**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, PROHIBITION ACT AND THE RISE IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGEERIA**

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*ABSTRACT*

*This article focuses on the alarming problem of human trafficking in Nigeria, which has persisted in spite of the existence of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act, and the efforts of the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons. A thorough study of the phenomenon has revealed its primary cause as abject poverty which constraints some indigent people to be hoodwinked as victims, economic instability, unreliable social policies, mass unemployment, and ignorance of the dangers of human trafficking. Other causes include lack of reasonable future prospects, disintegration of family structure, increasing demand for sex workers abroad, demand for cheap domestic servants and plantation workers overseas. The impediments to its eradication include insufficient campaign and public enlightenment about its dangers, inadequate implementation of the National Policy on control of human trafficking, the secret nature of the activities of traffickers, and shortcomings on the part of the anti-trafficking Act. The article calls for an intensive campaign to expose the dangers of human trafficking, as well as judicious implementation of the National Policy and grassroots monitoring to disband traffic gangs, arrest and prosecute traffickers and rehabilitate the victims.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a large scale and ever-growing global criminal industry. The Nigerian *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003* defines trafficking as the act of recruiting, harbouring and transporting a person to another location through deception, coercion or debt bondage for illegal placement in servitude, unpleasant or forced labour.[[1]](#footnote-1) The victims are trafficked voluntarily or involuntarily for such exploitative purposes as commercial sex, sex with animals, seduction, pornography, child labour, drug pushing, armed conflict, rituals, debt bondage, servitude, baby harvest and sales, organ harvest and sales, slavery, coercion, fraud or deception. It has been described as sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harbouring, transportation provision, or obtaining of a person for labour or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, bondage, debt bondage, or slavery.[[2]](#footnote-2)

It is a clandestine and lucrative global business for the traffickers, notwithstanding the risks to the victims and the violations of their human rights. It is contrary to international norms, including article IV of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*[[3]](#footnote-3) and exposes the victims to live under circumstances in which their human rights and freedoms cannot be realised.[[4]](#footnote-4) Being a trans-national crime, in the sense this felonious undertakings usually involve more than one country in the preparation, implementation, or effect, it seriously jeopardizes the image of the country. It is inelegant for Nigerians to become objects of trade, sex bondage, forced labour, slavery and exploitation, in violation of section 34(1) of the 1999 Constitution, which guarantees the right to dignity of human person, and prohibits inhuman and degrading treatment, slavery, servitude, or forced and compulsory labour.[[5]](#footnote-5) The fate of the victims ought to arouse the sympathy and concern of any conscientious person and nation.

This article addresses the menace of human trafficking in Nigeria, which has defied the efforts made so far in combating it. It examines the general nature of human trafficking, its scope in the case of Nigeria, the anti-trafficking laws and policies, and performance of the *National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons,* and the hindrances to the control of the problem. The article also proffers ideas for effective control of the menace.

2. NATURE AND TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Human trafficking involves the illicit exportation, exploitation and commercialization of children, women and men for sexual exploitation, involuntary labour or even outright sale of children. Trafficked persons are generally subjected to physical assault, deprivation, abuse, health hazards such as HIV/AIDS, STIs, mental disorders and other related problems.[[6]](#footnote-6) It generally involves exploitative labour, sexual abuse or slavery.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Being an organized crime with international syndicates,[[8]](#footnote-8) *human traffickers move their victims to Europe through North Africa by caravan most often forcing their victims to cross the desert on foot. In the process many die even as the survivors are subjected to all forms of indignity, in the bid to repay the heavy debts owed their ‘benefactors’ by way of travel expenses.[[9]](#footnote-9)* Whenever caught by legitimate authorities in those countries, the victims are invariably repatriated[[10]](#footnote-10) while the criminals would be prosecuted. Yet, traffickers are not deterred by this or by strict prohibitive laws, but are motivated by the incentives which include high demand, huge profits, and less risk of arrest.

Internal and external human trafficking is practised in Nigeria, each on a despicably large scale. Internal trafficking involves migration from rural areas in some states to cities in other states for exploitative domestic work, farm labour, hawking, prostitution, and organized begging. It has been stated that 40 per cent of Nigerian street children and hawkers are victims of trafficking.[[11]](#footnote-11) This aspect is not the focus of this article, although it is equally a social stigma bordering on exploitation and violation of human rights, which ought to be prevented.

External human trafficking, on the other hand, involves the recruitment and trafficking of Nigeria girls, women and men, to other countries for forced sex and forced labour. The women and girls are used for forced prostitution, while the male victims are used as cheap labourers in plantations and in some cases may be sodomise. It has been stated that the lives of smuggled migrants are often put at risk; that thousands of them have suffocated in containers, perished in deserts or drowned at sea.[[12]](#footnote-12) Their smugglers often conduct their activities with little or no regard for the lives of the people whose hardships have created a demand for smuggling services.[[13]](#footnote-13) It is inhuman and deplorable, involving the exploitation of fellow human beings due largely to poverty and precarious economic conditions in their home countries. To date, Nigeria is rated as a source, transit route and destination country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced labour and forced prostitution.[[14]](#footnote-14)

Trafficking involves turning human desperation and agony into a huge profitable venture by entrapping, manipulating and enslaving the victims as sex slaves and cheap manual labourers. It has been stated that: “*The fact that a person has consented to be smuggled does not mean that he or she has necessarily consented to the treatment he or she receives throughout the process. Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to exploitation, with many beginning their journey as migrants and becoming victims of trafficking.”*[[15]](#footnote-15) Due to the huge profits and their connections with international criminal organisations, the traffickers are usually able to manoeuvre and escape national and international monitoring and convey the victims at great dangers to their lives. Analysts are particularly puzzled about the shift in focus from trans-border trade in adults to impressionable young people, because they are easier to exploit and manipulate.*[[16]](#footnote-16)* Thus, Nigerians are confronted daily with the harrowing reports of the interception of lorry loads of kids packed like sardines being moved into virtual slavery in other countries.*[[17]](#footnote-17)*

Baby trafficking is another form, which operates particularly in the eastern part of the country. There are baby factories where several girls mostly around the ages of 14 to 20 years are recruited and camped, and one or a few young men engaged to impregnate them. The girls are usually malnourished, and when they deliver, the babies are collected while they are paid about pittance and sent away. The babies are then sold at amounts ranging from N1 million and above depending on the gender.[[18]](#footnote-18) It has been stated that *“at least ten children are sold every day across the country, according to the UN.[[19]](#footnote-19)*

The traffickers are seldom caught, and even when caught, they easily buy their way through because of the weak criminal justice regime in Nigeria.*[[20]](#footnote-20)* Teen ladies and owners of illegal orphanages also sell babies quite rampantly at amounts ranging from N100,000 to N450,000.*[[21]](#footnote-21)* Commenting on this problem, the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP stated thus:

*First of all, we found that people were beginning to keep farms where they have certain number of girls with men coming in to impregnate them and thereafter giving the girls small fees and then selling babies at huge prices to desperate parents … We have been working very closely with the Nigerian police and there have been quite a number of notable arrests, especially in the Southwest. NAPTIP was one of the first to raise the alarm against baby selling …[[22]](#footnote-22)*

The enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 and subsequent establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) were meant to address these vices. Since 22 years of the existence of the law and the implementing agency have been insufficient to dislodge the channels and suppress the crime, their operational modalities should be re-assessed.

3. SCOPE AND DESTINATIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Although human trafficking is a global problem, Nigeria is one of the countries where it is practised on a very large and embarrassing scale.[[23]](#footnote-23) It has been described as a menace which has, for several years now thrived unabated, in spite of the efforts being made to eradicate it.[[24]](#footnote-24) Nigeria has repeatedly been described as “a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.”[[25]](#footnote-25) One problem with human trafficking in Nigeria is that there is no accurate or consistent data about the number of victims, due to the clandestine nature of the operations. The Executive Secretary of NAPTIP recently commented on this aspect as follows:

*To be honest, I cannot give you a precise figure, but it is an offence that is hardly reported. About 2.5 million are trafficked annually and substantial numbers of them are Nigerians. In most capitals in Europe, at least six out of ten of the trafficked persons are identified as Nigerians. Like I said, there is no accurate data because it is not reported as it should. Quite many victims are afraid to come out and report. I am sure the sights in major capitals in Nigeria give you the idea of how bad the problem is … For us to fix a projection on the number will not be accurate. But it’s a huge concern I should say.[[26]](#footnote-26)*

There are certain statistics about the number of Nigerian women and girls who are trafficked monthly to Russia, Western Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central Africa for prostitution, while the male victims are used as cheap, forced labourers in plantations. These women and girls are recruited mostly from the rural areas, and sometimes from the urban cities. They are subjected to forced prostitution in Italy, Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Russia.[[27]](#footnote-27) Some are recruited and trafficked to North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia and held captive in sex trade or forced labour.[[28]](#footnote-28) Others are trafficked to Malaysia and forced into prostitution and to work as drug mules for their traffickers.[[29]](#footnote-29)

With regard to child trafficking, Nigerian boys are trafficked for forced labour, domestic service, mining, stone quarries, agriculture, and begging.[[30]](#footnote-30) It has been stated that 15,027,612 working children exist in Nigeria, out of which 56 per cent are in school while 42 per cent are found in house-keeping activities, and two million are exposed to 15 hours of work or more.[[31]](#footnote-31) An ILO/UNICEF report revealed in 2003 that 8 million Nigerian children underwent the worst forms of child labour, serving as domestic servants, beggars, street hawkers and prostitutes.[[32]](#footnote-32) The ILO has also stated that over 500,000 Nigerians are victims of forced labour, excluding Nigerians who are trafficked abroad for various forms of forced labour.[[33]](#footnote-33)

The then Nigerian Ambassador to Russia Mr. Assam Assam disclosed in June 2013 that no fewer than 200 Nigerian girls are trafficked monthly to Russia for prostitution,[[34]](#footnote-34) which simply corroborates the above *U.S Department of State 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report for Nigeria*. Yet Russia is not the only destination. Many more are simultaneously transported to some other countries for prostitution and servile domestic work, while the male victims are used for forced, cheap labour in plantations and other dangerous occupations. As far back as 2002, it was stated that over 20,000 Nigerian women were involved in the sex industry in Italy.[[35]](#footnote-35) It has now been stated that 60 percent of prostitutes in Italy hail from Africa, 80 percent of which are Nigerians.[[36]](#footnote-36) Moreover, “*according to statistics, 45,000 Nigerian women are trafficked in Europe yearly to engage in a dehumanizing means to eke a living such as prostitution forced on them by barons while young children are moved across borders to mainly Gabon and Benin Republic to provide cheap labour by criminal networks*.”[[37]](#footnote-37)

It has also been stated that over 500 Nigerian women are involved in the sex trade in Bamako, Mali, while over 500 others are also practising prostitution in Burkina Faso.[[38]](#footnote-38) The former Nigerian Ambassador to Mali, Mr. Iliya Nuhu has lamented the magnitude of human trafficking, particularly the activities of some unscrupulous Nigerians who recruit young girls between the ages of 10 and 15 from their villages and towns and sell them into lives of misery. He added that about 20 to 30 girls are trafficked to Mali daily with the promise of securing for them good jobs, only to turn them to prostitutes.[[39]](#footnote-39) Regrettably, there are no consistent data regarding the trafficking of Nigerians to various destinations due to the surreptitious manner in which traffickers conduct their activities. In this connection, the incidences of human trafficking are usually under estimated and reported.

4. COMPARISON WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Human trafficking is not peculiar to Nigeria but exists in other countries in varying degrees. In terms of its global pattern, 161 countries have been found to be affected by human trafficking, 127 as countries of origin, 98 as transit countries, and 137 being destination countries, bearing in mind that in this classification, a country may be counted multiple times, and categories are not mutually exclusive.[[40]](#footnote-40)

It has been estimated[[41]](#footnote-41) that 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders every year.[[42]](#footnote-42) The number of children exploited by the commercial sex trade yearly has been put at one million.[[43]](#footnote-43) Incidentally, 50 percent of trafficked victims are children,[[44]](#footnote-44) while 80 percent of transnational victims are women and girls.[[45]](#footnote-45) 70 percent of these female victims are trafficked into the commercial sex industry, while 30 percent are victims of forced labour.[[46]](#footnote-46)

In terms of its income to the traffickers, the human trafficking industry generates a total of $32 billion as yearly profits. While $15.5 billion is made in the industrialized countries, $9.7 billion is made in Asia, and the average income generated by each forced labourer is $13,000 but can be as high as $67,200 per victim per year.[[47]](#footnote-47) These data clearly indicate that human trafficking is practised in most other countries as well, though to a lesser degree.

5. EXTANT LAWS FOR CONTROL OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

There are several laws prohibiting human trafficking in Nigeria. One of these is the Child’s Right Act,[[48]](#footnote-48) which guarantees to the child all the fundamental human rights contained in the Nigerian constitution just as they are guaranteed to adults.[[49]](#footnote-49) It also guarantees the right to dignity of the child[[50]](#footnote-50) as well as the right to free, compulsory universal primary education.[[51]](#footnote-51) It prohibits the marriage of a person that is under 18 years of age and stipulates punishment for any person who betroths, promotes the marriage of, or marries a child.[[52]](#footnote-52) A term of life imprisonment is fixed for any person who exposes a child to use, produce, traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. Abduction or removal and transfer of a child from lawful custody of the parents or guardian out of the country and without their consent carries a term of imprisonment of 15 years, and if the removal is without the intention to return the child to Nigeria,[[53]](#footnote-53) it carries 20 years imprisonment.

Section 28 of the Act prohibits, with stiff penalty, the subjection of a child to exploitative labour, while section 30 prohibits the buying, selling, hiring or otherwise dealing in children for the purpose of hawking, or begging for alms or prostitution. It stipulates a term of imprisonment of ten years for the offence, which is very prevalent in Nigeria. The Act stipulates imprisonment of 14 years for having an unlawful sexual intercourse with a child, and it is no defence that the offender believed the person to be above 18 years, or that the sexual intercourse was with the child’s consent.[[54]](#footnote-54) Generally, every form of exploitation of a child which is prejudicial to his or her welfare is prohibited with severe penalty for breach.

The principal statute that comprehensively criminalises the offence is the *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003. It* establishes the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Person as an institutional framework and vests it with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute persons engaging in human trafficking, and rehabilitate trafficked persons. In terms of prohibition of trafficking of a female for prostitution or sexual exploitation, it focuses only on females who are below eighteen years of age, (hereinafter referred to ‘*a girl*’ for brevity.) Under the Act, it is an offence punishable with life imprisonment to export from, or import into Nigeria, a girl with the likelihood of her being forced or seduced into prostitution.[[55]](#footnote-55) The use of any deception, coercion, debt bondage or any other means to induce a girl to go from one place to another for the purpose of illicit sexual intercourse attracts a penalty of fourteen years imprisonment.[[56]](#footnote-56) Also any custodian of a girl who causes or encourages her seduction and prostitution commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for ten years.[[57]](#footnote-57)

Procurement of a person to have unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl, either within or outside Nigeria attracts ten years imprisonment.[[58]](#footnote-58) The same punishment obtains for procuring a girl for prostitution within or outside Nigeria, or to leave the country with intent to make her a prostitute outside.[[59]](#footnote-59) Procuring any person for pornography, production and trafficking in drugs, forced or compulsory recruitment and use in armed conflict is forbidden, infringement of which is punishable with fourteen years of imprisonment without an option of fine.[[60]](#footnote-60)

Promotion or organisation of foreign travel aimed at prostitution of any person is punishable with ten years imprisonment without the option of fine.[[61]](#footnote-61) Conspiracy to induce any girl to permit a man to have unlawful carnal knowledge with her is punishable with five years imprisonment.[[62]](#footnote-62) Unlawful detention of a girl for the same purpose attracts ten years of imprisonment. Procuring the defilement of a girl by threats, fraud or administration of drug or any stupefying substance attracts a penalty of ten years imprisonment or a fine not exceeding N200,000 ($1,200).[[63]](#footnote-63)

Kidnapping of any person from lawful guardianship is an offence. It carries various penalties ranging from five to fourteen years imprisonment without an option of fine, depending on the manner of the kidnapping.[[64]](#footnote-64) Kidnapping and abducting with intent to kill is culpable homicide, punishable with life imprisonment.[[65]](#footnote-65) The buying or selling of a person that is under the age of 18 years with intent or likelihood to employ or use her for immoral purpose is forbidden, and infringement is punishable with 14 years of imprisonment without an option of fine.[[66]](#footnote-66) Requiring a person, or permitting a place outside Nigeria to be used for forced labour is an offence that carries five years imprisonment or a fine that is not exceeding N100,000 ($600) or both.[[67]](#footnote-67)

Trafficking in slaves is prohibited by the Act. It states that any person who imports, exports, removes, buys, sells, disposes, traffics or deals in a person as a slave or accepts, receives, or detains a person against his will as a slave, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.[[68]](#footnote-68)

The Act also addresses cases of Nigerians convicted outside the country for trafficking in persons. On their return after serving the sentence in that country, they must be tried in Nigeria for bringing the image of the country into disrepute and would, on conviction, forfeit their assets to the Federal Government and also serve a term of imprisonment of not more than two years.[[69]](#footnote-69) An alien who causes or encourages the seduction or prostitution of a girl or keeps a brothel, or permits her defilement in his premises; or who procures, uses or offers a person for the production of pornography, pornographic performance or prostitution commits an offence. Conviction attracts a term of ten years imprisonment,[[70]](#footnote-70) after which he would be deported subject to the provisions of the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act.[[71]](#footnote-71) A person convicted of an attempt to commit any of the offences specified in the Act is liable to 12 months imprisonment or a fine of N50,000.00 or both.[[72]](#footnote-72) If while undergoing trial for an attempt, the evidence proves the commission of the actual offence, the offender would be convicted for the offence itself.[[73]](#footnote-73)

Where any of these offences is committed by a corporate body on the instigation or with the connivance of its Director, Manager or Secretary, the person would be liable on conviction to imprisonment for three years or to a fine of N200,000 or both.[[74]](#footnote-74) Where the corporate body is convicted, it would be liable to a fine of N2,000,000, and the court may also issue an order for its winding up and forfeiture of its assets and properties to the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund.[[75]](#footnote-75) If the offence was due to the negligence or connivance of any of these officers, or is attributable to them, the offender would be liable to imprisonment for three years or a fine of N2,000,000.00 both.[[76]](#footnote-76) In addition, a commercial carrier who knowingly carries any person in contravention of the Act is liable on conviction to two years imprisonment or a fine of N2,000,000.00 instead. Furthermore, tour operators, travel agents and airlines are required to disallow the use of their channels for trafficking, and should report offenders, failing which they would be fined by the court.[[77]](#footnote-77)

6. NATIONAL POLICY ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFICKED PERSONS

In addition to the statute prohibiting trafficking in persons, there is a national policy on protection and assistance to trafficked persons for the guidance of policy makers, civil society organizations, development partners, social workers, enforcement agencies, relevant professionals, and other countries which are facing similar challenges. The policy recognises that human trafficking is caused by increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children in the society and prescribes the empowerment of the citizenry in order to reduce vulnerability. These include creation of employment opportunities and provision of infrastructural facilities at the grass-root level; implementation of compulsory universal basic education policy, application of the penalties stipulated for offenders in the Traffic in Persons Prohibition Act, aggressive sensitisation and awareness programmes to expose the dangers of trafficking, full implementation of the National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, and of the Child’s Rights Act.

The policy aims at maintaining a supportive and friendly environment for protection and assistance of trafficked persons so as to empower and restore them to a state of psychological, social, vocational and economic wellbeing through sustainable assistance programmes.[[78]](#footnote-78) It adopts a holistic approach covering such aspects as reception, identification, sheltering, counselling, family tracing, return, repatriation, integration, empowerment and follow-up for effective integration of trafficked persons into their various communities.[[79]](#footnote-79)

The implementation strategies of the policy include warm reception and friendly welcome of trafficked victims at the reception centres, their identification and immediate sheltering, affording them comprehensive and adequate health care services, counselling and building up of rapport, confidence and re-assurance, family tracing, and reintegration into their homes and communities in order to develop in them the potential to live normal lives. They must also be empowered by provision of vocational training skills in order to ensure income security and self-reliance, and prevent re-trafficking. Disengagement takes place after the victim would have attained self-reliance, confidence and dignity.

The policy envisages identification and rescue of the victims, establishment of adequate reception centres for reception of the victims, their provision with immediate temporary accommodation and clothing, recreational facilities as well as cultural, spiritual and medical services. It recognizes that victims of human trafficking are often exposed to such health hazards as sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, pelvic inflammatory disease, hepatitis, tuberculosis, skin infections, communicable diseases, unwanted pregnancy and forced abortion, abortion-related complications, mental and emotional health problems, nightmares, insomnia, suicidal tendencies, alcoholism, drug abuse and addiction, poor living conditions, anaemia, malnutrition, diarrhoea, and infections.[[80]](#footnote-80) The counselling component of the policy therefore becomes invaluable in order to build confidence in, and encourage the rescued victims to overcome fears of oath taking and threats, avoid being re-trafficked, and possibly cooperate in investigating and prosecuting the traffickers.

Family tracing and re-integration is meant to create a warm and supportive environment for their proper reunion, to assess the risk of returning the victims to their families and communities of origin, and to provide family counselling and security where necessary. The policy equally provides for safe and dignified return/repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking to their home countries. It takes cognizance of various legal and policy instruments,[[81]](#footnote-81) upholds the fundamental human rights of trafficked persons, and prescribes a friendly and conducive environment and relationship between the victims and service providers.

7. NATIONAL AGENCY FOR CONTROL OF TRAFFIC IN PERSONS

The National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) is established by the *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act.* It is a body corporate with perpetual succession and power to sue and be sued in its corporate name. It has a part-time governing board consisting of a chairman and 12 members, as well as a secretariat headed by a Secretary who is the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Agency, responsible for the day to day administration of the Secretariat. For the performance of its functions, the Agency has special units: the Investigation Unit, the Legal Unit, the Public Enlightenment Unit and the Counselling and Rehabilitation Unit. It is authorised to establish any other units with the approval of the Board.[[82]](#footnote-82)

The Agency has special power to cause investigations to be conducted as to whether any person has been involved in or has committed any offence relating to trafficking against the provisions of the Act.[[83]](#footnote-83) Other functions of the Agency include: enforcement and due administration of the Act, coordination and enforcement of all laws on traffic in persons, and eradication of traffic in persons. It is mandated to assist the law enforcement agents to suppress traffic in persons, enhance communication and cooperation, conduct research, and improve on internal cooperation in order to suppress traffic in persons either by road, sea or air.[[84]](#footnote-84) The Agency is to reinforce and supplement measures in relevant bilateral and multilateral treaties and conventions that are adopted by Nigeria in order to counter the magnitude, extent and consequences of human trafficking. It is also mandated to collaborate with other agencies to eliminate and prevent the root causes and problem of human trafficking, and to strengthen and enhance effective legal means for international cooperation in suppressing trafficking.[[85]](#footnote-85)

NAPTIP’s mandate include strengthening cooperation between the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigeria Prisons service, welfare officials and other law enforcement agencies to eradicate human trafficking.[[86]](#footnote-86) It should take charge, supervise, control, and coordinate the rehabilitation of trafficked persons and participate in proceedings affecting them.

NAPTIP has, no doubt, recorded some notable achievements in the last ten years. Available data show that 9,466 victims were intercepted at the country’s borders between 2003 and 2007, while NAPTIP also rescued 2,120 trafficked victims between 2003 and 2008.[[87]](#footnote-87) The agency has also provided nine transit shelters which have received over 7,000 trafficked victims, trained and rehabilitated, and eventually reintegrated them back into the society.*[[88]](#footnote-88)*

At the moment, NAPTIP has won the support of NGOs some of which are working in victims sheltering and vocational training, while others are providing materials for anti-trafficking advocacy. In liaison with ILO, *[[89]](#footnote-89)* NAPTIP has withdrawn over 5,000 Beninese and Nigerian children from quarries in Abeokuta in Ogun State of Nigeria. It has developed the national policy on protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, as well as a guideline for the protection of children in formal care, for the guidance of social workers. It has assisted in evacuation of Nigerians who are stranded all over the world in situations of exploitation. *[[90]](#footnote-90)* It has equally provided some toll free lines to enhance the reporting of cases of human trafficking for their quick intervention. *[[91]](#footnote-91)*

8. PROBLEMS WITH THE CONTROL OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Considering the existence of the requisite legal and institutional mechanisms for twenty two years now, one wonders why the crime of human trafficking has not been reduced to the barest minimum. The existence of such a stringent law and a dedicated agency (NAPTIP) conferred with wide powers show the determination of the government to eradicate the menace.

Firstly, there seems to have been absence of campaign to expose the dangers of human trafficking in Nigeria. This is surprising considering the existence of the Public Enlightenment Unit in NAPTIP which is mandated, with the Federal Ministries of Information and National Orientation Agency, Women and Youth Development, Employment, Labour and Productivity, to carry out effective campaigns, seminars and workshops, to educate the public and create awareness about the problem and the need to shun questionable promises of jobs outside Nigeria. This has caused the general public, particularly those in the rural communities to see such promises as genuine help to enable them to escape unemployment and abject poverty at home.[[92]](#footnote-92) It has been stated that 40 million Nigerians are unemployed and are more suffer from multidimensional poverty.[[93]](#footnote-93) As long as the masses are not enlightened about its dangers and encouraged to report offenders, the fight against human trafficking will record only minimal results. If people were enlightened of its criminal nature and the attendant dangers to the lives of innocent victims, the problem would have ceased, and nearly all traffickers would have been reported, arrested, and prosecuted.

Failure to promote comprehensive programmes of gainful employment for potential victims, and turning the poverty alleviation programme, which should have been tailored to reduce poverty in the rural areas into a political slogan and patronage all help to increase the problem. Even when jobs are available, vacancies are generally filled on patronage not on merit, due to nepotism. The practice of ‘winner takes all’ leaves the silent majority jobless, helpless, frustrated, and vulnerable to temptations including illegal migration.

Corruption, involving the embezzlement of public funds which could have been applied for employment generating projects for the masses is another cause. It has been stated that corruption has an adverse effect on social and economic development and also in building a nation.[[94]](#footnote-94) These effects include diversion of development resources for private gain, misallocation of talent, lost tax revenue, negative impact on quality of infrastructure and public services, and lack of economic growth.[[95]](#footnote-95) Concerning the country specifically, it has been stated that: “Nigeria, the most populous Black Country, is in the prison of corruption,” that “our economy is ailing and hemorrhaging from deleterious corrupt practices that are deftly perpetrated by those managing our financial chests and collective wealth,” that “monies that should be channelled into fixing our infrastructural deficits are stolen by people holding positions of influence and power,” and that “until corruption is rooted out of Nigeria, Nigeria cannot achieve its potential in spite of its natural and human resources.”[[96]](#footnote-96) Again, it has been stated that: “Economic growth and development in Nigeria has become stultified as a result of corruption turning the country’s economy into perpetual underdevelopment.”[[97]](#footnote-97)

Finally, it has also been stated that the *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003*, is fraught with deficiencies and grossly inadequate to effectively combat the scourge of human trafficking in Nigeria.[[98]](#footnote-98) The Attorney-General of the Federation has proposed a repeal of the existing law, to reposition the NAPTIP for effective delivery on its mandate and provide for a more comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of human trafficking offences in Nigeria.[[99]](#footnote-99) This will also cause the Act to conform to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. The bill has already undergone public hearing in the national assembly and the processes are expected to be completed soon. This will mean a robust anti-traffic law for Nigeria.

The amendments ought to ban the keeping of brothels and prostitution altogether no matter the age of the woman. This will prevent persons who are below the age of 18 years claiming to be above that age in order to avoid arrest by NAPTIP officials. According to the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP:

*When our enforcement agents storm brothels, we see girls who obviously aren’t up to 18 claiming to be above 21 years old simply to avoid arrest. And without asking for their age, they tell you that they are 21. You see, legislation is not enough to deal with this issue. If a lady of 25 is willing to go into prostitution because of her circumstances, and keeps the proceeds for herself alone, then it’s not human trafficking and we are not concerned about that, she made the choice. [[100]](#footnote-100)*

9. CONCLUSION

Human trafficking is an embarrassment to the Nigerian government, which has responded appropriately by establishing all the necessary legal and institutional frameworks for its control and elimination. The global nature of the problem and the lucrative profits to the traffic cartels compound the problems about its control. A political will is imperative to confront it, involving allocation of sufficient financial resources, security and safety of informants and the operatives; recruitment, training and involvement of enough operatives, intensive enlightenment campaign at all levels about its dangers, and enhancing the quality of life in the rural communities through provision of jobs and infrastructures in order to encourage people to stay rather than want to migrate. Adequate research, planning, monitoring and evaluation are essential to understand the dimensions of the problem, and combat it in a holistic manner. Involvement of all the relevant institutions at all levels in monitoring, investigating, arresting, and prosecuting offenders is inevitable, to disband their connections. The encouragement and integration of genuine interest groups like Non-Governmental Organisations in the struggle is important.

The funding of NAPTIP by the federal government is often complained to be inadequate. Resources can be solicited from financial institutions, corporate organizations, individuals, other concerned organisations and donors, states and local governments for the myriads of activities such as sensitisation workshops for all cadres of operatives, posters, film shows, radio, television and propaganda campaign against all types of trafficking. These should expose the degradation, sufferings, enslavement, forced labour, exploitation, deprivation, sexual abuse, ailments and deaths which trafficked victims usually suffer, in order to discourage potential victims. It would also provoke people to report agents canvassing to recruit unwary persons as victims, while encouraging people to stay on in their native communities and join hands to improve the living conditions there. The funds would also be applied in investigating, collecting and collating statistical information on trafficking as well as its changing trends, for operational activities and logistics, inducement of informants, training/resettlement and empowerment of rescued victims.

The *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003,* and the existing *National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria (June 2008)* are reasonable legal and policy framework. These are of course supported by relevant legal instruments, including the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; the Child’s Right Act of 2003; the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) as applicable to each state of the Federation; Immigration Act; the Labour Act; the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the 1999 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the 1989 ILO Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour; the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the 1999 International Convention on Transnational Organised

Crime; the 2000 Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking; and the 2000 ECOWAS Plan of Action on Human Trafficking.

Given the existing legal and policy framework and funding, the *National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons* can still be very proactive and aggressive and ensure a more effective performance. The extent of the problem is alarming, but it can still be more seriously combatted and crushed to save the victims and the image of the country.

1. Section 50 of Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 defines human ‘trafficking’ thus: “Trafficking includes all acts and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across Nigerian borders, purchase, sale, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person involving the use of deception, coercion or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding the person whether for or not in involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive) in force or bonded labour, on in slavery-like conditions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Defined in U.S. Federal Law and cited in “Vote Yes on 35, Stop Human Trafficking in California” *ibid* at. p. 1. It has equally been defined as: “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, or fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” – According to the United Nations Organization: cited in “Vote Yes on 35, Stop Human Trafficking in California”. [www.voteyeson35.com](http://www.voteyeson35.com) P. O. Box 7057, Fremont, California 94537, (510) 473-7283 (510-iRESCUE) [info@CASEAct.org](mailto:info@CASEAct.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. That article of the Declaration states that “*No one shall be held in slavery or slave labour or servitude; slavery and slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”*  [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Article XXVIII of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Section 34 (1) of the 199 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states that *“Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly- (a) no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment; (b) no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and (c) no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.”* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Aondoakaa, M. E, (Attorney-General of the Federation) – Foreword to the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. See pp. 6 – 7 of the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “There are reports many human traffickers are associated with international criminal organizations and are, therefore, highly mobile and difficult to prosecute.” See humantrafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Views 1,205, This Day Live, December 6, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. For instance, in one of those many instances, *“Nigerian girls were repatriated from Libya and Morocco, where they were reportedly held in the commercial sex trade.”* “Human Trafficking in Nigeria” – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, last modified on 27 February 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. ILO/IPEC (22), “Combating Trafficking in Children for Labour in West and Central Africa”, Geneva, cited in Duru E. J. C. and Ogbonnaya, U.M., *op. cit.*, at. p. 164, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria: International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, United Nations, New York, 2011. This same source has added, thus: “Survivors have told harrowing tales of their ordeals: people crammed into windowless storage spaces or forced to sit in urine, seawater, faeces or vomit, deprived of food and water, while others around them die and their bodies are discarded at sea or on the roadside.” p. 4, para. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria: International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, United Nations, New York, 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. “Human Trafficking in Nigeria” – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, last modified on 27 February 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria: International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, United Nations, New York, 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. “Is this the End of Human Trafficking”, *THIS DAY LIVE*, February 6, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Quoted in *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. “How Child Trafficking Network Operates in South East”, in *Nairaland Forum*: “*Child Trafficking in Nigeria – Violent/Disgusting Non-Celebrity Crimes- Nairaland”*, July 30, 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Quoted in *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Quoted in *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Quoted in *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Jeddy-Agba, B., Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons, “Six Out of Ten Trafficked Persons are Nigerians”, THISDAY, THE SATURDAY NEWSPAPER, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, p. 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Its dimensions are vast, covering such vices as child prostitution, domestic servitude, illegal and bonded labour, servile marriage, false adoption, sex tourism and entertainment, pornography, organized begging, organ harvesting and other criminal activities. See Agbu O. (2003), Corruption and Human Trafficking: The Case of Nigeria, West African Review, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 1-13. Cited in Duru E. J. C. and U. M. Ogbonnaya, “Combating Human Trafficking in Nigeria: An Evaluation of State Policies and Programmes, *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, Vol. 3 (3), p.1611,* September 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. “Is this the End of Human Trafficking”, *THIS DAY LIVE*, February 6, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. United States Department of State: 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report – Nigeria, 19 June 2012, available at h://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30ca5c.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Jeddy-Agba, B., Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons, “Six Out of Ten Trafficked Persons are Nigerians”, THISDAY, THE SATURDAY NEWSPAPER, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, p. 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. See Duru E. J. C. and U. M. Ogbonnaya, “Combating Human Trafficking in Nigeria: An Evaluation of State Policies and Programmes, *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, Vol. 3 (3), p.1611,* September 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. US Department of State (e-Journal of U.S. Department of State, June 2003: ‘Global Issues’) cited in National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008, p. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Cited in National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008, p. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. See the Punch Newspaper of August 5, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. See *THIS DAY LIVE* where the Ambassador is reported to have made this disclosure to the European correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Berlin. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Cited in Duru E. J. C. and U. M. Ogbonnaya, *op. cit.*, at. p. 162, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. ECPAT-End 2003; Child Prostitution and Trafficking – [www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp](http://www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp), 2003) cited in National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008, p. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. “Is this the End of Human Trafficking”, *THIS DAY LIVE*, February 6, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. See Agbu (2003) cited in Duru E. J. C. and U. M. Ogbonnaya, *op. cit.*, at. p. 162, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. See This Day Live of December 6, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns: April 2006, cited in “Human Trafficking Statistics – Polaris Project, P. O. Box 77892, Washington, DC 20013, Tel: 202.745.1001, [www.PolarisProject.org](http://www.PolarisProject.org), [Info@PolarisProject.org](mailto:Info@PolarisProject.org). This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. These are estimates around the world; actual statistics are not available and are often contradictory due to the covert nature of the crime, the invisibility of victims and high levels of under-reporting. Per Polaris Project, P. O. Box 77892, Washington, DC 20013, Tel: 202.745.1001, *ibid*. This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: 2007. However, the TIP Report of 2001 and 2002 estimated this figure at 700,000 a year, while reporting it to 800,000 to 900,000 victims in 2003, and 600,000 to 800,000 victims in 2004 and 2006 respectively. These are as cited in “Human Trafficking Statistics – Polaris Project, P. O. Box 77892, Washington, DC 20013, Tel: 202.745.1001, [www.PolarisProject.org](http://www.PolarisProject.org), [Info@PolarisProject.org](mailto:Info@PolarisProject.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. U.S. Department of State, The Facts about Child Sex Tourism: 2005, cited in Polaris Project, *ibid*. This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. U.S. Department of Justice, Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003: 2004, cited in Polaris Project, *ibid*. This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report: 2007, cited in Polaris Project, *ibid*. This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. U.S. Department of Justice, Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons: 2004, cited in Polaris Project, *ibid*. This is cited also by Trafficking.org. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. ILO, A Global Alliance against forced labour: 2005, cited in “Human Trafficking Statistics – Polaris Project”, *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. CAP C.50 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2001. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Section 3 of the Child’s Right Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Section 12 of the Child’s Right Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Section 15 of the Child’s Right Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Child’s Right Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Section 27 of the Child’s Right Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. Section 32 of the Child’s Rights Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Section 11 of *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003.* [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Section 12 of the *Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003.* [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Section 13 of ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Section 14(1) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Section 14(2) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Section 15 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Section 16 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Section 17(a) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Section 18 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Section 19 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Section 20 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Section 21 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. Section 22 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Section 23 of *ibid*. Any person who deals in, or performs any role in connection with dealing in slaves commits an offence, punishable with life imprisonment. See Section 24 of *ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Section 25 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. Section 26(1) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. Section 26(2) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Section 27 (1) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Section 27 (2) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Section 28 (1) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Section 28 (2) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Section 29 (2) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Sections 30, 31 and 32 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. See the Vision, Mission Statement and Goal of the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria of June 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria of June 2008, p. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. See paragraph 2.4 of National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, June 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. The legal and policy instruments from which the policy draws its inspiration include the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; the Trafficked in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003, and amended Act 2005; the Child’s Right Act, 2003; the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) as applicable to each state of the Federation; Immigration Act; the Labour Act; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989; African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1958; ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1989; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979; International Convention on Transnational Organised Crime 1999; the Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking Especially and Children, 2000; and the ECOWAS Plan of Action on Human Trafficking 2000. See page 6 of the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, June 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. Section sections 1, 2, 6 and 8 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Section 5 of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. Section 4 (a) – (f) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. Section 4(g) – (i) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. Section 4 (j) of *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. All cited in National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2008, p. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. Jeddy-Agba, B., Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons, “Six Out of Ten Trafficked Persons are Nigerians”, THISDAY, THE SATURDAY NEWSPAPER, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, p. 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. The World Bank Lead Economist, Mr. John Litwack has stated that 70 million Nigerian adults are poor. Speaking during the media launch of the Nigeria Economic Report on Monday 13th May 2013, Mr. Litwack added that although poverty rate declined slightly between 2004 and 2010, it did not reflect on the generality of Nigerians. This was quoted in the Nigerian Tribune newspaper of May 14, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. See Punch Newspaper of 30th august, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. Ayobami, O. O., “Corruption Eradication in Nigeria: An Appraisal”, *Library Philosophy and Practice 2011,* ISSN 1522 – 0222; <http://unllib.unl.edu/LLP> [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. *Ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. Okoye, C. U., “The Scourge of Corruption and its Deleterious Effects”, RISE NETWORKS, April 10, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. Agwu, S. N., “Corruption: Bane of Good Governance in Nigeria”, <http://www.thenigerianvoice.com/56728/1corruption-bane-of>... [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. Credited to the Hon. Attorney General of the Federation Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke, while presenting a memorandum to the Federal Executive Council seeking for amendment of the present Act to bring it into conformity with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (Palemo Convention), 2000. See “Is This the End of Human Trafficking?” – THIS DAY LIVE, February 6, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. See *ibid*. [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. Jeddy-Agba, B., Executive Secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons, “Six Out of Ten Trafficked Persons are Nigerians”, THISDAY, THE SATURDAY NEWSPAPER, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, p. 58. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)