

Aniebonam Canvasses More Financial Aid for Customs

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The founder, National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF), Mr. Boniface Aniebonam, has called for more financial aid for the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS).

Aniebonam who made this known in a chat with journalists in Lagos argued that the service is presently being underfunded.

He averred that the underfunding of NCS is affecting its operations and the freight forwarding business in the country.

"We have observed from our strategic point as critical stakeholders that at the moment, it is apparent that NCS is being underfunded which may be currently affecting its operations and the freight forwarding business," he said.

He also explained that more financial aid will en-

able NCS saddled with the responsibilities of revenue collection, anti-smuggling functions, inter agency services, business development and trade information services among others to perform better.

He claimed that out that between 2010 and July 2014, over N378.97 billion approved budget for the agency, NCS may have gotten about N279 billion with a balance of about N99 billion not received.

"We have observed that the morale of men and officers in the service is very low. This is because their entitlements are not being paid on time. Most times, they are not attended to at all," he said.

According to him, the anti-smuggling officers are facing tougher resistance from smugglers with sophisticated weapons while officers' incentives and allowances are not paid the entitlements they deserve.

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