

**THE ROLE OF NATIONAL AGENCY OF PROHIBITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN PERSON (NAPTIP) IN TACKLING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EDO STATE**

BY

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PG/ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

FACULTY OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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JULY, 2019

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this work was carried out by **BENJAMIN IFUWE** in the Faculty of Arts, Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to God Almighty for his love, grace, mercy and support all through this program. And also to my Big Brother Mr Emmanuel Eronmosele Ojemekere for playing the role of a Father to me all through my program year.

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ABSTRACT

Over the years, human trafficking which involves the trafficking of people especially young and able bodied people for forced labour and prostitution has become a recurrent problem in Nigeria human trafficking has been an endemic social problem in Edo State in which the state alone constitute about 46 percentage of human trafficking in Nigeria. It was in an attempt to tackle to tackle the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria that the Federal government established National Agency for the Prohibition of traffic in persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) in 2003. The agency is saddled with the onerous responsibility of investigating and persecuting offenders of this heinous crime. On this note, this study has assessed the role of the agency in combating human trafficking in Nigeria with special focus on Edo State which is notorious and endemic hub for human trafficking in Nigeria. This study has identified the root causes of human trafficking tits social and economic consequence in Edo State. It has also examined the strategies adopted by National Agency for the Prohibition of traffic in persons and other related matters in combating the menace as well as the challenges the agency has faced in carrying out its statutory responsibilities. This has established that successes recorded so far by (NAPTIP) have been the collaborative efforts of other stakeholders such as the European Union, (EU) International Organization for Migration (IOM), Non-government organizations, civil society groups, local non-government organizations as well as the traditional institution of Benin, the Oba and his chiefs in the fight against the scourge. Despite several efforts by the government in collaboration with local and international non-governmental organizations, humanitarian and civil society organizations, human trafficking is still to be totally eradicated.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Introduction

Human trafficking is an endemic global problem. Estimates reveal that as many as 27 million people are enslaved worldwide. It is the third most lucrative criminal enterprise, surpassed only by drugs and arms trafficking. Undoubtedly, the high profit margin associated with human trafficking drive criminal elements to perpetrate flagrant human right violations on a massive scale. The current resurgence of slave trade (human trafficking) has become phenomenal and worrisome like the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which lasted for about 400 years. Although slavery has similar exploitative element, modern day slavery in the form of human trafficking has assumed an even more sinister dimension. It targets women and children, including youths in human acts such as subjecting them to violence, torture and forced prostitution. Like the Trans-Atlantic slaves, many victims of human trafficking are marginalized and afforded little protection under the law. Africa is a fertile ground for traffickers wherein traffickers act with impunity, brutally enslaving the downtrodden and engaging in human rights violations on an alarming scale. ¹

The term “Human trafficking,” is defined or described by the United Nations convention as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.² Human trafficking is indeed very ancient. There is ample evidence that right

through ancient times, affluent people kept slaves for physical pleasure or manual labour over the Atlantic and exported to different parts of the world as bonded labor. Trafficking only occurs in poor countries. But every country in the world is involved in the underground lucrative system some source countries are the former Soviet territories and Nigeria, but there are more. The most common destinations for victims of human trafficking are Thailand, Italy, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.³

Prior to the abolition of slave trade and slavery in the early 19th century, human beings were sold as commodities to merchants by kings and warriors in exchange for goods. These merchants provided weapons and fueled crisis between communities to increase the supply of slaves. The inhumane treatment meted out to these individuals gave rise to the abolition of slave trade and slavery. Unfortunately, in the past two decades this obnoxious trade and dehumanizing trade has resurfaced in a more dangerous and horrific manner vis a vis human trafficking otherwise known as modern day slavery. Unlike the trans-Atlantic slave trade where the European merchant came to Africa to take away the slaves, the new form of slavery involves traffickers taking away the victims not for the benefit of the perpetrators.⁴

Trafficking in persons is a global and serious security threat to all the countries of the world. The UN Trust Fund for Human Security to buttress the issue states that trafficking in persons separates families, erodes social bonds, and undermines the political, social, economic and cultural prospects of communities. By creating an environment of violence, crime and fear, criminal networks undermine the rule of law, weaken public safety and threaten the overall safety and development of a community. Human trafficking is a violation of fundamental human rights. Every year thousands of men, women and children are trafficked by those known to them and also reside in their own communities too.⁵ The suppression of trans-Atlantic slave trade in

Nigeria and elsewhere began with the British military expedition on Lagos territory. The British colonial administration's anti-slavery laws marked the end of slavery as a social institution in Nigeria. They also ushered in a modern era of revolutionary ideas of liberty, freedom and equality among Nigerian people under the British colonial state. By 1960, when Nigeria secured her independence from Britain, slavery as a social institution or socio-cultural practice had virtually ceased to exist.

In 1980s, however, when Nigeria's economy witnessed serious decline as a result of oil glut, the country began to experience mass poverty manifested by increasing unemployment, soaring prices of essential goods and low wages. Consequently, there was widespread misery and frustration among the populace especially the large number of unemployed youths who began to believe that their prospect of economic survival lay outside the shores of the country. This encouraged many youths to begin to emigrate from Nigeria in large numbers and, in most cases, to Europe, Asia and America. When Nigeria attained independence in 1960, there was hope of its potentials for sustainable development. This hope was based on a robust endowment of the nation, both in human and natural resources in the country. Unfortunately, the aspirations and expectations of a great nation are, yet to materialize after over 5 decades of political independence. One plausible explanation is that the expectations become lost on account of national economic difficulties and series of political failures due to bad governance being experienced at the different levels of government. The problem of bad governance resulting from poor leadership in Nigeria comes to the fore and its given credence by both historical and contemporaneous evidence.⁶

The aim of NAPITIP is to safeguard the rights of men, women and minors below the age of 18 years, used for the purpose of sex exploitation, forced labor, child labor and criminal

activities. International trafficking in Nigeria is mainly concentrated in Edo state where families escape extreme poverty by sending a family member to Italy and other countries. Traffickers often offer women and minors to travel to Europe with promises of good jobs, with an agreement of incur debt which takes 1-3 years to pay.⁷

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was created in 2003 to tackle the scourge of human trafficking and the extent it has suppressed human trafficking, prosecution of its perpetrators and offering of protection services to victims of the crime, including temporary sheltering, counselling, rehabilitation, reintegration and access to justice.⁸ It is against this background that this study examines the role of The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), in tackling human trafficking in Edo State.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the role of National Agency for the prohibition of Trafficking in persons NAPTIP in tackling Human Trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To examine the establishment and functions of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons NAPTIP;
- ii. examine the socio-economic impacts of human trafficking and challenges in Edo state
- iii. analyze the mode of operations of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo state
- iv. assess the challenges faced by NAPTIP in Edo State

Research Questions

- i. When and why was NAPTIP established and its functions?
- ii. What are the mode of operations of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo State?
- iii. What are the impacts of human trafficking in Edo State?
- iv. What are the challenges NAPTIP is facing in tackling human trafficking in Edo State

Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it focuses on the role of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo State. Most available works concentrates on human trafficking in Nigeria as a whole while this present study places emphasis on Edo State because it has been the hub for illegal migration over the years. The state is an endemic area which according to a report from the International Organization for Migration, (IOM, 2018) accounts for 49 per cent of human trafficking in Nigeria. The study is unique because it examines the difficulties and challenges faced by NAPTIP in tackling the menace of human trafficking in Edo State. It provides reasons for the continuation of human trafficking in Edo State. Finally, the the uniqueness of the work lies in the fact that it proffers measures to halt the trend.

Sources and Methodology of the Study

This research adopts a qualitative approach in the interpretation of data. This study contains descriptive and analytic approaches. The data used in this study were generated from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources comprises oral interviews in which NAPTIP workers, selected Edo State government workers and some victims of human trafficking in Edo state were interviewed. Secondary materials includes published and

unpublished works, articles in journals, chapters in books and internet materials. These sources were critically analyzed to validate and collaborate some views from oral sources. They were also used to debunk some misconceptions and ideas as to the subject of the study.

Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study starts from 2003 to the present time. The starting date of 2003 is significant because it is the year that marked the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP) in 14th July 2003 as a response of the federal government to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons. The scope of this study also covers Edo State in the South-south geo-political zone of the Niger Delta region. The study covers the twenty 24 local government areas of Edo State and explores exploring the activities, impacts and challenges of NAPTIP in combating human trafficking in Edo State.

A major challenge encountered by the researcher was the lack of adequate published materials relevant to the study. Other challenges are: the restrictions of access to trafficked victims; restriction of access to well detailed information from NAPTIP; and the lack of adequate fund to pursue the study.

Literature Review

This study reviews some relevant works that have direct bearing on the topic of study. It reviews many works by attempting to show their strengths and as well as their limitations. The review of the literature will guide and direct us in our examination of the role of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo State. There are a quite number of works on human trafficking in Nigeria and the globe at large. Some materials focus on the origin of human trafficking in Nigeria, while others dwell on the negative impact and other aspects of Human Trafficking and

insights . these works have provided us with relevant data and information. The relevant works reviewed in this study are as follows:

Angela Moore in her work, *Violence and Abuse in Society: Understanding a Global Crisis*,⁹ sees human trafficking as a form of modern slavery, either by recruitment or transfer of people using force or abduction, deception or receiving payment to get consent of a person to have control over another person. The work discusses reasons why citizens of Edo State monopolize the Schengen states especially Italy which includes lack of jobs in the state, search for greener pastures amongst a plethora of grey excuses. The work examines the unbearable hardship and economic situations in Edo which in a way promote trafficking. It discusses the procedure/ local organization within Edo State and the international organization in Italy and elsewhere. Her work discusses the various mode of recruitment or procurement, among which are, the promise of good education, better living condition and good job and/or employment.¹⁰ Generally, the work examines the rationale for the prevalence of human trafficking and traffickers in developing countries. This work is relevant to the present study because it provides us with the background knowledge of the concept human trafficking and the reasons for its predominance in Edo State.

Obi, N. E., and Dilip, K. D. in their article titled; *Global Trafficking in Women and Children*,¹¹ are of the opinion that trafficking of women and children is the most common global problem affecting different communities and countries. The article discusses the vulnerability of women and children and the socio-economic environment that necessitate trafficking. The authors expatiate on the bad governance and policies as underling factors for criminality, including human trafficking. They examine the consequences of human trafficking on the victims, their families and the government. The article discusses various mechanisms

imperative for combating human trafficking. Its contribution to this work evolves around the exposure of government activities as a major factor for fueling human trafficking in Edo state

W. John. P. Benjamin and R, Philip in their work, *Human Trafficking: Exploring the International Nature, Concerns, Complexities*¹² perceives human trafficking as an act mainly for prostitution and sex slavery, labor exploitation, and transnational organized crime. The authors examine the nature, pattern and organization of human trafficking at the international level. They discuss the interests and concerns of international organizations in the fight against human trafficking, and also highlight the challenges and difficulties in the fight against the crime. The work is a veritable guide for this present study in that it gives us a clearer picture of nature, organization and dynamics of human trafficking.

Rasheed Olaniyi in his work, *Empowering Women for Gender Equity, No Way Out: The Trafficking of Women in Nigeria*¹³ maintains that human trafficking is complex in nature involving the violations of human rights, labor standards, and gender discrimination. Olaniyi's work focuses on Nigeria. This work discusses the general causes of the crime, and also exposes the devastating health effects of human trafficking on women and girls such as AIDs, Hepatitis and other form of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, STDs and other diseases. This work is unique because it proffers measures, not only for combating the crime, but also for empowering women with skills and vocational training to avoid being victims.

Okogbule, N. S. in his article, *Combating the "New Slavery" in Nigeria: An Appraisal of Legal and Policy Responses to Human Trafficking*,¹⁴ examines how young women, girls and boys are trafficked from rural areas to urban areas in the country to serve as house help with little or no pay for the services rendered. The article is vital because it explores legal

perspectives of human trafficking in Nigeria. The author discusses the efficacy of legal action against human traffickers. The paper advocates for government`s enunciation of pragmatic policies necessary for the protection of women and children. This work is relevant to this study because it provides us the knowledge of legal dimension of how human trafficking and how perpetrators or traffickers can be persecuted to serve as deterrence to others.

Louise, S. in his work, *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*,¹⁵ explores the supply and demand nature which necessitate human trafficking. The author provides reasons for the continuous supply and demand for humans, and why the crime persists inspite of its condemnation from international law and other agencies. The work discusses the organization and financial commitment of trafficking, which involve low start-up costs, high profits and minimal risks. This work is relevant because it gives us useful insights on the reasons the perpetrators engage in the illegal act of trafficking and its continued existence despite counter measures against it.

Bello Ibrahim`s *Social and Psychological Challenges in the Rehabilitation of Human Trafficking Victims*,¹⁶ Ibrahim highlights a variety of variables responsible for human trafficking. The article examines the process involved in the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and equally discusses the constraints and challenges in rehabilitation of victims. The paper reveals specific problems encountered by victims especially during rehabilitation, recovery and re-integration. The article provides cases of rehabilitation of human trafficked victims. Since this present research is on the role of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo state, Bello`s article thus provides necessary background on measures taken by NAPTIP in the rehabilitation of victims and also the constraints faced by the agency in executing their plans.

Dina, F. H. in his paper, "Used, Abused, Arrested and Deported: Extending Immigration Benefits to Protect the Victims of Trafficking and to Secure the Prosecution of Traffickers",¹⁷ succinctly captures the predicament of victims of human trafficking and suggests measures on how victims can be protected and the prosecution of human traffickers. Among the suggestions were the need to institute mechanisms which will help benefit the abused, exploited and traumatised victims. Dina looks at the fundamental roles of the International Criminal Court in combating the practice of human trafficking. This paper despite differences in focus and scope is still useful to this work by enunciating veritable rehabilitation and integration policies by governments in partnership with international organizations, non-government organizations, civil society groups and other stakeholders in the lives of the trafficked victims.

Christiana Okojie, in her article, *Trafficking of Nigerian Girls to Italy*,¹⁸ is of the view that Nigeria and Italy are heavily affected by the problem of human trafficking. The article concentrates on sexual abuse and exploitation, which include prostitution and pornography. The study provides a list of countries exporting humans to Italy for the purpose of prostitution. Okojie projects Nigerian and Albanian citizens as the highest numbers of humans trafficked to Italy. She discusses the social and economic consequences and implications of human trafficking. She also examines the role and commitment of Nigerian government in tackling the menace at the larger level. This work provides concrete statistics of trafficked victims per country, and also illuminates the Nigerian government counter-trafficking measures over the years. This work concentrates basically on the trafficked girls to Italy, which is one of main hub of destination country in Europe. Despite the scope and focus of the work, it is relevant to the present study in that explores the horror and risks trafficked girls are exposed to in Italy and other European countries.

In her article titled: "International Prostitution, Poverty and Governance in Edo State: A religious Approach"¹⁹ identifies poverty and bad governance as the main drivers of international prostitution among Edo women. She explores the different ethnic groups in Edo State namely: Benin, Ishan, Afemai, Owan, and Akoko. It traces the origin of the sex trade and how it Edo State later became the hub of human trafficking in Nigeria. It explores how poverty was a major factor due to lack of job and the struggle for meeting other socio and economic needs as drivers for the illegal trade. It examines the criminalization of human trafficking by the Edo State House of Assembly between 2004 and 2012 and posits that the enactment of the law prohibiting human trafficking as a good measure to minimize the inhuman trade was short-lived and it failed to stem the tide of human trafficking in the state. She therefore suggest that since other measures had failed, there is need to explore the role of religion both Islam and Christianity in tackling the menace of human trafficking. This work is relevant to the present study despite the difference in focus.

Kigbu and Hassan`s article titled: "An Assessment of the Institutional Framework for Combating Human Trafficking In Nigeria" notes that human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights of persons and there is a strong global resistance against the menace of human trafficking. The authors explores the relevant institutions established by the government saddled with the responsibility of tackling human trafficking in Nigeria, particularly the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) and other security agencies such as the Police, Court, Ministry of Justice, and Nigeria Immigration Service. The study established that despite theses array of agencies set up to tackle human trafficking, they have done well but they have some problems which have militated against the effectiveness of the operations. The relevance of this work lies on its assessment of the

effectiveness of the relevant agencies or institutions in combating human tracking in Nigeria. However, the study differs from the present work in both focus and scope. While the article focuses on the operation and effectiveness of these institutions comprising police, courts, NAPTIP and immigration, the present study dwells basically on the role of NAPPTIP in combating human trafficking in Edo State, which is the main hub of human trafficking in the country.

The above reviewed works has shown that they focused on other aspects of human trafficking and explored the dynamics of the illegal trade and a series measures proffered in stemming the tide of the inhuman trade, the role of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP) in tackling human trafficking in Edo State has been neglected over time by scholars. In is in view of this obvious neglect and misappropriate attention given to the agency that this present seeks to interrogate.

Organization of Chapters

The work is divided into five chapters.

Chapter 1: Chapter one is the introduction and contains the general background to the study, aim and objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, methodology and sources, literature review and organization of chapters.

Chapter 2. This chapter dwells on the land and people of Edo State. It looks at the origin of human trafficking and its impact in Edo State.

Chapter 3:This chapter focuses on the establishment of NAPTIP, its aim and objectives. It discusses the functions of NAPTIP, its aim and objectives, organizational structure, mode of operation and strategies in tackling human trafficking in Edo State

Chapter 4: This chapter elucidates on the role of NAPTIP in tackling human trafficking in Edo State and discusses its challenges .

Chapter 5. This chapter presents the conclusion of the work by providing the findings of the study.

Endnotes

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CHAPTER 2

THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF EDO STATE

Introduction

This chapter explores the people and geographical location of Edo State. It also examines the a brief history of the creation of Edo State and highlights on the different ethnic groups that make up the state. It also traces the history of origin of human trafficking in Edo State and the social and economic impacts it has had on the people. Edo State is one of the states in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria with Benin City as its capital. According to the 2006 census its population is approximately 1,086,882 people¹. The State has a high presence of residents from across the country and beyond because of its cosmopolitan nature.

Benin City, the capital has a history of being one of the foremost destinations of Europeans during their exploration of the African continent in the 15th century. Some of the highlights of the states have been enviable tourists' attraction. The main ethnic groups in Edo State are: Binis, Afemais, Esans, Owans and Akoko Edos. Virtually all the groups traced their origin to Benin hence the dialects of the groups vary with their distance from Benin. The Bini speaking people occupies seven out of the 18 Local Government Areas of the state constituting 57.54% while the others which includes, Esan (17.14%), Afemai comprising Etsako (12.19%), Owan (7.43%), and Akoko-Edo (5.70%). The Igbira speaking communities, Urhobos, IZONS and Itsekiris exist in Akoko Edo in Ovia North East and South West Local Government Areas especially within the borderlands. Also, Ika speaking communities exist in Igbanke in Orhionmwon Local Government Area.²

The eighteen local government areas in Edo State include: Akoko-Edo, Egor, Esan Central, Esan North, Esan West, Etsako Central, Etsako East, East West, Igueben, Ikpoba-Okha, Oredo, Orhionmwon, Ovia North, Ovia South-West, Owan, Owan West, and Uhunmwonde.³

History of Edo State

Edo State was created from the defunct Bendel State on 27th August 1991. In the past the indigenes lived in their villages and were content in their less complex lifestyle. The mode of production was subsistence. Around the 13th century, 1483 precisely Edo was already a force to be reckoned with. The slave trade era however created a class segregation in the society where those who did not participate in the ill trade were considered as poor.⁶

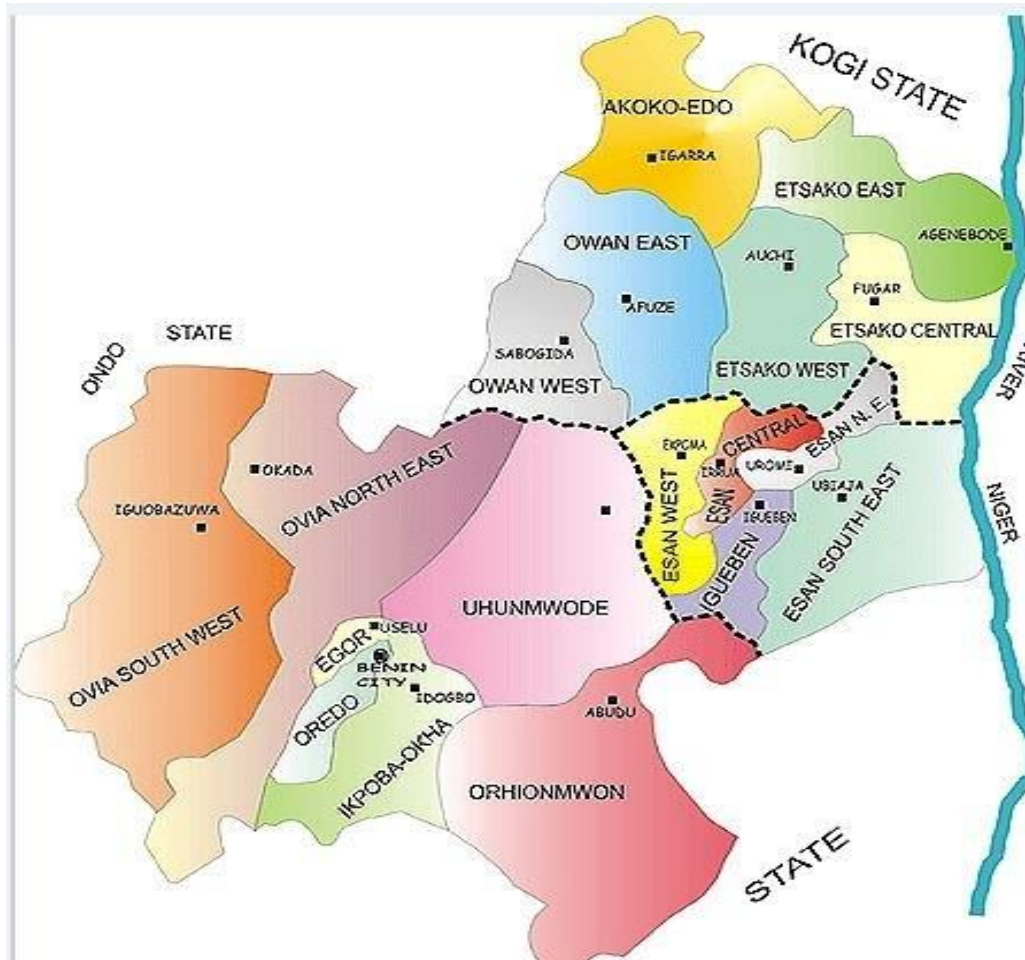
Under the colonial rule, Benin grew operating as both commercial and political centre, it was made an administrative capital in the then Mid-West region. In 1964 the region struck gold when oil was discovered in Burutu. This attracted migrants from other parts of the country who came to work and live in the region. Also Benin City which was the capital was also the seat of highlife and entertainment, through this the then Mid-Western state came in contact with people and it paved way for cultural and ideological exchanges. Notwithstanding due to the poor management of funds by leaders Nigeria was plunged into an economic recession and the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was introduced in the 80's which led to a colossal retrenchment of workers.⁷ After the creation of Edo and Delta state from the defunct Bendel State, poverty escalated in Edo state after the sharing of assets, as the giant steel, oil and petrochemical complexes, gas plants and power installation were located in Delta. These occurrences however were perceived as a major catalyst for seeking illegal means for getting money.⁸

Ethnic Groups in Edo State

Edo people are the ancient 'Kwa' language Bini-speaking groups who occupy south-Western Nigeria now called Edo State. The Edo/Bini-speaking ethnic groups include Esan, the Afemai, Bini, Owan, and Akoko Edo. They are descendants of the people who founded the ancient and mighty Benin Empire, therefore, the term 'Edo' refers to these people who have shared historical origin as well as political and cultural similarities. There are various traditions and customs amongst the Bini people, which comprises their attires, foods, festivals, and beliefs. These traditions and customs make them peculiar among other tribes within Nigeria.⁹

Edo State is what you can describe as the "generic name given to a group of people who have a common ancestor and have a common language, with some different variants, depending on the distance between the group and the "tap root," resident in and around the present day Benin City. In short, the land, the political state, the people, tribe, language and the principal city -Benin City is called Edo. At a point in the history of these people, another name called Benin came into use¹⁰.

Map of Edo State



Source: Google Map

Origin of Human Trafficking in Edo State

Human trafficking goes far back in history where inhabitants of conquered tribes were forced into slave labour by their captors, the 15th century witnessed a huge migration of people which were predominantly Africans into the new world. In contemporary times however the slave labour has adopted a new tag called “human trafficking” and migration stands as a facilitator of this trend where people move illegally from country of birth to the new destination.

only to be involved in all sorts of illegalities. Nigeria is perceived as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking, with Edo state ranking the highest with approximately 80-85% of women trafficked for prostitution.¹¹

The beginning of trafficking in women was as a result of Nigerian women travelling to work on Italian tomato fields for greener pastures, although meagre, it was a more legitimate means of livelihood until overtime the trade pattern degenerated as the Nigerian economy began to dwindle drastically due to civil war, corruption, mismanagement of funds etc. Initially most of those trafficked victims thought they were travelling abroad for legitimate work. Parents encouraged their children to migrate for various reasons linked to poverty, with hopes that the child will have a better life while others needed money to be sent for the entire family to feed.¹² Furthermore, on arrival in Europe, after the dehumanizing traversing of the Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea, these victims face the slaughter of being used for prostitutions, organ farms and other forms of slavery. According to International Organization of Migration (IOM) approximately 11,000 women arrived via the Mediterranean Sea into Italy in 2016 and they were mostly from Edo State.¹³

The major factor that facilitated the success of this illicit trend was the financial turnouts for sponsors, victims and bosses involved which led to support from impoverished and greedy families. United Nations crime and justice research institute report indicated that virtually every Benin family has one member or the other involved in trafficking either as victim , sponsor madam or trafficker.¹⁴ The souls bodies and any trace of humanity in these victims are turned into commodities for financial gains while they are left with mental and physical trauma of severe brutality.¹⁵

Scholars such as Agbonghae is of the view that, when the first crop of women were sent into prostitution in Europe, they returned back with huge sums of money , they built houses, bought cars, established businesses and they weren't condemned for their illicit means instead they were accepted and were reckoned as successful by society. This act spurred the eagerness in other women to go into prostitution in Europe.¹⁶ Notwithstanding this was not the norm in the pre-colonial Edo society with chastity as the predominant factor in the society, it is forbidden for a married woman to commit adultery, such indulgence is believed to incur the wrath of the gods on defaulters and their families. Virginity and chastity were seen as a symbol of pride and fidelity, discipline, moral uprightness was an indication of good family background.¹⁷

Trafficking and prostitution began to thrive in Benin during the period of economic crisis of the 1980s. He explained that the first set of girls that were trafficked from Benin were unaware of what was awaiting them in Europe. However, with time and exposure, most Benin girls became aware of what they were going to Europe for; several of them did not regard themselves as being trafficked. Omoregie Pat Iziengbe perceives traffickers as someone trying to “help” them from poverty through a new life in Europe. This is because they did have a clear picture of what was awaiting them in Europe. And when they became fully aware of what was obtainable in the trade, the economic benefits kept many in the job. From the early 1990s to the year 2000, the trade had already taken a new dimension, as former trafficked girls have now become traffickers themselves. New madams with several girls under them began to spring up from different locations. The devaluation of the Nigeria currency during the period of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) also encouraged trafficking. However, the forth and the fifth excerpt reflect the emergence and place of “Purray boys” in the trade. The rise of Purray Boys in the trade also increased trafficking in Benin. This is because the trade became more complicated

as the interest groups increased. Young girls were now also willing to be trafficked knowing that if he or she “makes it”, she can buy a man for herself.¹⁸

It is cogent to note that almost everyone in Benin became directly or indirectly involved. All these interests were all based on the economic benefit of the trade. In 2017, NAP TIP stated that most male victims are under age 11, with most female victims being over 18 years of age maintaining the statistics of Edo being the highest followed by Delta state with the major catalyst being peer pressure, diminished moral values, poor enlightenment, low economic opportunities which incites these youths into the snare of human trafficking.¹⁹ In order to curtail this trafficking rave the Edo state house of assembly passed the bill into law on September 11 2000, making prostitution an offence in Edo state, the criminal code (amendment) 2000 forbids any person from sponsoring a girl or woman to travel out of Nigeria for prostitution or any immoral act.²⁰

The Socio-Economic Impacts of Trafficking in Edo State

Over the last two decades human trafficking has been a predominant factor in the Nigerian society, with increasing issues of poverty, limited employment and corruption most youths have turned to other vices for greener pastures damning the consequence. These acts have played important roles in the states socio economic sphere and the country’s on a larger scale. In January 7 2019, it was estimated that women and girls constituted one third of all global victims of which 99% of the 4.8 million victims of sexual exploitation were women and girls also the index estimated that modern day slavery is most prevalent in Africa with 9.24 million slaves and an average vulnerability score of 62/100.²¹

In Edo State as an area of focus, the issue of human trafficking has a staggering negative effect on both the state image, its workforce and also not to mention the detrimental mental and

physical effect for the victims of this act. There are more cons than pros regarding human trafficking, however those in the cartel are the ones making more gains from this trade regardless the negative nature of human trafficking. The negativity of this act cannot be overemphasized, according to the United Nations in 2016 alone 602,000 Nigerians endeavoured to migrate to Europe via the Sahara desert with 27,000 of these immigrants dying en route of which 68% were Nigerian graduates. CNN also confirms that Edo is the most trafficked through destination in Africa²² The impact of human trafficking in the state can be categorized into two which are the social and economic impacts.

Social Impacts of Human Trafficking

In any given civilized society the issue of human trafficking is perceived as demeaning, and dehumanizing as this tramples on the validity of human rights, because any act carried out by an individual against his fellow that restricts his freedom and subjects him to both mental and physical brutality is regarded as slavery. Human trafficking has a colossal social impact negatively on the state and these impacts are highlighted below.

World's estimation and findings have come to a conclusion that Nigeria has the highest population of people trafficked along the Sahara and Mediterranean route, and Edo state constitutes the highest immigrant in the country. Nigeria ranks 32/167 of the country with the highest number of slaves 1,386,000, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) stated that the average age of trafficked children ranked a tier 2 watch list country on the US.²³ Migration cannot be separated from human trafficking as it is a major catalyst to the latter, it involves the movement of people from one place to another and one of these negative effects of it is that it reduces a targeted age grade that could be resourceful to the

area in the case of Edo state, majority of the indigenes between ages 18 and 35 constitutes a huge chunk of these trafficked migrants. This however has reduced massively the productivity of the state as the youths are the major fuel of any society.

Human trafficking which involves a plethora of vices such as sexual exploitations, drug dealing, forced labour, organ farming and a host of others has over time depleted the health of victims and those in contact with them, since most of these victims especially women and girls are being forced into sex trade no attention is given to their health, it is estimated that an astounding 94% of all Nigerian women trafficked to Europe for prostitution hails from Edo state with Italy being the number one destination country.²⁴

Psychologically, human trafficking is detrimental to the victim, in the cases of drug dealing and prostitution, these hard drugs victims tend to be addicted to these hard substances thereby destabilizing their state of mind victims no longer think rationally, they become asymptomatic in absence of these drugs which may lead to death while that of prostitution, victims which are mainly young girls are subjected to all forms of sexual abuse and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, HPV, Hepatitis, etc, ninety percent of migrant women arriving into Italy from Libya arrive with bruises and other signs of violence, in general 83.5% of all Nigerians interviewed in 2017 reported to have suffered from physical violence of any kind in the course of the journey.²⁵ Furthermore, these socially negative impacts of human trafficking have been pinned to dehumanizing acts like gang rape, prostitution, drug dealing, slave labour, unpaid wages and other forms of unpaid labour and the most alarming impact is the negative image trusted to the international community.

Economic Impacts of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking has a huge impact on the economy of the affected state notwithstanding, the cartels, sponsors and madams of this unlawful act are the only ones benefitting from the illicit proceeds. It has a net worth of one hundred and fifty billion dollars globally of which sexual exploitation generates two third income which sums up to ninety nine billion dollars.²⁶ Despite the huge sums and figures the areas affected negatively are the source states where majority of the youths have migrated leaving the place underdeveloped. The rationale given for this is that the state has little or no employment to alleviate poverty. As a result of poverty, life in Nigeria is a struggle for many people who find it difficult to eat a meal a day yet the cost of feeding, housing, and health is out of reach for the poor.²⁷ It could be deduced from the above that the issue of human trafficking has massive dehumanizing effect on the victims. Despite these horrors, thousands still traverse the predatory route of the Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea in search of greener pastures in European countries like Spain and Italy. Edo state constitutes a high number of the migrating populace, this has been attributed to the high poverty level in the state and also lack of enlightenment of the people on the dangers of human trafficking.

Endnotes

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CHAPTER THREE

HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAPTIP

Introduction

This chapter looks at the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). It examines its functions aims and objectives organizational structure of the agency. The chapter also looks at the role of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in addressing the plights of trafficked persons in Edo State in South-south geo-political zone of Nigeria.

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) was established on 14th July 2003 based on the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2003. The creation of the agency is in line with the Federal Government of Nigeria's response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons. It is a fulfillment of the country's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC).¹

Nigeria became a signatory to the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol on 13 December 2000. Article 5 of the Trafficking Protocol enjoins states parties to criminalize practices and conducts that subject human beings to all forms of exploitation, which includes in the minimum sexual and labour exploitation. The Trafficking in Persons Act, 2003 was an outcome of a private member bill sponsored at the National Assembly by the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), a

non-governmental organization founded by Mrs. Amina Titi Atiku Abubakar, the wife of the former Vice-President of Nigeria.

The Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 7th July, 2003 and Presidential Assent given on 14th of July 2003. The law that is operational across the country endorsed NAP TIP as a specific multi-disciplinary crime-fighting agency and the nation's focal institution to fight the scourge of trafficking in persons in the country using the four-pronged approach of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership.²

The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 went through an amendment in 2005 in a bid to strengthen the agency. However, in 2015, because of the new trends in the crime of trafficking in persons and the need to further strengthen the institutional framework, the Act was repealed and the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 was enacted. The new Act received Presidential assent on 26th March 2015.³

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAP TIP) is fully committed to the prevention of all forms of human degradation and exploitation through the coordinated use of the nation's crime prevention and law enforcement resources. Its task is to stamp out human trafficking and to liberate and uplift the vulnerable, especially women and children, from dehumanizing and exploitative employment and usage; and to ensure their rehabilitation and effective reintegration into society.

Prior to 2003, there was no anti- trafficking in persons legislation in Nigeria. Then the wife of the vice president, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mrs. Titi Abubakar, was responsible for setting up a committee, which included persons drawn from relevant bodies to draft an anti-trafficking

bill. The bill was the first private bill presented to and passed into law by National Assembly. The then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo assented to it on, 14th July 2003. Section 1(1) of the Act established a multidimensional crime-fighting agency known as the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP).⁴

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (NAPTIP)

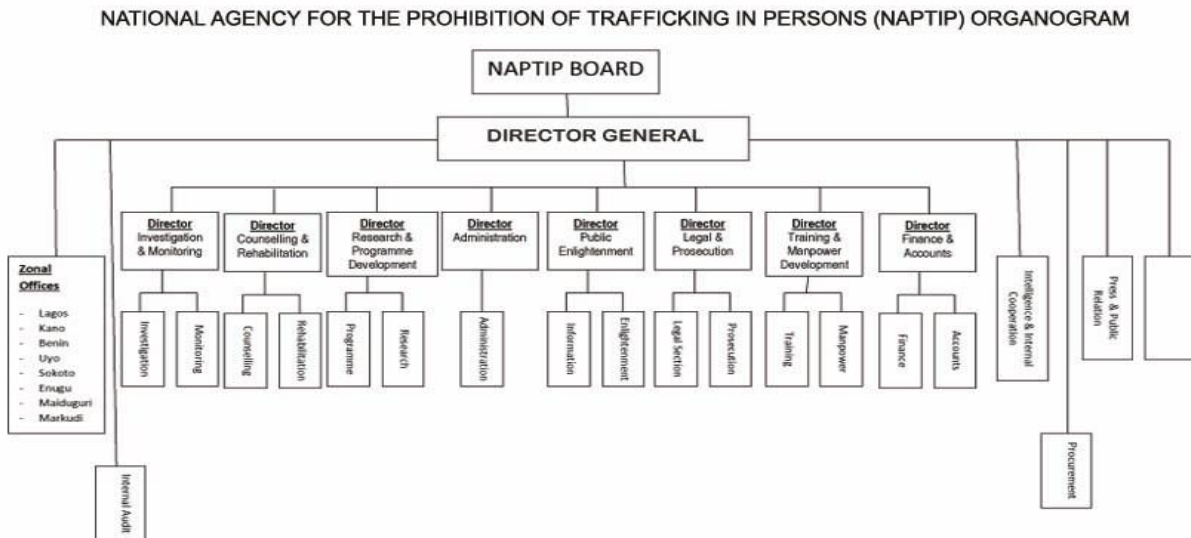
NAPTIP performs the following functions:

- i. It enforces and administers the provisions of the Act.
- ii. It co-ordinates and enforces all other laws on Trafficking in persons and related offences.
- iii. The agency adopts effective measures for the prevention and eradication of trafficking in persons and related offences.
- iv. It establishes coordinated preventive, regulatory and investigatory machinery geared towards the eradication of trafficking in persons.
- v. The agency investigates all cases of trafficking in persons including forced labour, child labour, forced prostitution, exploitative labour and other forms of exploitation, slavery and slavery – like activities, bonded labour, removal of organs, illegal smuggling of migrants, sale and purchase of persons.
- vi. It encourages and facilitates the availability and participation of persons who voluntarily, consent to assist in investigations or proceedings relating to trafficking in persons and related offences.

- vii. Enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agents and other partners in the suppression of trafficking in persons.
- viii. Create public enlightenment and awareness through seminars, workshops, publications, radio and television programs and other means aimed at educating the public on the dangers of trafficking in persons.
- ix. Establish and maintain communications to facilitate rapid exchange of information concerning offences under this Act.
- x. Conduct research and strengthen effective legal means of international co-operation in suppressing trafficking in persons.
- xi. Implement all bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions on trafficking in persons adopted by Nigeria.
- xii. Strengthen co-operation and conduct joint operations with relevant law enforcement and security agencies, international authorities and other relevant partners in the eradication of trafficking in persons.
- xiii. Co-ordinate, supervise and control.
- xiv. The protection, assistance and rehabilitation of trafficked persons.
- xv. All functions and activities relating to investigation and prosecution of all offences connected with or relating to trafficking in persons.
- xvi. Adopt measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate or seize proceeds, property, funds or other assets derived from trafficking in persons or related offences.

- xvii. Conduct research on factors responsible for internal and external trafficking in persons and initiate programmes and strategies aimed at the prevention and elimination of the problem.
- xviii. Facilitate rapid exchange of scientific and technical information concerning or relating to trafficking in persons.
- xix. Collaborate with government bodies both within and outside Nigeria whose functions are similar to those of the Agency in the area of the movement of proceeds or properties derived from trafficking in persons and other related offences⁵

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NAPTIP



Organogram of NAPTIP⁶

The organogram reflects not only the divisions and sub-units but also the structures and operations of the various departments under the agency. It spells out the positions and/or status of key officers within the departments. NAP TIP is one of the agencies under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Justice. The Act establishes a part time Governing Board, which consists of:

- i. A Board Chairman who shall be a person with knowledge and experience in matters related to counter-trafficking in persons.
- ii. Two representatives of Civil Society Organizations involved in matters relating to trafficking in persons.
- iii. A representative from each of the following Institutions or Agencies who shall be within the Directorate cadre-

Federal Ministry of Justice

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs

Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity

Nigeria Police Force

National Intelligence Agency

Nigeria Immigration Service

The Director-General is also the Chief Executive Officer. The current Director-General is Barrister Julie Okah-Donli. The Agency performs its functions through eight Specialized

Departments, 5 Units and has Zonal Commands covering the geo-political zones of the country.⁷

Departments of NAPTIP

The eight department are listed and discussed below

1. Investigation and Monitoring
2. Legal and prosecution
3. Counselling and Rehabilitation
4. Public Enlightening
5. Research and Programmes Development
6. Training and Manpower Development
7. Administration
8. Finance and Accounts

i. Investigation and Monitoring Department

The NAPTIP Headquarters, Abuja is the investigative arm of the Agency saddled with general investigation of cases of human trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation and violence against persons. The Department is headed by a Director who oversees and co-ordinates all investigation activities as well as its operations and personnel. It is blessed with a couple of experienced and well trained personnel in addition to seconded officers from the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Immigration Service, Defense Intelligence Agency and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. The Agency has 9 (nine) Zonal Commands each with a functional investigation Unit and manned by an investigation officer (Head of Operation) under the supervision of the Zonal Commander, who in turn reports to the Director- General of the Agency. The Zonal Command

Headquarters are in Lagos, Enugu, Uyo, Maiduguri, Makurdi, Sokoto, Kano and Oshogbo respectively⁸.

For effectiveness and efficiency, the Department has other Units and Sub-Units, which are headed by competent Officers, namely National Monitoring Centre (NMC) responsible for Call Centre and Data Processing, Asset and Financial Investigation, Surveillance, Forensics, Detention and Release, Exhibits, Security and Squads⁹.

Section 12 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 outlines the mandate of the Department. The Investigation and Monitoring Department shall-

- (a) Be responsible for the prevention and detection of offences under this Act;
- (b) Collaborate with the Nigeria Immigration Service and other relevant law enforcement agencies in charge of entry and exit for the purpose of detecting offences under this Act;
- (c) Investigate, trace and identify the proceeds, assets and properties of persons derived from acts which constitute an offence under this Act; and
- (d) Effect the confiscation or forfeiture of such proceeds, assets and properties in collaboration with the Legal and Prosecution Department.

In addition to the above, the Department investigates all forms of violence against persons in line with Section 44 Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 which applies only to Federal Capital Territory FCT, Abuja¹⁰.

APPROACHES

The Department employs various methods in carrying out its investigation activities, which include but not limited to the following;

- (a) Proactive Investigation
- (b) Reactive Investigation
- (c) Disruptive operations
- (d) Surveillance
- (e) Joint Operations and other Intelligence cooperation mechanisms

COMMITMENT

The Department in carrying out its duties is committed to fair and just investigation process and respects the rights of all persons as enshrined in the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and other global instruments on the rights of suspects and victims of human trafficking. Absolute confidentiality and protection of witnesses and informants are of high priority to the Department.

3. Counselling and Rehabilitation

Counselling and Rehabilitation department is one of the core departments in NAPTIP. The department, under section 9 subsection 3(a) and (b) of Trafficking in Persons Prohibition and law Enforcement Act 2003 as amended, is entrusted with the rehabilitation and counseling of victims of human trafficking. The department is headed by a seasoned social worker with over thirty-one

years experience in social work practice. Presently, the staff strength of the department is one hundred and seven (107) with varying degrees of professional experience.¹¹

From 2004 – July 2012, six thousand, three hundred and twenty-eight (6,328) victims have been referred to the department. One thousand, seven hundred and twenty-Seven (1,727) are male while four thousand, six hundred and fifty-five (4,655) are female. One hundred and Ninety-One (191) of the trafficked persons assisted by the department were empowered to return to school or acquire vocational training. While additional Four Hundred and Fifty-Three (453) were supported to establish their own businesses through the donation of trade equipments and provision of resettlement allowance to enable them, cater for their personal needs.¹²

The department collaborates with relevant government ministries, agencies, NGOs and development partners in realizing its mandate. It is divided into five sections/units and each has distinctive roles to play in realizing the mandate of the department. The sections are -:

A. The Programme Development Section

The functions of this section are programme development, policy formulation and mainstreaming gender in the activities of the Agency.

B. Rehabilitation Section

Provides direct assistance to trafficked persons and this include counseling and rehabilitation services. Vocational services provided to trafficked persons include knitting, weaving, fashion design, hairdressing, catering, hat making, beads making and photography.

Counselling methods adopted by the section in order to help the victims recover from trauma include psychosocial therapy, individual counseling, group counseling, career counseling, family counseling and case conferencing.

C. Shelter Management Section

Takes care of the day-to-day running of the shelter facilities established for housing rescued trafficked persons. Services offered at the shelter include feeding, clothing, provision of regular hygiene products, physical exercises, and basic educational courses.

The Agency operates eight shelters across the country with the capacity to accommodate the following number of victims at a time.

Statistics for shelter location and bed space for trafficked victims.

S/N	LOCATION OF SHELTER	NUMBER OF BEDSPACE
1.	Abuja	38
2.	Lagos	60
3.	Benin	40
4.	Uyo	45
5.	Enugu	30
6.	Kano	30
7.	Sokoto	30
8.	Maiduguri	20

Total: 293 this statistics is on capacity rate and not occupancy rate ¹³.

Please note that NAPTIP operates transit and closed shelters because of the peculiarity of the Agency. Length of stay is limited to 6 weeks. Any person needing a longer stay is referred to the shelters owned by collaborating NGOs.¹⁴

D. NGO Section

They are responsible for coordinating the relationship between NAPTIP and NGO partners, both local and international, working in the area of rehabilitation and integration of victims of human trafficking. It collates, compiles and updates the directory of NGOs working in the area of human trafficking. It also pays serious attention to their authenticity and track record in addressing human trafficking issues.

E. Medical Unit

Responsible for the Medicare of the victims and coordination of relationship with other health care service providers. Qualified nurses are attached to the eight mini-clinics of the Agency who renders first aid services and also makes referrals to other health care service providers where necessary.

F. Coordination Unit

Coordinates and documents all the activities of the department. It collates and disseminates information about the activities of the department and its staff. The unit also coordinates the monitoring and evaluation activities of the department¹⁵.

Counseling and Rehabilitation Department

Within the confines of the mandate of the Agency, the department of Counselling and Rehabilitation offers the following services to victims of human trafficking.

The department is guided by the under listed documents in the pursuit of its functions and responsibilities to the victims. These documents evolved over the years in the practice of social work as it relates to the peculiarities inherent in the rehabilitation and integration of victims of human trafficking as well as in the course of interacting and working with local and international partners in the field of human trafficking. The documents are:

i) National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons

The policy is a compendium of rehabilitation and re-integration processes and strategies and available opportunities for victims. It also contains the rights and privileges of the victims as well as responsibilities of government, departments and agencies in the welfare of victims. The policy has been approved by the National Executive Council of Nigeria, the highest decision making body of the country in 2008. Based on its relevance in assisting trafficked persons, in 2009, the ECOWAS adapted the policy as an instrument for the region

ii) Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF)

The Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF) is a roadmap for fast-tracking the implementation of the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria. The benefit of benchmarking are to improve the quality of services provided, set realistic performance targets, evolve innovative approach to operating and managing interventions and accelerate culture change by making cooperating organizations accountable to the whole.

iii) Key Performance Indicators Guide

The Key Performance Indicators Guide (KPIG) serves as a guide for relevant stakeholders in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the policy document. Monitoring and evaluation is presented here as a major tools for systematizing protection and assistance interventions and ensuring that intervention activities are appropriate and effective.

iv) Training Manual for Care Givers and Investigators

The development and production of the Training Manual is the joint effort of NAPTIP and UNICEF. The aim is to strengthen the professional capacity of all stakeholders engaged in training on trafficking in persons, especially investigators and caregivers. The aim is to bring investigators and caregivers together in the same environment to foster the desired professional collaboration needed to provide a holistic service to victims of trafficking. It will also influence the investigators to act as social workers while operating within the tradition of a law enforcer where victims are concerned.. This will foster human right approach and humanitarian perspective in the provision of services to victims of trafficking by law enforcement Agents¹⁶.

Key concepts and ideas relevant to the professional development, growth and performance of caregivers and investigators were selected and developed into four sequential and mutually reinforcing modules by experts in the areas. Consequently, appropriate numbers of units were developed under each module.

v) Facilitators' Guide on the Training Manual

Facilitators' Guide on the Training Manual was developed to attend to the methodological component that will provide the framework for the acquisition of the necessary skills for the delivery of the content of the manual. It starts with an overview of methodology, which provides details on training need assessment, statement of objective, institutional

aids/resource required for training, delivery methods, strategies, techniques and evaluation of performance. The overview is followed by a well laid out implementation plan. Both the training manual and the facilitator's guide are restricted documents.

vi) **Guideline for Protection of Children in Formal Care**

Guideline for Protection of Children in Formal Care is a document that strives to offer solutions to the issue of abuse and neglect of children in foster care by care givers. The issue of abuse and neglect becomes worrisome when the institutions meant for the protection of children are implicated in the abuse and/or neglect of children. The need to address this phenomenon nationally is therefore urgent and imperative to all concerned individuals and institutions. Thus, the Agency in collaboration with UNICEF and other stakeholders decided to put in place a formidable structure that could guarantee the rights, safety and well-being of children in formal care institutions in Nigeria strictly guided by the above-mentioned documents, the department has implemented several programmes to the benefit of trafficked persons. The attached are few of the projects/programmes implemented in collaboration with various development partners and other stakeholders to improve the socio-economic and psychological status of victims of human trafficking¹⁶.

4) **Public Enlightenment**

The Public Enlightenment Department of NAPTIP is one of the core departments of the Agency and has been in existence since the inception of the Agency. It has organized and executed several awareness/sensitization programmes, in virtually all the States of the country in collaboration with NAPTIP 6 zonal offices.

- i. **Mandate of the department:** According to the Harmonized Edition of the Trafficking in persons (prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Acts 2003 and 2005, the Public Enlightenment Department shall in collaboration with the Federal Ministries of Information and National Orientation Agency, Women and Youth Development, Employment, Labour and Productivity and Federal Ministry of Education, be responsible for campaigns, seminars and workshops aimed at educating the public on the problem of trafficking, thereby stimulating interest in awareness about the problem.
- ii. **Method of Operations;** Several methods are usually employed by the department in its operations. Any Particular method employed by the departments at any point in time will generally depend on several factors such as the literacy level of the targeted audience, location, age bracket, predominant language spoken etc. These methods includes conferences, seminars workshop Strategic alliance and cooperation production and alliance and cooperation production and distribution of sensitization materials such as face caps, T/Shirts, stickers, and posters courtesy calls or visits Awareness Campaign rally, organized excursion, Pre- Sensitization tours to human trafficking endemic areas, research projects, newspaper Sensitization and awareness publication, Electronic Media Messages, Outdoor Publicity, Vans jingles, Local media newspaper publication, Traditional methods of communication e.g, Town Crier, Drama etc.¹⁷

5. **Research and Programmers Development**

The mandate of the Department covers mainly research and Programme Developing. The Research Unit of the Department embarks on Research and Data collection to unearth the factors sustaining trafficking in persons and providing inputs for policy formulation and

implementation aimed at tackling TIP in Nigeria. Programme Development Unit helps the Agency achieve its mandate of developing, monitoring and evaluating various programmes to tackle Traffic in Persons and other related crimes in Nigeria. It is pertinent to note that like other department of the Agency the Research and Programme Development Department has streamlined its duties and functions to contribute meaningfully to fight the menace of trafficking in persons and other related matters, which is the mandate of the Agency.

ii. Methods of Operation

The Department being research and programme development based operates using Data Collections and analysis method to arrive at expected results. Continuous capacity building of departmental staff on relevant fields of study is always adopted for the enhancement of performance towards increased productivity. The Department collaborates with stakeholders for exchange of ideas and brainstorming on issues affecting not only the Department, but the Agency at large.

iii. Activities of the Department

On the directive of the then President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR), Prof. Sola Ehindero a renowned scholar and expert on human trafficking from Obafemi Awolowo University was commissioned to carry out a research on the root causes of human trafficking which answers the question of “Why Trafficking in Person”? This research work was aimed at discovering the root causes of human trafficking and the outcome as a base for policy formulation in the fight against human trafficking. The research work has since been completed with the publication of the outcome entitled “Dynamics and Contexts of Trafficking in Persons. A National Perspective”.

The department also supervised the “field assessment exercise” carried out in eleven southern states of Nigerian in collaboration with UNICEF under the Anti Child Trafficking Network” – a project donated by the United States Department of State Bureau for International Narcotic and Law Enforcement Affairs. The states included Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Delta, Edo, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Akwa – Ibom, Cross – River and Rivers. It is worthy to note that such an assessment project had also been donated by UNICEF and carried out in eleven Northern states of Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger and Kwara. These states both in the south and north were considered endemic in human trafficking activities. The report of these projects had been published and circulated among stakeholders.¹⁸

The Agency being the arrowhead of the fight against human trafficking in the country, through the department, carried out field visits to States Ministries of Women Affairs Nigeria, Police and Immigration Services State Commands to collate data on human trafficking. This is an ongoing exercise which will be done annually to collate data to update the Agency’s data base on TIP in line with the ECOWAS Plan of Action and the ECCAS/ECOWAS Joint Plan of Action on TIP.

The department, in collaboration with ILO, carried out a survey in four border states of Benue, Taraba, Borno and Sokoto to ascertain the incidence of human trafficking between the Republic of Cameroon and Nigeria. In the quest to really fight the root causes of trafficking in persons, the department, in collaboration with the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders (UNAFRI) carried out research to this effect in Benin city – Edo state. Edo was chosen because of high concentration of trafficked victims repatriated from European Commission, ECOWAS, ILO/IPEC, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF, WOTCLEF etc.

The department worked assiduously with other stakeholders to conclude work on the draft National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. The draft has been submitted to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for consideration and approval as a National Policy on TIP. This is in line with the ECOWAS initial Plan Action and the Joint ECOWAS/ECCAS Plan of Action adopted in Abuja during the Ministerial Conference.¹⁹ The department in liaison with Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligent Unit in the Presidency (BMPIU) facilitated the acquisition of the Agency's Headquarters complex at plot 2028 Dalaba Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja and the Abuja Shelter for rescued victims of human trafficking at Gwarimpa. Also the Agency's zonal office complex in Ikeja, Lagos as well as procurement of capital items.²⁰

6. Training and Manpower Development

The Training and Manpower Development Department of the Agency was created in December 2011 following the approval of the Honorable Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Adoke, (SAN). This was the result of the bold initiatives of the management of the Agency. The creation of the department arose out of a renewed commitment to reposition the Agency as an effective and responsive Agency, willing and well equipped to carry out the statutory mandate of the Agency (TPLEA 2003 as amended)²¹ The Department is responsible for formulating the training policy and strategic training needs of the Agency. It also coordinates all training components of the various departments and units. This also extends to technical training support offered by international organizations and foreign missions in supporting the Agency in building its capacity. The broad mandate of the Agency is given in section 4 of the TPLEA 2003 (as amended). It provides, inter-alia, the adoption of measures to increase the effectiveness of eradication of TIP – section 4 (c) ²²

In particular, section 10 (i) of the TPLEA 2003 (as amended) provides that “the Agency may initiate, develop or improve specific training programmes for the relevant law enforcement agents and other personnel of the Agency charged with the responsibility for the detection of offences created by this Act...”²³ Additionally, the flagship international legal framework for TIP, the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo protocol) provides that “states parties shall provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons...” Article 10.2

The Department consists of four units, namely;

- i) Training Unit,
- ii) Manpower Unit,
- iii) Curriculum Unit &
- iv) Academy. Before the effective take off of the units, the Department will carry out its activities around the core areas of;

- General Administration
- Training coordination, Documentation monitoring & evaluation
- Curriculum Development Training materials (manuals, practice tools)
- Personnel development including extracurricular activities
- Library, research & publications²⁴

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CHAPTER FOUR

THE ROLES AND CHALLENGES OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (NAPTIP)

Introduction

The chapter focuses on the roles and challenges of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP). The chapter explores the efficacy of the agency since inception in 2003 detailing how it has tackled human trafficking in Nigeria. In other words, it assesses its successes, failures and challenges militating against the strategies the agency adopted in combating human trafficking in Nigeria. Nigeria over the last decade has been plagued with the ills of human trafficking within and across borders. The major catalyst of this is the migration of young citizens illegally every year in search of greener pastures. These horrid ventures paved way for vices such as forced labour, prostitution, organ farming, and child labour among others. As estimated by the global slavery index (2018) Nigeria is ranked 32/167 of the country with the highest number of slaves with approximately 1,386,000 persons trafficked yearly, and also human trafficking is rated as the number three (3) most common crime after drug trafficking and economic fraud.¹

The National agency for the prohibition of trafficking in persons was created on the 14th of July 2003 by the trafficking in person's prohibition, enforcement and administration act. in alignment with the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC), NAPTIP is seen as a response of the Nigerian Federal Government in combating the scourge of trafficking in persons as part of the fulfillment of the country's international obligation under the trafficking in persons protocol to prevent, punish and suppress trafficking in persons especially women and children.² NAPTIP is saddled with the responsibilities of investigating cases

connected to human trafficking which includes, kidnapping, exploitive labour, prostitution, and purchase and sales of humans. In other words its major roles is to liberate and enlighten the Nigerian citizens from any kind of slavery practiced within and outside the state.³

The Roles of NAPTIP in Combating Human Trafficking

Since its inception in 14th July 2003, the National Agency for Prohibition for Trafficking in Persons has been saddled with the following responsibilities in line with its prohibition acts.

Deployment of Effective Strategies in Preventing Trafficking

As a major function of the agency effective measures and strategies must be put in place to eradicate the ills of trafficking in Nigeria. The Nigerian citizens should be protected from any treachery within and outside the state which includes trafficking crimes like kidnapping, organ farming and prostitution.⁴

Enforcement of the Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Act

Another crucial function of the agency is to ensure enforcement of the law, traffickers have been tried in competent courts within and outside Nigeria by the agency's legal department after thorough investigations with credible evidences. Since inception in 2003 the agency has tried over one thousand cases with 108 convictions where most offenders are serving jail terms in different state of the federation and also abroad. However, the act of the agency also provides limits to the function of NAPTIP, and also the reason for this limit is to protect the constitutional rights of the Nigerian citizens.⁵

According to the Commander of NAPTIP in Edo and Delta zone, Mr. Nduka Nwanwenne between January, 2019 and May, 2019, the Benin Zonal Command of the National

Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) arrested twenty (20) persons suspected of human trafficking were arrested in Benin. The agency charged some of the suspects to court, while others were detained at the command's custody pending completion of investigation on their cases. In addition, the zonal command had 36 cases pending in courts.⁶

Collaboration With other Anti Trafficking Bodies Worldwide

Collaboration is an effective tool used in fighting human trafficking, in line with her statutory function of strengthening its collaboration ties with the office of the Attorney General of the Federation, Nigerian Police Force, ministry of foreign affairs and other internal agencies, NAPTIP also own the responsibility to collaborate with other international anti trafficking bodies such as WOTCLEF, IOM, UNTOC, UNODC, in order to properly combat the human trafficking scourge for maximum results and no doubt since its inception it has successfully collaborated with these organizations for eradication of human trafficking for effective delivery of its agenda.

Sensitization Campaigns

This is another major function of NAPTIP to enlighten the masses on the dangers of slavery, illegal migration and the dangers they can be exposed to if involved in any of these acts, the public enlightenment department of the agency is responsible for its implementation through radio jingles, television adverts, billboards and public interactions. The department over the years has been responsible for the organization and execution of several awareness and sensitization programs, and its roles is to collaborate with other national agencies which includes federal ministries of information, national orientation agency, women and youth development and the federal ministry of education.⁶

Rehabilitation of Trafficked Persons

Human trafficking not only leaves a physical scar on victims but also mental depletion as results of multiple hazards these victims are being exposed to journeying perilous routes and encounters with brutal human traffickers, it is the job of the agency to provide rehabilitation facilities for returnees in order to reintegrate them back into society, the agency has ten shelters across the country for these returnees.⁷

Combating and Suppressing Human Trafficking

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons., (NAPTIP) is saddled with the responsibility of combating human trafficking crimes in the country to protect citizens and punish offenders. The agency carry out this function through the deployment of the strengths of its departments for example the intelligence and the international cooperation units of the agency (IICU) which was established in 2011 has been functioning as a strategic tool for the gathering and dissemination of information for proper combat and also it conducts collaboration and coordination with international organization such as anti-trafficking in persons government bodies, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental agencies in fighting human trafficking.⁸

The above stipulated functions of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in combating the intricacies involved in abhorring of human trafficking, it was able to put in place various strategies as seen in their various departments, in tackling the issue and has effectively implemented and executed its strategies by means of collaboration, coordination, sensitizations and rehabilitation of returnees, this it has achieved through various partnerships with organizations like IOM, UNODC, WOTCLEF among others both locally and internationally.

Furthermore, in combating human trafficking crimes from grass root, with Edo State having the highest number of illegal migrants an estimated eighty five percent of the returnees are from Edo state from ages 15-30 years. NAPTIP seeing this need established one of its regional zone in 2004 comprising Edo and Delta states in order to tackle the menace.⁸ The controller of the agency stated that the zone recorded eighty two cases during the period and rescued 158 persons who it had reunited with their families, in addition to that the zone carried out 33 sensitization and awareness campaigns in 2018 alone.⁹

Other collaboration includes the engagement of some local witch doctors in Benin, Edo State National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons in which they served as ambassadors in fighting human trafficking. Edo State is renowned to have the highest number of human trafficking in Nigeria. The employment of the witch doctors to the fight against human trafficking in the words of the Director General of NAPTIP, Julie Okah-Donl

investigations revealed that some local witch doctors were involved or used in the trafficking of persons to Europe. “When we gathered these witch doctors recently to sensitise them on what human trafficking victims go through in Europe, they were shocked. And they have made their commitments to work with us to fight the menace of human trafficking.”¹⁰

She further stated the agency`s involvement and sensitization and creation of more awareness among more witch doctors in Edo and other parts of the country in order to make them NAPTIP`s ambassadors in fighting human trafficking. Commenting on the mode of operations of traffickers and the ordeal victims pass through, NAPTIP boss declares that:

Once human traffickers get a victim`s consent by force, fraud or coercion, such person would be made to take oath of secrecy/allegiance before a local witch doctor in a shrine. Some rituals are performed on the victims, using their urine, pubic hair, fingernails, eye lashes, menstrual

blood, underwear and other personal effects. Once these rituals are done, it would be seen as a bond between the victims and the traffickers. In spite of the rituals and oath-taking, the victim reaches the destination point only to realize the farce behind the sweet promises of a greener pasture. And in this circumstance, such person is told in strict terms not to renege on the oath of secrecy, as it cannot be reversed.¹¹

Another vital role of the NAPTIP Edo and Delta Zone Command is in the area of rehabilitation of trafficked persons in Edo State. In line with the policy of the agency in rehabilitating and reintegrating survivors into the society, through the directive of the Director General of the agency, 20 survivors of human trafficking were empowered. They were also trained in various vocational fields of catering and hospitality management, fashion and design and cosmetology. Between 2017 and 2018, 100 victims of human trafficking were had been empowered by the agency and they some of them in their respective vocations.¹²

Collaborations of NAPTIP Since Inception

In spite of successes recorded by NAPTIP over the last decade in combating human trafficking crimes and rehabilitation of victims it would be erroneous to conclude that the agency single handedly executed its strategies without external aid, hence this chapter explores further NAPTIP's collaborations with international bodies like IOM, UNODC, WOTCLEF and others. Below are the various collaborations of NAPTIP.

NAPTIP Collaboration with United Nation Office for Drug Crimes

The United Nations office on drug and crimes partnered with NAPTIP in 2016 with the former signing in on a National Referral Mechanism for protection and assistance to trafficked persons in Nigeria. The launching of this project was part of the activities to mark the 2016 world day against human trafficking in Nigeria. The referral mechanism entailed training on

personnel management in order to ensure comprehensive care for victims of human trafficking and also ensure that care givers and other service providers understand and effectively work within the tenets of the national policy on protection and assistance to trafficked persons. The referral mechanism was unveiled in 2016 by the wife of the president, Her Excellency, Hajia Aisha Muhammadu Buhari with the assistance of the attorney general of the federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami.¹³

NAPTIP Collaboration with International Organization of Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration, IOM's collaboration with NAPTIP has been effective in the navigation of areas where unsuspecting Nigerians are being trafficked across the country like Mali, Oman the organizations partnership with Nigeria is to curb the ills of illegal migration in Nigeria, ensure safe return for the Nigerian returnees from Libya and also donations and equipping of shelters. The IOM has been instrumental in setting up the NAPTIP Lagos zonal command and several capacity building training for officers.¹⁴

NAPTIP Collaboration with Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF)

The NAPTIP has partnered with WOTCLEF in the fight over the eradication of trafficking in persons, the latter has assisted in the rescue of trafficked victims especially women and children with it being granted an observer status by ECOSOC in order to keep an eye on the agency and its activities and further provide assistance if needed in the fight against human trafficking. WOTCLEF has lifted up spirits for grass root sensitization campaigns as a panacea to the ills of human trafficking.¹⁵

NAPTIP Collaboration with the European Union

The European Union has been of immense help financially to NAPTIP in the combat race of human trafficking. The Abuja shelter for the rehabilitation of trafficked victims was funded by the EU and commissioned by Michel Arion, Ambassador and head of delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS. The commissioning of the facility followed several weeks of refurbishment work undertaken within the framework of the EU funded project “promoting better management of migration in Nigeria by combating and reducing irregular migration that occurs inter alia through trafficking in persons (TIP), smuggling of migrants (SOM) PROJECT”. In line with the project the Union also provided the agency with IT equipment comprising, internet servers, fifty desk top computers and printers among others at the NAPTIP headquarters in Abuja. The European Union and NAPTIP partnership has gone a long way in fuelling the former financially in combating human trafficking.¹⁶

Collaboration with National Emergency Management Agency, (NEMA)

NAPTIP has collaborated with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on in tackling the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria. It was reported that a total of 14,036 Nigerians voluntarily returned home under the Assisted Voluntary Returnees Programme. Many illegal Nigerian migrants who were stranded in Libya, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ireland, France, Gambia, Austria, Poland, Morocco and Liberia, were brought back to Nigeria by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Union (EU). Lending credence to this report Alhaji Idris Muhammed, the Coordinator of NEMA Lagos Territorial Office stated that the agency received 137 Nigerians who returned from Libya and out of the total 14,036 returnees repatriated, 12,457 were brought back from Libya. The analysis on the total number

that have been brought back indicates that 465 males and 408 females amongst those brought back had psychosocial related needs. “Also, 454 males and 618 females are having various degree of medical needs.”The analysis further indicates that there were 61 males and 61 females unaccompanied minors who had been reunited with their relations.“There are 37 pregnant women brought back so far in the course of the exercise”.¹⁷

Collaboration with the Neighbouring Countries

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP), has sought collaboration by signing an agreement between Nigeria and neighbouring West African countries to end the practice of Nigerian girls being used as sex slaves in Mali. At a presentation to the ECOWAS Parliament during its First Ordinary Session, NAPTIP Director-General, Julie Okah-Donli made shocking revelations to the parliament that Nigerian girls were being sold for between N210,000 and N240,000 to work as prostitutes and the girls were made to pay back between N1.08 million and N1.2 million, usually within eight months, to their madams. She further stated that after gaining their freedom from their madams, the girls would then go into business, making money for themselves through prostitutions before graduating to madams of their own. In her narrative, she asserts that:

There are more than one million Nigerians residing in Mali. About 20,000 of these Nigerians are girls believed to be victims of trafficking and the number increases by 50 per day. “Many victims are deceived to leave their livelihoods in Nigeria for greener pastures in ‘Mali. “Some of the victims are abducted from Nigeria, including those that arrive in school uniforms. “On arrival at the border town between Burkina Faso and Mali, many of the girls are sold off for CFA 350,000 to 400,000; their new owners then make them pay back about CFA 1.6 million to CFA 2 million with one CFA being 0.6 Naira.¹⁸

The NAPTIP boss Okah-Donli believe that efforts to curb the trend, Nigerian government should develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin Republic, Guinea and Senegal. Other recommendations included further recommended that all sanitization of all motor-parks through which the girls were trafficked and efforts be made to stop extortion of Nigerians travelling to or through the aforementioned countries. Highlighting on that she notes that: “There is need for comprehensive sensitization of rescued victims before repatriation and a comprehensive blueprint worked out for tracing, empowerment and rehabilitation of victims”. The agency`s boss further posited that some of the sex slaves were made to sleep with numerous men without protection while also being made to pay huge taxes by the complicit Malian authorities. She raised the alarm that there was now a growing possibility of xenophobic attacks as Malian women were already grumbling that Nigerians were taking their men. “The Malian authorities collect taxes from the victims on a weekly basis and sell condoms and other medications compulsorily to their victims every month. “Malian women are already grumbling that Nigerian girls are taking their men, and there are fears of imminent xenophobic attacks. “Three Nigerian girls were killed between November and December 2018”.¹⁹

She said that efforts to stop the trade at the borders had not been encouraged by border security as they had not made efforts to arrest the traffickers in spite of all information given to them. “The border point between Nigeria and Seme-Krake and Burma Fas/Mali are notoriously porous, and despite numerous reports and pictures of traffickers sent to law enforcement agencies at the borders, no arrests or rescues have been made. “The traffic madams are well known to the Nigerian community but they are afraid to report them because of the complicity of the Malian security agencies in human trafficking, especially the gendarmerie who assist the traffickers to carry out their activities. “Nigerian victims are way-billed from a motor-park in

Cotonou, dropped at Sikasso near the border with Burkina Faso, from where they are picked by Malian gendarmerie for delivery to their madams,” she said. The director-general stated that the Nigerian sex slaves lived in about 300 settlements in Malian bushes, with each settlement holding 100 to 150 girls. The girls, aged between 16 and over 30, hang around bars and night clubs to display for their clients who take them into their huts made of polythene, Okah-Donli said. As part of effort to curb the menace, she said the team met with the Ministry of Justice in Mali to find solution to the menace. She said that the Malian Justice Ministry had called on NAPTIP to come up with an MoU that would provide a proper framework to end the trafficking and repatriate those already trafficked.²⁰

Over time, there has been bilateral and multilateral agreements between states and international organizations over the issue of human trafficking and no doubt the above is an indicator of the veracity of this fact as it has dissected the different collaborations of NAPTIP since inception in 2003, no agency is an island ,it needs the partnership of others in order to effectively execute its agenda same rule is applicable to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons as it has witnessed immense support from renowned international agencies like WOTCLEF, IOM, EU, UNODC, and the Benin traditional institution.

The NAPTIP has also partnered with the Benin traditional institution in the fight against human trafficking in the state. During a sanitization visit to the Oba the Director-General of NAPTIP, Dame Julie Okah-Donli to His Majesty, Omo N’Oba N’Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Ewuare II Ogidigan, Oba of Benin Kingdom, in Benin City, the Edo State capital. The DG and the team of NAPTIP officials to the Royal father to solicited the support of the traditional institution in Edo State and in particular the Benin Kingdom in the fight against human

trafficking bearing in mind the endemic nature of the State in human trafficking and the image problem accompanying that status. The Oba of Benin was urged to join NAPTIP in its renewed efforts at stopping the juju priests in Benin from further administering oaths on victims of human trafficking that are brought to them by criminal elements.²¹

The DG enjoined the Oba to use his position to sensitize the juju priests and the chiefs on the effects of their actions on the helpless young people. Addressing the Oba and his chiefs she asserts:

Many of the young people that have left may never come back as they are dead and their parents are still hoping that they will come back some day with loads of money, while many have lost their minds as a result of the exploitation they have gone through.²²

She also enjoined the Royal Father to bring the issue of human trafficking to the front burner within the fold of the traditional institutions across the country. The Oba of Benin commended NAPTIP on its activities and declared his commitment to fight the menace, adding that he had done it in the past when he was the Nigerian Ambassador to Italy. He said it was for that reason that he established the Oba of Benin Foundation. He however, directed officials of the Foundation and members of his cabinet to work with NAPTIP as partners to fight the scourge in Benin. He also warned perpetrators of the heinous act to stay away from Benin as the trade has brought more sorrow than joy to the people.²³ He condemned the enslavement of Nigerians in Libya and the horrors the victims of human trafficking as many of the victims were able bodied men and women who packed up their businesses, sold all they had to embark on the journey and later became slaves. The Oba called for a tripartite arrangement amongst the Federal, States and traditional institutions in the fight against trafficking, including the church in order to curb

human trafficking. The Benin Traditional Institution had partnered with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to stem the tide of human trafficking in Edo State and Nigeria in General.

Picture Showing the Benin Monarch Partners NAPTIP Against Human Trafficking



Source: Benin Monarch Partners NAPTIP Against Human Trafficking, (NAPTIP). Available at <https://www.naptip.gov.ng> › Slider. Retrieved on 20 June, 2019.

All these collaborations between NAPTIP and these stakeholders have contributed immensely to the eradication of trafficking of Nigerians within and outside the state through funding, sensitization campaigns, donations of IT equipment and tracking of routes used by traffickers in conveying victims to destination countries.²⁴ The following diagram shows vividly the route patterns of traffickers internally and externally through hazardous and illegal means.

Trafficking Routes:

- i. Benin – Lagos – Cotonou – Abidjan
- ii. Benin- Lagos-Ghana –Bamako- Morocco- Spain/Italy
- iii. Benin- Kano- Niger Rep-Libya- Italy
- iv. Lagos-Ibaka-Ibeno, (Akwa-Ibom) Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) Spain/Italy.²⁵

Diagram 1: NAPTIP Survey, 2005

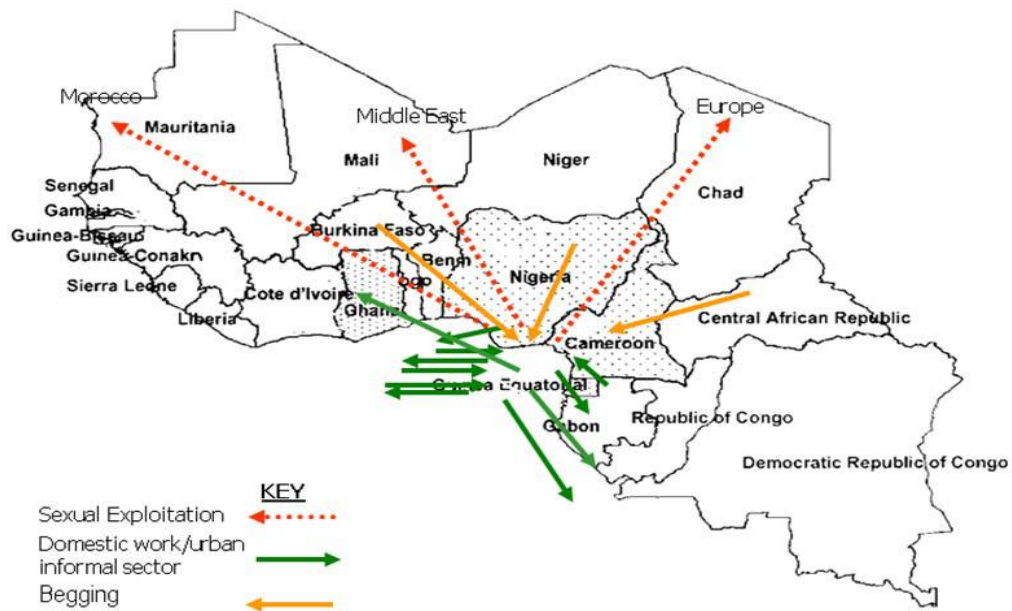
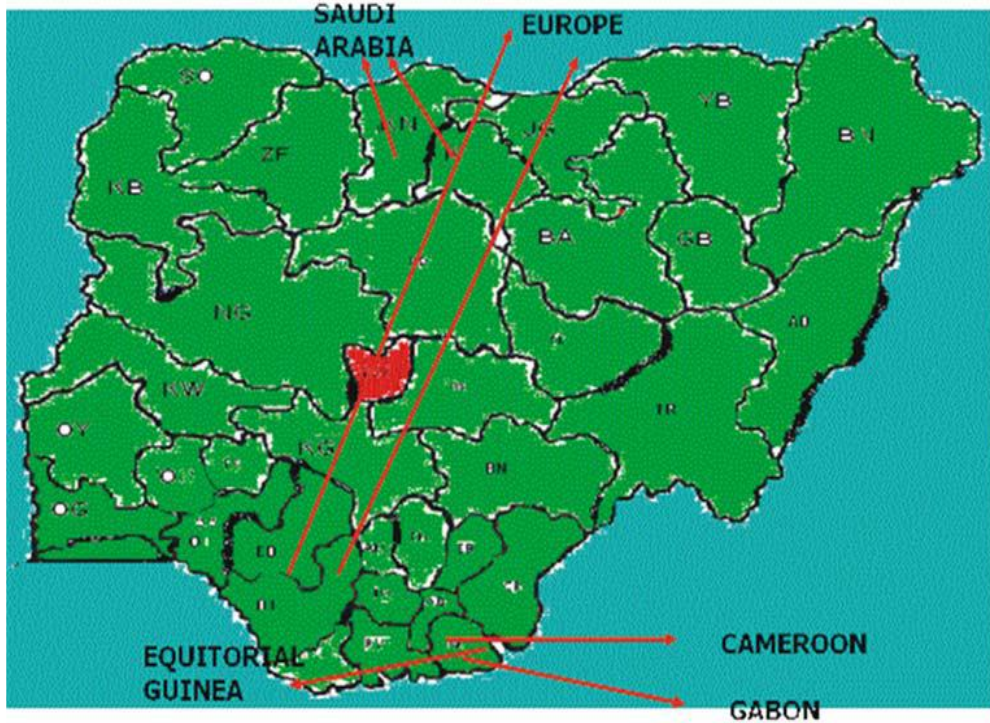


Diagram 2: External Trafficking Patterns



Source: Wikipedia

The above maps simply illustrate the trafficking patterns through exit states and destination countries. Diagram 1 illustrates the transit route internally within West Africa where majority of these victims work tediously in mine fields in Ghana and other West African states. They traverse these routes majorly by trekking and journeying through the Sahara deserts under severe life threatening conditions.

Challenges of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons

Due to the high turnouts financial turnouts for traffickers the illicit business of human trafficking and its violation of the basic human rights it is a very difficult issue to tackle. Despite the agency’s recorded successes in the eradication of human trafficking, it has also witnessed

limitations and challenges that clogged the wheel of its progress in the fight against trafficking in persons which borders from legal, limitations, funding, clandestine nature of the illicit trade, lack of enlightenment and unwillingness of people to understand the ills of seeking for greener pastures illegally in foreign lands.²⁶

Below are the listed challenges of the agency in this combat.

- i. The agency experiences low funding from the government in the fight against trafficking in persons.
- ii. The challenge of rivalry from other security agencies hampers the operations of the agency.
- iii. Challenges of investigating and prosecuting offenders due to the lack of adequate and effective legislation on human trafficking.
- iv. The uncooperative attitudes of the victims and the public in providing necessary information for further investigations and prosecution of offenders.
- v. The clandestine nature of the trade has become a clog to the wheel of NAPTIPS operation of eradicating the ills of human trafficking.
- vi. Traffickers are deploying new strategies daily in order to outsmart security agencies thus making it difficult for agencies such as NAPTIP to properly execute their agendas
- vii. Illiteracy amongst the impoverished endemic c regions where trafficking is high thus making it difficult for sensitization campaigns to be effective
- viii. Limited resources for training of personnel and victims of trafficking.
- viii. The issue of a faceless criminal cartel behind sex trafficking and forced labour within and outside the country poses as a threat to the progress of NAPTIP.

- ix. Willingness of families in endemic regions to sponsor their relatives to travel abroad illegally is a great challenge as the practice is becoming more and more rampant amongst these sets.
- x. Shortfall of logistics is another factor hindering the progress of the fight against human trafficking
- xi. Diseases such as HIV, EBOLA, and other communicable diseases which needs quarantine and proper handling in order to prevent it from going viral is another challenge of the agency.²⁷

Other challenges include the behavior of Malian government in rescuing girls that were trapped by conflicts in the country. According to NAPTIP boss, efforts to repatriate girls were usually foiled through the complicity of Malian security forces, coupled with the willingness of many girls to return to the 'sex-for-gold' trade. Some of the girls who were trafficked to the northern parts of Mali where they not only offered sex but were radicalized. Most of the victims who were rescued in 2011 and some others in 2017 were girls.²⁸

Inferring from the above that despite the agency's attempt to curb the scourge of human trafficking there are still factors militating against the execution of its core agenda of suppressing and eradication of human trafficking, which include prostitution, child labour, forced labour, organ farming and a host of other deadly vices associated with trafficking in persons. However, there are deficiencies in implementations like the law for instance is preoccupied with the situation of women and girls and sexual offences and ignores the wider problems of trafficking in men and children for other purposes such as, sale of babies, organ farming, child abuse, forgery, criminal oaths and so. These inadequacies of the law births unpunished offences which has led to the limitation and challenges of the agency in combating human trafficking. From

every indication, gathering information that will lead to prosecution of traffickers and people violating the child right Act is still a tough challenge of NAPTIP and its counterpart agencies in many part of the world due to lack of technical intelligence resources for investigation.²⁹ The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters has also made efforts to resettle victims of human trafficking and arrest traffickers. However, the convictions of human traffickers made by this National Agency in Edo State is relatively low. From 2004 to 2012 only 34 summary convictions were made in Edo State's capital, Benin-City.³⁰

The aforementioned challenges which ranged from inadequacies of the legislation, lack of logistics, limited funding, lack of cooperation amongst sister agencies, the unwillingness of rescued victims to cooperate, contracted diseases act as a serious clog to the wheel of NAPTIP's combating progress. In order to overcome these obstacles certain strategies must be put in place for proper implementation and execution of agendas.

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CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

This study has explored the role of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP) in combating human trafficking in Edo State in Nigeria from 2003 to 2017. It was reported that between 2003 and 2017, the Benin Zonal Command of the agency had rescued over 3000 victims of human trafficking in Edo State which is an endemic area of the trade with some of the perpetrators taken to jail.¹ The study has investigated the mode of operations of human trafficking by traffickers in terms of mode of recruitment and luring their unsuspected victims based on the promise of better life in Europe. It also examines the strategies deployed by NAPTIP in executing the agency's statutory responsibility to suppress and eradicate human trafficking in Edo State and Nigeria at large.

We have seen that human trafficking is an ancient act where people were sold as slaves, wrestlers and prostitutes for illicit gains. However, in recent times, it has metamorphosed into modern slavery and has adopted a new tag in the form of "human trafficking". In other words, human trafficking has evolved into the new act of trafficking in persons which involved forced labour, prostitution, and child labour and organ farming under severe and inhumane conditions. The United Nations convention describes human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion of abduction, of fraud, of deception and abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person for purposes of exploitation.²

Human trafficking is a global problem with an estimated 27 million people trafficked worldwide. It is said to be the third most lucrative criminal enterprise surpassed only by drugs and arms trafficking³. The major catalyst of this trend in Nigeria is the oddity of illegal migration in the country which is more prevalent in Edo State in particular. It can be recalled that the Edo State indigenes, particularly its women started migrating to Italy in the early nineties for greener pastures and majority were engaged in prostitution. It became a thriving business for them and they started having cartels all over Europe.⁴ Initially most of those trafficked victims thought they were travelling abroad for legitimate work.

This study has traced the trajectory of trafficking in women in Benin and other parts of Edo State to the period their women traveled to work in Italian tomato fields as part of their search for greener pastures although on meager pay. As at that time, women travelling to Europe were a more legitimate means of livelihood until overtime; the Nigerian economy began to experience its worse condition due to the impact of the civil war, military incursion in politics, corruption, and mismanagement of funds among other ills that had bedeviled the Nigerian state.⁵ According to International Organization of Migration (IOM) approximately 11,000 women that arrived Europe the Mediterranean Sea into Italy in 2016 were mostly from Edo State.⁶ These victims of human trafficking go through inhumane experiences traversing the Sahara desert and taking risk in crossing the Mediterranean sea illegally, where they were exposed to all sorts of inhuman treatments and risks such as prostitution forced labour, selling of organs and detention in labour camps and some served jail terms and so on.

The study has also explored the socio-economic impacts of human trafficking in the state, which dwell on the rise of poverty, unemployment and loss of hope of survival by youths who resorted to illegal or irregular migration to other countries to seek for greener pastures. It is estimated that

an astounding 94% of all Nigerian women trafficked to Europe for prostitution hail from Edo State with Italy being the number one destination country⁷. Due to this colossal trend of migration a large number of the state's labour force has migrated thereby plunging the state's productivity power into disarray.

In line with the dehumanizing trend of human trafficking in Nigeria, the National Agency for the Prohibition in Persons (NAPTIP) was established in 2003 to suppress this trend in accordance with the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2003 as a statutory agency created to curb this scourge. NAPTIP is strictly under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Justice. The creation of the agency is seen as Nigeria's response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons and also in fulfillment of the country's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC).⁸

The creation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons in Nigeria is unique. The agency is established in Section 1(1) of the Act, 381 charged with the responsibility of enforcing, administering and managing the law prohibiting human trafficking and other related matters. The agency is a body corporate with perpetual succession, common seal and capacity to sue and be sued in its corporate name.⁹ The study has established that the primary role of NAPTIP entails the enforcement of law on trafficking in persons, investigations of cases pertaining to the trafficking in persons includes forced labour, child labour, prostitution and a host of others. Its other functions include to facilitate the rehabilitation and assistance needed for the integration of returnees. Furthermore the agency since inception in 2003 has collaborated with national and international agencies such as WOTCLEF, UNTOC, UNODC, European

Union, (EU) and International Organization for Migration, (IOM). These agencies are funded and provided assistance in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria. The agency has shelters spread across the country to assist rescued victims of human trafficking, these shelters are in eight states across the country which includes, Abuja, Benin, Uyo, Enugu, Sokoto, Maiduguri, with a length of stay of six weeks.¹⁰

The agency has partnered with the Ministry of Information in creating awareness of the dangers of human trafficking through television, adverts, radio jingles, and sensitization campaigns among others. It collaborated with local Non-Governmental Organizations, (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations, (CSOs), and related organizations that are saddled with the responsibility for the protection and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and other destitute in the society. It should be noted that most of the funds allocated to the agencies for the combat of human trafficking in Nigeria were sourced from collaborations from international organizations like IOM, EU, UNODC, and also other forms of facilitations have emerged from these partnerships.

This study has revealed that the agency has recorded myriad successes in the eradication of human trafficking in Edo State. The Benin Zonal Command has recorded over 3000 victims in 2017 alone. It also rescued over 500 victims of human trafficking and jailing the perpetrators. The Edo-Delta NAPTIP Zonal Command recorded eighty two cases during the period and rescued 158 persons who were later reunited with their families. The zone had embarked on 33 sensitization and awareness campaigns in the state informing the people especially the mothers and guardians the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking in 2018 alone. It took the awareness campaigns to public spaces such as schools, markets, churches, hospitals and colleges and universities. The assessment of the strategies deployed in tackling human trafficking in

Nigeria by NAPTIP and its strategies in reaching out to the public by partnering with the Ministry of Information for wider audience, thrusting its attention on endemic areas such as Edo State, Delta State, Ogun State, Lagos State and Kano, the scourge has continued. Traffickers have adopted other subtle methods to circumvent NAPTIP, security agencies and other related agencies whose duties were to combat human trafficking in Nigeria including Edo State.¹¹

Despite its collaborations and recorded successes with relevant agencies, Non-government organizations, (NGOs) civil society groups (CSOs), and international organizations such as International Organization for Migration, (IOM), European Union (EU), the agency had faced plethora of challenges militating against the effectiveness of its operation. These challenges include the problem of limited funding of the agency from government which hindered in carrying out its operation. Other constraints are the issue of stiff competition amongst sister agencies and limitations of the legislation which have constituted as a clog to the wheel of the progress of NAPTIP.

This study has revealed that majority of victims of human trafficking willingly gave themselves out into traffickers knowing fully well the risks involved, but they still believe it is a quicker way of making money in life. In addition, some parents actually encouraged their daughters and children to migrate in order to make money and help end poverty and change their social and economic conditions and status in the society.

In view of the above discourse, we make the following recommendations: NAPTIP should give technical support to countries like Mali if it sought to establish an anti-human trafficking agency. The protocol on Free Movement of persons and goods as enshrined in the ECOWAS Protocols should be properly implemented such that other nationals are not harassed

in other ECOWAS countries. There is possibility of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians. This report was made by the director-general of NAPTIP that some of the sex slaves were made to sleep with numerous men without protection while also being made to pay huge taxes by the complicit Malian authorities. She raised the alarm that there was now a growing possibility of xenophobic attacks as Malian women were already grumbling that Nigerians were taking their men. “The Malian authorities collect taxes from the victims on a weekly basis and sell condoms and other medications compulsorily to their victims every month. “Malian women are already grumbling that Nigerian girls are taking their men, and there are fears of imminent xenophobic attacks. “Three Nigerian girls were killed between November and December 2018”.¹²

In addition, concerted efforts to stop the trade at the borders had not been encouraged by border security as they had not made efforts to arrest the traffickers in spite of all information given to them. “The border point between Nigeria and Seme-Krake and Burma Fas/Mali are notoriously porous, and despite numerous reports and pictures of traffickers sent to law enforcement agencies at the borders, no arrests or rescues have been made. In this respect, the NAPTIP boss notes that: “The traffic madams are well known to the Nigerian community but they are afraid to report them because of the complicity of the Malian security agencies in human trafficking, especially the gendarmerie who assist the traffickers to carry out their activities. “Nigerian victims are way-billed from a motor-park in Cotonou, dropped at Sikasso near the border with Burkina Faso, from where they are picked by Malian gendarmerie for delivery to their madams”.¹³ The director-general added that the Nigerian sex slaves lived in about 300 settlements in Malian bushes, with each settlement holding 100 to 150 girls. The girls, aged between 16 and over 30, hang around bars and night clubs to display for their clients who take them into their huts made of polythene. As part of effort to curb the menace, she said the team

met with the Ministry of Justice in Mali to find solution to the menace. She said that the Malian Justice Ministry had called on NAPTIP to come up with an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would provide a proper framework to end the trafficking and repatriate those already trafficked.¹⁴

There is need to address corruption at border posts: Corruption and abuse is rampant at border crossing points and the study has shown these crossings to be one of the high risk locations on the journey to North Africa. Sensitization campaigns should be taken to market women, primary, secondary schools, universities and other institutions of higher learning to create awareness on the dangers of irregular migration and new human trafficking techniques. Greater avenues for regular migration as a way to counter smuggling and decrease the vulnerability of Nigerians to trafficking should be created. There should be provision of job opportunities for Nigerians through creation of job opportunities and other means of livelihoods at origin, and within other ECOWAS countries. These will serve to address the drivers of irregular migration to North Africa and Europe over time and potentially decrease the vulnerability of Nigerians to traffickers. For example skill acquisition and training programmes for youths, potential migrants and the migrant returnees will help to stem the tide of irregular migration and human trafficking.

Government should consider the establishment of two special courts to handle human trafficking cases in order to ensure speedy trial of cases. This is in line with proposal made by the Director-General, of NAPTIP, Mrs. Julie Okah-Donli, to the Chief Judge of Edo State during her in Benin as reported by the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN.¹⁵

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