

Rethinking Security Operations at the Nigerian Borders: The Role of the Nigerian Immigration and Customs Services.

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ABSTRACT

“A border is not a war zone; it is a place where law enforcement agents must respect the human rights of migrants and victims of trafficking: A safe border is a safe nation” (Babandede, 2019). This comment by the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Muhammad Babandede, must have been informed by the increasing relevance of the NIS and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to managing and securing the Nigerian borders. Border security management has been threatened globally due to the increasing importance of transnational actors, as well as advancement in technology that has enabled the increased influx of goods, peoples, and ideas across international boundaries. This is not without implications for the developing countries, especially Africa, that is characterized by poorly demarcated and porous borders. A nation's border security agencies must, therefore, be prepared and well equipped; to address many salient issues in the border security management. This study employs both primary and secondary sources of data collection for critical analysis of the subject matter before arriving at conclusions. Recommendations were also made to mitigate the challenges observed in the study.

Key Words: National Security, Border Management, Border Security, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Immigration Service.

Introduction

Rethinking security operations at the Nigerian borders became imperative when we consider the nature and intensity of cross-border crimes and terrorism incidences that are pervading the country; the news of these incidences usually make headlines in the Nigerian dailies and other media. The Nigerian state has come under severe and unprecedented security challenges in the last two decades. Among the major security threats currently confronting the nation are; cross border banditry, terrorism and insurgencies. The increasing proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country cannot be overemphasized, coupled with other criminalities, such as; trafficking in human, trade in illicit drugs, illegal commercial activities, and trade in illicit goods, e.g. import of fake and substandard goods into the country. All the aforementioned have relations with borders. Borders security plays a significant role in ensuring the passage or denial of entrance to human and goods that come into or exit the country. The insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria can be ameliorated if people and goods entering the nation, are accounted for.

Though an attempt to define border in this study, faces the challenges and difficulties related to its concomitant perspectives, connotations, and typology. There are varieties of borders, such as, administrative, economic, social-cultural, national, international, regional, military, and sub-regional borders. This study sees borders as international demarking lines or zones between sovereign states. A border is a demarcating line or zones between two or more independent states which may be categorized into sea, air, and land. (Danfulani, 2014). Sometimes rivers, valleys oceans, and some distinct geographical features are used as demarcating lines of the end and beginning of territories of states. (Danfulani, 2014).

The security agencies that are saddled with the responsibility to protect borders can do more than they have, with governmental support and novel reorientation of policy posture that guarantees safety and the protection of all and sundry. The security agencies such as the Nigerian Custom and Immigration Services (these agencies are the focus of this study) may need to review their

mechanism of operation or *modus operandi* in the border areas to ensure result-oriented operations. It is not a gainsaying that border communities are closed victims of cross-border banditry and terrorist activities in Nigeria. For instance, it was reported that bandits killed 16 people in separate attacks in remote villages in northern Nigeria's Katsina State, an area wracked by cattle-rustling and kidnappings. Gunmen on motorcycles separately stormed the Dantakuri, Tsayau, Barza and Zakka villages late on Sunday 18th through Monday 19th August, 2019, shooting residents and stealing cattle. These communities near the Nigeria-Niger border, have been repeatedly attacked by bandits. The bandits maintain camps in Rugu Forest which straddles Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna and Niger States. (<https://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-kill-16-villagers-northern-nigeria-officials-150220617.html>). In its report, the Daily Trust put it succinctly:

The dreaded Rugu Forest, spanning over 220km cutting across Niger Republic to substantial part of Nigeria has for long been a source of livelihood for nomads. But over time, it has now become a den of criminals, and a no-go area for many. The forest cuts across seven Katsina State local governments, namely Jibia, Safana, Batsari, Danmusa, Sabuwa, Dandume, and Faskari, and the bandits occupying it have made life unbearable for locals, who say hundreds have been killed, and many women raped, just as cattle worth billions of naira were lost. The government and security operatives offered an amnesty programme for the criminals, which reduced the attacks. But recently, a resurgence of banditry in the area is becoming a source of worry, with many attributing it to a crossover from the embattled Zamfara axis. Hardly a day goes by without any reported killing, kidnapping, or attack on people living in the forest's vicinity (Daily Trust, 10 November, 2018).

This study underscores the imperative of a people-oriented perspective to security. With special reference to international boundaries and borderlands, the study stresses the need for repositioning or rethinking security operations at the borders from a concern for the state to a concern for the people, notably the hitherto downtrodden and structurally marginalized populations in adjacent borderlands of several geographically contiguous neighbouring African states that surrounded Nigeria. Renewed commitment to border security operations places an equally renewed emphasis on transborder co-operation and co-development of border regions as critical corner-stone policy issues. Of interest also; is the globalization that stresses the urgency of transborder co-operation and regional integration as indispensable strategies for African survival and effective national security.

Meanwhile, this study attempts to answer the following questions: What are the natures or features of the Nigerian borders? What are the challenges facing border security management in Nigeria? And, what are the options or strategies available to mitigate these challenges?

Nature of the Nigerian border

The cross-border incursion into the Nigerian state from all directions present some security challenges which the nation has been battling with over the years. This incursion became possible due to the nature of the border itself. Nigeria is a West African State with a vast expanse of land covering an area of 923, 678 square kilometres with about 13,000 square kilometres of water stretching from the coastal city of Lagos up to Sokoto in the North-West and semi-desert states of Borno to the North-East. Nigeria shares common boundaries with Benin Republic (773 kilometres), Cameroon (1,690 kilometres), Niger Republic (1,497 kilometres), and Chad Republic (87 kilometres) and the Islands of Sao Tome and Principe (1,006 kilometres). Some areas in the Southern part are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the rest are land borders. Nigeria's coastline along the Gulf of Guinea totals 853 kilometres. (www.mongabay.com/reference/newprofile/183ng.html). Nigerian borders, like most borders created by the European imperialist in

Africa, were poorly demarcated not minding the resultant consequences for the nations, when they eventually become independent. As argued by Asiwaju (1984),

'African boundaries were essentially an artificial creation of colonization, which evolved from the various agreements and exchanges of notes between or among the various colonial powers; mainly Britain, France, Germany, and Portugal. The colonial boundaries were super-imposed on those of the old empires in an arbitrary manner, such that the eventual result was the partitioning of erstwhile monolithic socio-cultural groups into new separate political entities'

This, for example, explains why Hausas, Kanuris and Fulanis are found today straddling the Northern boundaries which Nigeria shares with the Republic of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. Achibong, (2012) indicates another mix-up in his example of the Banki Mosque on the Nigeria-Niger Republic border. The Southern entrance of the mosque is within a portion recognized to be within Nigerian territory while the Northern entrance is in the Niger Republic. This example is not peculiar to the Nigeria-Niger Republic but all Nigeria's contiguous states. Borders along the riverine area within the country are more difficult to cross than other land borders. The geography of these areas made settlements and moving pattern different and sometimes difficult for crisscrossing. For example, in Bayelsa State, many rivers, streams and the Ocean provided a clearer demarcation line between Nigeria and the Cameroon Republic. The movement of goods and persons are very low due to environmental factors and lack of advanced means of water transportations in such areas. Transportation is still done with canoes, on foot, and across small bridges linking various isolated parts. In situations of heavy rains, the rivers overflow thereby denying dwellers of these areas the opportunity to cross to other communities.

Another feature of the Nigerian border is its 'thousands-of-entry' routes and few legal points. This was admitted by the former Minister of Internal Affairs during a press conference on 5th January 2013, when he estimated these illegal routes to number about 1,497 (National Mirror, 6th Feb, 2013). This report was further complimented by Lt. Col Sagir Musa, member of a Joint Task Force in the North East, who noted that there are well over 250 footpaths from Damaturu/Maiduguri axis that link or lead directly to Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. There are less than one hundred legal entry routes alongside over fifteen hundred illegal posts (Musa, 2013). Goods and persons move in and out of these routes on foot, bicycles, motorcycles, donkeys, boats, and small ships. Nte, (2011) observes that the routes mentioned above constitutes major avenues through which legal and illegal goods and persons slip in and out of Nigeria.

Suffice to say that the issue of border security is dominated by the porosity of the border itself. This, in turn, has resulted in all sorts of cross-border or transborder criminal activities, such as human trafficking, smuggling, drug-trafficking, terrorism, armed-robbery, money laundry and illicit arms trafficking. It is imperative to note that one of the basic duties of government everywhere in the world is to maintain its territorial integrity and protect the state from external aggression. Put differently, it is the sacred duty of governments to ensure that the state is secured with her borders. If a state cannot regulate what passes through its border, it cannot control what happens within it. Thus, within the context of the above discourse, the study emphasizes the role of the Nigerian government and its agencies in border security management. The agencies which are the focus of this study are; the Nigerian Immigration Service, and the Nigerian Customs Services.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Complex Adaptive System (CAS)

Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) is a framework for studying, explaining, and understanding systems of agents that collectively combine to form emergent, global level properties. These

agents can be nearly anything, from ants or bees, to brain cells, to water particles in a weather pattern, to groups of cars or people in a city or town. These agents produce emergent patterns via correlated feedbacks throughout the system, feedback that create and fortify a basin of attraction: a persistent pattern of behavior that itself is outside of equilibrium. The founding of the Santa Fe Institute in 1984 by Murray Gell-Mann, a physicist; John Holland, a biologist; and others, is seen by many as the beginning of CAS as an explicit field of study (Waldrop, 1993).

Complex Adaptive System (CAS) could be defined as “a regularly interacting and interdependent group of parts, items, or people that form a unified whole with the purpose of establishing a goal” (Beerel, 2009), while a complex system is a large network of relatively simple components with no central control, in which emergent complex behaviour is exhibited. A complex adaptive system is a group of simple parts, items, or people that interact; and collectively influence the behaviour of the larger system, the behaviour of which is irreducible to parts. Borders can be likened to a CAS because they are more than clear delineating lines separating countries. They serve as corridors, frontiers, areas, religious and political interfaces. They influence foreign relations, reflect values and fears, and serve as economic hubs of any nation across the world. These relationships and dynamics create the complexity that a border showcase (Babatunde, *et al*, nd).

Complexity results from the inter-relationship, inter-action, and inter-connectivity of the elements within a system and between a system and its environment. This implies that a decision or action by one part within a system will influence all other related parts but not in any uniform manner. This explains the actions and reactions of the security agents in the border protection activities. The role of individual agents determines the response(s) of the whole body. It involves the interaction between and within security agencies operating at the Nigeria's borders, especially in the areas of information and intelligence sharing, coordination, commitment, and the will to enforce laws. While government makes policies to regulate and manage these borders, security agencies, enforces these laws and policies. Thus, the decision to enforce laws, by all means, will determines the security situation and condition of the whole part of the country.

Complexity in complex adaptive systems refers to the potential for emergent behavior in complex and unpredictable phenomena. Nigeria, as a system, has a network of many agents (individuals, criminal cartels and terrorists, government agencies, security agencies, etc.,) acting in parallel. In this system, each agent is in an environment produced by its interactions with the other agents in the system. There are constant action and reaction to what other agents are doing, thus, nothing in the environment is essentially fixed. From the interaction of the individual agents arises some kind of global property or pattern, something that could not have been predicted from understanding each particular agent. For example, in the brain, consciousness is an emergent phenomenon, which comes from the interaction of the brain cells. Global properties result from the aggregate behaviour of individuals. Furthermore, the control of a complex evolving system tends to be highly dispersed (Serena Chan, 2001). The overall behaviour observed in border security management is a result of the countless decisions made by millions of individual people. Any coherent behaviour in a system arises from competition and cooperation among the agents themselves.

Complex adaptive systems provide feedback loops which are quite important in analysis between agents. This is quite important in classifying borders as CAS, given the capabilities to continuously give feedbacks. CAS is quite critical to comprehending the dynamics of interdependencies, relationship, and identification of effective performance measures that borders portends. Issues of immigration, trade, crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, drug trafficking, and enforcement behaviours are created and reinforced by system dynamics that CAS offers. What, where, when and how do social, economic, political, cultural, or religious factors affect borders? How do these behaviours change over time and space? These questions reflect system thinking and such answers can be used in developing patterns which makes sense. Moreover, fluctuations, changes and

responses from the borders, as a system, can be understood not to come from mechanistic processes, but from learned human behaviours and individual differences of border threats, identities, perceived fairness to policies, quality of information and desired security levels (Babatunde, et al, nd)

BORDER MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN NIGERIA

Border security is a factor of border management. Borders as opined by Osimen, *et al*, (2017), is a security issue for all governments. Border security management in Nigeria is at a low ebb, considering the low performance of the border security agencies, such as the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS). Osimen, *et al*, (2017) observe that border security and the management of borders in ways that promotes national security has generally been given low priority in Africa and Nigeria, in particular, compared to the security provided for political elites and their assets in the national capitals and other urban areas far removed from the borders. Supporting this view, Ukase, (2015) notes that national security is, in turn, equated to state security, while state security is viewed as the security of those who occupy public office. Ibeanu and Momoh (2008: 8) argue that rarely is national security viewed as the welfare and happiness of the citizens neither is security viewed as “community security”, societal security” nor securing the “common good”. The authors opine that security is viewed in purely state-centric and military terms and not in social and development terms; it is perceived as the maintenance of state sovereignty, not in the context of common humanity and promoting the welfare of the people (Ibeanu and Momoh, 2015).

The work of these authors lent credence to the negligence of border security and poor border managements in Nigeria which, in turn, has largely contributed to the prevalence of cross border crimes and other security threats to the nation.

Now, it is imperative to identify and note the role of agencies that are saddled with border protection responsibilities. Two of these agencies, which are at the centre of this study, are, the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigerian customs Services. Traditionally these bodies are constitutionally charged in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and other Acts of Parliament with the task of manning and monitoring the entry, and exits of goods and persons in Nigeria. NCS was established in 1959 through the Customs and Exercise Act CAP C45 and amended in 1979 (www.customs.gov.ng) while NIS was set up by an Act of Parliament CAP 171 LFN of 1963 (www.interior.gov.ng/immigrationservice). The NIS handles matters relating to entry and exits of persons and papers related to residency and duration of stay of aliens in the country. It also scrutinises travelling documents of Nigerian exiting to other countries to ascertain the validity of their visas and other travelling documents. The NCS is saddled with responsibilities relating to checking entry and exits of goods and determining their legality or otherwise. It confiscates contraband and tax goods placed under non-essential goods. It is noteworthy that other security agencies play vital roles in border security management, especially, following the rising incidences of domestic terrorism and banditry in Nigeria, which necessitated military operations at the borders. The deadly terror activities of Boko Haram Jihadists and the preponderance of cross-border criminalities have added Special Task Forces of Nigeria Army (NA), Nigeria Air Force, State Security Services (SSS), and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to forces overseeing Nigerian borders. The involvement of bodies without a traditional mandate in borders management was necessitated by the desire to complement paramilitary forces charged with managing the country's borders to secure the country from terror and crime. The Nigeria Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), also screen travellers and their goods to ensure no banned substances are allowed to come in or go out of the country. The Nigeria Police Force helps in maintaining law and order; it also has stations along the borders.

The NIS and NCS, like other key agencies in borders management, are empowered to arrest and prosecute migrant or immigrant that crossed the red line of the law through illegal entry or importation of contraband goods. There is a constant routine checks of all the legal entry points erected by the government. The NIS and NCS are expected to patrol the long porous borders in an attempt to keep faith with legal frameworks that established them and duties assigned by the Nigerian constitution.

However, the NIS and NCS are faced with daunting challenges in the management of Nigerian borders. One of the issues identified in the border security management is unhealthy inter-agency rivalry and lack of cooperation and information sharing between and among these agencies. Rivalry breeds mutual distrust and hinders effective inter-agency operations among the security operatives in the Nigeria borders management. This is not exclusive to these two bodies; but it is prevalent among other security agencies at the borders. It is not uncommon also to notice an intra-agency rivalry (i.e. between officers of the same agency). Adekanye (1998) notes that intra/inter-agency rivalry seems to be more entrenched and glaring in Nigeria, where gaffers tend to place self-aggrandizement ahead of national interest. Omoigui (2006) opines that agency rivalry is a state of competition, contention or emulation that exist within and between agencies for something of perceived value to the contending interest. This could be tangible or intangible recognition and other perceived “benefits to self-esteem” which can be positive (good-natured) or negative (associated with injurious consequences; for instance, the inability to cooperate optimally in support of national defence and security objectives). This submission explains better the relevance of the Complex Adaptive System theory in the study of border security management.

Lack of adequately trained personnel and equipments to effectively discharge duties has been identified among the problems and challenges facing the NIS and NCS in border security management (Musa 2013, Danfulani, 2014). A country's border management system, becomes poor and ineffective when it encompasses the problem of inadequate personnel, patrol vehicles, surveillance helicopters and equipments as well as neglect or non-functioning of intelligence services (Musa, 2013). In the case of Nigeria, the NIS and NCS are saddled with obsolete working tools and gadgets that falling short of the global trend. There is no denying the fact that they still move around in old trucks that are not roadworthy much less plying difficult and dangerous terrains in pursuit of trans-borders criminals cutting corners to evade them and the law (Danfulani, 2014). The NIS still faces the problem of inadequate or lack of surveillance cameras, speed boats, body scanners, helicopters, motor bikes, automatic rifles, and communication gadgets. Also, very easy and cheap means of transportations like donkeys, patrol dogs and bicycles are scarce commodities these bodies are incapable of acquiring or keeping.

Lack of proper border demarcation between Nigeria and Neighbouring countries is one major challenge that has further compounded the issue of border security. Much has been written by A.I. Asiwaju on border demarcation in Africa (see Asiwaju, 1984; 2001; 2003). However, these poorly demarcated borders have contributed to the porosity of borders which have made borders security management a herculean task for border security agencies.

The porosity of the land borders is perceived by some as a danger and vulnerability but, for the borderland communities, it is an essential part of their existence, social and economic life and the cultural uniqueness that conforms, to their identity and livelihoods (Osimen *et al*, 2017). Meanwhile, this has made the borders and border communities ungoverned space for border security agencies. As noted earlier, there are less than a hundred legal routes aside from over one thousand five hundred (1,500) illegal routes to and from Nigeria. Coupled with some of the challenges aforementioned, it becomes unthinkable that NIS and NCS would capture all persons and goods that enter or exit the country.

Another issue of concern in the ongoing discourse and the one that has serious implications for

national security is the abandonment of border communities by governments. Most of these communities appear to have been disconnected from the Nigerian nation, as one could hardly find primary schools, medical/health centres and other essential institutions there. There is also a lack of infrastructural facilities, such as good road networks, pipe-borne water and electricity among others. Tahir (2011) observes that, to these communities, Nigeria is truly a mere geographical expression since their contact with government is largely through taxation and the state instruments of coercion -- the armed forces. There are no roads and other infrastructural developments. This scenario gives them a very little stake in the system or, at worse, they turn against the state being the main means through which they can have access to national cake. Also, border communities tend to be multilingual; thus, facilitating communication with communities across the borderlines. There is a greater flow of information coming to them regarding the activities of bandits and criminals along the borders, yet they may choose to collaborate with the criminals and be less inclined to volunteer information on them to security agencies.

Other challenges facing these agencies, as identified by scholars in the field of security management, include the overall ideology/attitude of the services, where such postings are seen as opportunities to feather one's nest which, in turn, encourages the practice of making returns to superior officers – an act of corruption and lack of patriotism. Also, lack of coordination of overlapping responsibilities and infighting among the different services; lack of cooperation within and, between departments of agencies; inadequate system of reward and welfare for members of the services/poor motivation among border personnel; lack of political will and commitment of resources to effectively manage the borders; and apparent lack of a system of consultation, co-ordination and information gathering from borders communities (Tahir 2011, Osimen *et al*, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Cross border armed incursions and other border criminalities in Nigeria are predicated upon weak border security management. The incessant attacks on the border communities and the wanton killings of innocent Nigerians in these areas require urgent attention from the government both at the centre and the regions, to bring an end to these untold sufferings. It is believed that effective and efficient borders security management would ameliorate the rate of cross border armed incursions into Nigeria's territory. A well-coordinated and efficiently manned borders will check the influx of illegal migrants, illicit drug/ human trafficking as well as reduce the spate of small arms and light weapons proliferation into the country.

However, for these to happen, government must be ready to overhaul the border security services. There must be adequate recruitment and training of agents. The use of modern equipment and technology suggested by experts must be given positive consideration. Hence, International Organization for Migration (IOM) must be commended for its role and assistance to Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the government in launching the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) (IOM, 2019). The Comptroller General of NIS, Muhammad Babandede, notes that MIDAS helps the government of Nigeria to better understand mobility patterns through its statistical information and also ensure that those crossing Nigerian borders do not pose threats to national and international security. He further explains that MIDAS also enables states to monitor more effectively those entering and exiting their territory by land, air and sea while providing a sound statistical basis for migration policy-related planning (IOM, 2019).

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study recommends the following:

- I. Any measure that seeks to effectively check cross-border incursions in any part

of Africa must, as a matter of necessity, address the issue of porosity of international boundaries, which in most parts allows unhindered movement of people and goods across the boundaries. These areas have become the routine of armed bandits and other criminals along borders. Hence, Nigeria must revisit or perhaps consolidates on the efforts of the National Boundary Commission, which has been carrying out the project of re-demarcation of all Nigeria's international boundaries, to ensure the adequate and proper demarcation of its boundaries. This, in turn, will facilitate proper monitoring and manning of Nigeria's borders by the border security agencies, especially the NIS and NCS.

- ii. The presence of the border security agencies must be dominant at all border crossings. One must accept that presently, Nigeria is having several crossing routes both legal and illegal, all these routes must be properly manned and monitor by armed security agencies. As it has been noted, that one of the challenges of the security agencies at the border is rivalry and infighting between and within agencies and departments, it is evident, there is a need for a review of responsibilities and relationship of the security agencies at the border. Tahir (2011: 51) suggests that coordinating the work of these diverse services (security) will probably require another layer or category of service and may further compound infighting and competition. He, therefore, suggests that "a special Border Patrol Force be set up as the replacement of the rest of the services except Customs. Dahiru, (2011) once made a recommendation for the effective presence of the border law enforcement agencies at all border crossings. Though, he did not suggest a hundred per cent coverage, because, to him, it seems impossible, judging by the huge human and financial resources such venture would require. In his words, "there are at present many border crossings in this zone without customs' post; the few available posts are in pitiable condition (e.g., the security men are few in number and lack logistic supports, such as vehicles and communication equipment), they are as such cut off from their headquarters." He, therefore, called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to invest more in building more control posts, where they are not currently existing and equip such with all necessary logistic supports (Dahiru, 2011:16).
- iii. Recruitment and training of these agencies as aforementioned are essential in order to meet up with the growing security challenges emanating from Nigeria's porous borders. However, these efforts may not yield meaningful results without adequate provision of modern communication facilities and other logistical supports to ensure rapid response capability. It is an open secret that these agencies are saddled with the burden of operating with outdated and inadequate equipment and gadgets. This was attested to by some officers of NIS and NCS, who volunteered information. While some complained of inadequate equipment and personnel, others were concerned about too many entry posts that have made their duties at borders difficult (Personal Communication). Government must, therefore, procure necessary equipment and gadgets needed by the security agencies at the borders. These may include, patrol vehicles, bicycles, donkeys, patrol dogs, speed boats, unmanned aerial vehicles, and helicopters. Research shows that border technology is not too expensive and very easy to manage. In this view, government can construct a light wire fences along the borders with monitoring post via sensors placed on the wire fences. This has been working in both advanced and developing nations for a while now. Monitoring of persons and goods across borders thus becoming easier. There is abundant sunlight in most of the border areas which make powering the light wire fence very easy and cheap to manage. Digital Infrared Cameras, Personal Identification Secure System and other latest gadgets needed for effective and efficient border management must also be provided.
- iv. There is need for greater cooperation between Nigerian border law enforcement agents and

their counterparts across the boundaries. This view, as supported by Dahiru (2011:16); Tahir (2011:51); and Danfulani (2014), constitutes a major strategy that will foster unity and also help to increase the efficiency of border security agencies across borders. Tahir (2011), suggest a review of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) protocols to include, if not already included, arrangements on cooperation on security and supply of vital information similar to what obtains among European Community member countries where crime in one country is treated as crime against all.

- v. Lastly, governments must pay urgent attention to the needs of the border communities. We have noted in this study that the provision of infrastructure and developmental projects in the affected areas, are 'nothing to write home about'. Government must give these communities a sense of belonging and therefore become stakeholders in the affairs of the nation. These may involve the employment of the able-bodied persons in the affected areas into the security services and consequently deploy them to their communities, which is a familiar terrain, as their duty posts. This will help the security agencies to identifying strangers and criminals who are not members of such communities.

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