

ANLCA tasks govt on maritime sector's economic potential

NATIONAL President Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) Prince Olayiwola Shittu has advised the Federal Government to shift its attention to the maritime sector as part of measures to curtail the dwindling revenue from crude oil.

Speaking recently in Lagos at the maiden edition of City people awards night for stakeholders in the maritime sector, Shittu said the maritime sector has the potential to over take oil in terms of revenue generation. He explained that with the

sharp decline in global crude oil prices at the international market culminating into drop in oil revenue for Nigeria and other OPEC member's countries, there is need for the Federal Government to shift its attention to what he identified as the untapped potentials in the maritime sector.

According to Shittu, the current trend in falling of oil prices at the international market indicate that things are not going to easy with the country's economy next year because of government's over reliant, adding that petroleum contribute 90 per cent of the country's revenue.

He said it is time for the Federal Government to take a closer look at the maritime sector activities, stressing that the sector could be the ideal solution to the country's revenue generation challenges if properly harnessed.

The ANLCA President said government must align with the sector now that the country is losing revenue due to falling global oil prices, adding that maritime stakeholders are ready and willing to partner with government to realise this objective.

Explaining further, Shittu said: "I am not here to criticise

the government that it's not working hard but the falling in global oil prices at the international market shows that it is not going to be rosy for us all next year especially the economy with the multiplier effect expected to set in.

Now is an opportunity for the Federal Government to look inward especially the maritime sector that has the potential to generate more revenue for the country," Shittu said.

He however pointed out the relative peace and harmony in the maritime sector in recent times was because of

the unity in collaboration and cooperation between ANLCA and National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) as the association have forged ahead to work as one umbrella to move the country's ports development forward.

Shittu, who received the lifetime achievement award, commended the management of City People Media Group for rewarding excellence in the industry. In his speech, the Publisher of City People magazine and Chief Executive Officer City People Media Group, Dr. Seye

Kehinde said the award ceremony was a clarion call to reward eminent Nigerians who have done well in the maritime industry and the economy as a whole.

Among the awardees are Chief Executive Officer Sifax Group of Companies, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi; NAGAFF founder, Dr. Boniface Aniegbulam; and Chief Executive Officer, Britannia-U Nigeria Limited, Mrs Uju Ifejika and the Director-General, Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Patrick Akpolobokemi, amongst other recipients.

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