

---

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4271/Add.1  
14 May 2020

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Federal Republic of  
Nigeria**

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has sent the attached communication, dated 13 May 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

\*\*\*





**Nigeria High Commission  
Office of the Alternate Permanent  
Representative (APR) of Nigeria to  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

**Nigeria House, 9 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BX  
Tel: 44 (0) 207 389 0785 Ext. 248; Direct Line: +44 (0) 20 7389 0785**

The Secretary-General,  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

His Excellency,

**DECLARATION TO KEEP NIGERIAN PORTS OPEN AND OPERATIONAL AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The office of the Alternate Permanent Representative (APR) of Nigeria to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) presents its compliment.

Recognising that the maritime sector plays a critical role in transporting more than 80% of the world's goods via sea-lanes, and in its drive to support and facilitate shipping, the Nigerian Ports Authority has declared to keep its ports open and operational by adopting safe and best industry practices in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We wish to remark that the Managing Director/Chief Executive, Nigerian Ports Authority, Ms Hadiza Bala Usman, holds the current Vice-Chair of IMO's Facilitation (FAL) Committee. The declaration (attached with this letter), was forwarded to the Nigeria's APR-IMO Office by the supervising Ministry of Transportation (also attached with this letter) for conveyance to the International Maritime Organization for communication to IMO Member States.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anas K. Suleiman'.

**Engr Anas K. SULEIMAN**

(Nigeria's Technical Adviser/Deputy-APR to IMO)

**For: APR-IMO**



## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Safety & Security DEPARTMENT

BUKAR DIPCHARIMA HOUSE  
Central Business District, Off 3rd Avenue, P.M.B. 0336, Abuja.

Tel:

Ref: MT.206/S.58/C.3/Vii/T2

Fax:

Date: May 13, 2020

Engr. Anas K. Suleiman,  
Office of the Alternate Permanent Representative to  
International Maritime Organisation,  
Nigerian High Commission,  
9 Northumberland Avenue,  
London WC2n 5BX,  
United Kingdom.

**RE: DECLARATION TO KEEP NIGERIAN PORTS OPEN TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN  
PORT OPERATIONS ADOPTING SAFE AND BEST INDUSTRY PRACTICES AMID THE  
COVID -19 PANDEMIC**

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Nigerian declaration by the Managing Director, Nigerian Port Authority (MD,NPA) to keep the Ports open in complete agreement and harmony with the Port Authorities Roundtable(PAR) members for onward submission to International Maritime Organisation (IMO). This is in order to sustain maritime trade and shipping activities so that vital goods, including essential medical supplies, can continue to flow seamlessly in view of the COVID – 19 situation.

2. Please accept the warm regards of the Honourable Minister.

**Adaji A.S (Mrs)**

Deputy Director, Marine Pollution  
For: Honourable Minister



# NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Our Ref: MD/10/FMT/VOL.XX/250

6<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

**The Honourable Minister**  
Federal Ministry of Transportation  
Bukar Dipcharima House  
FCT, Abuja.

**Attention:**

The Director  
Maritime Safety and Security  
Federal Ministry of Transportation  
FCT, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

**DECLARATION TO KEEP NIGERIAN PORTS OPEN TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN PORT OPERATIONS BY ADOPTING SAFE AND BEST INDUSTRY PRACTICES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

Reference is to Circular No. 42041/Add.12 dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from the International Maritime Organisation in relation to the global Covid-19 situation.

The Nigerian Ports Authority recognises the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as a serious global crisis that has far-reaching impact on many fronts, including global trade. Considering that more than 80% of the world's goods are transported via sea-lanes, the ports and maritime sectors all over the world play crucial roles in keeping these goods and sea trade to flourish by adopting safe operations and best industry practices in the midst of the global fight against COVID-19.

The recent Circular Letter (No. 4204/Add.12) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) highlights a declaration by twenty (20) Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) members in view of the global COVID-19 situation. The declaration seeks to maintain and facilitate shipping activities during the COVID-19 global pandemic in order to sustain the

global supply chain. In the IMO Circular Letter, the PAR members are motivated by the need to:

- Keep global supply chain and trade/cargo going, and that merchant ships can continue to berth at terminals to carry out cargo operations.
- Facilitate closer coordination by establishing an open communication channel so that like-minded port and maritime authorities can share experiences/exchange information in combating COVID-19 while safeguarding unimpeded maritime trade.
- Continue to adopt best industry practices according to national circumstances, including precautionary measures for shipping community, advisories and assistance for shore personnel and ship crew, safe handling cargoes and measures taken in dealing with COVID-19 cases.

Recognizing that we share the above-mentioned motivations put forward by the members of the Port Authorities Roundtables (PAR), **the Nigerian Ports Authority, hereby declare to keep our ports open through the adoption of safe operations and best industry practices in complete agreement and harmony with the PAR members, in order to sustain maritime trade and shipping activities so that vital goods, including essential medical supplies, can continue to flow seamlessly in view of the COVID-19 situation.**

This declaration is referred for your information and for onward transmission to the Nigeria's Technical Advisor/Deputy-APR to IMO for further necessary action, please.

Kindly accept the assurances of my esteemed regards

**Hadiza Bala Usman**  
**Managing Director**



OFFICE OF THE  
MANAGING DIRECTOR