

Crisis of confidence hits maritime workers union

The seeming indiscretion of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) on the issue of alleged arbitrary high charges of shipping companies and terminal operators, has pitched it against the Shippers' Council branch of the union.

Shippers' Council branch of MWUN has threatened to reconsider its continued membership of the mother union over MWUN's perceived skewed position taken in the lingering face-off between the terminal operators and the Nigerian Shippers' Council.

MWUN had written a letter referenced MWUN/HMT/FMT/WDR/360, signed by its secretary general; Comrade Aham Ubani, to the Minister of transport last week, in which the mother union kicked against the Nigerian Shippers' Council's recent slash in some rates and charges that were being collected by the terminal operators.

The union demanded for the withdrawal of that

directive, accusing the Shippers Council of taking a unilateral decision and that the council's action would affect its members, who are the employees of the terminal operators.

While acknowledging the need to make Nigeria Sea Ports less expensive as one of the critical factors in making the nations' ports the preferred ports within the sub-region, MWUN however insisted that the "prevailing high cost of doing business in our Ports needs to be addressed holistically if the desired goal is to be achieved in its entirety."

He listed cost factors that need to be addressed realistically, to include, Poor access roads to the port which gives rise to higher cost of trucking goods in and out of the ports.

But the Shippers Council Branch of MWUN in a letter signed by both Comrades S Otiyongo and KP Lawson and dated November 13, 2014, noted that: "As you are aware members of our

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