

maritime

Operators blame hostile maritime environment for importation drop

Anozie Ego

OPERATORS have said that the hostile and cumbersome nature of the nation's maritime environment is the reason for the drop in importation.

The National President of the National Council of Managing Directors of Licensed Customs Agents, Mr Lucky Amiwero, in a recent chat with *The PUNCH*, stated that a lot of importers had quit their jobs because the importing environment was very troublesome and unpredictable.

A document obtained from the Nigerian Ports Authority showed that cargo imports into the country may have declined between the first quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of this year, as empty containers in the ports dropped by 33.6 per cent.

The document sighted by our correspondent showed that during the period under review, 263, 827 empty containers littered the ports.

Containers are mostly used for importation and when there are fewer empty containers, it is an indication that few goods came into the country.

The NPA explained that in the first quarter of 2024, there were 112, 901 twenty-foot equivalent units of containers, while a total of 150, 926 TEUS were recorded

same period in 2023, representing a 33.6 per cent decline in the number of empty containers.

The NPA also stated there was a 2.39 per cent drop in container throughput for twenty-foot equipment units in the first quarter of 2024.

According to the authority, the total container throughput

for Q1 2024 was 396,083, down from 405,811 in the same period last year.

The PUNCH reports that the Nigeria Customs Service, in its half-year report, said it recorded a lower volume of transactions in the first six months of the year.

The service explained that the total number of single goods

declarations processed in Q1 2024 was 620,467, compared to 1,013,250 SGDs in Q1 2023.

"This decline in transaction volume affected the overall revenue and trade activity, highlighting the need for strategies to boost trade engagement and efficiency," the service stated.

A single goods declaration

is the submission of electronic data/information for clearance of import, export, and transit-related goods at a single point.

However, reacting to the data, Amiwero said, noted that there is a serious drop in imports within the period under review.

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Exports via Apapa Port rise by 40 %, says NPA

Anozie Ego

THE Nigerian Ports Authority has disclosed that the exported twenty-foot equivalent units through the Lagos Port Complex in Apapa,

Lagos, increased by 40 per cent from 50,000 in 2022 to 70,000 in 2023.

The Port Manager of the LPC, Mr Charles Okaga, stated this in an interview in the March edition of the Nigerian

Ports Authority Today, a quarterly publication of NPA.

He remarked that the port was better positioned to support international trade within and outside Africa, adding that the management

of the NPA was collaborating with sister agencies and, private sector operators to ensure the port met user needs.

"When you have a facility that encourages this type of

trade facilitation principle, it is bound to have a direct impact on the overall trade volume of the country. As we speak, in 2022, for instance, we had a total of about 50,000 TEUs of export containers. Whereas in 2023, we had over 70,000 and that is definitely an increase in the volume of exports that is leaving the country through LPC alone," the port manager declared.

He added that the figure showed a 20,000 increase achieved through the enabling business environment created in partnership with the Nigeria Customs Service and other government agencies and stakeholders.

According to Okaga, export is a very critical element of the national economy, particularly with the government's agenda of diversification of the economy to non-oil export, stressing that Nigeria's largest

N141m property damaged at western ports in H1-Police

Anozie Ego

THE Nigerian Ports Police Authority Command, Western Zone, has said that the ports experienced

property losses and damages, amounting to over N141m in the first half of 2024.

This is according to a report presented by the Deputy Commissioner of Police

Operations, Port Authority Police Command, Western Zone, Ibrahim Abdul, during the recent Nigeria Port Consultative Council's quarterly meeting held in

Lagos.

He also said that the period saw a total of 57 cases, leading to the arrest of 103 suspects.

According to Abdul, these included constant raids on criminal hideouts, vehicular and foot patrols, and intensive surveillance and intelligence gathering.

He added that the security situation within the ports from January to June was relatively stable due to various crime prevention measures implemented by the command.

"The breakdown of reported cases is as follows, Ports CIID Apapa six cases, Area

non-oil exports

He added that it would also generate more revenues into the coffers of the government.

"Again, we are excited that this very large container ship has been able to return in three months. This is a mark of confidence in Nigeria, in NPA and the professionalism of the OMT," he said.

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Onne receives 300-metre container ship

Anozie Ego

A terminal operator, Onne Multipurpose Terminal, said it has again received for the second time, Kota Cempaka, the largest container ship ever to carry out full operations at Nigeria's eastern ports.

A statement by the terminal operators on Wednesday stated that this was the second visit of the ship to the terminal

in three months.

It added that Kota Cempaka, owned by Pacific International Lines, is 300 metres long, and can carry 6,600 twenty-foot equivalent units of containers.

Recall that the ship made its maiden visit to the Onne Port on April 27, 2024, when it loaded and discharged over 2,000 containers full of Nigerian imports and exports.

The Chief Operating Officer of OMT Onne, Jim Stewart, expressed gratitude to the Nigerian Ports Authority for ensuring that the vessel was able to berth successfully.

Stewart said the visit of Kota Cempaka to Nigeria would support the efforts of the Federal Government to diversify the country's economic base by boosting

20 YEARS Alive In our Hearts

Today we remember Our Father, Chief Adebowale Durojaiye Joseph Akande SAN.

A Legal Luminary Par Excellence. An Eminent Legal Practitioner, who stood on the principles of goodwill, fairness, equity, justice and truth.

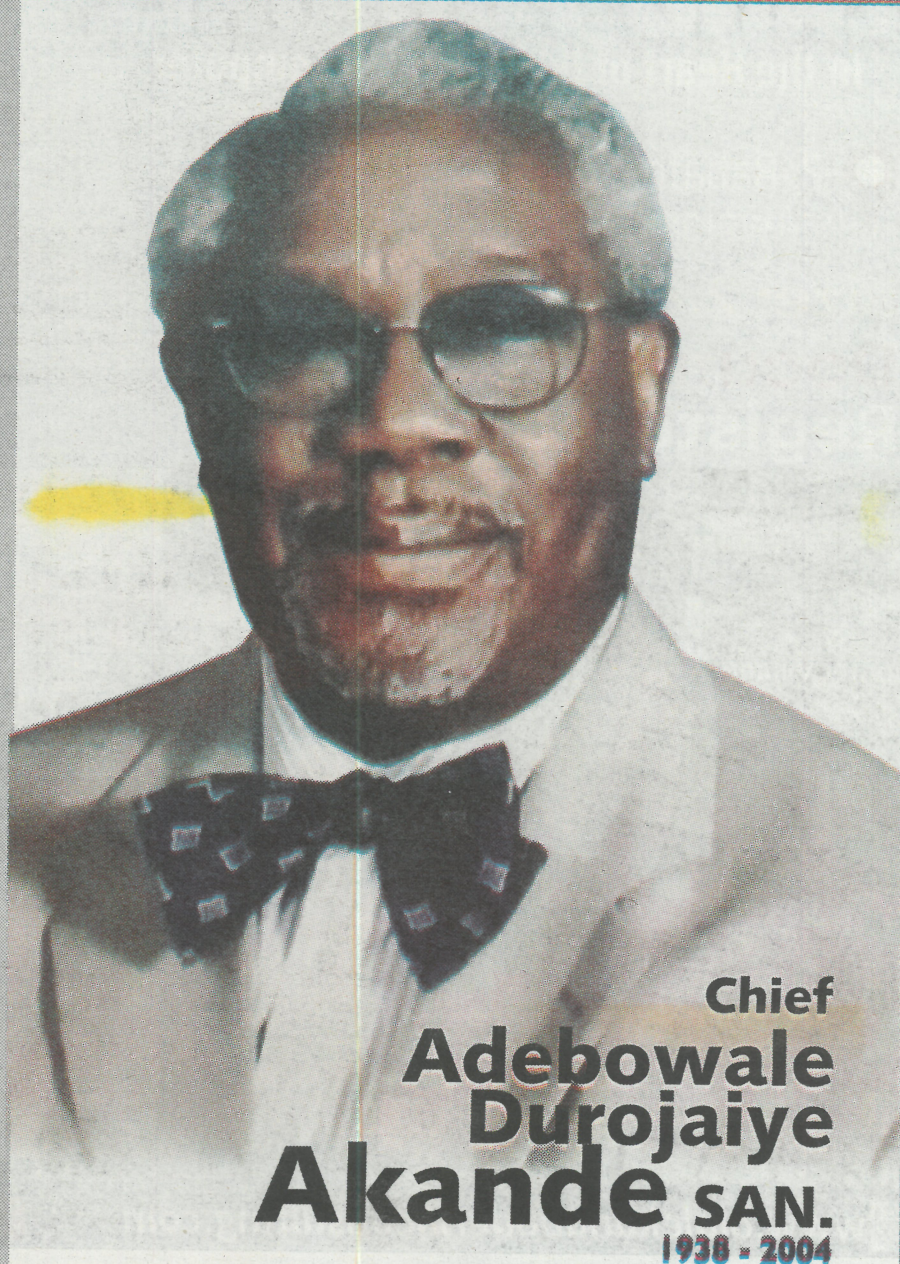
His career was a testament to this, having reached the very pinnacle of legal advocacy in Nigeria in the prestigious position of the **Chairman Body of Benchers**.

An Òmólúàbí.
Eniyan pàtàkì.
Bamofin of Itire.
Bamofin of Ilobu.
Bobaseye of Lagos.
Bobajiro of Ikate

Everyday, we follow his footsteps and continue to uphold his legacy and keep the DEBO-AKANDE flag flying. HIGH. And proudly so.

Forever, he shall live in our hearts.

Signed,
Adedayo Debo-Akande Esq.
Adeboye Debo-Akande Esq.



Chief
Adebowale
Durojaiye
Akande SAN.
1938 - 2004

20 Years Gone!

HOW TIME FLIES



CHIEF ADEBOWALE JOSEPH
DURORAIYE AKANDE
SAN JP

9th June 1938 - 8th August 2004

Our Good Father, Our Mentor, Our Patriarch. You left us so suddenly and in a flash, 20 years have gone by.
The Lord God being on our side, we are upholding your legacy the way we know best.
Sleep on in the Lord's BOSOM Great & Wonderful Son of the Most High. Amen
Forever Missed. Forever Cherished.

A MEMORIAL PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

Hon Justice Adenike J Coker (Mrs)

For the Family & for DASAN