

Ports Concessioning, Vehicle for industrial growth

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THE Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Alhaji Abdul

Salam has said that the 2006 concessioning of the ports was aimed at stimulating industrial growth.

Salam stated this on Saturday at the ongoing Kaduna International Trade Fair.

Salam, who was represented at the fair by the Ports Manager of the Tin Can Island, Mr Henry Cline said the policy was aimed at injecting private partnership and establishing international best practices in the ports.

The Managing Director

said the concessioning had opened up competition in the sector and positioned it for higher performance and productivity.

He said the efficient management of the ports was a key to the reduced cost of production in the country.

According to him, the problems of delays in discharging vessels and loading which leads to accruals in demurrage, is due to poor handling of ports.

"An inefficient management of the ports can lead to vessels not discharged on time leading to accruals of demurrage.

"Also if the sea-land interface is not efficiently coordinated for quick turn around of vessels and inter modal transfer, the cost of production of such companies will escalate."

He said the effort had improved quick turn around of vessels and berth occupancy and intermodal transfer of goods and services.

He disclosed that the NPA had boosted the growth of

Agriculture in the Northern part of the country through its effective handling of millions of tons of fertilizer and agro allied products.

Salam also said such services included the efficient clearing of tractors and Agricultural inputs for the North.

Also, he said the company provided a platform for the exportation of palm produce, cocoa and gum Arabic.