

# **REMARKS BY MR. MOHAMMED BELLO KOKO MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY AT THE COMMISSIONING OF NPA DOCKYARD TRAINING SCHOOL 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2022.**

## **Protocols....**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I count it a great pleasure and a good fortune to welcome you to this epoch-making event.

The commissioning of this Dockyard Training School today is a testament of our resolve to institute continuous learning as a culture in the Nigerian Ports Authority.

A modern technical training facility of this nature is germane to us as an Authority because the opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn which it offers constitutes a critical success factor in actualizing our strategic intent of becoming the maritime logistics hub for sustainable port services in Africa.

As most of us are aware, having in place a robust talent pool is a necessary precondition for operating efficiently in the fiercely competitive terrain that port business is.

Consistently upskilling and reskilling our employees on whom we place a very high premium is our overriding objective as a management team, and our readiness to position them to be best in class, is at the core of what this training school sets to achieve.

This complex has the capacity of training three hundred and eighty (380) persons per time as it consists of a lecture theatre with seating capacity of seventy-three (73), a large hall with seat capacity of one hundred and twelve (112) a mini hall with seat capacity of fifty (50), another with twenty-seven (27) and six (6) simulation class rooms that seats sixteen (16) persons each, a fully automated library, a computer training hall, a canteen with seating capacity for 120 persons and a hostel with 30-Bed capacity.

The decision to invest so much in this facility took cognizance of our former employees, some of whom although retired are actually not tired. We intend to tap into their wealth of experience and institutional knowledge by inviting them as resource persons to train upcoming employees.

Processes are also in the works to partner with the World Maritime University, The Nigerian Navy Hydrography Department, Nigerian Institute of Marine and Oceanography Research, the University of Lagos and other research and learning institutions in the area of curriculum development and capacity building.

It would be pertinent to mention that work is at advanced stages to transform our Riggers Workshop to a marine and Seamanship Workshop to be deployed for training in the area of Seamanship Practical, Radio/Signal, Marine Engine/Auxiliaries, Buoyage Practical, Mooring and other Marine related competencies which are increasingly in demand not just in-house but indeed in our industry. These trainings will significantly help to insulate us and our stakeholders from the grave risk of talent deficit.

Let me therefore seize this moment to recommend this facility for patronage by sister agencies in the maritime sector and other industry players who are desirous of a best-in-class training platform for their employees.

Sustainably providing efficient port service in safe, secure, and customer friendly environment requires that we ensure and assure our skill preparedness and put in place a robust talent succession planning procedure that places emphasis on best practice as a culture.

Undoubtedly, a lot of hard work was put to make this project a reality, so I want to commend the Engineering, Training, Facilities Management and all other departments who partnered with them to actualize this remarkable feat.

The activation of this training facility is thus timely, as it is coming at a time when the series of efforts geared towards making our ports more competitive and thus attractive of greater vessel traffic are beginning to crystallize.

This commissioning is also a reminder that our drive towards attaining the compliance status for Quality Management System (ISO 9001), Environment Management System (ISO 14001) as well as Occupational Health & Safety Management System (ISO 45001) is no fluke, and all hands must be on deck to make it a reality.

Let me seize this opportunity to implore all users of this facility to make the best use of this facility. I expect that we begin to realize commensurate value for money spent.

Let me add that there is a pressing need to deepen our maintenance culture. The sustainability of investments such as this rests heavily on how well we maintain them.

The concomitant benefits of this investment such as reduction in cost of training, improved capacity to monitor quality, speed, convenience and deepening of local content amongst others will certainly make us all proud to be a part of this noble cause.

I hope that we would not let this investment go to waste.

I want to say a big congratulation to all of us.

Thank you for your time and God bless.