

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA**

**EXPERIENCES OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS' RIGHT TO  
SECURITY AT AFLAO BORDER**



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**MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA**

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The logo of the University of Education, Winneba, is a circular emblem. It features a central sunburst or starburst design in white and red, set against a light blue background. Below the sunburst are three stylized human figures in white, arranged in a row. The entire emblem is enclosed within a circular border with a decorative, flame-like or leaf-like pattern at the bottom.

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**A thesis in the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies,  
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(Human Rights, Conflict and Peace Studies)  
in the University of Education, Winneba.**

**APRIL, 2024**

## DECLARATION

### Student's declaration

I, **Clement Appiah-Kubi**, do hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

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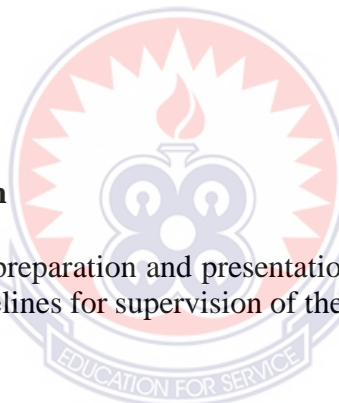
### Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work were supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

**Name of Supervisor:** Dr. Harrison Kwame Golo

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**Date**.....



## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my beloved wife, Esther Appiah-Kubi, for her support during the course of my study.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Harrison Kwame Golo, for his constructive criticisms on this piece of academic work. His advice and guidance made it possible to complete this thesis successfully.

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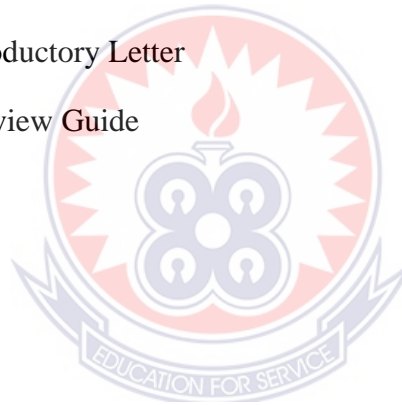


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## ABSTRACT

The study sought to provide empirical evidence on the experiences of Immigration Officers' right to security at Aflao border. Through the lenses of interpretivism, qualitative approach and phenomenology design were adopted for the study. The employed Lockean Human Right Theory and Securitization Theory were adopted as theoretical frameworks to underpin the study. The purposive sampling technique was used to select 12 Immigration Officers for the study. Semi-Structured interview guide was used as the instrument for data collection. Data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The study found that, the Aflao border by nature is a cultural border, has a strategic location, experiences high levels of human mobility and trade activities, has challenging terrain and porous, has approved entry points and characterized by economic and occupational migration. Findings also revealed that, threat to officers' right to security, infiltration and impersonation, porous borders, threats to officers' lives, lack of understanding of security and support, smuggling of goods, human smuggling and trafficking, lack of infrastructure and equipment and communication constraints were security challenges confronting Immigration Officers at the Aflao border. It came to limelight that due to security challenges at the Aflao border, there was effective collaboration with sister agencies. However, there was lack of cordiality with Togolese officers, revenue loss due to smuggling, fear and panic, ineffective border management, effect on rights to personal security, food security, economic security and environmental security of Immigration officers. The study concludes that, the security challenges confronting immigration officers at the Aflao border are complex and multi-faceted, indicating the importance of safeguarding immigration officers' rights to security, safety, and well-being. Therefore, the study recommends that, the Ministry of the Interior should improve infrastructure and equipment at the Aflao border to increase border management effectiveness and officers' right to security. Again, the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of Interior should provide more comprehensive training and capacity building programs for immigration personnel that focus on security, human rights, risk assessment, and effective border management.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

There has been an increasing border security threats against migrants and border officials possibly due to mobility of people for better livelihoods and accessibility to larger markets. As a result of this, there has been discussions and increasing focus on cross-border movement, border management and security. Border insecurity or threats has been linked to porous nature of borders. According to Addo (2006), the porosity of various sub-regional borders enables trans-border crimes and generates insecurity due to insufficient efforts and means for identifying illegal movements and activities. These illicit activities have far-reaching consequences for security and human rights of immigration officers as the porousness of the borders potentially expose them to health, environmental and personal security risks.

Immigration officers who work at porous borders may face a wide range of risks, including exposure to infectious diseases, poor sanitation, and limited access to healthcare, which can lead to serious health problems. In addition, immigration officers who work at porous borders may be exposed to environmental hazards which can have negative impacts on their health and well-being as well as the communities they serve. Immigration officers who work at porous borders may also be at risk of violence and other forms of personal insecurity. This can include physical assault, theft, and harassment, which can have significant impacts on the mental and physical health of immigration officers. Smith and Daynes (2016) agrees that the health of migrants in border crossing gives risks to border officials.

According to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008), individual security is a basic human right and individual protection is thus a fundamental duty of government. States are consequently obligated to protect the human rights of their citizens, whether regular citizens or border officers. Additionally, human rights are guaranteed by international law. The law places obligations on states to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all persons when managing and securing their borders (United Nations Office of Counter-terrorism, 2018).

It has been observed that the global population is growing more mobile as a result of demographic and economic inequities among nations, as well as the availability of modern telecommunications, media, and transportation technologies (Population Reference Bureau, 2015; Vanyoro, 2019). These advancements have exposed people in many parts of the world to life-changing prospects elsewhere, prompting many to relocate in order to take advantage of such opportunities (Devillard et al., 2015).

Akinyemi (2019) noted that one of the main consequences of West Africa's porous borders presently is the proliferation of trans-border crime. The issue stems from the complexities of organizations and their actions, as well as their worldwide reach and the threat they pose to democracy and legitimate economic progress. These organizations fundamentally weaken the nation-state notion (Shelley et al., 2003). Indeed, Simon (2011) agrees that the scope and pace of transnational crime have risen with the development of globalization. This also urged governments throughout the world to open their borders to the international community. Hence, nations with varied degrees of development in socioeconomic, political, and cultural sectors are amalgamated together in one form or another of regional structure, which has aided in the facilitation of transnational criminal operations (Opanike & Aduloju, 2015).

According to Sosuh (2011) a border is the primary line dividing two countries. As a result, they define the geographical boundaries and judicial power of political institutions such as subnational entities, governments and sovereign states. They are also viewed as a tangible representation of people's cultural and political institutions.

Despite the fact that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) free movement agreement allows for unrestrained movement of commodities, services, and people throughout Africa, there are still national border crossing limitations. After the enactment of the Ghana Immigration Act and the signing of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Ghana Immigration Service [GIS] has implemented severe immigration regulations to combat unlawful migratory trends (Act 573) (GIS, 2015; GSS, 2012). At the regional level, the African Union (AU) has adopted a number of programs, ranging from the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) to the newly established African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2019.

Despite these efforts several border threats have been reported. Studies by Obokata (2005) and Onuoha (2006) cited illegal smuggling of small weapons and firearms, as well as human trafficking, as examples of border crimes. Azure (2009) added that international crimes such as drug trafficking and armed robbery are typically managed by mercenaries and other recruitment agencies in the African area. Moreover, porous borders encourage drug and weapon trafficking, and human trafficking is a prevalent problem in Africa, with an estimated 9.24 million individuals transported for exploitation (African Sisters Educational Collaborative, 2021).

Security issues have existed in border management across the world. In the 1990s, Australia, the United States (US), and the European Union (EU) and its member states began to build public education programs aimed largely at preventing human

trafficking, which has grown into a new type of migration characterized by exploitation and coercion (Watkins, 2017; Williams, 2020). These anti-trafficking operations aimed to educate potential "victims" about the hazards of being engaged in criminal networks of smugglers and traffickers (Nieuwenhuys & Pécoud, 2007). Guild (2014) investigated the impact of border securitization on human rights in the European Union (EU). According to the author, after the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, EU policy has changed towards border securitization, with an emphasis on regulating irregular migration and combating terrorism. Guild contends that this transition has had substantial ramifications for human rights, notably the right to refuge and free movement. According to the author, the EU's emphasis on border security has resulted in greater limitations on the movement of refugees and migrants, making it more difficult for asylum seekers to get protection.

Cantor (2012) explored the human rights components of border management, focusing on the conflicts that exist between security considerations and human rights protection. Cantor contends that, while border control is an important component of national sovereignty, it may also endanger human rights. The author underlines that human rights must be prioritized in any border management strategy, and that such regulations should be designed to protect rather than destroy human rights. Cantor advocates for a more comprehensive strategy to border management that considers the social, economic, and political aspects that influence migration and addresses the core causes of irregular migration.

Border control and management challenges in Africa have not received the attention they require. In general, most governments have given little attention to state boundaries and their features in terms of what enters and departs the frontiers (Walters,

2006). As a result, most borders in Sub-Saharan African nations are ineffectively regulated, monitored, or patrolled, transforming them into transnational crime hotspots (Okumu, 2011). Growing quantities of cross-border activities have put strain on border control systems, highlighting the urgent need for African nations to implement efficient border management measures in order to reduce transnational criminal activities, which have gained traction in recent years (Okumu, 2011). As a result, several studies done in Africa revealed the prevalence of several security threats such as human trafficking and armed robbery. According to UNICEF research, over half of African countries identified trafficking as a problem, and child trafficking is usually regarded as more dangerous than trafficking in women (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2003).

They include an increase in cross-border crime and criminal activities in West Africa. They include human trafficking for forced labor, illicit migration, smuggling, income leakage, arms trafficking, and many others (Addo, 2006; Sosuh, 2011). Several West African governments are unable to control their borders efficiently due to a lack of suitable institutional structures, legal systems, logistics, manpower, and enough money (Yendaw, 2019).

In the view of Adepaju (2005), there has been a gradual increase in the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking to and from Africa, as well as within the continent. The irresponsible treatment of trafficking victims usually equates to new forms of slavery. According to his research, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal are the primary source, transit, and destination countries for trafficking women and children. Children who have been trafficked are convinced to work as domestic servants, in the informal sector, or on plantations through agent networks. Some of these children are enslaved further in Mauritania and Sudan (Adepaju, 2005).



Similarly, Veil (2008) maintains that the rate of human trafficking in West Africa cannot be oversimplified, as young children and women are primarily transiting from rural to urban centers, particularly from Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Ghana to Côte d'Ivoire's destination countries such as Nigeria and Gabon. The methods of accomplishing this includes; abduction of children, buying of children from poor parents, bonded placement of children as debt repayment, placement for a token sum for a specified duration or for gift items, and enrolment for a fee by an agent for domestic work at the request of the children's parents. It is not remarkable that the International Labor Report of 2002 emphasizes that child trafficking in West Africa may be linked back to a deteriorating economic condition, which leads to families handing up their children due to poverty, unemployment, and a variety of other factors (ILO Report, 2002).

Akinyemi (2019) postulated that the porous nature of African borders, as well as a lack of appropriate security and identity systems, support ongoing human trafficking activities. He added that in the West African area, Nigeria has the most unmanned, unreachable, underutilized, or without a functional governmental presence. This is exacerbated by the high incidence of poverty in neighboring nations. This consequently made Nigeria, a hot spot of human trafficking events, where traffickers are taking advantage of absence of effective security, identity systems and documentation.

In Ghana, the factors that threaten security at the borders have their root in the origin, nature and the mode of administering the borders during the era of imperialism (Sosuh, 2011). The traditional border threats have not disappeared, but have been joined by new and more intricate ones, manifesting themselves in activities such as smuggling of products, guns, narcotics, persons, and animals (Sosuh, 2011). Akakpo (2021)

investigated the business opportunities and security risks associated with the porous Ghana-Togo border. According to the article, in order to avoid customs penalties and delays, local dealers have devised a complicated smuggling system in which merchandise purchased in Lomé are delivered by transporters to informal border crossing sites before being passed across the border by locals. As products arrive in Ghana, they are loaded into taxis and conveyed to the neighboring city of Aflao.

Border threats have become a global concern due to increased mobility of people, goods, and services across borders. Despite efforts to curb the threats, several criminal activities, including human and drug trafficking, and armed robbery still occur. Border management policies must balance security concerns with respect for human rights. Therefore, this study sought to explore the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at Aflao border.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In general, both developed and developing nations have great challenges in controlling their borders, especially those of African countries, in a way that safeguards their territorial sovereignty (Ikome, 2012). Ghana, an ECOWAS member and supporter for African trade and economic integration, has signed and ratified a number of treaties pertaining to efficient border control, including the ECOWAS Small Arms and Light Weapons Convention of 2006 (Sosuh, 2011; Lamptey, 2013). The country's migration policy for 2016 emphasizes the need of efficient border control in maintaining and promoting national security, and it encourages policies that adhere to international best practices. Ghana, like other West African governments, faces complicated challenges and constraints in its efforts to manage and safeguard its borders. Despite attempts to secure borders, they remain vulnerable to transnational illicit activities (International

Organization for Migration, 2015; Government of Ghana, 2016) which further affect the security rights of immigration officers (Sosuh, 2011).

Ghana has migratory issues and porous borders with its West African neighbors. This has led in an increase in terrorism, smuggling, and human trafficking in recent years, drawing attention to border management (Pecoud & Guchteneire, 2006). Smuggling of goods, human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, refugee inflow, and animal migration have all been cited as important cross-border criminal operations that pose a threat to state security (Sosuh, 2011). This situation seems to be further compounded as the country's industries and government's capacity to collect taxes are being threatened by the smuggling of goods.

Moreover, the underlying reasons for the high influx of migrants through the Aflao porous border, such as poverty, conflict, and lack of opportunities in neighboring countries, present structural challenges that require long-term solutions beyond the scope of the Ghana Immigration Service (Anarfi et al., 2005). As a result, the burden of managing the border falls disproportionately on the shoulders of immigration officers, who are often ill-equipped to deal with the complex issues involved. Sosuh (2011) notes that the GIS (Ghana Immigration Service) border patrol unit, like other security agencies that monitor the sea and airports, is not permitted to use guns, despite the fact that its staff have received military training at the Asutuary training grounds. Meanwhile, the officers have right to their personal security which honors their rights and defines their ability to be free from fear.

A study conducted by Akakpo (2021) on the commercial prospects and security threats linked with the porous Ghana-Togo border sheds light on the challenges faced by Immigration Officers in securing the border at Aflao. The study highlights the existence

of a complex smuggling system that evades customs charges and delays, which is a security threat to the country. As indicated above, immigration officers tasked with securing porous borders often face difficulties such as encountering armed smugglers or risking exposure to dangerous conditions. It is therefore important that their human rights, including their right to safety, are respected and protected.

In the researcher's little study to establish the level of study in this area of work, the researcher observed that there is extensive literature on the respect or protection of migrants' right in securing or managing borders to the neglect of the experiences of immigration officers' right to security (Mattila, 2001; Lorgat, 2022; Low, 2023). This is an area where there is paucity of literature. This study is therefore designed to bridge the existing gap by exploring the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to explore the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at Aflao border.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives guided the study:

1. Explore the nature of the Aflao border.
2. Analyze the security challenges that confront immigration officers at Aflao border.
3. Examine the influence of security challenges in border management at Aflao border.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the nature of the Aflao border?
2. What are the security challenges that confront immigration officers at Aflao border?
3. What are the influences of security challenges in border management at Aflao border?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study on the explore the experiences of immigration officers' right to security in Aflao border is significant for several reasons. Firstly, the study provides insights into the effectiveness of the Ghanaian government's efforts to secure the country's borders and regulate migration. The government of Ghana has made efforts to improve border management, including collaborating with the European Union (EU) on border security initiatives. However, it is important to assess the effectiveness of these efforts, particularly in the context of securing the border at Aflao.

Secondly, the study is also significant for the GIS, as it will provide insights into the security challenges faced by immigration officers in securing the border and the need to protect their human rights. The GIS can use the findings of the study to develop policies and strategies that ensure the safety and well-being of immigration officers while carrying out their duties.

Thirdly, the study is significant for the EU, as it has been involved in supporting Ghana's efforts to manage its borders. The findings of the study can be used to inform

future EU-Ghana collaboration on border security initiatives, with a focus on protecting the human rights of immigration officers.

Finally, the study adds to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the experiences of immigration officers' right to security, and by identifying best practices and strategies that protect their human rights while ensuring effective management of borders.

### **1.7 Delimitation**

Geographically, the study was delimited to Aflao border, located on the Ghana-Togo boundary. By content, it was delimited to experiences of immigration officers' right to security in border management.

### **1.8 Definition of Terms**

The following terms should be understood in the following manner as used in the study.

**Boundary:** The line that marks the confines or divides the contiguous territories of Ghana and Togo at Aflao.

**Border:** The physical or conceptual boundary that separates Ghana's territory from Togo's territory.

**Border management:** refers to the policies, procedures, and practices that are implemented by Ghana's government and immigration officers at Aflao to manage the movement of people and goods across Aflao border.

**Border security:** Border security refers to measures taken by Ghana's government and immigration officers at Aflao to prevent unauthorized or illegal entry of people, goods, or substances across Aflao border.

**Porous border:** A border that is easily crossed or breached, allowing for the unauthorized or illegal entry of people, goods, or substances at Aflao.

**Human rights:** The basic rights and freedoms that Immigration Officers are entitled to, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, or any other status.

### **1.9 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into five (5) chapters. Chapter One contains the introduction which dilates on the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation, definition of terms and organization of the study. Chapter Two reviews related literature which includes theoretical framework and the review on major themes highlighted in the research questions.

Chapter Three takes a look at the methodology of the study which comprises research paradigm, approach, research design, population, sample and sampling techniques and procedure for collection of data, trustworthiness of data, the techniques used in analyzing the data and limitations of the study. Chapter Four presents the results and discussion of the findings. Chapter Five focuses on the summary of the study, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter of the study reviewed relevant literature regarding the topic under study. Scholarly works, research journals, books and other authorities have been consulted to unearth relevant information about the experiences of immigration officers' right to security. The review first on the key themes raised in the research questions followed by the theoretical framework that underpins the study. The review was as follows:

- Theoretical framework – Lockean human right theory and securitization theory
- Conceptual Framework
- Conceptual Definition of Border and Border management
- Approaches and perspectives to border management
- The nature of borders in Africa
- Security challenges confronting border management and security
- Influence of security challenges in border management

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

Lederman and Lederman (2015) argued that a theoretical framework is a concept made of a theory(s) that try to explain the relationship between different phenomena. The main theories that guided this study were the Lockean human right theory and securitization theory.

##### **2.1.1 Lockean Human Rights Theory**

Human Rights Theory is not credited to a single person, but rather a body of ideas and philosophy that has evolved over time. Its origins can be traced back to the 18th century



Enlightenment period, when authors such as John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau articulated notions about natural rights and the significance of defending individual liberty (Bristow, 2017). The current study was founded on Lockean Human Rights Theory.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issued by the United Nations General Assembly, is widely regarded as the foundation of modern human rights doctrine. This treaty provides a set of fundamental human rights that should be respected globally, independent of particular characteristics such as nationality, ethnicity, or gender. Human rights theory has evolved and developed since then, with scholars, activists, and governments trying to refine and expand on its essential concepts. Human rights theory is now a widely recognized and important paradigm that is used to guide global efforts to promote and preserve human rights.

John Locke was a British philosopher, born in 1632, whose ideas resound to this day (Uzgalis, 2005). Locke believed that human rights, such as the right to life, liberty, and property, exist in nature. Deriving rights from nature suggests that the majority of human behaviors are intended to increase pleasure or pain. Locke argued that ideas evolved from experience, sensations, and reflection (Griffith, 2003). These features provide a foundation for logical morality. Natural rights put obligations on others to refrain from invading or violating these rights. There must also be a system in place to protect these rights and penalize those who violate them. Because power to impose punishment does not exist in nature, everyone is entitled to the right to punish any offender who violates the rights of anyone (Melden, 1988). This is the law of the jungle. Locke believed that a right that may be afforded an individual is a result of natural rights.

Human Rights Theory is a paradigm based on the notion that all humans have inherent rights that must be recognized and preserved. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and personal security, as well as other civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights (UN, n.d.). Lockean Human Rights Theory emphasizes the necessity of protecting immigration officers' rights, especially their right to a safe and secure working environment, in the context of the study on the experiences of immigration officers at the Aflao border. This means that the state bears responsibility for preventing and responding to threats to the security and safety of immigration agents, including acts of violence, harassment, or other forms of mistreatment.

In addition to preserving immigration officers' rights, Lockean Human Rights Theory requires the state to ensure that immigration officers' activities do not violate the rights of persons attempting to enter the border. This means that immigration officials must treat all individuals with decency and respect, and behave in accordance with international human rights standards. To ensure its realization, the government should place officers in the appropriate structure and environment in border management.

This theory has been adopted because, in the context of the study on the experiences of immigration officers at the Aflao border, the Lockean theory help to guide efforts to improve working conditions and security for immigration officers, while also ensuring that the human rights of all individuals at the border are respected and upheld. This framework can be used to identify areas where improvements are needed in policies and practices, and to inform recommendations for action that uphold the rights of all individuals involved in border management at the Aflao border.

### 2.1.2 Securitization Theory

The theory of securitization was established by the Copenhagen School, which included Buzan, Waever, and de Wilde (McSweeney, 1996). According to the securitization theory, any public problem is and can be classified as non-politicized, politicized, or securitized. When an issue falls into the last category, it is presented as an existential threat, necessitating emergency measures and justifying activities outside the confines of normal political procedure (Buzan et al., 1998). The past Cold War military concentration has resulted in an existential threat (Bigo, 2002). In practice, though, the application is far broader. In his work, Huysmans (2002) contended that, the meaning of the existential danger varies. It is not about the political unit's physical survival, but about its functional integrity and independent identity (Huysmans, 2002). Securitization is frequently used to examine many security concerns, such as state foreign policy actions (Abrahamsen, 2005), border security issues, the formation of transnational crime, and the threats posed by terrorism (Buzan, 2006; McDonald, 2008).

To prevent 'everything' from becoming a security issue, a successful securitization consists of three steps. These are: (1) identification of existential threats; (2) emergency action; and (3) effects on inter-unit relations by breaking free of rules (Buzan et al., 1998, p.6). To present an issue as an existential threat is to say that: 'If we do not tackle this problem, everything else will be irrelevant (because we will not be here or will not be free to deal with it in our own way)' (Buzan et al., 1998, p.24). This first step towards a successful securitization is called a securitizing move. In theory, any unit can make a securitizing move since only when an actor has persuaded an audience (inter-unit relations) of its justifiable need to go beyond otherwise binding laws and regulations (emergency mode) can we define a case of securitization (Taureck, 2006).

Security, according to Buzan (2006), should be viewed as a negative, as a failure to deal with basic political difficulties' (Buzan et al., 1998). As a result, he recommends a de-securitization plan in which securitization is reversed and issues are shifted out of the "threat—defense sequence and into the ordinary public sphere," where they can be dealt with in compliance with the laws of the (democratic) political system (Taureck, 2006).

Securitization theory is appropriate for analyzing the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border. Securitization theory examines how certain issues are constructed as threats to security and then treated as exceptional, which can have significant implications for policy and practice within the jurisdiction of Ghana Immigration Service. In the case of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border, securitization theory is appropriate to help understand how the issue of their safety and security has been framed as a threat to national security and sovereignty. Using this theory for the study will also shed light on the practices and policies that have been implemented as a result of this framing, and how they have affected the experiences of immigration officers.

Overall, securitization theory is a useful lens through which to organize the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border, as it can provide insight into the broader social, political, and institutional dynamics that shape security practices and policies at the Aflao border.

## **2.2 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework for understanding the experiences of immigration officers at the Aflao border centers on the central concept of the right to security. This framework identifies the importance of recognizing immigration officers with rights to personal security, right to environmental security, right to food security and right to

economic security. The study explores various factors and challenges that influence the officers' right to security and examines the implications for effective border management at the Aflao border.

A crucial factor in understanding the officers' experiences is the nature of the Aflao border itself. As a strategically located border with high levels of human traffic and trade activities, the border presents unique challenges. The challenging terrain, issues with porosity, presence of approved entry points, cultural border dynamics, and economic and occupational migration all contribute to the complexity of managing and safeguarding the border. These factors significantly impact the experiences of immigration officers and their ability to maintain their right to security.

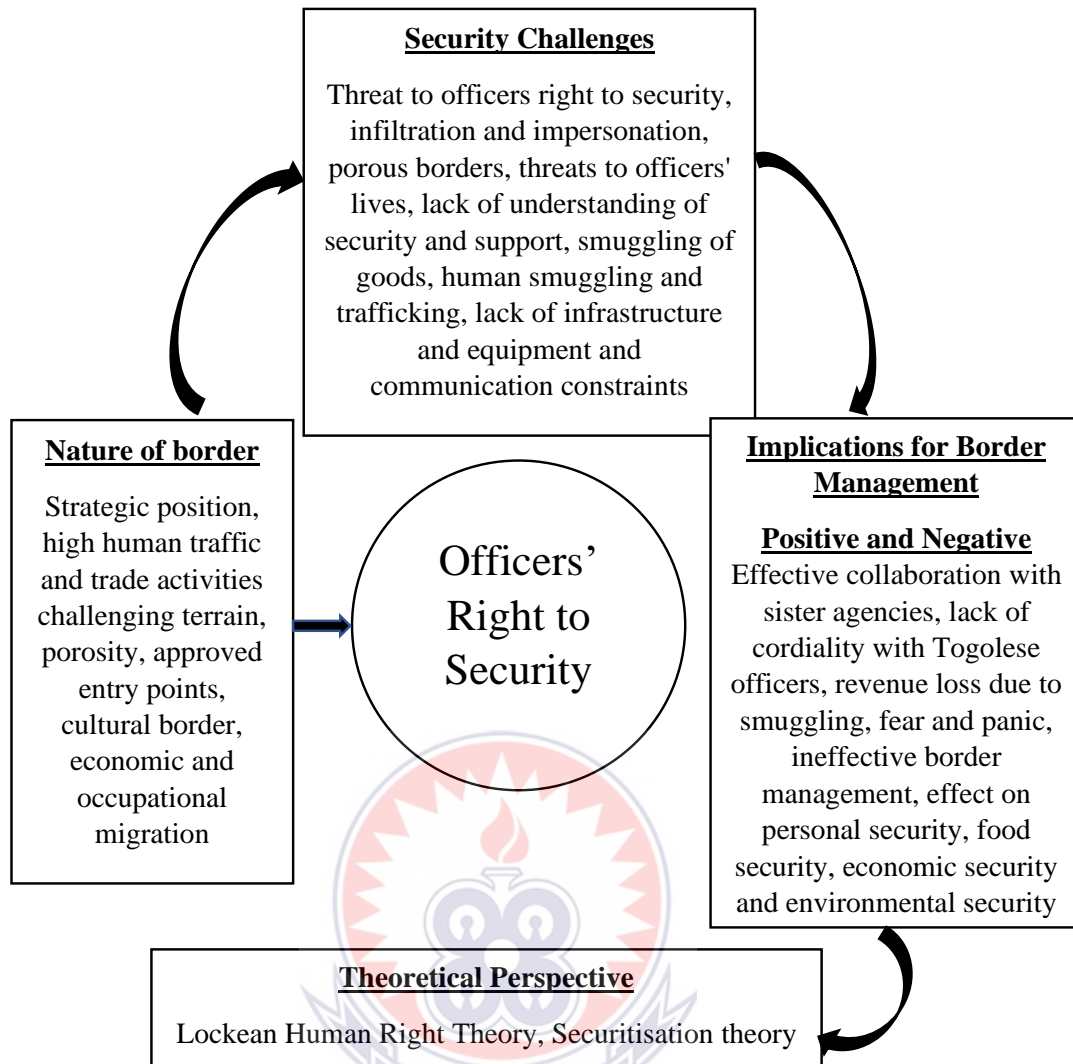
Identifying the security challenges faced by immigration officers at the Aflao border is essential in this framework. These challenges encompass various threats to their right to security, including infiltration and impersonation, porous borders, and risks to their lives. Additionally, the lack of understanding of security protocols and support, along with issues such as smuggling of goods, human smuggling and trafficking, and inadequate infrastructure, equipment, and communication facilities, further compound the challenges faced by the officers and affect their right to security.

Understanding the security challenges leads to recognizing their implications for border management at the Aflao border. The study highlights the need for effective collaboration with sister agencies to address security concerns and ensure the safety and security of immigration officers. However, the lack of cordiality with Togolese officers presents complexities and obstacles to managing the border effectively. It is crucial to address these implications to enhance overall security and efficiency in border management operations.

Theoretical perspectives, such as Lockean Human Rights Theory and Securitization Theory, provide valuable insights into understanding the experiences of immigration officers and the dynamics of border management at the Aflao border. Lockean Human Rights Theory emphasizes the importance of protecting the rights of immigration officers, including their right to a safe and secure working environment. This perspective highlights the responsibility of the state to ensure the officers' well-being and security while upholding their human rights.

On the other hand, Securitization Theory sheds light on the construction of security threats at the Aflao border and the subsequent emergency measures and policy responses. By analyzing how certain issues are framed as existential threats, this theory helps understand the impact of securitization on border management practices and policies.

In conclusion, the proposed conceptual framework highlights the central importance of the right to security in the experiences of immigration officers at the Aflao border. It underscores the interconnections among various factors, challenges, and theoretical perspectives and their implications for border management. This framework serves as a foundation for further research and offers guidance to policymakers and practitioners in developing strategies that enhance the right to security for immigration officers while effectively managing the border and upholding human rights.



**Figure 1: Right to security in border management framework**

Source: Author's own construct

### **2.3 Conceptual Definition of Border and Border Management**

The concept of borders and border management is an interesting topic in academia since they are viewed within regional and global structures with respect to individual political states. Borders define a country's sovereignty by defining its area and the limits of its administration and jurisdiction. Borders also help to define national identities. The limits of a nation state unite people, determine their lifestyles, national culture (including language), destiny, and privileges (e.g., the right to vote, enjoy social benefits, and some rights denied to non-citizens) (Okumu, 2011).

According to Marenin (2010), the increasing interdependence of governments, economies, cultures, and populations allowed by technology has severely damaged states' power to control personal mobility and the transfer of knowledge and money, as well as to ensure the integrity of their borders. Legal economies have unlawful analogues, illicit activities carried out by international organized crime that cannot be regulated by a single state. Severe migrations occur around the world as people seek work, flee severe local conflict, or flee political persecution. The world is in the states, and the states are in the world (Marenin, 2010). Borders still matter, in this opinion, appear to be an archaic and outmoded way of thinking. Borders are essentially crumbling remains of sovereignty that will be washed away gradually by floods of legal and illegal movement of people, goods, and information (O'Dowd, 2001; Marenin, 2010).

According to various experts, borders have grown more significant as interdependence provides new and expanded opportunities for the mobility and worldwide dispersion of conventional and emerging dangers (Anderson & Hale, 2019; Marenin, 2010). States continue to matter, and disputes and tensions around the world continue to rely on state operations for management and resolution (O'Dowd, 2001). Borders continue to identify the state as the ultimate actor when it comes to dealing with challenges to security, justice, rights, and liberties (O'Dowd, 2001; Furness, 2000; Marenin, 2010).

Border management is broadly defined as the government functions of immigration, customs and excise, and policing that aim to monitor and regulate the influx or outflux of people and goods across a country's border/boundary in the national interest, particularly economic development, security, and peace (Okumu & Ikelegbe, 2010). According to Ireland (2009), border management also includes the upkeep of boundary



beacons that define the physical boundaries of the country's territory. Border management, according to Okumu and Ikelegbe (2010) and Ireland (2009), is a collaborative activity between a country and its neighbors. It cannot be accomplished alone, and it is the most productive and effective when accomplished regionally, pointing to the concept of integrated border management. Jana (2017) identifies border management stakeholders include customs, immigration, police, military forces, and the ministry of agriculture for quarantine purposes, all of which operate separately and without networking or information exchange. He comes to the conclusion that border management is a manifestation of a state's sovereignty. Failure to control a state's borders might jeopardise its domestic and international legitimacy. A state's or government's legal standing is determined by how it manages its borders.

A more complex view of boundaries is that they are becoming both more and less relevant. They are less important since that states' ability to control the mobility of people, goods, services, and capital has been severely damaged, and control has shifted away from states or must be shared with non-governmental organizations and groups (multinational corporations, transnational NGOs, IGOs and transnational policy groupings and communities). At the same time, borders retain their ultimate position as one of the defining characteristics of nations - sovereignty over a finite piece of territory - and continue to be vital political building blocks of the global system (Marenin, 2010).

#### **2.4 Approaches and Perspectives to Border Management**

The concept of borders and border management is a complex and multi-faceted topic, with different approaches and perspectives. A review of the literature shows that there are several key themes and debates surrounding this issue.

One theme is the ontological status of borders. Nail's Theory of the Border (ToB) argues that borders should be seen as dynamic and fluid processes of movement and circulation rather than static, fixed entities (Jeandesboz, 2019). Nail grounds his Theory of the Border (ToB) in a two-fold move whereby: (1) a theory of the border requires 'a reinterpretation of society itself as a process of movement and circulation' (p. 21), a move that calls for ontological primacy to be given to social motion rather than fixity or stasis, and (2) the border is conceived as a primary social process rather than a by-product of state and society (the border produces, rather than is being produced by, state and society) (Jeandesboz, 2019).

Gloria Anzaldúa's Borderlands theory explores the social production of borders and their impact on identity and power relations (Orozco-Mendoza, 2008). Meanwhile, the concept of virtual borders has emerged as an increasingly important aspect of border management, reflecting the changing nature of security threats and the expansion of digital technologies (Aniszewski, 2009).

Another theme concerns the management of borders. Coordinated Border Management (CBM) has emerged as a key concept in policy development, emphasizing the need for collaboration and cooperation between border agencies and stakeholders (Doyle, 2011). The complexities surrounding migration and mobility in recent times have called for more proactive systems of controlling borders among nations (Niamir-Fuller, 1999). The growing demand to coordinate the work of different agencies or units or departments of the same institution at the border in order to ensure smooth migration or mobility have always relied on the CBM approach. The CBM approach is of enormous importance to border agencies, policymakers as well as international organizations. At both international and domestic levels, CBM as a concept helps to

regulate efficiency and effectiveness between border agencies during policy development and operational activities through coordination.

CBM as an approach for running the day-to-day affairs of an organization offers a theoretical underpinning for managing border posts and its related activities. Due to the robustness of this approach, it offers practical interpretations, operational arrangements, such as joint mobile teams, joint risk management and targeting areas that would not have been addressed using ordinary administrative approach or concept. It focuses on institutions such as Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) which has responsibility on border management, where such institution coordinates activities among themselves to control and manage affairs of their borders.

In addition, the concept of Integrated Border Management (IBM) is an accepted model for border management in preserving internal security of a country, especially in the area of prevention and detection of irregular migration and border-crime related issues (Carrera, 2007). This concept is an upgraded form of border management approaches due to its operational dimensions set to provide more efficient ways of managing borders.

With respect to the dimensions stipulated in the IBM approach, the first one is the border control system which basically deals with checks and surveillance in the area of important analysis of risk associated with border control and crime intelligence. Concerning border control, GIS as an institution does same with its Patrol and Intelligence Units but lacks the needed resources to secure the borders. When operational strategies of border control by GIS are enhanced using the IBM concept in addition to provisions of the needed resources, border control management will be enhanced effectively. Secondly, the IBM approach focuses on detection and

investigation of cross-border crimes in coordination with all authorities in the law enforcement unit (Leonard, 2009).

Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) has also been recognized as a critical component of migration crisis response, involving operations before, during, and after humanitarian crises (International Organization for Migration, n.d). Furthermore, there is a growing recognition of the importance of an environmental approach to border management, which takes into account the ecological impacts of border policies and practices (Ali, 2019).

Border management interventions can contribute to meeting several targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prime among these is goal 10, target 10.7: “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. In addition, several targets in goals 9, 16 and 17 also touch upon effective border management. In respective order, these aim to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”.

Overall, the literature on the concept of borders and border management reveals a complex and evolving field of study, with important implications for social, political, and ecological systems.

## 2.5 The Nature of Borders in Africa

A range of historical and political factors, including pre-colonial migratory histories and post-colonial territorial boundaries, have influenced African borders (Adotey, 2021). Conflicts over borders, marginalization of people dwelling along borders, informal cross-border economies, and contempt for "artificial" boundaries are all highlighted in literature on African borders and borderlands (Hoehne & Feyissa, 2013). In African decolonization issues, inherited colonial territories have been crucial (Ajala, 1983). Many borders in Africa are seen to be porous. According to Akinyemi (2019), the porosity of West African borders may be traced back to colonialism partitioning of the African continent, and then to colonialist regimes' administration and control of boundaries even after independence. It should be emphasized that before to independence, the primary goal in Africa was to develop a sphere of influence primarily for economic and political reasons (Akinyemi, 2019). Indeed, the colonial determination of boundaries without regard for the socio-cultural backgrounds of the people in Africa explains why their tribe brothers and sisters are dispersed across borders.

Several scholars in recent times admit to the fact that current African borders are porous making them ineffective in practice (Englebert et al., 2002). This observation indicates the ease with which migrants traverse international boundaries within the sub-Region (Van Dijk et al., 2001). Despite this, Adepoju (2000) asserted that due to historically unpoliced boundaries that separate many West African nations, West African migrants essentially conflate cross-border movements with internal migration. Other researchers have proposed that the significance of borders is undermined when capitalist penetration into origin areas increases emigration while also creating an international

political economy in which both origin and destination areas become part of the larger economy and social environment (Papadimitriou & Martin, 1991; De Haan, 2006).

Some recognize land border porosity as cause for concern and insecurity, but for borderland communities, it is an essential part of their transnational existence, social and economic life, and cultural uniqueness that conform to their identity and livelihoods. A haphazard attempt to seal up such porosity constitutes a danger to the borderland way of life (Joseph, 2007). According to Joseph, the dynamism generated by these borderland communities broadens the challenges and requirements for border management beyond the traditional issues of law enforcement and surveillance (border maintenance) to encompass the entire public administration agenda: health, education, infrastructure, social and economic development, culture, arts, and, most importantly, commerce and transnational forms of production.

According to Adesina (2014), the continual presence of terrorists in adjacent countries is caused by porous and unregulated borders, especially in Sub-Saharan African nations. He added further to say that, while the sub-region has been at ease with weaponry and ammunition, materials for making explosives and radicalism, other sources of transnational dangers are related to the East African bloc, with traces traceable back to stateless Somalia. According to the World Bank (2005), West Africa alone has 35 international boundaries with a significant degree of porosity. It exposes them to threats such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, small arms and light weapons, and recent terrorist strikes (World Bank, 2005).

Border management and security are critical in Ghana, as they are in many African nations, for guaranteeing territorial sovereignty and integrity, as well as ensuring that borders act as bridges rather than obstacles (Okumu, 2011). According to Uzoma and

Eudora (2016), despite the beneficial effects of globalization, it continues to represent a danger to effective border security in West Africa. The growth of information and communication technology, as well as the shift in international relations brought about by globalization, has heightened the issues that African governments face in managing their borders (Okumu, 2011). According to studies, Ghana's borders are poorly controlled and porous, resulting in problems like as human trafficking and illegal migration (Yendaw, 2022; Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

Ghana has been viewed as a fenceless country, with over 40 approved crossings, two seaports, one airport, and 36 minor borders, all of which lack Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and other measures to improve border control. In addition to these boundaries, smugglers and criminals have established alternative ways to illicit trading, endangering the people of Ghana, particularly her national unity. As a result of these oversights, Ghana's security forces have been deemed ineffective (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

According to research conducted by Yendaw (2022), unlawful border crossing of immigrants from Togo and Burkina Faso is partly owing to the two countries' closeness to Ghana, as well as their ethnic affinities with the Republic of Ghana. Consider the 'Ewe' ethnic group in Togo and the 'Mossi' ethnic group in Burkina Faso, both of which are also present in Ghana. Because of these ethnic links, several Togolese and Burkinabes have relatives in Ghana. Because of these ethnic ties, Ghana's borders are extremely porous, with various unauthorized ways. Similarly, there are places in the Republic of Benin dominated by Nigerians from the Yoruba-speaking section of Nigeria who are natives of Benin (Blum, 2014). In other words, Yoruba people are citizens of Benin because of colonial formation in 1889 (Flynn, 1997). Due to familial

lineage connections from both nations, there is double allegiance and compromise between Nigerians and Beninese. This has made border control in Benin and other nations inside Benin's borders a major concern. Here, the issue of ethnic identification develops, making border management problematic for government authorities (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

It is worth noting that Ghana is a prominent African country, with significant natural resources and the distinction of being the first black African country south of the Sahara to attain independence from colonial authority (Maier et al., 2023). As a result, its borders are crucial in terms of national security and regional integration initiatives. To achieve successful border management, the United Nations book on good practices in border security emphasizes the necessity of safeguarding porous borders and the need for cross-border collaboration. The essay emphasizes the specific problems provided by porous borders, as well as the need of governments recognizing the importance of safeguarding them (United Nations, 2018).

## **2.6 Security Challenges confronting Border Management and Security**

Border security and management contribute to improve national security globally, but have been compromised in Africa (Solana, 2003; Bush, 2009). Countries' defensive strategies reveal how safe and peaceful their borders are, as well as their capacity to adapt border security measures. Border insecurity has grown due to the neglect of border control measures (Titeca & De Herdt, 2010; Nkoroi, 2016). Many of the problems stem from a lack of realistic approaches to border control practices (Quartey, 2019).

According to Flynn (2002), border security concerns are not generally anchored in national security and economic objectives, and border organizations are typically



under-equipped, under-trained, and under-resourced. Certain boundary locations in the sub-region, particularly those further from the capital, may not always have enough infrastructure, such as detecting devices and scanners. Customs administrations in the region do not often have national bases on criminals, their networks, forms, and volumes of illicit goods seizures (Goita, 2011).

According to Lamptey (2013), the insecurity problem is exacerbated by understaffed agencies and disengaged employees who do not properly communicate and coordinate their efforts on a national and regional scale. Similarly, Okumu and Ikelegbe (2010) argue that the instability of the Arab Spring, as well as the rise and expansion in transnational organized criminal organizations and their transnational operations, have put the reaction mechanisms put in place to secure borders to the test. Opon et al. (2015) performed research that analyzed the obstacles that immigration border control faced as well as the opportunities that influenced counter-terrorism efforts in Kenya. The study's findings revealed that the primary human resources concerns affecting immigration border control were personnel levels, serving under uneven schemes of service and terms of employment, and the deployment of officials based on personal integrity and competency.

Gituanja (2013) also conducted border management research to examine the barriers to successful border management policy implementation in Kenya. The study specifically attempted to investigate the influence of emerging global trends on border management and policy implementation in Kenya. During a highly structured interview, information was gathered using a survey research approach. The primary data for the study came from questionnaires distributed to immigration officers and administrative personnel within the Department of Immigration, and the data was analyzed qualitatively.

According to the findings, there are obstacles to the efficient execution of border rules and procedures. Emerging global trends were identified as important factors and barriers to successful border management. Largely, integration as a trend has had effect on border management as well as migration.

According to Hess (2010), certain empirical studies show that a lack of institutions in the area of border management concerns depicts how African nations solve border crossing difficulties. This is evident in governments' dedication to border control, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, yet many nations in the sub-Region lack skilled border management organizations. Again, a lack of coordination at all levels makes border control more difficult. This issue stems from a lack of collaboration at several levels, including the local level, where most border security and control measures do not engage border communities (Quartey, 2019). Although there have not been many armed confrontations over borders, borderlands have experienced the majority of violent conflicts that re-echo the actions of transnational criminals across boundaries (Mathews et al., 2014). When border towns are ignored and alienated from the centre, they become uncooperative and very secretive, and they seldom volunteer information to government officials on suspect individuals (Quartey, 2019).

According to Thomas and Tow (2002), a lack of engagement between locals and state officials while deploying security forces has an impact on border control because the majority of locals have extensive knowledge of border terrain. A new report by the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) explores border management difficulties and the need for a balanced strategy that considers both security and accessibility. According to the article, people-centric methods are critical to effective border management, and including people in national security is critical to safeguarding

borders while guaranteeing accessibility (VIF, 2021). The lack of integration and coordination across government agencies, such as immigration, police, customs, and other security authorities, contributes significantly to the issues (Raad, 1995). Despite the above assumption, a similar result is accomplished at the regional level, where most government entities within the sub-Region exchange intelligence and conduct joint border patrols, however this is not done on a regular basis to improve border protection and prevent border-related crimes.

Interestingly, the problem of demarcation is a major factor to border instability in Africa (Moll, 2010). African border management is a challenging endeavor, especially when boundary demarcations are unclear, making patrolling a country's border likely to result in an invasion of a neighbor's territory. Some experts claim that the nature and features of Africa's borders, as well as what enters and departs, are the root causes of border management issues. This development makes it harder to monitor, patrol, or manage borders on a regular basis. They have once again become transit sites for illicit operations, transforming the majority of borders in Sub-Saharan Africa into transnational crime zones (Herbst, 1989; Johnson et al., 2011). Thus, border security in sub-Saharan Africa has been a challenge, making infiltration by enemies in conflict areas easy.

Other important difficulties affecting border management include a shortage of security professionals to patrol the borders, insufficient border management abilities, a lack of information harmonization between surrounding nations, and a lack of equipment and infrastructure. Oscar (1994) defined these concerns as the "backbone" of all border-related problems. Aside from the aforementioned issues, insufficient facilities and

housing for border authorities, as well as outdated communication devices, add to the larger issue of border management.

Furthermore, the use of modern technology and revolution in international relations has negated the purpose of conventional borders, harming African governments partially in terms of handling border-related crimes. According to Johnson and Post (1995) and Biemann (2002), this has resulted in crimes being committed without passing through borders and vast amounts of commodities being traded without physical boundaries, but rather through cyberspace. An IOM report also discusses the difficulties of border restrictions and the use of technology in border management. According to the article, while tightening border restrictions can improve security, it also undermines sovereignty, and strong inter-state cooperation is required for efficient border management (International Organization for Migration, 2012).

A former senior official in the United States Department of Homeland Security discusses the strategic lessons that may be drawn from recent migratory events that have put border authorities in North America and Europe under extreme strain. Smuggling was mentioned as a major security concern in the article. Thus, the study emphasizes the importance of comprehensive border management methods that focus on both preventing unauthorized entry and enabling legal migration movements (Bersin, 2021).

Human smuggling and trafficking operations, where clients are aided for a fee to cross a border, have been identified as important difficulties in border control in Africa, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to Andreas (2003), Kolossov (2005), and Pastore et al. (2006). This has been rendered possible by the porous nature of land boundaries, which many regard as a source of danger and vulnerability. According to

studies by Van Schendelm and Abraham (2005) and Addo (2006), weak state capacities to deal prudently with its borders have given criminal syndicates an advantage to trade illegally by smuggling contraband goods and ensuring smooth passage of foreigners without proper documentation, in addition to the assistance of border personnel (Lan & Xiao, 2014).

According to Onuoha (2011), human trafficking in Africa is caused by internal rather than external forces. Internal causes include the character of Africa's sociopolitical systems and the paradoxes that they generate. Many years of misrule, wars, and conflicts of varied magnitudes are among them. As a result, there has been increased unemployment, extreme poverty, and sickness. They have weakened the states even more and increased their inability to control and resist human trafficking.

Human trafficking became obvious to African policymakers in the 1990s. It evolved from cross-border migration, which had historically been a component of the region's economic life systems. Aside from the multiple variables that may have contributed to human trafficking, there is also the issue of social deprivation, particularly the degradation of social protection that persons experienced in traditional African culture (Truong, 2006). Trafficking happens more often inside and between African sub-regions.

According to Onuoha (2011), trafficking occurs in Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Gabon in Western and Central Africa. Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad are also participating. Their activities focus on slave labor exploitation in the cocoa belt of the sub-region.

Domestic servants; commercial sex workers; in armed conflicts; in service industries such as bars and restaurants; in hazardous forms of work in factories, mines, and construction; in agriculture, fishing, begging/pan-handling, and street vending; and others as slaves on debt bondage. Those who work in urban manufacturing, domestic services, or restaurants may be coerced into prostitution. Prostitutes may be resold more than once (Anarfi, 2000; Tandia, 2000; Tengey & Oguah, 2002; Truong, 2006). Intermediaries or third parties, including scammers and criminal gangs, are involved in trafficking in the subregion. Although the exact number of trafficked people is unknown, governments in the region are worried about the rising occurrence of human trafficking (Onouha, 2011).

A research examines Brazil's approach to border management and identifies the limitations of bilateral agreements in tackling transnational concerns affecting Brazil and its neighbors. The research noted drug trafficking and illegal weaponry transfers as issues in border management in Brazil. According to the essay, a more strategic approach to border management that considers both security and trade is required to handle the problems connected with transnational concerns (The Wilson Centre, 2014).

Kamwenubusa (2016) examines the difficulties involved with border management and security in Africa. The essay emphasizes the difficult problem that African countries have in controlling their borders in ways that ensure national sovereignty while also supporting economic progress and regional integration. His study indicates that drug trafficking, auto theft, terrorist activities, human and arms smuggling to be the security challenges confronting African borders.

Drug trafficking Africa has emerged as a key transshipment route for narcotics that are skillfully disguised in order to conceal their origins and evade detection. Almost all

African countries lack effective detection technologies for dangerous substances and items such as drugs and weapons. In certain situations where border patrol officers have recovered contraband, drug lords have colluded with high-ranking government officials to hinder their operations. Cocaine transported from South America to Europe has readily passed via West African borders (UNODC, 2008). Cargo containers and offshore drops are used in illegal drug trafficking. Most African governments lack the capability to board and intercept ships at sea, as well as examine their ports for illicit and dangerous products (Okumu, 2011).

African governments show minimal interest in the operations of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) established to aid in the fight against human trafficking, the enforcement of human rights, and the prevention of human rights violations against vulnerable people (Truong, 2006). This lack of focus is also visible in the little attention that is paid to the enactment and enforcement of human trafficking legislation (Adepoju, 2005; Pearson, 2002; Truong, 2006).

Furthermore, research studies have showed that most African nations are plagued with insurmountable kidnappings and the spread of weaponry as a result of porous borders, posing a challenge of national integration. Countries such as Ghana, the Republic of Benin, and Nigeria have observed the aforementioned challenges, which have alarmed policymakers and international organizations. While much literature has examined this issue from the perspectives of Western powers and colonialism, the issue of porous borders and national integration among African countries has become a recurring decimal, creating a negative image among African states in the international system (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

According to McGuire in Ukpong (2017), West Africa is one of the world's most impoverished and unstable areas, supporting Brown's (2013) contention that the sub-region's governance and law enforcement are primary causes of its underdevelopment. As a result, McGuire portrays many sub-regional nations as clearly frail, without the power to carry out fundamental security and welfare tasks of statehood. As a result, they are distinguished by corruption, political chaos, and crises.

There are numerous obstacles, unlawful barriers, and the issue of road insecurity. Because there is no system in place to properly monitor cross-border movements, the ECOWAS protocol on free movement is positively adding to the sub-region's instability. According to Opanike and Aduloju (2015), the free movement protocol cannot be blamed entirely for the ease of passage of militants and their weapons, but the subversion of security agents has also contributed to the sub-region's instability. As a result, the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons and products among states was established in order to secure free movement of individuals or residents of member nations in order to accomplish development.

According to Uzoma and Eudora (2016), the exploitation of this procedure has contributed significantly to the entry of illicit commodities and people. According to Uzoma and Eudora (2016), this free movement policy has been abused, mainly by criminals and terrorists involved in the smuggling of weaponry, ammunition, and other commodities inside the area. Furthermore, Akinyemi (2013) noted that this protocol permits criminals to cross the border and participates in cross-border crimes under the guise of this protocol. It is vital to emphasize that the border has become a safe haven for persons without IDs, since the ECOWAS free movement protocol has been exploited to allow admission without a proper document.



According to Opanike and Aduloju (2015), the protocol's problems have not assisted the sub-region's security representation. Despite the fact that ECOWAS claims to be Africa's first free movement region, the protocol is poorly enforced, posing more security concerns than promoting regional commerce and economic progress. ECOWAS has not established a system to control the arrival of illegal immigrants; those who engage in criminal activities have taken advantage of the chance, laundering money, trafficking in human beings, narcotics, illicit arms, and so on. As a result, ECOWAS's inadequate system for vetting illegal immigration has resulted in major border instability in Nigeria and other West African countries (Opanike & Aduloju, 2015).

A study conducted by Obah-Akpowoghaha et al. (2020) with security personnel at the Benin-Nigeria border as respondents revealed that officers are well aware of illegal immigrants and are pursuing illegal immigrants who wield sophisticated weapons higher than the ones given to them (security and immigration officers)—something that they are afraid of. A security officer was also slain by traffickers in an area near the Benin-Nigeria border, according to the report. Blum (2014) investigated the (human) security problems posed by cross-border migrations between Nigeria and Benin. Fears of Boko Haram spreading to neighboring countries are among these issues, as are regionally active transnational organized criminal networks that are frequently involved with terrorist actions.

According to studies, Ghana would be one of the top economies in Africa, particularly in the West African area, due to its abundant natural resources and relative political stability (Maier et al., 2023). This concept has grown across the continent and overseas, drawing various types of immigration who have caused security and national

integration challenges. Ghana's foreign policy has traditionally focused on African economic and political development. Its leaders have consistently emphasized such (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

President Nana Akufo-Addo emphasized the need for 24-hour border openings, particularly with her neighbors, in order to reap economic and security gains. This has signified and induced an inflow of illegal immigration, making the country a refuge for criminals, as well as a risk to products and services. Other sources of the aforementioned concerns have been recognized as corrupt public officials, notably security employees who are supposed to be guards at various crossings but have been enticed by migrants (Yendaw, 2022). Clearly, the Ghana Police Service has been chastised for security failings at the country's existing borders, but another school of thought has put the problem on all security officers in Ghana, arguing that security concerns should be seen holistically (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

The United Nations Border and Security Management Program strives to guarantee efficient border security and management in order to prevent and counter the movement of suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist combatants across land, air, and marine boundaries. Border security and administration are also essential for preventing the illegal cross-border movement of guns, ammunition, explosives, hazardous materials, products, and freight that might be used for terrorist objectives. The program emphasizes the need for a all-inclusive approach to border management that takes into account human rights, security, and sustainable development (United Nations, n.d.).

Finally, a report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) highlights the issues of border management and security in Europe, particularly in post-conflict stabilization zones or those subject to preventative international monitoring.

The essay emphasizes the necessity of good border management in maintaining regional peace and security (OSCE, 2015).

## **2.7 Influence of Security Challenges in Border Management**

Cantor (2012) contends in his study on the impact of border security difficulties that human rights are jeopardized in the process of providing border security. The author emphasizes the need of prioritizing human rights in any border management approach, and that such legislation should be designed to safeguard rather than harm human rights. Cantor supports for a more holistic border management policy that takes into account the social, economic, and political factors that drive migration and targets the root causes of irregular migration.

According to United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) annual report (2009), population shifts throughout Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of armed conflict have security repercussions. Refugees escaping violence, for example, have the right and protection under international humanitarian law to be accepted in neighboring nations. However, armed militants frequently accompany legitimate migrants and begin to endanger the security of the local population and refugees in and around the camps after crossing the border. Other academics, like Mogire and Mogire (2011), Lischer (2015), and Vignal (2017), have documented examples of cross-border raids or attacks on adjacent nations orchestrated by militants who first use refugees as shields. These events, in the aftermath of massive international crime, call into question the security of borders (Emerson & Solomon, 2018).

Blum identifies significant security problems for Nigeria in research on cross-border movements between Nigeria and Benin. He recognizes that, as a result of insecurity caused by insecure borders between Nigeria and other nations, investment and

infrastructure within the borders have been low and undesirable. The only typical trades include the smuggling of certain commodities by some recruited criminals whose names are unknown to the owners. According to the study, those who live within Nigerian borders share cultural and linguistic backgrounds, committing total resources to these illegal trades; some even take an oath; and as a spiritual symbol of loyalty, any attempt of betrayal of the criminal pacts will result in severe punishment (Blum, 2014).

The porous borders of Nigeria have been seen to act as sources and channels for the smuggling of illicit weapons and goods by hardened criminals, anonymous organizations, and others. Other groups that have received smuggled weapons include Boko Haram, Egbesu Boys, O'odua People's Congress (OPC), and Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Fulani herders and other herdsmen, pastoral farmers, armed thieves, and political thugs (Blum, 2014). These weapons have been utilized against the Nigerian government, resulting in the loss of lives and property through acts such as bank robbery, pipeline vandalism, abduction, and so on (Malam, 2014). These, among other things, have posed a danger to the country's national integration (Obah-Akpowoghaha et al., 2020).

Following on from the above-mentioned concerns of investment, infrastructure, and loss of life and property as the impacts or influences of security challenges to border management, questions of economic activity and human rights have also been raised. According to Addo (2006), the porosity of several boundaries within the sub-Region facilitates trans-border crimes and creates instability owing to inadequate efforts and methods for identifying unlawful movements and activities. These illegal acts have a broad impact on economic activity, human rights, cultural and sociological growth within regional blocs. Some of the most serious border crimes include the illicit

importation of small guns and munitions, as well as human trafficking (Obokata, 2005; Onuoha, 2011).

According to Onuoha (2011), the human rights breaches related to human trafficking have been the source of the most worry for mankind. Most civilized nations find the human rights breaches inherent in the process of human trafficking repugnant. While there is global advocacy, particularly by international organizations, for collaborative measures among regions to combat human trafficking, there is also a greater emphasis on the role of individual countries, such as those in Africa that supply trafficked persons, in taking adequate measures to reduce human trafficking.

Obokata's (2005) paper highlighted that people smuggling might also create human rights problems. He shifted the focus of the conversation to human rights. He argues that smuggling has human rights implications and that smuggling may be dealt with by current immigration and other legislation. Victims may rely on these laws and regulations to ensure that smugglers who commit human rights violations are prosecuted and punished.

In his research on border management and security in Africa, Okumu (2011) argued that increased quantities of cross-border commerce as well as migration of individuals from their home nations in pursuit of better pastures abroad had put great strain on border control systems. According to Bakewell and De Haas (2007), boundaries within Africa have been characterized by high mobility patterns due to a variety of factors such as labor demand and, more recently, significant refugee movements. Again, movement and exchange in borderland areas, which are frequently linked to economic dynamics in which labor and commerce play a vital role and drive border crossings.

African countries must implement effective border management systems to minimize tensions, increase joint enforcement, reduce organized crime, and secure regional and continental integration. These systems should provide essential infrastructure, promote security and well-being, enhance communication, maintain borders without obstructing cross-border trading, and harmonize borders for mutual trust and harmony. By fostering a common understanding of border insecurities and promoting regional integration, African countries can work towards a more harmonious and secure global environment (Okumu, 2011).

Overall, these studies suggest that the influence of security challenges in border management requires a comprehensive and balanced approach that takes into account both security and accessibility concerns. Effective border management requires collaboration among states and stakeholders, the use of technology and innovative approaches, and people-centric strategies that promote security while ensuring accessibility and human rights.

## **2.8 Summary of Literature**

The literature suggests that the nature of borders in Africa is characterized by historical and political factors. Also, many African borders are seen as porous, resulting from colonial demarcation and poor border management practices. Informal cross-border economies and marginalization of borderland communities are common features.

The literature reviewed suggest that, border management and security in Africa face numerous challenges that undermine national security and promote border insecurities. These challenges include inadequate infrastructure, poorly equipped and trained border control organizations, understaffed agencies, lack of collaboration and coordination among staff, drug trafficking, human smuggling and illicit transfers of arms.

The literature highlights the influence of security challenges on border management, particularly in relation to human rights and economic activities. It emphasizes the need for border management strategies that prioritize human rights protection and calls for comprehensive approaches to border management that consider social, economic, and political factors, promote regional integration, enhance border security measures, and foster mutual trust and cooperation between neighboring countries.

With much existing studies (Mattila, 2001; Lorgat, 2022; Low, 2023) exploring the respect or protection of migrants right in securing or managing borders, there is an exclusion of the officers' right to security. This has become an important area to explore given the paucity of literature in this regard. The study was thus framed to bridge the existing gap by exploring the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter principally focused on description of the methods and procedures adopted in order to achieve the purpose of the study. The chapter discussed the philosophical paradigm, research approach, research design, profile of the study area, population of the study, sample and sampling techniques as well as data collection instruments. The chapter further delves into trustworthiness of data, data analysis and ethical considerations. At the core of each section, justification was made on selection of a particular method, approach or actions.

#### **3.1 The Study Setting**

The study was conducted in Aflao. Aflao is located in Ketu South Municipality in the Volta Region. Ketu South Municipality constitutes one of the 25 Municipals of the region. It shares boundaries with Ketu North District, the Atlantic Ocean, and Keta Municipality respectively at the North, South and West with a total land area (size) of approximately 779 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) signifying 3.8 percent of the regional land area (Adukpo et al., 2011; Nyarko et al., 2010). Aflao is the biggest town of the Municipality and is located at the extreme East of the Municipality representing the principal entry point with the capital city of Togo republic. The Municipality is known to be the only district that has a frontier with Lome, the capital of the Republic of Togo



(Nyarko et al., 2010). Now there is a second major frontier been opened at Akanu in the Ketu North District.

Out of a total population of 160,756 in the Municipality, Aflao recorded a population of 37,350 during the 2010 population Census. Almost 9000 households are established in Aflao. Between April and June and from September to November, rainy season is experienced in the Municipality. Cassava, maize and vegetables are the main crops produced. The area under study is low-lying coastal flat and plain with highest elevation of 70 m above the mean sea level along the coast with lagoons along the southern coastal belt which are saline (Adam et al., 2016). The people living in the area are mainly petty traders, fishermen, fishmongers and Kente weavers with a few government workers interspersed between them.





Figure 2: Study area

Source: Konlan, 2023

### 3.2 Philosophical Paradigm

The study was conducted from the lenses of interpretivism. Interpretivism has increasingly gained popularity in sociological and anthropological research concerned with people's perceptions and interpretations of social phenomena (May & Williams, 2002; Schwandt, 2000). Interpretive researchers think that reality is made up of people's subjective perceptions of the outside world; as a result, they may hold an intersubjective epistemology and the ontological conviction that reality is socially produced.

According to Myers (2009), interpretative researchers' assumption is that access to reality (whether given or socially produced) is only possible through social constructs such as language, awareness, and shared meanings. The interpretive paradigm is

reinforced by observation and interpretation; thus, to observe is to gather information about events, whereas to interpret is to make sense of that information by drawing inferences or judging the match between what is known and some abstract pattern (Aikenhead, 1997).

According to Reeves and Hedberg (2003), the "interpretivist" paradigm emphasizes the need of contextualizing analysis". The interpretative paradigm is concerned with understanding the world as it is via individuals' subjective experiences. They employ meaning-oriented (rather than measurement-oriented) techniques such as interviewing or participant observation, which are based on subjective interaction between the researcher and the participants. Interpretive research does not specify dependent and independent variables in advance, but rather focuses on the whole complexity of human sense making as it unfolds (Kaplan & Maxwell, 1994).

The interpretative paradigm was chosen by the researcher for this study because of its emphasis on meanings, interpretations, and experiences. This method assisted the researcher in comprehending the meanings and experiences of immigration officers in the border setting in which they found themselves, as well as their right to security in border management. Furthermore, this approach enabled the researcher to report from a variety of perspectives and descriptions, which are characteristics of the interpretative paradigm. In summary, the researcher was able to delve into subjective interpretation processes, recognizing the participants' motives, interests, goals, beliefs, values, and reasons, meaning-making, and self-understanding (Blumberg et al., 2011; Henning et al., 2004). The interpretative paradigm is frequently employed in conjunction with critical social theory or phenomenology. As a result, the phenomenological tradition was also judged acceptable to use as the study's design.

### 3.3 Research Approach

This study adopted the qualitative approach. According to Cropley (2019), the goal of qualitative research is to get insights into reality constructs, i.e., to uncover the nature of the world as it is experienced, constructed, and understood by people in their daily lives. Kombo and Tromp (2006) opined that qualitative research is a type of study that includes data description. It aims to describe and understand group conduct from the perspective of those being researched. This method also allows a researcher to tie specific features of conduct to the larger context.

Qualitative research is interpretive (Mason, 2002). Denzin and Lincoln (2000) postulated that, qualitative research takes an interpretative and naturalistic approach: "This means that qualitative scholars study things in their natural contexts, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings individuals bring to them" (p. 3). According to interpretivist proponents, the researcher has a significant impact on the research, and scientific rules do not sufficiently describe the nature of the social world due to its complexity (Bryman, 2001). As a result, research cannot be autonomous and devoid of the effect of the researcher, time, or environment. Qualitative study maintains that knowledge or reality is subject to interpretations to better understand social phenomena; the ontology of this paradigm indicates that there is no single reality, but multiple one's subject to interpretations and experiences of humans; and the methodological position of this paradigm is mainly qualitative by means of interviews, and observations, among others (Saunders et al., 2012).

Creswell (2012) defines qualitative research as an approach that tries to determine individuals' or groups' knowledge, meaning, and idea of a certain social phenomena. Miles and Huberman (1994) contend that, qualitative approaches emphasize saturation

in order to get a full understanding through sampling until no new substantive information is collected. Leedy and Omrod (2001) acknowledge qualitative research to be commonly used to answer questions regarding the complex nature of phenomena, frequently with the goal of characterizing and comprehending the phenomena from the participants' perspective. According to Bryman (2004), qualitative research is a research technique that emphasizes words over numbers in data collecting and interpretation. The qualitative researcher strives to have a deeper knowledge of difficult situations.

The goal of qualitative research is to comprehend experience as closely as possible to how its participants feel or live it (Sherman & Webb, 1988). According to Berg (2007) qualitative researchers are primarily interested in how humans organize themselves and their environments, and how the residents of these environments make meaning of their surroundings through symbols, rituals, social structures, social roles, and so on. According to Berg (2007) further stated that, qualitative methodologies allow researchers to partake in the understandings and perceptions of others and to investigate how individuals organize and provide meaning to their daily lives. According to Shank (2002), qualitative research is "a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning" (p. 5). By systematic he means "planned, ordered and public", following rules agreed upon by members of the qualitative research community. By empirical, he means that this type of inquiry is grounded in the world of experience. Inquiry into meaning means researchers try to understand how others make sense of their experience.

The qualitative approach was utilized in this study to allow the researcher to obtain firsthand explanations and viewpoints from respondents. Because the qualitative approach allows the researcher to ask questions in textual form in order to comprehend

human experience, it was necessary to use this strategy for the study. In addition, a qualitative approach was employed for the study since it allowed the researcher to better grasp the viewpoints and experiences of the participants. So, in this study the qualitative research has given a complete understanding of the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at the Aflao border.

### **3.4 Research Design**

The research design for the study was the descriptive phenomenology design. Cooper and Schindler (2000) define research design as "the plan and structure of investigation so conceived as to obtain answers to research questions" (p.134). Research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In reality, the research design is the conceptual framework within which research is carried out; it serves as the blueprint for data collection, measurement, and analysis (Kothari, 2007). It is the "glue" that hold all of the elements in a research project together. A design is used to structure the research to show how all of the major parts of the research project work together to try to address the central research questions (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). The design is the logical sequence that connects the empirical data to a study's initial research questions and, ultimately, to its conclusions. The main purpose of the research design is to help avoid a situation in which the evidence does not address the initial research questions (Yin, 2010).

The goal of a phenomenological investigation, according to Woods (2015), is to discover a phenomenon, analyze the experience, and characterize the shared meaning of numerous persons' lived experiences. Woods (2015) further explains that phenomenologists are concerned with lived experience and the significance that people

place on their daily lives. Thus, phenomenologists aim to find people's common experiences with a phenomenon. Groenewald (2004) agrees that phenomenologists are interested in understanding social and psychological phenomena from the viewpoints of those who are involved in the occurrence or experience.

Descriptive phenomenology involves the researcher reducing the lived-experience information into the phenomenological essences through bracketing, reflection, and data analysis (Vagle, 2004). According to Swanson-Kauffman and Schonwald (1988), descriptive phenomenology is the optimal phenomenological approach when an investigation tries to find universal properties of a phenomena that has not been fully conceptualized in past study. Reiners (2012) posited that Edmund Husserl, a German philosopher established descriptive phenomenology.

Husserl's descriptive phenomenological approach was a reaction against late-nineteenth-century positivist beliefs (Husserl, 1970). Individuals, according to Husserl, are meaningfully related to everything else in the universe (Vagle, 2014). Husserl's descriptive phenomenology sought to find the significance of a person's lived experiences or to extract meaning from their daily lives. Husserl rejected the idea that things existed apart from the subject. While a phenomenon is characterized by the meaning it has for its person, everything outside the immediate experience must be ignored (Fouche, 1993). Bracketing is used in descriptive phenomenology to separate the phenomena under inquiry and evaluate the meaning of lived experiences. Bracketing is the suspension of all assumptions in order to isolate a person's genuine lived experience (Vagle, 2014).

### **3.5 Population**

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006) population is a group of individuals, objects or items from which samples are taken for measurement. Population refers to an entire group of persons or elements that have at least one thing in common (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). In other words, population means the total group of people out of which researchers have interest in. More formally, population is the theoretically specified aggregation of study elements (Rubin & Babbie, 2005). The target population of the study constituted all immigration officers (about 200) stationed at the Aflao border.

### **3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

Sidhu (2003) defines sampling as the process of selecting a representative unit from a population. Kwabia (2006) describe a good sample as one that is representative of the population from which it was selected. Sample size determination for qualitative research has varied approaches. However, some scholars on the determination of appropriate sample size for qualitative study have proposed varied approaches. For example, Glaser and Strauss (1971) proposes the concept of saturation as very relevant in determining sample size for qualitative study. Saturation here implies a situation where data obtained from any additional respondent or sample will not provide any new information to what has already been obtained from research participants. Other scholars (Morse, 1994; Creswell, 1998) have also suggested between 25 and 30 respondents for phenomenological and ethnographic studies while Mason (2010) and Charmaz (2006) recommend the need for researchers to consider availability of resources, time and study objectives in determining the appropriate sample size for qualitative study. To this end, it was prudent that the researcher used an appropriate sample size. The researcher sampled 12 immigration officers for the study. These numbers were achieved from data saturation point of view.



For this particular study, the researcher adopted purposive sampling technique in selecting respondents. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling approach that is occasionally employed in qualitative research (Blaxter et al., 2006). According to Patton (2002), a purposeful sampling approach is one in which the researcher relies on his or her own judgement when selecting people of the population to participate in the study. The researcher would always have the target population in mind while utilizing this sampling approach, but would then include anyone accessible or convenient in his/her study (Kusi, 2012). Purposive sampling, according to Amoah and Eshun (2014), is a type of sampling that involves selecting a sample from a subset of the population that is near at hand, in other words, available and handy. In this kind of sampling the investigator simply selects the sample from those that he/she has easy access to. In sampling the Immigration officers, the researcher used a sampling criterion; that is, officers who had worked at the Aflao border for 3 years or more were selected and included in the study. Thus, 12 officers were selected at the Aflao border. This sampling strategy was adopted because of time and labor constraints.

### **3.7 Data Collection Instruments**

Interview guide was used to collect data for the study. According to Edwards and Holland (2013), a fundamental tool for researchers in asking questions in qualitative interviews is an interview or topic guide. This guide is a list of questions or issues that must be covered during the interview, sometimes in a certain sequence and manner (semi-structured), sometimes not (in-depth). The interviewer follows the guide, but as part of the discourse during the interview, he or she is free to pursue thematic trajectories that may depart from the guide when he or she believes it is useful and appropriate. When creating their question or topic guides for semi-structured or unstructured qualitative interviews, researchers take into account the following factors:

the focus of their inquiry; what they hope to learn from the participant of their interviews; the amount of time and access they have; and how much they already know about the subject of their research.

Interview guides can be quite precise, entailing types of questions and how they should be asked (Edwards & Holland, 2013). In-depth interviewing is a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to discover their perspectives on a particular idea, program, or situation (Boyce & Neale, 2006).

An interview is a conversation for gathering information. A research interview involves an interviewer, who coordinates the process of the conversation and asks questions, and an interviewee, who responds to those questions (Easwaramoorthy & Zarinpoush, 2006). Semi structured interview was adopted for the study. In a semi-structured interview, the respondents react in their own terms while the interviewer employs a series of preset questions. To make sure that all respondents offer information on the same themes, some interviewers utilize a topic guide that doubles as a checklist. Based on the respondent's responses, the interviewer can focus on particular topics or ask follow-up questions to get more information. When detailed information needs to be systematically gathered from a large number of respondents or interviewees, semi-structured interviews might be helpful (Easwaramoorthy & Zarinpoush, 2006). In semi-structured interviews, sentiments and experiences can be expressed freely, and the interviewers have the leeway to veer from the planned questions to elicit additional information (using probes), according to Kusi (2012).

### **3.8 Data Collection Procedures**

The researcher personally administered the semi-structured interview guide with officers at the Ghana Immigration service, Aflao Border. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies to aid in conducting the study. The introductory letter aided the researcher to get the needed assistance and co-operation from the sector commander of border of GIS, Aflao border. A recorder was used to help in the recording of data. Permission was sought from participants before recorder could be used during the interview.

I discussed over phone with the sector commander of the Aflao border of the Ghana Immigration Service and briefly discussed about my intention to conduct research and scheduled interview dates and time that well-matched their schedules. During the interviews, I formally asked each person I interviewed for their willing involvement in the study after explaining the nature and goal of the research. I gave them the freedom to choose whether or not to take part in the study.

Additionally, I guaranteed participants' anonymity and secrecy and assured them that I would use pseudonyms in my analysis to conceal their identity to ensure their freedom of choice because they were going to talk about security and other sensitive issues. As a result, officer phonetic names such as Alpha, Bravo and Charlie were used in the report. I also promised them that I would not share any details of our discussion with anyone.

All participants agreed to the use of an audiotape recorder. All interviews were conducted by face-to-face mode and were conducted at the main entry point. None of the interviews were conducted at the porous entry points also known as beats due to clashes between border residents and officers at the time of the interviews. Averagely,

an interview lasted for twenty-five minutes. The interviews were conducted within a span of 34 days. It commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

For the first several interviews, I strictly followed to the questions and sequence indicated in my interview guide. I directed the interviews semi-structuredly, allowing participants to bring up relevant or related topics as the conversation progressed, until I had utilized all of the questions in the guide. In addition to the themes and concerns I had mentioned in the interview guide, I included new ones that came up during the initial interviews for follow-up interviews. These also assisted in eliciting additional information about their condition and experiences. As the interviews went, I discovered that I progressed better at asking the participants for further information on certain themes and questions they had yet to answer.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

The study was guided by the ethical considerations of voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, respect for participants, and plagiarism. Clough and Nutbrown (2002 p.84) comment that to understand, researchers must be more than technically competent. They must enter chattered intimacies, open themselves to their subject feeling worlds, whether these worlds are congenial to them or repulsive. They must confront the duality of represented and experienced selves simultaneously, both conflicted and real. Letters introducing the researcher and outlining the significance of the findings were carried by the researcher. Before conducting one-on-one interviews with any participants, their informed consent was requested. Participants in the study who chose to participate voluntarily were included. Participants were told that their names would not be required during data collection to ensure confidentiality. The researcher was the only one who had access to the data were gathered or acquired. The

researcher made sure the respondents understood the purpose of the study and that their rights were upheld before beginning the interviews. To record the interview and record detailed information while listening and prompting, consent from the respondents was also requested.

### **3.10 Trustworthiness**

Polit and Beck (2014) stated that trustworthiness of a research study refers to the degree of confidence in data, interpretation and methods are used to ensure the quality of a study in simple terms, trustworthiness refers to the accuracy of a research study, its data and findings. The trustworthiness of the qualitative field data obtained was also ensured by the researcher in four dimensions, that is, credibility, confirmability, transferability and dependability.

#### **3.9.1 Credibility**

The credibility of the interview data obtained from the study was enhanced by aligning the interview guide items with research questions. This aided the researcher to obtain insightful information from the participants interviewed. Additionally, member checking, which Creswell and Miler (2000) deemed the most important method for establishing credibility, was applied. The researcher used member checking to get feedback from the participants on the data and interpretations in order to validate the veracity of the facts and the narrative. Individual participants were given the opportunity to examine the raw data in the form of verbatim transcriptions of the interview transcripts and to offer feedback on its accuracy. They were permitted to offer insightful criticism on the narratives. To improve the validity of the empirical analysis, the participants reviewed the transcribed data and made corrections where necessary.

### **3.9.2 Confirmability**

Confirmability was ensured through reflexivity. This was done by making sure that the researcher's bias did not skew the opinions shared by the participants who were interviewed as a fabricated narrative during the transcription phase. Hence, the opinions shared by the participants on the study were reported verbatim and were reflected in the analysis of data, findings and discussions. Put differently, to ensure the confirmability of the qualitative data, the researcher's analysis of the participants' standpoints was reflective of the participants' views expressed (Stahl & King, 2020).

### **3.9.3 Transferability**

Korstjens and Moser (2018) suggested that transferability in qualitative study looks at the degree to which the results of the research can be transferred to other contexts or settings with other respondents. In other words, transferability is interested in how the qualitative researcher demonstrates that the research study's findings are applicable to other contexts. In this case "Other contexts" can mean similar situations, similar populations, and similar phenomena. To establish the element of transferability, the study provided thick description to the research setting and participant, the sample size as well as the data collection technique and instrument used.

### **3.9.4 Dependability**

Dependability determines whether the same research findings would be consistently repeated when replicated in the same or similar context. In simple terms, it is the stability of research findings over time. This study adopts the inquiry audit approach to enhance the dependability of the study. Thus, experts in research methods and the research supervisor reviewed and examined the data collection. It is also necessary for researchers to monitor the influence of their values and passions (Stahl & King, 2020).

### 3.10 Data Analysis

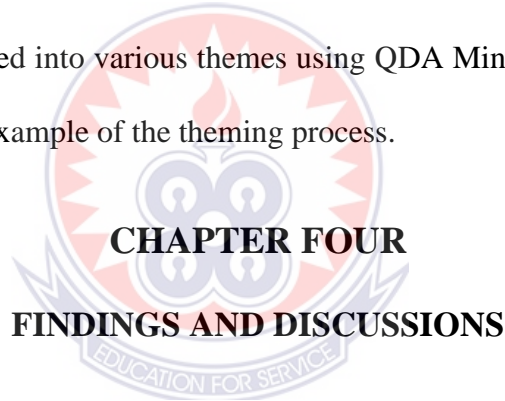
Data was analyzed thematically. Data analysis is a key step in qualitative research (Flick, 2013). Qualitative data gathered through interviews with significant informers. According to Kajawo (2012), qualitative data analysis involves sorting, sieving, and categorizing data in accordance with type, class, sequence, process, patterns, or wholes. The classification and interpretation of linguistic or visual data to draw conclusions about its implicit and explicit dimensions and what is represented in it, according to Flick (2013), constitutes qualitative data analysis. Analysis of data that was acquired using qualitative methods is known as qualitative data analysis (Kajawo, 2012). In order to describe a phenomenon, identify the causes of it, and construct a theory about it, qualitative data analysis is used (Flick, 2013). According to Kajawo (2012), familiarization and immersion, induction of themes and patterns, data coding, elaboration and interpretation, and checking are the main phases of qualitative data analysis.

Thematic analysis was used to analyze data gathered for this study. Thematic analysis is a type of qualitative analysis. It is applied to classify data and display themes (patterns) that are connected to it. It uses interpretations to deal with a variety of topics while providing in-depth data presentation (Boyatzis, 1998). A theme analysis for qualitative data is organized using a thematic network. The approach aims to identify the key themes in a text at several levels (Attride-Stirling, 2001). The goal of thematic networks, according to Attride-Stirling (2001), is to make it easier to structure and analyze themes.

It is evident that the technique of extracting themes from textual data and using some type of graphical tool to illustrate these themes is well established in qualitative

research. As such, thematic networks analysis is a method that shares the key features of any hermeneutic analysis. A thematic network offers the web-like network as an organizing principle and a representational means, and it makes explicit the procedures that may be employed in going from text to interpretation (Attride-Stirling, 2001).

Thematic analysis is considered the most appropriate for any study that seeks to discover using interpretations. It provides a systematic element to data analysis. It allows the researcher to associate an analysis of the frequency of a theme with one of the whole contents. The analysis involved the process of listening, reading, re-reading, inductive reasoning, reflection and coding the interview transcripts and drawing out major themes from data collected. Themes were induced from the recorded interviews. The data was later coded into various themes using QDA Miner Lite software. Below is a table showing an example of the theming process.



#### **4.0 Introduction**

The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at Aflao border. Data from the field was presented and discussed in this chapter. The previous chapter presented the methodology that was adopted to carry out the study including; study design, sampling techniques, data collection and analysis. The purpose of this chapter was to present an in-depth and systematic analysis of the themes realized from the field data through the research questions. In doing so, the data was presented, analyzed and discussed with literature. Lockean human right theory and securitization theories were also used to discuss the findings for nuanced analysis.



#### **4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Participants**

The central focus of this study was to give a platform to immigration officers to share their views and experiences regarding their right to security at Aflao border. Thus, a general profile was provided for those who participated in the study. The officers interviewed have worked at the Aflao border ranging between 3 to 19 years. Most of them worked at other borders and entry points such as Kadjebi, Elembele and Akanu. Out of the 12 officers interviewed, (2) of them ranked as Assistant Immigration Officers while others ranked as Immigration officers(3), Inspector(3), Assistant Superintendent(2) and Assistant Commissioner of Immigration (2). The data implies that the officers interviewed have a significant range of experience, suggesting that they have substantial knowledge and understanding of the challenges and issues related to their right to security and border management. Also, the background of the interviewees indicates that, the study included perspectives from various levels of authority within the immigration service, providing a broader understanding of the experiences and viewpoints related to officers' right to security at the Aflao border.

#### **4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis**

The following are the presentation and analysis made on the topic. This was done according to the study's objectives. Since the study adopted the thematic analysis, due consideration was given to themes that emerged from the data.

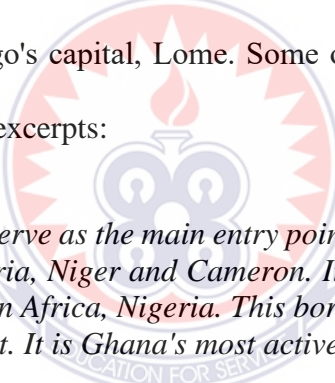
##### **4.2.1 Nature of the Aflao border**

Research question one purposely sought to gather data on the nature of the Aflao border. Therefore, the nature of the Aflao border, in terms of its characteristics and description in the border management landscape that defines its unique description was highlighted as follows: strategic location, high human mobility and trade activities, challenging

terrain, porosity, approved entry points, cultural border, economic and occupational migration. The first theme that was discussed was its strategic location.

#### 4.2.1.1 Strategic location

The first theme that came out from the study was strategic position of the border. The interview revealed that Aflao border is strategically located in terms of its proximity and connectivity to the main entry point at the Eastern frontier to Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon. It is strategically located and acts as Ghana's major entry and exit point, experiencing high levels of human mobility and trade activities. The border is particularly significant due to its proximity to Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa. The officers expressed that the Aflao border faced additional challenges due to its close proximity to Togo's capital, Lome. Some of the participants' comments are captured in the following excerpts:



*The Aflao border serve as the main entry point at the Eastern frontier to Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon. It is also linked to the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria. This border acts as Ghana's major entry and exit point. It is Ghana's most active border. [Officer Alpha]*

*Elubo border is distant from the capital of Cote d'Ivoire, the Paga border is far from the capital of Burkina Faso, but Aflao border and Togo's capital Lome, it is just here as a result, work becomes more difficult when compared to other borders. [Officer Echo]*

The interview revealed the strategic importance of the Aflao border, both geographically and as a vital entry and exit point for Ghana. Being located at the Eastern frontier and to multiple countries notably Nigeria, contributed to the high level of human mobility and trade activity at the Aflao border. Its proximity to Togo's capital, Lome, adds to its significance. However, the convenience of its position posed difficulties for immigration officers, who must handle a greater workload than at other border checkpoints. The strategic importance of the Aflao border in terms of regional

connectivity, trade, and migration cannot be overstated. The study aligns with Hlovor (2018) who noted that due to the location of the border, it has become a zone of extreme mobility of people and goods, as well as a high degree of state surveillance

The data suggest that there are implications on the right to a safe and secure working environment for the officers. This implies that, officers may face heightened risks, potential threats, and vulnerabilities while carrying out their duties. Additionally, it also has right to physical and mental integrity implications. Since, Aflao border serve as a major entry and exit point, officers may face dangers and potential violence (as evidenced later in the study) in performing their duties, jeopardizing their right to physical integrity and safety.

#### **4.2.1.2 High human mobility and trade activities**

The second theme that came out from the study was high level human mobility and trade activities. The interview excerpts highlight that the Aflao border experiences high level human mobility and trade activities. Being the busiest land frontier in Ghana, the border benefits from its proximity to Lome, the capital of Togo. Both Aflao and Lome are bustling towns known for commercial activities, leading to a continuous flow of people and goods. The participants revealed that, the volume of human mobility and trade at the Aflao border surpasses that of other borders in Ghana. Additionally, there is another approved route called "beat 9" that specifically caters to pedestrian crossing, handling a significant volume of border residents. These are what some of the participants recounted:

*Aflao border is the busiest land frontier in Ghana in terms of human mobility and trade activities because of its proximity to Lome the capital of Togo. [Officer Bravo]*

*Aflao itself is a busy town full of commercial activities. The same way, Lome which is at the other side of the border is noted for commercial activities. So, there is continuous flow of humans and goods which surpasses the volume of work at other borders in Ghana. [Officer Tango]*

*The border is very busy in terms of goods and services coming and going out. And on daily basis, there is high volume of humans arriving and departing. Aside this, we have another approved route, that is, beat 9 which handles another volume of humans especially border residents or pedestrian crossing. [Officer Delta]*

The interview excerpts shed light on the high level of human mobility and trade activities at the Aflao border. Its strategic location near Lome, a major business hub, facilitates the free flow of goods and people across the border. The busy nature of both Aflao and Lome increases the volume of people movement and trade, making the Aflao border Ghana's busiest land border. Beat 9 also shows the necessity for more pathways to manage pedestrian crossings of border residents. The enormous human mobility and trade activity at the Aflao border highlights the region's importance as a crucial economic and transit hub. The finding is consistent with Anarfi et al. (2005) who stated that Aflao border has high influx of migrants.

The data suggest right to health security implications for officers. The continuous flow of people from different regions and countries increases the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Immigration officers who come into direct contact with travelers may face a higher likelihood of encountering individuals carrying contagious illnesses. This places officers at risk of contracting infectious diseases themselves.

#### **4.2.1.3 Challenging terrain**

Another theme that emerged from the study was challenging terrain. The interview excerpts reveal that, the Aflao border poses challenges due to its difficult terrain. Immigration officers reported that securing the border in such a terrain is extremely

difficult. They indicated that patrols team were assigned to monitor the unapproved routes, but the continuous creation of these routes by the locals made the task challenging. The unapproved routes extend from Akanu to Segbe posts, and it is mentioned that individuals on the Ghana side can easily walk to Togo through these routes, which takes significantly less time compared to crossing the approved border. The shared cultural identity between the people on both sides of the border further complicates the situation. Some of the officers expressed their concerns in the following excerpts:

*The Aflao border is a difficult terrain to work. It is our duty to secure the border but it is extremely difficult. [Officer Papa]*

*We have patrol teams that man the stretches of the unapproved routes. It our job to secure the border but because of how unapproved routes are created by the locals' day in day out, it is really challenging. [Officer X-Ray]*

*We have some unapproved routes that are extremely tough to man. It extends to Akanu to Segbe posts. When you are on Ghana's side of the unapproved routes, you can simply walk to Togo. The people at the Ghana side and that of the Togo side see themselves as one people. So, they don't understand why they have to use an hour or two to cross the approved border instead of walking for 3 minutes across the unapproved routes to see their families. [Officer Charlie]*

The locals' frequent creation of unapproved routes poses a serious obstacle to border control operations. Also, Akanu to Segbe posts demonstrates the scope of these unapproved routes, which allowed people to simply avoid the legal border crossing. Cultural and family links between individuals on both sides of the border complicated the situation further, as they ask why they should spend more time crossing the legal border when they can simply walk across the unapproved ways in less time. The study approves the finding of Moll (2010) who discovered that demarcation problem is key contributor to challenging nature of border terrain in Africa.

The data suggest the implications on right to physical and mental health of immigration officers. The demanding nature of securing the border with challenging terrain can have negative impacts on the physical and mental health of immigration officers. The constant navigation through difficult terrains, often under stressful conditions, can lead to fatigue, physical exhaustion, and increased risk of musculoskeletal injuries. In addition, the challenging terrain and the creation of unapproved routes by locals can undermine the right to security of the officer.

#### 4.2.1.4 Porosity

A further theme was porous nature of the border. According to the interviews, the Aflao border is characterized by porosity and the presence of numerous unapproved routes. The locals on both sides of the border view themselves as one people, which contributed to the continuous creation of new unapproved routes. Immigration officers reported that the border is porous, with approximately 100 unapproved routes. Despite their efforts to close these routes, new ones emerge shortly after. Managing the porosity of the border is a challenging task that requires leveraging past experiences.

The participants shared:

*The porosity of the Aflao border extends to Akanu. Day to day, they create new ones. The unproved routes are many because the people at either side of the border see themselves as one people. [Officer Echo]*

*I admit the fact that the border is so porous because of numerals unapproved routes and if you are able to close one by sending an officer, the next day, the locals open another one. [Officer Bravo]*

*The border is porous. We have about 100 unapproved routes. If you are having borders leading into another sovereign countries and having about 100 unapproved rotes, then I will say the border is not okay. We are using the experience we witnessed over the years to manage it. [Officer Charlie]*

The interview revealed the porousness of the Aflao border and the presence of many unapproved paths. The idea of common identity among individuals on both sides of the border contributed to ongoing creation of these routes. The acknowledgment by immigration officers that, the border is porous demonstrates how difficult it is to adequately regulate and secure it. The 100 unapproved routes also show the scope of the problem. The constant cycle of blocking one route just to have other ones open soon after highlights the difficulties that immigration officers have in regulating the border's porosity. Despite their efforts, the border remains at risk, and controlling this porosity becomes a continuous process that is dependent on previous experiences and lessons acquired. Studies show that borders in Ghana and Africa are porous in nature (Akinyemi, 2019; Englebert et al., 2002). Moreover, borderland communities have disregard for "artificial" borders (Hoehne & Feyissa, 2013).

The data suggest that there is right to security implications for the officers since the porosity of the Aflao border posed a significant security risk, both for the officers and the countries involved. Moreover, limited resources at the unapproved routes can impede officers' ability to monitor and control affecting their right to adequate resources and support.

#### **4.2.1.5 Approved entry points**

Approved entry points also emerged another theme. According to the interviews, there were approved entry points at the Aflao border. The main entry point is designated for general entry, while there is a specific entry point called "beat nine" for pedestrian crossing. Beat nine was specifically designed for border residents who live within a 5km radius on both the Ghana and Togo sides of the border. The officers illustrated the following:

*We have approved places for entry. The main entry here and beat nine for pedestrian crossing. Because this town is so large, beat 9 was specifically designed for pedestrians. That is those who live within 5km crossing both at Ghana and Togo side. We determined that requiring all local pedestrians to only cross the main border would cause us problems. [Officer Zulu]*

*Part of the Aflao border is for visiting families at both Ghana and Togo sides. Because there are instances, you see a family at one side and the same family at the other side of the border. [Officer Yankee]*

The data indicated a methodical approach to border management and control. The primary entry point meets general entry requirements, whilst beat nine acts as a specialized pedestrian crossing point for residents within 5km radius. Authorities recognized the need for a more fast and convenient crossing experience for those who live near the border by establishing a separate entrance point for pedestrians. This strategy helped to reduce possible congestion and speed up the profiling procedure. Furthermore, families living on both sides of the border indicates the significance of permitting visits and exchanges between close relatives. The study is in line with Obah-Akpowoghaha et al. (2020) who found that, apart from unapproved routes, there are approved entry points (over 40) of which Aflao is part.

Separate entry points represent securitization theory concerns, which advocate for resolving security issues while safeguarding individual rights. Additionally, Lockean Human Rights Theory emphasizes the protection of social and familial ties as essential parts of individual rights.

#### **4.2.1.6 Cultural border**

The current study shows that Aflao border by its nature is a cultural border since border is shaped by historical and cultural factors. However, immigration laws of Ghana have tempered on those factors. It was revealed that, there are strong familial connections



between individuals on both sides of the border, with siblings, extended family members, and even cross-border marriages being common. The officers revealed that, the residents frequently crossed the border to attend social gatherings, such as anniversaries or funerals, which demonstrated the shared cultural traditions and close ties between the communities.



The participants recounted:

*All unapproved routes were once approved routes. During Rawlings regime, the border residents were freely crossing to Togo without any restriction. So, when the immigration laws made them unapproved, it really affects them because, they were used to it. [Officer Kilo]*

*Part of the Aflao border is for visiting families at both Ghana and Togo sides. Because there are instances, you see a family at one side and the same family at the other side of the border. [Officer Tango]*

*The border residents are socially or culturally related. Some of them have their siblings in Ghana. Some have extended family in Ghana, and somebody might be here having the wife at Togo. [Officer Papa]*

Other participants shared that:

*They cross to attend social gatherings. I have noticed that when the paramount chief was celebrating the 25th anniversary, they brought a letter that people coming from Togo would be coming. When it was time, they were coming in their numbers. One could see that they have common cultural and social ties. So socially and culturally, the Ewe people from Benin, Togo and Ghana, have a lot of things in common. [Officer Echo]*

*There are cases of cross border marriage. Even most of the Togo police marry in Ghana so you can see them coming every day in their uniforms going to their wives. [Officer Tango]*

Additionally, the officers reported that education plays a role in cross-border movement, as individuals may cross to access schools in either Ghana or Togo, depending on the language medium of instruction. However, while these cultural and social ties are valued, there was also a concern about potential security threats. Some of the officers shared their thoughts:

*When there is a funeral, you see them crossing in their numbers. We don't have problem of them crossing over to participate in their cultural or social affairs but we are also afraid they may be influenced or hide under the guise of being border residents to carry out acts that pose threat to the security of the border and our lives. [Officer Delta]*

*They cross to access education facilities in Ghana and Togo. Some school in Togo Because of the French, the Ghanaians go to Togo to school and because of the English, Togolese also come to Ghana to school. So, in the morning you see them crossing at beat 9 and in the evening, they come to cross over here too. [Officer Whiskey]*

The interviews show the border residents' profound cultural and social ties at the Aflao border. The historical setting where citizens crossed the border throughout the Rawlings government, illustrated a lengthy history of interaction and migration between the two sides. Cultural events, such as anniversaries and funerals, provided opportunities for people to gather and commemorate their shared history. Cross-border marriages and persons travelling between nations for educational purposes demonstrated the flexibility and connectivity of these border communities. While the above is profound, the data suggest implications on the right to work in a non-discriminatory environment for officers. Due to cultural or social factors, immigration officers may be subjected to discrimination or bias.

However, it is critical to strike a balance between fostering cultural and social connections and preserving border security. The concerns about potential security threats indicates that there is the need for effective border management measures while also respecting the cultural and social aspects of the border region. The findings are in line with a recent study by Adotey (2021) who found that, borders in Africa have been shaped by a variety of historical and political factors, including pre-colonial migration histories and post-colonial territorial borders. Again, the findings align with Raunet (2016) who revealed that traditional chiefs within the Ghana–Togo borderlands have historically used their presence to participate in influencing the regulation of cross border mobility under colonial rule and after independence. The findings are backed by the Lockean Human Rights and securitization theories which emphasized the preservation of individual rights, including those of immigration officers.

#### 4.2.1.7 Economic and Occupational Migration

A further theme that emerged from the study was economic and occupational migration nature of the border. The officers interviewed shared that, many individuals have relatives who work in Togo, and they crossed the border to access job opportunities. Some border residents commuted daily from the Togo side to work in Ghana, with examples provided such as nurses employed in private hospitals. Some officers interviewed shared their thoughts in the following comments:

*A lot of border residents have relatives and most of them work at Togo and some are learning work. Some to their siblings. So, they come all the way to cross the border. [Officer Bravo]*

*Form the Togo side, they come every day and some of them work in Ghana. Some of them are nurses who work in some private hospitals in Ghana and some too if you ask them, they will tell you that my dad is a Ghanaian in my mom is a Togolese and they are within the five kilometers border crossing. [Officer Kilo]*

The presence of relatives working in Togo provides an incentive for people to cross the border in quest of jobs. This economic migrant trend is not one-sided, as persons from Togo migrate to Ghana for employment, demonstrating the region's bidirectional nature of labor mobility. The example of nurses working in private hospitals emphasizes the value that these cross-border employees provide to specialized industries, such as healthcare. Furthermore, the issue of mixed-nationality families shows that cross-border marriages and interactions that occurred within border communities. According Binah-Pollak (2019), there has been a dramatic rise in transnational and cross-border marriages around the world due to increase in transnational activities. Therefore, migrants fundamentally equate cross border movements to internal migration, due to historical unpoliced borders that separate many countries within West Africa (Adepoju, 2000).

The data also suggest that, there are implications on the right to psychological support for the officers. Given the nature of their work at the Aflao border, immigration officers may encounter stressful or traumatic situations. Therefore, they have the right to access appropriate psychological support and counseling services to help them cope with the emotional challenges associated with their duties. Despite the study's focus on the immigration officer's right to security, the Lockean Human Rights Theory also stressed the preservation of cross-border workers' individual rights, particularly the ability to work and seek economic possibilities. Thus, preserving individuals' freedom to seek work and enhance their economic well-being in the context of economic and occupational mobility at the Aflao border is important. In terms of Securitization theory, the data indicates possible problems about labor mobility, such as illegal migration for the officers to handle.

#### **4.2.2 Security challenges confronting Immigration Officers at the Aflao border**

Research question two purposely sought to gather data on the security challenges confronting immigration officers at Aflao border. The themes found within the data were as follows: threat to officers' right to security, infiltration and impersonation, porous borders, threats to officers' lives (hostile attitude and threats), lack of understanding of security and support, smuggling of goods, human smuggling and trafficking, lack of infrastructure and equipment and communication constraints.

##### **4.2.2.1 Threat to officers right to security**

The interviews indicate that there was a threat to security and rights of immigration officers at the Aflao border. The officers reported their concerns about being subjected to verbal abuse and insults while on duty. They reported that, as human beings and security personnel, they have the right to be treated with respect and to have their own

security ensured. Officers have experienced instances where their safety and security were compromised due to confrontations with individuals who claimed ownership of the land and demanded the freedom to conduct activities without regard for the officers' rights. Some officers interviewed shared their thoughts in the following comments:

*Where somebody's right ends, someone's right begins. The officer is also a human being. So, no one has the right to undermine the right of the officer. They have their rights. The fact that I am a security personnel doesn't mean you can abuse and insult me. [Officer Alpha]*

*I am also a human being. I have the right to security. [Officer Yankee]*

*I witnessed colleague officers who had their safety or security threatened while on duty at the border. They verbally assault the officers telling them "We were here before you came. This is our land. Allow us to do our things" and other abusive words. Meanwhile, we have the right to our own security. [Officer Delta]*

The challenge by persons claiming ownership of the land and demanding autonomy, constituted a substantial danger to the officers' right to security. These issues not only jeopardize the officers' well-being and safety, but also foster conflict and friction at the border. Such conflicts can have a severe influence on officers' ability to carry out their responsibilities and keep the peace. It is critical that measures be put in place to protect immigration officers' rights and security, creating a safe working environment in which they may execute their jobs without fear or intimidation. International human rights law places an obligation on states to protect the right to life and the security of all people under their jurisdiction (United Nations Office of Counter-terrorism, n.d). The Lockean Human Rights Theory prioritize individual rights, such as the right to security and freedom from abuse which indicates the need of putting mechanisms in place to prevent and handle verbal abuse and insults aimed against officers. Maintaining officers' rights

to security and respect is critical for creating a positive working environment and allowing them to accomplish their tasks efficiently.

#### **4.2.2.2 Infiltration and Impersonation**

The interview revealed the challenges of infiltration and impersonation faced by immigration officers at the Aflao border. Officers encountered individuals who attempted to disguise themselves as border residents, dressing and speaking like them, but upon further investigation, it became apparent that they were from other countries, particularly Nigeria. This occurred on a daily basis. Additionally, there were instances where Togolese individuals were found in possession of Ghana Cards, raising questions about how they obtained them. The participants recounted:

*We know border residents by the way they dress, the way they talk, but a number of people try to pose like border residents with further interrogation, you will get to know them that they are Nigerians and this happens on a daily basis.* [Officer Echo]

*There are certain times, certain individuals dress and pose like border residents. Meanwhile, they come from afar and not even Ghanaian.* [Officer Whiskey]

*At times we discover that some of the Togolese are also having Ghana Card. How they are able to get it remains a mystery.* [Officer Zulu]

Individuals' ability to imitate the appearance and behavior of border residents hinders officers' duty of precisely identifying and certifying the nationality of those crossing the border. The frequency of such events reveals a systematic problem that demands attention and tighter border security procedures. The presence of people from different nations posing as border residents raises worries about possible illicit activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, or unauthorized entrance into Ghana. It also indicates the importance of improved monitoring and profiling mechanisms to detect and prevent such infiltration efforts.

Togolese persons in possession of Ghana Cards raises further worries about the authenticity of identification papers and the possibility of fraudulent activity. Research by Pawan et al. (2019) shows that cross border infiltration has become a significant threat to all the countries. Based on the findings, it is clear that tighter measures are required to preserve the integrity of the Aflao border and prevent efforts at infiltration and impersonation which is one of the core tenets of securitization theory.

#### 4.2.2.3 Porous borders

The interview also revealed the challenge of porous borders at the Aflao border. It was reported that border residents frequently cut the wire mesh demarcating the border, allowing unauthorized entry into Ghana. Moreover, it was mentioned that the Togolese officers were less concerned about people using these unapproved routes and even collaborate with locals to reopen closed routes. The officers shared that:

*On a daily basis and at the porous borders, people use to cut the wire mesh that serves as demarcation. [Officer Yankee]*

*If we try to do our work, the locals will tell you that, the demarcation is not for you and even if you close it, they will meet and cut it and pass through it to Ghana. On a serious note, the Togolese officers are less concerned about people using the unapproved routes. It's only Ghanaian officers who are concerned. [Officer X-Ray]*

*When we close any newly created unapproved routes that nobody should pass, the Togo people over there in the night open it for them to pass because the demarcation structure was erected by them. [Officer Whiskey]*

The porous nature of the Aflao border provides a major security issue for immigration officers. Unauthorized entry and cutting of wire mesh undermine border control operations. This does not only jeopardize border integrity but also raises the possibility of different unlawful operations such as smuggling, illegal migration, and security risks.



The lack of concern shown by residents and Togolese officers over the usage of illegal routes demonstrates that the matter is multi-faceted. It implies a level of acceptance or apathy towards unauthorized border crossings. The gap in concern between Ghanaian and Togolese officials complicates matters further. This may impede effective collaboration and cooperative efforts to address the problem. The findings are consistent with Obah-Akpowoghaha et al. (2020) who admit that, the problem of porous borders and national integration among African countries has become a recurring decimal and this has created an undesirable image among African states in the global arena. Securitization theory stresses the need of teamwork and collaborative efforts to overcome security risks. Effective border management in the setting of porous borders necessitates collaboration between Ghanaian and Togolese authorities.

#### **4.2.2.4 Threats to officers' lives**

The interview showed that there was a serious threat to the lives of immigration officers at the Aflao border. The locals exhibited a hostile attitude toward the officers, perceiving them as a threat to their livelihood. Officers have reported receiving threats to their lives, including warnings that the locals know where they live. The officers have experienced physical attacks, including being harmed with stones and other offensive weapons. The participants shared their experiences that:

*Apart from the issues of smuggling, trafficking and others I talked about, the most serious security challenge here is the threat to life. The locals threaten the life of the officers telling them “We know where you live”.*  
[Officer Papa]

*On daily basis, the local people have hostile attitude towards us. Because they see us a threat to their livelihood. Even, just before you arrive here, some officers called that the locals were threatening them.*  
[Officer Tango]

*They attacked my colleague officers spiritually and also threaten them physically. [Officer Yankee]*

Other officers shared their experiences indicating that:

*The local boys harm offices with stones and other offensive weapons at times and also insult them very well. That put fear and panic in us and threatens our right to life as security officers. [Officer Whiskey]*

*They hit the officers with stones and even use abusive words against them. They are very notorious. So, there is a serious violation of the officers' right on duty. But you see, if the officer retaliates, it will quickly find it way in the news suggesting that we were molesting the people. Meanwhile, our rights to security are violated as officers. [Officer Alpha]*

The threats to the life of immigration officers at the Aflao border pose a serious security concern, jeopardizing the officers' safety and well-being. The threats ranged from verbal intimidation and harassment to violent attacks, indicating that some residents see officers as opponents rather than defenders of national security. The warning that residents know where officers live add an element of personal risk, increasing the officers' vulnerability. This hostile climate jeopardizes the officers' capacity to perform their responsibilities properly and jeopardizes their personal safety.

The power disparity between officers and residents exacerbates the security situation. While officers are required to behave with caution and professionalism, any kind of retribution or self-defense may be misunderstood or sensationalized, potentially leading to a bad public impression or claims of misconduct against officers. This presents a tough scenario for the officers, who must balance their responsibility to maintain security while also protecting their own lives. Indeed, Cantor (2012) contends that border management may endanger human rights and calls for protection of the right of all including officers.

#### 4.2.2.5 Lack of understanding of security and support

The interview revealed that there was lack of understanding and support from the local community at the Aflao border towards the work of immigration officers. The locals challenged the officers' authority, claimed ownership of the land and expressed resistance, particularly when the officers have names indicating a different tribal background. The officers summarized the situation thus:

*When an officer is doing his work, they go to the extent of challenging that the land is theirs. They do that especially if they see your name on your uniform indicate a different tribe name. So, you see that they don't understand what security means. It is a challenge. [Officer Kilo]*

*Another challenge we have here is that the locals do not understand security. They see security as normal. Because they see the people at the Togo side as their brothers and sisters, they don't understand why they are not allowed to use unapproved routes. [Officer Tango]*

The local community's lack of understanding and support indicate a significant challenge for immigration authorities at the Aflao border. Officers' experiences with opposition while carrying out their responsibilities reveal a fundamental gap between the officers' role in ensuring security and the perspective of the residents. Additionally, tribal differences can aggravate tensions and misunderstandings. The residents' claims of ownership of land and criticism based on cultural differences indicate that officers are viewed as outsiders, resulting in a lack of trust and hostility to their authority. Thus, locals may be unaware of the possible hazards and concerns, both in terms of national security and personal safety. The finding aligns with Quartey (2019) who noted that there is lack of cooperation and support between border control officers and local residents. This explains why securitization theory stressed the need for education and awareness in addressing security illiteracy.

#### 4.2.2.6 Smuggling of goods

Another theme that emerged from the study was smuggling goods at the Aflao border. Despite the presence of an approved pedestrian crossing point called beat nine, which was designated for individuals residing within a five-kilometer radius, locals engaged in smuggling goods through this route. The participants reported that they faced challenge in preventing smuggling. Notwithstanding, they said that efforts have been made to educate the community about the officers' role in providing security and not to impede their livelihoods. The officers lamented:

*We have beat nine which is approved for pedestrians crossing. That is for people who live in five-kilometer radius. The locals do smuggle goods through that route. [Officer Delta]*

*We face smuggling issues. They are ready to smuggle. Even if officers prevent them, they adopt other means to smuggle. We try to educate them through radio stations that the officers are here to provide security in that own favor and not against the source of their livelihoods. [Officer Echo]*

Smuggling goods was a great security challenge at the Aflao border. Despite the availability of an approved crossing point, the locals used this route for smuggling. This shows a contempt for laws and a readiness to circumvent security procedures in order to illegally transport goods across the border. The data suggests that, the incentive for smuggling is linked to the locals' source of livelihood. They see smuggling as a way to improve their economic well-being. The evidence in the current study is consistent with Joseph (2007) who found that border residents view borderland communities as part of their very mode of transnational existence, of their social and economic life and of the cultural uniqueness that conform to their identity and livelihoods.

Again, the use of radio stations to educate the community demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing smuggling challenges. This can foster understanding and

cooperation. Effective communication channels and public campaigns can assist in bridging the gap between the officers' responsibilities and the economic concerns of the community. In the context of Securitization Theory, the data suggests that larger security ramifications must be considered beyond smuggling.

#### **4.2.2.7 Human smuggling and trafficking**

A further theme that emerged from the study was human smuggling and trafficking. The presence of locals involved in human smuggling posed a significant security concern, as it raises the risk of potential terrorist activities. The involvement of locals in smuggling activities was driven by economic incentives, as they perceived immigration officers as hindrances to their livelihood. The interviewees also mentioned encounters with human trafficking cases, where individuals were trafficked to Niger, with some trafficked individuals unaware of their destinations. Some of the immigration officers shared:

*There is also the issue of human smuggling. Who knows whether those smuggled are terrorist or not. [Officer Bravo]*

*Because the locals are into human smuggling, they see the officers as hindrance to their livelihood. [Officer Charlie]*

*What we see now is that locals help foreigners smuggle stuff as part of their daily work; they even help foreigners and take 10 cedis instead of paying 150 dollars for visa. [Officer Papa]*

*On daily basis, we encounter trafficking of human beings. Sometimes, they are being trafficked to Niger and we arrest them. You know when the travelers arrive, there is a form to fill. Upon further interrogation, we realize some of the trafficked people do not even know where they are taking them to. [Officer Zulu]*

Human smuggling and trafficking near the Aflao border pose a major security concern. This implies potential participation of smuggled persons in terrorist operations. The data also implies the need of maintaining efficient immigration processes and rigorous

profiling procedures to safeguard the safety and security of both the border region and the destination country. The participation of locals in smuggling people indicates the existence of a network or syndicate that facilitates these criminal operations. However, those involved see smuggling as a way to improve their livelihoods. Furthermore, the lack of awareness among trafficked persons regarding their destination implies the presence of organized criminal networks preying on vulnerable people. The finding is consistent with Sosuh (2011) whose study found that security challenge in Ghana manifest in the activity of trafficking and smuggling of persons. This necessitates the implementation of comprehensive border security measures, such as enhanced monitoring, intelligence gathering, and profiling processes, in order to detect and intercept possible threats.

#### **4.2.2.8 Lack of infrastructure and equipment**

The interview revealed that there is lack of infrastructure and equipment that posed a major challenge to the work of immigration officers at the Aflao border. The officers stated that there was the absence of proper shelter and inadequate lighting at night which affected visibility and hampers effective border control. They also reported that, there was lack of necessary vehicles for officer deployment which resulted in officers relying on commercial motorbikes. The interviewees lamented frustration with the government's lack of action in addressing these infrastructure and equipment deficiencies. The participants lamented thus:

*We have issues of shelter for the officers. There is no proper shelter. Just this morning, it rained and they have to leave their post. When that happens, smuggling, arms trafficking and other security threats becomes possible. [Officer Alpha]*

*We have lighting issues. Visibility becomes poor at night and that affects our work. Because when an officer is posted to a point where there is no*

*lighting system, he or she leaves that point to join the others. [Officer Whiskey]*

*There are certain instances where we leave our post due to lighting or shelter problems during the rain. Even if they don't leave, there are lots of goods entering the country and who knows whether those goods are packed with arms or hard drugs. [Officer Kilo]*

Another officer highlighted on the issue that:

*We don't have the necessary vehicles for deployment of officers to duty points. They have to board commercial motorbikes which at times leads to accidents. It is even risky because the officer can be attacked somewhere. Government officials have been here several times to access the challenges we have but nothing has been done. This is national security issue Ghana Immigration Service alone cannot bear. [Officer Alpha]*

The absence of infrastructure and equipment at the Aflao border limited immigration officers' ability to carry out their responsibilities. Officers were forced to quit their stations during bad weather since there was no suitable shelter. This presents security weaknesses and opportunities for security threats such as smuggling and arms trafficking. Inadequate nighttime lighting poses a severe threat to border security since officers' capacity to recognize and respond to security threats is hampered by poor visibility.

Additionally, the inadequacy of vehicles for officers' deployment exacerbates the difficulties that immigration officials encounter. Using commercial motorcycles not only puts officers at danger of accidents, but also increases their exposure to assaults while on the road. The findings are consistent with Flynn (2002) and Goita (2011) who found that, borders in Africa are poorly equipped and resourced. Indeed, both Lockean Human Rights and Securitization Theories stress the need of creating a safe and secure working environment for immigration officers. It demands officers be provided with

enough shelter, lights, and equipment in order to ensure their safety and safeguard their rights.

#### 4.2.2.9 Communication constraints

The interview revealed communication constraints as another challenge faced by immigration officers at the Aflao border. The primary mode of communication was through mobile phones, but there were areas along the border with poor network coverage, which made communication difficult. In some instances, the Togo cell network took over, further complicating communication. Additionally, the participants mentioned the lack of sufficient radios (gotas) for the officers. Some participants shared:

*Our mode of communication is not strong. We only use the mobile phone. But there are some places along the border that is very poor with network. Sometimes the Togo cell takes over. [Officer Tango]*

*We do not have enough gotas for the officers. So, our ability to communicate and share information is a challenge sometimes. [Officer Yankee]*

Effective communication is critical for immigration officers at the Aflao border to coordinate and operate efficiently. However, the restricted and unreliable form of communication provided through mobile phones poses difficulties, especially in places with low network coverage. Inadequate network connectivity not only hinders officers' capacity to communicate with their colleagues, but it may also cause delays in responding to security threats or exchanging crucial information. Furthermore, interference from the Togo cell network can impede officer communication, presenting further barriers to efficient coordination and collaboration. The result of the study approves Oscar's (1994) study that outmoded communication gadgets contribute to the greater problem with respects to management of borders. A sufficient number of radios



would significantly increase communication capabilities and overall operating efficiency.

The Lokean Human Rights theory calls for the need of fulfilling officers' fundamental requirements, such as shelter and lighting, in order to guarantee their right to a safe and secure working environment. According to securitization theory, the lack of appropriate vehicles can impede border control measures, jeopardize officers' efficiency, and create weaknesses that criminal groups can exploit.

Despite these challenges, the data suggest that, officers adopted certain strategies to man the border as a way of mitigating the effect of challenges on border management. These strategies included, proactive monitoring and assessment of border areas by using personal or patrol vehicles, occasionally going incognito without uniforms. When officers reported threats or assaults, immediate action was taken to address the problem, including involving the police to apprehend perpetrators and having them sign bonds of good behavior. Additionally, the officers sought support and intervention from various local authorities, such as traditional leaders, assembly members, municipal chiefs, and members of parliament, to address security challenges linked to criminal activities involving local residents.

Some of the officers shared that:

*When I was second in command, I go myself to check places by using our personal cars or we use the patrol car. Sometimes I go without uniform. When an officer called that he is being threatened we quickly go and address the problem. [Officer Papa]*

*When there are issues of assault against the officers, we call on police who get them apprehended and later to sign bonds of good behaviour. [Officer Charlie]*

*We handle the security challenge that is in line with criminality from the locals by calling on the police to apprehend them. For others, we call on traditional authorities, the assembly man, Municipal Chief Executive, Member of Parliament to intervene. [Officer Bravo]*

These strategies implemented by immigration officers shows their proactive attitude to handling the security problems they confront at the Aflao border. Going incognito and not wearing uniforms can assist them gain a better knowledge of the situation on the ground, as well as identify and manage security concerns more efficiently.

The engagement of police in dealing with officer attacks or threats is an additional step in protecting their safety and making criminals accountable for their conduct. Signing good behaviour bonds can serve as a deterrent and encourage responsible behaviour among the local community. Moreover, seeking cooperation from local authorities, including traditional leaders and elected officials, indicates an awareness that tackling security concerns necessitates a collaborative approach encompassing a wide range of stakeholders. Involving these authorities can assist in bridging the gap between officers and the local population, promoting dialogue, and identifying long-term solutions to security challenges.

#### **4.2.3 Influence or effect of security challenges in border management at Aflao border**

Research question three sought to gather data on the influence or effect of security challenges in border management at Aflao border. The themes found in the study were as follows; effective collaboration with sister agencies, lack of cordiality with Togolese officers, revenue loss due to smuggling, fear and panic, ineffective border management, effect on rights to personal security, food security, economic security and environmental security.

#### 4.2.3.1 Effective collaboration with sister agencies

The first theme that emerged from the study was effective collaboration with sister agencies. The data revealed that, there has been significant coordination between immigration officers and other sister agencies at the Aflao border. The participants indicated that they collaborate with agencies like the Police Service, Customs, and the armed services as a result of security challenges at the border. The officers also mentioned that the connection with these sister organizations is friendly, and that they routinely give support and help when needed. Some participants shared:

*Because of the challenges we experience with border management especially with the emerging threat of terrorism, we collaborate with other sister agencies at the border. [Officer Papa]*

*Recently, the soldiers have joined us at the border. I must say, the collaboration is good. [Officer Tango]*

*As for our relationship is very cordial because Police Service, Custom Service and am-forces are always available to help. [Officer X-Ray]*

The findings of the study show that there was efficient coordination between immigration officers and sister agencies at the Aflao border. This collaboration was formed primarily to address security concerns, particularly the danger of terrorism. The officers' response on the involvement of soldiers at the border demonstrates that the combined efforts to improve security measures were effective. The recognition of a friendly connection with other agencies indicates the necessity of collaboration and collaborative efforts in tackling border security concerns. Effective coordination with sister agencies allows for resource pooling, information sharing, and coordinated actions, eventually leading to enhanced border management and security. The findings disagreed with an earlier study conducted by Quartey (2019) who found that, lack of cooperation at the borders makes it difficult with respect to border control.

Moreover, collaboration with sister agencies at the Aflao border is consistent with both Lockean Human Rights Theory and securitization theory. It supports protection of officers' rights, fulfils the government's obligation to provide security, and handles security risks via coordinated measures. This collaboration helps to a more secure and effective border management system.

#### **4.2.3.2 Lack of cordiality with Togolese officers**

The data revealed that the relationship between the Ghanaian immigration officers and their Togolese counterparts at the Aflao border were not cordial. An incident was mentioned where a Togolese soldier unintentionally shot an immigration officer. The officers reported that, although there was some level of collaboration between the two sides, it is not characterized by cordiality. One officer shared a specific incident where they were preventing people from entering Ghana through an unapproved route. In this situation, a Togolese soldier threatened them with a gun. The officers also mentioned that the Togolese officers also engage in corrupt practices. Some officers interviewed shared their experience in this manner:

*The relationship between us and the Togolese officers seem not cordial. There was an instance where their soldier shot our immigration officer even though it was not deliberate. There is a collaboration but not very cordial. [Officer Delta]*

*On the 12 May, 2023, I was preventing people from entering Ghana through one of the unapproved routes but a Togolese soldier was threatening me with a gun not to touch the demarcation net that, it is for them. Because they take money, they threaten us. [Officer Yankee]*

The data indicates that there is a stressful environment and poor interaction between the two parties. The absence of cordiality may impede effective collaboration and coordination in addressing border security challenges. The mention of unethical practices by Togolese officials, such as bribes and threats, complicates the issue and

raises questions about honesty and professionalism. The threats with a gun, in the framework of Lockean human rights theory, imply a lack of regard for the rights and dignity of the immigration officers. This finding supports the study by Lamptey (2013) who found that due to security challenges, officers do not effectively collaborate and coordinate their activities nationally and regionally.

#### **4.2.3.3 Revenue loss due to smuggling**

The data revealed that smuggling issues at the Aflao border have a significant effect on revenue generation. The border is characterized by high trade activities, making it a lucrative target for smugglers. Consequently, a substantial amount of revenue has been lost due to the smuggling of goods. The Aflao border is identified as the busiest land border, with a significant volume of goods passing in and out. However, the challenges associated with unapproved routes contribute to the revenue loss. Some officers interviewed lamented:

*Since there are smuggling issues, revenue generation are also affected. Because, this border is very high with trade activities. So, a lot of revenue has been lost due to smuggling of goods. [Officer Papa]*

*The Aflao border is the busiest land border so we have a high record of goods passing in and out. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of money because of the challenges at the unapproved routes. [Officer Echo]*

Given the huge volume of trade and the strategic placement of the border, it becomes an appealing route for smugglers, resulting in significant losses in revenue. Smuggling deprives the government of potential tax revenue that might be used to fund development projects and public services. The fact that the Aflao border is the busiest land border indicates the magnitude of trade and the region's economic importance. The prevalence of unapproved routes, on the other hand, exacerbates the smuggling problem and leads to revenue loss. The findings are consistent with Akakpo (2021) who found

out that smuggling as a security threat is linked with the porous Ghana-Togo border which affect revenue accumulation since it evades customs charges.

The findings also imply that to combat revenue loss due to smuggling, a collaborative effort by government agencies, law enforcement, customs officers, and international partners, is required which is emphasized in the Securitization Theory.

#### **4.2.3.4 Fear and panic**

The data revealed that fear and panic are prevalent among border officers due to the security challenges they faced. The absence of lighting systems at unapproved routes and pillars is identified as a significant security concern. Officers stationed at these locations often experience fear and panic and also uncertain about potential attacks or incidents. Some officers interviewed shared their experience:

*The unapproved routes and the pillars are not having lighting systems. It is a great security challenge because the pillars are far away but we man those places. We leave and join our colleagues because of fear and panic. So that really affect the effective management of the border.* [Officer Delta]

*It poses fears and panic when I am going to these unapproved routes. You don't know what is going to happen to you, if you will be attack or not. So, you will be panicking.* [Officer X-ray]

Another officer shared that:

*When my colleagues especially newly recruits see smuggled guns, they fear and panic. Myself based on the experience I have gathered over the years; I can even talk to the smugglers without holding gun.* [Officer Whiskey]

The findings offer information on the psychological effects posed by security challenges, specifically the prevalence of fear and panic among border officers. The lack of lighting systems along unapproved roads and pillars adds to the sensation of fear because these places are remote from main posts and lack appropriate visibility.

The uncertainties and possible hazards connected with patrolling the dimly lighted locations also add to officers' increased fear and panic.

Moreover, the illegal guns adds an extra element of fear and panic, especially for newly recruited officers who may lack the knowledge and coping strategies. This fear could hinder their capacity to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and may impede overall border management duties. According to Laine (2017), fear and panic are important factors to consider in border management. Fear and panic build up insecurity up to the point where it impairs officers' capacity to manage the uncertainties of everyday life and erodes their sense of confidence and trust (Kinnvall, 2004). According to Lockean Human Rights Theory, the right to personal security is a basic human right. Immigration officers' fear and panic signal a breach of their right to personal security.

#### **4.2.3.5 Ineffective border management**

The officers expressed that the border management at Aflao is ineffective due to the various challenges they faced. They believed that their lives were in danger because they lacked the necessary conditions to work safely, such as adequate facilities. The participants mentioned that effective border management requires constant attention and resources, such as vehicles, to address security threats like smuggling. Additionally, communication challenges, including poor network coverage and interference from Togo cell networks, hinder their response to security threats and put their lives at risk. Some of the officers interviewed shared their opinion:

*I can say that the border is not well managed because of the challenges we face. If you say that I have to work in the interest of the country and you have not provided conditions for me to work, my life is in danger. I have that right to the safe working environment. Can you imagine that*

*officers have to defecate someone's house because we lack adequate place of convenience. [Officer Alpha]*

*This border can be more effective than it is now. But that will be when government is able to work around the clock to help us meet the challenges we encounter. For example, we can be provided with vehicles for effective deployment to better tackle security threats like the smuggling of arms and goods. [Officer Charlie]*

*Communication challenges affect our response to security threat. Sometimes the Togo cell takes over affecting border management because lack of communication might put the officer's life in danger. [Officer Tango]*

The findings indicate that lack of suitable working conditions and government assistance led to ineffective border management. The lack of suitable facilities, such as washrooms, reveals a serious infrastructural gap that has a detrimental influence on the officers' morale and capacity to carry out their tasks effectively, especially to combat security risks such as smuggling of arms and goods.

Furthermore, communication constraints, including poor network coverage and interference from Togo cell networks, impede their ability to respond to security threats. This challenge contributes to the ineffectiveness of border management at Aflao. The findings are consistent with Okumu (2011) who found that, most borders in Sub-Saharan African nations are ineffectively regulated, monitored, or patrolled, transforming them into transnational crime hotspots. Concerns raised by the officers underline the significance of resolving these issues in order to build a safer and more effective border management system. Securitization theory stresses on the need to allocate resources to address security challenges.

#### **4.2.3.6 Effect on right to personal security**

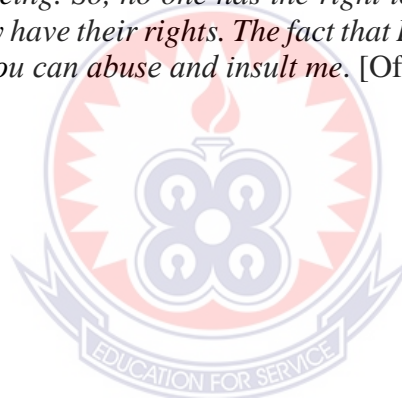
The interview revealed concerns regarding personal security among the officers at the Aflao border. The officers reported that, their rights including the right to personal



security, are undermined due to the challenges they faced in border management. They asserted that as human beings, they deserve the same rights and respect as everyone else, regardless of their role as security personnel. The officers also share incidents where their safety and security were threatened, with individuals verbally assaulting them and claiming ownership of the land, disregarding the officers' right to security. Some officers interviewed stated:

*Our rights are undermined as a result of the challenges we face in border management. apart from being an immigration officer, I am also a human being. I have the right to enjoy all rights bestowed on everyone else including rights to personal security. [Officer Kilo]*

*Where somebody's right ends, someone's right begins. The officer is also a human being. So, no one has the right to undermine the right of the officer. They have their rights. The fact that I am a security personnel doesn't mean you can abuse and insult me. [Officer Alpha]*



Another officer stated:

*I witnessed colleague officers who had their safety or security threatened while on duty at the border. They verbally assault the officers telling them “We were here before you came. This is our land. Allow us to do our things” and other abusive words. Meanwhile, we have the right to our own security. [Officer Delta]*

The officers' concern for their personal security indicates an important part of their well-being and performance at the border. Despite their security duty, they have the same rights as any other person and should not be subjected to abuse or insults. The challenges they confront in border management should not jeopardize their personal protection and safety.

The verbal abuse and having their security endangered demonstrate the conflicts and disputes that emerge in border management. This confirms an earlier study by Sosuh (2011) who found that there were events of clashes at the Aflao border between officers and the border residents who often frustrate their efforts. It is critical to recognize and respect the officers' rights and personal security when it comes to maintaining order and security at the border. The idea of securitization provides a normative framework for addressing security problems. It emphasizes the need of preserving the rights and safety of everyone participating in security processes.

#### **4.2.3.7 Effect on right to food security**

The interview shed light on lack of food security resulting from the challenges officers faced at the Aflao border. When assigned to man the unapproved routes, the officers have to arrange for food and water by often bringing supplies from their homes due to the difficulty in accessing food at the unapproved routes. Moreover, the available water at the unapproved routes was reported to be unhealthy. The officers also reported the trouble they faced during the changeover at 6 PM, as they have to wait for another

officer to arrive before they can leave and find food or water. Some officers interviewed expressed that:

*When we are sent to man the unapproved routes, we buy or take from the house our own food and water and send them there because, it is difficult to access food there. The water available at the unapproved routes too are not healthy. [Officer X-Ray]*

*It is very troubling getting access to food at the unapproved routes. When change over at 6pm. So, if you need food or water, you would have to wait for an officer to come over before you can leave. [Officer Whiskey]*

The issue of food security at the unapproved routes indicates the practical effects as a result of security challenges. The unavailability of food options at the unapproved routes, shows the need for enhanced infrastructure and assistance for officers. Lack of access to safe drinking water exacerbates food security, which may affect officers' health and capacity to execute their jobs successfully. The challenges in obtaining food during the changeover period can lead to delays and significant interruptions in border management procedures. According to Lockean Human Rights Theory, the right to basic requirements such as food and water is fundamental for human well-being. The officers' difficulties in accessing food, as well as the unhygienic water conditions along the unapproved routes, raise concerns about a breach of their right to adequate food and safe drinking water. According the World Bank (2007), food security is of three folds. That is food availability, food accessibility and food affordability. This study found that officers the case for officers was that of food accessibility.

#### **4.2.3.8 Effect on right to economic Security**

The interview revealed that security challenges faced by the officers at the Aflao border affect their right to economic security. The conditions of service were described as poor, and even the cost of traveling to the pillars was a financial burden. The officers'

expressed concerns about the lack of dignity and worth associated with their working conditions, which in turn affects their right to work effectively. The officers also mentioned problems related to uniforms. Some officers interviewed also mentioned that:

*Our conditions of service are very poor. Even going to the pillars can cost you like GH¢15.00. So, you see that our dignity and worth is missing here and that affect our right to work. [Officer Yankee]*

*We have problem with uniforms. I bought my own uniforms and boots. The uniform cost me GH¢400.00 while the boots cost GH¢600.00. I am not motivated to work. [Officer Kilo]*

Another officer lamented:

*It is a dangerous terrain to work but there are no special allowance or motivations which affects my livelihood. I also have families to care for. [Officer Whiskey]*

The effect of border security challenges on economic security reveals serious issues that must be addressed. Poor working conditions, especially the financial burden of travelling to the pillars, not only affects officers' morale but also call into question their dignity and worth as personnel. Furthermore, a lack of assistance in supplying uniform can cause demotivation and affect officers' perceptions of their importance within the Immigration Service.

The absence of special allowances or motivations in working in difficult terrain is a major problem. The officers' livelihoods are directly affected by the risks that they face, thus, sufficient compensation and support mechanisms to address their safety and well-being are critical. The findings confirm a study by Sosuh (2011) who found that a key displeasure to all the security officers is their low remuneration and lack of incentives to boost their morale. Lockean Human Rights Theory advocates the right to fair and

equitable working conditions, including adequate remuneration and benefits. Thus, the officers' right to economic security are in jeopardy.

#### **4.2.3.9 Effect on right to environmental security**

The interview revealed that security challenges at the Aflao border affect officers right to environmental security. The officers expressed difficulties in finding a place to sit, particularly during adverse weather conditions such as rain and thunderstorms. The mentioned issues of poor roads and accidents. Additionally, the officers described the vulnerability they faced when reporting to work and been targeted by assailants who attack them and steal their phones and other valuables. Other officers interviewed stated:

*We don't have a place to sit. Even last week at beat 3 and 13, it was raining and thundering. It wasn't easy for us. Where to hide and sit was a problem. You see, that opposes us to risk and environmental hazards. [Officer Zulu]*

*We don't have any bungalow or shelter at the various unapproved routes and that really affect us a lot. [Officer X-Ray]*

Two other officers shared the experience they encountered:

*The beats are close but the pillars like 13, 14 etc are far. It takes like an hour to reach there for work. The road is also very bad. We have been attacked several times going to man the pillars. A colleague also had an accident on the leg and cannot walk. [Officer Yankee]*

*Sometimes, we are called to come to work as early as 4am. However, some officers live far away from the border so in the course of reporting for work, they attack them and snatch their phones and other valuables. [Officer Whiskey]*

The findings show that the officers' ability to do their jobs effectively has been hindered by a shortage of adequate places to sit and seek shelter during severe weather which is an indication that their right to environmental security has been affected. The officers' exposure to risks is increased by bad road conditions as evidenced by incidences of

accidents. Furthermore, the likelihood of targeted attacks on officers residing far from the border endangers their lives. Within the context of Lockean Human Right theory, the officers' difficulty in finding a place to sit during severe weather, poor road conditions, and a lack of sufficient shelters indicates a violation of their right to a safe and secure working environment. Opon et al. (2015) opined that the nature of the work environment has been linked to an individual's capacity to perform given duties as well as reach intended goals. They proposed that if the work environment is not favorable, officers become demoralized and demotivated, resulting in ineffective work outputs.

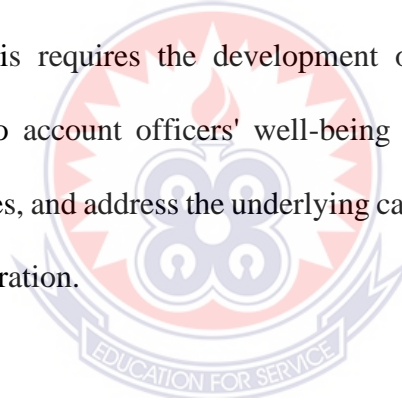
#### **4.3 Theoretical Implications of the Findings**

From the perspective of Lockean Human Rights Theory, the findings indicate the necessity of recognizing and protecting immigration officers' rights. The study revealed that, officers encountered a variety of security difficulties, such as threats to their right to security, infiltration, and impersonation. These difficulties jeopardize not only their personal safety but also their capacity to carry out their duties efficiently. Lockean Human Rights Theory stressed the need for a safe and secure working environment for immigration officers which ensures that their rights to life, liberty, and personal security are respected. The findings emphasize the necessity of taking steps to enhance immigration officers' working conditions and security, such as providing proper infrastructure, equipment, and training, as well as addressing concerns of harassment and violence that they may encounter.

Regarding securitization theory, the findings provided insight on the process of securitization and its consequences for border control. According to the findings of the study, security challenges at the Aflao border have been presented as threats to national security and sovereignty. This securitization has resulted in emergency measures,

coordination with sister agencies, and the perception of specific places as high-risk zones. The idea of securitization explains how some situations are framed as security threats and how these framing affects governmental decisions and practices. The findings suggest that, securitization has both beneficial and bad impacts. On the one hand, it has resulted in improved coordination and focus on border security. On the other hand, it had unexpected consequences, such as revenue loss owing to smuggling, officer anxiety and panic and ineffective border management.

Thus, the two theories used for the study shows that it is necessary for a balanced strategy that protects human rights while addressing security concerns. Officers right to security need to be recognized and defended while they manage and secure the Aflao border effectively. This requires the development of comprehensive policies and practices that take into account officers' well-being and safety, foster coordination among relevant agencies, and address the underlying causes of security difficulties such as smuggling and infiltration.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Overview

This chapter highlights the summary of the study, major findings, conclusions, limitations of the study and offers recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

#### 5.1 Summary of the Study

The study sought to explore the experiences of immigration officers' right to security at Aflao border. The study was underpinned by Lockean Human Right Theory and Securitization theory. In all, the study was made up of five interrelated chapters. Each chapter focused on various aspects of the topic under investigation and this enabled me to address the objectives of the study. Through a qualitative approach and the phenomenological design, data was gathered from 12 Immigration Officers. Through the method of interviews, I was able to elicit responses on the nature of the Aflao border, the security challenges that confront Immigration Officers as well as the influence of security challenges in border management at Aflao border. The data from the study were analyzed and discussed under emergent themes (thematic analysis) using QDA Miner Lite software.

#### 5.2 Major Findings

The major findings of the study were presented in line with the research questions spelt out for the study:

Firstly, research question one (RQ1) was targeted at exploring the nature of the Aflao border. Findings revealed that, the Aflao border by nature is a cultural border, has a strategic location, experiences high levels of human mobility and trade activities, has



challenging terrain and porous, has approved entry points and characterized by economic and occupational migration. This set of characteristics indicates the border's distinctive nature as well as the complexity involved in managing and safeguarding it.

Secondly, research question two (RQ2) was targeted at analyzing the security challenges that confront Immigration Officers at Aflao border. Findings indicate that, there are complex and multi-faceted security challenges faced by immigration officers at the Aflao border. These includes; threat to officers right to security, infiltration and impersonation, porous borders, threats to officers' lives, residents' lack of understanding of security and support, smuggling of goods, human smuggling and trafficking, lack of infrastructure and equipment and communication constraints.

Thirdly, research question three (RQ3) sought to examine the effect or influence of security challenges in border management at Aflao border. Findings revealed that due to security challenges at the Aflao border, there is effective collaboration with sister agencies. However, lack of cordiality with Togolese officers, revenue loss due to smuggling, fear and panic, ineffective border management, effect on right to personal security, right to food security, right to economic security and right to environmental security were also found.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

Based on the findings from the study, the following conclusion have been made:

1. The diverse characteristics of the Aflao border indicate its unique nature, requiring complex management and protection measures.
2. The security challenges confronting immigration officers at the Aflao border are complex and multi-faceted, indicating the importance of safeguarding immigration officers' rights to security, safety, and well-being.

3. The security challenges at the Aflao border have a significant, direct and adverse effects on border management which indicate the difficulties and risks faced by immigration officers in carrying out their duties effectively.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Since the findings of this study have various implications for Government, Ministries, policymakers and institutions in Ghana, some useful recommendations have been made:

1. The Ministry of the Interior should improve infrastructure and equipment at the Aflao border to increase border management effectiveness and officers' right to security. This involves proper monitoring systems, communication networks, and physical infrastructure such as shelter along unapproved routes.
2. The Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of Interior should provide more comprehensive training and capacity building Programs for immigration personnel that focus on security, human rights, risk assessment, and effective border management. Threat recognition, identifying smuggling and trafficking operations, and dealing with challenging situations should all be covered in training. Continuous professional development opportunities should be made available to officers in order to keep them up to date on new security concerns and best practices.
3. There is the need to continue fostering interagency collaboration. Collaboration and coordination among various border management organizations, such as the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), Customs, Police, and the National Investigation Bureau, as well as other intelligence agencies, should be improved. This involves collaborating to handle security challenges by sharing information, intelligence, and

resources. To increase synergy and create a coherent approach to border security, regular joint operations and drills should be performed.

4. Government of Ghana and the Immigration Service should strengthen their international collaboration. That is, strengthening cooperation and engagement with neighboring countries, notably Togo, in order to effectively tackle cross-border security challenges. Encourage dialogue and relationship building between immigration officers from Ghana and Togo in order to improve cordiality and collaboration at the border.
5. Government must ensure that immigration officers have adequate support systems in place, including access to counselling services, medical facilities, and legal support when needed.
6. The National Commission on Civic Education should conduct public education campaigns regarding the relevance of border security and the duties of immigration officers. In addition, the general population must be urged to support and participate in reporting suspicious activity or giving information that might help improve border security.

### **5.5 Limitation of the Study**

The study was faced with some challenges. Firstly, the journey to the Aflao border was extremely tiresome. This was further compounded by heavy rainfall which caused floods along certain routes to the borderland.

Secondly, upon arrival at the border, the sector commander was on duty at the one of the unapproved routes. Therefore, seeking informed consent to start with interviews delayed. Thirdly, due to the fact that, the study was on human right and security issue, some of the officers were initially unwilling to respond to some of the interview

questions. I overcame this by explaining the study's developmental significance to them as officers and the Aflao border as a whole.

Moreover, I intended to conduct some of the interviews with officers at some of the unapproved routes, however, there were reports of clashes between border residents and officers manning the unapproved routes. Thus, only officers present at the main entry were involved. The study however, captured the experiences of the officers' regarding the unapproved routes since some of the officers' present at the main entry have at various times been posted to man the unapproved routes and the pillars. Thus, it can be seen that, despite these limitations, the researcher adopted strategies to make a nuanced analysis.

#### **5.6 Suggestions for Future Studies**

1. Future studies should investigate the role of training Programs and support systems in resolving the challenges confronting border officers. The study might look into the influence of thorough training on officer preparedness, coping mechanisms, and the capacity to deal with security threats efficiently.
2. Also, a study needs to be conducted to examine the economic impact on border officers by looking at their remuneration packages, benefits, and the financial burden associated with their job. The research might look into the adequate level of pay, the provision of required work clothing and equipment, and the availability of allowances for working in hazardous conditions.

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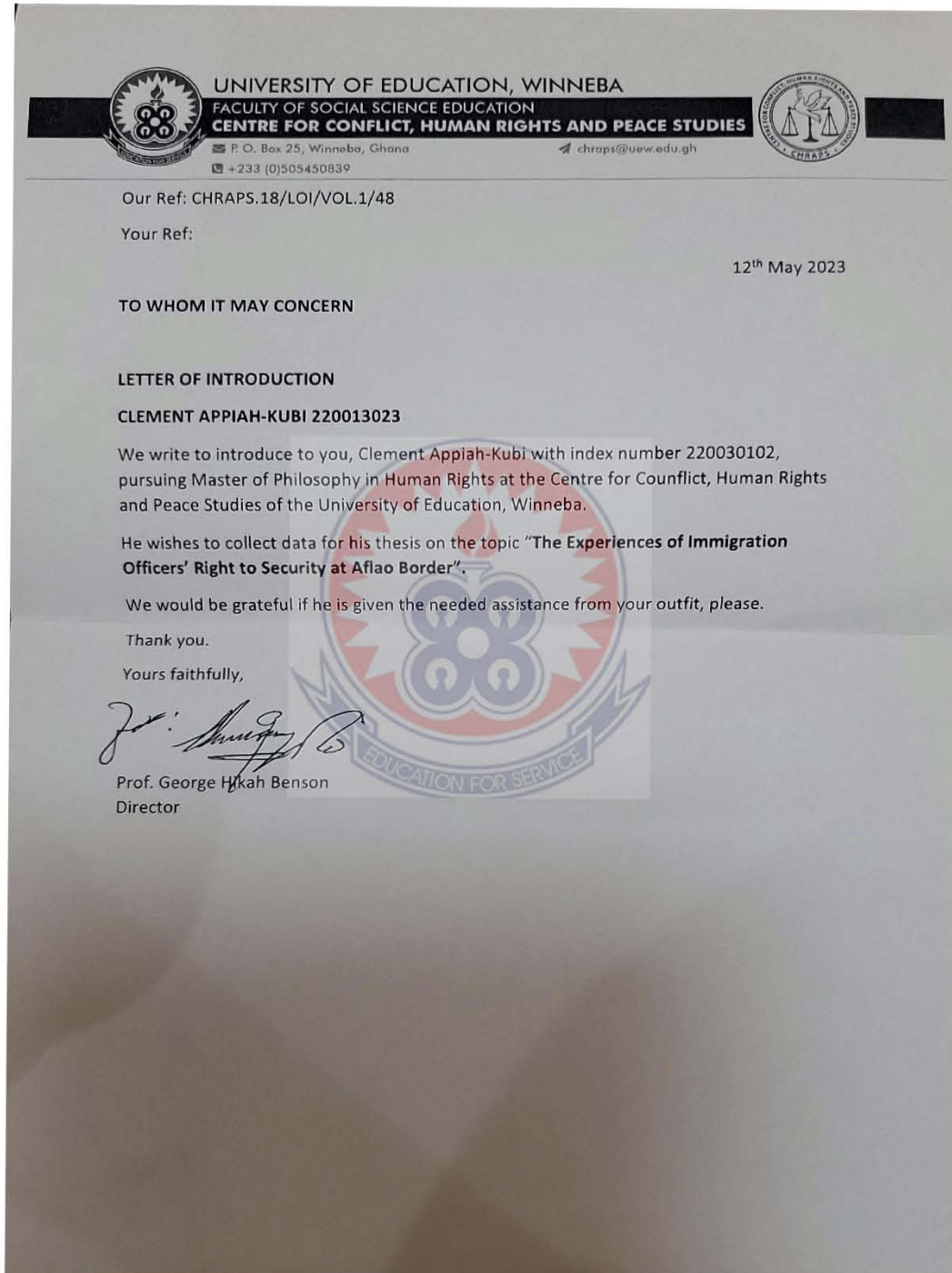
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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A

#### Introductory Letter



## APPENDIX B

### Interview Guide

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
CENTRE FOR CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE STUDIES

Data Collection Instrument captioned:

“The Experiences of Immigration Officers’ Right to Security at Aflao Border”

#### Interview Guide

##### **Informed Consent to Participate in the Research**

My name is Clement Appiah-Kubi. I am a master of Philosophy student at the University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting research on the topic: “The Experiences of Immigration Officers’ Right to Security at Aflao Border”. I therefore seek your help in responding to some few questions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable at any of my questions, let me know. I strongly assure you that this discussion is purely for academic purposes, towards the award of Master of Philosophy in Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies and information provided will be used for academic purposes only. You are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you.

##### **Section A: Details of interviewee**

1. What is your current rank? .....
2. How many years have you been working with the Ghana Immigration Service?.....
3. What is your unit? .....

##### **Section B: Nature of the Aflao border**

4. How would you describe the nature of the Aflao border?

5. How does the Aflao border compare to other borders you've worked at in terms of its nature?
6. Is the Aflao border porous? If yes, how does the borderland community view the porosity of border?
7. Are there any cultural or social factors that have an influence on the nature of the Aflao border?
8. Can you provide an example of how ethnic connections affect border crossings in the Aflao border?
9. Are there any other insights or perspectives you can offer on the nature of the Aflao border that we haven't touched on yet?

**Section C: Security challenges confronting Immigration Officers at Aflao border**

10. What are some of the security challenges you encounter on a daily basis at the border?
11. Have you ever felt that your own safety or security was threatened while on duty at the border? If so, can you describe the situation?
12. Can you provide an example of how you have handled a situation where a person or group posed a security threat at the Aflao border?
13. Can you tell me about the most common security challenges that occur at the Aflao border?
14. How do you and your team handle security challenges at the Aflao border?
15. Are there any new or emerging security challenges that you've encountered at the Aflao border recently?

**Section D: Effects or influence of security challenges in border management at Aflao border**

16. In your opinion, how do security challenges affect or influence the management of the Aflao border?
17. Can you give an example of a time when a security challenge had a significant impact on border management at the Aflao border?
18. Just as citizens who cross the border have rights to be protected and respected, how does the security challenges you face affect your rights to security as an immigration officer?
19. What effect do security challenges have on the general public at the Aflao border?
20. In what ways does security challenges affect or influence the relationship between Immigration Officers and other law enforcement agencies at the Aflao border?
21. Can you share any strategies or techniques that have been implemented to minimize the effects of security challenges on border management at the Aflao border?
22. How do you think the security challenges at the Aflao border could be addressed or resolved to improve border management?