

Alleged killer of Customs officers arrested in Ogun shrine

Another suspect who fled to Benin Republic also nabbed

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A member of a gang of smugglers responsible for the death of two Customs officers in September in Ogun State has been arrested inside a shrine in Yewa area of the state where he had gone to perform some rituals against his arrest.

Another suspect who had fled to Benin Republic after the killing of another set of Customs officers in

October was also arrested in the early hours of Thursday.

Addressing newsmen on Thursday on the arrests, the acting Controller of the Federal Operations Unit, Zone A, Comptroller Hussein Ejibunu, said the suspect who was in the shrine inside his house in Yewa was nabbed on November 11, while the other suspect was arrested in the early hours of Thursday.

He said: "The one arrested in a shrine was

dressed in red clothing with a cock in his hand and reciting incantations as of the time of his arrest. The importance of this message is that smugglers will no longer kill any of our officers and get away with it, no matter how long it will take us to get them."

The Customs boss also reeled out the seizures made by the unit in the last five weeks.

He said: "This period of the year usually has the tradition of springing high-

level smuggling activities all over the country, with particular reference to South West zone that I superintend over. Being very much aware of the foregoing, this unit proactively marshaled out strategies to put the activities of smugglers in check. The application of these strategies provoked the avalanche of seizures made.

"The spirits of officers at the moment are quite high as expressed in the following seizures: 13,342 bags of

50kg smuggled parboiled rice; 3,696 pieces and 175 sacks of used shoes with Chinese language; 285 cartons of Basmatic rice; 464 cartons of Tomato paste; 1,009 cartons of expired Chinese drinks; 694 bales of second-hand clothing; 5,413 cartons of medications without NAFDAC numbers or certification.

Others are 907 kilogrammes of Indian hemp (cannabis sativa); 1,224 cartons of frozen poultry products; 148 pieces of

used compressor; five by 20 foot containers of wood – rough and semi-processed wood meant for export which causes deforestation in Nigeria; two by 40 foot containers of charcoal – meant for export with a total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of N2,826,486,890 only.

"In recovery of lost revenues, the revenue generated within the period under review through our interventions is put at N104,377,682.25."