

Smugglers hack Customs officer to death in Ogun, dump body inside pit

As operatives seize 68,225 litres of PMS, 11 truckload of rice

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THE Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Zone A of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) on Wednesday, said it intercepted 68,225 litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), also known as petrol and 11 truckload of foreign parboiled rice smuggled into the country from neighbouring countries.

This is even as the Unit frowned on the killing of an Inspector of Customs, A Onwegbuzie on Senator Road, Ilaro, Ogun State.

It was gathered that the Customs officer's body was dumped into a pit after his

murder.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lagos on Wednesday, the Customs Area Controller of the unit, Hussein Ejibunu, said 20 cartons, 164 bottles of unregistered drugs and

try products were also intercepted in Lagos and Ogun. Ejibunu, who declared onslaught on illegal bunkering within the zone, said smuggled items worth a total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of N767.6million were seized by the unit in March.

He said the breakdown of the seizures include 6,747 bags of foreign parboiled rice at 50kilogrammes each, equivalent of 11 trailer load;

68,225 litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), equivalent to more than two tankers.

"Smuggled items worth a total duty paid value of N767.63million were seized by the Federal Operations Unit Zone A in the month of March, 2022, with 20 people arrested at various points in connection with smuggling activities.

"A breakdown of the seizures include 6,747 bags of foreign parboiled rice at 50 kilogrammes each equivalent to 11 trailers load; 68,225 litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), equivalent to more than two tankers; 20 cartons and 164 bottles of unregistered drugs; 2,150

cartons of frozen poultry products; 526 bales of second-hand clothing; 447 parcels of Cannabis sativa, also known as Indian hemp.

"Others are 927 pieces of used pneumatic tyres, 781 pieces of used compressors, 256 pieces of imported vegetable oil at five litres each, 825 cartons and 108 pieces of tin tomatoes, 34 units of used motorcycles, 1,950 pairs of used shoes, 662 cartons of wine, 20 cartons and 13 fairly used vehicles smuggled across land borders, 59 sacks of used bags and 17 sacks of used shoes."

The Customs boss, however, frowned on the attitude of smugglers attacking offi-

cers on legal duties, saying that won't stop the unit from engaging in anti-smuggling activities.

He added that the fight against smuggling would always be reinvigorated to sustain the tempo of economic protection and prevention of the country through any entry point in the South-West.

He condemned the gruesome killing of Onwegbuzie by suspected smugglers in Ogun State while discharging his official duties, just as he added that the long arms of the law would catch up with the murderers who dumped his body in a pit

He said: "This new wave of daring attitude of smugglers has claimed the lives of many officers, the latest being the hacking to death with machete of Inspector of Customs Onwegbuzie on Senator Road, Ilaro axis of Ogun State, after making a seizure on Wednesday, March 2.

The officer was gruesomely murdered but his body was dumped in a deep pit. Nevertheless, with the timely arrival of other patrol teams, three arrests were made in connection with the murder and 78 bags of smuggled parboiled rice at 50 kilogrammes each and six motorcycles were equally seized."

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