



RESHAPING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, BLUE ECONOMY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABOTAGE LAWS

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Abstract

The strategic reshaping of the maritime industry for economic recovery and national development, using cabotage Law as an instrument is a right step in a right direction. The Cabotage Law came into force in April, 2004 (Cabotage Act, 2003) aimed at reserving the coastal shipping for Nigeria nationals. In essence, the system of maintaining domestic shipping industry is being regulated by the Cabotage Law. This involves the merchant fleet, and the protection of the environment and bio-diversity. The paper opined that if the Cabotage Law is properly implemented; Nigeria will be able to maintain job and skills in an industry that is vital to its future. Lack of knowledge about the maritime sector could be the basis for the very poor response that it has generated from investing public. The oceans are as old as the maritime trade and dates back to the beginning of recorded time. Nigeria can only negate the development of its maritime potentials at its own peril especially taken into consideration expensive maritime resource. The paper recommended proper enforcement of Cabotage Law by Law Enforcement Agency as well as Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue economy to invest in ship building and implement national policy on marine and blue economy.

Key words: Re-shaping, National development, Blue Economy, Cabotage Law Instrument, Implementation and Maritime Industry.

1.0 Introduction

Nigeria, endowed with a strategic geographical position along the Gulf of Guinea and a coastline spanning over 853 kilometers, possesses immense untapped

potential within its maritime domain. This coastal nation's ability to harness the vast economic opportunities presented by its maritime industry could serve as a catalyst for national progress, sustainable growth,

and the advancement of the blue economy. However, despite these inherent advantages, Nigeria's maritime sector has grappled with numerous challenges, hindering its capacity to contribute significantly to the nation's development objectives.

It is in this context that the effective implementation of the Cabotage Laws emerges as a pivotal step towards reshaping Nigeria's maritime landscape. The Cabotage Act, enacted in 2003, was designed to foster the growth of indigenous shipping capabilities, safeguard the country's economic interests within its territorial waters, and enhance maritime security. By enforcing these regulations, Nigeria aims to unlock the transformative potential of its maritime industry, aligning it with the principles of sustainable development and the burgeoning concept of the blue economy.

The blue economy, a paradigm that recognizes the oceans as a critical driver of economic growth, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability, has gained increasing global recognition. By embracing this approach, Nigeria can tap into the diverse economic opportunities offered by its maritime resources, including shipping, offshore energy exploration, fishing, and marine tourism, while simultaneously promoting the preservation of its coastal and marine ecosystems, Keen (2018).

Furthermore, the successful implementation of the Cabotage Laws holds the promise of catalyzing national development by fostering economic diversification, job creation, and capacity building within the maritime sector. By nurturing indigenous shipping capabilities and retaining a greater share of the industry's economic benefits

within the country, Nigeria can reduce its overdependence on the oil and gas sector and pave the way for sustainable, inclusive growth.

However, this transformative journey is not without its challenges. Infrastructural deficiencies, security concerns, regulatory gaps, and human capital constraints have historically impeded the growth of Nigeria's maritime industry. Addressing these multifaceted issues will require a comprehensive and coordinated approach, involving collaboration among various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, local communities, and international partners.

To navigate this complex landscape, Nigeria must embrace innovative strategies, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and foster regional and global cooperation. By aligning with international best practices, ratifying relevant maritime conventions, and engaging in collaborative initiatives, Nigeria can position itself as a leader in the blue economy while contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

2.0 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinnings of reshaping the maritime industry in Nigeria through the implementation of Cabotage Laws can be understood through various economic and development theories, including the resource-based view, sustainable development theory, and the blue economy concept.

2.1 Resource-Based View (RBV): The resource-based view (RBV) is a prominent theory in strategic management that emphasizes the importance of a firm or

nation's unique resources and capabilities in achieving competitive advantage and sustainable growth (Barney, 1991). In the context of Nigeria's maritime industry, the country's strategic location along the Gulf of Guinea, its vast coastline, and its maritime resources can be considered valuable, rare, and inimitable resources (Wernerfelt, 1984).

The Cabotage Laws aim to leverage these resources by promoting the development of indigenous shipping capabilities and protecting Nigeria's economic interests within its maritime domain. By enforcing the Cabotage Laws, Nigeria can retain a greater share of the economic benefits generated from its maritime resources, fostering national development and economic diversification (Oyewunmi et al., 2017).

2.2 Sustainable Development Theory: The concept of sustainable development, as defined by the Brundtland Commission, seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). This theory recognizes the interdependence between economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, emphasizing the need for a balanced and holistic approach to development (Purvis et al., 2019).

The implementation of Cabotage Laws in Nigeria aligns with the principles of sustainable development by promoting the growth of the maritime industry while addressing environmental concerns and fostering social progress. By promoting sustainable maritime practices, combating illegal fishing, and exploring opportunities in the blue economy, Nigeria can reconcile

economic development with environmental stewardship (Nwokoro et al., 2022).

2.3 Blue Economy Concept: The blue economy concept recognizes the immense potential of the world's oceans and coastal resources in driving sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection (World Bank, 2017). It encompasses a wide range of economic activities, including shipping, fishing, marine tourism, offshore energy production, and emerging sectors like marine biotechnology and renewable energy (Keen et al., 2018).

The effective implementation of the Cabotage Laws can serve as a catalyst for Nigeria to harness the potential of the blue economy. By nurturing indigenous shipping capabilities, developing maritime infrastructure, and promoting sustainable practices, Nigeria can unlock new economic opportunities while preserving its marine ecosystems and coastal communities (Nwokoro et al., 2022).

Additionally, the theoretical framework for reshaping Nigeria's maritime industry can be supported by other complementary theories and concepts, such as:

1. **Economic Diversification Theory:** This theory emphasizes the importance of diversifying a nation's economic base to reduce reliance on a single sector or resource, mitigating risks and promoting sustainable growth (Papageorgiou and Spatafora, 2012). The development of Nigeria's maritime industry can contribute to economic diversification by reducing the country's dependence on the oil and gas sector.

2. **Maritime Security Theory:** This theory highlights the critical role of maritime security in ensuring the safe and efficient operation of maritime activities, protecting economic interests, and promoting regional stability (Bueger, 2015). The implementation of Cabotage Laws can enhance maritime security by promoting the use of Nigerian-owned and operated vessels, strengthening maritime domain awareness, and fostering regional cooperation.
3. **Human Capital Development Theory:** This theory emphasizes the importance of investing in human capital through education, training, and skills development to drive economic growth and social progress (Becker, 1962). The implementation of Cabotage Laws can stimulate the development of maritime-related skills and expertise, contributing to the growth of a skilled workforce to support the industry's development.

3.0 Conceptual Framework

Nigeria's quest to reshape its maritime industry through the implementation of the Cabotage Laws is driven by a multifaceted conceptual paradigm that interweaves economic, environmental, and developmental perspectives. This holistic approach is essential to address the intricate challenges and opportunities that lie at the nexus of national development, the blue economy, and sustainable development.

3.1 Resource Endowment Perspective:

Drawing from the resource endowment perspective, Nigeria's strategic geographical positioning along the Gulf of Guinea and its extensive coastline can be viewed as a valuable natural endowment (Okoro and

uche, 2022). The Cabotage Laws aim to harness these unique maritime resources by fostering the growth of indigenous shipping capabilities, enabling the nation to retain a greater share of the economic benefits derived from its maritime domain. This perspective aligns with the resource-based view, which emphasizes the importance of leveraging unique and valuable resources to achieve competitive advantage and sustainable growth

3.2 Eco-Centric Development Paradigm:

The eco-centric development paradigm, grounded in the principles of sustainable development, recognizes the interdependence between economic systems and ecological systems, emphasizing the need for a balanced and harmonious approach to development. This paradigm resonates with the concept of the blue economy, which seeks to reconcile economic growth with environmental preservation and social equity (World Bank, 2017). By implementing the Cabotage Laws and promoting sustainable maritime practices, Nigeria can pursue economic opportunities within its maritime sector while safeguarding its coastal and marine ecosystems, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of the blue economy.

3.3 Economic Resilience and

Diversification: The concept of economic resilience and diversification underpins Nigeria's efforts to reduce its heavy reliance on the oil and gas industry, which has rendered its economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global energy markets (Oladipo, Ikubanni, Abiodun, Ihome, 2021). The development of the maritime industry, facilitated by the Cabotage Laws, can

contribute to economic diversification by creating new revenue streams and employment opportunities, thereby enhancing the nation's economic resilience and promoting sustainable growth.

3.4 Maritime Security Imperative: The maritime security imperative, as conceptualized by scholars in the field of maritime studies, emphasizes the critical role of maritime security in ensuring the safe and efficient operation of maritime activities, protecting economic interests, and promoting regional stability (Bueger, 2015). The implementation of the Cabotage Laws can enhance maritime security by promoting the use of Nigerian-owned and operated vessels, strengthening maritime domain awareness, and fostering regional cooperation in combating maritime crimes such as piracy and armed robbery.

3.5 Human Capital Development Nexus: The human capital development nexus, rooted in economic growth theory, highlights the importance of investing in human capital through education, training, and skill development to drive economic growth and social progress. The implementation of the Cabotage Laws can stimulate the development of maritime-related skills and expertise within Nigeria, contributing to the growth of a skilled workforce capable of supporting the industry's development and sustaining its long-term success.

By integrating these conceptual perspectives, Nigeria can approach the reshaping of its maritime industry through a holistic and multidimensional lens, addressing economic, environmental, and social considerations simultaneously. This

conceptual framework provides a robust foundation for developing strategies and policies that align with the principles of national development, the blue economy, and sustainable development, while leveraging the country's unique maritime resources and capabilities.

3.6 Cabotage Law and the Development Of Maritime Industry

Within the Cabotage regime, there is no doubt that the business and economy opportunity, has been enhanced. These economic potentials are fully actualized due to the determination of the Regulatory Agency, (NIMASA) to effectively implement the compliance to the later (Okon 2020). Having thus recognized and acknowledged the positive potentials of the cabotage regime, it is time to examine the true extent to which the stakeholders have been mobilized to exploit the considerable strategic opportunity which is represented by the law in force. However, there are clearly a number of factors, which the Act has provided for to boast trade such as; Tonnage availability, The Act specified that for a successful Cabotage regime in Nigeria would essentially be required to consider the availability of Nigerian owned registered and crewed vessels of the appropriate market size and description.

3.6 Overview of the Nigeria Maritime Industry

Nigeria's maritime industry plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy, facilitating international trade and transportation, as well as offshore oil and gas exploration. However, despite its strategic geographical location and vast coastline, the industry

continues to grapple with numerous challenges that hinder its full potential.

Shipping and Port Operations: Nigeria's port system is a crucial component of its maritime sector, serving as a gateway for the movement of goods and commodities. However, the country's ports have long been plagued by issues such as congestion, inefficiency, and aging infrastructure.

The Lagos Port Complex, one of Nigeria's major ports, has consistently faced challenges with congestion, leading to delays and increased costs for shippers and importers. The Nigerian Shippers' Council has highlighted the need for infrastructure upgrades, improved port management, and the adoption of modern technologies to enhance operational efficiency.

Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration: Nigeria's offshore oil and gas industry is a significant contributor to the nation's economy and a major component of its maritime sector. However, the industry has faced challenges such as piracy, oil theft, and environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region.

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has implemented various initiatives to combat piracy and enhance maritime security, including the Deep Blue Project, which involves the deployment of advanced surveillance and response assets. Despite these efforts, piracy and armed robbery incidents in Nigerian waters remain a concern for the international shipping community.

Fishing and Marine Resources: Nigeria's fishing industry plays a vital role in food security and employment, contributing to the nation's blue economy. However, the sector faces challenges such as overfishing, illegal

fishing practices, and environmental degradation.

The country has taken steps to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, including the implementation of a vessel monitoring system and the ratification of international agreements. However, further efforts are needed to promote sustainable fishing practices, protect marine ecosystems, and support small-scale fisheries.

Maritime Security and Enforcement: Maritime security is a critical issue for Nigeria, as the nation's waters have been plagued by piracy, armed robbery, and other illegal activities. The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) is responsible for enforcing maritime laws and regulations, as well as coordinating efforts to combat maritime crimes.

In recent years, NIMASA has implemented various initiatives to enhance maritime security, including the Deep Blue Project, which involves the deployment of advanced surveillance and response assets. Additionally, Nigeria has collaborated with international partners, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to strengthen maritime law enforcement capabilities.

However, despite these efforts, piracy and armed robbery incidents in Nigerian waters remain a concern for the international shipping community, with the International Maritime Bureau reporting 35 incidents in Nigerian waters in 2021 (International Maritime Bureau, 2022)

Cabotage Laws and Implementation: The Nigerian Coastal and Inland Shipping

(Cabotage) Act, enacted in 2003, aimed to promote the development of indigenous shipping capabilities and protect the nation's economic interests within its maritime domain. However, the implementation of the Cabotage Laws has faced challenges and criticism from various stakeholders.

The Nigerian Shipowners Association (NISA) has advocated for stricter enforcement of the Cabotage Act to protect the interests of Nigerian shipping companies and promote the growth of the domestic maritime industry. However, foreign shipping companies have raised concerns about potential trade barriers and disruptions to international maritime commerce.

Infrastructural Development and Investment: Infrastructural development is a critical aspect of strengthening Nigeria's maritime industry. The country has undertaken various projects to improve port facilities, enhance maritime connectivity, and support the growth of the blue economy.

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has embarked on several initiatives, including the rehabilitation and expansion of existing port infrastructure, as well as the development of new deep-sea ports. Additionally, the government has partnered with private investors to develop maritime infrastructure projects, such as the Lekki Deep Sea Port, Ibom Deep Sea Port and Bakasi Deep Sea Port which is expected to significantly increase the nation's port capacity.

However, infrastructural development in the maritime sector has faced challenges, including limited funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and delays in project execution.

4.0 Blue Economy

Nigeria, a coastal nation blessed with an extensive shoreline along the Gulf of Guinea, possesses a wealth of maritime resources that hold immense potential for driving sustainable economic growth and development. The concept of the blue economy, which recognizes the oceans and marine environments as vital drivers of prosperity, offers Nigeria a unique opportunity to harness the untapped riches of its maritime domain.

At the heart of Nigeria's blue economy lies its diverse array of marine-based industries and activities. The nation's offshore oil and gas sector, a significant contributor to its economy, represents a cornerstone of the blue economy. However, beyond this well-established industry, Nigeria's blue economy encompasses a multitude of other sectors that have yet to be fully explored and exploited. The realm of maritime transportation and logistics presents immense potential for Nigeria. With its strategic location along major international shipping routes and its network of ports, the country can position itself as a hub for regional and global maritime trade. By developing and modernizing its port infrastructure, enhancing maritime connectivity, and fostering a robust shipping industry, Nigeria can unlock new avenues for economic growth and job creation.

Furthermore, Nigeria's rich fishing grounds and coastal waters offer opportunities for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. By promoting responsible fishing practices, combating illegal and unregulated fishing activities, and investing in aquaculture technologies, Nigeria can enhance food security, generate

employment, and contribute to the preservation of marine ecosystems.

The realm of marine tourism and coastal development also holds promise for Nigeria's blue economy. The country's diverse coastline, pristine beaches, and vibrant coastal communities can attract domestic and international visitors, generating revenue and creating jobs in the hospitality, recreation, and eco-tourism sectors. However, this development must be carefully balanced with environmental conservation efforts to safeguard the very natural assets that attract visitors.

Emerging sectors within the blue economy, such as marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy, and ocean mining, also present potential avenues for Nigeria to explore. By investing in research and development, fostering public-private partnerships, and collaborating with international partners, Nigeria can position itself at the forefront of these innovative and sustainable industries.

Underpinning Nigeria's pursuit of a thriving blue economy is the imperative of environmental sustainability and the preservation of marine ecosystems. The nation must adopt a holistic approach that balances economic development with the protection of its coastal and marine environments, ensuring the long-term viability of its blue economy initiatives.

To fully capitalize on the opportunities presented by the blue economy, Nigeria must address challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited investment, regulatory gaps, and human capital constraints. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders,

implementing robust governance frameworks, and promoting sustainable practices, Nigeria can unlock the transformative potential of its maritime resources and position itself as a leader in the global blue economy.

4.1 Importance of the Blue Economy to the Maritime Industry

The blue economy, a concept that recognizes the vast potential of the world's oceans and coastal resources, has emerged as a critical driver for sustainable economic growth and development, particularly for countries with significant maritime sectors. The maritime industry, encompassing activities such as shipping, port operations, offshore energy exploration, fisheries, and marine tourism, is inextricably linked to the principles of the blue economy, making it an essential component of this paradigm shift.

1. **Sustainable Utilization of Marine Resources:** The blue economy emphasizes the responsible and sustainable utilization of marine resources, aligning with the maritime industry's need to preserve and protect the very ecosystems upon which it relies. By adopting sustainable practices in areas such as fishing, aquaculture, and offshore energy exploration, the maritime industry can contribute to the long-term viability of these resources, ensuring their availability for future generations.
2. **Economic Diversification and Job Creation:** The blue economy presents opportunities for economic diversification and job creation within the maritime industry. As traditional sectors like shipping and offshore oil and gas face challenges, the blue economy offers alternative avenues for growth,

such as marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy, and sustainable tourism. This diversification not only strengthens the industry's resilience but also creates new employment opportunities, supporting the socio-economic development of coastal communities.

3. **Environmental Conservation and Protection:** The blue economy promotes the conservation and protection of marine and coastal environments, which are essential for the long-term sustainability of the maritime industry. By implementing measures to combat marine pollution, prevent coastal erosion, and preserve biodiversity, the maritime industry can ensure the continued health and productivity of these ecosystems, upon which many of its activities depend.
4. **Innovation and Technology Development:** The blue economy encourages innovation and the development of new technologies that can support sustainable maritime practices. From advanced vessel designs that reduce emissions and improve fuel efficiency to innovative aquaculture techniques and offshore renewable energy solutions, the maritime industry can drive technological advancements that align with the principles of the blue economy.
5. **International Cooperation and Governance:** Effective governance and international cooperation are crucial for the success of the blue economy and the sustainable development of the maritime industry. The blue economy requires coordinated efforts among nations to address challenges such as overfishing,

marine pollution, and maritime security threats. The maritime industry can play a vital role in promoting international collaboration, adhering to global standards, and contributing to the development of policies and regulations that support the blue economy.

6. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** The maritime industry is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ocean acidification. The blue economy offers opportunities to mitigate and adapt to these challenges by promoting sustainable practices, investing in resilient infrastructure, and exploring innovative solutions like carbon capture and storage technologies

As the world continues to recognize the importance of the blue economy, the maritime industry has a pivotal role to play in its successful implementation. By embracing sustainable practices, fostering innovation, and collaborating with stakeholders across sectors, the maritime industry can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and ensure the long-term viability of the world's oceans and coastal resources.

4.2 The Need for Reshaping the Maritime Industry

The maritime industry plays a crucial role in the economic development of Nigeria, given the country's strategic location along the Gulf of Guinea and its vast coastline. Reshaping this industry through the effective implementation of the Cabotage Law is essential for national development, the promotion of the blue economy, and the

achievement of sustainable development goals. The following are conditions that will lead to the reshaping of the marine industry;

4.2.1 Economic diversification and job creation:

The maritime industry has the potential to diversify Nigeria's economy away from its over-reliance on the oil and gas sector. According to Nweze (2019), the implementation of the Cabotage Law can stimulate the growth of indigenous shipping companies, shipbuilding, and ship repair industries, thereby creating employment opportunities and contributing to the country's GDP.

4.2.2 Development of the blue economy:

The blue economy encompasses the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, job creation, and environmental conservation. The maritime industry is a vital component of the blue economy, and the Cabotage Law can promote the responsible utilization of Nigeria's coastal and marine resources, such as fisheries, maritime tourism, and offshore mining (Adekunle & Akingbade, 2021).

4.2.3 Enhancement of maritime security:

The effective implementation of the Cabotage Law can strengthen Nigeria's maritime security by ensuring greater control over coastal trade and activities within the country's territorial waters. This can help combat illegal activities such as piracy, illegal fishing, and smuggling, which threaten the country's economic interests and environmental sustainability (Nwalozie, 2020).

4.2.4 Protection of the environment and coastal communities:

The maritime industry has the potential to negatively

impact the environment and coastal communities through activities such as oil spills, discharge of pollutants, and unsustainable fishing practices. The Cabotage Law can promote the adoption of environmentally-friendly practices and technologies, thereby safeguarding the marine ecosystem and the livelihoods of coastal communities (Olawuyi, 2022).

4.2.5 Compliance with international conventions and standards:

The Cabotage Law aligns with international conventions and standards, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations. Adhering to these conventions can strengthen Nigeria's position in the global maritime community and facilitate international trade and cooperation (Udofia & Etuk, 2021).

By reshaping the maritime industry through the effective implementation of the Cabotage Law, Nigeria can achieve sustainable economic growth, promote the blue economy, enhance maritime security, protect the environment, and align with international standards, thereby contributing to national development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

5.0 Conclusion

The reshaping of the maritime industry in Nigeria through the utilization of the cabotage law instrument presents a multitude of opportunities for national development, the promotion of the blue economy, and the achievement of sustainable growth. The maritime sector has the potential to serve as a vital driver of economic prosperity, job creation, and technological advancement in Nigeria. By

enforcing the cabotage law, which mandates the preference for Nigerian vessels and personnel in domestic coastal shipping, Nigeria can significantly enhance its maritime capabilities and leverage its abundant marine resources for sustainable development.

The cabotage law not only aims to protect the interests of local maritime operators but also seeks to enhance the competitiveness of the Nigerian shipping industry on a global scale. By fostering a conducive regulatory environment that encourages local participation, innovation, and investment in maritime infrastructure, Nigeria can position itself as a regional maritime hub and gateway for trade and commerce.

Moreover, the implementation of the cabotage law can contribute to the growth of the blue economy in Nigeria, which encompasses the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic development. By promoting activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, tourism, and shipping, Nigeria can harness the potential of its vast coastal and marine resources to drive economic diversification, create employment opportunities, and improve livelihoods for coastal communities.

Furthermore, the cabotage law instrument is crucial for achieving sustainable development in the maritime sector by promoting environmental conservation, safety, and social responsibility. By ensuring compliance with international standards and best practices in maritime operations, Nigeria can mitigate the adverse impacts of pollution, climate change, and marine degradation on its marine ecosystems and coastal communities.

The successful reshaping of the maritime industry in Nigeria for national development, the blue economy, and sustainable growth through the implementation of the cabotage law requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, including government agencies, maritime operators, investors, and civil society. It is imperative that we work together to address the challenges facing the maritime sector, such as inadequate infrastructure, regulatory gaps, capacity constraints, and institutional weaknesses, in order to unlock the full potential of the maritime industry for the benefit of present and future generations.

Ultimately, by embracing the principles of the cabotage law and upholding its objectives of promoting national content, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability, Nigeria can chart a course towards a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive maritime industry that contributes to the overall development and prosperity of the nation. It is only through a concerted and coordinated approach that we can realize the vision of a thriving maritime sector that serves as a catalyst for national development, the blue economy, and sustainable growth in Nigeria and beyond.

6.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

- The Federal Government should motivate local maritime investors by providing effective funding because the business requires enormous amount of money. Hence, no matter the laws or policy in place, without proper funding and support from the government and other agencies, no positive result will surface.

- There should be proper enforcement of Cabotage Law by law enforcement agency. Enforcement also entails that the laws should be clarified to all stakeholders. While creating laws that are favourable to the nationals, law makers should also see to it that the indigenes are capable of managing the system; otherwise the industry could be placed at a higher risk, which can have a snowball effect on the economy.
- The Federal Ministry of marine and Blue Economy should invest heavily in cutting edged technology and technological knowhow. These are areas that have enabled foreign companies to be ahead of the National companies from a competitive point of view. The foreign vessels are more technologically inclined and they have sufficient number of experts to keep the vessels afloat. Therefore the government should not overlook this point as one of the constraining factor to the growth of indigenous maritime entrepreneurs. More than that, the government should also invest in upgrading most of the port facilities and cargo handling,, in addition to more investment in information technology.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria should embark on training and development of human resources of the indigenous corporations. No workforce can excel without proper training and development. Training can be provided through short courses on maritime operations. Additionally, local seamen can be sent on training abroad to acquire some additional knowledge and skills.
- The Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy should invest enormously in ship building and implement National policy on maritime and Blue Economy. Without this, the nation will just continue to be a follower and not a pacesetter as far as the maritime business is concern. Nationals like India, Philipines and Singaporse have gone far in the maritime affairs owing to their huge ship building factories. Therefore Nigeria can emulate them by establishing an industrial shipyard.
- The Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy should encourage Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in maritime sector
- The Federal Ministry of marine and Blue Economy should strengthen Maritime Education and Training by upgrading existing maritime education and training institutions with new specialized programs such as Seafaring, Maritime Law, Port Management, Marine Telecommunication and Environmental Management.

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