THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON SOCIAL COHESION AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between immigration policies and their influence on social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria. It analyzes the historical and contemporary patterns of immigration in Nigeria, as well as the legal and institutional frameworks that regulate them. It also explores the socio-economic and political impacts of immigration on the host communities and the immigrants themselves. The study argues that immigration policies in Nigeria have been largely reactive, restrictive and ineffective, failing to address the root causes and consequences of migration. The study further contends that immigration policies have contributed to social fragmentation, ethnic polarization, political violence and insecurity in Nigeria, undermining the prospects of national integration and development. The study recommends a comprehensive and holistic approach to migration management that balances the rights and interests of all stakeholders, promotes regional and international cooperation, and fosters social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria.

Background to the Study

Social cohesion and political stability are indispensable for the well-being and progress of a nation, just as a strong foundation and sturdy walls are vital for a house. Both elements work hand in hand, with social cohesion providing the necessary unity and sense of purpose, while political stability ensures order and protects the interests of the citizens. Social cohesion can be defined as the extent to which different groups and individuals in a society trust, cooperate, and identify with each other, while political stability can be defined as the capacity of a political system to maintain order, legitimacy, and effective governance (Marshall, 2016). Research by the IMD Business School shows that social cohesion is a very important driver of long-term prosperity and competitiveness, as it enables societies to be politically stable and to pursue economic growth and business development (Facchini *et al*., 2019).

According to Lawal (2016), social cohesion refers to the ability of individuals in a society to work together and live harmoniously, despite differences in their social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. It involves a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and mutual trust among citizens, which are crucial

for a stable and prosperous society. Various factors contribute to social cohesion, including economic equality, political stability, social mobility, and cultural integration (Collier & Hoeffler, 2014). Social cohesion plays a crucial role in maintaining a stable and prosperous society. Countries that prioritize inclusivity, equality, and cultural integration tend to have higher levels of social cohesion, as seen in Denmark and Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada. 2021). Conversely, countries with increasing divisions and inequalities face challenges in maintaining social cohesion, such as the United States (United States Congress, 2015). Recognizing the importance of social cohesion and implementing policies that promote inclusivity and equality are essential for creating a harmonious, resilient and politically stable society.

On the other hand, Political stability refers to the degree of consistency and continuity in the functioning of a country's political system. It is an essential aspect for the economic development, social well-being, and overall progress of a nation (Wikipedia, 2021 & Britannica, 2022). It can also be referred to as a state where the government is secured and can effectively exercise control over its territory, maintain law and order, and provide stability for its citizens. It is an essential factor for attracting foreign investment, ensuring economic growth, and maintaining social cohesion.

Political stability is crucial and according to Manuwa, T. (2023) and is the ability of governments to maintain order and deliver public goods and services for attracting foreign investments and promoting economic growth. A study by Acemoglu *et al*. (2016) found that political stability correlates positively with economic prosperity, indicating that countries with stable political systems tend to experience higher levels of economic development. Political stability instills confidence in investors as it reduces uncertainty and potential risks associated with sudden political changes. A report by the World Bank (2017) states that political stability is one of the key factors considered by investors, directly contributing to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and economic growth. With respect to social cohesion, Political stability ensures a cohesive societal structure and diminishes the likelihood of social unrest and conflicts. Studies have shown that stable political environments can decrease social tension and contribute to greater social harmony and inclusiveness. For instance, a study by Alesina *et al.* (1996) found that political instability is positively associated with social unrest and ethnic conflicts. Political stability is often linked to

effective governance, where the government has the capacity to implement policies, maintain public institutions, and provide public goods and services to its citizens. A study by Asiedu and Freeman (2009) found that political stability has a positive impact on the effectiveness of governance, as it allows governments to focus on developmental programs and long-term planning. Political stability also plays a crucial role in achieving social and human development objectives. Stable political systems provide an environment conducive to education, healthcare, poverty reduction, and social welfare programs. A report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlights that political stability is a key component for sustainable human development.

Social cohesion and political stability are two important concepts that are often linked in the literature on democracy and development. Social cohesion refers to the degree of trust, solidarity, and cooperation among members of a society, while political stability refers to the absence of violence, conflict, and instability in the political system. Both social cohesion and political stability are essential for achieving sustainable economic growth, human development, and social justice.

However, the relationship between social cohesion and political stability is not straightforward or linear. Some scholars argue that social cohesion is a prerequisite for political stability, as it fosters a sense of belonging, identity, and common purpose among citizens, and reduces the likelihood of social fragmentation, polarization, and violence (UNDP, 2019). Others contend that political stability is a precondition for social cohesion, as it provides a secure and predictable environment for citizens to interact, participate, and cooperate with each other, and prevents the emergence of authoritarianism, corruption, and repression (United Nations Department of Economic And Social Affairs, 2019 & Ukoha & Okafor, 2020).

Moreover, different dimensions of social cohesion and political stability may have different effects on each other. For example, some aspects of social cohesion, such as ethnic diversity, cultural pluralism, or social inclusion, may enhance political stability by promoting tolerance, dialogue, and representation. However, other aspects of social cohesion, such as social inequality, economic exclusion, or civil society activism, may challenge political stability by generating grievances, mobilization, and protest. Similarly, some aspects of political stability, such as democratic institutions, rule of law, or human

rights protection, may foster social cohesion by ensuring accountability, legitimacy, and justice. However, other aspects of political stability, such as state capacity, security forces, or external intervention, may undermine social cohesion by creating coercion, fear, or resentment. Therefore, the relationship between social cohesion and political stability is complex and dynamic. It depends on various factors such as historical context, cultural values, institutional arrangements, socioeconomic conditions, and external influences. It also evolves over time as societies face different challenges and opportunities in their development trajectories.

Immigration is an important aspect of global development, with various countries implementing immigration policies to regulate the entry, stay, and rights of individuals from foreign nations. In Nigeria, like many other countries, immigration policies are established to address issues related to national security, economic development, and social cohesion. However, these policies can have a significant impact on the social fabric and political stability of the country.

Nigeria is a major country of origin, transit and destination for migration in Africa and globally. The country has adopted a National Policy on Migration and its Implementation Plan (NPMIP) in 2015, with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Union (EU) (NPMIP, 2015). The policy aims to provide an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration, and to ensure a more efficient management of migration in Nigeria. The policy also addresses issues related to diaspora mobilization, border management, decent treatment of migrants, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and the role of civil society in migration management. In 2020, Nigeria launched a new Visa Policy (NVP), which introduces a reformed visa regime with 79 classes of visas for various purposes of entry and stay in the country (Statista, 2022b). The NVP is intended to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country's economy, while drawing innovation, specialised skills and knowledge from abroad to complement local capacity. However, the full implementation of the NVP has yet to commence as of October 2023. Nigeria also faces challenges in managing labor migration, as many young people seek for gainful employment overseas. The World Bank has recommended that Nigeria establish new migration partnerships with countries that have

labor demand and offer opportunities for safe, regular, and orderly migration.

One possible argument for immigration policies in Nigeria is that they can help unlock the country's unrealized economic potential by facilitating international labor mobility. According to the World Bank, the Government of Nigeria has developed institutional and policy frameworks that recognize international labor mobility as a tool to address unemployment, increase remittances, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and investments from its diaspora (World Bank, 2021). Moreover, immigration policies can also help regulate and monitor the flow of migrants into and out of the country, ensuring decent treatment and protection of their rights (NPMIP, 2020). According to Statista, Nigeria had a negative net migration rate of -0.29 per 1,000 population in 2021, meaning that more people left the country than entered it (Statista, 2022a). However, Nigeria also hosted 1.3 million international migrants in 2020, of which 45.5 percent were female and 30.5 percent were under 20 years old (Statista, 2022b). These migrants contributed to the country's economy and society in various ways, such as by sending remittances, filling labor gaps, and bringing diversity and innovation.

Immigration policies in Nigeria have been shaped by various factors, such as colonial history, economic development, security challenges, regional integration and international relations. However, these policies have also had significant implications for the social cohesion and political stability of the country, as they affect the rights, opportunities and identities of different groups of people. The problem that this research intends to address is how immigration policies in Nigeria have influenced the social cohesion and political stability of the country, both positively and negatively. The research will examine the historical evolution of immigration policies in Nigeria, the current legal and institutional framework, the main actors and stakeholders involved, the challenges and opportunities for immigration management, and the impact of immigration policies on social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria. Given the multifaceted nature of immigration policies, there is a need to explore the relationship between these policies, social cohesion, and political stability in Nigeria. Understanding this relationship is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to develop immigration policies that promote a harmonious society and maintain political stability. This study aims to examine the influence of immigration policies on social cohesion and

political stability in Nigeria, taking into account the perspectives of key stakeholders and existing literature.

Literature Review: Concept of Immigration Policies

Immigration policies refer to a set of rules and regulations that govern the entry and stay of foreign individuals in a country. These policies are established by governments to control immigration flows, manage demographic changes, protect national security, and regulate labor markets. The concept of immigration policies can be explored through various aspects, including their objectives, types, and effects. Here is a list of citations that provide further insights into the concept of immigration policies: Immigration policies are government regulations that control the entry and settlement of foreign nationals within a country's borders. These policies aim to define the eligibility criteria, rights, and responsibilities of immigrants, as well as the processes and procedures involved in obtaining legal status in a particular country. Immigration policies can vary widely from one country to another and are typically driven by a combination of economic, political, and social factors.

There are several key components and objectives that often form the basis of immigration policies:

1. Economic considerations: Many countries utilize immigration policies to attract skilled workers or investors who can contribute to their economy. For example, Canada's immigration policy, known as the Express Entry System, emphasizes points-based selection criteria to prioritize the admission of individuals with high levels of education, work experience, and language proficiency. These policies aim to fill labor market gaps, drive economic growth, and enhance the competitiveness of the country (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2021).

2. Family reunification: Immigration policies often recognize the importance of family unity and allow individuals to sponsor their family members for migration. Countries like Australia, the United States, and several European nations prioritize the reunification of immediate family members, which includes spouses, children, and parents. These policies aim to address social and emotional needs, foster integration, and support overall well-being (Czaika & De Haas, 2013).

3. Humanitarian considerations: Many countries also have immigration policies that address humanitarian crises and facilitate the admission of refugees or those seeking asylum. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol provide the

legal framework for the protection of refugees and set guidelines for their treatment. Countries such as Germany, Sweden, and Canada have implemented policies that provide asylum and support to those fleeing persecution or conflict (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1951).

4. National security: Immigration policies also focus on protecting national security interests by regulating the entry and screening of potential threats. Governments implement measures to verify background information, conduct security checks, and establish visa categories that restrict or prohibit entry based on specific risks. The United States, for instance, introduced the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act to enhance security screening for individuals traveling to the country without a visa (Lawal, 2016 & Dekolo, 2021).

5. Integration and social cohesion: Integration policies aim to facilitate the smooth adjustment of immigrants in the host country. These policies often include language and cultural training programs, access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, as well as measures to combat discrimination and promote social cohesion. Norway's immigrant integration policies are often cited as an example of successfully promoting both the economic and social integration of immigrants (Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, 2018).

It is essential to note that immigration policies can vary over time and are often subject to political debate, changing demographics, and economic factors. Many countries regularly review and update their policies to adapt to evolving circumstances and address emerging challenges.

The Historical Evolution of Immigration Policies in Nigeria

The historical evolution of immigration policies in Nigeria can be divided into several key periods, each characterized by different approaches and motivations. It is important to note that the following is an overview, and further detailed research is recommended to fully understand the topic. Here are some key points in Nigeria's immigration policy history, along with relevant citations:

1. Colonial era (late 19th century to 1960):

During this period, Nigeria was under British colonial rule, and immigration policies were mainly designed to serve the interests of the colonial administration. Migration and immigration were largely unrestricted, with the British encouraging migration of their own citizens to Nigeria to facilitate colonial administration

and economic development (Onemu, 2019). However, certain restrictions were introduced, particularly after the Oil Rivers Protectorate was merged with the Lagos colony in 1906. These restrictions aimed to control migration from neighboring countries, such as Cameroon and the French territories (Kwambo, 2016).

2. Post-independence era (1960-1980s):

After gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria began formulating its own immigration policies. The Immigration Act of 1963 was one of the earliest key legislation, establishing the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) as the regulatory authority responsible for controlling and managing immigration matters (Ministry of Interior, 2010). The primary objectives of the immigration policies at the time were to protect national security, maintain public order, and regulate the entry, residence, and employment of foreigners (Kwambo, 2016).

3. Economic decline and tightening policies (1980s-2000s):

In the 1980s, Nigeria faced economic challenges, including a decline in oil revenues, which led to stricter controls on immigration. The Aliens (Control, Regulation, and Deportation) Act of 1986 was enacted to strengthen immigration controls and ensure only authorized foreign nationals resided in the country (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1986). The focus shifted towards national security concerns and preventing illegal immigration, including efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling (Kwambo, 2016).

4. Reforms and modernization (2000s-present):

In recent years, the Nigerian government has embarked on various initiatives to reform and modernize immigration policies and systems. The Immigration Act of 2015 represents a significant milestone in immigration policy reform. It seeks to streamline the immigration process, promote national security, enhance economic development, and protect the rights of migrants (Nigeria Immigration Service, 2017.). The government has also implemented various programs, such as the National Identity Management System, to improve the management and tracking of immigrants (Kadiri & Umo, 2021).

These are some of the key periods and developments in Nigeria's immigration policy history. It is worth noting that the evolution of immigration policies is influenced by a wide range of factors,

including political, economic, social, and security considerations.

The Current Legal and Institutional Framework of Immigration Policies in Nigeria

Nigeria, as a country with one of the highest populations in Africa, has established a legal and institutional framework to manage immigration policies. This framework aims to regulate the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners in a manner that aligns with national security, economic interests, and the protection of migrant rights. This paper provides an overview of the current legal and institutional framework of immigration policies in Nigeria, highlighting key legislations and institutions responsible for their implementation.

1. Immigration Act, 2015:

The Immigration Act of 2015 serves as the primary legislation governing immigration policies in Nigeria. It provides the legal basis for controlling the entry, residence, and departure of non-citizens. This act outlines the requirements, conditions, and procedures for obtaining various categories of visas, permits, and residence status in Nigeria. It also details the penalties for immigration-related offenses (NIS, 2015).

2. Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS):

The Nigeria Immigration Service is the apex agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of immigration policies in Nigeria. It operates under the Ministry of Interior and oversees activities such as the issuance of passports, visas, and residence permits. The NIS also conducts surveillance at border posts, enforces immigration laws, and carries out deportation and repatriation procedures (NIS, 2021).

3. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol:

Nigeria is a member state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has implemented a regional protocol regarding the free movement of persons within member states. Under this protocol, citizens of ECOWAS member countries have the right to enter and reside in Nigeria for specific purposes without obtaining a visa or residence permit. However, certain registration and documentation requirements still apply.

4. Nigerian Immigration Regulations 2017:

The Nigerian Immigration Regulations of 2017 supplement the Immigration Act of 2015 by providing detailed guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the act. It covers various aspects, including visa categories, immigration offenses, deportation, and registration requirements (NIS, 2017).

5. National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI):

The NCFRMI is the federal agency responsible for providing protection, assistance, and durable solutions to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and internally displaced persons in Nigeria. It collaborates with international organizations and stakeholders to integrate migrants into Nigerian society, promote their welfare, and ensure their rights are respected.

Nigeria has a comprehensive legal and institutional framework in place to regulate immigration policies, manage border control, and protect the rights of migrants. The Immigration Act of 2015, implemented by the Nigeria Immigration Service, serves as the primary legislation governing immigration matters. Furthermore, Nigeria's membership in ECOWAS facilitates the free movement of citizens among member states. The government, through agencies like the The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), also ensures the protection and integration of refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons. This framework reflects Nigeria's commitment to balancing national security and economic interests with respecting the rights of migrants.

The Main Actors and Stakeholders Involved in Immigration Policies in Nigeria

The main actors and stakeholders involved in immigration policies in Nigeria include:

1. **Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS):** The NIS is the primary agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of immigration policies in Nigeria. It plays a crucial role in establishing and administering immigration laws and regulations in the country.

2. Ministry of Interior: The Ministry of Interior oversees the activities of the Nigeria Immigration Service and provides policy guidance for immigration matters. It formulates immigration policies and collaborates with other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.

3**. Nigerian government**: The federal government of Nigeria, through various ministries and agencies, shapes immigration policies to align with the national interests of the country. It plays a critical role in setting the overall direction and priorities of immigration policies. (Nigeria Immigration Act, 2015).

4. Department of State Services (DSS): The DSS is responsible for national security matters in Nigeria. It collaborates with the Nigeria Immigration Service to ensure that immigration policies do not compromise national security. This includes the screening, vetting, and monitoring of foreigners entering or present in Nigeria.

5. Nigerian Customs Service: The Nigerian Customs Service is involved in immigration policies as it oversees the monitoring and regulation of goods and persons entering and leaving the country. It is responsible for the enforcement of customs and immigration laws at Nigeria's borders and airports.

6. Nigerian Police Force: The Nigerian Police Force supports immigration policies by assisting in the enforcement of immigration laws, including the apprehension and repatriation of irregular migrants. They work closely with the Nigeria Immigration Service to maintain law and order in the country's immigration system.

7. International organizations: International organizations such as the United Nations (UN), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also play a role in shaping immigration policies in Nigeria. They provide technical assistance, guidance, and support for capacity-building initiatives related to immigration management and governance (United Nations Department of Economic And Social Affairs, 2019).

The Challenges and Opportunities for Immigration Management in Nigeria

While Nigeria faces significant challenges in managing immigration due to its large population, porous borders, limited resources, corruption, and security concerns, there are also opportunities for economic growth, skill acquisition, regional integration, tourism promotion, and international cooperation. Addressing these challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities can contribute to effective and beneficial immigration management in Nigeria.

Challenges and opportunities for immigration management in Nigeria:

1. Border security challenges: One of the major challenges for immigration management in Nigeria is the porous nature of its borders, which makes it difficult to control the movement of people across the country (Haastrup, 2014). The vast and difficult terrain, lack of proper infrastructure, and corruption among immigration officials are factors that contribute to this challenge (Anna, 2017).

2. Irregular migration: Another challenge faced by immigration management in Nigeria is the issue of irregular migration. Many Nigerians migrate irregularly to other countries in search of better opportunities, but often end up facing exploitation and human rights abuses (Okoli, 2020). This poses difficulties for immigration management in terms of identifying and addressing the issues related to irregular migration.

3. Document fraud and identity theft: Immigration management in Nigeria also faces challenges in dealing with document fraud and identity theft. This includes the production and use of fake passports, visas, and other identity documents by individuals (Olatayo & Olanrewaju, 2018). Such fraudulent activities make it difficult to verify the identity and background of immigrants, posing a threat to national security.

4. Insufficient human and technological resources: Immigration management in Nigeria also faces challenges due to insufficient human and technological resources (Dekolo, 2021). The limited number of immigration officials and outdated technology hinder effective monitoring, control, and processing of immigration-related tasks.

Opportunities for immigration management in Nigeria:

1. Enhancing border infrastructure and technology: Investing in border infrastructure and technology can help improve immigration management in Nigeria. This includes the development of proper border control points, implementation of biometric systems for identity verification, and the use of advanced surveillance technology (Ballin, 2019). These measures would enhance border security and enable better management of immigration processes.

2. Strengthening international cooperation: Nigeria has opportunities to improve immigration management through strengthened international cooperation. Collaboration with other countries and regional organizations can help in information

sharing, joint operations, and capacity building initiatives (Kalu, 2021). This would enhance efforts to combat irregular migration, human trafficking, and other transnational criminal activities.

3. Training and capacity building: Improving the skills and knowledge of immigration officials through comprehensive training programs can enhance their ability to tackle the challenges faced in immigration management (Babajide, 2016). Training should focus on areas such as border control techniques, document verification, and detecting fraudulent activities. Increased investment in human resource development would contribute to more effective immigration management.

4. Regularization and migration policies: Developing comprehensive and flexible migration policies, as well as implementing regularization programs for undocumented immigrants, can help address the challenges of irregular migration and document fraud (Ukoha & Okafor, 2020). Clear policies and regularizing the status of migrants can contribute to better management and integration of immigrants into Nigerian society.

The Impact of Immigration Policies on Social Cohesion and Political Stability in Nigeria

Nigeria has experienced significant immigration flows. The impact of immigration policies on social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria is a subject that warrants attention. According to the submission of Lawal (2016) on rising social tensions, the study highlights that immigration policies characterized by weak border controls and limited vetting procedures have fueled inward migration, leading to perceptions of insecurity among Nigerian citizens. The resulting social tensions erode social cohesion by creating divisions based on ethnicity and religion.

Adesoji & Umar (2014) when discussing findings on strain of immigration policies on limited resources: argue that an influx of immigrants strains Nigeria's limited resources, such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. Struggles for these limited resources can contribute to social conflict and political instability.

As regards political fragmentation, Awogbenle & Olurinola (2018), suggest that disparities in economic opportunities between regions have resulted in internal migration, further

exacerbating political fragmentation. Political division caused by internal migration influences social cohesion and political stability.

Osaghae (2007) opines, as regards perception of unfair distribution of public goods, that a perception of unfair distribution of public goods among immigrants can lead to tensions and conflicts. This perception affects social cohesion and jeopardizes political stability.

Ayobolu (2016) in his findings as regards institutional weaknesses emphasizes the institutional weaknesses within the Nigeria Immigration Service, compromising the efficiency of immigration policies and enforcement. Weak institutional capabilities contribute to immigration-related challenges that impact social cohesion and political stability.

Immigration policies in Nigeria have considerable implications for social cohesion and political stability. Weak border controls, limited resource allocation, perceived unfairness in the distribution of public goods, political fragmentation, and institutional weaknesses all contribute to these consequential impacts. Understanding and addressing these challenges will be crucial for ensuring a harmonious and stable societal environment.

Summary

The paper argues that immigration policies have significant implications for the country's security, development and democracy. The paper analyzes the historical and contemporary trends of immigration in Nigeria, the legal and institutional frameworks governing immigration, and the challenges and opportunities of immigration for social cohesion and political stability. Overall, immigration policies have a significant impact on social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria. The country needs to address the challenges associated with immigration in order to promote inclusive development and ensure long-term stability.

Conclusion

This study has examined the impact of immigration policies on social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria. It has argued that the restrictive and discriminatory policies adopted by the Nigerian government have contributed to the marginalization and exclusion of immigrants, especially those from neighboring countries. Immigration policies have a significant impact on

social cohesion and political stability in Nigeria. These policies determine who can enter and stay in the country, consequently affecting the demographic composition and cultural dynamics. The consequences of immigration policies can either enhance social cohesion or create tensions within society, which can ultimately lead to political instability.

Recommendations

Based on the arguments of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. **Implement fair and inclusive immigration policies**: Nigeria should adopt immigration policies that treat all individuals fairly and equally, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or national background. This will help to foster a sense of belonging and acceptance among both the local population and immigrants, and thereby, promoting social cohesion.

2. **Strengthen border control and management**: Nigeria should invest in enhancing its border control measures to address illegal immigration and prevent the entry of individuals who may pose a security or economic threat to the country. Implementing strict but fair immigration protocols will help maintain political stability and ensure that resources are effectively managed.

3. **Promote cultural integration and exchange**: Nigeria should encourage cultural integration and exchange programs to foster understanding and appreciation between immigrants and the local population. This can be done through educational initiatives, community events, and cultural exchange programs. Such efforts will help reduce prejudice and xenophobia, leading to enhanced social cohesion.

4. Strengthen law enforcement and legal frameworks: Nigeria should improve its law enforcement capabilities and legal frameworks to address any potential issues related to immigration, such as human trafficking or migrant exploitation. This will ensure that immigrants are protected and contribute to political stability by deterring criminal activities.

5. Enhance dialogue and transparency: Nigeria should promote open and transparent dialogue between policymakers, local communities, and immigrants to understand their needs, concerns, and aspirations. Regular consultations, town hall meetings, and feedback mechanisms will help build trust, inform policy decisions, and enhance political stability.

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