

**PRESS BRIEFING BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF
CUSTOMS ON THE TAKE OVER OF DESTINATION
INSPECTION BY NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE ON 29TH
NOVEMBER 2013 AT CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA**

Protocols

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today. Let me express my gratitude to you for the support and cooperation you have rendered to me since I assumed office as Comptroller-General in 2009.

Today is a historic day in Nigeria because the Federal Government, in its own wisdom has directed NCS to fully takeover the Destination Inspection process from the Service providers. The implication of this is that NCS will now fully take over imports and exports procedures of our dear country.

Officers and Men of the Customs Service have been undergoing training over the years in preparation for this day and we are fully prepared to assume this important responsibility.

As this regime takes off, the Service will be charged with the responsibility of managing all areas of the Inspection processes. These areas include:

- Processing of the electronic Form M.
- Issuance of the Pre Arrival Assessment Report (PAAR) to replace the Risk Assessment Report (RAR) formally issued by the Service Providers.
- Control of Scanning equipment and operations in all the scanning sites in Nigeria.
- Deployment of a robust Risk Management system organically developed by Nigeria Customs Service in consultation with partner Agencies.

A state of the Art Ruling centre has been put in place for issuance of PAAR here in Abuja. The Centre has the following features:

- **World class data centre with disaster recovery plan**
- **Robust Internet Connectivity with backup**
- **Dedicated power supply backed up with 2 units 1000 KVA**
- **350 trained officers working round the clock in 3 shifts**

Today, the trade information portal, www.nigeriatraderhub.gov.ng has proven to be a platform that puts information at the disposal of all actors in the trade chain.

We therefore appeal for your understanding and cooperation as the Service takes over the destination Inspection process especially in the area of compliance with the trade regulations.

This new regime we are starting today promises better management of our revenue generation, operations, enhanced trade facilitation and better collaboration with other Agencies of Government to enhance national security.

No change ever comes without some pains. As we take over these processes, we will anticipate some hiccups at the beginning before we can fully stabilize. Some of these may arise from the sheer volumes of declarations. However, as a Service, we have taken measures to address these risks and manage them to the advantage of our stakeholders.

We are however pleading for the understanding of all Nigerians that whatever hiccup faced at the initial stage should not create anxieties.

We have established functional Help desks in Customs headquarters and all the Area Commands manned by properly trained officers to handle cases of complaints that may arise at any level of the clearance process.

Once again, let me express the appreciation of all Officers and Men of the Nigeria Customs Service and Stakeholders to Mr. President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Dr Goodluck Jonathan for his steadfast support as we prepare to take this big step forward. We also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Coordinating Minister for the

Economy /Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for her strong commitment to a smooth and successful transition.

Thank you all for your attention.



The Comptroller General of Customs Dikko Inde Abdullahi and some members of his management staff displaying the sample of the PAAR to replace RAR during its official launch at NCS Headquarters, Abuja.