

Seacoast Smuggling of Rice and Economic Development in Nigeria: Assessment of 2006-2016

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Abstract:-This research investigates smuggling of rice on Nigerian seacoasts and its effects on economic development. The Lagos state and Ogun State seacoasts were used as case study. The study covers the period between 2006 and 2016. This period can relatively be considered to have recorded high rate of smuggling through Nigerian seacoasts. Both primary and secondary data were used for the research and snowball sampling technique was used to collect primary data from actual smugglers, former smugglers, and traders of smuggled goods in the studied areas. Simple percentage was used in analysing data generated from the primary sources while content utilisation was used in analysing data generated through secondary sources. Smuggling of rice was confirmed to occur on high frequency on Nigerian seacoasts between 2006 and 2016. Smuggling of items on Nigerian seacoasts increased between 2006 and 2016 due to high unemployment rate, endemic poverty in the country, individual financial greed, general economic hardship, harsh and detrimental government policies, and love for foreign goods. Seacoast smuggling in Nigeria from 2006 to 2016 negatively affects economic development through economic sabotage of local industries, threat to food security, revenue loss for the government, and health hazard to the residents. Efforts to curb smuggling especially rice on Nigerian seacoasts between 2006 and 2016 were largely ineffective. New measures and improvements on existing measures were recommended to curb smuggling of rice and other smuggled items on Nigerian seacoasts were reduction of port duties, creation of a new anti-smuggling security agency or department from the existing relevant agencies, financial motivation for anti-smuggling security agents, equipping security agents with modern equipment, creation of gainful employment for the youth, establishment youth-targeted economic empowerment programmes, training and retraining of anti-smuggling security agents, conscious fostering of international cooperation. Smuggling can be reduced to a manageable level if the government demonstrate the will and make its policies and programmes citizens oriented.

Keywords: seacoast, smuggling, economy, maritime and border.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a coastal country with its seacoast measuring 853 kilometres, which is the 92nd longest in the world (Brinkhof, 2016). In addition, the total length of Nigeria's inland waterways is 8,575 kilometres while the length of its land boundary is 4,047 kilometers (Aregheore, 2005). Smuggling generally is perpetrated through land, air, and sea but the frequency of maritime smuggling is much higher than the frequency of smuggling on land or air. This is because crossing international borders with large volume of goods through land or air is difficult than crossing international

borders through the sea. Supporting this is argument is Harney(2017)who submits that the volume of items that can be smuggled across international borders through the maritime domain is higher than the volume that can be smuggled across international borders through land or air.

Smuggling people and contraband goods in and out of Nigeria through seacoasts has been in existence before Nigeria gained independence in 1960. As far back as 1922 during British colonial rule, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe (who later became Nigeria's first indigenous governor-general) was documented to have paid sailors money to have himself smuggled as an 18-year-old stowaway from Nigeria to Great Britain even though such a practice was illegal (Olanlokun, 2005). The action of Azikiwe was considered illegal not because travelling out of the country was proscribed, rather the process was not right. Two years after Nigeria's independence in 1962, some politicians including Nigeria's Leader of Opposition Chief Obafemi Awolowo were charged to court for allegedly smuggling firearms and explosives into Nigeria through its seacoasts in an alleged attempt to forcefully overthrow the then Nigerian government(Awolowo, 1985, Kotun, 2013).

Smuggling through the seacoasts of Nigeria poses a major challenge to the country's economic development despite efforts by security agencies officially responsible for curbing the practice. On the establishment of the Nigeria Customs Service, (NCS)in 1891, it was given the responsibility of anti-smuggling activities that covers the country's land, air, and maritime borders in addition to its revenue collection duty. In the contemporary period, the activities of NCS have expanded to entail the prevention and suppression of smuggling and the collection of import and excise duties (Nigeria Customs Service, 2017). In spite of the efforts of NCS in curbing smuggling, the practice had increased on the Nigerian seacoasts in the period covered by this study. A report by World Bank, put this in perspective that between 2006 and 2016 an estimate of US\$4 billion worth of cargo were smuggled into Nigeria's markets mostly through the seacoast and the land borders (Andriamananjara, et al, 2009). In a related submission, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament reported smuggling of items estimated at 350 million illegal weapons into Nigeria (mostly through the seacoasts) within the above-mentioned ten-year period covered by this study (Banko, 2016). Also, the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association, NTMA revealed that an estimated US\$1.19 billion worth of textile materials

were smuggled into Nigeria annually (Muhammed, 2011) while the World Bank also submits that Nigeria suffered an estimated revenue loss of US\$1.2 billion annually to smuggling since 2006 (von Uexkull & Shui, 2014).

At a close look, smuggling have encouraged inflow of counterfeit, substandard, adulterated goods and items like counterfeit computer software, adulterated medical drugs, substandard food items, and counterfeit clothing materials into Nigerian economy. These have occasioned into revenue loss for the government, increase in the general health challenges of the residents, increased unemployment rate, and severe as threat to food security. In the same vein, smuggling of rice is rampant on Nigeria's land borders and maritime borders (based on a range of factors) and the volume of smuggled rice is high that it has proved particularly difficult for the government to influence import flows through the imposition of tariffs (Hoffman and Melly, 2015). Relatedly, smuggling of all kind of goods have damaged Nigeria's trade relations and political relations with its neighbouring countries and has continually undermined the Nigerian government's efforts to compensate for sagging oil revenues (Directorate of Intelligence, 2011:12). Similarly, excessive smuggling of rice (and other items) on Nigeria's borders have led to exposure to personal injury or even death both on the part of the smugglers and also on the part of the anti-smuggling security agents performing their statutory duties of curbing smuggling (Ojo, 2015:59). Smuggling is surreptitiously killing manufacturing and processing industries, rendering the employed unemployed and subsequently destroying the economy of the country.

Considering the factor aiding smuggling of rice in Nigeria, Cardoni and Angelucci (2013) argued that Nigeria remains the 2nd-largest importer of rice in the world due to high rice consumption (the highest in Africa) which rises at a rate of about 10% per annum (due to rapid urbanisation which makes rice consumption a major source of calories for both urban poor and rich alike), making the smuggling of rice into Nigeria very lucrative due to the combination of low infrastructural development in the area of food production and high demand (Akande, 2003).

Operational Definition

The following provide operationalisation of some concepts as used in this study:

Smuggling: Is the act of moving someone or goods from one country into another or one boundary to another illegally. It is different from trafficking which is considered as the movement of something or someone within a country illegally or secretly.

Seacoast: This is the edge of a country's land border next to the sea.

Economic development: This is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region or local community are improved and sustained.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored by rational choice theory. The rational choice theory of crime was expressed in the work of Gary Becker published as an article titled "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach" in the *Journal of Political Economy* in 1968 (Becker, 1968). The theory postulates that crime is committed only after a human being weighs the benefits derivable from committing the crime and the punishments (if any) for committing the crime (Becker, 1968, Lovett, 2006, Regis University College of Contemporary Liberal Studies, 2016). The theory rests on the assumption that crime is a purposive behavior designed to meet the offender's commonplace needs for such things as money, status, sex, and excitement and that meeting these needs involves the making of decisions and choices that are usually constrained by limits, ability, and the availability of relevant information (Clarke, 1997:21).

According to Chai(2001:9-16), the strengths of the rational choice theory are that it displays a clear predictive advantage, its dependent variables are amendable to reliable measurements, and it treats variations in choices among many rational actors and by a single actor over time as entirely a function of their structural positions; while the weaknesses of the theory are that it does not accept that culture and ideology play important role in decision-making, it wrongly insists that rational human being always makes rational decisions, and it cannot be used to analyse situations which consists of corporate actors.

However, the rational choice theory of crime is important to this study because smuggling of rice on Nigeria's seacoasts is a crime that involves planning and weighing of the risks associated with the smuggling activities by rational minds. Also, adequate planning is involved because of the high risk and benefits derivable from it. For example, a faulty planned operation can lead to the death of the smugglers and on the other hand a well planned and executed operation could yield benefits to the smugglers. Also, the theory of crime and punishment displays a clear predictive advantage and punishment of smuggling.

II. METHODOLOGY

The research utilised both primary data and secondary data. Primary data involved the use of snowball sampling technique to obtain responses from 200 purposefully selected respondents. Questionnaire and personal interviews were used to elicit information from the respondents. Secondary data were gotten by the use of content utilisation of information in relevant textbooks, government official publications, professional journals, conference papers, and handbooks. The Lagos State and Ogun State seacoasts were the study area. The population of study consists of actual smugglers, former smugglers (rehabilitated smugglers), traders that deal primarily (but not exclusively) in smuggled goods, academics that are knowledgeable about smuggling, and officers of the Nigeria Customs Service, NCS whose statutory duties include

curbing of smuggling seacoast residents. The primary data were analysed with simple percentage.

Types of Smuggling Operations

Virtually all the 200 respondents confirmed the following as the types of smuggling operations perpetrated by smugglers regardless of whether the smuggling is done via land, air, or sea:

1. Falsification of the documents accompanying goods
2. Substitution of documents accompanying goods
3. Sales of goods in advance
4. Violations connected to the destruction of goods
5. Violations involving customs decrees in free zones
6. Violations involving customs regimes
7. Abuse of time factor (claiming that time frame for accomplishment of customs service is not prescribed)
8. Outright smuggling (non-registration of imported or exported goods with the customs)

Table 1: Methods Used in Smuggling Rice on Nigerian Seacoasts

Method	Frequency	Percentage
Concealment	200	100%
Under declaration	45	22.5%
Over declaration	27	13.5%
False declaration	18	9%

Source: Field Work 2018

All the 200 respondents agreed that smugglers of rice on Nigerian seacoasts use concealment as a method of smuggling (concealment is the act or attempt to completely hide an item intended to be smuggled from being seen by customs officers). Under declaration (is a deliberate act of altering the document of importation or exportation to make the quantity of items imported or exported look less than the actual quantity) was mentioned by 22.5%. 13.5% of the respondents contended that over declaration was the method used by the smugglers (it is a deliberate act of altering the document of importation or exportation to make the quantity of items imported or exported look far higher than it actually is and then secretly filling the extra spaces with other items intended to be smuggled). While 9% of the respondents mentioned false declaration as method used for smuggling rice on Nigerian seacoasts (this is the act of smuggling into and out of a country of an item or set of items completely different from what is stated in the document of importation or exportation).

Table 1 shows that there are individuals illegally engaging in bringing items in and out of the country through concealment. The table also indicated that there are individuals that are legitimately licensed to import rice into Nigeria but some of these same licensed importers also attempt to illegally bring in more quantities of rice than they are officially licensed to bring in through under declaration, over declaration, and false declaration.

Table 2: Rate of Smuggling of Rice on Nigerian Seacoasts

Increased	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	182	91%
No	18	9%
Total	200	100%

Source: Field Work 2018

Table 2 shows that 91% of the 200 respondents expressed that there was increase in the rate of smuggling of rice on Nigerian seacoasts from between 2006 and 2016 while 9% argued that there was no increase in the rate of smuggling.

Table 3: Reasons for the Increase in the Rate of Smuggling of Rice

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	127	63.5%
Endemic poverty	82	41%
Financial greed	73	36.5%
Economic hardship	36	18%
Detrimental government policies	18	9%
Love for foreign goods	9	4.5%

Source: Field Work 2018

The respondents expressed that unemployment, endemic poverty, financial greed, and economic hardship are much more important reasons why smuggling of rice increased on Nigerian seacoasts between 2006 and 2016 than detrimental government policies and love for foreign goods as represented in table 3. The response on unemployment is corroborated by Adebayo (2013) who submitted that the worsening smuggling problems of Nigeria (alongside other crimes like armed robbery, internet scam, etc.) assumed a worrisome dimension in recent years due to the country's worsening unemployment rate. Nwannennaya & Abiodun (2017) likewise corroborated the fact that poverty was another important reason why smuggling of all types increased on Nigerian seacoasts from 2006 to 2016 while Emuedo (2014) argued that financial greed was another reason for the increase in smuggling on the Nigerian seacoasts. Olaopa, et al (2012) supported that the economic hardship faced by Nigerians made them find solace in socio-economic menace (including smuggling of rice). Wajid, et al (2014) established that detrimental government policies (especially in the area of high port duties; high import-export tariff and cumbersome administrative process involved in importation and exportation of items) is a major reason why smuggling increases in any given country, thereby corroborating the response by the 9% that mentioned detrimental government policies. Main while, 4.5% of the respondents that declared love for foreign goods as a reason for the increase in smuggling of rice on Nigerian seacoasts between 2006 and 2016 were corroborated by Folorunso's (2013) who submitted that notwithstanding high prices and governmental restrictions, Nigerian consumers have a very high demand for

foreign products and therefore create opportunities for smugglers of such products.

Table 4: Effects of Seacoast Smuggling of Rice on Nigeria’s Economic Development

Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Economic sabotage of local industries	55	27.5%
Threat to food security	45	22.5%
Revenue loss	45	22.5%
Health hazard	45	22.5%

Source: Field Work 2018

Table 4 shows that 27.5% of the respondents identified economic sabotage of local industries as a way in which seacoast smuggling of rice from 2006 to 2016 negatively affected Nigeria’s economic development particularly in the area of rice production. This submission is in consonance with Olapegba and Idemudia’s (2012) that smuggling depletes the economy of nations due to the fact that economic sabotage of local industries is a source of depletion of economy of nations. Ojo and Adebayo (2012) corroborated economic sabotage of local industries by asserting that the price of rice in Nigeria increased by over 100 percent since 2006 and that Nigeria requires 2.5 million metric tons of rice annually even though local rice production is less than half a million metric tons per year. This means that Nigeria is short of 2 million metric tons of rice that has to be sourced from other countries, but the activities of rice smugglers on Nigeria’s borders not only sabotage the government’s efforts to balance its food security problem apropos rice but also undermine and discouraged the agronomic efforts of Nigerian rice farmers. Threat to food security, revenue loss, and health hazard respectively mentioned by an equal number of the respondents (22.5%) indicated that smuggling into and out of Nigeria has led to revenue loss for the country’s; increase in the general health problems of the residents through consumption of uncertified items; and severe threat to food security. Similarly, the revenue loss response expressed by 22.5% of the respondents as being a negative effect of seacoast smuggling of rice on Nigeria’s economic development from 2006 to 2016 was corroborated by Obiliki (2016) who confirmed that as much as US\$200 million was lost to rice smuggling by the Nigerian government in a single year between 2006 and 2016, while the health hazard response mentioned by 22.5% of the respondents was likewise corroborated by Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (2019) which submitted that smuggled agricultural goods (smuggled rice inclusive) can introduce invasive species, disease-carrying pathogens, or contaminants that threaten the health of humans and sequel to stunted human development and shorter, less productive lives.

Therefore, table 4 indicated that seacoast smuggling of rice negatively affected Nigerian economy during the studied period, and the carry over effect is still affecting the economy till date.

Table 5: Effectiveness of the Measures Put in Place by Nigerian Government to Reduce Seacoast Smuggling of Rice

Effective	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	50%
No	100	50%
Total	200	100%

Source: Field Work 2018

Table 5 shows that exactly half of the respondents declared that all the measures put in place by the Nigerian government to reduce or eradicate seacoast smuggling of rice are effective enough while an equal percentage of the respondents insisted otherwise. The 50% that expressed that the measures are effective based their opinions on the quantities of rice that were attempted to be smuggled into Nigeria through its seacoasts but were discovered and seized by the country’s customs officers. Corroborating this is Adeniji, (2018), when he submitted that the large quantity of seizure worth billions of naira made by the Nigeria Customs Service of bagged parboiled rice attempted to be smuggled into Nigeria over the years. These seized bags of parboiled rice were sighted at the seizure yards of the Nigeria Customs Service during the field work for this research. In a different view, the other 50% of the respondents that posited that the measures put in place by the Nigerian Government are not effective enough based their argument on the large volumes of rice that have been documented to be successfully smuggled into the country through its seacoasts. According to Salau’s,(2017), large-scale smuggling remains a thriving business at Nigeria’s maritime borders and terrestrial borders, with bagged parboiled rice topping the illegal border trade.

Table 6: New Measures or Improvements on Existing Measures that should be Put in Place to Reduce Seacoast Smuggling into Nigeria

Measures	Frequency	Percentage
Regular retraining of anti-smuggling security agents	72	36%
Equipping anti-smuggling security agents with regularly updated equipment	52	27%
Increased public enlightenment and orientation	36	18%
Increased intelligence by anti-smuggling security agencies	20	10%
Creation of gainful employment	20	10%
Reduction of port duties	20	10%
Unbridled information sharing among anti-smuggling security agents	20	10%
Creation of a new supplementary anti-smuggling security agency	18	9%
Financial motivation for anti-smuggling security agents	18	9%

Source: Field Work 2018

The 36% of the respondents that stated that regular retraining of anti-smuggling security agents was an improvement on existing measures put in place to reduce smuggling on Nigerian seacoasts were corroborated by Mobolaji & Alabi (2017) who submitted that many maritime smugglers of illegal items into and out of Nigeria are constantly changing their methods of smuggling but many anti-smuggling security agencies in Nigeria do not possess marine agents that were as versatile on the maritime domain like the smugglers; regular retraining of anti-smuggling officials and other similar regards will surely reduce smuggling on Nigerian seacoasts. Nigeria Customs Service (2012) in the same vein declared in its submission that retraining anti-smuggling security agents in Nigeria will lead to time-saving, expense-reducing, and simplified anti-smuggling operations. The 18% of the respondents that supported increased public enlightenment and orientation as an improvement are in consonance with European Asylum Support Office's (2015) assertion that reinforcing public enlightenment using various mediums including movies, drama and documentaries to create greater awareness on the real impact of all trafficking and smuggling activities will reduce trafficking and smuggling activities on Nigerian seacoasts while the 27% that expressed that equipping anti-smuggling security agents with regularly-updated equipment was an improvement on existing measures that should be put in place to reduce seacoast smuggling in Nigeria were in consonance with Odiaka & Okoro's (2016) that supplying regularly-updated modern equipment to anti-smuggling security agents in Nigeria will enhance job performance of the anti-smuggling security agents. This will increase the confidence of the anti-smuggling agents in confronting and subsequently combating the smugglers.

Unbridled information sharing among anti-smuggling security agencies, creation of gainful employment, and reduction of port duties mentioned by 10% of each of the respondents is corroborated by Nwannennaya & Abiodun (2017) in their submission that information sharing, increased intelligence gathering, and creation of gainful employment are all steps that need to be taken by the Nigerian government and its anti-smuggling security agents to reduce seacoast smuggling in Nigeria. Wajid, et al (2014) posited that a reduction in port duties reduces incidents of smuggling in any country where it exists, which is especially true of Nigeria because, according to many of the respondents interviewed during the field work, high port duties on Nigerian sea ports make smuggled goods financially attractive. Also, the administrative process involved in the importation and exportation of items was cumbersome to the level of individuals circumventing the process. Financial motivation for anti-smuggling security agents, youth-targeted economic empowerment, and creation of a new anti-smuggling security agency supported by 9% each of the respondents are in consonance with Mobolaji & Alabi's (2017:19) submission that is on financial motivation (as opposed to low salaries or non-payment of salaries) of anti-smuggling security agents

will help reduce all forms of smuggling in Nigeria; Osakwe's (2013) in his view submitted that youth-targeted economic empowerment will reduce all types of crime in Nigeria including smuggling, especially due to the fact that most smugglers are actually youths; also, Vogel's (2009) submitted that creating a new maritime security outfit (totally different from Nigerian Navy) will go a long way in reducing smuggling and other maritime crimes on Nigerian seacoasts. All the submissions will go a long way in drastically reducing smuggling activities on Nigerian seacoast if the government can demonstrate the political will to implement the listed measures.

III. CONCLUSIONS

Smuggling of different items regularly occurs in on the Nigerian seacoasts even before independence in 1960. Smuggling of rice sharply increased on Nigerian seacoasts between 2006 and 2016 mainly due to the country's high unemployment rate, endemic poverty, financial greed of some individuals, economic hardship, detrimental government policies, and love for foreign goods. Between 2006 and 2016, economic sabotage of local industries, threat to food security, revenue loss, and health hazard were negative ways in which seacoast smuggling of rice affected Nigeria's economic development. Many measures were introduced by the Nigerian government to reduce the menace of seacoast smuggling of rice but the efforts were largely ineffective against the smugglers because the government lacks the political will to enforce anti-smuggling rules. Therefore, smuggling of rice on the country's seacoasts sharply increased between 2006 and 2016 astronomically. Smuggling is a universal phenomenon that cannot be totally eradicated, but it can be reduced to a bearable level that would not pose a serious challenge on both economy and security of a nation.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

This study attempts to make recommendations towards reducing or eradication of smuggling of rice on Nigerian seacoasts based on the available empirical evidence. The following measures are thus recommended:

One, regular training and retraining of anti-smuggling security agents. Smugglers are very dynamic and versatile individuals that are always creating new ways of evading anti-smuggling security agents. Therefore, regular retraining of anti-smuggling security agents in modern and novel ways of intercepting smugglers will drastically reduce smuggling on Nigerian seacoasts.

Two, equipping anti-smuggling security agents regularly with modern equipment. Maritime smugglers are usually known to change their methods of smuggling in many dynamic ways. Only with the most sophisticated equipment like scanners, radars, camera-mounted drones, lie detectors, among others would an anti-smuggling agency apprehend smugglers and thereby reduce smuggling on Nigerian seacoasts.

Three, increased public enlightenment and orientation. The government through National Orientation Agency, religious groups, social organisations and non-governmental organisations should embark on vigorous and ceaseless public enlightenment and orientation activities against smuggling as a practice and smugglers as persons in both traditional media and social media. This will help the populace to understand the threat that seacoast smuggling pose on national security and economic development and this will in turn lead to the reduction of seacoast smuggling in the country.

Four, unbridled information sharing among anti-smuggling agencies. To effectively combat smuggling, information about smuggling and smugglers should be freely shared among anti-smuggling security agencies. The unwholesome practice of one security agency hiding and hoarding information about smuggling or smugglers on Nigerian seacoasts from other security agencies (as mentioned by some of the interviewed officer of Nigeria Customs Service, NCS) hoarding of information can only serve to benefit the seacoast smugglers in the long run therefore unbridled information sharing will go a long way to reduce seacoast smuggling in Nigeria.

Five, increased intelligence by anti-smuggling security agencies. All maritime smuggling on Nigerian seacoasts are perpetrated by smugglers who are human beings that live on land. Therefore, land-based intelligence activities by anti-smuggling security agencies in Nigeria will help to further reduce the menace of seacoast smuggling in Nigeria.

Six, creation of gainful employment and establishment of enabling environment for self-actualisation of the youth by the government and private sector. Many of the actual smugglers, former smugglers, and traders of smuggled goods were university degrees holder, but entered the dark world of seacoast smuggling because they could not secure gainful employment. To reduce seacoast smuggling in Nigeria, the government should create gainful employment and also stimulate the economy to enable the country's private sector to create conducive environment for self-actualisation and gainful employment.

Seven, reduction of port duties. Nigeria operates a protectionist economy which makes it have the highest port duties in West Africa and one of the highest in Africa. This has created a magnet for smugglers because cheap goods successfully smuggled into Nigeria will fetch a comparably higher price when sold in Nigeria. Therefore, reduction in the country's port duties by the Nigerian government will help to further reduce the menace of smuggling in the country.

Eight, financial motivation for anti-smuggling security agencies. An anti-smuggling security agent whose salary is ridiculously low or whose salary is unpaid for months can easily be compromised by smugglers or even personally get involved in smuggling. Prompt payment of salaries, allowances, bonuses, etc of anti-smuggling agents by the

government will directly encourage anti-smuggling agencies to be dedicated to duty of fighting smuggling.

Nine, establishment of youth-targeted economic empowerment. Even when a youth is employed, there is high tendency to drift into illegalities because of inexperienced mind. Hence, the Nigerian government and non-governmental organizations should consciously create empowerment programs (e.g skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, etc) aimed at keeping the country's large youth population busy so as to be psychologically persuaded and dissuaded from getting involved in illegalities like smuggling. Youth involvement in empowerment programs will redirect their orientation and values in life.

Ten, creation of a new and modern anti-smuggling security agency. The Nigerian Navy's primary function is to defend Nigeria using purely military methods so it is not actually suitable for tackling seacoast smugglers who are usually civilians while the Nigeria Customs Service tasked with tackling smuggling are spread too thin in battling smuggling through air in Nigeria's 30 airports and simultaneously battling smuggling through land borders on Nigeria's 4047 kilometer long land borders to effectively tackle smuggling on Nigeria's 853 kilometer long boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. It is for this reason that it is recommended in this research that a new anti-smuggling security agency should be established by the government to strictly tackle the menace of maritime smuggling while leaving smuggling through the air and land to the Nigeria Customs Service.

Eleven, need for international collaboration against seacoast smuggling in Nigeria. Many smuggling activities are transnational in nature because most smuggling activities involve smuggling items from one country to another. Cooperation and collaboration with governments of neighbouring countries to tackle smuggling on seacoasts will help the government to curb the menace. Collaboration with neighbouring countries will expose the smugglers hind outs and therefore make it impossible for the smugglers do time calculation on how to outsmart the anti-smuggling security agencies in the country.

Twelve, need for political will by the government. It is not enough for Nigeria to have anti-smuggling laws to curtail smuggling, but demonstration of political-will by government will go a long way in reducing smuggling activities and smuggler as a profession on the Nigerian seacoast.

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