

**THE ROLE OF IMMIGRATION ON NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY**

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## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this research work was carried out by **BLESING OCHUWA AUGUSTINE** in the Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

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## **DEDICATION**

I specially dedicate this project to Almighty God, who made the success of this work a reality and for all the knowledge and understanding he gave me throughout my schooling in the University of Benin.

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My acknowledgement goes to Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, for he is the reason I made it this far, may his name be exalted.

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To all my wonderful lecturers, especially, Professor Eddy Erhagbe, Professor J. I. Osagie, Dr. Charles Osarunwense Mr. Victor Aiguobarueghian, etc. who all actively and passively contributed to the actualization of my tertiary education. God almighty will reward you.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

### **Introduction**

The control and regulation of cross-border movement of people and goods is important for ensuring peace and stability among African countries.<sup>1</sup> This trade movements will also enhance political and socio-economic activities needed for unifying West African economies and security which is the fundamental idea for the establishment of sub-regional integration in Africa. The free movement of persons without visa within the West African sub-region is a major achievement of the organisation. One major prerequisite for effective integration within the community is improvement in the communication and transportation networking among member states.<sup>2</sup>

As a result, much of the regional infrastructure has been rehabilitated and expanded to foster economic integration. Irrespective of the achievement of the free movement over the years, several violent activities of civilian-in-arms conflict have taken place in the region which led to absence of jobs in conflict-torn states, as well as the mass movement of their citizens to safer member countries.<sup>3</sup> The effect of this led to transnational crimes involving the smuggling of arms and drugs, piracy, insurgencies and kidnapping which has continue to pose security challenge to Nigerian state. The devastating effect of illegal immigrant cannot be

overlooked in the Nigeria context as insecurities has become the order of the day across the regions. In the North-Eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, the operations of Boko Haram sect had caused millions of residents homeless from their various communities. The frequent invasion of Fulani Herdsmen in the North-Central and North-Western and in some cases the South-Eastern, South-Southern and South-Western states of the country is also threatening the unity, peace and Security of the country.<sup>4</sup>

For International Migration (Emigration and Immigration) to take place the sending state, the receiving state and the migrant is involved in the migration process. This is where the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and various migration policies play a part which is to regulate the migration activities in Nigeria as a destination state and a sending nation state. International Migration is a global culture in which a reasonable amount of individuals (nationals) practice.<sup>5</sup> It is against this backdrop, this study examines the impact of Nigerian Immigration in curbing insecurity in Nigeria.

The Nigeria Immigration Service is a para military organization established to control the entry and exit of all persons in Nigeria and as such is meant to police the country's vast porous borders through its officers posted to such locations. The agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) created out of the Nigerian Police Force

(NPF) in 1958. Then it was known as the Immigration was department headed by the Chief Federal Immigration Officer. During this period, the department had a narrow law as well as a narrow scope profile and a simple strategy in achieving its objectives.<sup>6</sup> The department was basically responsible for visa and business sections. Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) department became independent in August 1<sup>st</sup> 1963, becoming a department under the supervision and control of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (FMIA). Therefore, this study set out to identify the role of Nigeria Immigration Service as a security agency in curbing illegal migration. With an introduction, the study is structure into five sections.

### **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of the study is to examine the role of Nigeria Immigration Service as a security in curbing illegal migration.

- i. To examine the historical antecedence of border management in Nigeria.
- ii. To examine the origin, nature and operational mode of Nigeria Immigration Service.
- iii. To examine the cases of Nigeria Immigration Service in curbing insecurity in Nigeria.
- iv. To examines the impact of Nigeria Immigration Service in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria.

- v. To examines the impact the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Challenges of Immigration.

### **Scope of the Study**

This study will cover the nature, manifestations and impact of the Nigeria Immigration Service in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria, 2000 to 2023. The study will also cover establishment of the Nigeria Immigration Service and how they have provided border security across all borders within the Nigeria state.

### **Research Methodology**

The method of writing this study will be historical method. In the course of research, relevant materials will be obtained. Primary sources such as oral interviews, personal diaries and memoirs as well as consultation with the officers and personnel of Nigeria Immigration Service in Benin City. The principal materials will be from secondary sources such as University of Benin library and learned academic journals, surfing the internet for related materials as well as perusal of serial publications such as magazines and old newspapers.

### **Literature Review**

To achieve the highlighted research objectives of this study, literature on the the historical antecedence of border management in Nigeria will be extensively explored. They include the following.

Aliome Collins Chinedu, “Migration and National Security: A Study of Nigeria’s Porous Borders,” showcasing the synergy between migration and national security and by extension addresses the question of whether migration represents a threat to national security or not. Of course, common response to this question is that migration could be a vehicle for importing terrorists, criminals and for spreading infectious diseases. The nefarious activities of the dreaded terrorist group known as Bokko Haram which has made lives and properties insecure in Nigeria could be attributed to the incursion of migrants from the Republics of Niger and Chad to Nigeria. Therefore the burgeoning migrant smuggling and human trafficking industries do not only undermine the sovereignty of our country but also weaken the public confidence in the integrity of government policy. This undoubtedly, impact on the practical implications of our resource allocation as well as conceptual models of integration and national identity. The author adopted content analysis techniques and comparative analysis.

Florence Ifeanyi-Aneke, work titled Nigeria Immigration Service and the Challenge of Cross Border Human Trafficking in Nigeria 2011 – 2019, examined

Nigeria Immigration Service and The Challenge of Cross Border Human Trafficking in Nigeria 2011- 2019. Using structural functionalism theory as my analytical framework and on the strength of data generated from secondary sources through the interrogation of the hypothesis; Poor border management has negatively affected the capacity of Nigeria immigration service to curbing cross border human traffic 2011-2019. The author finds out that there are about 1400 footpaths unknown by security agencies the borders are not manned and unprotected. Moreover, an inadequate personnel has equally contributed to poor border management. However, the researcher recommends that: Nigeria immigration service cannot be solely responsible for the prevention of cross border human trafficking it should liaise and network with other sister security departments; this is equally important to fill intelligence gaps, minimize costs of intelligence collection, and establish diplomatic relations among states.

Jibrin Ubale Yahaya, book titled International Migration and the Phenomenon of Insecurity in Nigeria, examines the problems of insecurity as a result of internal migration from bordering countries of Niger, Cameroun, Chad and Benin Republic as well as observing the duties of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) on revealing that the above mentioned agency has not control the entrance of illegal migrants making the Nigerian state as a source and destination

for migrants. The author revealed the consequences faced by the Nigerian state on International Migration as a one of the security threat affecting the country. The author also shows that the agency of Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS) has various challenges, which are the reasons for the level of under performance of the agency. The author tends to inform the Nigerian public on the gains and loss of international migration. The major findings of this study reveal that the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has some challenges and these challenges hinders the success of this agency in bringing socio-economic development into the Nigerian State . However, for Nigeria to benefit profitably from International Migration, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has to be efficient in her duties and also needs the cooperation of the sister's organization, as it relates to socio-economic development and security functions.

Chukwuemeka Enyiazu, in his work titled “Nigeria’s Foreign Policy, Regional Obligations And Constant Border Closures,”<sup>10</sup> the author examine how Nigeria has kept on doing the same thing over and over again and expects to get a different result and how border closures had neither worked nor achieved its objectives in Nigeria and how the it infringed on the rights of genuine business people in Nigeria. The author maintain that it was completely at variance with Nigeria’s foreign policy objectives, national interest and leadership role in Africa

to close the Nigeria border and that the irony is that Nigeria being the biggest economy in Africa; that her neighbours should be the one slamming their border close on Nigeria. Finally, the author concludes that Nigeria should improve her Ease of Doing Business by uplifting its poor infrastructure, eliminating multiple exchange rates, taxations, policy discrepancies, paucity of foreign exchange, adverse port tariffs, provide security and useful incentives for businesses. This will make it easier for businesses to use legitimate channels for their businesses, rather than resorting to illegitimate means like smuggling.<sup>11</sup>

Umunna Godson Nwagu, article titled “The Microeconomic Implication of Border Closure in Nigeria: A Review”<sup>12</sup> the author survey the microeconomic implication of the closure of the Nigeria border. The author emphasis that there was no formal communication with government officials of these neighboring countries before the closure of the Nigeria-Benin-Niger and Cameroon borders in August 2019 and that all goods except oil were to be stopped from being imported and exported. He further posits that as outlined in the 2017-2020 Economic and Recovery Growth Plan, the closure is part of Nigeria's economic strategy to combat smuggling, increase local production, and protect local producers. Several hundred billion naira (\$303,614,300 US dollars) are lost to smuggling activities across the Nigerian-Benin border every year.<sup>13</sup>

Temitope Francis Abiodun's work titled "Untold Impacts Of Nigeria's Land Borders Closure Policy On Border Communities, Economy, And Security In West African Sub-Region,"<sup>14</sup> examines the reasons for shutting the borders; finds out the impacts of the closure on border communities, regional/national economies and security; finds out the reactions of border communities and neighbouring states; and interrogates the remedies to the problem. The author in its findings therefore indicates that the state closed her land borders to forestall all illegal actions at borders involving: smuggling and human trafficking, illicit arms trade, undocumented migration among others. The author also reveals that the closure led to economic hardship for people in border communities, West African sub-region and the Nigerian state at large. The author therefore recommends that; there should be cross-fertilization of ideas on transnational economic, legal and security initiatives between the Nigeria and her neighbouring states to wage war against illicit activities at borders. The author however concludes that the border closure poses a major blow to pan-African moment having cut short all trade relations with other states; hoping that the policy would be very significant in protecting Nigeria's political, economic and security interests.<sup>15</sup>

Nuhu Mailabari and Ishaku Hamidu's in their work titled "Developing Nigeria's Border Paradigm: The Panacea for National Security, Socio-Economic

and Political Development,”<sup>16</sup> examined the impacts or effects of poor boundary delineation and management on national and regional security, vis-a-vis on the political economy of the Nigerian state. The article was concerned with the incumbent micro-security breaches and challenges fuelled by poor border paradigm could escalate to macro- security out bust that can engulf the entire region if the present trends are not checked. Therefore, checkmating the illegal trans-border activities and developing the frontiers will among others, boost the nation’s economy; protect the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizens; the citizen will have and repose much confidence on the ability and capability of their home governments; the Nigerian state will be stable politically; rural-urban migration will be curtailed or minimized and investors will be attracted to the nation’s rural areas to invest. Peace and security are the panacea or sine qua non for socioeconomic, political and national development that no rational government should overlook.<sup>17</sup>

Olumide O. Omodunbi’s article titled “The Politics of Border Closure and Its Implications on the Nigerian Economy,”<sup>18</sup> establishes that land borders closure by the Nigerian government against other neighboring African countries due to smuggling and illegal business trades affecting the unstable economy of the country calls for a radical change which determines whether the closure of the

land borders affected the growth and development of the Nigerian Economy, as it also determined measures to mitigate the challenges of smuggling in Nigeria. The author uncovers that the closure of the land borders had certain consequences which negates Nigeria's international trade treaties and economy as certain African countries backfired against Nigeria due to the land border closure. Furthermore, the author observed that the Nigerian Economy is still faced with the problem of inflation as a result of high reliance on foreign and imported products, but since the land borders were closed, job opportunities were created and local industries have developed, thereby leading to increase in the production of locally-made goods which aids the growth and development of the Nigerian Economy. The author recommends that the Nigerian government should invest highly on local entrepreneurs and the Agricultural sector as this will encourage foreign and local investments aimed towards the progress of the Nigerian Economy.<sup>19</sup>

Bukar Gaji's article titled "Cross-Border Trade and Security Implications to North-Eastern Nigeria with Particular Reference to Borno State: A Historical Overview,"<sup>20</sup> examines trans-border trade and security in North-Eastern Nigeria with particular reference to Borno State.

He further maintain that the phenomenal rise in smuggling of goods such as money laundering and drug trafficking and other trans-border crimes within the

border areas with Borno State has generated much concerns to scholars and policy makers, and that Transborder trade is growing in scale and momentum without a corresponding clear and coordinate strategy for dealing with this hydraheaded monster in the sub-region. This significantly affects the economies of not only Borno, North-Eastern region of Nigeria but also the countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Cross-Border trade affects the joint security effort and stability of the continent of Africa. The stability of a country in terms of physical security is necessary for economic development when considered within the context of transborder trade. The author observed the government therefore, needs to evolve a new approach to securing the border, one that includes as integrated mix of development-inventions for border communities trained and dedicated officials and enhanced border situation awareness infrastructure.<sup>21</sup>

Lawan Cheri, work titled “Assessment of Policy Awareness and condition of women engaged in cross border trade along Nigeria-Niger Corridor,”<sup>22</sup> the author point out how policy awareness among stakeholders is a vital tool for mobilization support and compliance with policy requirements that could lead to the success of regulations and in recognition of the imperatives of Cross Border Trade in the lives of women especially those living in the Nigeria-Niger border communities, it became important to examine the conditions and policy awareness

of women engaged in the conduct of Small Scale Cross border trade in the Nigeria-Niger trade corridor. The author also capture how women traders more than men, are facing challenges and threats to their lives and goods in markets and on transit. Persistent and widening banditry, sexual harassment, extortion, dearth of financial support services, normative impediments and general lack of awareness of existing trade policies which hinder trading activities and pose threat to the success of cross border businesses. In addition, it was found that gender sensitivity of border officials and other law enforcement agencies leaves much to be desired as peculiarities of women such as having gender segregated public convenience, childcare facilities and segregated border clearance arrangements are largely inadequate at the borders. Inter alia, the study recommends concerted efforts by governments, nongovernmental organizations, traders and border officials to create awareness through advocacy, provide capacity building avenues through training, secure lives and properties of trades in markets and on transit, improve access to financial services and ensure gender sensitivity in crafting and implementing trade policies.<sup>23</sup>

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NATURE OF THE NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE**

#### **Historical Development of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)**

In 1958, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) was officially extracted from the Nigerian Police Force, the NIS has come a long way since as a separate entity entrusted with core immigration duties under the Chief Federal Immigration Officer.<sup>1</sup> The new department inherited the Immigration Ordinance of 1958 for its operation, this early period was saw the immigration department maintaining a low profile and a very simple approach in achieving the derived goals of government whereby only the visa section and business sections were set up.<sup>2</sup>

The Federal Minister of Internal Affairs under whose responsibility immigration matters fall continued to make amendments to existing laws worldwide. The NIS really came of age by the first of August, 1963 when it was formally established by an Act of parliament (section 5 of Immigration Act L.N Coy.171).<sup>3</sup> As a result, the first set of immigration officers were former officers of the Nigerian Police Force and they were constituted into a department under the control and supervision of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (FMIA) as a purely civil service outfit. In 1966, an upsurge in immigration activities led to the opening of area offices in Ibadan, Ilesha, Akure, Benin City, Warri, Sapele,

Calabar, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Kaduna, Jos, Mubi and Maiduguri. At this point in time, the location of headquarters was not based on state capitals but on the level of immigration activities in a town.<sup>4</sup>

Another significant event was the creation of immigration outposts in foreign countries in 1976 by General Olusegun Obasanjo, then Head of State. The first set of countries to which immigration offices were posted include Britain, USA, USSR, West Germany, Italy and India. Later, immigration offices were posted to Nigeria missions in New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Hamburg, the Philippines, Japan, Egypt, Switzerland, Brazil and Hong Kong.<sup>5</sup>

A number of changes has since occurred in the institutional and structural contingency of the NIS. In 1986, the Federal Government established the Customs, Immigration and Prisons Service Board (CIPB) L.N Cap. This was a major milestone in the journey to the restoration of its former paramilitary status and more autonomy. Hence, the CIPB took over the functions of the Civil Service Commission as regards recruitment, promotion and discipline of officers and men of the NIS. By April 1992, the Federal Government approved the complete removal of the Nigerian Customs, Immigration and Prisons Service from the Civil Service Structure. <sup>6</sup>This implies that their ranks will be aligned to the structure obtainable at the NPF with parity in salary and condition of service between the

three paramilitary services. The NIS has since metamorphosed into a strong paramilitary service playing a relevant role in the entire development of Nigeria.<sup>7</sup>

### **Departments of the NIS**

The Nigerian Immigration Service has six operational departments or directorates into which it was divided, these are:

- i. Finance and Administration
- ii. Investigations and Aliens Control/Surveillance
- iii. Operations
- iv. Passport Control
- v. Border Patrol and ECOWAS/African Affairs
- vi. Works and Logistics<sup>8</sup>

At the center, the Finance and Administration directorate controls and regulates the entire activities of the NIS, it is headed by a Comptroller General of Immigration Service (CGIS) who is resident in the Abuja Headquarters. She (Lady U.C Nwizu) heads the entire services and is herself in particular control of the personnel recruitment and separation and other administrative and financial functions. She is assisted by Deputy Comptroller General (DCGs) who oversee the activities of other directorates. The works and logistics department is concerned with the general supplies to the overall duties of the NIS especially where it

requires a special arrangement.<sup>9</sup> The operations department sees to the proper coordination and training of the many officers and men in the service. Meanwhile, the Investigations and Allied Control/Surveillance directorate carries out all inquiries involving misconduct, not only of foreigner's resident in Nigeria, but also investigates on misconduct within the service itself. The Border Patrol and ECOWAS/African Affairs department deals with ECOWAS and African visitor as a whole. Visitors from ECOWAS countries do not require visas as a result of the visa abolition agreement.<sup>10</sup>

### **Structure of the NIS**

The NIS is headed at the apex by a Comptroller General of Immigration Services resident in Abuja- the headquarters. She oversees the entire activities of the NIS, and all directorates therein reports to her. She is particularly in charge of Finance and Administration. She is assisted by Deputy Comptroller Generals each heading the various departments and the DCGs are in turn assisted by Assistant Comptroller Generals in their individual departments.<sup>11</sup> These are in turn followed by comptrollers. Immigration activities of the Federation have been divided into eight zones headed by the Assistant Comptroller General (ACGs) and covering the entire thirty-six states. The thirty-six state commands are headed by comptrollers. Due to the peculiarity of the Lagos Zone, it was made a Zone as well as a State

Command, the Lagos zone is headed by an ACG- Dr. Babajide Brown, under the Seme border, Lagos Sea Ports, Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Passport Offices, Aliens Registration Command, etc.<sup>12</sup>

### **Training Institutions**

Beneath the general structure and departments of the NIS, there are the several training institutions that have been arranged in such a way that they all have general and specific types of training functions, given the level of the officer or other ranks.

- The Kano Training School is designed specifically for graduates without basic immigration training and it was established to handle every cadre but when the graduates were introduced it was specifically re-designed for them. Graduates usually begin their service from two stars.
- The Staff College Sokoto was established to train the Inspectors and below, but due to mass production, the Ahoada Training School was established and it was commissioned specifically to handle junior officers and it is located in Rivers State.
- Finally the Staff College at Sokoto was established for training Assistant Comptrollers and upwards, it is only for Senior Officers to refresh their minds in policy formulation.<sup>13</sup>

NO	NIS RANKS
1	Comptroller General
2	Deputy Controller General
3	Assistant Comptroller General
4	Comptroller
5	Deputy Comptroller
6	Assistant Comptroller
7	Chief Superintendent
8	Superintendent
9	Deputy Superintendent
10	Assistant Superintendent 1
11	Assistant Superintendent 2
12	Inspectors
13	Chief Inspectors
14	Senior Immigration Assistant (SIA)
15	Immigration Assistant 1
16	Immigration Assistant 2

17	Immigration Assistant 3
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### **The Mission of Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)**

The Nigerian Immigration Service is a reference and model administration with excellence in providing effective and efficient service to accomplish all dimensions of its mission. The service aims to influence policy and at the same time contribute to the development of Nigeria

**Current Situation:** The Nigerian Immigration Service Statutory functions can be broadly classified into two main functions which are: core and other functions.

**Vision:** The Nigerian Immigration Service was created with the vision to excel in effective and timely collection of revenue; to implement and give advice on governmental trade and fiscal policy; to facilitate and promote trade; to protect the Nigerian society and generate accurate and precise statistical data by developing a professional and transparent administration which implement international best practices and obligation.<sup>14</sup>

### **Functions of the Nigerian Immigration Service**

Through the years, it is hoped that the NIS will be able to set effective change in the Federal Government policy regarding immigration and emigration of persons arriving and departing Nigeria to give it a more civil face. The functions of the Nigerian Immigration Service therefore include the issuance and

administration of Nigerian travel documents, passports and other documents, endorsement of all categories of travel documents of persons arriving and departing Nigeria, visa issuance and interpretation of such visas and issuance of evidence permit to foreign investors and other expatriates who wish to reside in Nigeria.<sup>15</sup>

Generally, the role of the Nigeria Immigration Service cannot be over-emphasized because immigration officers are the first government officials that investors come in contact with on arrival to Nigeria. Therefore, the NIS has to play the role of the nation's public relations officers, welcoming the visitors so that they will be happy to come in. In fact, a comparative analysis of the immigration activities in the Lagos Zone between February and June, 2001 and the same period in the year 2002 indicates an increase in investments.<sup>16</sup> The number of persons that come in for employment have increased tremendously in the year 2001 compared to the previous year and also the number of those being issued resident visas have also increased tremendously meaning that economic activity in Nigeria has increased. Another function of the NIS is to monitor foreigners that are resident in Nigeria. This is to ensure they conform to the agreements on the visa pursuits and to ensure that they do not indulge in illegal activities while in Nigeria. They are also registered by the NIS as visitors, tourists, workers in governmental

institutions or in private companies. It is quite clear that the NIS plays a very crucial role in the stability of our democracy and sovereign federalism as a whole.<sup>17</sup>

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# **CHAPTER THREE**

## **THE NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE AND THE NIGERINATIONAL SECURITY**

### **Introduction**

One of the commonly used concepts that has gained currency in the world is security. Thus, individuals, governments, Heads of governments, security experts, community groups and/or community leaders, market women and sundry persons, now discuss and talk about security. The concern for the existence of security in every facet of society has risen, and hence, widespread.<sup>1</sup> With the invasion and demolition of the American World Trade Centre by terrorists in September 11, 2001, the emphasis of world powers have shifted from domestic security interests to those of the wider world.<sup>2</sup> This chapter examines the manifestations of border insecurity in Nigeria and the efforts of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIM). The increase in the rise in smuggling, arms trafficking, drugs trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundry among others in Nigeria has given rise to various concern.

### **Overview of Nigeria Borders and Territoriality in West Africa**

Nigeria lies between latitudes 4° and 14°N and longitudes 2° and 15°E. Nigeria is attributed as possessing a total area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup> (356,669 sq. mi) 1,

making it the world's 32nd-largest country. It shares a 4,047 kilometers (2,515 mi) border with Benin (773 km), Niger (1497 km), Chad (87 km), Cameroon (1690 km), and has a coastline of at least 853 km.<sup>2</sup> Nigeria's claim to territorial sea (offshore space) rose from 3 miles of continental shelf and about 200 miles on exclusive fishing zones from 1958 to 1978 as a country signatory to conventions on continental shelf despite its inability to determine its extent of claim.<sup>3</sup> Nigeria's claim to a 200 mile wide exclusive economic zone in October, 1978 is part of reaction to UNCLOS Conventions on jurisdictional zones and claims to the territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive fishing zones.<sup>4</sup> A list of Nigerian borderlands classified as 'Gateway' States and 'Gateway' Local Government Areas is presented below

**Nigeria- Benin Borders:**

Badagry LGA in Lagos State of Nigeria and rural districts of Iseme-Podji, Adjarra and Arrankou in South of Queme Province in Benin Republic with Border Post at Seme; Egbado (Yewa) South LGA in Ogun State of Nigeria and rural districts of Ifonyin (Ifangni) and Itakete (Sakete) in Central part of Queme Province of Benin Republic; Egbado (Yewa) North LGA in Ogun State of Nigeria and rural districts of Ipobe (Pobe) and Ketu (Ketou) in the Northern half part of Queme Province of Benin Republic; Kajola LGA (Oke-Iho) in Oyo State of

Nigeria and rural district of Sabe (Save) in the Zou Province of Benin Republic; Ifedapo LGA (Saki) in Oyo State of Nigeria and rural districts of Quesse in the Zou Province of Benin Republic; Borgu LGA centred around Bussa, Illo and Koko in Kwara State of Nigeria and 8 district including Kandi (Kounade), Malanville District of and Nikki District of Borgu Province in Benin Republic.<sup>5</sup>

### **Nigeria-Niger Borders**

Bagudo LGA in the then Sokoto State (now divided into Sokoto and Kebbi States) of Nigeria and part of the eight districts of Borgu Province and Department of Dosso and Tahoua in Niger Republic; Argungu and Gwadabawa LGAs in Sokoto State of Nigeria and the local communities of Dago Duchi and Mantakai in Department of Dosso and Tahoua in Niger Republic; Shinkafe and Kaura Namode in Nigeria and the local community in Department of Dosso and Tahoua in Niger Republic; Kebbi (Birnin Kebbi) LGA in the then Sokoto State (now Kebbi State) of Nigeria and the local community of Filinguee in Niger Republic; Katsina and Mani LGAs including Maradi and Tassawa (Tassoua) in the then Kaduna State (now Katsina) and Daura LGA in Kaduna State of Nigeria and many of the local communities of Niger Republic;<sup>6</sup> Birin Kula in Bamle Village with border settlements and houses partly in Niger and partly in Nigeria; Dambata and Gunel LGAs in old Kano State and Department of Zinder in Niger Republic; Nguru,

Geidam and West of Kukawa LGAs in Borno State of Nigeria and Local communities in Department of Zinder in Niger Republic.<sup>7</sup>

**Nigeria-Chad Borders:**

Local areas of Monguno, Ngala, Bama and Gwoza in Chad Republic; The Lake Chad region that borders Nigeria and her neighbours.<sup>8</sup>

**Nigeria-Cameroun Borders:**

Traditional states and communities of Adamawa (Sardauna), Mandara, the Hingi, Michika, Mubi, Fufori, Ganya, Wukati and others in old Gongola State and neighbouring local communities in Cameroun; Traditional communities of Kwande in old Benue State and neighbouring local communities in Cameroun; Traditional communities of Odukpani in the Ododop area of old Cross Rivers State (now Akwa Ibom State ) and neighbouring local communities in Cameroun; Traditional communities of Obudu, Ikom and Akamkpa in the Ekoi and the Efik areas of old Cross Rivers State and neighbouring local communities in Cameroun.<sup>9</sup>

**Legal Responsibilities of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS)**

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has the legal responsibilities and legal authority backing up their existence, these are as follows;

**International Migration activities control:** The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) as gate keepers has the legal responsibility to examine the entry and exit of

persons in Nigeria. The legal authority has been given to the agency to refuse entry of persons who is suspected as a threat to the development and security of the nation state.<sup>10</sup>

**Issuance of travel documents** such as Nigerian Passport, Visa to mention a few. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also has the legal responsibility to issue qualified applicants their required travel documents.

**Issuance of residence permits** to qualified applicants. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) can also issue residence permits to foreigners who have intentions of residing in the nation state. However, the service (Nigerian Immigration Service) has the right to refuse residence permit and another request if the applicant does not meet to the requirements or is perceived as a threat to the Nigerian state (Federal Republic of Nigeria official Gazette).<sup>11</sup>

**Border Surveillance and policing of Nigeria's expansive borders and her patrol effective team.** The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also has the responsibilities of policing the borders of the nation state. They take surveillance and patrol of every entry thinkable for the safety and security of the nation state, such duties are the policing and surveillance land borders, the surveillance marine

borders and the air patrol. They have the right to arrest persons who might have or seen in specific routes that are not legally authorized for entry or exit.<sup>12</sup>

**Monitoring, control and investigation of the activities carried out by foreign individuals in Nigeria.** The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has the legal responsibility to monitor and investigate any suspicious activity and movement of foreigners in the nation state for the nation state's development and safety.

**Inspection of companies owned by foreigners or companies that employs expatriates.** The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also has the right to inspect foreign companies and also companies that employ foreign individuals. They also monitor and investigate these companies from time to time and most especially when there are suspicious movements or activities that can most likely hinder the socio-economic development and security of the Nigerian state.<sup>13</sup>

**Control and Prevention of trafficking activities of persons.** This service (Nigerian Immigration Service) has the legal responsibility of reducing or tackling various illegal and irregular migration activities such as trafficking of persons, smuggling of individuals or goods.

**Administration and implementation of treaties such as the ECOWAS treaty that has to do with the movement of persons.** According to Edet and Evans the service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also deals with the movement of persons in and out of the nation state. It also has the responsibility of implementing treaties for easy movement of persons. The service also has the responsibility of implementing bilateral and multilateral relations between nation states.<sup>14</sup>

**Enforcement of the Nigerian law as regards International Migration activities.**

The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also has the legal authority to deport or punish offenders or violators of the immigration laws. Through them the immigration laws are been enforced.

Parradang also validates the functions of The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) these are;

- i. As entitled with a paramilitary status and viewed as gatekeepers, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has the function of observing and making decisions on who is qualified to leave the nation-state and who is qualified to come into the nation-state.
- ii. The service has the responsibility of implementing various migration policies such as multilateral agreements between Nigeria and other nation-state as well as other bilateral agreements.

- iii. One of the main functions of this service (Nigerian Immigration Service) is the issuance of travel documents to qualified applicants (such as visas, passports, residence permits and other travel documents) as they also decide on the cost of these documents.
- iv. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) as gatekeepers' manes, control, patrols and register a strong presence in various respective borders of the Nigerian state, not just land borders but the airports and seaports as well.
- v. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also is left with the duty of combating various illegal activities that counters the rules of migration such as theft, smuggling and trafficking of persons and other trans-border crimes that might arise to their awareness.
- vi. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also has the responsibility of deporting any foreign individuals (migrants) who poses his/ herself as a threat to development, health risk and security risk to the Nigerian state.
- vii. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) also have the responsibility of investigating, researching, creating and shaping migration policies as

well as various regulations to meet up the modern day migration trends.<sup>15</sup>

The agency (Nigerian Immigration Service NIS) also have the duty of inviting various perceived investors and expatriates into the nation state for her development, as well as ways on how to sustain skilled individuals from not migrating out of the nation state through communicating with the Nigerian federal government (FG). Also the service (Nigerian Immigration Service NIS) has the duties of luring and communicating with Nigerians in the Diasporas for the nation-state's development. This can be really done with the help of the Nigerian federal government (FG).<sup>16</sup>

### **Nigerian Borders and Security Challenges: Insurgency and Terrorism**

Records available to the Nigeria Immigration Service revealed that there are over 1,400 illegal routes into Nigeria – 1,316 more than the approved number of border control posts. The 84 approved border controls cover 4,047km, the total length of Nigeria's land border. Ogun and Adamawa states, for example, have 83 and 80 illegal posts respectively.<sup>17</sup> The activities of smuggling and tax evasion in cross-border movements across Nigeria-Niger border provides the transitional features of border economic activities, interaction patterns in the border regions and flouting of international laws and convention on border crossing to the

detriment of the national interest and invariably the national security in that era.<sup>18</sup> It also indicated that porous features of the border region and the prevailing economic policies of the neighbouring states are tantamount to influence illegal cross-border transactions in goods, currency and other threatening circumstance.

Nigeria's economy is not translating into a better socio-political environment within the West African sub-region due to decades of neglect and misrule have allowed informal economies at the borders to thrive on crime. Nigeria's borders with its many pot-holes are 'used to smuggle people, guns, rice, tokunboh (used) cars, fake pharmaceuticals and other contraband goods'. The implication is that Nigeria is not safe due to cross-border population and its attendant economic activities, cross-border crossing and immigration, ineffective border control and the porosity of Nigerian borders which is a challenge to Nigeria national security and boundary questions. In the north-east, the borders Nigeria shares with Cameroun, Niger and Chad stretch over 1,690, 1,497 and 87 kilometers respectively. All share a common feature: porosity.<sup>19</sup>

The porosity of the Nigerian borders is the main factor encouraging proliferation of illegal arms and insurgencies in the country.<sup>20</sup> An arms trade expert, William M. Hartung argues that conflicts in Africa have attracted arms deal and influx of arms to different parts of North, West and Central Africa that

have proximity with Nigeria. Hence, in linking the flourishing arms market in Africa to the strengthening of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria as a challenge of the nation's territorial integrity and national security, he admitted that the proliferation of arms has become a matter of concern owing to the facts that subsist thus:

“It's one conflict after another...Because of the nature of the conflict ... the concentration of conflicts ... the black market in Central Africa is more vibrant than other places.”<sup>21</sup>

The situation of Nigeria's porous borders, which serve as conduits for illicit transnational traffic of small arms and light weapons and drugs, is further exacerbated by limited presence of security and law enforcement officials. If they are present, they are poorly equipped, poorly paid, poorly trained and sometimes compromised or recruited to do the bid of the insurgents. It was also widely reported on accounts of current and former U.S. officials and arms experts that most of Boko Haram weapons were either stolen from Nigerian military stocks or purchased from thriving Central African arms black market, owing to the insurgents' source of weaponry, its sophistication and sheer number.<sup>22</sup> The news report further credited a statement to a former US Ambassador in Nigeria - John Campbell, admitting that: “There are hints that sympathizers in the Nigerian Army will deliberately leave doors of armouries unlocked for Boko Haram”.<sup>23</sup> He

concluded that the array of small and automatic weapons, grenades, mortars, mines and car bombs “is all Boko Haram’s soldiers need to carry out their brand of terrorism.”<sup>24</sup>

In June, 2013, the Nigerian military seized arms and ammunition exported through the Nigerian Seashores for delivery to Islamic fighters i.e. Boko Haram (a terrorist group) using religious and rebellious tactics to attack, maim and kill civilians, businesses, government institutions and security forces. Furthermore, it was propounded that the degree of arms proliferation and possession of arms and ammunition: surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), AK-47 assault rifles etc. by rebel forces and mercenaries during Libya uprising open to acquisition by terrorist groups like Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and sold to Boko Haram and its splinter groups in Nigeria have made the matter worse.<sup>25</sup>

A Cameroon Defence Ministry official also presented a variety of weapons including Russian-made AK-47s, which are used for combats by the Boko Haram. Evidence of makeshift collection of small arms, automatic weapons, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars were cited and suggested to have been procure from nearby conflict zones of Libya and Chad. The rebels were also reportedly to

frequently possess non-lethal equipment to help them carry out their attacks.<sup>26</sup> It was revealed again thus:

the collapse of Libya has further flooded the market...Whether these came from Chad, Nigeria, or Libya is almost irrelevant, as such arms are widely available.”<sup>27</sup>

Boko Haram as a terror group has conducted a campaign of terror in the turbulent region, causing mayhem and wanton destruction of lives and properties in various parts of the Northern Nigeria and neighbouring Cameroon. Another online publication indicated that Cameroon officials had on Tuesday 20th May, 2014 displayed a cache of weapons which they seized near the Nigerian border in April, 2014 following a rescue of some kidnapped victims. The terror perpetrated by Boko Haram has eclipsed other security threats in the country apart from piracy, militancy, kidnapping and armed robbery. Places like Baga, Mubi, Bama and Gwoza in Borno state that have suffered frequent attacks are located along the border Borno shares with Cameroun.<sup>28</sup> The hills of Gwoza and the forests of the Sambisa Forest Reserve shelter the insurgents. Gowza Hills, for example, is at the north-east of the Mandara Mountains that straddle north-east Nigeria and the far north of Cameroun.

The unconventional war fought against Nigeria’s State by the Boko Haram terror group has claimed over 12,000 lives, with more than 8,000 persons injured

or maimed, besides the displacement of thousands of innocent ones. The Boko Haram has become a challenge to Nigeria and her neighbours and looms large as a regional and global threat despite the fact that it started as a local insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria. It had evolved into the new frontier of the global war of terrorism against civilization, our way of life, and against the many prospects of stability in our region.<sup>29</sup> The fight against terrorism and the safeguarding of territorial integrity, where the country's border is the first line of defence comes to question in view of the nature of Nigeria's border. The audacity and carnage of Boko Haram has risen in proportion to the proliferation of arms and ammunition from Libya. Camels, donkeys, cattle, trucks, trailers and petrol tankers that ply the porous borders of the expansive areas that make up Yobe and Borno states are used to smuggle these arms. Deadly attacks from Boko Haram for instance, have turned Nigeria into a no-go-area for most Tourists and foreign Visitors. Hence, Nigeria's porous borders are infamous.

Another report from a Nigerian Newspaper on the recent kidnapping and abduction of nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls at Chibok stated that Boko Haram routinely raids police stations and military bases in search of weapons. It was also stated that Boko Haram sympathizers in the Nigerian military abet the theft. The situation no doubt calls for a need to investigate possibilities of sabotage,

conspiracy and illicit sale of arms by unpatriotic military officers, owing to the fact that a top military officer was indicted in Kaduna, few years ago, for supplying the Nigerian Army weapons to Niger Delta militants through Henry Okah, who is currently serving prison sentence in South Africa.<sup>31</sup>

Failure of the ill-equipped, corrupt and unorganized state controlled agencies like the Nigeria Police Force, the Customs and Excise, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Nigeria Intelligence Agency, the Department of State Security Service and other interrelated independent bodies involved in the process of protecting the nation's seaports (harbours), the border posts and border bi-national links within their areas of jurisdiction and in cooperation with Government of neighbouring states leaves much in doubt.<sup>32</sup>

Attempt to stop, reduce or eliminate the threats of arms proliferation may take time to correct, though it is not too late to start defining and adopting a comprehensive national security plan that includes cooperation with Governments of Niger, Cameroun and Chad as well equipping and training personnel to man the borders and ensure the economic and physical security of Nigeria.<sup>33</sup> A rider to be above was articulated in the reported speech of President Ebele Goodluck Jonathan at the Regional Summit on Security and Anti-Terrorism hosted for

Nigeria and her Neighbours by the French President, Mr Francois Hollande on 17th May, 2014 in Paris, France. Extracts of President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria speech at Paris Summit gives much insight into the damage done by the Boko Haram to Nigeria political stability and national security and the need for all Nigerian neighbours to cooperate with the nation to put an end to Boko Haram insurgency and international terrorism once and for all.<sup>34</sup>

### **Conclusion**

It should be noted here that border issues or boundary politics remains integral part of citizens' livelihood, economic activities, movement of goods, regional cooperation and territorial integrity (sovereignty of any nation) and every approach to its management and proper settlement should take all the risks and benefits into accounts. Though it has been observed that interstate disputes may occur with or without reference to border disputes and that border disputes may occur as a result of border clashes without contention over border demarcations or as a result of conflicts over jurisdictions and control of off-shore islands which are not land boundaries, the fact remains that border activities has a great implication on a nation's integrity, even when it has little or no economic implication on its citizens.

## Endnotes

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## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **IMPACT OF THE NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE ON NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY**

#### **Introduction**

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is a security and a public service agency under the Federal Ministry of Interior. As a gate keeper, the organization has the legal responsibility of securing the entrance of the nation-State.<sup>1</sup> The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) through her activities can contribute to the development and security of the Nigerian state. The service (Nigerian Immigration Service) which was formerly a department under the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) became independent on August 1st 1963.<sup>2</sup> It is on this background, this chapter focuses on the impact of the NIS on Nigeria national security. The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is an organization that has a management. And for an organization to be effectively managed there must be an effective management body. The management is made up of the leaders. In the case of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) the top officers in the service make up the management team.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Impact of Nigerian Immigration Service on Nigeria National Security**

Over the years, Nigeria Immigration Service has been involved in the protection of national security within the borders of Nigeria. The agency has come

up with various polices mechanism and action plan to check and prevent any bridge of crimes within the borders of the Nigeria state.<sup>4</sup> According to the Vanguard newspaper, in 2013, a Border Patrol Corps was established within the NIS to be specifically trained and equipped with modern arms and gadgets for border patrol assignments. Since then, they have successfully trained 1500 members of the Corps and they have been all deployed across the Nigeria border formations.<sup>5</sup> As a matter of fact, reinvigorated efforts in Border Patrol operations have yielded a lot of dividends, including the apprehension of suspects of Trafficking in Persons and seizure of several Voter Cards (temporary and permanent), National ID Cards and other breeder documents from some nationals of the neighbouring countries. Below are some of the impacts of immigration service in Nigeria:

- i. Year 2013 also witnessed the creation of 30 additional Control Posts and 27 additional Patrol Bases to serve as back-ups to the newly created Control Posts. Consequently, NIS have a total of 114 Control Posts and 72 Patrol Bases nation-wide. This measure was aimed at reducing the patrol distance between two Control Posts thereby increasing the rate of response by patrol operatives to potential security threats.<sup>6</sup>

- ii. In 2014, the NIS awarded contract for the installation of HF Voice and Data Codan Radios at Some Control Posts in addition to procurement and distribution of border patrol All-Terrain Vehicles; Porter Cabins, Bullet Proof Vests; and other accoutrements across the formations for effective discharge of Immigration duties.
- iii. E-Passport Reforms: In July, 2014, the NIS embarked on certain reforms to further strengthen the e-Passport system against possible abuse. The Reform which was essentially based on our operational experiences and demand driven, took into cognizance price and age segmentation for Passport administration.<sup>7</sup>



Photo showing NIS officers on Patrol, curbing insecurity and illegal migration. Photo retrieved from photo Retrieved from NIS website [www.immigration.gov.ng](http://www.immigration.gov.ng) portal, Accessed on 7/01/2025

## **Measure taken by NIS curbing Nigeria National Security**

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in collaboration with the Nigerian Custom Service (NCS) are the two agencies traditionally associated with frontier control. They are mandated to ensure that only those permitted by the laws of the country cross the frontiers and/or carry certain goods. Although the larger part of those who enters or exits the country may not need to go through NCS, each and every one border crosser must go through NIS. Most of the mega and medium border posts are complimented, a few kilometers away, by those of the contiguous countries.<sup>8</sup> One can thus call the two border agencies, enforcers of Nigeria borders. Meanwhile the NIS with the help of other agencies have over the years use policies and action control mechanism to curtail the crime and breaker of the Nigeria immigration laws, this includes;

**Air Border Management:** for over ten year, NIS elevated the operations and functionality of Nigeria's air borders to the highest of international standards for both facilitation of regular travel and the enhancement of security of Nigeria and its air border partner countries. Put in place efficient systems and procedures for special clearance of passengers covered under free movement agreements and visa free entry. Eliminate all aspects of unusual practice, special dispensations and unfair treatment.

**Land Border Management:** in another development, NIS elevated the condition and management of land border management at Border Control Posts (BCPs) and for Border Patrol to conform to best international standards and practices by providing adequate budgetary allocation to enable building the capacity of personnel, provision of modern infrastructure, equipment for surveillance and effective recording of movements, and data linkages.<sup>9</sup>

**Sea Border Management:** NIS also upgrade the migration management operations and functionality of Nigeria's sea borders to the highest of international standards for both facilitation of regular travel and the enhancement of security of Nigeria and its marine border partner countries. Put in place efficient systems and procedures for special clearance of passengers covered under free movement agreements and visa free entry at seaport BCPs, while further enhancing capacities to combat sea border criminality. This further strengthen NIS marine border management cooperation with Customs, Nigerian Navy, NPA, NPF marine units and other government partners with complementing roles in sea border management.

**Virtual Border Management:** NIS has expand the use of technology and intelligence cooperation in particular through improvements in the visa application, review and issuance process abroad, and the use of Advance Passenger

Information and Passenger Name Record – to better manage Nigeria’s virtual borders.<sup>10</sup>

**Interior Management:** NIS upgrade the operations and functionality of the Service interior management approach to the highest possible standard, putting in place an efficient and technologically sophisticated system for registration of migrants, including biometrics, for ECOWAS nationals, asylum seekers/refugees, deportees, returnees and other non-Nigerians. Encourage inter-agency co-operation and collaboration in interior management, towards national security, human rights, social harmony and economic development, and to fulfill international agreements such as those from ECOWAS Protocols/Decisions.

**Returns Management:** NIS has strengthen the implementation of a comprehensive, effective and efficient returns management programme that is in line with global best practices for the protection of human rights and dignity of returnees, which minimizes reoccurrence of irregular migration, and which includes a fully inclusive and efficient inter-agency action plan for rehabilitation and re-integration.<sup>11</sup>

**Visa Management:** NIS has ensure that the process of issuance of visas to applicants is designed and implemented in an efficient and transparent manner that

facilitates ease of doing business in Nigeria, while fully responsive to security concerns.

**Travel Document Management:** NIS produce travel documents that are fully consistent with the highest international standards, including robust security and advanced technological features – through a highly protected, secure and regularly audited process to support security and facilitate cross-border movement. Ensure these documents are readily available and accessible to qualified Nigerians across the globe.

**Special Security Environment Border Management:** NIS support the National Security Strategy, the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant policies and initiatives by carrying out statutory NIS Area of Responsibilities (AOR) duties in areas of special security challenges, including in all conflict zones, and by fully participating in all relevant inter-agency operational actions, coordination and planning.<sup>12</sup>



Photo showing NIS officers on Patrol mission on Nigeria border water, curbing insecurity and illegal migration. Photo retrieved from photo Retrieved from NIS website [www.immigration.gov.ng](http://www.immigration.gov.ng) portal, Accessed on 7/01/2025.

NIS has undertaken collaborative endeavors to improve peace and stability in the country, specifically in places such as North-West Nigeria, where banditry, kidnapping, and arms trafficking present substantial obstacles. The government, at both the federal and state levels, has introduced multiple initiatives with the objective of tackling the underlying factors contributing to violence and insecurity.<sup>13</sup> These endeavors involve sending security personnel to counteract criminal activity, establishing collaborative task groups to synchronize security operations, and executing socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty and

unemployment. However, the efficacy of these endeavors has been impeded by enduring deficiencies in governance, corruption, and inadequate institutional capability.<sup>14</sup>



Photo showing NIS officers on Collaboration meeting with Stakeholders on National Security, photo Retrieved from NIS website [www.immigration.gov.ng](http://www.immigration.gov.ng) portal, Accessed on 7/01/2025

Furthermore, NIS in partnering with international allies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been crucial in providing support for peacebuilding and stabilization initiatives in Nigeria. With NIS partnering with International stakeholders have also bolstered the capabilities of Nigerian security

forces, improved border control systems, and facilitated discussion and reconciliation among opposing parties through capacity-building initiatives, technical aid, and financial support. In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have developed community-led programs with the objective of tackling the underlying factors contributing to violence, such as reducing poverty, empowering young people, and promoting interaction between different communities.<sup>15</sup>

With the establishment of cordial between NIS and the Civil society groups (CSOs) there have been some level of efforts in promoting peace, safeguarding human rights, and pushing for good governance in Nigeria. NIS-CSOs relationship, there been some level of advocacy campaigns, community mobilization, and monitoring and reporting procedures to increase awareness regarding the consequences of conflict and insecurity on vulnerable populations. Additionally, they have worked towards promoting accountability and transparency in government.<sup>16</sup> In addition, NIS-CSOs relationship have played a crucial role in facilitating discussions and negotiations, by bringing together various parties with different interests to find solutions to issues, reduce tensions, and foster societal unity. Despite encountering obstacles such as limited financial resources, harassment, and intimidation, NIS-CSOs partnership persist in their crucial

function of fostering peace and stability at the local level and ensuring that those in positions of responsibility are held answerable for their conduct.<sup>17</sup>

### **Challenges of Nigerian Immigration Service**

It should be noted here that, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) really has a relatively cooperative border control and readmission policies but the main challenge of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is the lack of various resources such as infrastructures, lack of discipline in the organization/agency most especially the ill quality of leadership, lack of manpower and other needed equipments to help facilitate International Migration activities in the nation state. The service also has the challenge of controlling the massive and porous borders as it has over 147 known borders and other unknown illegal routes into the nation state.<sup>18</sup> This literature confirms the statement that Nigeria is opened and never fenced this poses threats to her security. The literature further reveals that Nigerians have a very high population of irregular migrants in various European countries due to the “push” migration factors earlier explained in this chapter, making many imprisoned and detained in their various destinations in some sort damaging the image of the Nigerian state. The question is, how has the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) helped in controlling these challenges, have they really been communicating to the

Nigerian federal government on International Migration matters. Though there are various achievements seen and presented by the service (Nigerian immigration service) in the cause of this study which are very much appreciated.<sup>19</sup>

It can also be revealed that the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is lacking reliable data of International Migration activities in the nation-state. This information can trigger socio- economic development and security if only the correct information can be gotten for dedicative and effective use. This information of migrants can be a source of direction on what the nation-state needs (most especially in expertise and skill) revealing how it can be derived, the necessary

“pull” factors to introduce and the awareness of the “push” factors that hinders the right immigrants from coming in also not just knowing, but consciously knowing who comes into the nation-state this data on migrants can also help the Nigerian security agencies in dealing with Nigerian security issues.<sup>20</sup>

The poor manpower of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) also makes it difficult to manage the Nigerian borders. Most times the illegal migrants outsmart these security operatives and officers due to the inadequate trainings, manpower and equipment. The Nigerian federal government (FG) also lack in providing basic amenities and infrastructures for the border communities, this

encourage them to involve in cross border illegal activities such as armed robbery, smuggling and harbouring of the illegal migrants making themselves hostile to the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and other security agencies.<sup>21</sup> There is a need for the Nigerian Federal Government (FG) to develop the rural areas where these border communities are situated. Also border officials collect bribes because they are not well compensated for their hardship postings. There was an article in which border security officials explained that they do not even get anything like torch light, camp beds and other working materials, they have to either sleep outside or rent houses which they pay from their pockets. This reveals that the corrupt practices and poor encouragement in the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) are due to mismanagement and bad leadership.<sup>22</sup> Lack of sophisticated equipments, patrol vehicles and skilled manpower can make migrants pass the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) presence with fraudulent documents. There have been little results on border infrastructures due to limited funds, which can in turn result to the inefficiency of the agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) in carrying out their duties. Some of the lacks in the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) are; Lack of innovative technologies on surveillance, remote surveillance platforms to mention a few.<sup>23</sup>

## **Conclusion**

It should be noted here that the Nigeria Immigration Service has been performing the role of save-guarding national security by manning all strategic border ports, air and seaports (approved and unapproved). This is done in order to ensure that illegal persons or goods are not imported or exported in or out of the country. By this strategy, it then means that serious war against smuggling is in course as the officers and men of the Nigeria Immigration Service strive for the survival of infant industries from external competition. Thus, for Nigeria to become an industrialized country, where investors will hope for good investments this strategy for economic development should be taken seriously.

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## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter deals with summary, conclusions, and recommendations for the research work. The previous chapters of this study have addressed different concerns of the study under various themes. Chapter one was the general introduction of the study. Chapter two dwelt with historical antecedence of Nigerian Immigration Service, where it was outline that the agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) was created out of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) in 1958. Then it was known as the Immigration department headed by the Chief Federal Immigration Officer. During this period, the department had a narrow law as well as a narrow scope profile and a simple strategy in achieving its objectives.<sup>1</sup> The department was basically responsible for visa and business sections. Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) department became independent in August 1st 1963, becoming a department under the supervision and control of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (FMIA).<sup>2</sup>

Chapter three focused on the various responsibility of the NIS and how it has checkmate illegal migration and other related crime. Chapter three also capture how the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has been an important agency in Nigeria that is given the legal authority and responsibility of managing the

Nigerian borders, issuance of passports and other travel documents needed as a migrant or a Nigerian citizen, among others are the entire responsibility of handling the Nigerian entry gates as it controls migrants coming in and going out of the nation state.<sup>3</sup> Since her establishment, the agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) has witnessed various changes in form and structure suiting her duties and operations to meet the needs and standards demanded by the modern International Migration activities. Among her duties, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is given the additional responsibility to control and manage the borders against aliens in line with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African affairs bilateral agreement.<sup>4</sup> Also the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) was given the full responsibility to take charge of the Nigerian travel documents.

Chapter four concentrated on the impact of NIS on Nigeria national development and how the Nigeria Immigration Service has been involved in the protection of national security within the borders of Nigeria and how the agency has come up with various polices mechanism and action plan to check and prevent any bridge of crimes within the borders of the Nigeria state.<sup>5</sup> The chapter analysis and interpretation about Nigerian Immigration Service and Nigerian Security. In the main, this study set out to investigate the role of the Nigerian immigration

service in promoting Nigeria's National security. By way of descriptive analysis, predicated on secondary sources, the study discovered that Issuance of travel documents, Implementation of Immigration policies most especially, Visa Policies, and Gatekeepers of the country including all activities relating to movement of persons are the main roles of Nigerian Immigration service.<sup>6</sup>

The study of Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has revealed the above agency to be a special office and a migration office under the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (now known as Ministry of interior). Briefly the responsibilities of these agency are; the handling and controlling of all International Migration activities which includes; the control of immigrants and emigrants (migrants) as the agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) determines who is qualified to enter or leave the nation state, they have the sole responsibility of drafting and implementing International Migration policies and regulations, they also issue travel documents to applicants and finally they are in charge of various entry and exit gates of the nation state these entry and exit gates are the land borders, the sea ports and the airports. Having these responsibilities and many more duties, the agency (Nigerian Immigration Service) can in her own quota contribute to the socio economic development of the Nigerian state.<sup>7</sup>

Findings revealed that due to porosity of Nigeria's border, many irregular immigrants enter the country through countless ways along the country's land boundary of 4,047 km. However, the major entry and exit routes used by most regular migrants/passengers, as of 1991, were international airports (Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt and Calabar), the two major seaports (Port Harcourt and Lagos) and about 150 other border posts. Given the porous borders as well as the weak and security system, weapons come easily into Nigeria from other countries. Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation and the availability of these weapons have enabled militant groups and criminal groups to have easy access to arms. This is assumed to be the source of Nigerian insecurity as other Nationals troop in through crook ways. This supports the view of Adeola & Oluyemi, that Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of about 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa.<sup>8</sup>

This study also summarized that Lack of political will and commitment of resources to effectively manage borders, Lack of cooperation within departments, between departments and between countries, Inadequate personnel available for deployment on the borders, Inadequate skills of personnel deployed to manage borders, including Poor motivation among border personnel are some of the Sources of Nigeria Border Insecurity the study added that Nigeria's inability to

decisively tackle most development challenges such as poverty, unemployment and deplorable state of infrastructure has been largely attributed to bad governance in all its ramifications. This scenario has been a major setback as it does not allow for sound and efficient management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for equitable and sustainable development.

In Nigeria, we are familiar with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) who as an agency is responsible for all migration activities in the nation state. The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) have the responsibility of bringing socio economic development as well as securing the Nigerian state in its own way as it is responsible for these emigration and migration activities. Considering the role being play, it will be justified if the Federal Government is able to provide need equipment for them, and also increase the remuneration this will go a long way in helping them to do the service effectively.

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Omoruyi, N.	56yrs,	NSCDC Officer	Benin City	27/11/2024
Osasu Esohe	46yrs	NSCDC Officer	Benin City	22/11/2024
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