

September 21, 2015 by Soluwasegun Solomon

A seaport worker attached to one of the service providers employed by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), 40-year-old Samson Oheha, from Delta State has died after being hit by one of the paper reels during discharging efforts on a vessel at the Five Stars Logistics Terminal of the Tin-Can Island Ports in Lagos, over the weekend.

Further findings revealed that the deceased was owed about eight months' salary by his direct employer, one of the service providers contracted by the NPA to carry out maritime related services at the Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) ports like the Five Stars Logistics Terminal.

When contacted on how the incident happened, the President of the Dockworkers branch of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), Adeyanju Adewale explained that the reel of paper fell on the dockworker due to the waves that came from another vessel that was passing bye.

"What happened was that the sea waves that emanated from another vessel that was going to another terminal at the Tin-Can Island Port caused the reel paper on an anchored vessel to fall on the unsuspecting dockworker while he alongside others was discharging on the anchored vessel.

"You know that anytime a vessel is berthed along the terminals at the ports and another vessel is passing or moving bye, waves from the moving vessel shake the berthed or anchored vessel, making it unstable.

"So while the other vessel was moving towards another spot at Tin-Can ports, the waves from that vessel shook the anchored vessel which Oheha and others were working on, thereby causing one of the reel papers to fall on him and he died on the spot.

"The incident happened at the Five Stars Logistics Terminal inside the Tin-Can Island ports. After his death, the terminal operator, Five Stars Logistics Limited made money available so that he can be carried to a morgue. That was after the police had come in and given us a police report.

"Immediately I got to the scene of the unfortunate incident, I ordered that the work should be stopped to give the deceased some form of respect. We were later shocked to find out that the deceased has not been paid in the last eight months.

"We are going to press for compensation to his family and ensure he receives all his dues even in death. All his insurance benefits will be paid to his family.

"We are currently looking for how to break the news to his family because we are sure they are not yet aware of the death of their suppose breadwinner. The deceased is among those tally clerks that we have been agitating for that the NPA should pay them their entitlements. He is being owed eight months salary," Adeyanju stated.

Source: Nigerian Tribune