

Agent decries poor handling of PAAR by Customs

BAYO AMODU

The General Secretary, National Council of Managing directors of Licensed Customs Agents, Mr Uchu Block, has condemned the poor handling of the Pre-Arrival Assessment Report (PAAR) by the Nigeria Customs Service, NCS, which he described as a hindrance to trade.

PAAR is a cargo clearance platform established by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in December 2013, to enhance effective clearance procedure within the shortest time possible.

Speaking in an interview in Lagos, Block said that PAAR was being handled unprofessionally; thereby deterring a smooth flow of trade, which it otherwise ought to promote.

"The Comptroller-General of Customs meant well with PAAR, but the way that the officers in charge are handling it is poor, and it is making it run contrary to its purpose," Block said.

He said the officer handling the PAAR process were not professional in the act of valuation, therefore, ended up imposing value rather than processing it according to stipulated steps for value calculation.

"Value is not imposed like some of them are doing; it is supposed to be worked out according to set rules as is obtainable internationally.

"International trade is global and the way valuation is done should also be global," he said.

It could be recalled that earlier this month, the Comptroller-General of Customs, Abdullahi Dikko, noted that some of the hitches with PAAR could not be completely ruled out at this early stage.

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