

COURTESY VISIT TO THE PORT MANAGER, NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY, RIVERS PORT COMPLEX, PORT HARCOURT



On the 7th of February 2025, the Rivers/Bayelsa States Branch of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Nigeria, (CILTN) paid a courtesy visit to the Port Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Rivers Port Complex, Port Harcourt, Mrs. Kenechi Edith Okezie, CMILT, FICA, MBA (Mgt).

The visiting delegation was composed of Executive Committee members, Modal Representatives, top maritime academicians from Rivers State University, and other seasoned logistics and transport professionals. The visit aimed to strengthen the mutual responsibilities and partnerships between the port, the maritime industry, and logistics professionals, recognizing the critical role of ports in national economic development.

During the interactive session, key discussions focused on the strategic role of Nigerian ports, particularly the Rivers Port Complex, in sustaining and driving the nation's economy. The delegation highlighted the evolution of global supply chain models and the need for Nigerian ports to rapidly adapt to ensure resilience and efficiency in the economy.

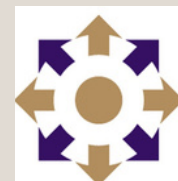
As the primary gateway to trade, commerce, and industrial productivity, the port's performance is instrumental in shaping economic outcomes at both national and international levels.

One of the central themes of the visit was the necessity of fostering closer partnerships between the CILT and the port management to enhance human resource capacity and operational efficiency. It was emphasized that leveraging the Institute's expertise would significantly contribute to optimizing the port's manpower base, ensuring a more structured and professional approach to logistics and transport management.

The discussion further examined the broader port community's dynamics, including terminal operators, host communities advocating for greater inclusion, port users, and the overarching role of national security. Recognizing the multi-faceted nature of port operations, both parties acknowledged that a well-managed and cohesive port community directly impacts trade facilitation, logistics efficiency, and economic growth.

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In recognition of her outstanding contributions to port management, logistics enhancement, and continuous support for professional development within the sector, the CILT Nigeria represented by Rivers/Bayelsa Branch presented an Award of Excellence to Mrs. Kenechi Edith Okezie. Her commitment to improving the operational efficiency of the Rivers Port and strengthening collaborations within the logistics and transport industry was commended as a model for other port administrators.

The visit concluded with a call for continued cooperation and institutional support between the NPA and CILT.

Despite prevailing economic challenges, it was underscored that sustaining these engagements would be crucial in advancing the efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness of Nigerian ports.

Mrs. Okezie reaffirmed the port management's commitment to working closely with CILT in fostering policies and initiatives that will enhance logistics operations, maritime trade, and port efficiency.

She acknowledged the vital role of the Institute in shaping industry standards and

expressed readiness to support its initiatives aimed at bridging knowledge gaps and fostering innovation in the maritime and logistics sectors.

As global trade dynamics continue to evolve, the Nigerian logistics and transport industry must remain agile in its approach to port management and supply chain integration.

The visit by CILT Rivers/Bayelsa underscores the imperative for strategic collaboration, capacity building, and sustained engagement between professional bodies and key industry stakeholders.



The discussions and resolutions from this meeting serve as a blueprint for future engagements, reinforcing the need for ports to continuously adapt to modern supply chain demands while upholding global best practices in logistics and transport management.

With strengthened partnerships, Nigerian ports can achieve greater operational efficiency, enhance economic resilience, and further cement their role as critical enablers of national growth and development.

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