

# **MARITIME CABOTAGE IN NIGERIA**

**COASTAL AND INLAND SHIPPING**

**(CABOTAGE) ACT, 2003**

**2003 ACT No. 5**

**AN ACT TO RESTRICT THE USE OF FOREIGN VESSELS IN  
DOMESTIC COASTAL TRADE TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF INDIGENOUS TONNAGE AND TO ESTABLISH A CABOTAGE  
VESSEL FINANCING FUND; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS**

[30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2003]

**ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic  
of Nigeria**

## **PART I.-SHORT TITLE AND INTERPRETATION**

1. This Act may be cited as the Costal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003.

2. In this Act-

"Cargo" means goods carried in or on a vessel whether or not of commercial value and includes livestock;

"Coastal Trade" or "cabotage" means-

(a) the carriage of goods by vessel, or by vessel and any other mode of transport, from one place in Nigeria or above Nigeria waters to any other place in Nigeria or above Nigeria waters, either directly or via a place outside Nigeria and includes the carriage of goods in relation to the exploration, exploitation or transportation of the mineral or non-living natural resources of Nigeria whether in or under Nigerian waters ;

(b) the carriage of passengers by vessel from any place in Nigeria situated on a lake of river to the same place, or to any other place in Nigeria, either directly or via a place outside Nigeria to the same place without any call at any port outside Nigeria or to any other place in Nigeria, other than as an in-transit or emergency call, either directly or via a place outside Nigeria.

(c) the carriage of passengers by vessel from any place in Nigeria to any place above or under Nigerian waters to any place in Nigeria, or from any place above Nigerian waters to the same place or to any other place above or under Nigerian waters where the carriage of the passengers is in relation to the exploration, exploitation or transportation of the mineral or non-living natural resources in or under Nigerian waters; and

(d) the engaging, by vessel, in any other marine transportation activity of a commercial nature in Nigerian waters and, the carriage of any goods or substances whether or not of commercial value within the waters of Nigeria;

"enforcement officer" means a person so designated to be an enforcement officer for the purposes of this Act;

"enforcement unit" means the department within the National Maritime Authority charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of this Act

"Exclusive Economic Zone" has the meaning given to it under the Exclusive Economic Zone Act Cap 116, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 ;

"foreign vessel" means a vessel other than a Nigerian vessel ;

"hull" means the shell, or outer casing, and internal structure below the main deck which provide both the floatation envelope and structural integrity to the vessel in its normal operation ;

"in-transit call" means any call, other than an emergency or technical call, by a vessel at any place where passenger go ashore temporarily but re-board the vessel before the vessel leaves that place or are transported by land to another location to re-board the same vessel and include cargo not discharged at the transit call ;

"inland waters" has the meaning given to it under the National Inland Waters ways Authority Act, 1997 ;

"license" means a document issued pursuant to the Act, authorizing a foreign ship or vessel to be registered for participation in the coastal trade while on Nigerian Waters.