



# Report of Roundtable on Domestic Export Warehouse

JANUARY 2022

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## About ACCI

Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in August of 1986 as a Company Limited by Guarantee with the principal objective of promoting economic and industrial development within the FCT in particular and Nigeria in general. Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, member-funded Organization solely representing the common interests of the business community in the FCT.



## About National Chamber Policy Centre (NCPC)

The NCPC is the policy Centre of the chamber movement in Nigeria domiciled with the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The center dwells on policy research, briefs, roundtables, conferences and sectoral reviews, targeting pro-business laws and regulations to promote public policies that strengthens business.



## About Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the Federal Government of Nigeria's apex institution for the promotion, development and diversification of exports.



## About Kaduna Inland Dry Port (KIDP)

Kaduna Inland Dry Port (KIDP) is a subsidiary of Inland Containers Nigeria Limited (ICNL). The Federal Government of Nigeria granted an approval for the Kaduna bonded terminal to be upgraded to the status of a dry port, now operating as a port of origin for export and port of destination for import (first of its kind in the country)/ hinterland and land lock neighbouring countries with no sea ports like Niger Republic, Chad etc. Kaduna Inland Dry Port is equipped to handle more than 29,000 containers per annum.



## About NAFDAC

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) regulate and control the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale and use of Food, Drugs, Cosmetics, Medical Devices, Packaged Water, Chemicals and Detergents (collectively known as regulated products). The agency was officially established in October 1992.



## About Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

The Commission was established by the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA) 2018 to, among others, develop and promote fair, efficient and competitive markets in the Nigerian economy, facilitate access by all citizens to safe products, and secure the protection of rights for all consumers in Nigeria.



## About National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

NDLEA is in charge of drug policy and control in Nigeria. Within this purview, the Agency has the mandate to curtail illicit production, importation, exportation, sale and trafficking of psychoactive substances. Employees of NDLEA carry out interdiction and destruction of narcotic drugs and other illicit substances. They also engage in preventive drug abuse activities such as advocacy and counselling, and rehabilitation



## About STANDARDS ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA

SON was established by SON Act No. 14, 2015, which repeals the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, Cap 59 laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the STANDARDS ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA Act. 2015 for the purpose of providing additional functions for the organisation, increasing penalty for violation, and for related matters.

## Objectives

Assess and review the implementation of the Domestic Export Warehouse programme

**1**

Generate and help in the diversification of the economy

**2**

Pinpoint challenges and responsibility points

**3**

Provide a platform for interface between export-related agencies and export practitioners.

**4**

## Roundtable Key Note Speakers

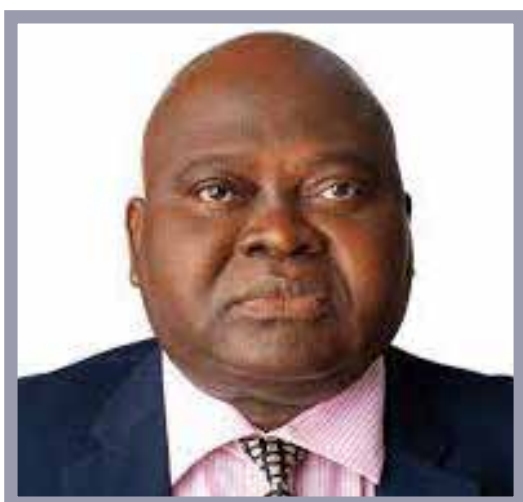


### **Bello Afolabi**

He is the Assistant Director, Production Development Department of Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) with over 15 years in the export industry.

He is a graduate of Lagos state university with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He obtained a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Lagos.

He was the assistant chief trade promotion officer before his elevation to an assistant director.



### **Rotimi O. Raimi Hassan**

He graduated in 1990 from Moshood Abiola Polytechnic (Former Ogun State Polytechnic) Abeokuta with Higher National Diploma, Marketing; he obtained Advance Diploma in Shipping, Port Administrative and Management from the University of Lagos and also bagged a Master's degree in Business Administration from University of Ado- Ekiti.

He is a fellow in the National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria and Certified Institute of Shipping; full member, Nigeria institute of Management (Chartered) and Institute of Directors, Nigeria.

He is currently the Port General Manager, Kaduna Inland Dry Port, Kaduna where he oversees the management and operations activities of the dry port.

## Introduction



**Olawale Rasheed**  
*Executive Director, NCPC*

The crash in oil prices following the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the fact that Nigeria's mono-product economy is no longer sustainable. Nigeria has been unable to convert its enormous comparative advantage in the production of several export produce to competitive advantage in the global market as a result of export chain constraints.

The roundtable event is billed to target challenges as well as solutions that take into account the interest of the country as a whole. It targets measurable solutions across the export value chains which can then be integrated as the Domestic Export Warehouse programme plan.

## Merit of Domestic Export Warehouse

1. It provides common inspection bay where all inspections, unloading, stuffing take place
2. It provides for cheaper transport from Centre to seaport.
3. It makes empty container access easier for freight forwarder at the DEW Centre
4. It creates platform where Customs and other regulatory agencies to be on ground for inspection and release of container throughout the week.
5. Loaded truck automatically uploaded on the NPA eto call up system
6. Relevant security agencies such as Police, Customs, and FRSC will not stop a dew truck in transit to seaport

## Presentations and Submissions

The Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW) was anchored by the Executive Director of National Chamber Policy Centre (NCPC), Mr Olawale Rasheed who welcomed all stakeholders and participants to the event.

He gave a brief insight about the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and the National chamber Policy Centre (NCPC) while assuring that the outcome of the roundtable will be submitted in a comprehensive report to the relevant parastatals for consideration and implementation.

### **Presentation by Mr. Bello Afolabi, Assistant Director, Production Development Department of Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC)**

In his presentation, he said that the country is still battling to convert its enormous comparative advantage in production of agricultural produce is hampered by supply chain constraints (storage, logistics, etc.). These are very important in ensuring timely delivering of exportable products to buyers and it is a critical factor in meeting export orders. This has led the Federal Government to come with mechanism that will address the supply chain gaps in the export value chain.

According to the Assistant Director, the Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW) is a proposed one-stop Facility/Terminal for products, aggregation, packaging and labeling, pre-shipment inspection, fumigation, documentation, mandatory-certification of export designated goods in preparation for transportation to the Ports.

It is expected to reduce delays encountered prior to shipment and reduce spoilage and poor handling of products, usually associated with the way goods are sourced to meet export orders. It will lead to the streamlining of export procedures and documentation as well as provide a platform for interface between export-related agencies and exporters.

DEW, which is being overseen by NEPC has a software developed for tracking of designated DEW trucks to avoid another round of checking by enforcement agencies. Nine DEW operators have been approved for operation with many more to come on board.

He thanked the organizers of the event for their foresight and commitment towards the strengthening of business community.



**“ DEW will lead to the streamlining of export procedures and documentation as well as provide a platform for interface between export-related agencies and exporters. ”**

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## **Presentation of Mr. Rotimi Hassan, Managing Director, Kaduna Inland Dry Port (KIDP)**

He commended ACCI- NCPC for providing this platform for stakeholder to converge and exchange ideas on issues concerning the export industry.

The Managing Director stressed that the country no longer rely on the revenue from oil coupled with COVID-19 pandemic setback. DEW initiative is a Federal Economic Diversification Programme to encourage export to balance trade and afford the government inflow of forex into economy development to enhance the GDP.

He added that the Kaduna Inland Dry Port (KIDP) is equipped with modern cargo handling equipment and tools to facilitate quick delivery with a mega warehouse for storage, consolidation, stuffing, unstuffing, and group operation etc while he gave guidelines for engaging the services of the port.

According to him, the KIDP/DEW Centre will facilitate simplification, standardization and harmonization of procedures that are associated with information flows required to move goods without hindrance. Also, the Centre will provide the opportunity of port utilities to be brought closer to the entire business community in the Northern hinterland and create a platform for AFCFTA to thrive.

## Submission from National Agency for Food Drug Administration Commission (NAFDAC)

The representative of NAFDAC, Mrs. Ajayi Sarah lauded the roundtable event put together by the ACCI-NCPC as timely towards the standardization of the export industry.

She said that part of the statutory duty of the agency was to regulate and control the manufacturing and protection of import and export goods. They are also responsible for the enforcement of quality and safe goods that are imported and exported. The recent creation of the office of Trade and International Relations was for the sole purpose of addressing the issues of trade such as facilitating business to ensure that products are safe for consumption.

She stated that attention is being given to ensure international practice procedures are implemented amongst exporters such as proper packaging and labelling, proper documentation before exporting, proper storage facilities which DEW is set to address and also make actors see the need to pass their products through regulatory agencies thereby reducing international rejection by foreign countries.

Mrs Ajayi canvassed for the inclusion of NAFDAC in the implementation of DEW and a broader consultation with private entities and agencies.

**“DEW is set to address and also make actors see the need to pass their products through regulatory agencies thereby reducing international rejection by foreign countries.”**

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## Submission from Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPCC)

The representative of Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPCC), Dr Fatima Ojo on behalf of her Agency commended the ACCI-NCPC for hosting the program as it will further boost the campaign of consumer protection and quality production.

She stated that the commission is still very young as it was established in 2018 with the mandate of consumers protection and fair competition in the market to avoid monopoly. It also ensures that products meeting the international best practice through enforcement of procedures that ensures quality output.

The commission is concerned about local quality culture where business understands that their output meets the Nigerian Industrial Standard to make it easy for exportation of products and services, direct investment and enhance the diversification of the economy.



**“DEW will make output meet international standard.”**

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# SCENES FROM THE ROUNTABLE



## INTERACTIVE SESSION

The session was to enable participants to ask questions about the setup, aims and implementation of DEW from NEPC and KIDP. This session was moderated by the Executive Director of NCPC, Mr. Olawale Rasheed

**Moderator:**

***Is there any private sector representation in the set-up for implementation of Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW)?***

**Mr. Bello Afolabi (NEPC):**

The drafting up of the document of the DEW was done from input of private and government entities before it was approved by the Federal Executive Council. The technical committee had no representation of the private sector as it was made up of strictly regulatory agencies. The government will not be involved in the running of the warehouse but will station agencies to ensure due process is being followed as the cost will be friendly to users.

DEW will be in operation by ending of the first quarter in 2022 and the issues of rejection of goods by foreign countries was financed by government for destruction.

**Moderator:**

***What happen when goods to be exported don't meet the requirement in Nigeria?***

**Mr. Bello Afolabi (NEPC):**

DEW will be equipped with laboratory and the requirement of the importation will be readily available at the warehouse. The requirement of the regulatory agencies, importing countries and the buyer will be enforced to address export reject. For products that doesn't meet the requirements base on the category level, it will be destroyed and if it meets some of the requirement, DEW will allow for improvement of quality.

**Mr. Rotimi Hassan (KIDP):**

The Dry Port is the platform for importer and exporter to transact business. The management is in the process of constructing a cold room to enhance storage in part of the port's readiness for DEW takeoff. DEW will provide statistic of business transaction and enhance data collection for effective policy implementation.

**ASO TV:**

*What is the place of the youth in this program and how can they key in?*

**Mr. Bello Afolabi (NEPC):**

The programme will create the need for services from driving to offloading and loading etc. which will mostly engage the youths. On the of NEPC part under the National Economic Sustainability plan, grants were given to startup fintech companies and most beneficiaries were youths.

**Mr. Rotimi Hassan (KIDP):**

DEW, where established will make that location a beehive of activities with a high need for services. It will also be a meeting for buyers and seller of commodity especially

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Mr. Rotimi Hassan (KIDP)** said the Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW) will be a success when basic social amenities are in place like the rail way system, security etc. Sensitization for exporter is key to enable them know what to do and also awareness programs on the importance of the warehouse will bring more users.

**Mr. Bello Afolabi (NEPC)** said all observations are noted and will be considered while stressing that Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW) is a top priority for the council and are determined to make it work.

**Mrs Olayemi John-Mensah, ACCI-NCPC Centre Manager** who lauded the initiative of the DEW roundtable said it has giving participants clearer understanding of what the programme is all about. She thanked all participants for coming and for their contributions while adding that the Centre looks forward to more future collaborations, partnership and support from Agencies and private organizations present at the roundtable.

## Recommendations

1

### **Private Sector participation in the setting up of the technical committee**

The organized private sector should be given a seat on the committee as it knows where the shoe pinches. This will lead to further clarity on policy making and implementation.

2

### **Aggressive sensitization through an expanded gathering that will involve both private and government organisations**

The DEW project is a laudable scheme that deserves publicity about its benefits in order for more exporters to key into it for national prosperity.

3

### **Quick processing of NXP documents**

The Nigeria Export proceeds document takes long time for it to be processed which causes delay and time wasting that frustrates the ease of doing business

4

### **Automation of inspection of commodities**

The manual method of inspecting goods needs to be automated in order to save time and reduce human contact

5

### **Traceability of business entities for effective compliance**

Accurate gathering of data about exporters is vital for traceability of exports so as to penalize and reward exporters that complies with the guidelines as it will reduce international rejection of goods.

6

### **Synergies amongst regulatory agencies for effective delivery of services**

Regulatory agencies through teamwork will enhance processes that will improve the efficiency of policy implementation.

7

**Capacity building for business and government organisations to get familiar with Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW)**

Constant training of personnel will help in the proper implementation and improvement of the DEW system.

8

**Railway access to Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW) centers for improved haulage services**

The use of the rail system will speed up the transportation of goods, save time, money and improve the ease of doing business.



# NCPC MANAGEMENT TEAM



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Executive Director



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Center Manager



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Policy Advocacy Officer



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