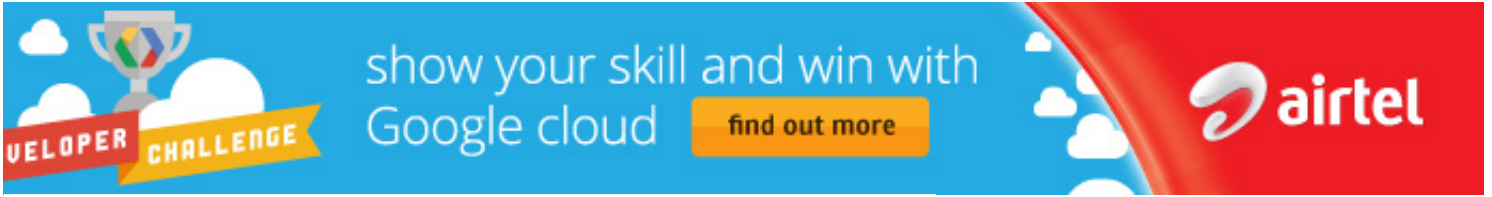


Vanguard



BREAKING NEWS

TRANSLATE:::

M.T Victory 1: Parent of missing crew carpets NIMASA, shipping firm

on November 21, 2013 / in [Business](#) 12:20 am / [Comments](#)

By Godwin Oritse

ALMOST two months after a vessel 'M.T Victory 1' lost balance and capsized, parents of the missing crew members have expressed bitterness over the attitude of both the shipping company and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) over the fate of their children.

The parents of the yet to be found crew members of the wrecked vessel, stormed the Lagos anchorage and petitioned the management of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) over the attitude of the vessel owner Multitrade Limited.

In the petition dated October 21st and addressed to NIMASA's Director General, Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi, the petitioners Messers Vincent Abiodun and Maxwell Odega, accused the owner of the vessel of gross negligence.

The father of the second engineer of the vessels Mr Vincent Abiodun, said that the body of his son, Omotayo Olatunde Abiodun has not been recovered despite several pleas.

The parents of the deceased sailors also said the vessel in question was not in class and does not have insurance on both the crew and the vessel adding that such a ship should not have been allowed to roam the waters.

Speaking to Vanguard on the development, Mr. Maxwell Odega and Mr. Godwin Odega, said that both the shipping firm and NIMASA are yet to respond to their petitions, adding that the owner of the vessel must be brought to book for having allowed an unworthy vessel to sail on the water.

Part of the petition reads "A non-seaworthy ship anchor at break waters from the Bonny Island on the 15th of September 2013 for reasons best known to the company.

"The ship was there until 21st September 2013; an ill wind started blowing until it broke anchorage and drifted with the

crew members.

“A ship on anchorage had only 2nd \Engineer, 3rd Officer, electrician, welder with two ‘AB’ without the Master Chief Engr Chief mate.

“However, between 1800hrs, the turbulent water became furry, calls were put across to Mr Collins Egwagwu his wife and the Captain of the vessel for assistance which never came.

“Simultaneously, the anchor cut off and the ship drifted till when she collided with rock at the Bar Beach where the Lagos State Government is carrying out reclamation exercise.

Invariably, the ship lost balance and capsized leaving three male, two female survivor namely SubNos 05,08 and 12.

“Meanwhile, Nos 04,06 and 10 are yet to be seen, rescued and where about unknown.

The petitioners explained that Multi-trade had been warned not to operate an un-seaworthy vessel a development that deterred officials of the Nigerian Ports Authority from assisting when the alarm was raised.

“I strongly and vehemently demand to know the whereabouts of my son as his Supposed corpse has not been seen on the shore or any creek” Mr. Maxwell Odega said

Speaking on the development, Chairman of Multi-Trade Mr. Collins Chijioke Egwagwu said that contrary to the claims of the petitioners, when trouble started for the vessel, both officials of the Nigerian Navy and NIMASA were alerted to carry out rescue mission.