

Customs tackles smuggling

THE Unit Controller, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operations Unit, Zone 'A' Ikeja, Lagos, Nuhu Isa Mahmoud, has urged Nigerians to partner the establishment in its renewed effort to tackle smuggling.

He also cautioned the public on the activities of fake drug merchants and urged people to patronise only reputable pharmaceutical firms whenever the need for it arises.

The call came on the heels of the seizure by the unit penultimate week, of two Mercedes Benz trucks allegedly conveying assorted illicit pharmaceutical products, which were valued at N12.5 million, with a Duty Paid Value of N13.8 million.

The seizure, Mahmoud said, was made by the Headquarters Monitoring Team, Idiroko/Ogun axis, led by Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Yahaya Biri Usman on January 5 along the Sagamu/Ijebu-Ode Expressway.

The NCS chief said "the suspected fake pharmaceutical products have been deposited at the government warehouse for eventual hand-over to the appropriate agency after thorough investigation."

'Fake' soldier killed in gun duel

A 'fake' soldier, Joseph Jack (32), who had allegedly been involved in four armed robbery operations in Lagos has met his Waterloo. He died during an exchange of gun fire with operatives of the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS), Lagos State Police Command on November 25, last year in the Ijegun area of Ikotun, a Lagos suburb.

His killing, *The Nation* learnt, occurred when he led SARS Special Squad to track down one of his gang members that had been at large.

According a police source, the first operation that brought Jack into SARS' net was when he snatched a motorcycle and used it to rob people of their valuables within Ogba axis in 2011.

His second appearance, it was learnt, was when he robbed people using army uniform, pretending to be a soldier and operated with his gang at Ogba. Army arrested him and handed him over to SARS on January 12, 2012. In February 2012, SARS charged him to court for robbing people including Mr Rufus Akinrin Wale of 3/5, Furniture Avenue, Ifako-Ijaiye in Ogba. He allegedly used knife to rob his victims.

His third operation, *The Nation* learnt, was on June 17,

'His (Jack's) second appearance ... was when he robbed people using army uniform, pretending to be a soldier and operated with his gang ... Army arrested him and handed him over to SARS'

By Ebele Boniface

2012. He robbed people of money and other valuables which took him before the Chief Magistrate Court, Ikeja.

On his last outing, he allegedly joined his gang to snatch a commercial tricycle in the Ojodu area and later used the tricycle to rob residents in the area before selling the tricycle.

Jack was later arrested by men at the Ojodu Police Sta-

tion and taken to SARS. During interrogation, he allegedly confessed to being a member of the gang that specialised in breaking banks' ATMs.

He led operatives to track down Daniel, leader of the ATM robbers at Ilasamaja in the Oshodi-Mile 2 area on November 20, last year, where a heavy exchange of gun-fire ensued.

"They had killed an ASP, a Sergeant and another officer at the Access Bank, Ayobo on November 16. Daniel and Ayo, another robber, were gunned down. We recovered an AK47 rifle and 11 magazines at the scene. When Daniel's house was traced and searched in Iyana Ipaja area, four more AK47 rifles were recovered. The five rifles belonged to the police officers shot dead by the robbers. Two rifles belonged to Ayobo division; one for Pen Cinema, where they robbed Diamond Bank, killing one Corporal. The other two belonged to Igando Police Station, where they killed two policemen," a source said.

Jack later led the SARS team to Ijegun area to arrest another member of their gang, Saviour a.k.a *Confidence*. Then, an exchange of fire ensued between the policemen and the other robbery sus-



•The late Jack

pects found with Saviour.

Saviour, it was learnt, was gunned down, while Jack,

who attempted to use the opportunity to escape, was also killed.

Group prays for better society