

METRO

...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operation Unit, Zone A, Lagos has said that an Inspector of Customs, A. Onwegbuzie has been killed at Ilaro axis of Ogun State by smugglers while on duty.

It noted that his body was dumped into a pit after his gruesome murder.

The service also said 23 smugglers were arrested in connection with some contraband with duty paid value of N767.6million in one month.

The Acting Controller of the

Smugglers hack Customs inspector to death, dump body in pit

...as NCS arrests 23 smugglers over N767.6m contraband

unit, Deputy Comptroller Hussein Kehinde Ejibunu said that five of the arrested suspects were granted administrative bail while 18 others are at various stages of investigation ahead of likely prosecution.

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

Ejibunu condemned the killing of the Inspector of Customs, Onwegbuzie by suspected smugglers while discharging his official duties in Ogun State, saying that the long arms of the law would catch up with such murderers.

According to him, the unit had also declared an onslaught against illegal bunkering activities which was evident in the seizure of petroleum products by a designated team against it.

Ejibunu said: "Smugglers will always face stiff confrontation as the unit will never be deterred by the attacks and recent killing of one officer in the line of duty. The

fight against smuggling is becoming more and more intense and fierce due to increased level of crime. Smugglers are more determined than ever before to confront officers on patrol even unprovoked."

"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 A. along Senator Road, Ilaro axis of Ogun State after making a seizure on Wednesday March 2, 2022. The officer was not only gruesomely murdered but his body was dumped in a deep pit.

Meanwhile, Ejibunu noted that the seizures include: 6,747 bags of foreign parboiled rice at 50kilogrammes each equivalent to eleven 11 trailers load; 68,225 litres of Premium Motor Spirit

(PMS) equivalent to more than two tankers; 2,150 cartons of frozen poultry products; 526 bales of second-hand clothing; 447 parcels (2,056kg) of Cannabissativa (Indian hemp); 927 pieces of used pneumatic tyres; 781 pieces of used compressors and 256 pieces of imported vegetable oil at 5 litres each.

Others are 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 164 bottles of unregistered drugs; 13 fairly used vehicles smuggled across land borders, 59 sacks of used bags and 17 sacks of used shoes.

Ejibunu stressed that officers of the unit would always be unrelenting in its 24 hour patrols to intercept any means of conveyance of smuggled items, seize them and arrests suspects involved in the act.



Customs officers

Plateau Killinas: Ethnic groups storm