**OKELLO FRANCIS (2013/HD03/18523U)**

**TRANS-NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME: CHALLENGES FACED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN CURBING NARCOTIC DRUG TRAFFICKING ALONG UGANDA-KENYA BORDER.**

**ABSTRACT**

This study focused on trans-national organized crime, specifically narcotic drug trafficking along Uganda-Kenya boarder. Drug trafficking is one of the high-level lucrative crimes worldwide, involving well established and sometimes well positioned people in society. It has emerged as one of the most alarming problems along the Uganda-Kenya border. With the capacity to expand its activities and target the security and economies of Uganda and Kenya, narcotic drug trafficking presents one of the major problems governments have to deal with in order to ensure stability, safety of the people and preservation of the moral fabrics of society. The main objective of the study was to examine challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in curbing narcotic trafficking along the Uganda-Kenya border. Specifically, the study was to establish why law enforcement agencies have failed to curb narcotic drug trafficking. The study was guided by the following research questions; (i) why is the phenomenon of narcotic drug trafficking escalating? (ii) How does narcotic drug trafficking affect society?; (iii) what challenges do law enforcement agencies face when fighting drug trafficking; (iv) what is the nature of conflicts and crime narcotic drug trafficking cause in society? (v) How do religious institutions and peace building agencies contribute to curbing narcotic drug trafficking? The study employed both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms. Data collection methods included individual interviews, focus group discussions and personal observation. Relevant documents to the study reviewed included research reports, police crime reports, district security reports, minutes of cross border meetings and government departmental reports. Data was analyzed manually using thematic analysis. The study revealed that narcotic drug trafficking business is very lucrative due to high demand for drugs, and it involves high level, ordinary and business people. The narcotic drugs trafficked along the border included cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana. The concealment methods of the drugs make it difficult to detect by law enforcement. Marijuana growing is concealed in forests, among other food crops and trafficked to Kenya in different ways using motor vehicles, motor cycles, bicycles and foot either on roads, across river Sio and along foot paths in remote areas which are difficult to monitor by law enforcement. Buying the drugs, recruiting traffickers and communication among traffickers is secret and discrete, using slangs and code names to confuse law enforcement. Drug trafficking is breeding land conflicts, inter-personal conflicts, robberies, cross border theft of motorcycles and general border insecurity. While Christianity and Islam abhor any dealings in narcotic drugs,Rastafarianreligioncondonesnarcoticdrugs,hencenotanevilbusiness.Failureto

curb narcotic drug trafficking is that law enforcement agencies lack facilitation; logistics are inadequate and lack proper training of personnel. While religious institutions and peace building agencies preach against drug abuse, they have not been keen on directly engaging in the processes of eliminating drug trafficking. Based on these findings, the study concludes that narcotic drug trafficking is a reality and rampant along the Uganda-Kenya border. There are lots of challenges in curbing it, ranging from concealment of drugs, challenges connected to religion and society, and law enforcement challenges. To address these challenges, the study recommends that government provides more training and facilitate law enforcement agencies, engage the border communities in lawful income generating activities and equip the youth with skills to create jobs. Religious leaders should team up with peace building agencies to help government eliminate trafficking in narcoticdrugs.

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