

MARITIME BORDER AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF BAKASSI PENNINSULA

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Abstract

The study was an investigation of maritime borders and security challenges in Nigeria, with Bakassi peninsula as the case study. The study revealed that several arbitrations procedures on continental shelf and maritime boundaries between nations have been carried out for several decades. The divergent claims of maritime over natural resources of the submerged portions of the earth had given rise to such claims. It is the portions of the earth that had given size to such claims. It is the position of this study that current arbitrations, particularly the ICJ judgement of 2002 that ceded the in peninsular originally in Cross River state, Nigeria to Cameroon, appears to be avoiding development of a detail express formula or procedure for boundaries delimitation. This has created both internal and external security challenges for nation's security forces in tackling teams-border crimes, arising from the absence of clear policy to combat crimes along clumsy border delimitations. It is the opinion of this investigation that the 2002 judgement has created the impression that a boundary can be delimited without historical and cultural considerations.

Keywords: Maritime, Bakassi Peninsula, Security, Africa

1. Introduction

In Africa, colonial administration and imperial occupations carved up boundaries that divided territories inhabited by indigenous societies and brought together a diversity of ethnic communities within unitary administrative structures (Adekunle, 2020; Onwugbunam et al., 2021). In Nigeria, between 1914 and 1915, British colonial administration created three regional territories that explain major internal boundaries. Within the African continent, Nigeria is bordered in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Along the coastal axis of the south-south of Nigeria is the Bakassi peninsular (Akpan, 2016). The strategic position and nature of the Bakassi peninsular makes it an important security challenge for Nigeria. Security here is used to describe the state of being free from danger or threat as well as the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm.

According to Nwankwo, Anaere, Ayuba, Okinwuyi, and Oluroda (2014), defined security as a concept does not often involve the use of military might in combating security threats or purchase as well as use of arms and ammunitions in the protection of the state and

the individuals. The authors defined security in terms of development and argued that without adequate development in a state, lives and properties of the people cannot be largely secured (Akpan, 2020; Osai, 2018). Nevertheless, the authors did not define security to include whose responsibility is it to provide security, which is needed in this paper.

Ngwube (2016) noted that security is the capacity of a state to cater for the basic needs of the people, while at the same time safeguarding the important interests of the individuals and the state from threats which could be economic, social, military, political or environmental in character. The author equally defined security to include human security as well as state security. Human security is individual-centric and involves ensuring health security, social security, food security as well as other components of human security. On the other hand, state security is defined as protection as well as promotion of the safety of the citizens of Nigeria who live in the country or abroad. However, the author did not clearly define maritime border security, which is needed in this paper.

Although, security is more attached to the military, some scholars caution its religious riots and others, all hinging on bad government, manipulation of ethnic and religious difference, etc. The second is external sources which includes military invasion, cross-national raids, subversive infiltration, sabotage, smuggling, espionage, and terrorism and cross-border criminality among a host of others. To this end, national security connotes deliberate measures to identify and ward off perceived, potential, and real threats to the nation-states (Aniekan, 2018).

The relevance of international boundaries or borders to issues of peace and security derives from their well know roles as factors of conflicts and wars between nation-states. This image of a paradox, presented by border and border lands between the scopes of limited states, has been understood by generations of border scholars of different disciplinary backgrounds. Babatunde & Abdulsalam, (2021), highlights the ambiguities in terms of the fact that, borders divide and unite, bind the interior and link the exterior, they are barriers and junctions, walls and doors, organs of defence and attack. Frontier area (borderlines) can be managed as to maximize either of such functions. They can be militarised as bulwarks against neighbours or made into areas of peaceful interchange. Border security has continually posed security challenges in Nigeria, as it is witnessed in the rising internal and external violence over the years. The case of the Bakassi peninsular is even more complex owing to the loss of control of the peninsular as a result of the International Court of Justice judgement in 2002. Over the last two decades, Nigeria has been in the limelight due to various developments that affects not only the country but also its immediate neighbour Cameroon. The growth of violent extremism occasioned by BOKO HARAM with a direct impact on neighbouring nations such as Chad and Cameroon in addition to the militancy issues in the Niger Delta and other internal criminal activities compounds the nation's security challenges (Eselebor, 2019; Ferraro & Melissa, 2004).

However, one development in particular has been the challenges that permeates the Nigerian/ Cameroon border. The decades long dispute over the borders extending from Lake Chad in the north, all the way to the resource-rich Bakassi peninsular in the south. It is the latter that is major point of disagreement between Abuja and Yaoundé having produced military confrontations, thousands of displaced people, and strained relations (Ekpo, 2019; Afaha, 2010).

Security is more than military security or security from external attacks. For many of four billion inhabitants in the developing countries, security is conceived as the basic level of struggle for survival. Therefore, in order to provide an integrated African security assessment, the non-military dimensions of security should be added. Henceforth, African security as a concept should be applied in its broadest social security, environmental security, food security, the equality of life security, and technological security. As such security is linked to development. As Eze (2017); Asiwaju (2006), rightly warned any society that seeks to achieve military security against background of acute food shortage, population explosion, low level of production and per capital income, low technological development, inadequate and inefficient public

utilities, and chronic problem of unemployment has a false sense of security.

There are quite a number of ambiguities that suggest that the range of policy choices open to decision-makers is limited to only two basic alternatives- conflicts or cooperation or to paraphrase Lord Culzon's "war" or "peace" (Otor, 2014). Obviously, studies in Africa history reveals that borders before colonial penetration were quite permeable and to a great extent, allowed free movement of the people's and goods then, the people not geographic space formed the basis of frontier delimitation. Similarly, Nigeria's economy remains fragile, underdeveloped, and heavily dependent on oil, mismanagement of resources, unsuitable development plans, and the lack of welfare programme. Indeed, the economy is very important in quipping and maintaining the security agents in the pursuit of their assignment outside Nigeria's borders (Inyang, 2019). The poor demarcation of Nigeria's borders has remained a great challenge to her national security. While the western and northern borders are fairly demarcated, some parts of the eastern and north-eastern borders with Cameroon and Chad that were poorly demarcated have remained areas of contention between the three countries. Along the north-western and non-eastern axis where the borders are relatively stable, the geographic conditions makes the borders porous and therefore, represent areas of potential conflicts and security breaches; manifesting in the influx of illegal aliens who engage in various criminal activities along the border-lines areas of Nigeria (Johnson, 2017).

On the other hand, the coastal areas are vulnerable, and Nigeria as a littoral state has to contend with the increasing maritime challenges to her security. The contemporary maritime challenges within the country's results from the interplay of economics, socio-political, environmental, technological, and security factors. To this extent, it could be argued that, the safety and economic security of Nigeria largely depends on the secure use of her maritime areas, including the Bakassi peninsular (Oyebode, 2016). In USA for instance, since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the federal government has reviewed and strengthened all of its strategies to combat the evolving threat in the war on terrorism. Various departments have each carried out maritime security strategies which have provided an effective layer of security since 2001 (Mbakwe, 2020). In December 2004, the president of USA directed the secretaries of the Department of defence and homeland security to lead the federal effort to develop a comprehensive national strategy for maritime security, to better integrate and synchronise the existing department-level strategies and ensure their effective and efficient implementation. Maritime security is best achieved by blending public and private maritime security activities on a global scale into an integrated effort that addresses all maritime threats. The new national strategy for maritime security aligns all federal government maritime security programs and initiatives into a comprehensive and cohesive national effort involving appropriate federal, state, local, and private sector entities (Adewale, 2021). In addition to this strategy, the departments have developed eight supporting plans to address different aspects of maritime security, they are mutually linked and reinforce each other. This plan includes: National plan to achieve domain awareness, Global

maritime intelligence integration plan, Interim maritime operational threat response plan, International outreach and coordination strategy, Maritime infrastructure recovery plan, Maritime transportation system security plan, Maritime commerce security plan (Presidential directives 2004).

Domestic outreach plan development of these plans were guided by security principles outlined in this national strategy for maritime security. These plans will be updated on a periodic basis in response to changes in the maritime threat, the world environment, and national security policies. Together, the national strategy for maritime security and its eight supporting plans presents a comprehensive national effort to promote global economic stability and protect legitimate activities while preventing hostile or illegal acts within the maritime domain (Ngwube, 2016; Alumona et al., 2019)). The main objective of the study is to investigate the effects of maritime border security challenges in Nigeria. To achieve this purpose, the following secondary objectives have been outlined: to examine the security situation and challenges faced by Nigerians in the bakassi peninsula, to highlight the effects of the ICJ's judgment in respect of the bakassi peninsula on the Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border relations, to examine the impact of the bakassi peninsula maritime border crises on Nigeria's socio-economic development, to evaluate Nigeria's strategies and policies for improving maritime border security challenges, to examine Nigerian governments security management of the ICJ decisions and compliance structure on the green tree accord.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 The study area

The Bakassi peninsular in Cross River state has been a maritime border between Nigeria and Cameroon for several decades. Bakassi peninsular is along the coastal axis of the south-south region of Nigeria, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. Bakassi occupy a strategic position, making it an important security challenge that permeate the Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border.

The Bakassi peninsular was for several years the major point of border conflict between Nigeria and Cameroon before the ICC judgement which gave the peninsular to the Cameroon.

2.2 The population of the study

The researcher considered all the residents of Bakassi local government area and its environs as potential respondents for the study. Consequently, two hundred and seventy-two (272) research questionnaires were distributed among the residents. However, out of the 272 research questionnaires that were distributed, two hundred and thirty (230) of the questionnaires were duely completed and returned to the researcher.

Thus, these two hundred and thirty (230) residents who completed and returned the research questionnaires constituted the study population, as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Questionnaires returned}=230 \times 100}{\text{Questionnaires distributed}=272 \times 100} = 84.6\%$$

This implies that 84.6% of the residents of the local government area and its environs who were interviewed formed the study population.

2.3 Data Analysis

Both the primary and secondary sources of data collection were use in obtaining data for the study. The primary source of data collection involved the collection of opinion, views, and answers through observations, oral personal interviews, and research questionnaire. The secondary source of data collection

for the study involved a review of existing literatures on the subject matter and related studies such as textbooks, journals, magazines, as well as government publications The collections of data for the study was done with the use of a standard research questionnaire designed for resident of Bakassi Local Government Area and its environs. The questionnaire contained twelve (12) research items structured in two sections: section one contained four (4) items which sought background information of the respondents including sex, age, educational qualification, and length of stay in the study area. Section two of the research questionnaire contained eight (8) close-ended research items or statement on the effects maritime-border security challenges in Nigeria. Each statement was designed to provide four close-ended options in a four-Likert-scale form, from which the research respondents were required to state their level of agreement or disagreement to the statements, as shown below:

SA – Strongly Agree

A – Agree

D – Disagree

SD – Strongly Disagree

This method of research questionnaire construction was aimed at providing uniformity in respondents' answers, views, and opinions on the subject matter to make analysis of data collected easier.

2.4 Data treatment techniques

In order to bring meaning to bear on data collected for the study, the chi-square (χ^2) statistical analysis technique was adopted for the study. The aim of this technique application was to test hypotheses that does not depend on the assumption that had to do with the distribution. The chi-square (χ^2) statistical analysis method is denoted by the following statistical formula:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$$

Where:

Fo= observed frequencies

Fe= expected frequencies

Σ = summation

χ^2 = computed chi-square

2.5 Test of research hypotheses

Three research hypothesis were formulated for the study in null position. The data used for testing the three null hypotheses was obtained through the respondents responses to statements in section two of the research questionnaire.

3. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this section, we analyse the research questions from the respondent. More so, two hundred and seventy-two (272) questionnaires were distributed, but only two hundred and thirty (230) was returned. A total of two hundred and thirty (230) respondents who resides in Bakassi local government area and environs were drawn to participate in the investigation as the major source of primary data. However, responses from the respondent on the questionnaire and research hypotheses are subsumed under the analysis of research questions.

Question 1: How does the ICJ's judgment of the Nigerian-Cameroon maritime border dispute over the Bakassi peninsula affects Nigeria's maritime security policies? This response was gotten from statement 9 and 11 of the questionnaire respectively and generally analysed under hypothesis one.

Statement 9: the international courts of Justice (ICJ) judgement on the Nigeria-Cameroon border conflict in 2002, has had a huge negative impact on the on the socio-economic lives of Cross-Riverians.

TABLE 1: RESIDENTS RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	%
Strongly agree	148	64.3%
Agree	-	-
Disagree	82	35.7%
Strongly disagree	-	-
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

Table 1 above reveals that 148(64.3%) of the residents interviewed strongly agreed with the statement, while 82(35.7%) of them held a contrary opinion.

Statement 11: the inability of the Nigerian military to rise to the challenge of combating security challenges in the maritime borders of the nation, has left citizens in the areas vulnerable to foreign attacks.

Table 2: RESIDENTS' RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	%
Strongly agree	-	-
Agree	118	51.3%
Disagree	112	48.7%
Strongly disagree	-	-
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

Table 2: above reveals that 118(51.3%) of the residents were in agreement with the statement, while 112(48.7%) of them had a contrary opinion on the issue.

Hypothesis one:

There is a significant relationship or no significant relationship between the ICJ'S judgement on the Nigeria-Cameroon border crises and Nigeria's maritime security policies. To test this hypothesis, statements 9 and 11 were used in determining the level of correlation between border crises management and Nigeria's maritime security policies.

Table 3: RESIDENTS' RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR

STATEMENT	RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR		TOTAL
	AGREEMENT	DISAGREEMENT	
9	148	82	230
11	118	112	230
TOTAL	266	194	460

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

With the figures obtained from Table 3 above, the expected frequencies (EY) for this hypothesis are calculated with the use of the following formula:

$$EY = \frac{T_i \times T_1}{T_g}$$

Where: T_i = total respondents to each statement.
 T_1 = total respondents to a particular option.
 T_g = total respondents to the two statements.

Thus;

$$1,1 \frac{230 \times 266}{460} = 133$$

$$1,2 \frac{230 \times 194}{460} = 97$$

$$2,1 \frac{230 \times 266}{460} = 133$$

$$2,2 \frac{230 \times 194}{460} = 97$$

Using the results of expected frequencies obtained from Table 3 above, the chi-square (χ^2) is computed as follows:

Table 3.1: COMPUTED CHI-SQUARE

R,C	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe) ²	(Fo-Fe) ² /Fe
1, 1	148	133	15	225	1.69
1, 2	82	97	-15	225	2.3
2, 1	118	133	-15	225	1.69
2, 2	112	97	15	225	2.3
					7.98

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$$

The chosen level of significance is 0.05 or 5%. Using the chi-square (χ^2) table of distribution, the critical chi-square value obtained at 0.5 or 5% level of significance with a degree of freedom (DF) is 3.841.

The computed chi-square of 7.98 is obtained from Table 14 above. Decision rule: since the value of the computed chi-square (χ^2) of 7.98 is far greater than the critical chi-square value of 3.841, the null hypotheses is rejected and the alternate accepted. This implies that maritime border crises management has a strong correlation with efficient maritime security policies of government.

Research Question II: What impact has the Bakassi peninsula crises on the socio-economic activities of the Nigerian citizens? This response was gotten from statement 5 and 6 of the questionnaire respectively and generally analysed under hypothesis two.

Statement 5: The absence of clean appropriate strategies to combat the increasing threat by piracy has greatly affected the economy of cross-river state.

Table 4: RESIDENTS' RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	14	6.0%
Agree	112	35.0%
Disagree	63	27.2%
Strongly disagree	41	17.8%
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

Table 4 above indicates that 14(6.0%) of the residents interviewed strongly agree, 112(35%) of them agreed, 63(27.2%) and 41 (17.8%) of them disagreed and strongly agreed respectively with the statement.

Statement 6: border security in the Bakassi peninsular is continually posing serious challenges to the cross-river state government that has no direct control over the military.

Table 5: RESIDENTS' RESONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTION	FREQUENCY	%
Strongly agree	-	-
Agree	134	58.3%
Disagree	72	31.3%
Strongly disagree	24	10.4%
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

From Table 5 above, 134(58.3%) of the residents interviewed agreed with the statement, while 72(31.3%) and 24(10.4%) of them disagree and strongly disagreed respectively with the statement.

Hypotheses two:

Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border crises at the Bakassi peninsular has correlation or no correlation with the socio-economic activities of Nigerian citizens. To test the relationship between border crises and socio-economic activities of citizens, statements 5 and 6 were used.

Table 6: RESIDENTS' RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR

STATEMENT	RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR		TOTAL
	AGREEMENT	DISAGREEMENT	
5	126	104	230
6	134	96	230
TOTAL	260	200	460

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

With the figures obtained from Table 6 above, the expected frequencies (EY) for the hypotheses two are calculated as

$$1,1 \frac{230 \times 260}{460} = 130$$

$$1,2 \frac{230 \times 200}{460} = 100$$

$$2,1 \frac{230 \times 260}{460} = 130$$

$$2,2 \frac{230 \times 260}{460} = 100$$

With the results of expected frequencies (EY) above, the chi-square (χ^2) for hypotheses two is computed as follows:

Table 6.1: COMPUTED CHI-SQUARE

R,C	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe)	(Fo-Fe) ² /Fe
1, 1	126	139	-4	16	0.12
1, 2	104	100	4	16	0.16
2, 1	134	130	4	16	0.12
2, 2	96	100	-4	16	0.16
					0.56

The chosen level of significance is 0.5 or 5%. With the use of the chi-square (χ^2) distribution table, the critical chi-square value of 3.841 is obtained at significance with a degree of freedom (DF).

The computed chi-square (χ^2) value of 0.56 was obtained from Table 16 above.

Decision rule: since the computed chi-square (χ^2) value of 0.56 is less than the critical chi-square value of 3.841, the hypothesis which states that Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border crises at the

Bakassi peninsula has no correlation with the socio-economic activities of Nigerian citizens, is accepted.

Research Question III: In what specific ways has the Nigerian government’s management of the ICJ’s decision and compliance structure affected the nation’s maritime border security policies? This response was gotten from statement 7 and 10 of the questionnaire respectively and generally analysed under hypothesis three.

Statement 7: the security challenges faced by the people of Cross River State have been compounded by political domination and inequality, socio-economic injustices, mismanagement of resources, and poor leadership.

Table 7: RESIDENTS’ RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTION	FREQUENCY	%
Strongly agree	-	-
Agree	137	59.6%
Disagree	93	40.4%
Strongly disagree	-	-
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

Table 7 above indicates that 137(59.6%) of the residents agreed with statement 7, while 93(40.4%) of them were in disagreement.

Statement 10: the inability of the Nigerian government to handle the Nigeria-Cameroon border crisis consequently upon the ceding of the Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon has engender the growth of militancy among youths in the area.

Table 8: RESIDENTS’ RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	%
Strongly agree	33	14.3%
Agree	78	34.0%
Disagree	119	51.7%
Strongly disagree	-	-
	230	100%

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

From table 8 above, 33(14.3%) and 78(34.0%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 119(51.7%) of them were of a different opinion.

Hypotheses three:

There is no significance relationship between Nigerian government management of the ICJs judgement and Nigerian-Cameroon border relations. To test this hypotheses, statements 7 and 10 were used to ascertain the level of relationship between the two variables.

Table 9: RESPONDENTS’ RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR

STATEMEN T	RESPONSE BEHAVIOUR		TOTA L
	AGREEMEN	DISAGREEMEN	

	T	T	
7	137	93	230
10	111	119	230
TOTAL	248	212	460

Source: research questionnaire, 2017

With the figures obtained from Table 17 above, the expected frequencies (EY) for the hypotheses there is calculated as follows:

$$1,1 \frac{230 \times 248}{460} = 124$$

$$1,2 \frac{230 \times 212}{460} = 106$$

$$2,1 \frac{230 \times 248}{460} = 124$$

$$2,2 \frac{230 \times 212}{460} = 106$$

The results of the expected frequencies obtained from Table 17, the chi-square (x2) for the hypotheses is computed as follows:

Table 9.1: COMPUTED CHI-SQUARE

R,C	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe)	(Fo-Fe) ² /Fe
1, 1	137	124	13	169	1.40
1, 2	93	106	-13	169	1.60
2, 1	111	124	-13	169	1.40
2, 2	119	106	13	169	1.60
					6.00

The chosen level of significance is 0.5 or 5%. With the use of the chi-square(x2) distribution table, the critical chi-square values of 3.842 is obtained at 0.5 or 5% level of significance with a degree of freedom (DF).

The computed chi-square (X2) value of 6.00 is obtained from Table 18 above.

Decision rule: since the computed chi-square (X2) value of 6.00 is greater than the critical chi-square value of 3,841, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate is accepted.

4. Discussion of findings

This study investigated the effects of maritime border security challenges in Nigeria, using the Bakassi peninsular as the case study. The results of the investigation are discussed here on hypotheses by hypotheses basis.

The result of hypotheses one which sought to establish the impact of Nigeria’s maritime security policies on the country’s border crises management showed a highly significant correlation between the two variables. Table 9 indicates that the residents interviewed, 64.3% of them were of the opinion that the ICJs judgment of 2002 that ceded the peninsula to Cameroon, has

negatively impacted on the socio-economic lives of the residents. Similarly, the table 11 reveals that 51.3% of the residents interviewed believed that the inability of the Nigerian military to rise to the challenges of combating insecurity in the maritime borders of the nation has left the citizens more vulnerable to foreign attacks, especially from Cameroon.

The results of hypotheses two equally showed a significant correlation between the negative effects of Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border crisis on the socio-economic activities of residents of the affected communities. Table 5 reveals that 41% of the respondents were of the opinion that the absence of clear appropriate strategies to combat the increasing threats posed by sea piracy along the maritime borders has greatly affected both economy of cross-river state as well as those of the adjoining states. Furthermore, table 6 shows that 58% of the interviewed residents contended that border security in the Bakassi peninsular has continued to pose serious challenges to the people and the government of cross-river state, due to the lack of direct control over the military and other security agencies.

Hypotheses three sought to establish the impact of Nigeria's government handling of the ICJ's judgment on the subsequent Nigeria-Cameroon maritime relations. The results indicates that Table 7 shows that 59.6% of the residents of the affected areas viewed the security challenges faced by the people of the state have been compounded by the federal government political domination and equality, socio-economic injustices as well as poor leadership. Equally, table 10 reveals that 48.3% of the residents believed that the inability of the federal government to handle the border crises as demanded by the facts available, was out of bad faith.

Similarly, a study by Babatunde and Abdulsalam (2021) focused on the development of international as well as municipal laws on maritime safety as well as security, which is related to the focus of this study. The findings by the authors showed that functional, legal, institutional, and policy measures for tackling maritime insecurity in Nigeria would mitigate the challenge posed by maritime criminality in the country, which is largely related to the findings from this study.

5. Conclusion

For several decades, there have been a number of arbitration procedures on continental shelf and maritime boundaries between nations. This has arisen because of the divergent claims of maritime nations over natural resources of the submerged portions of the world. It is within this context that the Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border security crises was examined in the course of this investigation. Arising from such highly explosive situations that the United Nations Commission on the law of the Sea spelt out that a coastal nation exercise sovereign right over the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring its natural resources. It is in the exercise of this law that bordering nations find solace in the claim of territorial ownership of maritime borders. Paradoxically, this investigation views current arbitrations as seeming to be avoiding development of a detail express formula or procedure for delimitating boundary lines. In a most explicit statement, the ICJ in the Tunisia-Libya dispute observed "each continental shelf case in

dispute should be considered and judged on its own merits, having regard to its peculiar circumstances; therefore, no attempt should be made to over-conceptualise the applications of the principles and rules relating to the continental shelf" Nigeria is creating a comprehensive maritime security to guarantee safety in its territorial waters and the gulf of Guinea. It is the view of this study that this kind of framework creates the impression that a boundary can be delimited. It is within the context of this understanding that this investigation concludes that such a situation tends to alter the principles of sanctity of colonial frontiers of "uti possedetisjus" doctrine.

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