

'Wrong design of port responsible for overlapping'

UNLESS government resolve the perennial problem of overlapping of vessels emanated from wrong design of ports by colonial master, shippers may continue to incur demurrage at the nation's seaports.

Besides, the ship turn-around the time will continue to be longer as the situation has disgenerated to a situation where bigger vessels are forced to overlap in to other berths while other ships would have to

wait for each other to discharge.

An official of Nigerian Ports Authority in the Center for Planning and Information, Mr. Godwin Duru disclosed this recently during a berthing meeting held at Apapa.

Duru said that the colonial masters never knew that Nigerian ports could accommodate ship longer than 100 metres as there are specific length designed for each berth.

He noted that the type of berth designed for Nigerian ports could not

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accommodate jumbo vessels.

Duru explained that for a ship to discharge in an overlapping berth, the stevedoring company in another berth would have to wait for its fellow stevedore before it could carry out its work.

The NPA official also noted that an average berth should be between 180 and 200 metres long for a country like Nigeria.

To this end, he urged berth operators to enter into mutual agreement to solve problem arising from overlapping.

Also, he advised government to leave the re-designing and operations of port to professionals.

In addition, the Head of Operations, Ivanod Maritime Limited, Mr. Tussey Enamafor who said shipping businessman should focus on Quick-Turn-Around-Time of vessels regretted that Nigeria lacks opera-

tional guideline.

He noted that in the West and Central African sub-regions, Nigeria port should have been the hub but "we are not there."

He advised that government should encourage good tariff and provide incentive for maritime operators.

The head of operation added that Nigerian ports are ripe for concessioning but the approach taken by government was wrong.

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