

## Nigeria develops Africa's largest container terminal

THERE were indications that Nigeria may have developed the continent's largest terminal, with last week's formal commissioning of the new Apapa Container Terminal, by the APM Terminals in Lagos.

The APMT Managing Director, Mr. Martin Dirks, who confirmed that the terminal was, indeed the largest container terminal in Africa, however, expressed regret that poor electricity supply and the continuous occupation of the concessioned area by three different companies in the last four years had

remained their insurmountable challenges.

"We spend about five million dollar a year on diesel to generate electricity. This is not only a big problem for us but for everyone in the country. One of the promises was that we were guaranteed steady supply of electricity, but that has been far from the case as we spend millions of dollars generating our own electricity.

"The territories occupied by others in our concessioned area are still being occupied. This is a serious issue that is still pending, and we are losing

money," observed Dirks, noting that even old equipment, abandoned by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) were still also taking up considerable space in the terminal.

He highlighted that the Apapa Container Terminal now has the capacity to handle 1.2 million TEU of containers which no other port on the continent has the capacity to handle, remarking that the company, within the last four years, had fully developed the nation's terminal at Apapa to compete favourably, with any container terminal facility in the world.

Tribune 7/4/2010 — P. 41