

Group decries challenges to indigenous chandelling services

NIGERIAN Licensed Ships -Chandlers' Association has called on the Federal Government to intervene in the business of chandelling, which has been allegedly hijacked by foreigners. This is in order to save members who have been rendered redundant due to expatriates domination and other challenges.

President of the Association, Mrs Beatrice Ede Ogbumuo told journalists in Lagos that although the Federal Government gave them 100 per cent authority to render service inside the vessels, she lamented that only about 10 percent Nigerians are

actually given the job while the more than 80 per cent are expatriates.

Chandlers, in the maritime industry are responsible for the supply of food, beverage, maintenance and other allied services in ships.

Ogbumuo solicited the support of the government, adding that chandelling is a very legal business and efforts are being made to reach out to the Government. She added that the Association intends to set up a training school where intending chandlers must pass through to enhance their performances, saying the training is necessary in order to cope

with everybody aboard a vessel.

The Association which has about 20,000 membership strength also complained about the activities of security agents, including the Army, Navy, Police, which they said, are hindering their operations with its attendant delays and unnecessary interventions.

Ogbumuo, who recently emerged the National President of the Association, also explained that the menace of pirates on the high seas has been hindering their business, saying they have overcome some challenges confronting it and effort has been put in

place to reshape it.

"Too many challenges have been facing the Association, which include finance, insecurity. these have made our members find it difficult to supply even as it is finding it difficult to get jobs. The expatriates have taken over all the jobs which Nigerians are supposed to do. Our members are just there lamenting about the system because less than 10 percent are working.

"The security personnel activities are affecting our jobs because most times we go to the sea to supply and on your way to the sea the whole lot

of security agencies are there- the Customs, the immigration, the navy, the police etc. People are really having problem."

"we supply virtually everything in the vessel, there are a whole lot of things you supply because you must eat, you must maintain the vessel and for you to do that you must be a licensed ship chandler. But a whole lot of people are doing it now unlicensed, which is not good for the association and it is also not good for the business, because people just go there and do whatever they like because they are termed as chandlers"

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