

ABSTRACT

This study aims at evaluating the central customs data processing office (CDPO) implemented by TRA especially customs valuation process in trade facilitation along the borders. The study specifically examines the uniformity of this system in the valuation process of identical/similar goods, examine if there is a significant increase in revenue as compared to the period before CDPO, investigate if the clearance time along the borders have been reduced since establishment of the CDPO, and determine if the volume of trade has increased as far as CDPO is concerned.

During the study both primary and secondary methods of data collection were employed in order to obtain relevant information. This involved questionnaires and documentary sources. The researcher selected the sample of 33 TRA staff and clearing and forwarding companies from the population of 66 staffs. Sample of secondary data was drawn from data of year 2008 to 2013 representing the period before and after establishment of CDPO. Purposive sampling was employed due to the fact that it provided an opportunity for some key respondents to be included into the sample by virtue of their positions and status because they have accurate knowledge related to CDPO system.

The study noted that the purpose of attaining a uniform valuation of similar/identical goods imported about/at the same time has not been fulfilled completely as the study found the existence of slight variations in the value of goods especially in consumable goods. In the case of motor vehicles and machinery equipments imported, CDPO has performed well in issuing values for the purpose of valuation.

This study draws a number of recommendations to the TRA, Agency companies and importers including decentralization of the duties of CDPO, Strengthening Post Clearance Audit, trainings to agents at the Institute of Tax Administration and survey of prices in the nearby countries of frequently imported goods through borders.

