

# Jonathan reiterates commitment to security of maritime boarder

President Goodluck Jonathan has restated the commitment of the federal government of to providing security around Nigeria's maritime line.

President Jonathan disclosed this, recently, while declaring open the Chief of Naval Staff Conference that commenced at Reverton Hotels in Lokoja, Kogi State. He stated that as a major maritime nation, Nigeria must provide adequate capacity to harness her vast maritime potentials towards nation building.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Alhaji Aliyu Suleiman Numa, the president explained that the collaboration with neighbouring and other ECOWAS states was to ensure that access to Nigeria's exclusive Economic Zone and adjoining areas within the gulf of Guinea are secured and for legitimate exploitation activities.

He said, "I am sure you know my administration or watch as you would say in the Navy, this government has made concerted efforts towards providing your needs and we will continue to support your worthy endeavours to build and maintain a credible naval force we can all be proud of. I wish to reiterate therefore that my government will make sure that all your requirements are met because we have no choice."

He commended the Nigerian Navy for its collaborative efforts in tackling insurgency in north-eastern part of the country. In address, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jubrin stated that the conference became

imperative to access and re-strategise for enhanced operational efficiency and contribute to more development of Nigeria in recognition of existing security challenges.

According to him, the theme

of this year conference in context will remain valid in the unforeseeable future. "First Nigeria relies on the sea for its economy with direct impact on socio-political economy," he said. And secondly, maritime security is a

vital component of Nigeria's security policy, which also in the context of international politics has fundamentally changed due to globalization," he said.

The state governor, Capt. Idris Wada who was represented by

his Deputy, Yomi Awoniyi commended the Nigerian Navy for playing active role in the security affairs of the country. Wada also lauded the Navy for establishing two commands in Kogi State.

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