

Lekki port will decongest Lagos ports, says promoter

THE Executive Director of Lagos Free Trade Zone, Mr. John Mastoroudes, said over the weekend that the multi-million naira Lekki Port project, when completed, will significantly boost maritime business activities and further decongest the nation's premier port, at Apapa.

Speaking with journalists recently, Mastoroudes said besides the provision of employment opportunities for more than 5000 Nigerians, when the project is delivered, it would also provide some fundamental maritime infrastructures like port and liquid terminal zones.

The Lekki Port, according to the director, will also have the capability of handling all types of cargoes including containers, liquid bulk and dry bulk, adding that another state of the heart facility at the port would be the Breakwaters.

He explained that the "Main Breakwaters" of 1.500 m length would be built to prevent wave penetration and facilitating natural sediment bye-pass, adding it was designed for 1:100 year return period storm, Mastoroudes added that the Nautical Simulation aspect of the project was undertaken by Alkyon of Holland to determine the criteria necessary to ensure safe berthing of vessels at the port.

Mastoroudes noted that the size and scale of the Lekki port, when combined with its state of the art cargo handling and storage in infra-

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structure, will make it an ideal trans-shipment hub capable of servicing the entire West African Coast.

He noted that by providing an ideal platform for accelerated industrial development, the proposed Lekki Port being built by LFTZ Enterprise and with LFTZ lays the foundation for a significant shift in Nigeria's position from an exporter of natural resources into a regional industrial powerhouse.

He noted that besides, the LFTZ will also accommodate Viva Methanol Limited, the Nigeria Subsidiary of Eurochem Corporation Pte. Limited, a new facility, which is set to become the largest production facility in the world, through the production of 2.5 million tones of methanol.

The project, an initiative conceived in 2002, was aimed at promoting development of the Nigeria's economic infrastructure by attracting massive foreign investments to the country and permit investors to manage their operations to the maximum level of profitability.

The first-phase of the LFZ project, which is sited at Itoke Village, Ibeju-Lekki area, along the Atlantic coast and 65 km east of Lagos, occupies 215 acres. The second phase of the project is proposed to occupy an expanse of 1,275 acres of land, thereby bringing the total land area of the zone to approximately 1500 acres.

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