

# 'Cabotage law implementation will create more jobs'

INEM AKPAN-NSOH: Uyo

WITH the coming of Cabotage regime, more than 30,000 trained seafarers are to be gainfully employed.

This was revealed by Mrs. A. Mkpandiok during a two-day workshop on cabotage law held at Eket, in Akwa Ibom State.

According to the Acting Director, School of

Maritime Studies, Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, with cabotage law, maritime activities would be enhanced.

Besides, domestic shipping would be enhanced as new entrants would require charter while old practitioners would upgrade their vessels.

According to Mrs. Mkpandiok, the building and maintenance of modern

coastal vessels for transportation of cargo and passengers would increase.

Such, she added, would induce the need to employ more Nigerians to cope with high demands of ships crewing.

She observed that cabotage law would bring about rapid growth in trading with expectations of

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foreigners, exit from operating coastal shipping.

This would be so as registered ships would be wholly owned and reserved for manning by indigenous firms.

"The availability of cargo and passengers to sustain the business would make domestic shipping attractive to credit facilities for fleet and expansion," she said.

According to the acting director of School of Maritime Studies, MAN Oron, Cabotage regime would provide easier means

## Cabotage law implementation

for moving goods to markets in high density cities for maximum advantage.

Mrs. Mkpandiok stressed that if the cabotage regime would be efficiently implemented, it would bring about a boost in water transportation, which she observed was a vital source for the sustenance of the growth of economy and such country's international trade.