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Porous Borders and National Security in Africa: Understanding the Paradox of Nigeria's Underdevelopment

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Abstract

Despite the efforts by most leaders in Africa to tame the issue of insecurity at the borders, yet the magnitude of bunkers, proliferation of arms, route for human traffickers, influx of herdsmen in the continent is still on the increasing size. This paper therefore is set to unravel the porosity of borders in Africa with particular reference to Nigerian state and how negatively it affects her national security. The study therefore interrogates the following question: Does the porosity of borders affect National Security in Nigeria? The objective of the study is to ascertain whether the porosity of borders affect National Security in Nigeria. The study adopts the Failed State theory as our framework of analysis. The study shall utilize documentary method and content analysis as its method of analysis. The study found out that the inability of the Nigerian State to secure her territory from neighbouring countries which pave way for illegal migrants into the hinterland have affected the nation negatively. The paper recommends among others that there should be the training and retraining of security operatives in and around the country's borders. This will expose these men to the rudiments of basic monitoring system especially crime prevention and control. The work concludes that democratic leaders should provide the necessary avenues for healthy security support so that Nigerian state we move out of this quagmire.

Keywords: Porosity, Borders, National Security, Development, Trafficking, Migration

Introduction

Nigeria as a state in the continent has been exacerbated by porous borders with Cameroon (1,690 kilometres) in the east, Niger (1,497 kilometres) in the north, Benin (773 kilometres) in the west, and Chad (87 kilometres) in the northeast. Most of these border areas are either mountainous or in the jungle. Irrespective of their geographic nature, a common feature of the nation's borders is its porosity.

However, effective border management is fundamental for the preservation of national security. Indeed, "the border is the first line of defense against terrorism and the last line of a nation's territorial integrity" (Spencer, 2007: P.12). The porosity of African borders had been a critical issue within the continent of Africa. More importantly, there is no effective policy to curtail the rate at which people migrate and transact trade without being duly checked at the borders. The Customs, Immigration,

FRSC, Army, Navy are being designated to various out-post on both sides of the borders but their activities need to be questioned.

As observed by Onuoha (2013, p.3), the porosity of Nigeria's borders owes as much to the way the colonialists carved up the African continent as to the nature of their management by post-colonial states. Yet scholars like Okeke (2015, p.15) criticized the observation made by Onuoha. To him, African nations got their independence long ago and should take care of their immediate needs. The original intention of the colonialists in the balkanization of Africa was not to create a boundary per se, but to create a sphere of influence driven by political and economic motives. These boundaries defined in terms of latitudes, longitudes, geometric circles and straight lines split several ethnic and cultural communities. As a result, most African governments find it extremely difficult to administer international boundaries that sliced through cultural and ethnic groups (Onuoha, 2013, p.3).

The porous borders in the country have put the nation in a very precarious state. It is the porosity of the borders that made it possible for contraband items, unwholesome goods, light weapons and criminals from neighboring countries to find their ways into the country. Besides, the ongoing armed attacks in some parts of the country, and some persons possessing AK 47, automatic and assault rifles, illegally and automatic rifles could have only found their ways into the country through borders. Also, smuggled goods such as rice and vehicles whose importations have since been banned through the land borders, still flood the country through the numerous unapproved land border routes. On the other hand, Muoghalu, (2019) noted that "our borders with Chad, Niger, Cameroun and Benin are so porous that we have so many non citizens troop in daily, commit crimes and leave undetected". However, he observed that there was need for Nigeria to step up security surveillance to checkmate the porosity of the porous borders in Nigeria.

However, many issues attributed to porosity of borders in Nigeria. Andrew, Olusegun, & Isaac (2018) observed that "Nigerian borders do not have Close Circuit Television Camera, they do not have electronic gadgets for detection of unwholesome goods, cargo examination are done manually even in this 21st Century". This lack of modern and technological gadget makes it easier for the smugglers to always gain access in Nigerian borders. Furthermore, scholars like Binder (2004) have researched on the safety at the borders and likewise the rate at which crimes are perpetrated. He observed that adequate attention has not been given by security personnel across the border areas which threaten the integrity of our nation. In many cases on the other hand, the border areas lack facilities, adequate roads, and equipment. Law enforcement agents are often ill equipped and outnumbered. Trespassers are familiar with the local terrain around illegal crossing points and easily traverse the border undetected. Among other factors that encourage border porosity include low morale due to adverse conditions frustrates the government's ability to operate effectively. Many personnel see the situation as a matter of survival for them and their families' livelihood. In this sense, agents always fear injury or death. The agents realize there are no benefits for their families if they lose their life in the line of duty. The agents commonly lament about wages and lack of compensation or hazardous duty pay in

such a dangerous job. The lack of proper equipment, vehicles, communications, and sometimes arms and ammunition serves to fuel the decline in morale on the front. As a result, agents often develop a survival attitude and carve a niche in the system to augment their own existence (Andrew, Olusegun, & Isaac, 2018). It is worthy to note that 70 per cent of estimated 500 millions of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that are circulating in West Africa is domiciled in Nigeria (UNO, 2016). This shows the height of porosity of borders and its implication in Nigeria.

In addition, government has made concerted efforts in addressing porous border issues in Nigeria. Over the years, Nigeria has adopted the policy of deporting "illegal immigrants" back to their country and even engaged in the closure and reopening of her border because of national security needs. In addition, Nigeria has also adopted the Good Neighbour Policy which presents a unique challenge to Nigeria's fluid border situation. Aside from occasional border incidents, Nigeria seeks to maintain cordial relations with all its immediate neighbors. It also strives to have good relations with other countries in the West African sub region and has bilateral agreements with most of them. Nigeria's professed guiding principle is one of neighborliness and friendship. The intent is to help resolve conflicts in the African sub region. The second aspect Nigeria is trying to make its neighbors "safe" friends to help reinforce boundary claims and protect human rights of Nigerian citizens who are migrant workers and to stabilize relations with its immediate neighboring countries (Mongabay.com, 1991). Perhaps, these are some of the efforts Nigerian government has put in place to curb the challenges of the border porosity but it appears that these efforts among others have not made any meaningful impacts towards solving the problems of border porosity in Nigeria.

Nigeria's extreme porous borders are a major cause of national security challenge that consistently threatens the national development. This is because these borders both land and marine apart from being vast, are inadequately manned. Moreover, no meaningful economic growth can be recorded in the face of porous border because of its adverse effect on the economy. Local industries are dying because the borders are porous, almost everything comes in including drugs, clothing and so on. Anything you ban finds its way into the country in large quantities through the borders. Prohibited goods and light weapons come from various borders across the country. For instance, Akowe, (2017) observed that some of these borders where prohibited items come in are Jibia border, which is between Nigeria and Niger Republic, Babana, a border between Nigeria and Benin Republic, Shaki border between Oyo State and Benin Republic, Badagry-Seme border in Lagos, Idiroko border in Ogun State, that also covers Nigeria and Benin, Ikon, Cross River, between Nigeria and Cameroon and several others. Consequently, so many goods are being smuggled into the country through the borders making government lose huge revenue because they are not collecting duty from such goods and at end they inhibit the national development in Nigeria.

Therefore, this paper is set to unravel porous borders and national security in Africa with particular reference giving to Nigeria. The paper is sub-divided into sections in such a way that we first undertook the introduction, follow by conceptual

understanding, examine theoretical framework for the work, examine the nature of Border routes in Nigeria, consider the major border challenges in Nigeria and how it affect her national security, neat the work with recommendations and conclusion.

Conceptual clarification
Porous Borders

Borders are geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other sub-national entities. Borders are established through agreements between political or social entities that control those areas; the creation of these agreements is called boundary delimitation (Crause, & Nye, 2016). Borders are partially or fully controlled, and may be crossed legally only at designated border checkpoints and border zones which are highly controlled by the security agents.

A border is said to be porous when it is unmarked which gives individuals chance to pass without formal check by the security agencies at the boundary line. Borders require presentation of legal paperwork like passports and visas, or other identity documents, for persons to cross borders. To stay or work within a country's borders aliens (foreign persons) may need special immigration documents or permits; but possession of such documents does not guarantee that the person should be allowed to cross the border. Moving goods across a border often requires the payment of excise tax, often collected by customs officials. Animals (and occasionally humans) moving across borders may need to go into quarantine to prevent the spread of exotic infectious diseases. Most countries prohibit carrying illegal drugs or endangered animals across their borders. Moving goods, animals, or people illegally across a border, without declaring them or seeking permission, or deliberately evading official inspection, constitutes smuggling. Controls on car liability insurance validity and other formalities may also take place.

In places where smuggling, migration, and infiltration are a problem, many countries fortify borders with fences and barriers, and institute formal border control procedures. But some borders are merely signposted (Okumu, 2010,p.10). This is common in countries within the European and on rural sections of the Canada–United States border. Borders may even be completely unmarked, typically in remote or forested regions; such borders are often described as "porous". Migration within territorial borders, and outside of them. This is evident in African state which Nigeria is not an exemption. In this paper will defined porous borders as those geographic lines which are not properly safeguarded by the security agents which allow illegal entrance of migrants within and outside the sovereign state..

National Security

Security is defined as the absence of threat to acquired values (Okumu, 2010,p.12). This definition can be modified because of the difficulty encountered in the operationalization of absence. In this vein, security is defined as low probability of damage to acquired values. It is pointed out that writers usually fail to offer any definition of security and if one is given, it is usually not accompanied by an

explanation of the reasons for choosing one definition instead of another definition. Thus, security is better described as a confused or inadequately clarified concept, more than a contested concept as some authors argue. Given the foregoing scenario, "national security can be dangerously ambiguous concept if it is used without specifications that facilitate analyzing the rationality of security policy. It is important to define security as a policy objective and proceed to defining policies for pursuing the objectives.

The term **national security** does not have a single definition. National security lacks specific definition, but has been described as the concern of government about the stability and safety of a state. National security policy could equally be seen as a measure taken by a state to ensure its survival and national policy. The essence of national security is the protection of the national interest/value of a state and upholding what the state believed to be valuable to it and its people. Some issues of national found in the grand norms of a country. The constitution of any country could provide a platform for understanding of national security policy.

According to Marsh, (2011) national security of a state is usually at the expense of security of the people. It is easy to see that this is too simplistic and unsuited for national security. This confusion is worsened because of the fact that most people that subscribe to the distinction between human security and national security adopt the aforementioned definition of security. It is important to note that an effective and secure state is a crucial condition for the existence of human security. National security covers economic security, social security, psychological security in some circumstances.

National security could equally be viewed from opposite direction to have and suggest that national security has to do with the security of the state as opposed to the security of the individuals within it. For Okeke (2015), national security was initially or traditionally perceived as referring to the protection of the territorial integrity of a state and the protection of its citizens from external threats, with specific focus on protection against military attack. Today, the scope of national security covers internal threats including interests as well as enhancing the lives of people in the state and the provision of infrastructures required for development. There is also the challenge of striking a balance between human rights and making the states secured. The importance attached to national security as an element of national interest and importance of government is not lost to Nigeria. Section 14 (2) (a) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that:(b) the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of governments, and;(c)the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provision of this constitution (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Section (14) (2).

National security therefore is the acquisition, deployment and use of military force to achieve national goals. It involves lack of danger or risk to held standards, values and ideas and the absence of fear that such values will be attacked not or in the future. National Security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintains its economic relations with the rest of the world on

reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted in this work is the failed state theory. According to Patrick (2007,p.644-662) the term "failed state" is often used to describe a state perceived as having failed at some of basic conditions and responsibilities of a sovereign government. A failed state is one that has shattered social and political structures. It is characterized by social, political and economic failure. Common characteristics of a failing state is when a central government is so weak or ineffective that it has little practical control over much of its territory, non-provision of public utilities or services, widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations, and sharp economic decline.

Thurer (1999) notes that failing states are invariably the product of a collapse of the power structures providing political supports for law and order, a process generally trigged and accompanied by anarchic forms of internal violence. It is the collapse of state institutions, especially the police and judiciary with resulting paralysis of governance, a breakdown of law and order, and general banditry and chaos. Not only are the functions of government suspended, but its assets are destroyed or looted; and experienced officials are killed or flee the country. According to Thurer (1999, p.1-5) the following attributes or characteristics of a failed state include (a) loss of physical control of its territory, or of the monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force (b) erosion of authority to make collective decision (c) an inability to provide reasonable public services and (d) an inability to interact with other states as full member of the international community. Anyanwu (2005) states that by a failed state we mean a state that is unable to meet the needs and aspirations of its masses. A failed state as opposed to capable state is a state which has failed to provide for its citizen such basics needs like adequate security, food, water, electricity, health care, good roads, etc. Nigeria is by all indications or indices a failed state - a state where nothing works. Even those ones that work in other countries once adopted in Nigeria refused to work.

Nature and Scope of Border Routes in Nigeria.

Nigeria as a nation borders with countries like Cameroon (1,690 kilometers) in the east, Niger (1,497 kilometers) in the north, Benin (773 kilometers) in the west, and Chad (87 kilometers) in the northeast. Most of these border areas are either mountainous or in the jungle which makes effective surveillance in the borders very difficult (Mustapha, 2004). In these major borders, there are over hundreds of illegal routes in Nigeria that link or lead to some neighboring African countries. Nigeria's borders are massive with hundreds of footpaths crisscrossing to neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger with links to Mali, Libya and Sudan. From conservative estimate by locals, there are well over 250 footpaths from Damaturu/Maiduguri axis that link or lead direct to Cameroon, Chad or Niger. These paths are mostly unknown by security agencies, are unmanned, unprotected and thus

serve as leaky routes for arms and ammunitions trafficking in to Nigeria. It is disheartening and unfortunate that the "merchants of death" have since devised methods use to beat security agencies at the borders and through the footpaths.

These methods include the use of camels, donkeys and cows to traffic arms, ammunition and drugs, like cocaine into Nigeria. The fact that the weapons are small, light and collapsible makes it easy to be concealed and moved on camels and donkeys' back in a specially crafted skin or thatched bags mainly meant for the illegal "expedition" unexpected, unsuspected and therefore undetected. Similarly, some cows and grains merchants in the North-East sub-region of the country, devices means of hiding cache of arms and ammunition in empty fuel tankers, under vehicles' engines and inside bags of grains mostly undetected by security agencies at the affected border posts. The "grains" are transported in large number via trucks, trailers, Lorries and old model pickup vans and jeeps with little attention given to them by security agents, (Musa,2017). Further analysis on security challenges can be drawn from the series of report from border criminal activities resulting from the outnumbered illegal route as against the Legal route which lacks adequate management coverage as illustrated below;

Table1. Showing the outnumbered illegal route as against legal route in Nigeria.

Legitimacy	Routes	Activities
Legal	84	Majorly importation of goods and services (free market)
Illegal	1,978	Majorly illegal entry by Herdsmen, smuggling of cars, arms Smuggling, exportation of drugs and Human trafficking,

Source, Musa 2017

Despite increasing sub-regional and international cooperation, criminal cross-border activities remain a key variable of instability in Nigeria

Border's Challenges and security issues in Nigeria

There is no doubt that the porous borders in Nigeria have continually threatened the security of the Nigerian State. For example, despite the county's huge potential in security matters, the borders have continually witnessed influx of illegal migrants and low quality of smuggled goods in the state. Analysis has it that Nigeria is continuously becoming a dumping ground for Asian products especially smuggled goods. Most of these smuggled or "imported" arms are becoming a threat to national security.

Table 1I: table of Weapons seized around the country's border

(a)	(B)Arms and ammunition	Number of Weapons
	a. AK 47 rifles	3
	b. G3 Rifles	3
	c. Locally	7
	d. Russian pistol	1
	e. 9mm ammunition	8
	f. 7.65//	24
	g. AK 47//	774
	h. Local made single barrel	5
	i. Single barrel rifles	2

Source, Bhagwati, 2016

Along the Atlantic coast, smuggling of various arms and ammunition had continued unabated. In addition, the phenomenon of sea piracy and robbery has reached a level that foreign ship operators feared trenchancy on Nigerian waters. The international maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre reported that between 2015 and 2016, about 50 shipping mariners were killed worldwide. Out of this number 15 mariners were killed in Nigeria in 2015 alone. In 2016, 30 others were killed in Nigeria and the Malacca Strait (Bhagwati 2016). This has affected the security of the Nigerian state.

Human trafficking in and across the border

It is evident that in 2015, the security operatives that fight cross border crime especially on child trafficking and forced labour discovered in the western states of Nigeria namely Osun, Oyo and Ogun states, child slave camps. About 116 children from the ages 4 to 13 years were rescued from these camps. The camp owners later revealed that the children in the camps were smuggled into the country through the border of Benin Republic and were brought in sacks. In the Eastern part of the country with specific reference to Ebonyi and Enugu States, child trafficking is very lucrative, as children are both trafficked to neighboring state and outside the country. Internally, there are recorded cases of children trafficked from Edo and Cross Rivers states in the south to Ogun and Ondo states in the west, to work in Rubber plantations. Recently, a large consignment of children was intercepted in Jos, Plateau State as they were being transported to Kano as source of cheap labour (Bhagwati, J. and B. Hansen (2016).

In the first week of March 2015, over 100 children were recovered from traffickers in two separate incidents, while on 4th March 2015, immigration authorities monitoring the country's border with Togo Republic intercepted a truck carrying 52 children. Among the four suspects arrested was a clergy man (UNICEF Nigeria/2015.On 5th of March 2016, policemen intercepted a refrigerated truck

containing 64 severely dehydrated children. These children were being trafficked from Mokwa in Niger state passing through Lagos to unknown destination where they are to work as servants. Between 2015 and 2016, NAPTIP repatriated 757 child victims. According to the UNICEF 2017 Report, about 1,475 children (about 80% girls and 20% boys) were rescued from traffickers all these challenges affect our national security.

Influx of Fulani Herdsmen

Nigerian state has suffered greatly under the grinds of the Fulani Herdsmen attackers. These men who are migrants from neighbouring states of Chad, Niger etc using Hausa language on the border line to penetrate the country have made hundreds of villagers to be desperate. Some of these states include Benue, Plateau, Nassarawa, Taraba, Kogi, Kaduna and Enugu, States. Armed men would storm villages in the night, slaughter people, cart away valuables, livestock, and many a times set the villages ablaze. These gruesome attacks have been repeated and became constant story in many communities in North Central Nigeria.

Several efforts have been made to track the cause of these attacks. While some are of the opinion that it arose out of the misunderstandings between the Fulani Herdsmen and the farming communities of the North Central. In several occasions the cattle strays into the farms and destroy the products. The farmers take certain steps at preventing such destructions and reacting to what they see as insensitivity of the herdsmen and high-handedness of the security agencies and laws in handling issues arising there from Alubo (2006). In some other kind of explanation, Felix (2014) see what he called the Fulani uprising in the Middle Belt of Nigeria as a latter-day jihad, aimed at exterminating the Christian sin the area, conquer their land and turn it into pastureland for cattle grazing. In the same vein Edoh (2014) asserted that the current spade of Fulani attacks has its origins in the ethno-religious conflicts that regularly break out between herdsmen and farmers in the north for which Fulani regularly lost both lives and cattle and in turn they retaliate by killing the farmers.
Whichever way one looks at it, the situation has led to unimaginable destruction. The table below shows in a brief some of the recorded consequences of the attacks.

Table 111; Fulani Herdsmen: Catalogues of attacks in the North central Nigeria

State	Year, Month & Day	No of Lives Lost	No of Burnt Houses	Sources
Nasarawa	2013/08/ 01	16	37	News Byte
Nasarawa	2013/07/ 07	03	16	Flash newsniger.hotspot.com
Benue	2012/ 07/ 08	34	86	The Vanguard,
Benue	2013/05/23	76	44	Daily Post
Benue	2013/06/02	28	66	Thisday Newspaper
Plateau	2013/06/08	16	14	The Nigerian Tribunes
Plateau	2013/06/03	03	22	The Punchs

Plateau	2013/09/03	12	17	The Nigerian News word
Benue	2013/08/01	16	24	News Byte
Plateau	2014/06/08	08	11	The Nations
Nasarawa	2012/11/18	16	08	The Vanguard
Nasarawa	2013/06/03	12	06	The Premium Times
Benue	2013/04/20	19	07	The Sun news paper
Benue	2013/06/02	20	15	Thisday news paper
Benue	2014/08/16	18	20	The Punch
Plateau	2015/10/06	11	04	Thisday
Benue/Agatu	2016/08/14	38	19	Daily Post
Adamawa	2017/10/11	64	32	The Punch
Benue	2018/01/01	73	10	Vanguard
Benue	2018/01/22	08	02	Thisday
Plateau	2018/01/18	04	07	The Punch
Benue	2018/02/02	08	10	The Premium Times

Sources; Nigerian Newspapers online (2012-2018).

With these records, it is clear that the situation calls for beef up of the security at the border line and intensify our internal security so that lives and property be secured.

Illegal Bunkering and Crude Oil Theft
The porous nature of the borders has also encouraged illegal bunkering and crude oil theft especially in the Niger Delta area of the country. This has contributed to the great financial losses being experienced by the Federal Government. Illegal bunkering involves transfer of petroleum from one or more vessels to and other without obtaining approval from appropriate authorities. On the other hand, crude oil theft is stealing crude from crude pipelines, manifolds or through any other illegal means. In 2015 alone, for instance, the Nigeria National petroleum Corporation (NNPC) recorded about 497 cases of pipeline vandalization across the country, which seriously undermined the corporation effort at ensuring regular supply of fuel to the public. Also in September, 2015,. Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) recorded 1.336 cases of destruction of its oil installations. (Nzelu, 2015, p.5). In 2015 and 2017, SPDC lost 858,572m000 and 751,127,000.00 US Dollars respectively as a result of the activities of smugglers, illegal blunderers and vandals. (SPDC, 2017).

According to Shell 2015 annual report, the loss was between 100,000- and 200,000 barrels per day. Current, SPDC daily losses to crude oil theft and illegal bunkering is estimated at 40,000 barrel per day. From the period 2015-2017, huge losses have been recorded by the SPDC. For example in 2015, daily production losses amounted to 145,000 barrels; in 2016, it was 148,000 barrels; 2017 recorded 150,000 barrels, This when quantified in monetary terms is large enough to have been used for some developmental projects.

A very good example is the case of oil bunkering and bunkers in and around the Lagos axis, specifically in Dec. 2016 over 260 People Died as a result of inferno around the Egba area in lagos, while the bunkers were scoping for fuel. In some instances they blow up major oil pipe line as in three major oil pipeline especially in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Table 1v: Details of Arrest and Seizures Made By Eastern Naval Command In 2015

Serial	Designation	Number	Remarks
1.	**Person Arrested**		
	a. Illegal bunkering	210	Handed over to police
	b. Robber	9	//
	c. Militant youths	20	//
	d. Hijackers	13	//
	e. Hijackers	3	//
	f. Human traffickers		//
2.	**Seizures**	50	
	a. Barges	6	5 partially
	b. Tug boats	20	Submerged
	c. Worden boats	4	3 partially
	d. Self propelled barges	6	Submerge
	e. Speed boat	40	
	f. Outboard engine		
	Arrested vessels	6	
	Trucks and cars	22	

Source: Nzelu 2015.

Piracy and Sea Robbery

Piracy and sea robbery is a menace to Nigeria's maritime industry and constitute serious threat to Nigeria's maritime interest. According to international maritime organization (IMO) 2015 report, about 50 percent of reported case of piracy and sea robbery incidents in West Africa occur in Nigerian waters. In 2015, the International Maritime Bureau (I.M.B) based in kuala lumpur classified Nigerian Waters as high risk for farer, only better than the Strait of Malacca and Somali waters. In 2016, 13 percent of piracy and sea robber which took place were at anchorage and 44 percent while streaming, the remaining were alongside.

From the 2015 data, most of piracy and sea robbery occur at anchorage or while streaming. The activities of these unscrupulous elements makes maritime environment unsafe of seafarers. The activities of these criminals have really affected oil and gas production. To be able to achieve this, those involved have turned the area into mass importer of illegal arms and ammunitions. This is clear from both oral and documented evidence arms discovered in various parts of the Niger Delta, where these arms are now being used against the state. form available evidence it is obvious

that this trade in these arms which gets into the country through the porous borders is a booming business.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In the light of the forgoing, it will be noted that porous borders is one issue that can lead to turbulence in both national and international community if not tackled. The increased activities of smugglers across the border area coupled with arms trafficking as well as the influx of herdsmen are a challenge to security in Nigeria. The current insurgence in North East Nigeria and other regional crisis will be curtailed if the flow of arms is reduced. Since it's easy to carry about, every citizen are capable of possessing the weapon illegally and this translates to national insecurity. The current government approach to curb border crime by reconstructing the entry and exit border post is a good development but the issue will be the maintenance of the facilities in place. The issue of corruption which has eaten deep into the blood stream of security agents for instance has been a major problem confronting reduction of border crimes. If there is no sensitization of the security force and improved welfare, border crime will continue to soar and further breakdown the security system of the state.

Recommendations

This research has been able to highlight various effects of porous borders in Nigeria and how it affects national security. In the cause of the research, numerous solutions have been pointed out which will help improve the various security challenges across the border area.

a) Increased manpower- Findings shows that, lack of enough manpower has been one of the factor affecting the security agencies from combating crime. For instance, the total number of agents under NDLEA in Some Command is around 40 whereas the Customs have over 400 agents. Enough manpower to a correspondent will enable the security agencies carry out their duties effectively. For instance, a respondent noted that, drug trafficking has taken a new turn as traffickers tend to make use of the water ways to transport drugs and the security agency is not in possession of marine agents who can help apprehend the criminals.

b) Sanitization and enlightenment of the border security Agencies- Training and re-training should be conducted monthly by the various security agencies. These training and workshops should be held occasionally to enable the agencies sharpen up their ideas. Majority of the officers are not well trained and often get into positions through illegal means and for them to be prepared to combat crime, training needs to be conducted. One of the respondent was of the opinion that, there should be a sanitization of the border. The corrupt nature at the border area often make people want to work at either Customs or Immigration. Therefore, there should be a sensitization at the border for all agencies. Another respondent noted that, there should be adequate checks and balances on the staffs at the border area. These will enable the agency to act effectively and reduce corruption as people of integrity should be brought into the system.

c) Technological improvement-The introduction of modern technology should be the priority of the government in combating crimes across the border area. Due to the vast area of borders, developed countries often engage in the use of improved technology like cameras, robots, scanners among others. Sniffing dogs are trained especially by drug related agencies to easily help detect illegal materials. A central data base and watch house should be instituted whereby the cameras are been installed in hidden selected places. The communities if aware might destroy it but it should be strategically place. New machine that can scan vehicles and humans should be introduced and it will make the job of the security agent easier and reduces crime.

d) Improve welfares -Finding revealed that, the welfare situation of security agents are not been taken care of very well. One of the respondent noted that, they are not well taken care and there is no equality among the security agencies. For instance, finding shows that the Customs and Immigration have in their possession more patrol vehicle as against the police and very poor with NDLEA. The NDLEA have in their possession just one patrol vehicle in their command. This will definitely tend to reduce their efficiency as their no is even small. Staffs are not well paid leading to most of them turning into illegal means of livelihood. When there is a well structure welfare package for the agencies, this will increase their efficiency and will reduce corruption. Annual promotion should be introduced as findings shows that, most of the agents are not evenly promoted and those promoted usually pay certain amount of money before their promotion is been done.

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