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Customs Service Gateway Framework Using Cloud Based Technology for Car Registration in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) was established in 1891 with the responsible for the collection of customs revenue, facilitation of both national and international trade, anti-smuggling and security activities. In 2017, the Federal Government placed official ban on importation of certain equipment and other goods through the land borders. Prominent among these is that of vehicles. Despite this ban, smuggling through the land borders has continued. For example, some car dealers still smuggle through illegal routes to avoid paying the right import tariffs. This has affected the internally generated revenue of the Federal Government. For example, in 2018, the Federal Operation Unit (FOU) of Nigeria Customs intercepted 220 units of vehicles with a Duty Paid Value (DPV) of N6.4 billion as against 78 vehicles worth N1.9 billion seized within the review period of 2017. To reduce this smuggling, the NCS places some of their men in strategically places on Nigerian road blocks. The aim is to track down those smuggle vehicles and impound them or ask owners to pay. However, this has not yielded full positive result as expected. This is attributed to the fact that rather than enforcing offender to pay, some bad elements in the Customs just extort money from them. Another issue is that, once the vehicle enters into Nigeria territory, they are quickly registered. After few months they are difficult to trace by the customs. This challenge is due to lack of proper technology to connect the Nigeria Custom Service database through a gateway that will give way for verification of custom papers of car(s) before registration from each state of the federation. This paper addresses this challenge by proposing customs service gateway framework using cloud based technology for car registration in Nigeria. The gateway serves as a middleware in between the state licensing offices and NCS database. The operation is such that, for any car is to be registered, such car has to undergo a verification test through the gateway that link the customs database for permission to be granted. This is to confirm if the right import tariffs were paid. If permission is granted then the gateway is opened for the state licensing unit to register the car. Otherwise, such car will not be registered and information is passed to all customs formation and the police for close monitoring.

Keywords: Customs: Gateway: Cloud: Database: Import tariffs