CONTEMPORARY DYNAMICS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

In spite of increased resources and manpower especially on our national borders, it has come to scholarly concern to what extent border governance is implemented in Nigeria, as much effort and increased funding were made. Border management is one of the most vital security and governance issues facing today's states, with the borders serving not only as a territorial marking but also as a strategic position of national security, immigration control, economic regulation, and transnational cooperation in the international system. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and a regional power within West Africa. The country shares its land borders with Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, with which it shares significant land boundaries, in addition toits many sea borders, providing the state with a challenging border control management issue. People trafficking, arms trafficking, human smuggling, illegal migration, terrorism and insurgencies are some of the of transnational crimes witnessed along Nigeria's borders. This paper examines the present border control management in Nigeria, it analyses emerging security threats affecting border management, the effectiveness of the government's strategies in the implementation of border control and the effects border management practices have on national security and socio economic development. The paper is grounded on the securitisation theory by Buzan. Using qualitative method on secondary sources collected from academic journal, books, government reports and other relevant international organisational publications.Content method was adopted in the analysis of data, the results suggest that poor border control management is aggravated by permeable borders, institutional non-cooperation, technology deficiency, corrupt practice and regional security challenges within the states. It also points to the fact that, though, closing of borders, establishment of border control management frames and use of surveillance technologies have registered a few success, much more challenges exist, to counter these threats the study suggest border patrol should employ the use of most sophisticated surveillance technologies as well as improving interagency co-operations between security outfits in Nigeria as well as enhanced collaboration between ECOWAS member

states. It concludes that, the effective and efficient management of borders is urgently needed in Nigeria in order for more progress to be registered in the realm of national security and economic growth, thereby contributing to the understanding of Nigeria's border governance. The present study contributes to literature by providing a comprehensive analysis that covers security, economic, institutional, technological and migration aspects of border management under a singular perspective.

Introduction

The management of border has thus become one of the most salient issues of modern international relations, security policy and governance. Throughout the world, border serves as fundamental sites at which states practice sovereignty, regulate flows, facilitate trade,ensure territorial integrity and national security. Against the backdrop of a globalised world characterised by rapid technological advancements, increasing mobility of people and rising cross-border crime, border management has become more critical than ever (Andreas, 2013). While global interconnectedness has fueled a greater flow of goods, capital and people across state boundaries, this process has simultaneously created increased security threats in the forms of terrorism, illegal migration, human trafficking, illegal weapons and drug smuggling, organised crime, and so on (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2022).

In response, states around the world are adopting more integrated approach towards border management. The integrated border management approach facilitates coordinated actions among agencies, adoption of up-to-date technologies, information sharing among agencies and states, and cooperation between states, in order to achieve both border control and seamless movement of trade and people (World Customs Organization (WCO), 2021). Following 9/11 attacks, a number of countries have implemented significant advancements on border control apparatus, such as the implementation of biometric identifications, electronic surveillance devices, physical border barriers and advanced intelligence mechanisms (Andreas, 2013). This suggests a paradigm shift of border management from simple territorial observation to a multifaceted one that encompassing security, migration, trade, public health and regional cooperation.

The most recent events occurring worldwide such as the fight against terrorism, cybercrime, the pandemic of COVID-19, forced displacement triggered by climate change, and transnational organised crime have added further strain on border management. Actually the covid-19 pandemic has actually demonstrated the significance of borders as an instrument of managing public health by the imposition of movement restriction and closure of national borders to curtail the spread of the virus (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2022). In like manner, the continued rise of migration triggered by circumstances as a consequence of political instability, conflict situations or socio economic reasons prevailing in the regions of origin and transit, have led states to implement more fluid and collaborative policies regarding border management (Castles et al. 2020).Border governance challenges on the African continent stem from a complex history of political, economic and security realities. Most African borders were established during the colonial era in flagrant disregard of ethnic, cultural or geographical factors and have served to separate communities across borders

(Asiwaju, 1985). As a result, the lax borders established in colonial times remain undefinedtoday and permit a range of illegal cross-border activities including arms and drug trafficking, human smuggling, cattle rustling and movements of extremists (Aning&Pokoo, 2014).

Transitional threats have led toborder management taking center stage on the continent,regions including the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, Lake Chad basin and the Gulf of Guinea grapple with numerous security challenges stemming from the undefined natureof borders, while terrorist and militant groups like Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, and Al-Shabaab affiliates continue to use permeable borders to move across countries (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2023). To counter these threats, many regional institutions and African states in collaboration with their international partners are undertaking combined border security efforts including regional coordination, joint military operations and modernisationprojects to enhance their capabilities.

In parallel, ongoing regional integration efforts initiated by regional bodies like ECOWAS, the African Union (AU) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) have increasingly led to growing intra-regional trade, migration and communication. This in turn raises concerns for security agents on managing increased mobility while promoting the free movement of people and goods (African Union Commission, 2020). Nigeria is a key player in both West African region and at the African continent level at political, economic and security issues as a whole. Being the most populous African country and one of the largest economies of Africa, Nigeria shares nearly 4047 km of land border with Benin Republic, Niger Republic, Chad Republic and Republic of Cameroon, in addition to having a large stretch of sea border along the Gulf of Guinea (Nigeria Immigration Service, 2023).These borders are vital for trade, migration, communication and economic integration alongthese regions and have simultaneously left Nigeria vulnerable to various threats to border security.

The management of Nigeria's borders has been complex today, and is now subject to multiple pressures due to globalisation, integration into the regional sphere, transnational crime,terrorism, insurgencies, and technology. It faces the issue of smuggling, human trafficking and proliferation of arms and lights weapons, irregular migration, kidnapping, terrorism and many more. Crisis Group, 2021).

The sheer extent to which there are unofficial crossing points is also of importance in preventing official control. It is estimated by the Nigeria Customs Service that there are hundreds of unofficial routes throughout the country's borders (Nigeria Customs Service, 2022). This poses major difficulties for law enforcements agencies. Further hindrances to the security and integrity of Nigeria's borders are corruption, poor infrastructure, low access to advanced technology, and uncoordinated agency roles. Nigerian authorities have tried different methods, including border closure, biometric registration, increasing surveillance and regional security cooperation to solve these issues but there are still doubts regarding the success of the implementation.

Against this background, this paper examines current trends in Nigeria's border governance. It attempts to assess evolving security threats, government response to border threats and policies, and implications of border practice on national security and the socio-economic development of the country. A clear picture of

this trend is essential to form policies towards improving the country's border security.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria's geographical location and extensive international boundaries present opportunities for trade, movement and regional cooperation. However these opportunities are paralleled with the risks of extensive security and governance challenges. The challenge of border security in Nigeria has been subject to continued government investment and attention, yet it is consistently and persistently challenged.

One aspect of this challenge relates to the sheer fragility of Nigeria's international boundaries. It is reported that Nigeria has over 1,400 ungoverned border crossings which have been attributed to smugglers, human trafficking, insurgencies and other criminal elements (Nigeria Customs Service, 2022).Corruption continues to undermine border governance. Studies consistently points to widespread bribery, extortion and collusion between security officials and criminal networks, as key enablers of illegal border activities (Transparency International, 2022). Nigeria's borders are characterised by terrorism, kidnapping, smuggling of small arms and lights weapons, smuggling of drugs, livestock's and all sorts of vices due to weakly managed borders. Lack of modern facilities for manning borders and technology in monitoring movements at borders is another major concern.

The government of Nigeria came up with different policiesincludingthe establishment of the Nigeria Immigration Service mandated with the responsibility of managing Nigeria's borders, a two-face ECOWAS building at Seme border were measures to secure the borders.Inspite of these efforts border management remains a challenge.Previous studies have explored the aspects of Nigeria's border security, yet, there remains the need for a thorough analysis of the evolving factors shaping border management. The study is therefore motivated by the need to examine some of the challenges of border management, how these threaten Nigeria's national security and the measures the government of Nigeria put in place to counter these challenges.

Objectives of the study

This study is guided by the following objectives:

i. To analyse current security threats impacting border management in Nigeria.

ii. Examine policies and strategies formulated by the Nigerian government to reinforce border security.

iii. To explore how border management practices affects national security and socio economic progress in Nigeria

Methodology

The study uses a qualitative methodology, which is well suited for explaining complex social, political, and security dynamics link to border governance. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of institutional behaviours, policy implementation and the contextual realities influencing border control. The study relied entirely on secondary data collection from academic journal articles, scholarly books, official government publications and policy document, reports from international bodies,materials by security agencies such as Nigeria Immigration Service, and Nigeria Custom Service.

Content analysis was employed to interpret the data. This method involves systematic identifying pattern, themes, and connection within textual (Krippendorff, 2018). Each objective of the study served as a theme which the study covered.

Conceptual Clarification

Border

The concept of a border has received considerable academic attention due to its intrinsic connection to international relations, security studies, political geography and migration.According to Parker & Vaughan-Williams (2012), border can be identified as a practice which determines inclusion or exclusion within a political community. From this various definition, a border is an encompassing-territorial, political, social and security based-institution where state exercise power and controls population mobility, defends national interest, and determines those within and outside the boundary.

Border Management

Border management is understood as a multidisciplinary field including administration of security, migration management, custom controls, trade facilitation and cooperation among countries, which leads scholars providing various understandings of this term.

For International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2019), border management "refers to the totality of policies, systems and procedures applied by states to control the cross-border movement of persons, goods and services...while ensuring national security, promoting legitimate travel and trade, and facilitating economic integration and regional cooperation".

The definition illustrate border management as an inclusive process using legal, administrative and institutional approaches combined with technologies in order to regulate, monitor and facilitate border crossing in line with national security interests, economic development, and regional cooperation.

Contemporary Dynamics

Contemporary dynamics refers to contemporary developments, dynamic processes and changing circumstances which impact on a given phenomenon at a particular time. Contemporary dynamics (Giddens 1990) are regarded as a continual process of change initiated by factors such as modernisation, globalisation, technological advancement and institutional changes which tend to revolutionise political and social situations.

Regarding border management, contemporary dynamics in the form of changing patterns of migration flows, technology, terrorism, transnational crime, regional integration, globalisation, changing security governance are impacting on border management practices and outcomes. For the purpose of this research, contemporary dynamics refer to changing political, economic, technological and security forces which affect the practices of border management in Nigeria and border management outcomes.

Theoretical Framework

There are two theories the study is built upon that are relevant in understanding contemporary issues in Nigerian border management. These are:

i. Border Theory

ii. Securitisation Theory

Following a review of both theories, the study employs the securitization theory as the theory that accounts for contemporary issues in Nigerian border management.

Border Theory

Derived in the field of political geography and border studies from the late 20th century, Border Theory is attributed to academics like Malcolm Anderson (1996), David Newman (2006), AnssiPaasi (1998) and Henk van Houtum (2005). It looks at borders from the perspective of their construction as social phenomena, politically maintained and strategically deployed by states in managing territory and populations. The Theory goes beyond traditional, cartographic conceptions of borders, presenting them instead as dynamic and strategic entities that play diverse roles in politics and society. Anderson (1996) stated that borders function in multiple capacities-political, economic, security and symbolic-representing states' authority and influencing inclusion and exclusion. Newman (2006) said borders were processes of state interaction rather than immutable structures, shaping the relations between regions and people. Paasi (1998) showed how borders shape identities, including notions of belonging, nationhood and sovereignty. It found prominence with increased global interconnectedness which demanded that we re-examine traditional, territorial boundaries.

Border Theory argues that boundaries are a social and political construction rather than a natural or fixed entity. They also fulfill a variety of roles- political, economic, security, social, identity related-and its functioning depends on the strength of state institutions, technologies and political will. The theory acknowledges the dichotomous impact of globalisation, although the theory has identified that there is an increase in cross-border movements, it has not adequately explored how states manage borders in the face of new security threats which force states to enhance border control.

The main critique that has been leveled against thistheory, is that it has a state-centered approach as it disregards the significance and the power of non-state actors such as criminal gangs, terrorist organisations and multinational companies in the control and management of border areas.

Another weakness the theory has faced is in its failure to discuss how the application of new technologies is reconfiguring the control and management of borders.Academics have also argued that the theory offers little insight into future security threats and future border-related conflicts.This theory is useful for this research study because it shows how the Nigerian borders play a significant role in upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nigeria. It is also useful for analysis of the problem posed by permeable borders and cross-border movement. Moreover, it shows the relationship between border control and national security policies.

Securitisation Theory

The Securitisation theory (introduced by scholars from the Copenhagen school in 1995, most prominently Barry Buzan Ole Wverand Jaap de Wilde) developed most of its substance from their 1998 seminar book entitled Security: A New Framework for Analysis. This theory helps to explain the emergence of issues as security threats and legitimisationof policies that goes beyond the normal process and decision-making, so it assumes that threats are not objects, but the political and institutional interpretations of events and facts. Securitisation, according to BuzanWaeverand de Wilde (1998, 24), happens when a certain

phenomenon has been declared as a threat to national survival that has existential consequences for society, as to deal with that issue, the state will be allowedby all extraordinary political and legal meansto violate the rules which would otherwise constrain it. So far it has found wide application in studies of migration, terrorism, borders and border security, organized crime, cyber security and environmental issues.

It postulates that security threats are constructed by discourse in political and institutional settings. Inaddition, the theory has significantly extended the boundaries of security beyond military concerns into other dimensions such as political, economic, societal, environmental etc. Some limitations of the securitisation theory according to some criticsisthat the theory over-emphasis on language and discourse, rather than the real context and issues themselves (Heynemann, 1999).

The theory tends to be a state-centric theory as it focuses on the perceptions and interpretations of decision-makers in the centre, and fails to capture the experiences and perspectives of subaltern and grassroots level of society nor to clearly define standards that determine when an issue has been adequately secured, over-securitisedor appropriately securitized (Piguet&Sayan, 2013). Justification of the use of securitisation theory for analyzing border management in Nigeria Securitisation Theory serves best for the study because of growing linkage between the Nigerian border management and national security in the country. Currently, border governance has extended beyond customs and immigration roles to also include functions such as anti-terrorism and counter-smuggling operations, including combating human trafficking and transnational crime in Nigeria's weakborders. In fact, the proliferation of Boko Haram insurgency,proliferation of arms and illegal migration along Nigerian borders have made national security an ultimate focus for decision makers in the country, thus resulting in border closures and military deployments, and the integration of biometrics and modern surveillance to secure Nigerian border. SecuritisationTheory would help us understand how border related problem have been portrayed as an acute security challenge or 'existential' threats. Therefore,securitisationtheory provides the most appropriate theoretical framework to understand how border problems and governance become issues of national security, security policy, and state authority.

Empirical Review

Contemporary Security Issues Concerning Nigeria's Border Management

Akinyemi (2020) discussed the problem of trans-border crimes and security in Nigeria with a view to ascertaining the impact of porous borders on Nigerian insecurity. A qualitative research design and documentary sources, including scholarly work, security reports and government documents were used in the study. It was discovered that permeable borders facilitate migration, trafficking in drugs, humans and weapons. The investigation concluded that weak border surveillance threatens the nation's security. But, technology alternatives in border management did not receive any attention. In this paper, the knowledge gap is bridged by discussing current technology trends influencing border management.

International Crisis Group (2021) focused its study on instability and border management in the Lake Chad Basin with a view to understanding the role played by faulty border

management in inducing rebellion in Nigeria and other neighboring countries. Qualitative approach including field reporting, interviews and policy analyses were applied. It concluded that porous borders make it possible for Boko Haram and ISWAP to take refuge, transit weapons and have supply lines. However it solely dealt with northeast Nigeria and neglected other areas of Nigeria's border system, while this paper tries to address the problem in its totality.

Policies and Strategies Formulated by the Nigerian Government to Reinforce Border Security

Adeleke (2021) did an analysis of Nigerian government policies concerning her border security. His aim was to evaluate border closure measures and institutional reforms. The researcher employed qualitative documentary analysis. From the results obtained, while border closure measures improved customs revenue and reduced smuggling it also caused disruption to trade and according to the researcher, "border closure in itself will not guarantee the desired long-term border security". The researcher did not however review technological interventions,our work rectifies this limitation by exploring technology interventions in border governance.

Onuoha (2017) investigated Nigeria's border control and counter-terrorism approach. His aim was to analyze measures used in preventing terrorists entering Nigeria. His technique employed qualitative content analysis of reports and documents produced by the security agencies in Nigeria. His findings confirmed that an increased border patrol and presence of military men enhances border security at specific locations. However the effectiveness was hampered by a lack of good intelligence sharing and proper logistics, the research did not give significant emphasis to economic implications, our research combines security and developmental aspects.

The World Bank (2022) examined border modernisation and trade facilitation policies used in West African countries including Nigeria. Their aim was to measure how border administration efficiency was affected by the adoption of technological improvements. In their assessment, a combination of policy evaluation and documentary analysis was employed, the findings showed that with the adoption of biometric technologies and electronic customs system, border activities became more efficient. However they found that poor infrastructure was still a limitation at many border posts. Our research uses these findings but further explores how the measures applied contribute to border security. The World Bank report gave more emphasis to economic performance, in this research we explore security issues, as it gives an analysis of both issues.

Implications of Border Management Practices and Their Impact on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

In the same stream of research, Nte (2016) explored the border security and economic development in Nigeria. The study was set to find out the effects of poor management practices on border and to the economy in Nigeria.Document analysis and secondary data revealed that smuggled items compromise the domestic sector and diminish government revenue. According to the results, improved border management leads to the enhancement of the economy. However, the study had a neglect of security issues, and the aspect of economic implication was the main focus. Both will be covered in this paper. Astudy concerning the impact of migration governance on the development outcomes of West Africa was

completed by the International Organization for Migration (2022), aiming to ascertain how border management processes impact on migration outcomes, and how this processes contributes to the economic development in West Africa.The analysis combined policy analysis with review of migration data, revealing that effective border management practices are beneficial for labor movement, legal migration and economic integration. However, it failed to cover the more comprehensive issue of security, focusing mainly on managing migration. This paper does bridge the gap by taking security, migration and development perspective together.

From the above studies, there exist research gaps to be addressed in this current study;

Most of the studies tend to focus on the economic implication or security issue at the exclusion of the other. Some studies do not take comprehensive approach to the governance structure of the Nigerian border system but examine border management in regional and sub-regional level. Modern factors and technological developments in border management were not taken into account. Most of the studies tend to examine individual threats instead of interconnectivity of risks associated with border management like terrorism, migration and smuggling. This research addresses this gap by studying current border management practices in Nigeria from a multidimensional perspective, involving the aspects of security, economic, technology, institution, and development.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of the findings is presented based on the three objectives of the study.

Contemporary Security Issues Impacting Border Management in Nigeria

This study identified that undefined borders, terrorism and insurgency, proliferation of illegal arms and human trafficking, smuggling and corruption, lack of surveillance equipment are the major issues impacting border management in Nigeria. It also indicated that the number of illegal border crossings along Nigeria's borders promotes the entry and exit of criminal elements, thus making national security porous.These findings complement the study of Akinyemi (2020), who concluded that porous borders increase the levels of cross-border crimes like human trafficking, arms smuggling and human migration. These findings concur with the report of the International Crisis Group (2021), which stated that Boko Haram and ISWAP utilize weak security presence around Nigerian borders as a haven for recruitments and movement of weapons and personnel.

The findings also confirm the work of Aning and Pokoo (2014), which concluded that porous borders in West Africa fuel organised crimes such as human and drug trafficking and the proliferation of small and light weapons, and that porous borders undermine regional security, and can create opportunities for extremist group activities and transnational crime, thereby facilitating such crimes and insecurity on a regional basis. The current findings further expand upon these studies by highlighting the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of contemporary border challenges.

It also found that Corruption among officials managing border security adds to ineffective border management. The finding of the study complements reports from transparency International (2022), which concluded corruption continues to undermine all forms of governance including security administrations,

thus indicating that challenges in border security are also dependent on improved border management institutions and public accountability and transparency.

It can be deduced that the findings support the argument of Securitisation theory that contemporary threats at the border are identified as existential threat requiring exceptional government actions and expanded security presence (Buzan et al. 1998).

Policies and Strategies Formulated by the Nigerian Government to Reinforce Border Security

Based on the findings, it was discovered that the Nigerian government utilises numerous strategies and policies in relation to border management. These included border closure policies, joint border patrols, biometrics technology-related strategies, mass deployment of security personnel, cross-border security cooperation, as well as a quest for technological upgrading.

The finding that border closure policies led to a decline in smuggling activities and an increase in revenue from customs duties complements that of Adeleke (2021), who observed that 2019 border closure yields some short term security benefits as well as economic dividends. The current study, however, has the further observation that such policies yielded negative implications for legitimate business operations as well as regional economic integration, thus broadening Adeleke's findings.

Furthermore,the study also agrees with World Bank (2022) which discovered that technological innovations, such as biometric identities and electronic customs systems, result in improved border management effectiveness. This study found that such technology positively enhanced the capabilities for identity verification and surveillance but also noted that it is hobbled by inadequate infrastructure and fund limitations across many borders.

Finally, the finding aligns with the World Customs Organization (2021) which identified coordinated border management as important. This study found increased collaboration between Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Custom Service, Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services and Nigerian Armed Forces in recent years but notes institutional rivalries and functional overlaps as challenges.

In light of the findings above, it can be concluded that Nigerian government policies has recorded some success, but to sustain effective border management, there is a need for increased cross-institutional collaboration, upgrade of technology and policy stability.

Implications of Border Management Practices on National Security and Socioeconomic Development

The outcome of border management on National Security and Socioeconomic development of Nigeria The study revealed that well managed borders positively impacts the national security, stability of the economy, facilitation of trade and revenue generation, as well as regional cooperation and integration. On the contrary, it creates room for crimes and makes the country vulnerable economically, politically and security-wise. It also provides ample opportunity for smuggling of all kinds, which would make the country vulnerable from security and economical perspective. The finding that poor border management positively impacts negatively on economic development corresponds with the findings of Nte (2016) who discovered that illegal entry of goods resulted in decreased government revenue and development of domestic industries. The finding in the

present study similarly found that the influx of smuggled goods and contraband items, and fake goods diminish local production and economic capability of Nigeria. The findings also agree with Meagher (2014) who posited that over strictness at border security encourages informal trade networks, criminal economies, as opposed to legitimate business activities and that restrictive border policy may inhibit the smooth running of legitimate businesses and affect the economy negatively along the border regions, even when security measures are necessary to counter criminal elements,. This implies there should be a need for balance between strictness and flexibility, and security alongside economy at the border post. Moreover, it also agrees with the United Nations Development Programme (2023) which found a strong correlation between weak border security and under-development. Insecurity at border-points due to terrorism, insurgency and crimes contributes to displacement, poverty and economic decay, especially along the border regions as found in this study. Additionally, this supports the finding of the International Organization for Migration (2022) which concluded that effectively managed borders foster legal migration, labor movement and regional integration. The study also found similar evidence when border security is effective, it permits safe movement across the border, as opposed to illegal crossing and security challenges as supported by the finding in the present study. The study further extended existing knowledge by showing a relationship between security, migration, and economy from a holistic point of view on Nigeria's border management process in addition to other factors compared to other earlier studies which merely looked at isolated issues in border management. The findings align with the proposition of SecuritisationTheory that the concept of security itself expanded over time, particularly in the 1990s, by arguing that 'states increasingly focus their attentions on borders and consider border related challenges as security issues' which would justify 'an exception policy toward border management' (Buzan et al.,1998). Therefore, the adoption of the concept of border closure, presence of military forces at the borders, biometric system, and improvement in intelligence network reflects border management within the securitisationdiscourse.

Summary of Findings

This section summarizes findings and analysis of this study on border management practices and policy in Nigeria. It specifically investigates and presents findings on the trends of border management practices in Nigeria especially as it relates to security threats and challenges in the governance of Nigeria borders, policies and strategies implemented by the Nigeria government to improve border management and their implications to the security and development of the country.

Findings showed that poor border management of the Nigeria borders is one of the most challenging issues confronting the effectiveness of the system. An array of many illegal crossing points have provided means through which trans-national criminal activities including arms smuggling, human trafficking, drug smuggling, goods smuggling and irregular migration.

Findings also established that insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria particularly as executed by Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) is being assisted by Nigeria's weak borders Moreover, deficiencies in technology of border management, institutional coordination issues, manpower shortages, and corrupt tendencies by border guards were also

identified as important challenges in governance of border management.

The findings indicate that there are several strategies implemented by Nigerian government to achieve effective border management. These include cooperative border patrolling; biometrics registration systems, border closure policies; increased troop and police deployments to the borderlines; project for technology upgrade of border management system and regional border security collaboration mechanism. Even though those measures achieved limited results to reduce the rates of smuggling and improve border monitoring capabilities, factors such as limited funding for implementation; corruption tendencies among officials at the border; and weak coordination among security and law enforcement agencies and low capacity level hindered the effective implementation of those projects.

Conclusion

The paper examined contemporary border management practices in Nigeria and found that the country's border management framework is plagued with complex problems engendered by the increasing challenges of globalisation, transnational crime, terrorism, irregular migration, and institutional inefficiencies. While Nigeria's extensive land and sea border provides avenues for regional cooperation and economic integration, it renders the country vulnerable to a wide array of security challenges. Despite various government policies such as border closure regulations, operations, biometric systems, and regional cooperation mechanisms, the study reveals that substantial problems persists. The porous borders, lack of interagency cooperation, corruption and outdated technologies continue to hinder the effectiveness of border management policies.

Recommendations

Key recommendations stemming from the findings and conclusion of the study have been provided below;

There should be a continued obligation of the Federal Government of Nigeria to continue to support the use of sophisticated technologies that will be beneficial in border surveillance. Examples of these sophisticated systems include surveillance drones, satellite surveillance systems, biometric technology, AI surveillance systems and a coordinated border management information system.

A clear and conducive working relationship, better coordination and cooperation must be put in place between the Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigerian Custom Service, Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Armed Forces, Department of State Services, Nigeria Drug Enforcement Agency and other security agencies involved in one or more function at the border, with clear operational guidelines to clear overlap of duties and the sharing of information.

Budgetary allocation to border management agencies should be significantly improved in order to provide ample funds for development of infrastructures, training of officers, operational capabilities, and modernization through acquisition of state-of-the-art technologies.

Nigeria should build stronger bilateral and multilateral cooperation with neighbor-hood states through concerted actions such as joint border patrols, intelligence sharing, extradition processes and joint operations using platforms such as ECOWAS and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

The official border points should be modernized and upgraded while all unofficial border crossing points, used for trafficking of

arms, drugs, and humans by smugglers and insurgents must be identified and sealed off.

Border management policies should be continually monitored and reviewed, in order to achieve the necessary flexibility required to cope with changing security threats, technological advancements, as well as dynamic regional situation.

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