

Climate Change and Water Ways in Nigeria: Its Effects on Internal Security in Nigeria, 2009 – 2021

Abdulsalami M. Deji,¹ PhD

Abstract

Climate change is referred to as global phenomenon of climate transformation characterized by changes in the usual climate of the planet. This has caused influx of people from the desert areas to coastal areas in searching for better atmospheric condition. The mass movement of people towards the coastal areas has increased trans-border crime, farmer-herder crises, ethno-religious crises in many parts of Nigeria. The waterways have equally contributed to the movement of people from one location to another. The activities of illegal businessmen and other criminal elements along waterways are posing serious danger to the internal security of Nigeria. There is pressure on internal security of the country. This points to the weakness or inefficiency of the internal security arrangement of the country. While the activities of Islamic terrorist organizations since 2009 have increased the spate of criminality not only in the northern Nigeria but across the entire nation. Also, the criminality on our waterways is taking new dimension. The paper examines climate change and vulnerability of waterways in Nigeria since 2009. More importantly, efforts have been put in place by the successive governments in tackling the nefarious activities of different types of criminal elements within the stipulated period. The method adopted in the study is the use of secondary sources which comprise the use of written materials such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines, internet and other relevant documents.

Keywords: climate change, security, internal security and water ways.

¹ A.M. Deji is a Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of History, Faculty of Arts, Management & Social Sciences, Nigerian Army University, Biu, Borno State.

Introduction

The spate of insecurity in Nigeria has shown that the current security architecture in the country is not capable of managing and controlling the trend. It is on record that cattle rustling has been part and parcel of northern Nigeria, particularly, within the Sokoto axis which comprises present Sokoto and Zamfara States. Though, little was hitherto known to the populace about this criminality, the advent of the social media and investigative journalism have exposed the menace of these criminal elements. To buttress this point, Ishaq and others mentioned in their works that, cattle rustling has been in existence before First World War in North Western Nigeria. They explain that the main group of people known with cattle rearing were the Fulani along with the Shuwa Arabs and the Koyam who later joined them on this criminal business. The Jihad movement of 1804 by Usman Dan Fodio brought a new twist to the cattle business, which involved raiding communities in order to gain more people into Islam. The activities of the rustler usually left some communities fallow after raiding. While the powerful became the owners of lands, the people who were subjugated then automatically became the subjects of the Emirates (Ishaq, Yohanna & Simon, 2021, p.67). Gradually, the criminal elements used the war to perpetuate criminality of cattle rustling which could be regarded as the remote cause of cattle rustling in the area.

Today, the activities of cattle rustlers have metamorphosed into banditry on a large scale not only in the Sokoto area, but throughout the north western and spread to every part of Nigeria. The influx of criminal elements as a result of global warming which has resulted in climate change has forced many people to migrate with the aim of taking lands forcefully from the owners. Also, proportional increase in population has led to forceful migration with aim of looking for greener pasture in other parts of the country. Climate change is making large number of people to migrate to the neighbouring northern part of Nigeria from neighbouring countries such as Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Benin Republic. The southern part of Nigeria is equally witnessing mass influx of people into the country through Benin Republic, Cameroon and the Gulf of

Guinea through our major waterways, River Niger and River Benue. The source of River Niger is in the Guinea Highland in southern-eastern Guinea near Sierra- Leone border. It runs in crescent shape through Mali, Niger, on the border with Benin Republic and then through Nigeria, discharging through a massive delta, known as the Niger Delta (or the Oil Rivers), into the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean (Edward, 2022). The movement explains the easy movement of high-powered syndicates who involve in oil theft and easy movement of dangerous weapon into Nigeria.

River Benue rises in the Adamawa Plateau of northern Cameroon, from where it flows west, and through the town of Garoua and Lagdo Reservoir, into Nigeria south of the Mandara mountains, and through Jimeta, Ibi and Markudi before meeting the River Niger at Lokoja. This equally explains easy movements of suspected foreign criminals from the northern part of Nigeria into the hinterland. Nigeria's waterways are vital and critical to economic development; the water ways are equally serve as easy access routes for criminal activities. The Lagoon which lies between the Atlantic Ocean and Lagos State. It is one of the ten Lagoons in Lagos State and the largest in the Gulf of Guinea which spans over 6,000 square kilometers (2,300 sq mi) (Awosika, Ibe & Udo-Aka, 1990). Also, the large expanse of the lands covered by the two major rivers (River Benue and Niger) in Nigeria are too enormous which requires critical strategy to manage and secure for effective delivery of required security in the country. In view of the above analysis, the paper examines keywords, Effects of Climate change and water ways on the internal security of Nigeria since 2009 till 2021. And this provides information about the expected results of inadequate management of climate change and water ways in Nigeria.

Analysis of Keywords in the Study

The keywords highlighted in the abstract are germane in the analysis of issues surrounding the subject matter. The keywords climate change, security, internal security, and water ways as outlined and clarified below;

Climate change: This is a broad term used to refer to changes in the earth's climates, at local, regional, and global levels which have attendant

effects. In unfolding decades, the term ‘climate change’ has most often been used to describe changes in the earth’s climate driven primarily by human activities since the pre-industrial period (c. 1850 onwards), particularly the burning of fossil fuels and removal of forests, resulting in a relatively rapid increase in carbon dioxide concentration in the earth’s atmosphere (Eldon, Bradley & Anne, 2006, pp.406-407). Mclean and Mcmillan described climate change as a phenomenon (otherwise known as ‘global warming’ or ‘the greenhouse effect’) whereby solar radiation that reflected back off the surface of the earth remains trapped at atmospheric levels, due to the build-up of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, rather than being emitted back into space. The effect of this, is a warming of the global atmosphere (Lain & Alistair, 2009). One key factor in the main causes of climate change is deforestation which is common phenomenon in the African continent.

The experts in the field of Geography have always used the concept of Global warming interchangeably with climate change. It is referred to as the rise in average global temperatures, which is linked to significant impacts on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems around the world. Because there are more factors and impacts than only rising surface temperatures, the term climate change is used to include these additional impacts. There is strong consensus among scientists, representing 97% of climate scientists that human influence has been the dominant cause of observed warming trends since the 20th century (Shaki, 2022). Poorer nations are generally more vulnerable to the consequences of global warming (Martin & Richel, 1995). These nations tend to be more dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, such as subsistence agriculture, and lack the resources to buffer themselves against the changes that climate change causes. Nigeria is one the countries vulnerable to climate change based on the following analysis:

South Africa was the most polluting country in Africa in 2020. That year, it emitted nearly 452 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Egypt ranked second with around 213 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions. The third producer of CO₂ emissions on the

continent Algeria with 154 metric tons of CO₂ emissions. While Nigeria came fourth with 125 metric tons of CO₂ emissions (Victor, 2020).

The danger of the above statistical analysis is far reaching effects on security architecture of Nigeria. The influx of people to the hinterland has created unnecessary quest for land grabbing, causing serious rivalry between the farmers and herders. It has resulted to other social vices in the northern geopolitical zone which is fast spreading to other geographical regions within the country.

Security: It is defined as being free from danger, or feeling safe. It is equally regarded as the activities involved in protecting a country, building, or person against attack, danger, etc. The state of security provides confidence for the citizens of sovereign state (Mariam, 2022). It is regarded as main value being derived from a government saddled with responsibility of governing the affairs of a state. Evans and Newnham state that security is a term which connotes the absence of threats to scarce values. In principle security can be absolute, that is to say freedom from all threat is the equivalent of complete security. Historically, security has been seen as core value and ultimate goal of state behavior. After the cold war, ecological/environmental factor had become an important issue in security because of growing threat of nuclear weapon (Evans & Newnham, 1998, p.490). Shortly after the demises of the Soviet Union, the growing threat of climate change because a major issue in global discuss. In view of the foregoing, security is an important subject matter to the development of any society and it should not be treated with laxity. What makes people submit their mandate to a particular authority is adequate conviction that security of lives and property is guaranteed. This analysis takes us to internal security which is equally regarded as an arrangement by the government to manage and control security apparatus of a country.

Internal security: It is the act of keeping peace within the borders of a sovereign state or other self-governing territories, generally by upholding the national law and defending against internal security threats. The

general principle of internal security is the right to liberty and security of person based on these two major conditions thus:

- i. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention (Campbell, 2021).
- ii. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law which is being guided by the authority given the mandate to interpret and enforce on behalf of the state.

The internal security arrangement determines level of security which people enjoy in the state. A good example of this analysis gears towards Nigeria's security arrangement on water ways which is the next and last key words to be examined below.

Waterways: It is very important to analyse how Evans and Newnham described the usefulness of water in International relations for us to understand the concept of water ways. The authors see water as major feature of international relations by using sea as an important means of communication and, second, as repository of living and non-living resources. Over the centuries, a comprehensive legal regime has evolved to moderate inter-state competition regarding the sea (law of the sea) (Evans & Newnham, 1998, p.509). Yet, vulnerability of water ways in African continent is a source of concern in the continent. The concept of water ways includes linear water features such as rivers, canals and streams, as well as water areas such as lakes, reservoirs and docks. Related features include barriers to navigation such as locks, weirs, dams, and rapids. The River Niger runs in a crescent shape through Mali, Niger, on the border with Benin and then through Nigeria, discharging through a massive delta, known as the Niger Delta (or the Oil Rivers), into the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean (Akinlawon, 2022). On the other hand, the River Benue flows west, and through the town of Garoua and Lagdo Reservoir, into Nigeria south of the Mandara mountains, and through Jimeta, Ibi and Makurdi before meeting the Niger River at Lokoja (Akintola, 2013). Having

examined the key words in this study, it has given insightful analysis to climate change and water ways as major roots which people are using as means of transacting, connecting among the people of Nigeria and outside the world.

Brief Analysis of Geographical Setting of Nigeria's Territory

Nigeria derived her name from the River Niger. The surface area of Nigeria's land is approximately 923,773 square kilometres (Adeyinka, Bankole & Olaye, 2005). In miles, it is estimated at 356,668 square miles, Nigeria is roughly twice the size of California and three times the size of the United Kingdom. It is the largest geo-political unit in West Africa (Toyin & Mathew, 2008, p.37). Nigeria is blessed with variety of land forms. Along the coastline of Nigeria is a dense belt of swamp and mangrove, varying from 18 to 108 kilometres in width, which is sparsely populated and little developed. Also, tropical rain forest with abundant oil-palm bush from 90 to 180 kilometres wide, intersected by rivers and streams. The country is blessed with wide belt open woodland and grass savannah covering about 540 kilometres (Eluwa, Ukagwu, & Nwachukwu, 2005, p.9). More importantly, the hills around the Plateau make the area more appropriate and suitable for the habitation of people.

Nigeria's climate varies from the typical tropical humidity at the coast to the sub-tropical further inland. In the coastal area, there is short drier season with most rain occurring between March to October. Annual rainfall can reach up to about 1200 mm. in the north. Rain only falls from June to September or October, in the range of 500 mm to 750 mm. The rest of year is hot and dry (Shakti, 2022). Water serves as good accessibility to different parts of Nigeria with Niger and Benue Rivers flowing to different directions across the country. Water is the prominent physical feature of Nigeria. The River Niger flows from the mountain north-east of Sierra-Leon, enters Nigeria in the north-west and joins the Benue River at Lokoja, and then flows south into the Gulf of Guinea. At its mouth, the Niger breaks up into many channels to form a great swampy delta as the third largest delta in the world, covering 45,000 square kilometres (Paul,

2014). The Ganges Delta is the world's largest delta, in the south Asia area of Bangladesh (visible) and India. The delta plain covers about 350 kilometres wide along the Bay of Bengal, is formed by the confluence of the rivers Ganges, the Brahmaputra and Meghna (Marc, 2022). While the second is Okavango Delta, otherwise known as the "Okavango Swamp," is formed when water from the Angolan highlands flows onto the Okavango river, reaches a tectonic trough the central Kalahari Desert, where it empties and evaporates without ever reaching the ocean (William, 2012). The geographical settings of Nigeria show the benefits of Nigeria's terrain. At the same time, the benefits come with its own adverse effects which could portend danger to the sovereignty of Nigeria as a result of climate change and unprotected nature of our water ways.

Effects of Climate change on Internal Security in Nigeria, 2009 - 2021

Having examined the analysis of climate change, water ways and geographical settings of Nigeria, it exposes the reader to clear understanding of Nigeria's terrain. This equally gives understanding of the danger that climate change could cause to the people living within the state of Nigeria. In view of this, it is very important to analyze the effects of climate change on internal security of Nigeria within the stipulated period of this study. The entire world is assumed to know the gravity of the danger climate change could cause to the universe. This explains why the United Nations (UN) constituted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 to provide periodic scientific assessment and information about climate change for political leaders. The duties of this organization (IPCC) are to give political leaders of different countries opportunity to know the implications of climate change and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies on climate change in their domains (Greg, 2021).

The more greenhouse gases get released into the atmosphere, the more the plant will change in extreme ways. In simple term, climate change is ascribed to devastation of weather and climate events which come with the following features; power storms, melting ice, drought and flooding,

more heatwaves, coral reef die-off and ocean acidification, and disrupted migration patterns (Olga, 2021). The first five features mentioned are the issues mainly precipitated and disrupted migration patterns which pose a dangerous threat to the internal security of Nigeria. In the words of United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, during a virtual roundtable talk with Kenyan and Nigerian Journalists, he said climate change can displace populations and possibly lead to conflict over scarcer land and water resources. He further reiterates that:

And there we've seen over time as you know, the erosion of the (Lake Chad) basin because of climate change. That, in turn, can produce conflict over resources, new migratory patterns that put people in conflict, food security, the spread of disease, all of which can produce an environment in which terrorism, criminality, other forms of violence are more likely" (Antony, 2021).

In the same vein, the UK, through its Minister for Africa, James Duddridge, says:

Climate change is part of issues responsible for Boko Haram jihadists terrorism and wanton massacres, school abductions, kidnapping for ransom and armed assaults to conquer indigenous Nigerians and take over their lands by herdsmen" (Antony, 2021).

Today, foreigners have entered various communities in Nigeria either due to drought or flooding which affected them in their own areas with the aim of eking out daily food where they found themselves. The forceful entry of these foreigners has triggered farmers/herders crisis, communal clashes because of ethnic affinity. A good example of this could be found in Manga town in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State where Ambazonia militia killed 13 persons and 20 others went missing (Magaji, 2021). Effects of climate change could be traced to Illela town which borders Niger Republic, where there is easy access of goods and services. This facilitated mass movement of people into Nigerian communities

whenever there is climate change issues such as flooding, desertification in Niger Public (Antony, 2021). This usually leads to forceful grabbing of land belonging to the natives, which usually triggers crisis leading to loss of lives and property.

Significantly, over 75% of northern Nigerians subsist on agriculture. Unfortunately, climate change has led to reduction in crop yield with high mortality in animals either through desertification, deforestation or flooding. The effect of climate change in northern Nigeria has led to migration in two ways; firstly, vibrant youths are migrating to urban area in search of greener pastures, this is putting pressure on the urban areas with little jobs available for the abled body youths, thereby pushing them to engage in criminal activities like kidnapping, banditry, and source of recruitment for terrorist organisations within and outside Nigeria. Secondly, migration of the Fulani herdsmen in search of better atmosphere and good environment for cattle rearing (Vivian, Ali, Okafor & Michael, 2014, p.88). Examples of this could be seen in Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti and Benue States where Fulani herdsmen are always at logger head with farmers or the land owners.

Effects of Water Ways on Internal Security in Nigeria, 2009–2021

Water ways had been among of the most effective means of accessing different parts of Nigeria long before the coming of the Europeans. The coming of European merchants and Missionaries popularized the usage of water ways in Nigeria especially with the introduction of steam boats and other heavy ships by the European. There are many rivers in Nigeria which serve as access routes to different parts of Nigeria. Apart from smaller rivers, there are two major rivers, Niger and Benue, which play critical roles in water transportation, especially between the northern and southern parts of the country. The Niger River is ranked the third longest river in Africa stretching up to at 2,597 miles. It has its source in the Guinea mountains in South Eastern part of present day Guinea (John, 2022). The River flows across five countries in Africa, namely, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin and Nigeria before discharging through a massive delta, known as

the Niger Delta (or the Oil Rivers), into the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. Across these countries, the Niger is called by different names such as Jeliba in Guinea, Orimiri in Mali, Isa Ber in Niger, Egerew in Benin, and Kwara in Nigeria, all interpreted to mean the massive river (John, 2022).

The Benue River rises from Adamawa Plateau of northern Cameroon, from where it flows west, and through the town of Garoua and Lagdo Reservoir, all in Cameroon Republic and finally into Nigeria south of the Mandara mountains, through Jimeta, Ibi, and Makurdi before meeting the Niger river at Lokoja. Niger and Benue Rivers are the two largest rivers in West Africa (Akintola, 2013). The two rivers meet at Lokoja in Kogi state, forming a Y-shaped structure in what appears to be a magnificent union and draining southwards into the ocean. While Niger river is brownish in colour, Benue River is light green in colour (Ebimola, 2019, p.39). The most interesting issue about these two rivers is that both rivers serve as large travel path for carrying goods and services amongst the natives who reside along the two rivers and hinterland people. Both rivers serve as alternative routes for traders long before the coming of Europeans and up till date, both rivers are still serving the same purpose. While this could be seen as blessings for the people and government, because they facilitate easy movement of goods and services, they equally present potential for danger to the people and corporate existence of Nigeria especially if the activities on their water ways are not adequately managed, checked, monitored and protected. The threat on the waterways could be classified into two categories, namely, internal and external factors.

The Internal threats are those emanating from within, even where the instigation and support originate from an external source. Such threats include ethno-political conflicts, smuggling, piracy/sea robbery, poaching, pollution, illegal bunkering and illegal crude oil lifting. Others include pipeline vandalization, sabotage and drug trafficking. These are internal threats to Nigeria's corporate existence, which can undermine the country's economic well-being. The past regimes in Nigeria had gone through problem of oil theft, illegal bunkering, pipeline vandalization without tangible political will to solve the problems associated with these

perennial economic sabotages against the state (Vivian, Ali, Okafor, & Michael, 2022, p.89). Presently, the menace has reached unimaginable level under the regime of President Muhammad Buhari. The economic challenge has hindered the country's ability to meet up with its production quota raised to 1.83 million barrels per day on 4th August, 2022 based on the Organisation of Petroleum Exportation Countries OPEC decision (Okechukwu, 2022). This has created shortfall in foreign exchange earnings. It has equally put serious pressure on the naira which has led to inflation, as well made it difficult for government to manage high rate of price of food stuff and efficient service delivery. This was reported by *Premium Times* (Sept. 15th, 2022). It buttresses the argument raised above with the following analysis:

Nigeria's inflation rate surged to 20.52% in August, the highest since September 2005. The inflation figure rose from 19.64% recorded in July, according to details of the inflation figures published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Thursday 15th September, 2022. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) report by the NBS showed that Nigeria's CPI rose by 1.77% on a month-on-month basis, compared to the 1.82% increase recorded in the previous month. (Oladeinde, 2022)

The figure above has shown inability of government to meet the requirements of citizens in term of feeding, shelter and provision of adequate security. The nefarious activities of bad elements on our waterways which serve as gate ways to other countries is a great obstacle to economic development in Nigeria. These factors are, indeed, internal factors that cannot be taken away from external factors causing problems on Nigeria's waterways. In view of the foregoing, it is very important to examine the external issues affecting our water ways one after the others. One of the major problems or insecurity challenges off along our waterway is that water has become tactical routes for the drug barons, human traffickers and terrorists to expand the scope of their activities. For instance, shipment of arms and ammunition is becoming rampant

on our waters today. For example, as can be seen in the activities of Boko Haram, Waterways have become strategic routes for main terrorist organization like Islamic State (IS) which uses waterways and hydropower to supply fellow fighters with weapons (Tobias, 2022). This can be seen in Syria, where Euphrates Dam source of electricity power was held for several hours a day to supply Raqqa where IS has its command centre. Use of major water routes are aiding shipment of weapons to the base of terrorist groups in Nigeria which must be suppressed at all cost because the Nigerian government spends huge amount of money to suppress the Boko Haram. However, it is almost becoming impossible to get desirable results. For instance, Reuters reports that:

Nigerian authorities seized a ship and arrested its fifteen (15) Russian crew members on suspicion of arms smuggling, after they found several guns and about 8,500 rounds of ammunition on the boat. The vessel belonged to the Moran Security Group, based in Moscow, and was flying a Dutch flag. This is an example of nefarious activities on Nigeria's water ways which has negative impact on the security and economy (Tim, 2012).

In a similar vein, within Sahel and the Lake Chad Regions involve in diversion of national stockpile by rogue officials especially in crises ridden countries like Libya and Mali with sole intent of gun running and trading across conflict areas. These were also evidence of diversion by arms dealers and other collaborators in West Africa using forged End User Certificate documents and certification to evade inspections. This has in the past led to a large cache of arms purportedly destined for Nigeria but diverted to Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. And also, cases of diversion through transshipment, especially across the strategic maritime routes of the Gulf of Guinea by rogues, shipping companies and agents. Specifically, border regions between Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso, for example, constitute a key geographical area for the transport of goods across the Sahel. This area occupies a strategic position as service as a conduit between the Gulf of Guinea, coastal countries and the remote

Northern Sahel-Sahara region represents an entry point for goods destined for its landlocked northern neighbours of Mali and Burkina Faso. Also, the proximity of Lake Chad and Sahel region to Nigeria has made weapon, illicit drugs trafficking flow into the country with little no check.

The Need to Check Criminal on Nigerian Waterways

From the available information, drug trafficking through the nation's water ways is another activity which pose a great threat to the economy. This is because the proceeds from drug trade are usually laundered to fuel inflation and aid terrorism. Very worrisomely, the likelihood of Nigeria's water ways being used as conduit in the drug trade is high. Very sanctions that could be imposed on Nigeria as a result of being labeled a decertified nation by the US drug law agency could have negative impacts on the nation's economy. Nigeria's water ways are also illegal channels that encourage Illegal bunkering of crude oil and refined products. This constitutes another problem that is assuming increasing frightening dimensions. These practices are capable of denying the nation of the much-needed revenue from refined petroleum products, and crude oil by way of taxes and foreign exchange. Other adverse effects of these practices are manifested in the scarcity of petroleum products for domestic consumption and deprivation of job opportunities for the unemployed youths, which are big problems in Nigeria. Between 2001 and 2002, SPDC lost an average of 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day (Olufemi, 2022). This translates into billions of naira in revenue lost by the government. Presently, according to Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPL), an average of 437,000 barrels of oil is stolen on daily basis by criminals in Nigeria through water ways. This made Nigeria to recorded lower production in the first seven months of the year 2022. In January 2022, the production stood at 1.4 million barrels per day but as of July, 2022 the production went lower to 1.1 million barrels per day (Michael, 2009).

Nigerian government must guide against the issue that played out in Syria, where IS activities led to the pollution of water in order to discredit government. It caused shortage of water. This made up to 40% of water less

drinkable after ten (10) years of war (Adnan, 2021). If Nigerian government allows the activities of terrorist, drug barons and other criminal elements who are using the water ways for illicit business to have free day without check, this could be detrimental to the corporate existence of Nigeria as a state. Lastly, it is a known fact, the journey by speedboat from Gelegele port, Edo State to Epe, Lagos State last for only 45 minutes. This proximity supposed to fast-track economic activities of the western states including Edo State. Regrettably, reverse is the case, it only helps the activities of kidnappers within shortest possible time across Edo, Ondo and Lagos States within 45 minutes on water. A journey that will last almost 7 – 8 hours by road. If criminality on our water ways is well managed, some meaningful activities that can translate to economic boom will be seen within the riverine areas of the above-mentioned states, which will have positive multiplies economic effects on even the hinterland states.

Conclusion

It is not an overstatement to conclude that the effects of climate change and criminal activities on Nigerian waterways contribute immensely to the problem of internal security which Nigeria is going today. Since it is not possible to stop people from moving from one location to the other within the country, it is certain that the problems arising from force migration of people cannot be eliminated. However, it can be better managed to galvanize the required development in the affected communities and in the country at large. To curtail the effects of climate change, particularly the migration of people along border areas adequate measure must be put in place by the government along the various routes linking different communities. Similarly, government must adopt an effective policing system on our waterways with the use of good Artificial Intelligent (AI) equipment. This will help to check criminal activities, particularly on our water ways, thereby enabling businesses on waters to thrive appropriately. It will also enable the upland routes to be safe for people to carry out legal business activities that will yield good profit for the people and government across board. While good surveillance is expected on water ways, it should

also be extended to all land borders for effective monitoring of illegal immigrants across all states bordering particularly Nigeria's international territories.

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