

Cargo operations to remain shut for non-compliance - FG

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THE Federal Government has said that operations at the cargo terminals of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport,

Lagos will remain shut until operators comply with the new procedure.

The Customs Area Comptroller, MMIA, Mr. Taju Olarenwaju, told journalists in Lagos on

Monday.

He said the clearing agents had threatened national security and efforts to collect revenue for the government, adding that such would no longer be tolerated.

He explained that previous agreements signed with the agents in the past had failed as they had consistently violated rules of engagement and procedures at the cargo terminal, which restricted access to some parts of the terminal.

He said, "Terminal operators and clearing agents are taking our efforts for granted. It has become increasingly insecure to carry out business at the cargo section of the airport because of the activities of agents who through their collective actions continue to threaten national security.

"They have shown that they are economic saboteurs and terrorists who threaten the security of the airport.

The Nigeria Customs Service will not fold its arms and allow this. We will be alive to our responsibility and not allow terminal operators to carry out this illegality."

He explained that the clearing agents had continued to display a lack of capacity to enforce the new regulations in sensitive areas where cargo was kept at the airport.

"The warehouse remains shut until the agents and terminal managers show capacity to operate without a threat to security," he stated.

Olanrewaju says goods that fall into the specialised category such as perishable; medical and diplomatic items will be isolated for facilitation, such that the importers do not suffer from the infraction caused by clearing agents, who are not ready to comply with operational procedures.

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