

# News

## Smugglers kill Customs officers over seized rice

By Godwin Oritse

A Customs Assistant one, a drive attached to the Federal Operations Unit Zone A of the Nigeria Customs Service, was weekend killed by smugglers after two vehicles laden with imported parroted were seized from them.

Confirming the development, Theophilus Duniya Public Relation Officer of the Unit, in statement said that operatives had made some seizures and in the course of the movement, one of the vehicle developed mechanical problems and was being fixed.

In the process of fixing the vehicle, he said, the suspected smugglers mobilised themselves in a large number with arms, charms, stones and other dangerous objects to murder the deceased officer.

The Unit Spokesman said that the body of the deceased had been deposited in a mortuary.

He hinted that the Acting Controller of Federal Operations Unit Zone A, Hussein Ejibunu had directed immediate investigation into the murder of the officer.

According to him, the Acting Controller condemned the killing and reiterated his resolve to keep suppressing smuggling and arresting perpetrators of the criminal activity.

"He said the killing will not deter FOU Zone A, under his leadership, from carrying out its statutory functions in the interest of national security and economy.

"The Controller added that seizures of smuggled wares and arrest of suspects will continue unless the perpetrators embrace a change of heart and do legitimate trades," Duniya quoted him, saying.

Meanwhile, Acting Controller of Federal Operations Unit Zone A, DC Hussein Ejibunu has launched an investigation into the murder of one of our operatives, (Customs Assistant 1) on Saturday night at Owode area of Ogun State by suspected smugglers.

While condemning the killing, the Acting Controller reiterated his resolve to keep suppressing smuggling and arresting perpetrators of the criminal activity.