

Safe maritime domain critical to achieving Vision 20:2020 — Jonathan

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PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan, on Monday, in Lokoja, Kogi State, disclosed that safe and secure maritime domain are crucial to the country's aspiration to be one of the first 20 economies of the world.

Speaking at the 2014 Chief of Naval Staff Annual Conference, in Lokoja, President Jonathan explained that apart from "our porous borders, the Nigerian maritime environment present another avenue for terrorists in the execution of their action which may affect the aspirations."

Consequently, he said "there is need for concerted efforts both by the government and other stakeholders to secure our maritime space."

Represented by the Per-

manent Secretary, Ministry of Defense, Alhaji Aliyu Ismaila Numan, Jonathan disclosed that securing the nation's maritime domain has become critical, commending the Nigerian Navy for its fight against crude oil theft, bunkering and other illegalities on the nation's maritime environment.

He urged the confer-

ence to come up with robust maritime security measures, geared toward eradication of illegal fishing, piracy and other illegalities on the nation's water ways.

The president informed that efforts would be made at equipping the Nigerian Navy to enable it meet with global best practices, global strategic contest,

technological advancement and in line with current global security challenge.

The Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin, said the annual conference was geared towards capacity building of its personnel towards improving operational efficiency.

The naval chief assured

that the conference aside taking stock of its performance would proffer workable solutions to any noticed short-comings of the Navy.

The state governor, Idris Wada, charged participants to fashion out ways that will transform the Navy into a credible naval force that is in line with the nation's aspiration.