

Boundary Dispute Resolution and National Security, Prospect and Challenges

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SUMMARY

Boundary disputes have been a fundamental issue in human history, its resolution has been the evolution of different mechanisms. There is scarcely any state in Nigeria which has not been involved in boundary disputes with its neighbours, many resulted into killings, maiming and wanton destruction of properties. Also of the four Nigeria land border nations there is no one that boundary issues was never an issue. All these have negative effects on the national security of Nigeria. An efficient boundary resolution mechanism is a potent tool for national security. From the colonial era, there had been several attempts to resolve emerging boundary issues, till today efforts are ongoing to resolve as many disputes as possible at the internal (interstate) and international levels. However, many conflicts still persist. The major objective of this study is to examine the success or otherwise of the existing boundary resolution mechanisms and its effects on the national security. The study adopted a cross sectional design using field survey and interview as the research design instruments for sourcing both the quantitative and qualitative data. Out of the 200 questionnaires administered, 189 were retrieved. The data were presented using simple statistical tools and analysed in logical descriptive forms. The study reveals that the respondents are well aware of the boundary disputes, and the havoc it has wrecked in the community and the various efforts of government to resolve it. Furthermore, the findings also revealed that the resolution methods are not exhaustive in nature; as much as a good progress has been recorded by the intervention of the National Boundary Commission in resolving the numerous boundary disputes across the states (interstates) and the international boundaries of Nigeria, these study reveals that the efforts was limited in effectiveness by numerous challenges. The findings revealed a number of gaps in the resolution methods adopted, this study therefore went further to suggest a number of measures which should be introduced, this include: a concise and regular public sensitization/enlightenment campaigns to properly orient the perception of the citizens on boundary management, possible erection of boundary wall in volatile segments and an all-inclusive resolution method among others

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to enhance better result and drastically reduce security threats through unresolved internal and external boundary disputes thereby improving the national security of Nigeria.

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