



## NATIONAL SEAFARERS' WELFARE BOARD OF NIGERIA

### REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2023

(A REGISTERED CHARITY RC 106201)

For Promoting Welfare & Hospitality Services of Local & International Seafarers in Nigeria.

(Affiliate of International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN), London)

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## CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REMARK

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 annual report of the National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am honoured to lead this organization in its mission to promote the welfare of Seafarers in Nigeria.

The past year has presented both challenges and opportunities for our seafaring community. The extended periods at sea, difficulty rotating crews, and limited shore leave placed intense strain on the physical and mental health of many seafarers. At the same time, their professionalism and sacrifice kept global supply chains moving to support the world economy.

In response, the National Seafarers' Welfare Board made efforts to meet the needs of Nigerian seafarers and their families. We intensified seafarers' welfare and wellbeing-related activities and upgraded connectivity tools for communication at the Tin Can portal cabin. We also supported and advocated for Government policies that facilitate seafarers' welfare.

While we appreciate the progress made, our work is far from over. As we move forward, we remain committed to promoting seafarer well-being, enhancing training and career opportunities, and aligning with international welfare standards. With the dedication of our members, partners, and supporters, we can create positive change.

I invite you to the initiatives, achievements, and financial summary contained in the report. We welcome your feedback and participation as we continue to serve the global seafaring community. Together, through innovation and cooperation, we can provide seafarers with the support they deserve.

Thank you and God bless.

**Dr Ahmed Tijjani Ramalan., FCILT**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) made some strides in 2023. It is to fulfil its mission of promoting the welfare of seafarers in the Nigerian seaports. The Key highlights of this year's report include:

- Review of the Board's activities
- Ship visits
- Upgrading infrastructure at the Tin Can Island Seafarers' Centre through repairing tablets and installing new equipment. This enhanced facilities for visiting seafarers.
- Conduct over 20 ship visits to provide direct welfare support and relief to seafarers.
- Activate social media channels on Facebook and LinkedIn to increase outreach and awareness.
- Completed a study on seafarers' experience concerning vessel clearance in the Nigerian seaports, terminals and jetties being part of the Board area of collaboration with the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) and Convention on Business Integrity (CBI).
- Fundraising for a distressed seafarer's life-saving kidney transplant through online campaigns.

The Board's challenge of funding did not deter the individual members from making progress with contributions and sacrifice of time and financial resources to ensure success. All the volunteers were amazing and commendable for their sacrifice.

The Board is now set and looks beyond 2023's achievements and is more than prepared to commit to the continuous support of seafarers and to uphold maritime standards in Nigeria. We look forward to an effective and efficient welfare provision to seafarers in 2024

**Dr Amos Hosea KUJE.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) presents its Annual Report for 2023, providing insights into our activities, initiatives, achievements and challenges. This report highlights NSWBN's efforts in promoting the welfare of seafarers in Nigeria during the year.

### ABOUT NSWBN

The National Seafarers Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) is a non-profit organization established in 2003 and registered as incorporated trustees with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Board coordinates and supports the provisions of shore-based welfare facilities and services to seafarers irrespective of their nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, or creed in line with Shore based Welfare facilities as mandated by Regulation 4.4, Standard A4 as amended and enshrined in the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) as ratified by Nigeria on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2013.

The Board also maintain its membership subscription with the International Seafarers Welfare Assistance Network (ISWAN), an international organisation with over two decades of supporting the welfare of seafarers worldwide. The Board coordinates its Seafarers' Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs) in Apapa, Tin Can Island, Warri and PortHarcourt and all members are serving in a voluntary capacity.

### VISION AND MISSION

To be a leading organization promoting the well-being and welfare of seafarers in Africa. Its mission is to promote, advocate, guide, train and conduct studies to support its constituents members.

### OBJECTIVES

Include to:

- Ensure the provision of seafarers' welfare in seaports
- Supports the works of its constituents' members
- Establish, manage and maintain amenities and facilities for visiting seafarers at seaports
- Develop the capacities of its members and relevant stakeholders on seafarers' welfare
- Collaborate with stakeholders in the Maritime Industry on Seafarers Welfare
- Carry out advocacy for fair treatment of seafarers who are in prisons or abandoned

The Board is supported by a Secretariat headed by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees along with an administrative staff. The Seafarers' Port Welfare Committee volunteers at each port work meet monthly and submit reports to the Board.

## 2. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This chapter provides an overview of the major programs, initiatives, partnerships and impact of NSWBN during 2023. Key Achievements in 2023 are:

- Increased engagement on social media through the creation of Facebook and LinkedIn pages for NSWBN and its committees
- Carry out repairs and upgrade of facilities at the Tin Can Island Seafarers' Centre

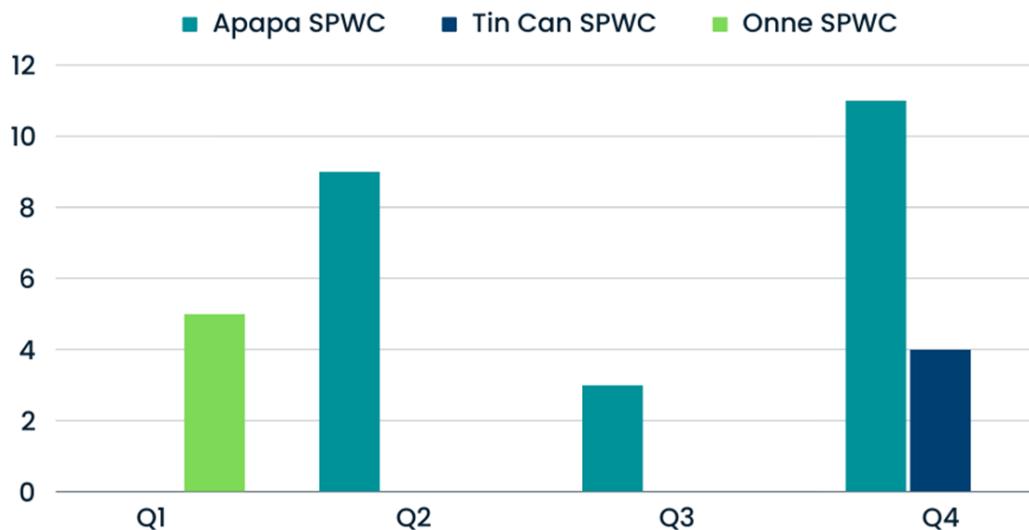
- Celebrate the annual Day of the Seafarer for the year 2023
- Concluded the impact assessment research study in partnership with MACN and CBi
- Carried out Ship visits and welfare support to seafarers' onboard vessels in Nigerian waters

## Ship Visits

- NSWBN ship visit teams conducted 27 visits at Apapa, Onne and Tin Can ports.
- Welfare support and relief provided to seafarers on board vessels.
- A special Sea Sunday service was organized onboard a ship with worship and prayers conducted by a team from Apostleship of the Sea.
- Feedback and photos from the visits were shared on social media to amplify awareness.

## NSWBN SHIP VISIT IN 2023

*Total of 27 ship visits by SPWCs with 4 jointly carried out by Apapa and Tin Can in Q4*



## Seafarers' Centers

- Assessment conducted at Tin Can Center.
- Damaged infrastructure at Tin Can Island identified for repairs.
- 5 tablets were repaired and reinstalled at Tin Can Center.

## Training and Workshops

- NSWBN representatives participated in maritime compliance and leadership training organized by CBi and MACN. This helped build capacity on compliance, ethics, leadership and welfare standards.

- Sensitization and awareness session held at NSWBN secretariat for new entrants to seafaring on the role and initiatives of the Welfare Board

#### **Advocacy and Awareness Efforts**

- A press statement was issued to advocate for the release of seafarers detained in Nigerian prisons.
- Social media channels are activated and leveraged for real-time updates. Several updates on welfare, training, ship visits and other events are posted across Facebook and LinkedIn monthly.
- Participation in global events like International Day of the Seafarers, Sea Sunday, World Maritime Day, World Mental Health Day and to raise awareness about the lives of Seafarers at sea and their welfare need.

#### **Partnerships and Research**

- NSWBN collaborated with the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network and Convention on Business Integrity on a study to **assess the impact of improved port procedures on seafarers' welfare. The first report was completed and submitted to the organisation in Q3 2023.**
- A working visit was undertaken by the NSWBN team to the NIMASA Western Zone office to explore collaboration opportunities.
- Participated in the opening of the renovated Mission to Seafarers facility at Apapa Port.

### **3. FINANCES**

This chapter presents a summary of the financial performance of NSWBN in 2023 including income, expenditures and an overview of the funding situation.

#### **Income**

The income for NSWBN in 2023 was mostly received from donations and contributions from individuals and organizations particularly for the celebration of the Day of the Seafarers and its operation. The sources of donations are typically:

- Members of NSWBN and SPWCs
- Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association
- Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria
- Nigerian Port Authority

The total donations received towards the Day of the Seafarers (DotS) in 2023 amounted to around 525,000 Naira. This was the primary source of funding that enabled the successful celebration of DotS for the year.

#### **Expenditures**

The total expenditures for 2023 DotS were 559,800 Naira. The major heads under which funds were utilized are:

- Day of the Seafarer event
- Infrastructure (tablets) repairs and upgrades of Tin Can Island Portakabin
- Welfare support to seafarers during ship visits
- Administrative expenses

## **4. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

While NSWBN made concerted efforts to fulfil its objectives in 2023, some key challenges and constraints were faced which restricted the scope of activities. These are highlighted below.

### **Funding Limitations**

Inadequate funding was a major constraint, as NSWBN lacks stable sources of income. This affected activities like ship visits, welfare support to seafarers, and infrastructure upgrades. Dependence on donations alone is unsustainable.

### **Infrastructure Issues**

The poor condition of infrastructure at Apapa seafarers' centres was a challenge. The facilities lacked maintenance and were dilapidated. Upgrades at Tin Can Center remained incomplete due to funding issues.

### **Low Awareness**

Limited awareness within the maritime community about NSWBN's role and efforts was an obstacle. More advocacy for prison and sustainable support to volunteers will be sought and continued in 2024.

The above were the three major challenges and limitations that NSWBN encountered during its functioning in 2023. Addressing these would significantly enhance effectiveness in fulfilling the organization's objectives.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the activities, challenges and learnings in 2023, the following recommendations are made for NSWBN to enhance its effectiveness:

### **Budgetary Support**

- Create a dedicated budget line for NSWBN in Federal Government budgets considering its support to their activities in line with Nigeria's reporting and compliance with the seafarers standard of Maritime Labour Convention,2006 as amended.

### **Infrastructure Upgrades**

- Appeal to maritime agencies for grants to upgrade facilities.

### **Partnerships on capacity development on seafarers' welfare**

- To develop shipping companies' capacities engage international seafarers' welfare agencies for technical expertise, funding support and collaboration.
- Enhance partnerships with domestic maritime organizations.

### **Awareness Building**

- Undertake campaigns to increase awareness within the maritime community about NSWBN's role and efforts.
- Leverage media engagements and platforms to highlight our activities.

## Expanding Reach

- Expand the ship visit initiative to more ports across Nigeria.
- Establish a presence at all major ports to widen our reach.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The year 2023 presented both achievements and challenges for NSWBN. Key highlights of the performance are summarized below along with the future outlook.

### Summary of Performance

- Infrastructure upgrades were undertaken at the Tin Can Seafarers' Centre through the repair and reinstallation of 5 tablets and inverter. This enhanced the facilities available to seafarers during port stays.
- Over 20 ship visits were conducted to provide welfare support and relief to seafarers on vessels calling at Nigerian ports.
- New social media channels helped amplify outreach and awareness about NSWBN's efforts among the maritime community.
- A collaborative research study was commenced with MACN and CBi to assess the impact of improved port procedures on seafarers' welfare.
- Through NSWBN's online request for support/funding campaign along with many other maritime organizations' (such as NMNWTSSOA) efforts, funds were raised from donors which enabled a distressed seafarer to undergo life-saving kidney transplant surgery in India.

## QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE

### Q1 Activities

To increase engagement, social media channels were activated for NSWBN and the Apapa Seafarers' Port Welfare Committee (SPWC) on Facebook and LinkedIn. Efforts to create awareness of detained seafarers saw a media chat organized with advocacy made for their release. Three meetings were held during the quarter - two physical meetings at the secretariat and a virtual one hosted by the Apapa SPWC Chairman. Ship visits were also undertaken by the Onne SPWC with five visits conducted from January to March.

### Q2 Activities

The NSWBN participated in a maritime compliance and leadership training in April organized by MACN and CBi which helped build capacity on leadership which applies to the welfare and wellbeing of seafarers. A working visit by MACN and CBi representatives was undertaken to the NSWBN secretariat in May to finalize a collaborative study on assessing the impact of improved port procedures on seafarers' welfare. Nine ship visits were carried out by the Apapa SPWC during this quarter. A meeting was held with the Director of Regions at ISWAN to introduce the new head of the NSWBN secretariat. Preparations for the Day of the Seafarer in June gained momentum with various sub-committees activated.

### **Q3 Activities**

The month of July commenced with a memorable Sea Sunday celebration onboard a vessel with prayers and worship. The increased use of social media helped share updates on nutrition, training, ship visits and advocacy efforts for seafarers. A sensitization session at the secretariat introduced new entrants to seafaring on the work of the Board.

### **Q4 Activities**

The Tin Can facility saw further upgrades with the successful installation of 5 repaired tablets by October. A working visit to NIMASA's Western Zone office explored avenues for collaboration in the region. The Apapa and Tin Can SPCWs jointly visited 6 vessels where seafarers were provided welfare support. The Christmas season was celebrated with heartwarming social media posts for seafarers. As we look back on 2023, NSWBN demonstrated commitment to seafarers' welfare through meaningful initiatives undertaken in collaboration with partners and stakeholders. However, insufficient funding and infrastructure remain ongoing challenges. With dedicated efforts, we aim to accelerate our impact and make a lasting difference in the lives of seafarers nationwide.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES**

Facebook and LinkedIn Pages were created for the National Seafarers' Welfare Board in March 2023. Apapa SPWC had an existing Facebook page, the link was adjusted to a shorter one and a LinkedIn Showcase page was created for the SPWC.

The new Facebook page link of NSWB is <https://www.facebook.com/NSWBN>

The new LinkedIn page link of NSWB is <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-seafarers-welfare-board-of-nigeria/>

Existing Facebook page of Apapa SPWC <https://www.facebook.com/apapaspwc>

New Apapa SPWC LinkedIn showcase page <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/apapaspwc/>

Since the creation of these pages, posts have been uploaded frequently to drive user engagement. More details on engagement are to be published in the NSWB Q2 report of 2023.

**SHIP VISIT BY SEAFARERS' PORT WELFARE COMMITTEES** The Eastern Zone SPWC in Onne port recorded five ship visits within the first quarter of 2023. Onne SPWC however noted that access to the port environment by members of the committee was often a heinous task due to the absence of a branded vehicle for their operations.

ONNE PORT SHIP VISIT IN Q1				
S/N	DATE	NAME OF SHIP	CHALLENGE	REMARK
1.	24/01/2023	MV Desert Seeker	Nil	The crews were hail and hearty
2.	26/01/2023	MV Julius S	Nil	Impressed with the terminal activity
3.	1/02/2023	MT Rose Mary	Natives wooden boat	No adverse report
4.	21/02/2023	MV Kota Satria	Nil	The vessel is very neat and the crew are happy on the job
5.	10/03/2023	MV Ken Moonys	Nil	The ship environment was very satisfactory and crews were up on their routine

#### **MEDIA CHAT ON SEAFARERS HELD IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ACROSS NIGERIA**

A press briefing to create awareness and draw the attention of the outgoing administration to the plight of seafarers held across several correctional facilities was released on the 29th of March, 2023. The Secretary BOT, a Legal advocate/representative of the board and a member of the fourth estate discussed the issue of seafarers in custody. It is also worthy of note that many of these seafarers are victims of blanket arrest and are probably being prosecuted for offences they did not commit. The media chat was also published across our social media platforms. The caption of the press briefing/media chat is

**“Count Down To Power Shift: Seafarers’ Board Seeks Amnesty For 25 Seamen In Prisons”** Available at:  
<https://mmsplusng.com/blog/count-down-to-power-shift-seafarersboard-seeks amnesty-for-25-seamen-in-prisons/>

#### **MEETINGS IN Q1 (JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH)**

##### I. Meeting held at NSWB secretariat on the 8th of February, 2023

This was the first national meeting of the board and was chaired by the Secretary Board of Trustees (BOT). The meeting had in attendance the secretary BOT, Chairman, secretaries and other representatives of Seafarers’ Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs) from Apapa, Tin Can, Onne and Warri ports. Representatives of Nigeria Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association (NMNO/WTSSA) and legal representatives of the Board were present.

##### II. Virtual Meeting by Apapa SPWC on 12th of March, 2023

The virtual meeting was hosted by the chairman, Apapa SPWC. In attendance were the secretary BOT, Chairman, Apapa SPWC, Representatives of NMNO/WTSSA and the Head of the secretariat.

##### III. Meeting held at NSWB secretariat on the 21st of March, 2023

The meeting was held at the NSWB secretariat on the 21st of March, 2023. This was the second national meeting of the board and was chaired by the Secretary Board of Trustees (BOT). The meeting had in attendance the secretary of BOT and chairman, of Seafarers’ Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs), Apapa Port. Representatives of Nigeria Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association (NMNO/WTSSA), legal representative of the Board, the Imam and the head of the secretariat were present.

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN Q2**

**(APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2023)**

### **In the quarter under review, the Board:**

- Attended Maritime Compliance and Leadership Training
- Attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Compliance Round Table Communique
- The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) and Convention on Business Integrity (CBI) paid a working visit to the NSWBN secretariat and held a meeting with the Board
- Conduct Ship Visits
- Held its Monthly Meetings
- Repaired computer tablets at Tin Can Island Portal Cabin
- Organised and celebrate the 2023 Day of the Seafarer (DotS) and visit the seafarers onboard

### **The Maritime Compliance and Leadership Training (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023)**

The **Compliance Function & Leadership in Compliance** was a 2-day training put together by The Convention on Business Integrity (CBI) in partnership with the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) in Lagos. The training prepares maritime industry personnel to be able to address issues of compliance, ethics, corruption and integrity in Nigerian ports, terminals and the broader maritime industry. Participants were also exposed to expert tutoring in leadership, case management and reporting, compliance framework and data/trend analysis.

The representatives of the Board attended the 2-day training, learning new leadership and compliance concepts such as setting the tone at the top, leadership (the 10/10 principle, transformational leadership, etc.), communication (listening, thinking, speaking, writing, collaborating, giving and receiving feedback), training and standard setting among many others. Participants were also brought up to speed on the maritime industry trends in Nigeria, particularly concerning compliance function. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of several maritime organizations/agencies were discussed. The Nigerian Ports Process Manual (NPPM) and the Grievance Reporting Mechanism (GRM) were also discussed.



Members of NSWBN attending the 2-day maritime compliance and leadership training



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Compliance Roundtable Communiqué (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Compliance Roundtable Communiqué: “Maritime Sector Reforms: Consolidating the Gains” was organized by the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FMoT) in collaboration with MACN and CBi. The roundtable communiqué was well attended by government agencies, private sector and other maritime industry stakeholders. The gains and improvements in Nigeria’s seaports and the broader maritime industry arising from policies and initiatives were the highlights of the roundtable communiqué. Some of the gains and improvements within Nigeria’s maritime sector in recent times are the creation of a Port Process Manual (PPM) and the Port Standing Task Team (PSTT), publicly available Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and availability of Port Service Support Portal (PSSP).

The NSWBN representatives contributed meaningfully to the roundtable Communiqué with much more information, trends, developments and happenings within Nigeria’s

### **Hosting of MACN and CBi representatives (May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

The representatives of MACN and CBi paid a working visit to the NSWBN secretariat. MACN was represented by Mr. Vivek Menon, Associate Director of MACN. CBi was represented by Mrs Cynthia Akpomudiare (Chief Executive Officer of CBi), accompanied by Mr Emmanuel Bosah, Mr Maduka Okafor and Miss Mariam Gowon. The essence of the visit was to work out modalities for actualising areas of our cooperation. The meeting also deliberated on the current project which is assessing the impact of improved vessel clearance on seafarers’ experience within Nigerian ports. This study seeks to assess how the recent and ongoing reforms to vessel clearance processes in Nigeria’s seaports and terminals have impacted the well-being and experiences of seafarers. Consequently, a survey link was created for the

collection of seafarers' opinions on the impact of improved vessel clearance on their well-being and experience within Nigerian ports. The survey link: <https://forms.gle/U5Siez4gmmac7na27>

## SHIP VISITS

Apapa Port SPWC recorded nine ship visits within the second quarter of 2023.

APAPA PORT SHIP VISIT IN Q2					
S/N	DATE	NAME OF SHIP	FLAG	NO. OF SEAFARERS	REMARK
1.	22/04/2023	Savanna Breeze	Bahamas	16	Good
2.	22/04/2023	Africa Hope	Panama	22	Good
3.	22/04/2023	Sibulk Tradition	Panama	22	Good
4.	22/04/2023	Elikon	Bahamas	22	Good
5.	18/06/2023	Silver Copenhagen	Norway	14	Good
6.	18/06/2023	Xinwu Xiang Hai	China	22	Good
7.	25/06/2023	MSC Wave F	Liberia	17	Good
8.	25/06/2023	Seaspan Lahore	Hong Kong	27	Good
9.	25/06/2023	MV Grand Mercury	Panama	21	Very good

## Meetings

The first meeting in Q2 was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at Tin Can Island Portal Cabin. Some resolutions from the meeting included the repairs of damaged equipment (tablets, vents and inverters) at the facility and preparation towards the 2023 DotS. The next meeting was a virtual one held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May.



Photo: meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at the Tin Can Island Portal Cabin

A meeting with Mr. Chirag, director of Regions, ISWAN was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The meeting also had in attendance the Secretary BOT of NSWBN, chairmen SPWC of Apapa and Tin Can and the IT/head of secretariat. The essence of the meeting was to introduce the new IT/head of secretariat to ISWAN.

## **Repairs of tablets at Tin Can Island Portal cabin**

As part of efforts to put the Tin Can Island Portal Cabin in proper condition, the five tablets were repaired.

## **2023 Day the Seafarers (DoTS) celebration**

- **Circulation of letters of invitation and request for donation**

Letters were sent out to maritime agencies, companies, associations and organizations. The following are some of the organizations that received either a letter of request for funding/support or an invitation to the program.

- Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
- Nigerian Ports Authority
- Tin Can Island Container Terminal Limited
- Ports and Cargo Handling Services Limited
- Ports and Terminal Multiservice Limited
- Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology
- Five Star Logistics Limited
- Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria
- Nigerian Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association

## **Voluntary Donations**

Members of the Board, Unions and the constituents of SPWCs took the lead and made voluntary donations which are highly appreciated. The list of donations so far includes:

1. Dr. Amos Kuje	-	#100,000
2. NMNOWTSSA	-	#50,000
3. MWUN	-	#50,000
4. Barrister Nwagbara	-	#50,000
5. Mr. Aliyu Maruf	-	#50,000
6. Mrs Yetunde Collins	-	#25,000
7. Mr. Yurkusi Maku Gajere	-	#20,000
8. Mr. Aina Akinbola	-	#30,000
9. Nigerian Maritime Pilot Association	-	#100,000
10. Mr Kayode John Peters	-	#30,000
11. Mr. Anise Bolaji	-	#20,000
<b>Total funds received</b>	=	<b><u>#525,000</u></b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	=	<b><u>#559,800</u></b>

2023 DotS: pictures and videos



The event went quite well, although due to time constraints, some activities were not carried out. Overall, the event can be described as successful.

Below are some of the pictures taken, links to other pictures and videos from the event are also added for reference purposes.



Group picture taken at the end of the Day of the Seafarers event



Barrister Nwagbara – the legal adviser to the Board (chairman of the event)



**Seafarers onboard with the NSWBN team on a courtesy visit on the 2023 Day of the Seafarers Celebration at Tincan Island Port.**



**Cross-section of participants**



Other pictures of the 2023 DotS celebration are available on NSWBN's LinkedIn and Facebook handles.

The 2023 Day of the Seafarer celebration was the last NSWBN activity for the second quarter.

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

### **Training and Sensitization Session at NSWBN Secretariat - August 15, 2023**

Training and sensitization events took place at the NSWBN Secretariat on August 15, 2023. Mr Aina Akinbola, chairman of the Apapa Seafarers Port Welfare Committee (ASPWC), organised the awareness and sensitization session for the seafarers at the NSWBN Secretariat. The session provides valuable insights and information about the importance of welfare and the initiatives undertaken by the NSWBN, on welfare provision to seafarers and the impact on their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. His presentation emphasized that the NSWBN is not just an organisation but an advocacy for support and care amidst the rigours of the seafaring profession.

#### **The following key points were addressed:**

1. Support: Mr Akinbola highlighted the NSWBN's dedication to creating an environment where seafarers are not merely professionals navigating the waters but individuals with a robust support system. This support system ensures their overall well-being mental health, physical fitness, and emotional resilience.
2. Holistic Well-Being: The presentation emphasized the Board's commitment to the holistic well-being of seafarers, recognizing that their welfare extends beyond the confines of their maritime duties. It showcased our initiatives designed to enhance their quality of life both on and off the ship.
3. Professionalism and Care: Mr Akinbola added that professionalism and genuine care for seafarers is key and the Board aims to be a reliable partner through the seafaring journeys, offering guidance, assistance, and a strong support network whenever needed.

The sensitization training session served as a testament to the Board's dedication to seafarers' welfare and well-being. It is through such initiatives that we continue to work towards creating a maritime industry where seafarers are not only skilled professionals but also individuals with access to essential support, ensuring their safety, health, and prosperity.

#### **The sensitization/awareness session**





## SHIP VISITS

### Celebration of Sea Sunday Onboard

As part of the Board's activities, Ship Visit is Key. Aside from the ship visit, we are pleased to report on an event that took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023 – the celebration of Sea Sunday with seafarers onboard.

Sea Sunday was a significant occasion celebrated by numerous Christian churches worldwide. It is a day dedicated to remembering, praying for, and expressing gratitude for seafarers and their families. It serves as an opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of seafarers and the challenges they face while working tirelessly on the high seas.

In line with our commitment to the welfare and well-being of seafarers, the NSWBN join the global Maritime Industry to celebrate the sea-Sunday for seafarers onboard a vessel. The event was marked by a mass conducted by Reverend Father Gabriel, representing the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) onboard at the consent and request of the seafarers.

Key highlights of the event include:

1. Spiritual Nourishment: Father Gabriel presided over a deeply meaningful mass, offering spiritual solace and guidance to seafarers who often spend long periods away from their homes and places of worship. The mass served as a source of comfort and spiritual enrichment for those onboard.
2. Community and Togetherness: The Sea Sunday celebration fostered a sense of community and togetherness among seafarers.
3. Recognition and Appreciation: The event was a heartfelt gesture of recognition and appreciation for seafarers' hard work and sacrifices. It served as a reminder that their contributions to global trade and commerce do not go unnoticed.

4. Prayers and Blessings: During the mass, seafarers and their families were remembered in prayers, and blessings were offered for their safety, well-being, and success in their endeavours.

The Sea Sunday celebration onboard was a meaningful and poignant event, underscoring our commitment to seafarers' welfare beyond the shores. It was an occasion where spirituality, community, and appreciation converged to create a memorable experience for seafarers.







## SOCIAL MEDIA

### NSWBN and SPWCs: Connecting with Seafarers Through social media

In our relentless commitment to seafarers' welfare and well-being, the National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) and its constituent Seafarers' Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs) have leveraged the power of social media to raise awareness and disseminate vital information.

## **Our Social Media Presence:**

You can find us on the following social media platforms:

### **National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria:**

- LinkedIn: [Follow us here](#)

- Facebook: [Like our page](#)

### **Apapa Port Seafarers' Port Welfare Committee:**

- LinkedIn: [Follow us here](#)

- Facebook: [Like our page](#)

## **What We Share:**

Our social media channels serve as dynamic hubs of information and engagement. Here's what you can find:

1. Sea Sunday Celebration: We shared the heartwarming moments of our Sea Sunday celebration, where seafarers were honoured and appreciated.
2. Nutrition Tips: We emphasized the importance of seafarers' health by sharing insights on why seafarers should incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their diets.
3. Training and Awareness: We documented our training and awareness sessions held at the secretariat, ensuring seafarers are well-informed about the resources and support available to them.
4. Environmental Awareness: We celebrated #OzoneLayerDay 2023, underlining the significance of environmental stewardship.
5. World Maritime Day 2023:

The Board joined the global maritime community in celebrating World Maritime Day, highlighting the vital role of seafarers in international trade. Our social media platforms are vibrant spaces where seafarers, their families, and all stakeholders can connect, learn, and stay updated on the latest developments in the maritime industry. NSWBN and constituent SPWCs remain committed to reaching seafarers wherever they are, ensuring their well-being, and providing the support they deserve.

## **MR. TEDDUS MEDICAL CHALLENGE**

In a heartfelt response to the distressing situation faced by Mr Osuchukwu Ndubuisis Teddus, a 37-year-old Maritime engineer battling End Stage Kidney disease, the National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) and its constituent Seafarers' Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs) have taken some actions.

In recognition of Mr Teddus's dire circumstances, NSWBN has initiated an appeal for financial assistance to raise the N15 million required for his life-saving kidney transplant. Urgent appeals for help have been posted on our social media platforms to garner support and raise awareness of Mr Teddus's plight. Furthermore, a formal letter of request for assistance was submitted to the Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). This appeal seeks to mobilize support from relevant authorities and stakeholders to aid Mr Teddus in his journey towards recovery.

#### **Q4 (OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER)**

As we reflect upon the fourth quarter before the year 2024, we are pleased to present the report detailing the activities and achievements. In this quarter, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to advancing welfare and well-being through various initiatives and collaborations. Activities in Q4, 2023 are listed below.

- Events and trainings
- Ship visits
- Social media
- Tin Can Portal Cabin
- Mr Teddus case

### **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

#### **Launch of the renovated Mission to Seafarers (MtS) facility**

In support of her constituents members, the Board participated in the official viewing of the renovated Mission to Seafarers (MtS) facility on October 25th, 2023.

The renovated MtS facility represents a significant step towards creating a more comfortable and welcoming environment for seafarers during their stay in port. NSWBN recognizes the importance of such initiatives in fostering a positive experience for seafarers, contributing to their overall well-being. As part of its ongoing efforts, NSWBN remains dedicated to collaborating with partners to ensure that seafarers receive the support and facilities they deserve while docked in Nigerian ports.









## Working Visit by Members of NSWBN to NIMASA Western Zone

The National Seafarers' Welfare Board of Nigeria (NSWBN) embarked on a significant working visit to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency's (NIMASA) Western Zone on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023. The purpose of this visit was to strengthen collaboration and explore avenues for joint efforts in advancing the welfare and well-being of seafarers in the region.

### Highlights of the Working Visit:

- Introduction and Courtesies:** The visit commenced with Mr. Aina (Chairman Apapa SPWC), expressing gratitude to the coordinator/director of NIMASA Western Zone for the warm reception and the opportunity for this collaborative engagement.
- Presentation by NSWBN:** Mr. Aina led a detailed presentation that introduced NSWBN, its mission, vision, and approaches to achieving its objectives. The presentation covered achievements, the role of Seafarers' Port Welfare Committees (SPWCs), facilities at Apapa and Tin Can ports' Drop-in centres, and statistics on ship visits.
- Coordinator's Observations:** The coordinator of NIMASA Western Zone appreciated the NSWBN team for the visit and made observations. Notably, he suggested presenting the information to the head office for possible support.
- Outcomes and Agreements:** Barrister Emmanuel, representing NSWBN, thanked the coordinator/director for the discussion. The need for more collaboration and working relationships between both organizations was emphasized.









In conclusion, the working visit to NIMASA Western Zone showed keen interest in a working relationship with the Board and ensuring that seafarers' welfare remains at the forefront of maritime activities in the region. This collaborative effort is expected to yield positive outcomes in the coming quarters, further strengthening the support system for seafarers.

## SHIP VISITS 2

During these ship visits, the Board Port Welfare Committee volunteers in Apapa and TinCAN Island interacted with seafarers, to gain valuable insights into their needs and concerns. The focus was on ensuring that seafarers' living conditions, working environments, and overall well-being met international standards.

### APAPA PORT SHIP VISIT IN Q4

S/N	DATE	NAME OF SHIP	FLAG	NO. OF SEAFARERS	REMARK
1.	03/12/2023	Tiger Hebei	Hong Kong	19	Very good
2.	03/12/2023	MV Sea Dhyana	Singapore	20	Very good
3.	31/12/2023	Orange Sea	Bahamas		
4.	31/12/2023	Cape town Eagle	Marshall Island	19	
5.	31/12/2023	Matrix Pride	Nigeria	28	Very good
6.	31/12/2023	Poles	Malta	24	Very good
7.	31/12/2023	Common Calypso	Greece	23	Good

#### **JOINT SHIP VISIT BY APAPA AND TINCAN SPWC IN Q4**

<b>8.</b>	10/12/2023	MV Water Phoenix	Panama	20	Very good
<b>9.</b>	10/12/2023	MV Bulk Bahamas	Liberia	19	Very good
<b>10.</b>	24/12/2023	UML Veronica	Antigua	16	Very good
<b>11.</b>	24/12/2023	Normand Installer	Norway	80	Very good

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Across online channels of Facebook and LinkedIn, the organization shared content, comprised of over 20 impactful posts on each platform. This strategic approach aimed to maximize reach and actively connect with diverse audiences interested in seafarers' welfare and wellbeing.

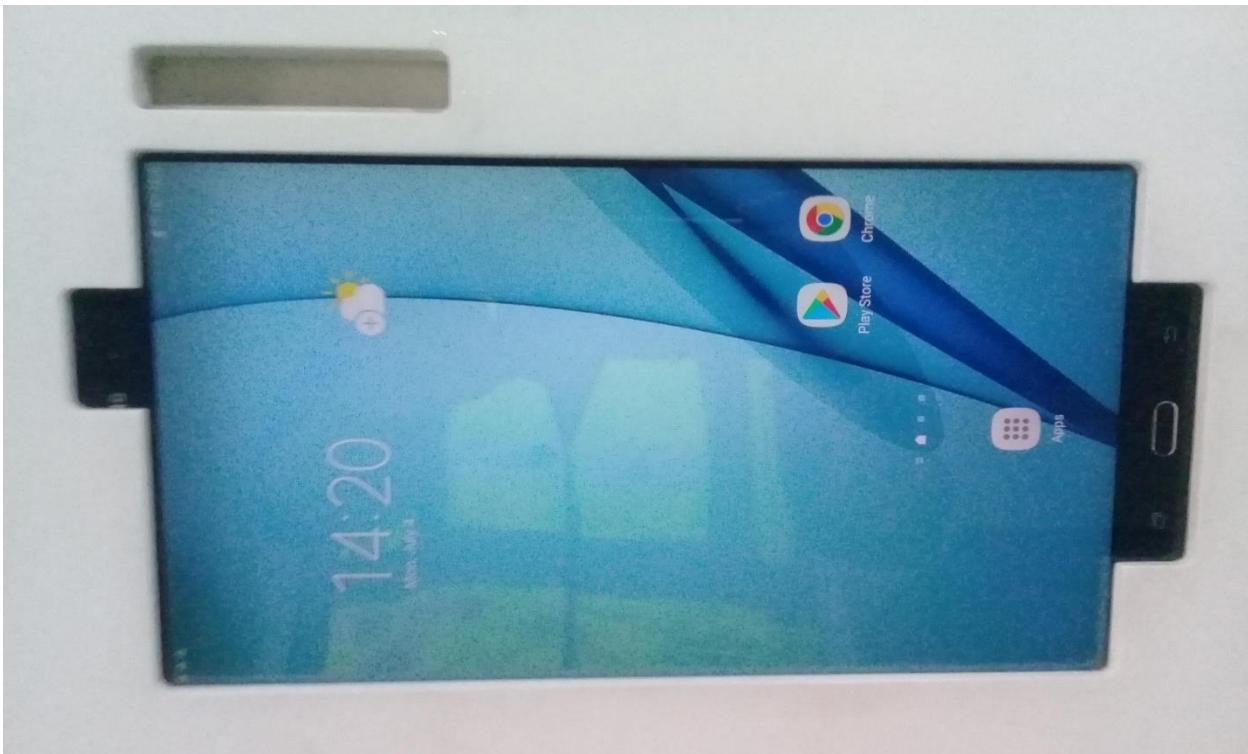
The posts covered different themes, ranging from the observance of World Mental Health Day 2023 to insightful seafarers' advocacy content. NSWBN leveraged its digital presence to amplify messages related to welfare and well-being while also shedding light on crucial conferences and seminars. The organization's commitment to on-the-ground action was evident through posts highlighting impactful ship visits, emphasizing the human side of the maritime industry. As the year drew to a close, NSWBN also ushered in the festive season with heartwarming Christmas and New Year posts, resonating with seafarers and stakeholders alike.

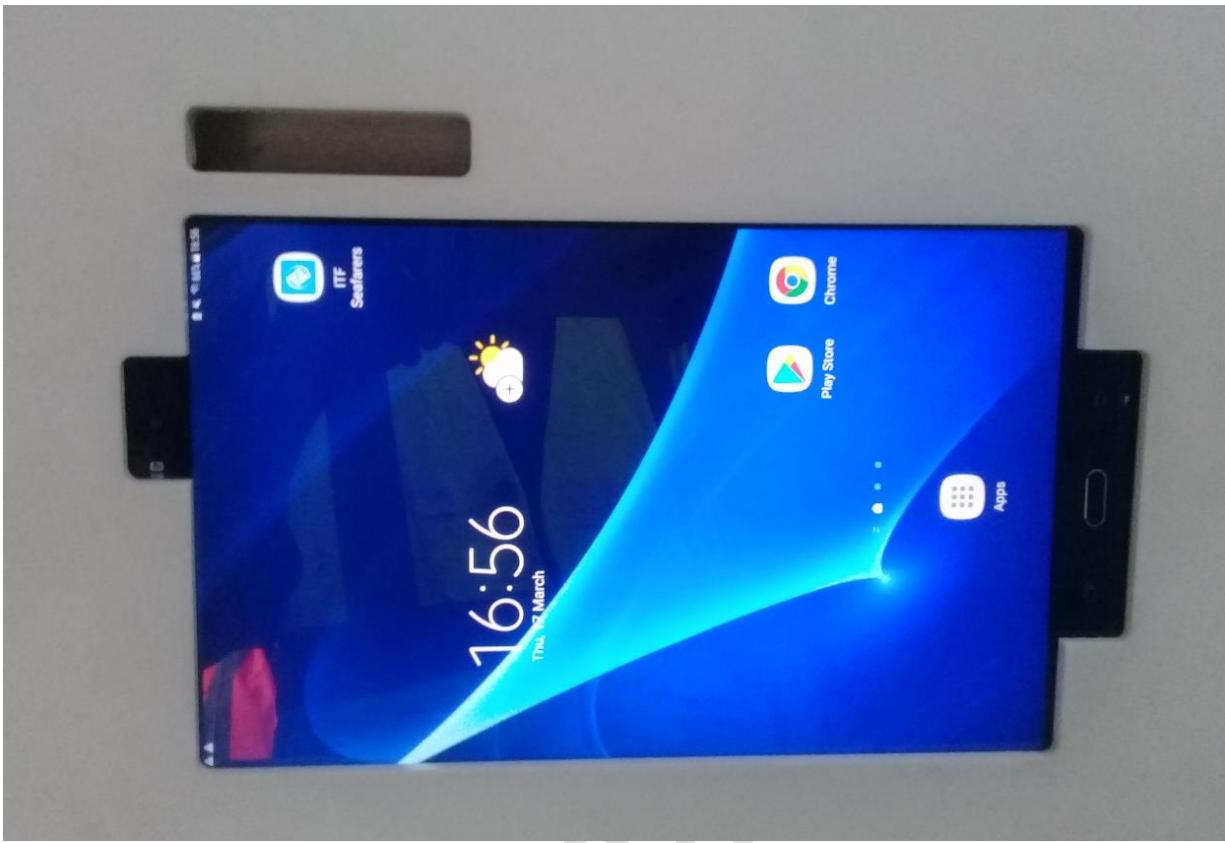
NSWBN not only strengthened its online presence but also fostered a sense of community and support for seafarers' welfare on a global scale. NSWBN's strategic use of social media reflects its dedication to staying connected and making a positive impact in the lives of seafarers.

## **TIN CAN PORTAL CABIN**

In a significant stride towards enhancing seafarers' welfare, the Board achieved a notable milestone in the fourth quarter. The successful installation and connection of the five previously repaired tablets at the Tin Can Island Port Portal Cabin on October 25th marked a pivotal moment in the organization's commitment to providing modern and accessible facilities/emergency centres for seafarers.

These tablets serve as a vital communication link for seafarers, enabling them to stay connected with their families and access essential online services. The completion of this installation aligns with NSWBN's broader mission to create conducive environments for seafarers during their port stays. The organization recognizes the importance of digital connectivity for seafarers, especially amid the challenges posed by the maritime environment.







Signed

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