

# Institutional Quality and Combating Abuse of Illicit Drugs in Nigeria: How Has National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Fared?

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**ABSTRACT:** *Drugs abuse in Nigeria. The major objective of the study is to assess the efforts of NDLEA in fighting illicit drugs criminals; identify its challenges and to proffer solutions. The study adopted dual methods of data collection and data analysis; both primary and secondary data were collected for the investigation. Data collection was done through questionnaire for primary data and library instrument for secondary data. Furthermore, multiple statistical packages were utilized for the analysis of both primary and secondary data. Based on the analysis, the paper found inter alia; that NDLEA works hard in fighting the illicit drugs abuse but its efforts are subtly undermined by the lackadaisical attitude of Government in terms of lack of political will to dismantle illicit drugs cartel friendly with Government; that NDLEA is in dire need of sophisticated, hi-tech operational paraphernalia to enable it match the games of drugs criminals. Based on the findings, the paper recommended amongst others; the Government should support the illicit drugs fighting agency with political will so that the taproot (cartel) of illicit drugs abuse in Nigeria could be uprooted; the agency should be regularly equipped with state-of-the-art operational devices with regular employment, training and retraining of staffers to update them with modern data and technicalities for effective war against illicit drugs abusers.*

**KEYWORDS:** Illicit drugs; institutional quality; drugs abuse; NDLEA; political will

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## INTRODUCTION

Abuse of illicit drug is a global menace; a pandemic with hydra headed negative effects which has brought intense pressure and worry to both national and international communities. The continents of the world appear to be facing a conundrum regarding the best strategy to effectively combat

drug abuse globally. The extent of success or failure in controlling anti-social behaviours such as one in discussion by countries depends squarely on the effectiveness of the various state institutions. Thus, the efficacy of the countermeasures towards abuse of illicit substances depends on the quality of institutions of government and partnering agencies (Suparma; Aryard; Sultan & Sawedi, 2019). Being a menace that requires all hands on deck for positive and sustained results, governments across the world are expected to demonstrate unwavering commitment in leadership by mobilizing other sub-structures like the family, educational, religious and non-governmental non-state actors (civil society) for collective initiative and action towards combating drug abuse (Suparman, et al,2019)

Public institutions are key drivers of development and growth in countries. Despite the abundance of natural resources, if a country is bereaved of quality institutions required to configure the strategies imperative for successful and profitable management of the deposits, such natural resources will become a curse to the nation. For instance, Nigeria has a large deposit of oil and many other natural resources but could not for many years been able to step into the trajectory of sustainable development and growth because of abysmal low institutional quality (Sala-i-Martin & Subramanian, 2012; Bulte et al 2005b; Melhlum et al 2006); Furthermore, Nguyen et al (2020), emphasized on the indispensability of institutional quality, maintaining that sustainable economic growth is only possible through effective, efficient, responsive and adequate institution. The economic miracle in Botswana is a product of institutional quality. The state of Botswana is rich in diamond deposit. It was observed that government of Botswana's effectiveness, high voice, accountability and probity, zero tolerance and formidable anti-corruption policy were instrumental to the prudent management of diamond income which ultimately turned the catalyst that accelerated her economic, social and political emancipation (limi, 2007). If countries can maintain good institutional governance by ensuring sustained political stability, formidable anti-corruption crusade powered by implementable policies, popular participation, and uncompromised accountability systems, such states will certainly achieve national development (Zeynalov, 2013).Governance standard which is significantly related to institutional quality needs to be regularly improved in order to produce the development of administration and administration of development quality capable of effecting and sustaining positive changes in sub-Sahara African States (Asongu and Odhiambo 2021)

Many developing countries are plagued with the low institutional quality. The presence of weak institutions hugely affects the process of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation which are great determinants of national development. The importance of quality institutions in achieving the objectives of government and fulfilling its social contract with the citizens makes it attention a necessity to every sector of the state (Lv, 2017). Besides, the existence of proficient and focused institution of government, free from bureau-pathology is capable of initiating and sustaining desired growth through a well-controlled trajectory other than the haphazard manner consistent with tricks and illegalities (Kamah, Riti & Bin, 2021). Institutional qualities have many indicators such as accountability and probity; de-corruption or control of corruption; political homeostasis;

regulatory efficacy; rule of law etc, and the validity of the indicators in achieving the desired state objectives depends on their unobstructed and sincere development (Kandil, 2015). Furthermore, governance which is akin to quality institutions is a gateway to ensure “*government’s ability to effectively formulate and implement efficient and pertinent policies for the institutions governing the interaction between the social and economic relationships*”(Amari, Mouakhar & Jarboui, 2022). This simply connotes that there is no contest to the indispensability of good governance to the accomplishment or achievement of sustainable development in the world, though policymakers of many countries seem not to have fully appreciated the urgency (Arif, 2020).

Nigeria appeared to be grappling with a conundrum in terms of institutional preparedness towards combating consumption and peddling of illicit drugs. However, the 1988 convention, enabled Decree 48 of 1989, (currently CAP NO 30 LFN 2004), birthing the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in 1989 with full operation in 1990 (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Annual Report, 2018). The NDLEA Act vested the power to superintend on matters relating to narcotics and psychotropic on the agency. The sale or consumption of illicit drug has increased exponentially in Nigeria to the chagrin of the drug law enforcement agency. Almost on daily basis, the agency has hands full of drug-related cases to handle from across the country (Punch September 25, 2023). According to the agency, the disturbing dimension is that well over 80% of illicit drug offenders are youth within the productive age bracket of Nigeria (NDLEA Annual Report, 2017). *Drug abuse either by consumption or peddling/trafficking is on the increase despite multi-dimensional approaches towards combating it. Drug abuse is the excessive, maladaptive or addictive use of the illicit substance without recourse to the medical reasons for which such drug is made. The mode of usage springs some social, psychological and physical problems which may temporarily or permanently ruin the life of the users* (Encyclopedia Britannica 2023).

Besides the direct destructive effects of drug abuse in the life of the users, the cultivation of certain regularly abused drugs across the countries of the world do have negative implication on the soil and water supplies. Cultivation of marijuana and production of synthetic drugs like methamphetamine impact negatively on the quality of soil and water supplies in the affected region which ultimately poses potential threat to agricultural yield and food security ( MedicineNet, 2022). Many young people have been as a result of excessive and abusive use of drugs plunged into the condition of dual diagnosis which is a combination of drug use disorder and almost intractable and severe mental health problems. The desire to be transformed to the euphoric state has been identified as one of the reasons there is too much drug abuse especially among the youth. The quest for such transformation appears to usually becloud the sensitivities of the users towards the extant regulatory rules against such act (MedicineNet, 2022). Substance abuse may also be construed as the use of illicit or legal drugs in a quantity or through a method that may be injurious or harmful to both the user and the environment (Wikipedia, n.d). Certain effects of misuse of drugs like ant- social behaviour and protracted negative personality change have almost permanently occurred in the life of users which equally in most cases are responsible for criminal

activities (Ray and Charles, 2022) .There are basically two ways drugs can be abused in a given Society. They include consumption and trafficking of illicit drugs. According to the National Crime Agency in United Kingdom, drug trafficking is described as;

*a major source of revenue for organized crime groups, many of whom are involved in other forms of serious crimes such as firearms, modern slavery and immigration crimes. Therefore, actions against drug trafficking has a much wider disruptive impact on organized criminal activity. (UK National Crime Agency, 2019)*

Drug is said to be abused when it is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the medical procedure in a given Society. Some of these drugs are socially acceptable such as alcohol, cigarettes, gin, tobacco, kola nut etc why some are not socially acceptable such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, tramadol, codeine, ephedruix, LSD PCP (NDLEA,2020). Use of illicit substances has three-dimensional consequences; the physical consequence comprises damaging of vital organs such as brain, liver and heart; the psychological consequences such as dementia insomnia, anxiety, hallucination, depression, irritability, panic attack, and social consequences such as loss of job, criminal offences, suicide, delinquency, cultism, dropping out of school, prostitution, premature death, accident and poverty (NDLEA, 2020).

Despite the existence and operations of fledged drug agency in Nigeria, there appears to be increasing rate of either peddling/trafficking and consumption of narcotics or illicit drugs in the country. This development is suspected to have unleashed untold harm on the users, citizens of the country and nation's image. All forms of dealing on illicit drugs has resulted to increasing setback, crime and criminality, suicide, (successful and attempted), ill gotten wealth which has impacted negatively on society through undue influence by attracting and introducing others to the illicit trade. These observations have therefore necessitated this study with the intention to

- (1) Assess the impact of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in combating drug abuse in Nigeria;
- (2) Identify the core challenges NDLEA faces in ensuring prevention and control of drug abuse in Nigeria; and
- (3) Proffer policy recommendations to enhance the performance of the drug agency towards the prevention and control of consumption and trafficking of illicit drugs in Nigeria.

Ultimately, the null and alternate hypotheses have it that:

- (1) Ho: NDLEA has not done well in combating drug abuse in Nigeria;  
H<sub>1</sub>: NDLEA has done well in combating drug abuse in Nigeria
- (2) Ho: NDLEA currently do not face challenges that limit its fight against drug abuse in Nigeria;  
H<sub>1</sub>: NDLEA currently faces challenges that limit its fight against drug abuse in Nigeria.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

During the Colonial days and precisely in 1935, an Act called 1935 Dangerous Drugs Act was enacted to check use of illicit drugs in any form in Nigeria. By this Act, Nigeria automatically became a signatory to the United Nations International Conventions on drugs and psychotropic substances (NDLEA, 2018). Besides, signatory to the above-stated Act further made it mandatory for affected States to be equally signatory to the 1988 Vienna Convention where it was made binding to all signatory countries to domesticate the Act into local legislature and as a matter of urgency and need set up institutions to check drugs abuse in respective countries. Consequent upon this, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency was set up following the promulgation of decree No 48 of December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1989 with the task of exterminating illicit drug trafficking and consumption (NDLEA,2022).

Drug abuse whether through consumption or trafficking remains a disturbing reality of international status. Human mobility makes it easy for drug-related crimes committed in one country to negatively affect citizens of another country. This is why there is need for countries to establish strong institutions with mandates to exterminate all forms of drug abuse.

In the summer of 1975, Cooper carried out a study on the title “Drug abuse: a review of some current literature” where it was revealed that the fundamental reasons people hate narcotics abuse are that it causes health problems as well as criminal activities which obviously impede on societal homeostasis (Cooper 1975). Besides, the extrinsic consequences of substance abuse, are other internal damage such as cognitive, behavioural and psychological disorder (Abdullahi & Saranest, 2019). Recently, a review was carried out on “Drug abuse prevention and mass media” and the focus was on youths, parents, women and the elderly. Out of these target audience, greater attention was mostly focused on the youth because of high possibility of youth taking to drug abuse.(Bandy & President, 1983). Similarly, in a study titled “The burden of drug abuse in Nigeria: a scoping review of epidemiological studies of drug laws ( Jatau, Sha’abam, Gulma, Shitu, Khalid, Isa, Wada and Mustapha (2021), revealed that drug abuse has become a thing of public health and of course security concerns. Furthermore, Jatau et al (2021) construed drug abuse as the use of drugs that is not generally accepted on medical reasons whether done occasionally or continuously whose consequence could be overt negative behavioural change. The escalating illicit drugs business in Nigeria despite the huge efforts against it by NDLEA is analogous to the taproot and branch kind of existence of a tree. The taproot in the illegality represents the untouchable illicit drug cartel while the branch represent the low-level operators whose frequent arrest with nothing done to the taproot, may not yield significant progress against the menace (TheGuardian March 30, 2024).

In the 2015 Annual Report of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, it was highlighted that agency encounters two major threats and they are gross inadequacy of Manpower and logistics

which includes lack of operational vehicle for rugged terrain, surveillance vehicles, helicopter For farm survey, sophisticated firearms, life jackets, helmets, hand and leg cuffs (N D L E A 2015.) This suggests that for effective war against drug abuse in Nigeria and anywhere threatened by the specter, there should be provision of adequate logistics.

In a study titled “Transnational crime and the developing world” drug peddling Dimension of drug abuse was described as a global black market link to cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of prohibited drugs. Furthermore, the study revealed that the Global Financial Integrity’s Transnational Crime and Developing World Report estimates the size of global illicit drug market between US\$426 to US\$652 US dollar in 2014(Channing, 2017). However, it was noted that government of many countries directly or indirectly get involved in extensive drug trade as source of income. Literature has it that the Ba’athist Government of Syria ruled by Al-Assad has been a big-time trader in drug since 1970s. As of 2022, the government of Syria invested multibillion-dollar in drug trade particularly the substance called captagon (Raya, Solomou, Daly, & Alkhaldi, 2023).

In 2007, a research on the upper level of drug trafficking was conducted to understand the level and frequency of illicit drug trade across some Western countries. In line with the findings Dosroches (2007) opined that;

*“The drug markets represent informal and loosely organized associations of relatively small syndicates or crew of independent drug entrepreneurs. They compete for market share and deal primarily or exclusively with trusted associates chosen from ethnic, kinship and friendship network. Most dealers are highly cautious, eschew the use of violence, typically make huge profit, attempt to maintain low profile, rationalize their conduct as business activity and operate within geographical niche markets”*

According to a report published by University of Johannesburg in 2023, cannabis production has since been commercialized and it boasts a multibillion-dollar venture worldwide and South Africa insists on protection of interest in the business. Besides, the report revealed that poor rural communities in South Africa had long been in the business of cannabis production but the entrance of the corporate and wealthy interests have maximally put them out of business. A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out by Molobe and Odukoya in 2021 to find out the prevalence of drug use and its illicit trafficking in Nigeria. The researchers noted inter-alia; *61.3% of respondents use drugs why migrating. Young age group (24.9%) were deep in consumption of drugs while 15.7% respondents engage in actual drug peddling during migration for economic survival or by compulsion.* Similarly, Tunnel (1993) did a study titled “Inside the drug trade: Trafficking from the dealer's perspective” with the broad objective to discover why despite the

tougher measures against the trade, offenders tend to increase geometrically. The study revealed as follows;

- (1) *“Nearly all participants were low-level dealers; (2) they dealt primarily to have access to drugs to which they were addicted ; (3) they ‘drifted’ into dealing and neither made conscious decision to become drug dealers; and (4) although they were low-level drug dealers, they majority received very long prison sentences”*

Available literature has revealed that drug trafficking has been a long business operation in many countries, most of which are carried out by known cartels. For example as of 2007, it was reported that Mexican drug cartels control approximately 90% of cocaine trafficked or peddled into the United States of America (Cook 2006; Valliany 2010). Deeply concerned about the domino effects of drug cartels activities in Mexico, the United States regularly offers counter-narcotics assistance to Mexico that runs into millions of dollars. The table below shows the US counter-narcotics assistance to Mexico from FY 2002--FY 2008 through the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE)

#### INCLE ASSISTANCE TO MAXICO IN FY 2002 –FY 2008

Table 1

FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
37.0	12.0	37.0	39.7	39.6	36.7	27.8

Source: Congressional Research Survey, 2007

Besides, according to the President's National Drug Control Strategy formulated in 2007, the administration has taken a balanced strategy which entails prevention of drug use; treatment and sustained effort to disrupt the illicit market (CRS 2007).

#### **Functions of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)**

According to the provision of CAP NO 30 LFN 2004, the agency is statutorily obligated to perform among other functions;

- (a) The enforcement and the due administration of the provisions of the NDLEA Act;
- (b) The coordination of all drug laws and enforcement conferred on any person or authority, including Ministers in the Government of the Federation, by any such laws;
- (c) Adoption of measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate or seize proceeds derived from drug-related offences or property whose value corresponds to such proceeds;
- (d) Adoption of measures to eradicate illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and to eliminate illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with a view to reducing human suffering and eliminating financial incentives for illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

- (e) Taking such measures which might require the taking of reasonable precautions to prevent the use of ordinary means of transport for illicit traffic in narcotic drugs including making special arrangements with transport owners;
- (f) Adoption of measures which shall include coordinated prevention and repressive actions, introduction and maintenance of investigative and control techniques;
- (g) Adoption of measures to increase the effectiveness of eradication of efforts;
- (h) The facilitation of rapid exchange of scientific and technical information and the conduct of research geared towards eradication of illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- (i) Taking measures for the early destruction of or disposal of the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which have been seized, confiscated and forfeited ;

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study targeted assessing the need for institutional quality in combating drug abuse in Nigeria with special focus on one of the regulatory agencies in Nigeria called National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). The study adopted mix method of data collection involving qualitative data through secondary source and quantitative data collected through primary source or questionnaire. Non-probability or judgmental sampling technique was adopted to determine the sample size on the premise that the rank and capability of the respondents is known to the researcher and that they are duly qualified to effectively respond to the questionnaire on NDLEA and war against abuse of illicit drugs in Nigeria, thus satisfying the validity concerns of the method. Consequently, a total sample size of 180 was purposively drawn from the three commands of the agency in three geo-political zones comprising South-East; South South and Southwest with equal representation of 60 respondents per geopolitical zone. The response pattern of the questionnaire was constructed in line with Likert's which expresses: Strongly Agreed (SA); Agreed (A); Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD) .Multiple statistical packages were used to analyze both primary and secondary data.

### **Data Presentation**

Consequent upon the fact that the study adopted a mix methodology involving primary and secondary data and techniques of data collection and analysis, it is apposite that secondary and primary data be presented differently prior to analysis. Therefore, the following subheading represents the secondary data;

#### **(a) Secondary Data**

The bulk of the secondary data was elicited from the annual reports of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Table 2: Data from the 2019 Annual Report of NDLEA on arrests of drug offenders by geopolitical zones in Nigeria



Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK

Geopolitical zones	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
North west	2,221	79	2,300	24.35
North east	1,496	111	1,607	17.02
South South	1,311	280	1,591	16.85
North central	1,300	108	1,408	14.91
South west	1,138	191	1,329	14.07
South east	1,069	140	1,209	12.80
Total	8,535	909	9,444	100

Source: NDLEA Annual Report, 2019

Table 3: NDLEA prosecution score card for 2010-2019

Year	Cases	Won	Lost/struck out	Success rate %
2010	1526	1509	17	98.89
2011	1501	1491	10	99.33
2012	1736	1718	18	98.96
2013	1871	1865	6	99.67
2014	2070	2054	16	99.22
2015	1731	1690	41	97.63
2016	2278	2257	22	99.03
2017	1666	1621	45	97.30
2018	1259	1249	10	99.21
2019	1143	1130	13	98.86
Total	16,781	16,583	198	98.82

Source: NDLEA Annual Report, 2019

Table 4: Report on arrests of drug offenders by geopolitical zones by NDLEA in 2018

Geopolitical zones	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Northwest	2829	60	2889	29.38
South south	1434	304	1738	17.74
North east	1603	49	1652	16.80
North central	1242	69	1311	13.29
South west	1128	143	1271	12.93
South east	893	77	970	9.86
Total	9,129	702	9,831	100

Source: NDELA Annual Report, 2018

Table 5: Interdiction score card of NDLEA (2009-2018)

Year	Cannabis	Cocaine	Heroin	Others	Total	Male	Female	Total
2009	114,700.71	392.05	104.71	712.77	115,910.24	6700	342	7042
2010	174,661.59	706.43	202.08	2,550.62	178,120.73	6296	492	6788
2011	191,847.91	410.81	39.75	2,985.45	195,283.90	8072	567	8639
2012	228,794.13	131.89	211.03	3,905.45	233,699.60	7510	542	8052
2013	205,373	290.20	24.53	134,280.38	339,968.11	8324	519	8843
2014	53,878,194.52	226.04	56.45	7,562.49	53,886,039.5	8332	494	8826
2015	871,480.32	260.47	30.09	31,442.86	903,624.56	8143	635	8778
2016	187,394	305.17	66.28	79,600.685	267,366.135	7720	537	8257
2017	191,084.19	92.26	85.36	117,114.20	309,327.31	9387	622	10,009
2018	273,249.08	124.86	59.62	43,734.39	317,764.85	9129	702	9831

Source: NDLEA Annual Report, 2018

Table 6: NDLEA arrests of drug offenders by geopolitical zones in 2015

Geopolitical zone	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
North west	2168	38	2205	25.12
South west	1678	107	1785	20.33
North central	1510	89	1605	18.28
South south	1110	269	1380	15.72
South east	899	80	979	11.15
North east	772	52	824	9.39
Total	8143	635	8778	100

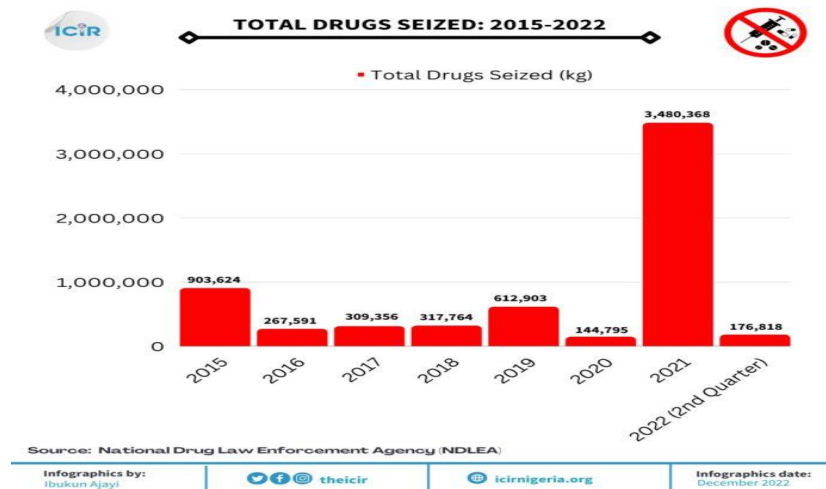
Source: NDLEA Annual Report, 2015

Table 7: NDLEA arrests of drug offenders by geopolitical zones in 2013

Geopolitical zone	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
North west	2237	51	2288	25.87
South west	1873	68	1941	21.94
South south	1198	173	1371	15.50
South east	1028	127	1155	13.06
North central	1233	90	1323	14.96
Northeast	755	10	765	8.65
Total	8,324	519	8843	100

Source: NDLEA Annual Report, 2013

Fig 8: Total Drug seized (in kg) by NDLEA , 2015-2022



### Primary data

In this section, the researchers expressed some concerns regarding the existence and operations of NDLEA for which responses are sought.

## i. NDLEA and funding by Federal Government of Nigeria

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total/%
NDLEA receives adequate funding from the Federal Government	150 (83%)	30 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	180 (100%)
The financial allocation to NDLEA comes belatedly	40 (22%)	80 (44%)	25 (14%)	35 (20%)	180 (100%)
The NDLEA eschews corruption in expending its allocations	89 (49%)	81 (45%)	7 (4%)	3 (2%)	180 (100%)
Current funding to NDLEA is adequate for effective operation	8 (5%)	4 (2%)	67 (37%)	101 (56%)	180 (100%)
The agency needs increased funding	96 (53%)	78 (43%)	5 (3%)	1 (1%)	180 (100%)
Increased budgetary allocation will increase agency's performance	114 (63%)	66 (37%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field work, 2023

## ii. NDLEA and manpower

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total/%
NDLEA has adequate manpower for effective operations	10 (5%)	12 (7%)	70 (39%)	88 (49%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA is usually given the waiver to recruit and train worker as require	68 (38%)	71 (39%)	38 (21%)	3 (2%)	180 (100%)
Officers of NDLEA are regularly trained for performance improvement	110 (61%)	70 (39%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	180 (100%)
Federal government regularly pays salaries and other entitlements of officers of the agency	68 (38%)	72 (40%)	32 (18%)	8 (4%)	180 (100%)
The agency rewards officers for exceptional performance	89 (49%)	51 (28%)	28 (16%)	12 (7%)	180 (100%)
Extrinsic motivation best improves performance of the officers of NDLEA	94 (52%)	83 (46%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field work, 2023

## iii. NDLEA and Logistics

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total/ %
NDLEA needs rugged operational vehicles for easy access to hinterlands where drugs like cannabis sativa is cultivated	92 (52%)	82 (46%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA has adequate communication gadget for effective operations	8 (4%)	13 (7%)	66 (37%)	93 (52%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA has enough arrest-related devices like hand and leg cuffs	5 (3%)	8 (4%)	72 (40%)	95 (53%)	180 (100%)
There are adequate life jackets for the agency's operation in the river areas.	15 (8%)	18 (10%)	65 (36%)	82 (46%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA needs adequate protective devices like helmets and bulletproof for effective operations	98 (54%)	79 (44%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA needs adequate dispersal devices like tear gas	106 (59%)	68 (38%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field work, 2023

## iv. NDLEA on interdiction, arrests and prosecution (2010-2019)

Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total/ %
NDLEA achieved significant interdiction (2012-2019)	84 (47%)	78 (43%)	12 (7%)	6 (3%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA won significant number of cases in charges preferred against suspects (2010-2019)	95 (53%)	72 (40%)	4 (2%)	9 (5%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA recorded impressive number of arrests of drug offenders in 2010-2019	101 (56%)	75 (42%)	4 (4%)	0 (0%)	180 (100%)
NDLEA was very impressed with the way the judiciary handled drug related cases in 2010-2019.	61 (34%)	58 (32%)	36 (20%)	25 (14%)	180 (100%)
Drug suspects often attempt resistance of arrest	59 (33%)	71 (39%)	37 (21%)	13 (7%)	180 (100%)

Source: Field work, 2023

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
VAR 1 – YEAR	2013.50	3.028	10
VAR 2 – CANABIS	5631677.95	16953474.393	10
VAR 3- COCAINE	294.02	180.993	10
VAR 4- HEROIN	87.99	67.015	10
VAR 5- OTHERS	42388.93	50667.470	10

Result from descriptive statistics of NDLEA annual report shows secondary data was gotten for 10 years, the means and standard deviations of consumption of Cannabis, cocaine, heroin and other types of hard drugs were all stated in the table above. The result of the t-test with its significance test indicate that Heroin is statistically significant and hence we reject the null hypothesis which states that the NDLEA has not done well in combating drug abuse in Nigeria.

**Table 2: Correlations**

		VAR 1 – YEAR	VAR 2 – CANABIS	VAR 3 - COCAINE	VAR 4 - HEROIN	VAR 5 - OTHERS
Pearson Correlation	VAR 1 – YEAR	1.000	.062	-.701	-.438	.553
	VAR 2 – CANABIS	.062	1.000	-.134	-.170	-.242
	VAR 3- COCAINE	-.701	-.134	1.000	.298	-.380
	VAR 4- HEROIN	-.438	-.170	.298	1.000	-.433
	VAR 5- OTHERS	.553	-.242	-.380	-.433	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	VAR 1 – YEAR	.	.433	.012	.103	.049
	VAR 2 – CANABIS	.433	.	.356	.320	.250
	VAR 3- COCAINE	.012	.356	.	.202	.139
	VAR 4- HEROIN	.103	.320	.202	.	.106
	VAR 5- OTHERS	.049	.250	.139	.106	.
N	VAR 1 – YEAR	10	10	10	10	10

## Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK

VAR 2 – CANABIS	10	10	10	10	10
VAR 3- COCAINE	10	10	10	10	10
VAR 4- HEROIN	10	10	10	10	10
VAR 5- OTHERS	10	10	10	10	10

The Pearson correlation result measures the strength and direction of the linear relationship between the variables. The positive 1.000 in all the variables indicate a perfect positive correlation among the variables. The significant test indicate that Cocaine and others are significant with values less than 5% which means that they are highly consumed within the 10years under study.

**Table 3: Variables Entered/Removed<sup>a</sup>**

Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	VAR00005, VAR00002, VAR00003, VAR00004 <sup>b</sup>	.	Enter

a. Dependent Variable: VAR00001

b. All requested variables entered.

**Table 4: Model Summary<sup>b</sup>**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.779 <sup>a</sup>	.607	.293	2.546	1.377

a. Predictors: (Constant), VAR00005, VAR00002, VAR00003, VAR00004

b. Dependent Variable: VAR00001

The R-Value result (0.779) indicates a good correlation between the dependent variable and the independent variable. The R-Square result (0.607) shows that it is a good fit because there is total variation for the dependent variable that is could be explained by the independent variable. The R-Square Adjusted (0.293) shows the generalization of the result.

**Table 5: ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	50.090	4	12.523	1.932	.244 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	32.410	5	6.482		
	Total	82.500	9			

a. Dependent Variable: VAR00001

b. Predictors: (Constant), VAR00005, VAR00002, VAR00003, VAR00004

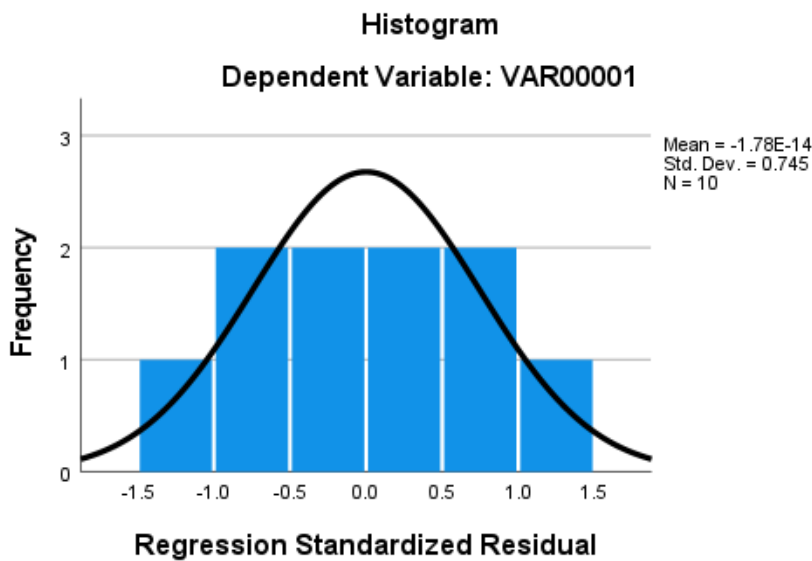
The result of the significant value at 95% confidence interval is 0.244 which indicates that the result is not significant. The F-value 1.932 indicates that the model is efficient enough and considered good.

**Table 6: Residuals Statistics<sup>a</sup>**

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	2008.29	2016.62	2013.50	2.359	10
Residual	-2.736	2.796	.000	1.898	10
Std. Predicted Value	-2.208	1.323	.000	1.000	10
Std. Residual	-1.075	1.098	.000	.745	10

a. Dependent Variable: VAR00001

Fig 1: Histogram



The figure above shows that the model is from a normal distribution.



Fig 2: Normal P-P P

**Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual**

**Dependent Variable: VAR00001**

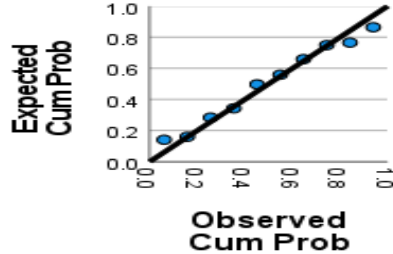
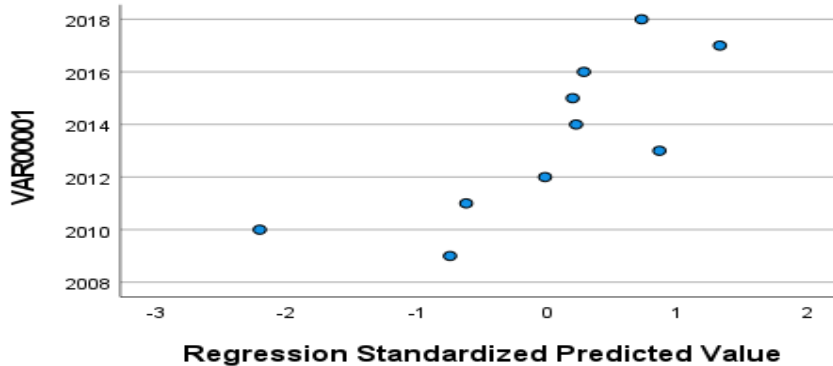


Fig 3: Scatterplots

**Scatterplot**

**Dependent Variable: VAR00001**



Therefore, in conclusion the analysis above supports the first objective and hypothesis of the role of NDLEA towards combating the rate of drug abuse, that it is significantly positive which aligns and gives answers to the research questions which confirms that NDLEA has done well in combating drug abuse in Nigeria and that the NDLEA currently faces challenges that limit its fight against drug abuse in Nigeria.

The figure 4 below responds to the second objective of the study which is to identify the core challenges NDLEA faces in ensuring prevention and control of drug abuse in Nigeria and the bar chart responds that the agency needs increased funding.

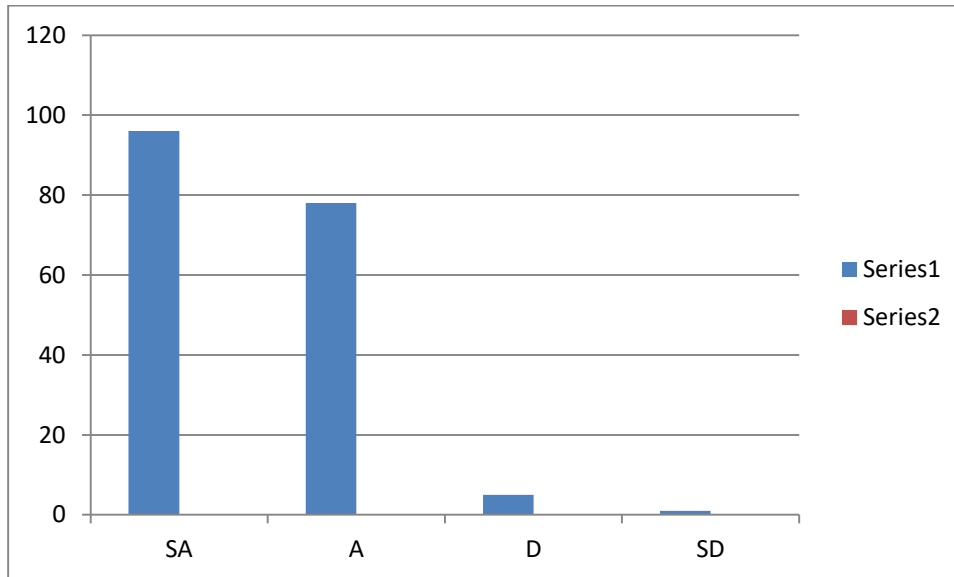
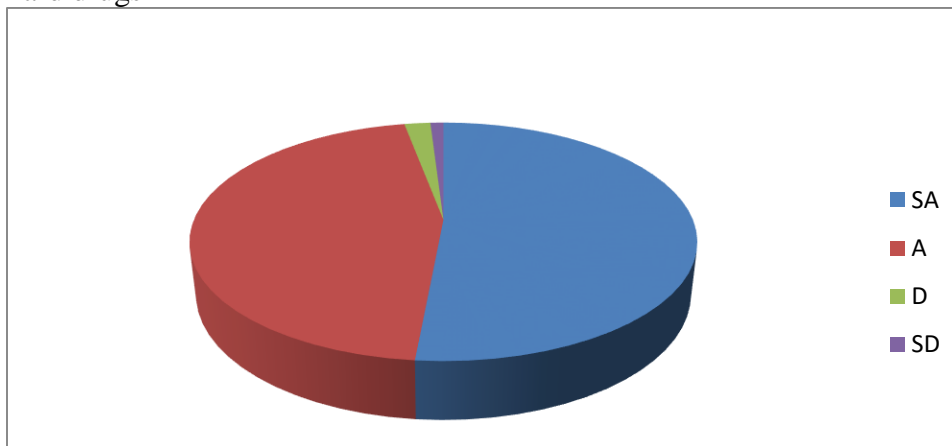


Fig 4: the agency need increased funding

From the primary data we are able to meet the third objective of this work using a Pie chart by suggesting that NDLEA needs rugged operational vehicles for easy access to hinterlands where drugs like cannabis sativa is cultivated

Fig 5: Recommendation for operational vehicles for easy access to combat illicit consumption of hard drugs



## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Result of the analysis of data presented revealed that despite the robust effort put in place by the institution statutorily mandated to combat abuse of illicit drugs in Nigeria, the prevalent of drug

abuse, both consumption and peddling of the illicit substance is on the high side. Available literature indicted Government for not always being decisive in dealing with drug cartels in Nigeria, citing that it treats such drugs cases as sacred cows and untouchables, thus undermining the efforts of the drugs control institution. Besides, the result revealed that the Government institution in charge of illicit drug control does not have adequate funding; mobility and technological know-how to effectively match the operational sophistication of illicit drug dealers. For instance the required vehicle to navigate the rugged terrain leading to the drug farmlands and the aerial and communication capabilities to locate the cultivation base pose serious operational limitation to the NDLEA. Finally, it was revealed that government announces it has given the agency free hand to recruit staff needed for effective and proactive operations; it has a way of controlling the exercise at the operational expense of the agency.

## **CONCLUSION AND ADVICE FOR POLICY ACTION**

The developmental strength of every state lies in the ability of its various institutions to effectively handle policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. This authenticates the platitude that a state cannot develop faster and better than its institutions can afford. It is therefore very appropriate for states to strengthen the institutions, arming them with requisite paraphernalia that will provide them with strategic advantage over many possible work challenges. Globally, there is enormous risk facing drug fighting agencies because of the sophisticated operational strategies of drug abusers. Governments are advised to provide the agencies that fight illicit drug use with hi-tech equipment such as communication gadgets, rugged operational vehicle and consistent aerial and marine supports for easy location and tracking of the operational bases of illicit drugs actors. The state should also be mindful of such motivation like adequate funding; regular employment of staff; training and retraining of staff; promotions as at when due etc. Finally, the state should devise a means of checking activities of institutional members who for personal aggrandizement are set to sabotage the efforts of the agency in combating illicit drug deals. Besides, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has done well in combating drug abuse in Nigeria. However, efforts of the agency have been largely undermined by a dip in state's provision of requisites for effective operations. Finally, and very important is that Government should desist from being preferential or selective in dealing with drugs cases especially when it concerns members of a cartel close to Government. A special court should be set up to work with the drug agency to ensure that illicit drugs law takes its course no matter whose ox is gored.

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