



**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS & LIGHT WEAPONS
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER
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PRESS STATEMENT

NCCSALW TAKES OVER CACHE OF ILLICIT ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTERCEPTED BY THE NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has handed over a cache of illicit arms and ammunition to the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) during a formal ceremony at the Federal Operations Unit Zone A, Ikeja, Lagos. The weapons handed over include 1,599 arms, comprising automatic and semi-automatic weapons, and 2,298 live ammunitions seized at various times from seaports and land borders. The NCCSALW commends the NCS for its relentless resolve to rid Nigeria of illicit arms and ammunition, recognizing this as a significant step in curbing illegal weapons proliferation.

The intercepted arms were hidden in containers and concealed among legitimate cargo, including plaster of paris (POP) and sanitary wares. Sustained intelligence operations by the NCS led to the identification and prosecution of those responsible for these illegal shipments. This seizure also demonstrates the exemplary synergy between the NCS, the Office of the National Security Adviser, and other relevant agencies in ensuring the security of Nigeria's borders.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Comptroller General of Customs, Dr. Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, MFR, reiterated the Service's zero-tolerance approach to arms trafficking. He emphasized the importance of interagency collaboration in curbing the proliferation of illegal weapons and underscored the NCS's commitment to public safety.

Representing the National Security Adviser, the Director-General of the NCCSALW, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Johnson Babatunde Kokumo (Rtd), mni, expressed appreciation to the Nigeria Customs Service

for its proactive efforts in intercepting and handing over these arms. He highlighted how such seizures reflect the growing link between transnational smuggling networks and Nigeria's domestic security challenges and commended the Customs leadership for its vigilance and professionalism.

The NCCSALW will conduct thorough documentation of these recovered arms and ammunition in line with international best practices, ensuring they are permanently removed from circulation. This handover underscores the continued importance of collaborative efforts between the NCCSALW, the NCS, and other security agencies in curbing the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons. The exemplary work of the men and women of the Nigeria Customs Service, alongside other security and intelligence agencies, remains commendable for their constant vigilance and efforts to safeguard national security.

The National Centre expresses gratitude to the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, for his steadfast support and policy direction. The NCCSALW remains committed to ensuring that the menace of illicit arms is curtailed and will continue working in concert with all arms-bearing agencies, international partners, and stakeholders to maintain peace, stability, and security across Nigeria and the West African sub-region.

About NCCSALW:

The National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) is dedicated to the control and prevention of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria. The Centre collaborates with various national and international agencies to enhance peace, security, and stability.

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