

ASSESSING ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS OF NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE, OGUN STATE COMMAND, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed anti-smuggling operations of Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun State Command, Nigeria. The study employed descriptive research design. The population of the study consisted of personnel of NCS Ogun State Command. A sample of 131 was selected using purposive sampling technique. Four research questions guided the study. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and analysed descriptively. Findings revealed that smuggling activities is very high at Nigeria border, and that rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil, textile materials, used tyres, vehicles, second hand clothes are the most smuggled into Nigeria through land border. Findings revealed also that porosity, poor inspection at borders, unemployment of the young people in border cities and areas, and low price level of smuggled goods compared to domestic products are mostly responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders, and that NCS employed different tactics in war against smugglers. The study concluded that the anti-smuggling operation in Nigeria is still far from being won despite all the effort by the present and past government towards curtailing the scourge. Based on the findings, it was recommended that government should re-strategize mode of waging war against smugglers from being combative to elimination of societal factors like poverty and unemployment that predisposes people to crime in Nigeria.

Keywords: Smuggling, War against Smugglers, Operation of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Ogun State Command

Introduction

Recently, Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of crime, ranging from terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, smuggling occasioned by the porosity of border and so on, with a toxic implications on individuals, economy and the nation at large. One of the social conditions that have contributed to the crime rates is high rate of poverty and youth unemployment. For instance, National Bureau of Statistics in 2019 reported that in the third quarter, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased from 18.1% of the labour force to 23.1% (NBS, 2019), while 53.40% of youths were said to be unemployed in 2023 (NBS, 2023). In Ogun state, 260,361 people accounting for 8.8% of youths are unemployed (BusinessDay, 2024). This shows that youth unemployment is a major issue in the country, as it always make them to resort to crimes to make ends meet. However, one of the crimes that appear to have gained prominence in Nigeria in recent time is smuggling at Nigeria borders due to the extensive stretch nature of the borders. Nte (2011) asserts that Nigeria has a total outstretch of about 4910 km of borders. This makes it difficult for Nigeria Customs Service and other security agencies to protect the border lands effectively and thereby increase act of smuggling and all forms of crimes associated to the border areas.

Unfortunately, the nature of Nigeria borders appears to be a breeding ground and attractive to smuggling and all forms of illegalities, as it is characterized with a lot illegal routes which makes it herculean task for the security to efficiently police the borders. For instance, Osimen, Anegbode, Akande & Oyewole (2017) assert that Nigeria shared international borders with Republic of Benin, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon which are all melting pots and hotspots for security. In February 2018, Nigeria's Ambassador to Benin, Kayode Oguntuase, reaffirmed this stance by pointing out that there are 42 illegal checkpoints between the border at Seme and Mile 2, Lagos, and that security personnel attached to the border demand money from travellers in order to carry out their illegal act (Punch Online, 2018). Today, smuggling represents a number of illicit and infamous actions that people and organisations engage in across national and international borders, either for financial or commercial gain or for political or religious purposes (Osimen et al, 2017).

Smuggling as continue to be a threat to the development Nigeria agricultural sector, as many Nigerian preferred to patronize foreign products, especially parboiled rice and groundnut oil at the expense of made-in-Nigeria products. This situation has contributed to the decline in people's participation in agriculture and dearth of manufacturing firms, to the extent that the President Muhammadu Buhari on August, 2019 order the closure of Nigeria border to avert importation of goods and foodstuff, which had previously been impacted by a number of previous import restrictions. These initiatives aimed at addressing the flow of illegal products entering the nation, particularly rice and tomatoes, and other related corruption, this latest action aims to boost the indigenous agriculture sector (Punch Online, 2019). This assertion supports the claim by Hammed Ali that foreign parboiled rice makes up over 70% of the local market, whereas domestically produced rice has been overtaken and barely has a place in the market (Punch Online, 2019).

The high patronage and demand for parboiled rice by people appears to be the rationale behind high smuggling of rice into Nigeria. In other words, there is significant relationship between high demands for foreign parboiled rice and high smuggling of the product. Salau (2019) opines that rice is the most lucrative commodity for smugglers since there are always ready purchasers for the rice that is smuggled, and consumers also say that the foreign goods are more accessible and less expensive than rice that is produced locally, adding that the popular market in Seme and Idiroko border and Ilaro in Ogun State are dominated by Nigerians who purchased rice in bags and sneaked it into the country via illegal means. The majority of these illicit goods are occasionally transported on motorcycles known as Okadas, which can carry four to six bags at a time and are escorted by security personnel (Guardian

Online, 2019). The involvement of the security personnel in aiding the smugglers has impeded war against smuggling especially as it concerns investigation, detection and prevention among the security agencies.

Today, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) is the leading security agency in fighting smugglers in Nigeria, with the state commands spread across the country, including Ogun State. Babatunde, Alao and Eyitayo (2019) affirms that the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) are statutory responsible for “the collection and accounting of revenue, anti-smuggling operations, security functions, and the production of statistics for planning and budgetary purposes; fighting illegal commercial activities and trade in illicit goods, such as the importation of counterfeit and subpar goods; fighting violations of intellectual property rights (IPR); fighting illegal international trade in endangered species; fighting money laundering; fighting illegal trade in illicit drugs; fighting illegal trade in cultural artefacts; fighting the importation of pornographic materials; fighting the importation of toxic or hazardous substances”.

In addition, Mintah (2015) opines that NCS is a leading agency in the implementation of the Nigerian Trade Hub since it takes the lead in all matters pertaining to importation, exportation, and government fiscal policy guidelines. With the statutory enormous power given to Nigeria Customs Service in Nigeria, the border appears to be witnessing daily cases of smuggling activities as being studied in the media. There is therefore the need to strengthen border security operations in order adequately nip smuggling of illicit products to the bud at the border. It is on this note that it becomes necessary to review the strategy in combating smuggling activities in Nigeria, with a focus on anti-smuggling operations of Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun state Command.

Statement of the Problem

The combating smuggling activities in Nigeria has proven to be a herculean task among security personnel following continuous cases of smuggling activities going on at the border. Many factors could have been responsible for this. For instance, In addition to administrative shortcomings like ethnically biased promotions and a lack of functional health facilities, Olaifa (2017) asserts that there is a lack of trained personnel to man the borders effectively because the majority of security personnel deployed to manage Nigerian borders share this gross inadequacy of experience and inadequate funding, which culminate in a poorly equipped workforce. The workforce is typically subjected to dehumanising work environments, frustration, anger, hopelessness, illusion, occupational risks and hazards, depression due to inadequate welfare packages. All of these factors lead to low productivity and, in extreme cases, the death of low-rank officers.

The major issue that appears to be threading the security of Nigeria border is her porosity. Ewetan & Ese (2014) also pointed out that Nigeria's border porosity has continued to be a source of worry. This is due to the fact that border porosity has contributed to and continues to promote cross-border crimes, terrorist attacks, drug trafficking, and illicit trade, including the smuggling of unlawful items including shoes, frozen chicken products, duty-free cars, and foreign parboiled rice (Akinyemi, 2013). Another challenge is the advert effect of smuggle product on human health. For instance, rice imported into Nigeria has been said to be poisonous due some chemical have been added to retain its freshness and that chemical is harmful to human health (Guardian Online, 2019). This study therefore investigated the menace with a view to urgently save Nigerian entering point from smugglers, and also strengthens the naira and boost Nigerian gross domestic product.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the effort in curbing smuggling activities in Nigeria, with a focus on operations of Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun State Command, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Determine the rate of smuggling activities in Ogun State land borders;
2. Find out the type of smuggled products into Nigeria through land border.
3. Ascertain the factors posing threat to Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state.
4. Identify techniques and tactics adopted by the Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state

Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated to guide this study;

1. What is the rate of smuggling activities in Ogun State land borders?
2. What are the types of smuggled products into Nigeria through land border?
3. What are the factors posing threat to Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state?
4. What are the techniques and tactics adopted by the Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state?

Theoretical Framework

The human needs theory, propounded by Abraham Maslow was employed for this study. The major position of this theory is that man has basic needs and that the inability to meet these needs propels man to go to any lengths (be it legal or illegal) in order to meet their needs to survive. For this reason, Coates and Rosati (1988) opines that a person's needs have a significant impact on how they behave and interact with others. When an individual or group's basic needs are not met, the tendency that such fellow would path a road of illegality to meet up with such need is very high. In other words, when a person's basic wants are not satisfied, he is more inclined to choose the route of criminality. Therefore, the premise of human needs theorists is that man would inevitably turn to any kind of profitable illegal activity when he has no other way to satisfy his needs (which are necessary for survival). This explains the reason why there are many people involve in the business of smuggling. Smugglers engage in their illegal act essentially for the purpose of survival on diverse scales. They capitalize on the porosity of the borders and perceived corruption of the customs officers to smuggle all form of contra-bound goods into the country all in a bid to make ends meet.

Also, some individuals, especially unemployed youths in the border areas often use the illegal routes, most especially in bushes to transport illicit goods across borders. This they see as their lucrative work to quick make money that would give them financial stamina to fulfill their financial responsibility in the society. There is also high rate of poverty in the border areas. In fact, Chikwanha (2007) notes that the Benin Republic, Nigeria's neighbour, has a higher crime rate because one-third of its citizens are uneducated and live in poverty. Since both crime and unemployment are already accepted as social norms, the nation lacks clear statistics on both. The high rate of smuggling in Nigeria is mostly caused by the country's extreme poverty and generally dire economic circumstances. This feature is reflected in the sophistication of smugglers' everyday operations at Nigerian borders.

Empirical Reviews

There exist quite a handful of studies that seek to examine the menace of smugglings and the effort of the Nigeria Customs Service at combating the scourge in Nigeria. Babatunde, Alao, and Eyitayo (2019) investigated the Nigeria Customs Service's problems with border security. According to the study, the Nigerian customs service's inability to maintain a secure border is mostly caused by the porosity of the border. The study came to the conclusion that the transnational character of security threats in the current environment and the porosity of Nigeria's borders significantly call for modifications to the NCS's operations. The research suggested, among other things, that the NCS be provided with sufficient material and personnel resources to deal with the challenging topography and size of Nigeria, since this will further improve the NCS's capacity to carry out its mandated duties.

Mamazizi & Rostami (2016) used a descriptive research design and export facto technique to investigate the causes of border dwellers' propensity for commodities smuggling and its effects on the failure to achieve economic development. The results showed that border residents have a higher propensity for smuggling. According to research findings, the degree to which the political system influences the inclination of border inhabitants is 23/23, and the observed difference is not significant at 0/01. The study came to the conclusion that the propensity to smuggle items has been influenced by elements related to both the economic system and familial sustenance.

Ojo (2015) used a qualitative approach and survey methodology to critically investigate the areas of juvenile involvement in smuggling and the networks that sustain it. According to the study, young people actively participate in smuggling, and corrupt customs officers, wives, parents, and community members are identified as supporting networks. According to the study's findings, smuggling has grown more complex, specialised, and departmentalised in Nigeria. Additionally, the networks of support that young smugglers received from their families, neighbours, and dishonest customs officials made it challenging to manage smuggling in Nigeria. According to the study, customs officers, family members, and community members may all play a significant role in putting an end to the smuggling issue in Nigeria.

Using a survey design and qualitative techniques (Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews) to collect data and information, Matthias & Asamu (2014) investigated the opinions of law enforcement officers and community members on what should be done to ensure strict security and smuggling free trade around Nigerian borders. The results showed that both community members and law enforcement officials believed that the government, customs officials, and the general public should take action to guarantee strict security and free trade in Nigeria. The study came to the conclusion that the government, law enforcement, and community members must work together to address the issues of border instability and smuggling near Nigeria's borders.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design, which helps to get the view of the men of the Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun State Command attached to their operation regarding war against smuggling in Nigeria borders. The population of the study entails the officers and men of the Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun State Command. A sample of one hundred and thirty (131) was drawn from the population, using purposive sampling procedure for the study. The instrument for data collection is structured questionnaire tagged: "Assessing Anti-Smuggling Operations of Nigeria Customs Service Questionnaire" (AASONCSQ). This was employed to get feedback from the respondents on their efforts in curbing smuggling activities in Nigeria border. The content and face validity of the questionnaire was established by presenting three copies of the draft questionnaire to three experts for further scrutiny and modification. Some modifications were thereafter made after their comments were made. The reliability was ensured through a pilot study and Cronbach's alpha to test internal consistency at a 0.05 significance level, and the result showed above 0.70 consistency level which is considered acceptable. The procedure for the data collection covers six weeks involving the rate of smuggling, the causes of smuggling, the effects of smuggling and the tactics employed by the Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling activities in border areas. Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics involving the use of frequency and percentage.

Result

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the rate of smuggling activities in Ogun State land borders?

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Rate of Smuggling Activities in Ogun State Land Borders

N=131

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Smuggling activities are very rampant at Nigeria border	25 (19.1%)	99 (75.6%)	7 (5.3%)	-
2	Smuggling are committed at Nigeria borders on daily basis	49 (37.5%)	62 (47.3%)	20 (15.3%)	-
3	Smuggling is mostly perpetrated residents of the border areas	32 (24.4%)	85 (64.9%)	13 (9.9%)	1 (0.8%)
4	Smuggling are committed in concert with the security personnel at the border	13 (9.9%)	69 (52.7%)	41 (31.3%)	8 (6.1%)
5	There is significant relationship between high demands for foreign parboiled rice and high smuggling of the product	22 (16.8%)	99 (75.6%)	10 (7.6%)	-

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 1 presents the rate of smuggling is high in the border areas. The table revealed that 19.1% of the respondents strongly agreed and 75.6% of the respondents agreed that smuggling activities are very rampant at Nigeria border; 37.5% of the respondents strongly agree and 47.3% of the respondents agreed that smuggling is committed at Nigeria borders on daily basis; 24.4% of the respondents strongly agree and 64.9% of the respondents agreed that smuggling is mostly perpetrated residents of the border areas; 9.9% of the respondents strongly agree and 52.7% of the respondents agreed that smuggling is committed in concert with the security personnel at the border; 16.8% of the respondents strongly agree and 75.6% of the respondents agreed that there is significant relationship between high demands for foreign parboiled rice and high smuggling of the product. This means that rate of smuggling is high in the border areas.

Research Question Two: What is the types smuggle products into Nigeria through land border?

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Types of Smuggle Products into Nigeria through Land Border

N=131

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil is always smuggle products into Nigeria through land border	65 (49.6%)	66 (50.4%)	-	-
2	Textile materials, used tyres, vehicles are always smuggled into Nigeria through land border	30 (22.9%)	80 (61.1%)	21 (16%)	-
3	Second hand cloths are always smuggled into Nigeria through land border	50 (38.2%)	70 (53.4%)	11 (8.4%)	-
4	Arms and ammunitions is always smuggled into Nigeria through land border	35 (26.7%)	73 (55.7%)	19 (14.5)	4 (3.1%)
5	Petroleum products are always smuggled outside Nigeria through land border	43 (32.8%)	68 (51.9%)	18 (13.8%)	2 (1.5%)

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 2 presents types smuggled products into Nigeria through land border. The table revealed that 49.6% of the respondents strongly agree and 50.4% of the respondents agreed that rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil is always smuggled products into Nigeria through land border; 22.9% of the respondents strongly agree and 61.1% of the respondents agreed that textile materials, used tyres, vehicles is always smuggle products into Nigeria through land border;

38.2% of the respondents strongly agree and 53.4% of the respondents agreed that second hand cloths is always smuggled into Nigeria through land border; 26.7% of the respondents strongly agree and 55.7% of the respondents agreed that arms and ammunitions is always smuggled into Nigeria through land border; 32.8% of the respondents strongly agree and 51.9% of the respondents agreed that petroleum products is always smuggled outside Nigeria through land border. This means that rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil is the most smuggled products into Nigeria through land border.

Research Question Three: What is the factor posing threat to Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state?

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of Factor Posing Threat to Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state

N=131

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Porosity and poor inspection at borders by the Customs officers are responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders	62 (47.3%)	64 (48.8%)	4 (3.1%)	1 (0.8%)
2	Unemployment of the young people in border cities and areas result into smuggling in Nigeria borders	47 (35.9%)	62 (47.3%)	19 (14.5%)	3 (2.3%)
3	Pathetic high rate of corruption among customs officers contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders	31 (23.7%)	72 (55%)	26 (19.8%)	2 (1.5%)
4	Presence of informal distribution networks and industry participation contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders	25 (19.1)	91 (69.5%)	14 (10.6%)	1 (0.8%)
5	Low price level of smuggled goods compared to domestic products contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders	40 (30.5%)	76 (58%)	15 (11.5%)	-

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 3 presents factor posing threat to Nigeria Customs Service in combating smuggling in Ogun state. The table revealed that 47.3% of the respondents strongly agree and 48.8% of the respondents agreed that porosity and poor inspection at borders by the Customs officers is responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders; 35.9% of the respondents strongly agree and 47.3% of the respondents agreed that unemployment of the young people in border cities and areas result to smuggling in Nigeria borders; 23.7% of the respondents strongly agree and 55% of the respondents agreed that pathetic high rate of corruption among customs officers contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders; 19.1% of the respondents strongly agree and 69.5% of the respondents agreed that presence of informal distribution networks and industry participation contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders; 30.5% of the respondents strongly agree and 58% of the respondents agreed that low price level of smuggled goods compared to domestic products contribute to smuggling in Nigeria borders. This means that porosity and poor inspection at borders by the Customs officers is majorly responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders.

Research Question Four: What is techniques and tactics adopted by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in combating smuggling in Ogun state?

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics of Techniques and Tactics Adopted by NCS in combating smuggling

N=131

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	NCS always employ surveillance technique in war against smugglers	41 (31.3%)	75 (57.3%)	14 (10.6%)	1 (0.8%)
2	NCS always employ undercover operatives in war against smugglers	26 (19.8%)	69 (52.7%)	32 (24.4%)	4 (3.1%)
3	NCS do embark on intelligence gathering in apprehending the smugglers	44 (33.6%)	60 (45.8%)	24 (18.3%)	3 (2.3%)
4	NCS do embark on detective approach in combating smuggling	33 (25.2%)	60 (45.8%)	32 (24.4%)	6 (4.6%)
5	NCS do make use of informant data base gotten from members of the public in combating smuggling	43 (32.8%)	64 (48.9%)	20 (15.2%)	4 (3.1%)

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4 presents techniques and tactics adopted by NCS in combating smuggling. The table revealed that 31.3% of the respondents strongly agree and 57.3% of the respondents agreed that NCS always employ surveillance technique in war against smugglers; 19.8% of the respondents strongly agree and 52.7% of the respondents agreed that NCS always employ undercover operatives in combating smuggling; 33.6% of the respondents strongly agree and 45.8% of the respondents agreed that NCS do embark on intelligence gathering in apprehending the smugglers in Ogun state; 25.2% of the respondents strongly agree and 45.8% of the respondents agreed that NCS do embark on detective approach in combating smuggling in Ogun state; 32.8% of the respondents strongly agree and 48.9% of the respondents agreed that NCS do make use of informant data base gotten from members of the public in combating smuggling . This means that surveillance and intelligence gathering are majorly being deployed by NCS in combating smuggling.

Discussion of Findings

The data was obtained through the responses to the questionnaire distributed to NCS operatives which included male and female, and they were equally analyzed using simple percentage technique of data analyses. This technique was used in order to make the data analysis devoid of ambiguity and understandable by everyone.

The finding of the study in table 1 revealed that smuggling activities are very rampant at Nigeria border, as it perpetrated at Nigeria borders on daily basis, mostly by residents of the border areas. This aligns with the study of Nte (2011) that Nigeria has a total outstretch of about 4910 km of borders, which makes it attractive to smuggling. This shows that the Nigeria borders are porous which makes it susceptible to all form of smuggling activities. Findings also revealed that smuggling are committed in concert with the security personnel at the border and that there is significant relationship between high demands for foreign parboiled rice and high smuggling of the product. This is because rice is the most lucrative commodity for smugglers because there are always willing customers for the rice that is smuggled due to its accessibility and affordability (Salau, 2019).

The findings of the study in table 2 revealed further that rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil is always smuggle products into Nigeria through land border. This affirms the position of Osimen et al, (2017) that smuggling represents a number of illicit and infamous actions that people and organisations engage in across national and international borders for financial or commercial gain purposes. Findings also revealed that Textile materials, used tyres, vehicles, Second hand cloths, Petroleum products, as well as proliferation of arms and ammunitions is rampant at Nigeria through land border. This shows there are a lot of smuggling activities

across Nigeria and Benin Republic borders (Oladeji, 2010), which is an important issue of crime and a great threat to socio-economic prosperity of any nation.

Accordingly, the finding of the study in table 3 revealed that porosity and poor inspection at borders by the Customs officers is mostly responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders. Ewetan & Ese (2014) in their study also noted that Nigeria's border porosity has continued to be a source of worry. Findings also revealed that unemployment among youths in border areas, pathetic high rate of corruption among customs officers, presence of informal distribution networks and industry participation and low price level of smuggled goods compared to domestic products are responsible for smuggling activities in Nigeria borders. This is the rationale behind the increase in the cases of cross-border crimes, terrorist attacks, drug trafficking, and illicit trade, including the smuggling of unlawful items like shoes, frozen chicken products, duty-free cars, and foreign parboiled rice, have all been facilitated by and continue to be encouraged by border porosity (Akinyemi, 2013).

Conclusively, the finding of the study in table 4 revealed that the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Ogun state command mostly deploys surveillance and intelligence gathering techniques in combating smuggling in the Ogun state axis of Nigeria border with other neighbouring communities. This is necessary for NCS to perform her statutory roles which includes collection and accounting of revenue, anti-smuggling operations, security functions among others (Babatunde et al, 2019). Findings also revealed that undercover operatives, informant data base and detective approach are other techniques employed by the NCS in combating smuggling in the state. These techniques are necessary for NCS to perform their statutory functions which according to Omale (2018) includes the arrest of suspects, search, detention, and seizure of goods, has become a veritable means of ensuring compliance because the various preventive measures are commendable but not without accompanying issues in their implementation.

Summary of the Findings

The findings of the study revealed that:

1. Smuggling activities are very rampant at Nigeria border, as they are perpetrated at Nigeria borders on daily basis, mostly by residents of the border areas.
2. Rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil, textile materials, used tyres, vehicles, second hand clothes are the most smuggled into Nigeria through land border.
3. Porosity, poor inspection at borders, unemployment of the young people in border cities and areas, and low price level of smuggled goods compared to domestic products are mostly responsible for smuggling in Nigeria borders.
4. The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Ogun state command mostly employs surveillance intelligence gathering techniques in combating smugglings in the Ogun state axis of Nigeria border with other neighbouring communities, while undercover operatives, informant data base and detective approach are other techniques employ by the NCS in combating smuggling in the state.

Conclusion

From the result of the findings, it is evident that combating smuggling in Nigeria is still far from being won despite all the effort by the present and past government towards curtailing the scourge. This is because of the continuous cases of smuggling of all forms of banned products especially parboiled rice, frozen foods, vegetable oil, textile materials, used tyres, vehicles, second hand clothes, petroleum products, as well as proliferation of arms and ammunitions, which have negatively affected the economy and perceived collapse of national security. Hence, government via her machinery, especially the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and other security agencies, needs to re-strategize their operation in order to nip the menace to the bud.

Recommendations

From the findings, the following recommendations were made;

1. Government should re-strategize mode of curbing smuggling activities from being combative to elimination of societal factors like poverty and unemployment that predisposes people to crime in Nigeria.
2. Government should provide enough material like patrol vehicles, arms and ammunition and human resources for the Nigeria Customs Service in order to cope with the difficult Nigerian terrain.
3. The NCS should intensify surveillance, intelligence gathering, informant data base and other tactics that have been found to be helpful in combating smuggling.
4. There should be continuous training and retraining of NCS operatives coupled with a lot of incentives and equipment for the grooming of efficient and less corruptible custom officers.
5. The NCS should partner with other security agencies to properly secure the country's porous borders in order to reduce the crime and health safety concerns of smuggled products to barest minimum.

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