

NPA Needs US\$3 Billion

For Ports Infrastructures – Management Discloses

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Monrovia - The National Port Authority (NPA) in its quest to transform the port to meet international standards, authorities of the NPA say about US\$3 billion is needed to transform all of the four ports in Liberia.

The Managing Director of the NPA, Mr. David Williams said

this amount is needed for upgrading the infrastructure of the ports of Buchanan, Harper, Greenville and Monrovia.

"The NPA needs about US\$3-4 billion for all of the ports including the Freeport of Monrovia," Williams said. "If we will want to have comparative ports like other countries around here we need such money to do that."

He spoke at a high level round table ports' partnership conference with the Executive Management Team of the NPA and a visiting delegation from the Georgia Ports Authority. Prospects at the meeting was develop on International Port and Trade Steering Committee, develop a strategy to increase trade between Liberia and the U. S. including cocoa,

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paper products, Rubber wood, plan future training program between the NPA and GPA, joint funding opportunities with the World Bank, African Development Bank among others.

Responding to journalists questions about development of the ports in Liberia at the roundtable discussion, Mr. Williams said the Liberian government is doing well by supporting the developmental programs at the NPA.

The NPA, however, hailed the six years sister's port relationship between Liberia and the Georgia Port Authority in the United States.

It can be recalled in 2010, the National Port Authority and the Georgia Port Authority entered into a partnership to enhance trade and commerce between the two Countries, a partnership which has now lasted for six year.

The relationship between the two ports is intended to increase trade between Liberia

and the United States through the Port of Georgia.

Mr. Williams speaking at the climax of a one day sister port agreement roundtable discussion said the entity is now contemplating building an inland port with help from the Georgia Port Authority.

According to Mr. Williams, discussions at the roundtable were also centered on forming an International Port and trade Steering Committee and training need for the NPA.

At the same time, he stressed the need for the infrastructural development of various ports in the country noting that the overall development of major ports facilities could cost about four billion US Dollars.

Meanwhile, Liberia Honorary Counsel General to the Port of Georgia Cynthia Blandford is commanding NPA Managing Director David Williams for the many development initiatives in the port sector of the country. She stressed the need for the NPA as rewarding.

Georgia Port Authority to bring trainers from the United States that will train staffs of the NPA to help improve the skills of employees at the NPA.

She noted that she was impressed with the level of development being carried on at the National Port Authority by the current leaders, "I was here in 2010 and I saw the way the port was in deplorable condition and was like woe, how can we invite trade or investors to such a port that does represent us, a port that has all the potholes, but as you can see now there are improvements and the partnership with the Port of Georgia is good," she said.

Bart Gobeil said Georgia's population is twice that of Liberia, saying Monrovia has over one million residents, compared to nearly 150,000 in Savannah and 475,000 in Atlanta.

He described the partnership between Georgia Port and the NPA as rewarding.

