



## NOTICE TO MEMBERS – NIGERIA

### NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES STEPPING UP ANTI-CORRUPTION ENFORCEMENT AT PORTS AND TERMINALS

The Nigerian Federal Government has issued a new policy banning ships and companies calling Nigerian ports and terminals from offering gifts and other forms of facilitation payments to officials from the Port Health, Immigration, Customs, and other agencies involved in the boarding and inspection of vessels.

Any form of corrupt demand made towards a vessel's Captain, the shipping company, or their respective appointed stakeholder(s) should be **immediately reported to the Port Standing Task Team (PSTT) and MACN Local HelpDesk** who will provide timely advise on next steps. Should there be any doubt in a given situation you are required to contact the PSTT and MACN Local HelpDesk immediately and seek their advice.

**In the light of this development, we would like to highlight the following process for the use of the Nigerian HelpDesk;**

### GUIDELINES FOR MACN MEMBER VESSELS CALLING NIGERIAN PORTS AND TERMINALS

1. All vessels are advised to send a **Pre-Arrival Notification 72hrs prior** to the vessel port/terminal call. This will allow for port call progress to be monitored by the PSTT and MACN Local HelpDesk team.
2. When an incident is occurring/unfolding the Master/Company/Port Agent (any stakeholder appointed to assist the vessel) shall **contact the PSTT and MACN Local HelpDesk numbers immediately**.
3. **Reject and oppose** any form of bribery and facilitation payment demand, and never initiate such actions.
4. Offering officials **general hospitality when onboard is acceptable**, for example offering soft drinks or cigarettes (if applicable) to be consumed on board the vessel is acceptable. These items should not be taken off the vessel.
5. Use **all resources to de-escalate the situation** – It is very important that the company uses, and documents, all relevant local resources (i.e. local agents, OPA, local correspondents as appropriate) to support the Master and crew on board when such incidents occur.

### Important Notes:

1. **Delayed notification**, calling the HelpDesk hours after an incident has unfolded makes it very challenging for the local team to intervene and provide timely assistance.
2. All local stakeholders appointed by the company (i.e. local agents, OPA, local correspondents as appropriate) should fully **understand the Role, Responsibility, and Protocols of the Port Standing Task Team (PSTT)**. It is equally important these local stakeholders, when appointed by the company, are also advised to contact the PSTT and MACN Local HelpDesk immediately and seek their assistance or input if an incident occurs.



## BACKGROUND – WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?

On International Anti-Corruption December 9<sup>TH</sup> 2020, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria launched the new [Nigerian Ports Process Manual \(NPPM\)](#) in a bid to promote transparency, eliminate bottlenecks and illegal demands in the nation's seaports and terminals. The Nigerian Ports Process Manual is a key resource for any business using ports and terminals and has been developed to boost efficiency, accountability, and ensure predictability in the country's seaports and terminals.

The Nigerian Port Process Manual (NPPM) on port operations is expected to be one of the key indicators for the effective implementation of *Executive Order 001, essentially to promote transparency and efficiency in the business environment and designed to facilitate the ease of doing business.*"

Subsequently, the Federal Government of Nigeria, upon the recommendation of the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FMOT) in December 2020, appointed the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) as the lead agency in the implementation of the Nigerian Port Process Manual (NPPM), Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), and monitoring of the Port Service Support Portal (PSSP) through the Office of the Vice President- Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## FORMATION OF THE PORT STANDING TASK TEAM (PSTT)

The appointment of the Nigerian Shippers' Council as the lead agency for the NPPM led to the formation of *the Port Standing Task Team (PSTT)* as approved by the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and was operationalised in the first quarter of 2021. The PSTT comprises of Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) as coordinator, Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Department of State Services (DSS), and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PORT STANDING TASK TEAM (PSTT)

The key objectives of the PSTT are to monitor and enforce compliance by all government agencies and private sector stakeholders to the provisions of the NPPM and help remove transparency and corruption risks in port operations in line with International best practices as entrenched in the Nigerian Port Process Manual (NPPM).

In practice this mean the **PSTT carry out physical checks** on board vessels and in the ports and terminals during vessel clearance and cargo clearance operations to ensure unethical practices are not performed by any stakeholders involved in this process.

## About Us

The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) is a global business network working toward its vision of a maritime industry free of corruption that enables fair trade to the benefit of society at large. MACN has become one of the preeminent examples of an industry-led collective action to eliminate corruption.