work together to rid the Nigerian waters of unsafe craft and practices that endanger passengers on



Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

the use of the waterways."

The monthly meeting, which was the second in the series, was attended by the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) Mr. Hassan Bello, the Registrar, Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarders of Nigeria (CRFFN), Mr. Sam Nwakohi, the Rector, Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN), Oron Commodore Duja Emma Effedua (Rtd), Director General of the Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) Dr. Bashir Jamoh, The Managing Director Nigerian Port Authority (NPA) Hadiza Bala Usman and the Managing Director, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Dr. Moghalu.

NIWA Sanctions Boat Company for Violating Safety Regulations



Engr. Sarat Braimoh,
NIWA Area Manager, Lagos



Oluwadamilola Emmanuel,
MD, LASWA

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has shut down operations of the boat operator Lalek Marine for failing to comply with regulations put in place against night movement and overloading of boats in Lagos.

The boat had operated out of Ebute Ero jetty recently by 8pm and capsized on its way to Ikorodu, Lagos State shortly after departure, with 14 passengers rescued and six dead with one missing.

In a statement, the Lagos Area Manager of NIWA, Engr Sarah Braimah said that the ill-fated boat that capsized, failed to adhere to 6pm sailing regime guiding water transportation services in Lagos.

She added: "In a preliminary report on the sad and avoidable incident, the Lagos Area Office of NIWA stated that the boat operator, apart from violating the extant time of operation regime which is at 6pm

and not 8pm, also overloaded the boat against the Covid - 19 protocol which allows only 60 per cent carrying capacity for all types of boats in order to encourage social distancing.

"We at NIWA responded immediately and joined the Marine Police, LASWA and other concerned agencies to rescue the 14 passengers and also recovered six others already drowned, with one missing".

She explained that the Ebute Ero jetty, the departure point of the ill-fated boat, will henceforth be monitored by NIWA Police pending the conclusion of the investigation to the incident. She hinted that the owner of the boat is being tracked down by NIWA to explain how the unfortunate incident happened and if need be, the collaborators to the whole unfortunate episode.

"The MD of NIWA has directed that the jetty be monitored by NIWA Police to avoid re-occurrence of the incident and to enable NIWA conduct full investigation to this very sad but avoidable violation," she added, noting that NIWA management had a month ago offered waiver and reduced sundry fees

and other operational charges across board in the brown water economy to help stakeholders stick to post Covid-19 protocols and to check tendencies that might encourage violations of extant regulation regime.

"The Managing director of NIWA, Chief Dr. George Moghalu knew that some operators might be tempted to make quick money to make up for the lost opportunities and financial loss experienced during the lock down and therefore was futuristic and proactive to reduce the fees and charges, knowing the expected impact of the new normal on operators but we can see from what happened that some operators are so uncaring and selfish to end the lives of innocent people through blatant violation of the rules of engagement."

Engr. Braimoh added that NIWA was still investigating the situation, looking at various scenarios, and engaging other agencies and boat operators association to nip this type of avoidable incident in the bud.



Passengers alighting from a Ferry in Lagos

COVID-19: NIWA May Reduce Tariffs Nationwide – MD

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) plans to reduce tariffs across the country's inland waterways as part of its contribution towards revamping the nation's economy.

The Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu dropped the hint recently in an interactive session with members of the Kogi State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) at NIWA headquarters, Lokoja.

In the words of the MD/CEO: "We are considering a reduction on tariffs payable on our waterways to encourage patronage and serve as our own contribution towards efforts to improve the economy after the covid-19." According to Dr.

Moghalu, apart from putting measures in place to improve patronage of the country's waterways, the reduction in tariff would serve as the Authority's own contribution to the Federal and State governments' efforts in revamping the economy that is trying to nosedive as a result of Covid-19 Pandemic.

He also told the journalists that NIWA would spare no effort towards putting all waterways into use to reduce pressure on Nigerian roads and airports, regretting that the country's waterways were grossly under-utilized as only about 3,000 km were being put to use out of 10, 000 km waterways in the country.

Management Names 3 New Acting GMs

In a bid to improve efficiency and service delivery, the Management of NIWA has approved the appointments of three new Acting General Managers to head their respective Departments. The new appointees are Mallam Jibril Darda'u, Acting General Manager, Corporate Affairs Department, Mr. Maisaje Ibrahim Japhet, Acting General Manager, Audit Department and Alhaji Yusuf Umar Girei, Acting General Manager, Finance and Accounts.

Their appointments were also as a result of the retirement of the GMs heading those Departments.



Mallam Jibril Darda'u
Acting General Manager
(Corporate Affairs Department)



Mr. Maisaje Ibrahim Japhet
Acting General Manager
(Audit Department)



Alhaji Yusuf Umar Girei
Acting General Manager, Finance
and Accounts.



NIWA ISSUES COVID-19 GUIDELINES:

Boats, Ferries to Operate at 60% Capacity, Face Masks Now Mandatory



In order to contain the spread of corona virus, the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Lagos Area Office has issued fresh guidelines for inland waterways operations.

The Area Manager, Engr. Sarah Braimoh, who highlighted the new guidelines recently in a statement in Lagos, explained that they were in tandem with the directives of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Covid-19, to allow a gradual and controlled easing of the lockdown as announced by Mr. President in one of his National Broadcasts.

The guidelines, effective from May 4th 2020, are as follows:

- Movement of boats/ferries will be between the hours of 6:30am to 5:30pm. No passenger boat is expected on the waterways after 5:30pm in the evening.
- The loading capacity of all boats and ferries shall be sixty percent capacity until further notice, i.e a 20 passenger boat will be reduced to 12 passengers only.
- All passengers shall put on facemasks before embarking and throughout the duration of travel.
- Boat operators shall make alcohol based sanitizers available at the entrance of their boat. The use of sanitizer is mandatory before embarkment or disembarkment of passengers.
- Operators are to make available decent life jackets as we move

toward actualizing optimal hygiene as passengers are urged if necessary to provide and use their personal life jackets.

Engr. Braimoh stressed that commercial boat operations shall remain suspended during weekends till further notice, while there would be temperature checks at various jetties and terminals.

The statement added:

- Jetties/Terminals are not allowed to accommodate and congregate more than 20 passengers at a time, this is in line with the enforcement of social distancing.
- Passengers are expected to board immediately on arrival at the jetties.
- In the event of any suspected case of Covid-19, please call 08000Corona

Braimoh said that in order to ameliorate the cost of operations for commercial boat operators, the Authority had directed all jetty operators to charge fifty percent of applicable jetty fees.

She said that government jetties remain free of charge till further notice.

MISHAPS: MD Warns Boat Operators



Chief (Dr.) Moghalu (2nd l) presiding over a meeting of stakeholders and boat operators in Lagos

The Managing Director/CEO Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu has warned boat operators to adhere strictly to NIWA safety guidelines to avert accidents on the waterways.

A statement signed by the NIWA's Acting General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Alhaji Jibril Darda'u at the Authority's headquarters in Lokoja, said those who flout the safety guidelines would face severe sanctions.

Dr. Moghalu issued the warning while commiserating with the people, Government and families of the victims of the recent boat mishaps in Lagos and Benue States. He stated that his agenda for the

inland waterways transportation system was to enthrone minimal, if not accident-free, operations on the waterways.

In the statement, NIWA lamented the loss of lives, saying, "The Authority is sad with the recent boat mishaps, which could have been avoided in Lagos and Benue States that claimed so many lives as a result of violating Inland Waterway Transport Safety and guidelines.

"We would like to use this medium to appeal to the general public, especially waterways' users, to strictly adhere to NIWA's safety guidelines, especially for boat operators, in Lagos and Benue States."

In a similar development, the Managing Director Chief (Dr.) George N. Moghalu has warned boat and barge operators who are violators of Inland Waterways protocols on safety of Navigations that they would henceforth face the wrath of the Authority in line with sanctions enshrined in the NIWA Enabling Act.

Dr. Moghalu issued the warning in Lagos recently during a meeting with boat operators and stakeholders at a one day sensitization meeting organized by NIWA Area Office, Lagos following incessant cases of fatal boat accidents in some parts of the country in recent months.

The meeting, which was hosted for boat operators, barge and tug boat owners, dredging companies, sand diggers and private jetty owners in Lagos, is expected to be replicated in other inland waterways



Advisory on the Use of Masks by Members of the Public Without Respiratory Symptoms

Background

Since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was first reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019, it has spread rapidly across the globe, leading to over a million confirmed cases in three months. On the 27th of February 2020, Nigeria confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has gradually increased, with more sporadic cases reported across more states in Nigeria. Nigeria is a densely populated country with about 200 million people across 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). This context and other socio-economic factors make the country particularly vulnerable for a highly transmissible virus such as SARS-CoV-2 to spread. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), medical face masks should be worn primarily by people who show symptoms of COVID-19, health workers and people who are taking care of people with COVID-19 in close settings (at home or in a health care facility). The Government of Nigeria through the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 has mandated the use of face masks by members of the public, as an additional layer of protection, in addition to physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene measures in Nigeria.

Principles of prevention of COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 is most frequently transmitted from one person to another, through droplets from coughing or sneezing. The virus can also be transmitted by touching surfaces that have been infected (e.g. door handles, and countertops) or more rarely, from singing or speaking loudly. Given what is understood about this new virus, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has advised on the following measures to prevent transmission:

Physical distancing – i.e. people should keep a minimum distance of 2 metres from one another.

- **Handwashing with soap and water** should be performed as frequently as possible or using an alcohol-based sanitiser where no water is available.
- If someone is **coughing or sneezing**, they should cover their cough, using a disposable tissue and discarding in a waste bin and washing their hands or using their bent elbow.
- Normal practices like greeting one another with **handshakes** or **hugging** should be avoided.

Evidence relating to the community use of masks for prevention of Covid-19

Globally, there is ongoing debate on the effectiveness of masks as a preventive measure for the coronavirus disease. The evidence in favour of the use of masks includes the possibility of asymptomatic (a person never develops symptoms) and pre-symptomatic (before a person develops signs and symptoms) transmission and emerging evidence of the ability of a mask to prevent contact with respiratory droplets. Ecological comparisons also appear to suggest better outcomes in countries that have used masks as a general policy. Sources of concern have been that people who wear face masks may

feel protected and ignore physical distancing advice. In addition, if face masks are not worn correctly, disposed of appropriately or if people touch their faces more frequently due to adjustments of the face masks they are wearing, they run a higher risk of infecting themselves.

Increased anxiety among the public

The daily real-time reporting of the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened panic and fear in people, as the numbers of cases and deaths recorded globally continues to increase. There is a lot that remains unknown about this disease. Authorities and scientists do not yet have all the answers to the many questions being asked. The instinct for self-preservation and protection from harm and the basic need to survive has brought about a need for self-defence against this novel virus. Many people will be resorting to the use of face masks to gain some control and confidence in their ability to protect themselves (and family) from contracting the coronavirus disease.

Recommendations

In view of these, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control offers the following advice to members of the public:

1. The wearing of face masks, (or equivalent) is a compulsory additional layer to be used in addition to other measures such as physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene measures in Nigeria. The primary rationale for the advice on face masks is to prevent those who are infected but asymptomatic from spreading the virus. Masks have to be properly disposed of in waste bins. Improper handling and frequently touching masks can increase the risk of infection. Improvised masks are also an option – as long as they are properly washed regularly. They can be made out of cloth or other materials.
2. The use of face masks is particularly advised while attending large gatherings (where it is absolutely necessary to attend). These include but are not limited to shopping outlets, markets, shops and pharmacies among others.
3. Given the global shortage of personal protective equipment including medical masks, public sector resources should be preserved to procure medical masks for patients and healthcare workers who need them the most.
4. The wearing of face masks alone will not protect against COVID-19, but must be combined with physical distancing, handwashing, respiratory hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and other advice from NCDC.
5. Older persons (> 60) with existing medical conditions such as diabetes are particularly encouraged to wear masks as they are at higher risk of infection. It is also further advised that face masks are used by more vulnerable members of the society, citizens with ongoing respiratory problems, and those already exhibiting symptoms and awaiting testing. It is important to remember that the usage of face masks alone cannot be relied upon to avoid the COVID-19 virus; physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene measures are necessary for protection from the virus.

Culled from COVID19.NCDC.GOV.NG



New Cardinal Guidelines For Safety on our Waterways & Covid-19 protocols



The Management of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) is Working assiduously with stakeholders to reduce the spate of accidents on our waterways. Part of the engagement process is the ongoing nationwide Waterways Safety Awareness Campaign. However, accidents on our waterways can be reduced to the barest Minimal if users comply strictly with safety regulations and guidelines. NIWA has therefore stipulated the following cardinal Guidelines, Which must be adhered to by all waterways users to ensure sustainable safety on our waterways:

NIWA SAFETY TIPS FOR PASSENGERS

1. Always put on your Life Jacket before entering the Boat;
2. Always check the weather to ensure that it is suitable and safe for sailing;
3. Boat Operators must Share safety knowledge with passengers before sailing;
4. Once seated in the boat, Do not stand up or shift from your sitting position;
5. If engine stops while sailing, do not panic; do not stand up or move from your sitting position as doing so may cause boat to capsize. Remain calm for the engine to be fixed or call the nearest NIWA Area Office for help.
6. Disembarking from boat should be orderly and as directed by the captain.



NIWA SAFETY TIPS FOR BOAT CAPTAINS

1. Do not sail on the waterways at Night (NIWA regulations permit waterways transportation from 6am to 5:30pm only);
2. Do not take in passengers/cargos beyond the capacity of the boat;
3. Do not re-fuel when passengers are already on board.
4. Avoid Over-speeding on the waterways;
5. No Ship to Ship transfer of passengers or cargo midstream;
6. If engine stops midstream, ensure passengers are calm while engine is fixed. Boat may be towed to shore for safety.
7. Do not take Alcohol or Drug before and during boat ride;
8. Boat Captain must have requisite training/Experience and certification
9. All boats and Boat Operators must be properly registered with NIWA;
10. Ensure the Passengers wear a Standard Life Jacket
11. Ensure that Engines are serviced/overhauled regularly, Boat are without leakage; safety appliances must be available on board;
12. No Carriage of Dangerous Cargo onboard like petrol and other substance in open spaces.
13. NIWA will always carry out random unscheduled checks on engines and hull conditions and other safety appliances.
14. Ensure there is a paddle in every boat in case of engine failure;
15. Call NIWA emergency Helpline or the nearest Area Office for Help;

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS ON OUR WATERWAYS

1. All Passengers shall put on face mask before embarking on and throughout the duration of travels.
2. Boat Operators shall make alcohol-based sanitizers available at the entrance of their boats/ferries. The use of sanitizers is mandatory before embarking and disembarking of passengers.
3. Operators are to make available decent life jackets as we move towards actualizing optimal hygiene as passengers are urged if necessary to provide and use their personal life jacket.
4. There will be temperature checks at various jetties and terminals.
5. Jetties/Terminals are not allowed to accommodate and congregate more than 20 passengers at a time. This is in line with the enforcement of social distancing.
6. Loading capacity of all boats and ferries shall be at 60% capacity until further notice (I.e a 20 passenger boat will reduce to 12 passengers only).



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Join Hands With NIWA
To Make our
Waterways Safe

