



**NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS  
AUTHORITY [NIWA]**



**GENERAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SAFETY ALERTS**

The National Inland Waterways Authority wishes to remind the general public especially users of Inland waterways and inhabitants of riverbanks across the country of the need to be cautious and adhere to all safety rules as we approach high tidal periods.

**It is mandatory to:**

1. put on a life jacket properly before entering a boat or any water crafts;
2. avoid loading passengers and goods beyond the approved limits on inland waters;
3. remove any unregistered boat from the inland waterways to avoid impoundment and prosecution;
4. desist from travelling on the inland waterways outside the approved period (6am to 6pm). Night travel is illegal;
5. refrain from drinking alcohol before and during boat ride;
6. avoid overspeed at all times;
7. boat operators should share safety tips with passengers before sailing;
8. discharge the cargoes on board, in case of emergency, to reduce the risk of water getting overboard.



Also, it is illegal for any unregistered boat and unlicensed person to operate within the inland waterways. The Inland Waterways Transportation Code 2023 has been gazetted, and it shall be strictly enforced.

Signed: Management



**NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY**  
"Providing Ways and Means on Nigerian Waters"  
Adankolo New Layout, P.M.B. 1004, Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria.  
Website: [www.niwa.gov.ng](http://www.niwa.gov.ng)  
Email: [nigerianwaterways@gmail.com](mailto:nigerianwaterways@gmail.com)

**Nigerian**

**Waterways**

Issue No. 37 2024



Newsletter of the National Inland Waterways Authority



**OYETOLA, ON A WORKING TOUR OF NIWA, APPLAUDS MD ON WATER TRANSPORTATION CODE**

■ **Commissions Several Projects**

**NIWA  
PROCURES  
WATER BUS**



**WE'RE  
PRIMED FOR  
SUCCESS  
-MD/CEO**



# NIWA'S FINEST MOMENTS



One of the highest points of the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, and indeed this Administration, was the maiden working tour of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) by the Honorable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, (HMMBE) His Excellency Adegboyega Oyetola. Even though the visit has since been done and dusted, its impact has lingered.

The MD/CEO and the Management responded with robustness and enthusiasm that the august visitor deserved. It was complete with red carpet reception, meaningful speeches, cultural displays, tour of project sites and actual commissioning of projects.

However, the working tour was also significant in many ways:

- It happened on the heels of the assumption of office of Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB as the MD/CEO of NIWA.
- It gave both the Special Guest and the MD/CEO a

unique opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the MD/CEO, the inherent investment prospects in the nation's waterways system while at the same time enabling the HMMBE to unfold the Agenda of the Federal Government for the waterways sector.

- Equally significantly, the visit underscored Government's confidence in the waterways as a key player in Nigeria's Marine and Blue Economy.
- It was yet another proof that the Oyebamiji-led Management is primed for success as a trusted and resourceful manager of Nigeria's waterways assets.

Predictably, in this edition *NIGERIAN WATERWAYS*, has given it an elaborate coverage, leading with that colourful event in words and elegant pictures. The story was anchored by our Staff Writers.

One of the marks of good leadership is giving employees and other stakeholders the confidence to respond quickly because they believe in the plan and have received clear communications. The MD/CEO Mr. Oyebamiji, FCIB found himself in the mix recently during the unfortunate boat mishap in Niger State.

He stoutly rose to the occasion, visiting the Gwajibo community, the scene of the mishap, in the State as well as condoling and reassuring the distressed riverine community. But he went beyond mere words. He donated life jackets, which are essential requirement in boat journeys, and spoke strongly about the need to adhere to safety codes and rules on the waterways. We have also given the visit to Gbajibo considerable coverage in this edition, professionally anchored by our Staff Writers.

It was a very hectic week for the MD/CEO as he led the Management team on a working tour of the Authority's Area Offices in Onitsha, Port Harcourt and Warri. We feature highlights of these visits in your this well packed edition.

But I must end by acknowledging the sad passing of our former Acting General Manager (Corporate Affairs) Department, Jibril Darda'u. Mr. Darda'u, a seasoned PR Practitioner and Editor-in-Chief of this publication, will be sorely missed.

Enjoy this edition of your favorite *WATERWAYS*, make the most of it and share your impressions.

*Suleiman Makama*

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Suleiman Makama, AMNIPR**

**Editor:**

**Editorial Secretary:**

Kassim Mahmoud

**THE TEAM**

**Staff Writers**

- Tijani Ibrahim
- Kassim Mahmoud
- Abdullahi Shehu
- Mangder Victor

**Editorial/ Production Consultants**

The Mavis Company Ltd., Lagos Tel: 08033370666, 08033370667

**All Correspondence to:  
The Editor**

Nigerian Waterways, C/O AGM,  
Corporate Affairs  
National Inland Waterways Authority,  
P.M.B 1004, Adankolo, Lokoja, Kogi State  
email: Makama992@gmail.com  
makama.suleiman@niwa.gov.ng  
Tel: 08060636383

WaterwaysNG WaterwaysNG WaterwaysNG

## Positioned to Add Value to the System

Being text of A Welcome Address delivered by Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) on the 9th January, 2024 at the Special Retreat/Workshop in Lokoja with the theme: "Repositioning the Inland Waterways Authority for Excellence"



Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB MD/CEO NIWA

1. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me first welcome Dr. Mrs Magdalene Ajani, the Permanent Secretary and the Accounting Officer of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, our mother Ministry, to this retreat. Ma, your support to NIWA, even before I was appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), is noted and appreciated. I thank you for supporting NIWA always. I equally appreciate all the members of the management of NIWA here present; all the General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Area Managers, and other members of staff, I welcome all of you. Our consultant on this journey; Zimedy Business Services, I welcome you as well. Members of the press, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

2. Dear participants, let me say that our presence here today is not by chance. We have all been positioned to add value to the system in diverse ways. While some are to design policy directions, others have been picked to be the drivers of such policies. I likened the two groups to the main teams piloting a ship on a journey. While some hold the deck, others ensure the engines below run at their utmost performance. The ultimate goal is to achieve excellence at sea.

3. Therefore, our assignment at this retreat is to discuss and have a working template upon which the aspirations of Mr President on Inland Waterways, through the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, will be achieved. As I said about three months ago in my inaugural address to the management and staff of the Authority, the objectives of NIWA are achievable, and with our collective determination, they will be achieved. However, all of us must be willing to play our roles as expected. So I charged all the General Managers, Deputy General Managers, the Area Managers to brave up for the work ahead. As the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy and the Permanent Secretary have signed a performance bond with Mr President, I have equally signed my performance bond with the Honourable Minister and the

Permanent. Same way, all of you must sign a performance bond with me as a promise to deliver on your mandates. It is important for you to do this with every sense of responsibility as it will determine our working relationship going forward.

4. Ladies and gentlemen, for the next 48 hours, I appeal to you to open your minds and apply yourselves to the processes and the different tasks that will be assigned to you. In this retreat, nothing should be held back. Every participant in this retreat has been carefully selected in light of the assignment at hand. Accordingly, every opinion is important. Your contributions at this retreat are part of what we require to have a successful journey as an organisation. 5. Dear colleagues, it is important for me to equally use this opportunity to re-emphasize the need for teamwork. Like the popular African proverb says, "if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together". The era of individual glory is gone. In this new era, NIWA is one; therefore, we must all work in unity for its growth. That is why we have decided to have all of us under the same roof for collaboration and team bonding. We are expected to interact freely and share ideas without any reservations. I must equally say that everything that will make our stay convenient has been provided. Therefore, we expect you to reciprocate this gesture by applying yourselves to the tasks ahead.

6. In closing, let me congratulate all of us for the victory obtained at the Supreme Court days back. It is a victory worth celebrating. I especially congratulate the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy through the Permanent Secretary who is with us this morning. Please ma, kindly extend our profound appreciation to the Honourable Minister, His Excellency, Gboyega Oyetola. The entire management and staff of NIWA are grateful. Once again, I welcome all of us to this retreat and wish us happy deliberations.



NIWA MD tours Port Harcourt Area Office



NIWA MD tours Warri Area office



NIWA MD tours Onitsha Area Office and Port complex

# BOAT MISHAP: MD Visits Gbajibo Community, Donates Life Jackets

By Our Staff Writers



LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES: The MD/CEO Mr. Oyebamiji donating life jackets to the Gbajibo Community in Niger State.

The MD/CEO, Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB has visited Gbajibo in Niger State, the scene of the recent boat mishap to offer condolences. The boat was traveling to a Maulid Nabbiy celebration in the State. The authorities have launched an investigation into the mishap, with reports reaching NIGERIAN WATERWAYS that over 100 survivors were rescued so far.

The tragic incident has highlighted the need for stricter safety protocols on Nigeria's inland waterways. During his visit, Mr. Oyebamiji assured the community and Nigerians that NIWA would continue to strive for safer inland waterways. He distributed life jackets to boat operators, passengers, and other stakeholders within the state, reinforcing the importance of safety measures.

Mr. Oyebamiji emphasised the need for comprehensive enforcement to prevent future accidents, stating, "We have increased the number of our water marshals and deployed patrol boats. Additionally, we have implemented 24-hour monitoring in critical areas and motivated our law enforcement personnel to ensure compliance with regulations."

NIWA has ramped up patrols, particularly in vulnerable areas, to enforce waterway rules and ensure that both operators and passengers adhere to safety protocols.

**The MD/CEO: NIWA HAS TAKEN ACTION**

- NIWA has augmented the number of water marshals
- Deployed more patrol boats
- 24-hour monitoring in critical areas
- Law enforcement personnel properly motivated to ensure compliance with regulations



Mr. Oyebamiji addressing the Gwajibo Community

In response to the tragedy, Mr. Oyebamiji urged boat operators to prioritize human lives over profits. He addressed operators and passengers directly. His words: "They must adhere to the rules and regulations guiding their trade, and passengers should protect themselves by wearing life jackets and ensuring that operators do not exceed the approved weight limits."

In a clear reiteration of NIWA's directives and waterways code, the MD/CEO stressed the dangers of night sailing, saying, "Passengers should desist from night sailing to avoid further tragedies. The rules restricting boat operations between 6p.m. to 6a.m. remain in force."

Mr. Oyebamiji affirmed NIWA's commitment to taking all necessary steps to prevent such occurrences in the future. He called for greater responsibility from both operators and passengers, urging all stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure safety on Nigeria's inland waterways.



## OYETOLA, ON A WORKING TOUR OF NIWA, APPLAUDS MD ON WATER TRANSPORTATION CODE

■ Commissions Several Projects

The Honorable Minister of Marine & Blue Economy, HE Adegboyega Oyetola, CON, has applauded the Managing Director/CEO of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB for making the Nigeria's Water Transportation Code a reality.

The Code was conceived several years ago as part of NIWA's main supervisory function to regulate boat operators and the conduct of passengers as well as boost investments in the water transportation sector. But it had remained in the pipeline.

In his address during a one-day working visit to NIWA recently, the Honourable Minister commended the MD/CEO and the Management of the Authority for actually implementing the Code. He said putting the Code to effective use was in line with achieving the economic objectives of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

His Excellency Oyetola said: "I must commend the management of NIWA for their visionary intervention in ensuring that the Water Transportation Code comes alive after several years of being in the pipeline."

The Honourable Minister, who also commissioned several notable projects during the visit, expressed optimism that the Code, as currently being implemented by NIWA, would meet its set objectives. "With the code," he said, "I am convinced that we can now standardise Water Transportation, thereby reducing accidents on our waters to the barest minimum."

According to the Honourable Minister, effective implementation of the Code was one of the directives he gave



Honourable Minister Adegboyega Oyetola in handshake with Comrade Joel Salifu Joel Oyibo, Deputy Governor of Kogi State

to Mr. Oyebamiji on assumption of duty. "I am happy he is able to take practical steps towards addressing it," he said, adding, "I must however urge NIWA to ensure the enforcement of the regulations."

HE Oyetola reminded the Management and staff of NIWA that his visit was crucial because it reinforced "the



NIWA MD, Mr. Bola Oyebamiji on familiarisation tour of Onitsha River port complex and Area Office, Anambra State.

## INTER-AGENCY MEETING

NIWA to partner with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to curb illegal migration via waterways.



Immigration Comptroller of Lagos seaport and Marine command Joseph Dada visited Engr. Sarat Braimoh, NIWA Lagos Area Manager in her office.



The Senate Committee on Marine Transport led by its Chairman Sen Wasiu Eshinlokun paid a courtesy visit to The Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu



Engr. Sarat Braimoh, Lagos Area Manager, briefing the Committee on activities of NIWA during an oversight visit



Standing is the Technical Adviser to the MD, Dr. Olawale Tijani during the visit of the members of the Senate Committee on Marine Transport in Lagos



Engr. Sarat Braimoh Lagos Area Manager presenting Inland Waterways Regulations 2023 to AIG Maritime, Augustina Ugbo when she visited NIWA Lagos Area Office.

# NIWA, CROSS RIVER TO SANCTION NON-CERTIFIED BOAT OPERATORS



**Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB**  
MD NIWA



**Engr. Stanley Onuoha**  
Area Manager, Calabar Area Office of NIWA

Boat operators and waterways users in Cross River and Ebonyi States have been advised to conduct their operations with safety regulations or risk sanctions in line with extant regulations under the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Act.

Engr. Stanley Onuoha, Area Manager, Cross River Area Office of NIWA, who issued the warning recently in Calabar, said it was absolutely essential to carefully refresh the memory of boat operators and other stakeholders on the importance of carrying out safe and secured activities on the waterways to forestall any form of mishap leading to human or material loss.

Among the well-documented regulatory guidelines are:

- The prohibition of night sailings
- Boats plying the waterways must undergo annual survey checks for river worthiness
- Operating boats must be registered by NIWA.
- All necessary navigation equipment such as life jackets for passengers must be on board and
- Zero tolerance for boat operators and drivers without boat driving license and permits.

Engineer Onuoha, who spoke at an expanded stakeholders meeting in the Cross River State capital, appealed to all users of the Calabar to Ebonyi water channels to synergize with NIWA to achieve its set mandates. He reiterated that NIWA's Cross River Area office will not compromise the enforcement of passenger's safety on the waterways. In furtherance to the Area Office's commitment to the

training and retraining of boat operators in its catchment area, he informed that a marine training consultant has been commissioned to train all categories of boat and barge drivers. He added that the training was a mandatory and requisite to their certification by NIWA.

His words: "We are determined to change our operational narratives, which we wish to build around our stakeholders. As you are aware, there has been increased traffic on our waterways for the movement of persons, goods, and services, and with our new mandate, tourism, fishing and recreational opportunities will be powered through our Brown water ecosystem and we, at the instruction of our new Managing Director, Mr. Munirudeen Oyebamiji, have prepared our minds to process the delivery in these areas hence, we felt we need to share ideas and work together."

Some of the stakeholders who spoke at the meeting assured NIWA of their support and welcomed the training and certification of boat drivers, adding that for Nigerian waterways to attract the needed investors and investments, strategic efforts as enumerated by the Authority's Area Manager was the best way to go.

A spokesperson for the stakeholders stated: "We have listened to your very robust presentation and work plan and hereby assure you of our cooperation in our best possible ways. We also want to extend our warm greetings to your new Managing Director, Mr. Munirudeen Oyebamiji and pray that when he visits us soon, the dividend of your work plans would be glaring for all to see."



L-R: NIWA MD, Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, Honorable Minister of Marine & Blue Economy, HE Adegboyega Oyetola, His Excellency Comrade Joel Salifu Oyibo and Sen. Wasiu Eshinlokun, Chairman Senate committee on Marine Transport during the commissioning



H.E. Adegboyega Oyetola Commissions projects during the visit to NIWA Headquarters



NIWA MD in handshake with Comrade Joel Salifu Oyibo, Deputy Governor of Kogi State

need to improve Nigeria's balance of trade, which is very crucial to strengthening the value of the Naira and creating employment, is top on Mr. President's policy agenda."

Apart from kicking off the Water Transportation Code, the Honourable Minister also inaugurated several projects as follows:

- Fifteen (15) boats of varying capacities and uses, comprising three (3) boats with 150Horsepower each for surveillance to ensure that the NIWA Police officers are more visible.
- Five (5) boats with doubles 75Horsepower each for enforcement of safety rules and regulations.
- One (1) Gun Patrol Boat (combat ready) with 115Horsepower for emergency response to security threat;
- One (1) 62-seater passenger boat as a pilot scheme to replace the wooden passenger canoe.
- Three (3) fully equipped water ambulances for prompt response to emergencies
- Two (2) hydrographic survey boats with multi-beam echo sounders to provide a more detailed and accurate picture of the seafloor among other projects.

Other projects commissioned by the Honourable Minister included:

- A 2-storey office building to solve the internal problem of shortage of offices.
- A standard Primary Healthcare Center registered with NHIS to provide medical services to workers.
- A befitting security post for the NIWA Police.
- A reception building to provide information for clients and visitors to the Headquarters; and
- A high capacity firefighting truck to respond to emergencies within and outside the premises

The Honourable Minister said flagging off the projects was in "further fulfillment of our commitment to ensuring that our Inland Waterways are well utilised both in terms of cargo shipment and passenger transportation."

In his address, the MD/CEO Mr. Oyebamiji thanked the Honourable Minister for the visit. He described him as "a leader of leaders," saying that by the visit, he had yet again demonstrated that his "result-oriented mentorship strategy is alive and working."

Also present during the epoch-making occasion was HE Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, the home of the Headquarters of NIWA.



62-seater passenger ferry and other water crafts were commissioned by the Honourable minister



The Honourable Minister, Deputy Governor of Kogi state and MD NIWA, inside the commissioned 62-seater passenger ferry



Cross section of NIWA Management staff at the event



The Honourable minister of Marine and Blue Economy cutting the tape to commissioned the 62 seater passenger ferry and other crafts at NIWA dockyard, Lokoja



Drummers from osun state

## SAFETY PROTOCOL: NIWA ENDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS IN WARRI



waterways safe and prosecute those making the place unsafe for the users.”

On the shallow bends used in navigating the creeks, the Area Manager said: “We are equally aware of it and have made recommendations in this regard to our dynamic Managing Director. We are very optimistic that the management will give approval for the clearing of the shallow areas, especially those places within the vicinity of Pessu market in Warri South Council area.”

At the popular Ogbe-Ijoh market jetty recently gutted by fire, Engr. Oladimeji commiserated with the Jetty management over the unfortunate incident and prayed that God replenished their losses. He also offered life jackets support from NIWA's management to

accelerate their operational stability so they can serve the public better.

His words: “But for a start, considering the fact the jetty lost all its passengers' life jackets to the inferno, we are going to be donating 20 life jackets to you today because we considered the safety of the passengers very paramount and we hope that the jetty management can get more in days ahead to cover the numbers of passengers patronizing this jetty.”

Engr. Oladimeji, who hinted that the enforcement task force is made up of a tripartite arrangement between NIWA, Lufredha Maritime Academy (its partner) and representatives of jetty operators, urged the passengers to comply with safety rules to avoid being penalized and always demand for life jacket from the boat operators because it's their right.

Also speaking, a representative of the partner, Lufredha Maritime Academy, Comrade Oghenero Ubu, noted that the training and retraining program for the boat drivers, both private or commercial operators, had become very necessary in reducing some of the avoidable risks commonly associated with boat mishaps on the nation's waterways.

He noted that researches conducted on boat mishaps had revealed that most accidents along the waterways were caused as a result of carelessness of boat drivers conveying passengers, adding that this finding that informed the need for the academy to intensify its training and re-training program of boat drivers across the country.

The jetties visited as part of the campaign included Pessu, Ogbe-Ijoh and Government jetty in Warri. Their chairmen, Comrade Gbotemi Owodola of Escravos Speedboat Owners Association, Pessu Market, Comrade Yakubu Biukeme, Chairman, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, Private Craft Operators, Delta state District, all pledged their commitment to the safety of their workers and passengers during the tours.

Determined to ensure drastic reduction in cases of deaths caused by boat mishaps along its operational coverage areas, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has concluded its Safety Awareness/Enlightenment Campaigns to major jetties within Warri Areas Office.

The just concluded campaigns were initiated as the Authority gears up to enforce its safety protocol.

The awareness campaigns were led by Warri Area Office Manager, Engr. Rufus Oladimeji, with the full participation of other top management staff and workers in the Area.

In his remarks, Engr. Oladimeji noted that the sensitization of both commercial and private operators within coverage areas, which commenced some months ago, was to inculcate safety measures in boat drivers and passengers.

He maintained that there are basic standard requirements that must be strictly adhered to when the enforcement exercise commences. These include:

- Adequate provisions of life jackets and lifebuoys for passengers,
- Fire extinguishers,
- No overloading and
- No night movements due to poor visibility when it's dark.

As part of its own responsibility, Engr. Oladimeji disclosed that NIWA was already working on two key areas including removal of logs along the waterways and expansion of shallow bends used in navigating most creeks, which some of the operators identified as a major risk to their operations that needed urgent attention.

Engr. Oladimeji said NIWA has adopted a two-pronged approach to safety: keeping the waterways clear of hindrances and safe and prosecuting defaulters. He explained: “Already, NIWA is aware of the danger posed by logs along the waterways and had commenced the arrest of those behind the act. We'll intensify our efforts in ensuring we keep the

Profile of  
**MR. BOLA OYEBAMIJI, FCIB**

MD/CEO National Inland Waterways Authority

**An Award-Winning Banker,  
Gifted Businessman,  
Technocrat at the Helm**



Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB is a Nigerian banker, economist, public administrator, and politician. He was the Finance Commissioner in Osun State, Nigeria, and a member of the All-Progressives Congress, APC.

**Early life and education**

Bola Oyebamiji was born in Ikire on the 17th of November, 1965 where he spent his childhood.

He received his early education at ADC Primary School, Oke-Ada (1971-1977), followed by Ayedaade Grammar School, Ikire (1978-1982). He then pursued a Higher National Diploma in Banking and Finance at The Polytechnic Ibadan (1985-1988).

He later obtained two master's degrees: one in Public Administration from Lagos State University, Ojo, and another in Business Administration from the University of Ado-Ekiti.

In addition to his academic achievements, Oyebamiji has acquired relevant professional qualifications.

He became a member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria in 2009 and is a Fellow of various prominent professional organizations, including the Institute of Chartered Economists of Nigeria (2011) and the Association of Enterprise Risk Management Professionals (2016).

**Employment**

In 1989, he began his career as an Assistant Manager at Wema Bank Plc. In 1998, he joined Trans International Bank as a Senior Manager and rose to the position of Principal Manager before departing in 2003.

He also served as the Head of the Lagos Region for the bank. Oyebamiji then worked at Spring Bank Plc for four years (2005-2009) as the Head of Business Development.

Soon after, he was recruited by another financial institution, Enterprise Bank, in 2009, where he was appointed to lead the Retail Business Unit.

In 2012, Oyebamiji was named the Managing Director of Osun State Investment Company Limited.

According to the official Osun State government website, the company's fortune surged from about N300 million in 2012, when Oyebamiji took over, to N2.6 billion.

His impressive track record led to his appointment as

Commissioner for Finance in Osun State in 2017. Before becoming the Commissioner for Finance in Osun State, Oyebamiji held directorship positions in various institutions, including Omoluabi Mortgage Bank (2017), Brent Mortgage Bank (2017), Ikire Microfinance Bank (2008), Imperia Bureau De Change (2006), and Roger Blue Petroleum, Lagos.

Since 1997, he has been the Chairman of White Green Farm, located in Onireke Village, his hometown.

**Training**

Oyebamiji is a dedicated seeker of wisdom, and he actively participates in various peer review workshops, seminars, courses, and other learning opportunities, both within and outside the country.

**Awards**

Throughout his academic and banking career, Oyebamiji received several notable awards.

While studying at The Polytechnic Ibadan, he was honoured as the Best Student in Banking Law in the Department of Finance.

During his Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program at Lagos State University, he received the Dr. CS Ola Award for the Best Student in Management.

Additionally, Oyebamiji was bestowed with the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria's Gold Medalist Award in Practice of Banking II in November 1992.

In his banking career, he also earned several awards for his excellence and professionalism.

At different points in time, he was recognized as Trans International Bank's Most Profitable Manager of the Year (2002) and received the Central Bank of Nigeria's Award for The Star Performer in Credit Documentary and Collection in 1991.



The Honourable Minister in a handshake with Dr. Folashade Arike Ayoade, Secretary to Kogi State Government



The MD of NIWA and the DG NIMASA welcomed the Honourable Minister to NIWA headquarters Lokoja



Hon. Ojotu Ojema Chairman House Committee on Inland Waterways



Sen. Wasiu Eshinlokun Chairman Senate committee on Marine Transport



Mr. Oloruntola Olufemi, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation/Marine and Blue Economy



Oyetola, MD NIWA, Kogi State Deputy. Gov. and some ministry officials



L-R: Oyetola, Sen. Eshilokun and H.E Joel S. Oyibo



MD of NIWA Mr. Bola Oyebamiji with Senate committee members on Marine transport led by the chairman, Senator Wasiu Eshinlokun in Lagos



NIWA MD presenting performance bond certificate to Lagos Area Manager of NIWA, Engr. Sarat Braimah



Cross section of guests at event



Uhafia Cultural Troup



NIWA management signed and displayed their performance bond certificates.



NIWA MD with Sur. James Olawale Adetola, GM Business Development during the performance bond signing in Lokoja.

address to the management and staff of the Authority, the objectives of NIWA are achievable, and with our collective determination, they will be achieved," he said.

On the responsibility of staff to the Authority's quest for excellence, the MD said, "We have all been positioned to add value to the system in diverse ways. While some are to design policy directions, others have been picked to be the drivers of such policies. I likened the two groups to the main teams piloting a ship on a journey.

"While some hold the deck, others ensure the engines below run at their utmost performance. The ultimate goal is to achieve excellence at sea.

On the objectives of the retreat, he said, "Therefore, our assignment at this retreat is to discuss and have a working template upon which the aspirations of Mr. President on Inland Waterways, through the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, will be achieved."

He charged the top management present at the retreat to gear up for the task ahead. The MD said, "All of us must be willing to play our roles as expected. So, I charged all the General Managers, Deputy General Managers and the Area Managers to brace up for the work ahead."

In her remarks, Dr. (Mrs.) Magdalene Ajani, Permanent Secretary and the Accounting Officer of the Federal

Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, stressed the importance and need to embrace Performance Management System (PMS).

The Permanent Secretary said PMS had come to stay in the public service of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as replacing the usual Annual Performance Evaluation Report (APER).

She said that the PMS was mooted and developed to help the civil service evaluation system using Key Performance Indicators (KPI). According to her, the initial training took place in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, where stakeholders were made to understand the concept and its guidelines.

"So, because of that initial training, some of you know how to set KPIs. And I am happy that the resources we put in there were not wasted," she said.

Describing the retreat as a holistic one, Dr. Ajani said it became imperative following the Human Resource Department insistence on was need for a little bit more of training again.

This according to her, is to enable a wider number of people understand how KPIs are set.

The participants at the 3-day retreat were all General Managers and their deputies, all Area Managers and also desk officers.



# MD: Performance Bond Engenders Teamwork, Service Delivery



The Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB has spoken of the need for management and staff of the Authority to sign performance bond with him in the conduct of affairs and business to ensure quality service delivery and teamwork.

He urged NIWA management to adopt the principle and practice of signing performance bond in its dealings with partners.

The NIWA Boss, who spoke recently in Lokoja, said signing performance bond, would also meet the aspirations of Mr. President on Inland Waterways and Marine and Blue Economy. He therefore urged management to imbibe the practice.

Mr. Oyebamiji handed down the charge in his welcome address at the opening of a three-day Special Retreat/Workshop with the theme: "Repositioning the Inland Waterways Authority for Excellence" in Lokoja.

The NIWA Chief Executive Officer urged the management and staff to brace up and ensure all hands remain on deck to add value to the system in diverse ways, saying that the objectives of NIWA and attaining excellence on the waterways are achievable.

The MD disclosed that the Honorable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy and the Permanent Secretary had signed already a performance bond with Mr. President.

“  
*I have equally signed my performance bond with the Honorable Minister and the Permanent Secretary. Same way, all of you must sign a performance bond with me as a promise to deliver on your mandates.*

Explaining the rationale of signing performance bond at the high levels of Government, he said, "I have equally signed my performance bond with the Honorable Minister and the Permanent Secretary. Same way, all of you must sign a performance bond with me as a promise to deliver on your mandates.

"It is important for you to do this with every sense of responsibility as it will determine our working relationship going forward.

"As I said about three months ago in my inaugural



Fire service demo



# Maximising the Comparative Advantages Our Maritime Resources, by Adegboyega Oyetola

Being text of speech by the Honourable Minister of Marine & Blue Economy, HE Adegboyega Oyetola, CON, At The One-Day Working Visit To National Inland Waterways Authority, NIWA, And Inauguration of Projects on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 In Lokoja, Kogi State

1. I have great pleasure in being here today for a one-day working tour of the National Inland Waterways Authority and to inaugurate landmark projects embarked upon by the Management of the Authority.

2. This visit is critical to the vision of our Ministry as it affords us the opportunity to interface with the Management and the staff of this Agency so as to further strengthen its activities and strategies for enhanced performance.

3. As you are all aware, the need to improve Nigeria's balance of trade, which is very crucial to strengthening the value of the Naira and creating employment, is top on Mr. President's policy agenda.

4. Considering the strategic role that the maritime sector plays in actualising this noble objective, the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy under my leadership is determined to ensure the maximisation of the comparative advantages that our maritime resources present.

5. I am, therefore, not surprised that like every other agency under my watch, the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), has also keyed into the concerted efforts at achieving the economic goals of the Renewed Hope Agenda of the current administration led by our pragmatic President, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. I must commend the management of NIWA for their visionary intervention in ensuring that the Water Transportation Code comes alive after several years of being in the pipeline.

6. The Code, as we may be aware, would now guide the boat operators, regulate the conduct of passengers as well as provide a framework for potential investors in water transportation. With the code, I am convinced that we can now standardise Water Transportation, thereby reducing accidents on our waters to the barest minimum. This was one of the charges I gave the Managing Director of NIWA when he assumed office. I am happy he is able to take practical steps towards addressing it. I must however urge NIWA to ensure the enforcement of the regulations.

7. Apart from the Water Transportation Code, other projects that we are inaugurating today are: fifteen (15) boats of varying capacities and uses, comprising three (3) boats with 150Horsepower each for surveillance to ensure that the NIWA Police officers are more visible; five (5) boats with doubles 75Horsepower each for enforcement of safety rules and regulations; one (1) Gun Patrol Boat (combat ready) with 115Horsepower for emergency response to security threat; and one (1) 62-seater passenger boat as a pilot scheme to replace the wooden passenger canoe, three (3) fully equipped water ambulances for prompt response to emergencies and two (2) hydrographic survey boats with multi-beam echo sounders to provide a more detailed and accurate picture of the seafloor among other projects.

8. The inauguration of these projects is in further fulfillment of our commitment to ensuring that our Inland Waterways are well utilised both in terms of cargo shipment and passenger transportation.

9. Before I conclude, let me say that I have taken note of all the



challenges you reeled out, and I want to assure you that we shall look into them with a view to addressing them one after the other. Those challenges that are internal and are impeding your day-to-day operations, we shall be addressing with dispatch, while the ones that are external, we shall take them up with the appropriate quarters immediately.

10. I am aware that of the 10,000 kilometres of our waterways, only 3,000 kilometres are navigable. We are determined to increase them by at least 2,000 kilometres more. This is why it is desirable for us to embark on a holistic dredging of strategically important inland Waterways for the passage of goods and people. This is a task that must be accomplished to create positive change, and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Similarly, the ministry is engaging relevant stakeholders to finalise the arrangement for the disbursement of the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF) for the development of the maritime sector. As a ministry, we will continue to create the enabling environment, develop policies and offer the necessary support to grow the Inland Waterways segment of the maritime sector in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the present administration.

11. In line with the mandate of the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, we will continue to pursue vigorously the development of the shipping and maritime related sectors in order to ensure sustainable development of our marine resources. I call on the private sector to explore and utilise the opportunities inherent in the sector for possible investment and partnership with Government to enhance growth and ensure sustainable development.

12. It is now my singular honour and privilege to inaugurate the various projects executed by NIWA in the last seven months to the Glory of God and the benefit of Nigeria and Nigerians.

13. Thank you and God bless.

## NIWA TO SCRAP UNSEAWORTHY BOATS ON LAGOS WATERWAYS

In its relentless pursuit of its regulatory responsibilities, the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) is set to decommission some unseaworthy boats on the Lagos waterways. This is sequel to the Authority's investigation, which revealed that 75 per cent of passenger boats being used in Lagos are unfit for operations.

Lagos Area Manager of NIWA, Engr. Sarat Braimah, who broke the news recently in Lagos during a chat with maritime journalists, also disclosed that NIWA has put in some conditions for boat operators to meet or consider themselves out of the ferry business.

Explaining the findings, Engr. Braimah said, "What NIWA wants to do now is to sanitize those boat operators. We cannot wait until accidents happen again and from these two major accidents that happened [recently], we have been able to analyse our investigations and we discovered that it was due to human errors.

"What I mean by human error is down to the maintenance of these boats. Most times, boat engines will go off mid-stream because of the speed the boat captains need, they won't get it on the channel. So they will now move out of the channel to go to the shallow area so that they can maintain speed."

Already, the Authority has come down hard on errant operators primarily in the interest of safety. Again, Engr. Braimah: "As I speak to you, our, Marine Unit is now in Ikorodu. I have embargoed boat movement in Ikorodu except for those certified. Yesterday, we certified 10 boats, and only those 10 boats will be the ones to operate for now.

"For other boats, we have instructed them to bring them down to our office here in Marina. We are not even going to Ikorodu to do the inspection.

According to the Area Manager, not all boats are suitable for passenger operations; set standards must be met and sustained. She said, "Most of the boats, what have is single hull and these single hull boats cannot withstand stress. Any single hit on the waterways, will tumble. This is why some of them will hit a little pipe like this on the Waterways and will tumble. I have been inside a boat where we hit a wreck, the boat did not capsize because it had a double hull."

Speaking on the challenges of boat maintenance, Engr. Braimah explained,

"Majorly, we have to scrap these boats. 75 per cent of them are not seaworthy. The time they bought it, registered them, maintained them, even the maintenance has dropped and their life span too has dropped. So, we want to know if it is 20 boats that are fit to operate from Ikorodu, Ibeshe jetty, let it be so. If it is 20 in Ebute, let it be so.

"The owners of the jetty are also part of the problem because they know that the lesser the number of boats, the lesser the money they make. But we don't care about how much a jetty makes. If it's just 10 boats that are certified fit, let them pay for jetty use. I'm not targeting anybody; we are just after safety.

"So going forward, they have made some things mandatory for boat operators. Firstly, every boat must have a speedometer, it will allow passengers inside the boat to know whether the pilot is over speeding or not.

She insisted that boats must be equipped for an unlikely event of accidents. Her words: "Secondly, every passenger boat must have life buoys on the boat. If there is an incident mid-stream, they will throw life buoys around for people to hold for safety. Four people can hold one. If you have three on



“*Every boat must have a speedometer, it will allow passengers inside the boat to know whether the pilot is over speeding or not.*”

a boat, that will save 12 people. Passengers have life jackets, but they usually off immediately after they get inside the boat. At least, if that life buoy is there and they throw it out, they will hold on to it to stay afloat. So, it is the best way to save people on water.

"And finally, every passenger boat will also have a Lifeguard who can swim in case of accident. Lifeguards are divers; they can quickly jump into the water and save people. It will be the first response before the boats get there."

Engr. Braimah told the journalists that NIWA was also investing in technology to enhance safety on the waterways. She explained the technology and its salient advantages, "NIWA is about to procure a technology called 'Blue Me'. Each driver on board will be given one. If they press it, it will give a signal about their location to everybody. It operates anywhere and it doesn't have network issues and it will give us the location of the boats in times of emergencies. We have gotten the sample and we have tested it at Badagry. These are precautions we are putting in place for water transportation safety."



## NIWA Gives Lagos Boat Operators 3 Months to Get License

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has given a three-month deadline to boat operators to obtain their license. This was one of the measures announced recently to maintain sanity and order among boat operators on the nation's waterways.

The deadline was pronounced recently in Lagos by the Engr. Sarat Braimah, the Area Manager, NIWA Area Office during a one-day sensitisation workshop for boat operators in the Lagos waterways. The aim was to find a lasting solution to the recent boat mishaps in the Lagos waterways.

Addressing the gathering, Engr. Braimah said the workshop has become necessary to speak to the boat operators and captains on how to maintain safety on the waterway during their operations. Underscoring the significance of the meeting, Engr. Braimah stated that its primary purpose was to address challenges faced by boat operators, express concerns and collectively strategize a way forward. She lamented the recent surge in mishaps, emphasizing that ensuring the safety of waterways was a shared responsibility.

Highlighting the lack of basic safety measures among boat operators, Engr. Braimah announced NIWA's collaboration with certified trainers to provide training at the rate of N80, 000. Upon successful completion, operators will receive a license valid for three years, renewable upon expiration.

She also noted that boat operators are granted a three-month window to undergo training and obtain licenses, after which enforcement will commence. She stressed that that errant operators will face sanctions and prosecution.



Also speaking at the event, Mrs. Elsie Egwantu, NIWA HOD, Marine, stressed the importance of refreshing memories and sensitizing operators on safety measures. She urged operators to actively participate, express concerns, and engage in the process.

During the session, boat operators voiced concerns about inadequate remuneration, receiving a meager N3,000 per day with only one day off work. To meet trip targets, some operators admitted to managing faulty engines, leading to over speeding. They explained that the rush to beat the 7:00 pm jetty closure time, thereby avoiding a N50,000 penalty from Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) also contributed to the unsafe practices.

The boat captains, in further expressing their challenges, said the activities of Chinese dredgers, fishermen and some passengers' attitude in keeping to safety precautions were also contributing to boat mishaps.

The event saw the participation of over 250 boat captains and operators from various jetties, including Ebute Ero, Majidun, Mayegun, Ijede, Ibeshe, Ofin, Badore, and Ajah.

Notably, nine boat captains have already undergone the training, obtaining the necessary certifications and licenses.

The NIWA Area Manager also said that a wide screen billboard will be provided at the Marina jetty to further educate passengers on safety regulations, especially on how to properly wear life jackets. She assured the stakeholders that NIWA remains committed to promoting safety, and with this proactive approach, aims to create a safer and more responsible water transportation system.

The next set to be sensitised is the Badagry and Epe axis of boat operators.



## WE'RE PRIMED FOR SUCCESS

Being text of A welcome address by Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, National Inland Waterways Authority at the official launching of the National Transportation Code and commissioning of selected projects by the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola on the 11th June, 2024

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone here today, particularly the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, who is on official working visit to the Authority. Your Excellency, by your visit today, you have demonstrated yet again that you are a leader of leaders. Your result-oriented mentorship strategy is alive and working, and we thank you for it. Also, I would like to welcome specially, His Excellency, the Governor of Kogi State, for finding time to be with us despite your tight schedule and the enormous tasks before you. We are indeed very grateful. The Permanent Secretary, Sir, it gladdens our hearts to have you in our midst on this important occasion.

Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I was appointed almost seven months ago as the MD/CEO of this Authority by Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, through the personal efforts and doggedness of the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, my leader and mentor. At my resumption in this Authority, I promised the Management staff and other workers that we would run an open-door policy where superior ideas would reign. I equally promised a quick appraisal of the existing structure for us to forge ahead with a clear vision.

Our appraisal process unravelled challenges of different shades. We were confronted with internal agitations for a better working environment for staff among other demands. Within the period, we recorded not less than three fatal boat accidents on the waterways in different locations, which challenged our emergency response strategies. We equally discovered a gap in our approach to enforcement on the waterways and public enlightenment programmes. These innovatively and many more challenged us to look inward and harness available resources for immediate response.



Distinguished guests, to achieve our objectives, we started the immediate implementation of Education Grants for all categories of staff. This was followed by the issuance of promotion letters to the deserving staff and the implementation of medical packages for retired senior officers, as approved previously. We believe that a well-motivated workforce is pivotal to organizational success. We proceeded further to audit and institutionalise our public engagement strategy by putting in place a system that recognises the local communities as an important element in our information-sharing and emergency response structure. Today, through the area offices, we have met and created a database of critical stakeholders and opinion moulders within the ecosystem that can be reached for information dissemination and rapid response. Similarly, we have equally intensified our efforts in public enlightenment and



NIWA River Marshalls

enforcement. This is why we are launching the first phase of the water marshal initiative today. These officers were carefully selected to provide information daily to users of the waterways at selected jetties and loading points. They must ensure that all users comply strictly to safety regulations always.

Honourable Minister, Sir, talking about safety regulations on the inland waterways, our efforts within the shortest period are yielding the desired result. Today, you are here to officially launch the Transportation Code for public use. Going forward, this Code will guide the boat operators, regulate the conduct of passengers, and provide a framework for potential investors in water transportation. At this point, kindly permit me to recognize the enormous efforts put into this by the past Management Teams. They did their best until we took over. It was indeed a long journey here. Your Excellency, also ready for commissioning in response to the outcomes of our system audit, are fifteen (15) boats of varying capacities and uses. There are three (3) PC W23 boats with 150HP engine each for surveillance to ensure that the NIWA Police officers are more visible; five (5) PC W23 boats with doubles 75HP engine each for enforcement of safety rules and regulations; one (1) Gun patrol boat (combat ready) with 115HP engine for emergency response to security threat; one (1) 62-seater passenger boat as a pilot to replace the wooden passenger canoe. I should add here that another 32-seater boat, not part of what we are commissioning today, is waiting at our Port Harcourt Area Office for deployment for the same purpose. Finally, we have three (3) fully equipped water ambulances for prompt response to emergencies and two (2) hydrographic survey boats with multi-beam echo sounders to provide a more detailed and accurate picture of the seafloor.

The Honourable Minister, to further inject a dose of efficiency into how we work at the Headquarters here in Lokoja, we have presented the following facilities for commissioning: a 2-storey office building to solve the internal problem of shortage of offices; a standard Primary Healthcare Center registered with NHIS to provide medical services to workers; a befitting security post for the NIWA Police; a reception building to provide information for clients and

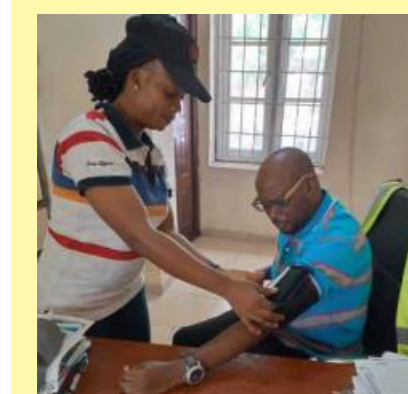
visitors to the Headquarters; and a high capacity firefighting truck to respond to emergencies within and outside the premises. These, we believe, will further assure the staff of our readiness to provide a conducive working environment for all within the available resources.

Sir, presented above are some of the things we have put in place to reposition the National Inland Waterways Authority for greater performance. As an Authority, the responsibilities placed on our shoulders are enormous amidst limited resources. Your Excellency, however, I can assure you that this NIWA Team is primed for success with your kind support. As an agency, we are confronted with many challenges, including inter-agencies rivalry occasioned by overlapping functions. This calls for speedy action on the NIWA Act currently before the National Assembly. Similarly, we recognise your efforts at ensuring that the Cabotage Fund is disbursed promptly for the greater good of the maritime sector, we therefore plead that NIWA be supported to benefit maximally from this fund and its administrative set-up. Also, we are working hard to deliver on the bond signed with the Honourable Minister late last year. However, we plead for your support in facilitating funding for our major Key Performance Indicators; especially the capital dredging of 2000 km, and the completion of the ongoing inland port at Jamaja, Lokoja. These are some of the areas where we need your quick intervention for us to achieve our mandates. Sir, with your kind permission, we shall present a list of issues we consider critical to our success for your attention.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at this point, kindly permit me to humbly invite the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, His Excellency Gboyega Oyetola, for the official unveiling of the Transportation Code and the pleasure of naming and commissioning of the various boats and facilities for the use of the Authority and the general public, after his speech.

I thank you for listening.

Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB  
MD/CEO, National Inland Waterways Authority



## NIWA CLINIC DISTRIBUTES BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING KITS

The Managing Director of NIWA Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB has directed NIWA clinic to distribute Blood pressure with ECG kits to all departments.

The essence is for staff to personally monitor their blood pressure and ECG to prevent health challenge associated with High Blood pressure and heart related diseases. The Clinic will also soon distribute sugar level monitoring devices for the same purpose.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT HAS GIVEN NIWA THE TEETH -MD

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has reacted to the judgment of the Supreme Court that gave it the exclusive right to control Nigerian inland waterways. In the landmark ruling on Friday, January 5, 2024, the apex court declared that the licensing and control of all inland waterways spanning more than 10,000 kilometers in the country has been restored to the Authority.

In his reaction, the NIWA Boss Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB noted that by this judgment, Lagos State and other littoral states are to abide by the verdict of the apex court of the country.

According to the MD, "This judgment has come at a time Mr. President gave directives to maximize the benefits of the sector in all the ways it will enhance the economy and empower Nigerians. With President Tinubu's determination to open up the economy through the newly created Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy under the leadership of Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola as the Minister, this judgment will bolster our efforts and help to facilitate the processes of developing the sector."

Throwing more light on the ruling, the NIWA helmsman explained that it was all about consolidation of water transportation, tourism and sundry economic empowerment of the people, and not about who won or lost at the Supreme Court.



*"It is not about who won or lost at the Supreme Court. It is about consolidation of water transportation, tourism and sundry economic empowerment of the people."*

Alhaji Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB  
MD/CEO, NIWA

His words: "This is not about who owns what, won or lost. This is about Nigeria and Nigerians benefitting from our God-given endowment. It is about the common good and rebuilding the sector for greater opportunities. A nation cannot be this blessed with navigable coastal

line without exploring and maximizing the benefits for the good of all. So, this is not about a court victory. This is about the greater good and the need for us to explore the potentials of our inland waterways for the benefit of our people."

Alhaji Oyebamiji explained that the judgment also presented a singular opportunity for the subsector to realise the full potential of the abundant resources on the waterways. He said: "If we put to good use Nigeria's potential in the coastal areas in the area of transportation for instance, it will reduce the pressure on our roads and improve citizen interactions," Oyebamiji said

## NIWA PROCURES SEA BUS



The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has introduced a sea bus into the operation of its services. The sea bus is one of NIWA's plans to support the various other transportation facilities plying the nation's waterways in a more orderly, classy, convenient and safety-guaranteed mode.

The Sea bus resembles a mini -ship powered by two big outboard engines, male and female toilets, and a capacity for 62 passengers, with seating provision for passengers on one floor and the breezy coach upstairs.

The sea bus was one of the projects commissioned

by the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy HE Adegboyega Oyetola, CON, during his working tour of NIWA in Lokoja. It is available for hire by tourists, fun seekers, party and event organizers to convey both humans and goods to any destination of their choice across the country.

With the functional facilities of convenience and class embedded in the NIWA sea bus, Nigerians can traverse the waterways within the country for any event or ceremony of their choice with adequate safety, security, and comfort.

# MD Unveils Water Transportation Code, Lists Other Successes



The Managing Director Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB has formally presented the Water Transportation Code for public use. The unveiling of the Code was one of the highlights of the visit of the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, HE Adegboyega Oyetola, CON to the headquarters of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Lokoja.

The Code is a major regulatory instrument of the Authority, and has been in the works for many years.

Speaking during a warm reception for the Honourable Minister, the MD/CEO revealed that the Code "will guide the boat operators, regulate the conduct of passengers, and provide a framework for potential investors in water transportation." But the MD/CEO did not take all the glory of making the Water Transportation Code a reality. He gave due credit to the previous managements. Addressing HE Oyetola, he said: "Kindly permit me to recognize the enormous efforts put into this by the past Management Teams. They did their best until we took over. It was indeed a long journey here."

Mr. Oyebamiji also launched the first phase of Water Marshal Initiative. He informed the Honourable Minister that the Water Marshal Initiative was part of his Management's efforts to intensify public enlightenment and enforcement on the nation's waterways. During the event, the Water Marshals were smartly kitted in their reflective safety jackets. According to the MD/CEO, the officers "were carefully selected to provide information daily to users of the waterways at selected jetties and loading points." They were charged with ensuring that all users of the waterways "comply strictly to safety regulations always."

Listing other achievements since he assumed office seven months ago, Mr. Oyebamiji informed the august visitor that his Management has created a "database of critical stakeholders and opinion moulders within the ecosystem that can be reached for information dissemination and rapid response."

The MD/CEO informed the Honourable Minister that on assumption of duty, he was confronted with internal agitations for better working environment for staff among other demands. He moved head on to tackle the issues. Sharing the positive results with the Honourable Minister, Mr. Oyebamiji

said: "We started the immediate implementation of Education Grants for all categories of staff. This was followed by the issuance of promotion letters to the deserving staff and the implementation of medical packages for retired senior officers, as approved previously. We believe that a well-motivated workforce is pivotal to organizational success. We proceeded further to audit and institutionalise our public engagement strategy by putting in place a system that recognises the local communities as an important element in our information-sharing and emergency response structure."

To resolve shortages of offices and enhance staff welfare, the MD/CEO presented to the Honourable Minister for commissioning:

- A 2-storey office building to solve the internal problem of shortage of offices.
- A standard Primary Healthcare Center registered with NHIS to provide medical services to workers.
- A befitting security post for the NIWA Police; a reception building to provide information for clients and visitors to the Headquarters; and
- A high capacity firefighting truck to respond to emergencies within and outside the premises.

Explaining the rationale behind the laudable projects, the MD/CO said: "These, we believe, will further assure the staff of our readiness to provide a conducive working environment for all within the available resources."

Other projects also presented for commissioning were:

- Fifteen (15) boats of varying capacities and uses.
- Three (3) PC W23 boats with 150HP engine each for surveillance to ensure that the NIWA Police officers are more visible.
- Five (5) PC W23 boats with doubles 75HP engine each for enforcement of safety rules and regulations.
- One (1) Gun patrol boat (combat ready) with 115HP engine for emergency response to security threat.
- One (1) 62-seater passenger boat as a pilot to replace the wooden passenger canoe. I should add here that another 32-seater boat, not part of what we are commissioning today, is waiting at our Port Harcourt Area Office for deployment for the same purpose.
- Three (3) fully equipped water ambulances for prompt response to emergencies and two (2) hydrographic survey boats with multi-beam echo sounders to provide a more detailed and accurate picture of the seafloor.

The MD/CEO informed the Honourable Minister that although challenges remained at NIWA amidst limited resources, he was confident that the projects presented for commissioning would "reposition the Authority for greater performance."

He also had nothing but reassurance for the Honourable Minister. "Your Excellency," he said, "I can assure you that this NIWA Team is primed for success with your kind support."

# The Challenges Facing NIWA, by MD/CEO

The Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB has spoken of the challenges confronting his administration of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA).

Mr. Oyebamiji addressed the issues recently when the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy HE Adegboyega Oyetola paid a one-day working visit to the Authority in Lokoja. Although the MD/CEO profusely praised the Honourable Minister for his unfailing support for NIWA, he noted that challenges remained, and appealed for more ministerial interventions.

On top of the list were the issues of the enormous responsibilities on its shoulders as well as the limited resources available to manage them.

Specifically, the MD/CEO listed inter-agency rivalry occasioned by overlapping functions. For example, NIWA and Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) were locked in a running battle over functions and jurisdictions until the matter was settled in favour of NIWA by the Supreme Court recently.

Another item of concern, according to the MD/CEO, was the NIWA Act currently awaiting appropriate amendment before the National Assembly. He said the issue called for "speedy action."

Also on the list was the issue of Cabotage Fund. The MD/CEO said: "We recognise your efforts at ensuring that the Cabotage Fund is disbursed promptly for the greater good of the maritime sector, we therefore plead that NIWA be supported to benefit maximally from this fund and its administrative set-up."

He reassured the Honourable Minister that NIWA was working assiduously to deliver on the bond signed late last year. The Honourable Minister signed the bond with HE President Bola Ahmed Tinubu last year at the inception of the Administration. Mr.



Mr. Bola Oyebamiji

Oyebamiji, just like other parastatal heads, also signed with the Honourable Minister. The bond forms a major policy plank of this Administration.

The MD/CEO also listed the capital dredging of 2,000 km and the completion of the ongoing inland port at Jamata, Lokoja as other outstanding issues craving ministerial attention. Describing the twin issues as "our major Key Performance Indicators," the MD/CEO added. "We plead for your support in facilitating these issues. We consider them critical to our success for your attention."

The Honourable Minister did not disappoint. He lifted the spirits of the MD/CEO, Management and staff with his warm and reassuring words. He said, "As a ministry, we will continue to create the enabling environment, develop policies and offer the necessary support to grow the Inland Waterways segment of the maritime sector in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the present administration.

"I have taken note of all the challenges you reeled out, and I want to assure you that we shall look into them with a view to addressing them one after the other. Those challenges that are internal and are impeding your day-to-day operations, we shall be addressing with dispatch, while the ones that are external, we shall take them up with the appropriate quarters immediately."

## MD TO CONSOLIDATE ON PROGRESS AT LOKOJA RIVER PORT

### ... TO ENHANCE STAFF WELFARE

By Our Staff Reporter

The Managing Director of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Mr. Bola Oyebamiji has promised to build on the progress already achieved at the Lokoja River Port, Kogi State. The MD made the pledge when he went on a familiarization tour of NIWA's facilities in Lokoja.

According to him, the importance of Lokoja River Port being in the Confluence State is to boost the economic viability of the state and Nigeria at large.

Stating the purpose of the trip, the MD said, "We are here for facility tour to see for ourselves what is on ground at Jamata Port, Lokoja. It is important we come here to assess the facilities to see at least how we can move the facilities forward."

In continuation of his familiarization tour, the MD visited the NIWA Lokoja Area office to inspect the Dockyard facilities. He was received by the Area Manager Engr. Titus Adoga who took the MD round the Dockyard facilities.

At the workshop, the Area Manager said they fabricate boat engine parts and accessories for maintenance.

The MD promised to give all necessary support to the workshop to keep it functional.

Addressing staff of NIWA Lokoja Area Office at the Dockyard, the MD stressed the importance of staff to the development of the Authority. He urged the staff to always strive to meet their revenue target. He also promised to look into their welfare.

In a similar development, the Managing Director also had an interactive session with the general staff of the Headquarters in Lokoja.



MD NIWA Alhaji Bola Oyebamiji speaking to the Press during the familiarization tour of Lokoja River Port

During the meeting, he encouraged them to work hard to give their best to the Authority. Like in other interactive sessions with the staff, the MD promised to give utmost priority to staff training and welfare.

One of the highlights of the meeting was when the Chairman of the Nigerian Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association (NMNO/WTSSA) Comrade Suleiman Danjuma commended the Managing Director for the initiative of the interactive meeting. Comrade Suleiman said such sessions came with the added advantage of "bringing the staff closer to the management." He added: "This will definitely boost the morale of the staff. We pledge our loyalty to the new management and our unalloyed confidence in the MD's leadership style."



# NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY

## NIWA 2024 NATIONAL SENSITISATION PROGRAMME ON TRANSPORTATION CODE AND SAFER WATERWAYS



The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has embarked on an aggressive Nationwide Sensitization Campaign on the importance of the Inland Waterways Transportation Regulations, 2023 to curb incessant boat mishaps. During the sensitisation programme, thousands of life jackets were donated free to boat operators across the nation. The MD/CEO of NIWA, Mr. Bola Oyebamiji, FCIB, has promised to sustain the awareness campaign to reduce the incidence of boat mishaps across the nation's inland waterways.

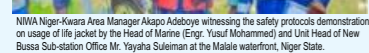
### Minna Area Office Niger State



(R-L) Mr. Jalaludeen (NHYPPADEC Area Manager, NEW Bussa) and Mr. Sharafa Artyo (River Marshal, Maitse) standing in attention during the National Anthem.



Navy Commander Kingsley Nwagwu, representing the Commandant of the Nigerian Navy Provost and Regulating School, Makurdi at the Sensitization campaign held at New Garage area of Makurdi LGA, Benue State.



NIWA Niger-Kwara Area Manager Akapo Adebayo witnessing the safety protocols demonstration on usage of life jacket by the Head of Marine (Engr. Yusuf Mohammed) and Unit Head of New Bussa Sub-station Office Mr. Yoyana Suleiman at the Maitse waterfront, Niger State.



NIWA Niger-Kwara Area Office handing over 40 life jackets to the Emir of Borgu's representative Etsu Malale Aihaj Sani Mohammed Idris who thereafter handed them over to the river Marshals for daily dispensation to passengers within Borgu and its environs, Niger State.

### Lagos Area Office Lagos Area Manager meets staff of US Consulate



(L-R) Mr. Oluwasola Oluwafemi, (Motor Pool Supervisor U.S Consulate), Mr. Benjamin Abiodun (Procurement Supervisor U.S Consulate) Engr. Sarat Braimah, (NIWA Lagos Area Manager), Mr. Benjamin Bandofo, (U.S. Supervisory General Services Officer), Engr. Euse Ekwuatu (NIWA Head, Marine Dept.), & Mr. Michael Osumi (NIWA Head, Business Development)



Lagos Area Manager Engr. Sarat Braimah on sensitization campaign on the new Inland Waterways Regulations

### Yola Area Office Adamawa State



Engr. Stanley Onuoha Area Manager Calabar demonstrating on how to wear a life jacket



A stakeholder shown how to wear a life jacket



Engr. Stanley Onuoha Area Manager Calabar Sensitizing the General public on safety measures on our Waterways

### Port Harcourt Area Office Rivers State



Sensitization Campaign organized by NIWA Port Harcourt Area Office

### Yenagoa Area office Bayelsa State



Sensitization Campaign organized by NIWA Yenagoa Area Office

### Yola Area Office Adamawa State



Durry safety sensitization and awareness at Rungwa Village, Adamawa State



Safety Sensitization and awareness at Rungwa Village, Adamawa State by NIWA (L-R) Musa Aruwah, Yehya Umar, Salihu Dahiru, Nana Abu Karim (Yola Area Manager), Umar Mohammed, Olaya Solomon, Adamu Usman, David Ayobami, Daniel James, Byame Sale, John Belle



NIWA Water Marshal was displaying how the life jacket will keep passengers afloat on water in case of any issue while on board during safety sensitization and awareness at Rungwa Village, Adamawa State.

### Eket Area Office Akwa Ibom State



Unit Secretary of The Maritime Worker's Union of Nigeria Safe Journey Beach, Oron



L-R: Samuel Uto (Marine Dept), Boyi, Solomon D. (Unit Head, Engineering), D.S.P Amos Sunday (Commander, Inland Waterways Police, Eket), Mrs. Grace Nyong (Unit Head, Human Resources/Admin), Suru, Abubakar M. Wathanana (Area Manager, Eket Area Office), Mr. Andrew Marna Niani (Unit Head, Research Planning and Statistics), Anthony Owoyoga (Engineering Dept), Matthew Oyetan Ode (Admin Dept), Insp. Ebe Patrick (Inland Waterways Police), Chasen George (Finance Dept)



Area Manager, Eket Area Office Suru Abubakar M. Wathanana inspecting the Boat as the passenger board



Demonstration on the proper use of Life Jacket and Life Buoy by the Unit Chairman of Safe Journey Beach Oron



A stakeholder contributing during Sensitization campaign in Abokuta Area office



Sensitizing Passengers on the need to wear Life Jackets in Abokuta waterways.



Stakeholders during NIWA Sensitization campaign in Abokuta.

### Warri Area Office Delta State



Free life jackets donated to stakeholders by NIWA in Warri.

### Igbokoda Area Office Ondo State



Demonstration of a rescue mission while using life jacket in Igbokoda waterways.



Sensitization Campaign organized by Igbokoda Area office.

### Onitsha Area office Anambra State



Sensitization Campaign organized by Onitsha Area office with stakeholder

### Kano Area Office



Mal. Nasir Maude Area Manager Kano, Sensitizing stakeholders on the Inland Waterways Transportation Regulations 2023



Mal. Nasir Maude Area Manager Kano, Sensitizing stakeholders on the Inland Waterways Transportation Regulations 2023



A group photograph of NIWA Staff and Boat operators in Kano river side.

### Sokoto Area Office



Mohammed Bello Bala Area Manager Sokoto during a Sensitization Campaign on safety on our Waterways.



Mohammed Bello Bala Area Manager Sokoto during a Sensitization Campaign on safety on our Waterways.



Mohammed Bello Bala Area Manager Sokoto donating free life jackets to Stakeholders on behalf of NIWA

### Jalingo Area Office Taraba State



Engr. Dalhatu Area Manager Taraba on Sensitization campaign on safety on our waterways with some stakeholders



Engr. Dalhatu Area Manager Taraba on Sensitization campaign on safety on our waterways with some stakeholders



Engr. Dalhatu Area Manager Taraba on Sensitization campaign on safety on our waterways with some stakeholders



Engr. Dalhatu Area Manager Taraba with the SSG of Taraba State.

### Kaduna Area office



Engr. Isa Aliyu Area Manager Kaduna during a sensitization campaign with stakeholders.



Stakeholders during NIWA Sensitization campaign in Kaduna state.

### Lokoja Area Office Kogi State



Engr. Titus Adoga Area Manager Lokoja in a group photograph with some stakeholders



NIWA Staff demonstrating to stakeholders on how to wear a life jacket.



NIWA Staff demonstrating to stakeholders on how to use a life buoy.

### Yelwa/Yauri Area office Kebbi State



NIWA staff during the Sensitization campaign in Kebbi state.



Stakeholders during NIWA Sensitization campaign in Kebbi state.



Demonstration on how to wear a life jacket during sailing.