

Nigerian Ports Authority New Measure to Reduce Congestion in Lagos Ports

30 January 2020



Largest Nigerian Ports

The Nigerian Ports Authority issued a press release on 24 January describing new measures intended to reduce congestion in the Lagos Port Complex or Western Ports.

The Western Ports comprise Apapa Port Complex, Lagos and the Tin-can Island Port Complex, Lagos. Both ports have five terminals which handle a range of cargoes from bulk, general cargo, container and ro-ro.

As of 27 January 2020, vessels that have had to wait to berth at a specific terminal within the Lagos Pilotage District will be diverted to an alternative terminal within the same district.

If no suitable terminal is available within four days, vessels will be diverted to one of the Eastern ports outside the Lagos pilotage district.

The Eastern Ports comprise Rivers Port, Onne Port, Calabar Port and Delta Port. The Rivers Port has two terminals that handle liquid, dry and bulk cargoes. Onne Port is one of the largest oil and gas free zone ports in the world and has four terminals that handle container, oil and gas, dry or wet bulk as well as general cargoes and other logistic services.

Delta Port has eight terminals which handle multipurpose cargoes, while Calabar Port has three terminals which mainly handle oil and gas cargoes. The numerous other private jetties that exist within the vicinity of these ports are mainly used for receiving oil tankers discharging refined oil and gas cargoes into tank farms.

The decision to deviate vessels to the Eastern Ports is one of several measures taken to reduce congestion in the Western Ports and boost traffic in the underused Eastern Ports.

In June 2019 the Nigerian Ports Authority announced a 10% reduction in harbor dues for the following vessels calling in the Eastern Ports:

1. container vessels with at least 250 twenty-foot equivalent units;
2. general cargo vessels with at least 16,000 metric tonnes;
3. combo vessels with at least 16,000 metric tonnes;
4. roll-on-roll-off vessels with at least 250 units of vehicles.

The Nigeria Ports Authority has also invested to improve facilities in Onne and Warri but the channels of some of the smaller Eastern Ports (e.g. Koko) are too shallow to accommodate larger vessels.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Budd Nigeria (budd.nigeria@budd-pni.com).

Information provided by Budd Nigeria.