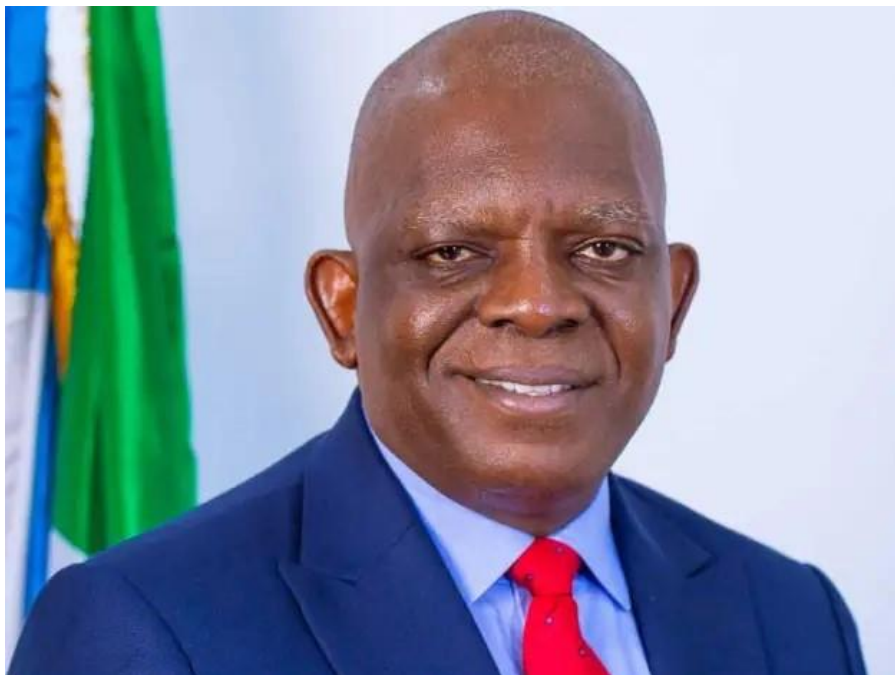


**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERRAL OF THE
GRAND LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE (GLLPS)
UPON DR. PIUS AKUTAH UKEYIMA, ESQ, MON**

by the

**Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research,
Documentation, & Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L)**

IHS-BiRD & L Instrument No. 2026/GLLPS/03-05



I. Preamble: The Standard of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service

The Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS) represents the highest class of recognition conferred by the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L). It is reserved for individuals whose public service reflects **institutional reform, regulatory modernization, administrative discipline, and measurable contribution to national economic systems.**

The Institute's evaluation framework is guided by its core principles:

- **Truth First** – documentation grounded in verifiable public record;
- **Guardians of Memory** – preservation of institutional contributions with enduring value;
- **Justice Through Legacy** – recognition of public service often underrepresented in conventional narratives;
- **History for Growth** – identification of governance models worthy of replication.

The conferral of GLLPS upon **Dr. Pius Akutah Ukeyima, Esq, MON** is grounded in documented leadership of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), regulatory restructuring of Nigeria's port and logistics ecosystem, digital transformation initiatives, and alignment with the Federal Government's Blue Economy agenda.

II. Institutional Mandate: Leadership of the Nigerian Shippers' Council

Following his assumption of office in **November 2023**, Dr. Akutah inherited a regulatory institution tasked with:

- protecting the interests of Nigerian shippers,
- regulating port service providers, and
- promoting efficient maritime trade facilitation.

Under his leadership, the NSC has undergone a strategic repositioning from a primarily **price-monitoring and advocacy agency** into a more **digitally driven, enforcement-aware trade facilitation and regulatory coordination institution.**

This shift has been characterized by structured reforms across technology, compliance systems, infrastructure advocacy, and stakeholder engagement.

III. Digital Transformation and Institutional Automation

One of the most visible reforms under his administration is the modernization of NSC's administrative and regulatory systems.

Key Achievements:

- Deployment and rollout of the **Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS)** to digitize internal documentation, correspondence tracking, and regulatory file management;
- Reduction of manual, paper-based approval processes through **workflow automation systems** in administrative operations;
- Development of a centralized **digital records architecture** improving institutional memory, audit traceability, and compliance tracking;
- Strengthening of ICT-based communication systems between NSC headquarters and zonal offices to improve operational coordination.

These reforms represent a foundational shift toward **e-governance within Nigeria’s maritime regulatory space**.

IV. Trade Transparency and Cargo Tracking Reform

A major policy thrust of the NSC under his leadership has been the strengthening of cargo visibility and trade transparency systems.

Key Achievements:

- Strong institutional advocacy for the implementation of the **International Cargo Tracking Note (ICTN)** system across Nigerian ports;
- Engagement with maritime stakeholders and security agencies on the use of ICTN to track cargo from origin to destination;
- Policy push to reduce incidents of **cargo under-declaration, misclassification, and revenue leakages**;
- Collaboration with port stakeholders to enhance real-time visibility of cargo movement and documentation compliance.

The ICTN framework is positioned as a critical tool for **trade security, revenue assurance, and regulatory oversight modernization**.

V. Port Efficiency and Cargo Clearance Reforms

Under his leadership, NSC has intensified reforms aimed at improving Nigeria’s port efficiency indicators.

Key Achievements:

- Advocacy for **reduction in cargo dwell time**, with reform targets focusing on improving clearance timelines across major ports such as Apapa and Tin Can Island;

- Engagement with terminal operators, shipping companies, and customs authorities to reduce procedural duplication;
- Support for harmonization of port documentation processes across multiple regulatory agencies;
- Promotion of streamlined dispute resolution mechanisms to reduce shipment delays and demurrage accumulation.

These interventions directly address structural inefficiencies that have historically increased the cost of doing business in Nigerian ports.

VI. Inland Dry Ports and Logistics Decentralization Strategy

A key infrastructure-driven reform agenda under his tenure is the expansion of inland cargo distribution systems.

Key Achievements:

- Renewed advocacy for accelerated operationalization of **Inland Dry Ports (IDPs)** in key logistics corridors;
- Policy emphasis on decentralizing cargo clearance away from coastal congestion hubs;
- Engagement with federal and state stakeholders on multimodal transport integration (rail-road-port connectivity);
- Support for logistics infrastructure development to improve cargo evacuation efficiency from ports.

This strategy aligns with broader national objectives of reducing port congestion and improving inland economic activity.

VII. Alignment with the Marine and Blue Economy Framework

The NSC under Dr. Akutah has been repositioned within Nigeria's evolving **Marine and Blue Economy policy architecture**.

Key Achievements:

- Alignment of NSC operational priorities with Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy objectives;
- Strengthening of NSC's role as a **trade facilitation and maritime regulatory support institution**;
- Participation in inter-agency coordination mechanisms supporting blue economy policy implementation;

- Integration of maritime logistics reform into national economic diversification strategies.

This alignment reinforces the NSC’s relevance in Nigeria’s non-oil economic expansion agenda.

VIII. Institutional Capacity Development and Workforce Reform

Internal reforms have also focused on strengthening institutional capacity.

Key Achievements:

- Conduct of strategic retreats and performance alignment workshops for management staff;
- Professional development and training programs aimed at enhancing regulatory competence;
- Strengthening of zonal office coordination structures to improve national coverage efficiency;
- Reinforcement of internal administrative discipline and reporting systems.

These reforms contribute to improved organizational effectiveness and service delivery.

IX. Stakeholder Engagement and Regulatory Mediation

The NSC under his leadership has deepened its role as a mediator within the maritime ecosystem.

Key Achievements:

- Strengthened dispute resolution mechanisms between shippers, terminal operators, and shipping lines;
- Regular stakeholder engagement forums to address port inefficiencies and pricing concerns;
- Institutional strengthening of dialogue channels between government agencies and private sector operators;
- Promotion of collaborative regulatory enforcement rather than adversarial compliance systems.

This approach has improved trust and coordination across the maritime value chain.

X. Institutional Character and Public Value

The documented record of Dr. Akutah’s leadership reflects consistent institutional priorities:

- Advancement of **digital governance systems (ECMS rollout and workflow automation)**;
- Strengthening of **cargo tracking and trade transparency frameworks (ICTN advocacy)**;
- Improvement of **port efficiency and cargo clearance coordination mechanisms**;
- Expansion of **inland logistics infrastructure policy advocacy (IDPs)**;
- Deepening of **stakeholder engagement and dispute resolution systems**;
- Alignment of NSC mandate with **national blue economy and trade diversification goals**.

These reforms collectively represent a transition toward **modern regulatory statecraft in Nigeria’s maritime sector**.

XI. Alignment with IHS-BIRD & L Core Values

- **Truth First** – grounded in documented institutional reforms and policy actions.
- **Guardians of Memory** – maritime regulatory transformation remains underrepresented in national historical records.
- **Justice Through Legacy** – recognition of administrative reforms that impact national trade competitiveness.
- **History for Growth** – NSC’s transformation serves as a governance model for regulatory agencies.

XII. Conclusion: A Record of Regulatory Transformation and Institutional Reform

The conferral of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS) upon **Dr. Pius Akutah Ukeyima, Esq, MON** is justified on the basis of documented institutional leadership and measurable reforms, including:

- Implementation of the **Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS)**, resulting in the digitization of NSC internal workflows, improved document tracking, and enhanced administrative efficiency;
- Advocacy and stakeholder engagement for the **International Cargo Tracking Note (ICTN)** system aimed at improving cargo visibility, reducing under-declaration, and strengthening trade compliance frameworks;
- Implementation of port efficiency reform initiatives targeting reduction in cargo dwell time and improved inter-agency coordination across Nigerian ports;
- Strategic alignment of NSC operations with Nigeria’s **Marine and Blue Economy agenda**, repositioning the Council as a key actor in national trade facilitation policy;

- Promotion of **Inland Dry Ports (IDPs)** and inland logistics decentralization strategies to reduce congestion at coastal ports and improve national cargo distribution systems;
- Strengthening of institutional capacity through staff development programs, operational restructuring, and improved zonal coordination systems;
- Enhancement of stakeholder engagement and dispute resolution frameworks across shipping lines, terminal operators, and regulatory agencies to improve maritime sector efficiency.

These reforms are structural rather than symbolic. They represent a deliberate modernization of Nigeria's maritime regulatory environment with direct implications for trade competitiveness, economic diversification, and institutional efficiency.

The GLLPS is reserved for individuals whose public service demonstrates **tangible institutional transformation and enduring national value**. The documented evidence establishes that **Dr. Pius Akutah Ukeyima has significantly advanced regulatory modernization, trade facilitation, and institutional reform within Nigeria's maritime governance architecture**.

It is therefore the considered judgment of the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy that his record satisfies the threshold for the conferment of the **Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS)**.