



NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE COORDINATING DIRECTOR
MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT



NAQS TASKS IGP ON EXTORTION OF TRANSPORTERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ON THE FEDERAL HIGHWAYS.

A delegation of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS) has met with the Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, to solicit his support and that of the Nigerian Police in checkmating the incidences of extortion of transporters conveying agricultural commodities.

The Coordinating Director and leader of the NAQS delegation, Dr. Vincent Isegbe, who made the presentation on behalf of the group remarked that quarantine control posts are created for disease/pest surveillance with a view to safeguarding the nation's agricultural economy and that this is expressly defined in the federal gazette. He noted that state governments have sadly turned those disease surveillance points into revenue generating outlets which is against federal government's intention.

Dr. Isegbe further decried the negative consequences of this on the market prices of agricultural commodities in addition to the post harvest losses incurred by farmers as a result of the delay caused by those illegal checkpoints, especially for perishable goods, despite the increased productivity in the sector. This, he argues, runs contrary to FG's intended outcome of the economic diversification policy.

Isegbe therefore called on the IGP to further strengthen the S-squad of the Nigerian Police at the commands with the much needed logistical support to be able to work with NAQS field officers in curbing this menace. He also commended the IG's proactive efforts at dealing with the issue, including arresting the many hoodlums parading as revenue collectors on the federal highways in some parts of the country.

Responding, the IGP expressed appreciation to NAQS for being alive to their responsibilities as frontline protectors of the agricultural economy. He assured the NAQS delegation of his support while promising to ensure the full cooperation of police officers and men with those of the agricultural quarantine service to guarantee synergy in carrying out operations at the various control posts.

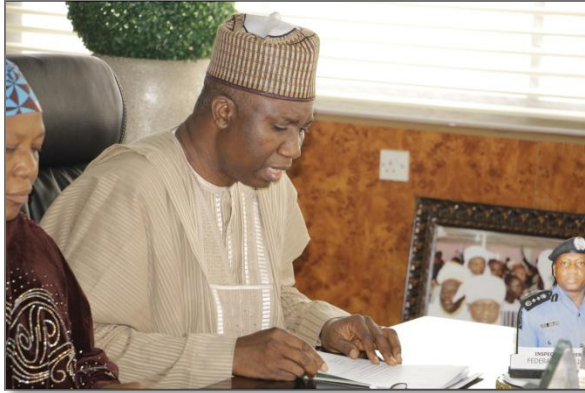


Dr. C. P. Nwodo

Head, Media and Public Affairs



The NAQS delegation with the IGP and his team, during the meeting at Police HQ, Abuja



L-R: NAQS Legal Adviser, Barr. A. O. Omosa; Zonal Coordinator NC, Dr. Sunday Audu; Station Coordinator NAIA, Barr. Igomu; Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris; NAQS Coordinating Director, Dr. Vincent Isegbe; Director Lab. Mgt. Services, Dr. Habib Maimuna and Director Animal Quarantine Department, Dr. Akinjo Abiodun during the meeting at Louis Edet House, Nigerian Police Force Headquarters, Abuja.

