

DAILY NEWSWATCH
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

Customs, oil firm partner to facilitate trade

BAYO AMODU

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Area 11, Onne Command, Rivers State and an oil exploration company, Schlumberger Nigeria Limited, have entered into a partnership which stakeholders have described as a good omen aimed at creating avenue for smooth trade facilitation in the country.

The Customs Area Controllor, Area 11, Onne Command, Deputy Comptroller, Hamzat Gummi, made the as-

sertion at a forum held at Onne, Port complex recently.

Gummi, who expressed satisfaction with the partnering for excellence forum said such would also create a better understanding and co-operation in the business. He opined that the partnership would open up some grey areas in the business of cargo clearance and facilitate trade, stressing that it is a welcome development.

The Onne Customs Controllor assured the management of Schlumberger of their unalloyed desire to

partner with them, and also solicited for more co-operations to fast-track the activities of the command.

In his speech, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Schlumberger Nig. Ltd, Mr Mayiwa Akinpelu, also thanked the management of Onne Customs Command for their co-operation, saying, "I hold the Customs Onne Command in high esteem in fast-tracking of cargo clearance and trade facilitation".

Akinpelu said their partnership with the Customs at Onne was necessitated

by the huge volume of his company's cargo through put, pointing out that for such reason, it is pertinent to partner with the Customs at Onne seaport in Rivers State.

He further assured that, Schlumberger is ready and willing to partner with the Onne Customs Command and to also adhere strictly to the fiscal policies of the federal government on Cargo clearance.

The forum was attended by top management officers of both organisations.