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DEPARTMENT OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES



**THE IMPACT OF CURRENT BORDER SECURITY IN COMBATING
SMUGGLING. A CASE OF BEIT-BRIDGE BORDER POST.**

By

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELORS OF COMMERCE HONOURS
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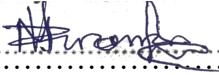
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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my loving parents who gave me a loving heart to complete my studies.

DECLARATION

I, Nigel Muzonzini (B201175B), do hereby declare that this dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the general requirements of the Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) Degree in Financial Intelligence, is the result of my own exploration and study. This information has not been presented or published in this form before, and all the previous works are well recognized and accredited properly.

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ABSTRACT

The research sought to investigate the impact of current border security in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post. It was guided by the following objectives, to identify the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post, to identify the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to examine the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to recommend strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post. The study population was obtained using purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques. The researcher used a descriptive research design. The sample size comprised of thirty-six (36) respondents. Data was obtained at Beitbridge border post using interviews and questionnaires. Data was analysed using SPSS (a quantitative data analysis tool Statistical Package for Social Sciences) and also a qualitative analysis tool thematic analysis. Data was presented in the form of charts, graphs and tables. Based on the findings and conclusions of the research, a number of recommendations were made at Beitbridge border post in order to combat smuggling. The outcomes of this research showed that Zimbabwe was facing challenges in controlling its border. The failure to provide effective security is because of certain factors. These factors includes the absence of physical barriers at the border, scarcity of physical and human resources and ineffective ways of monitoring Zimbabwe's border. The research recommended that border security agencies should be paid in an optimal and most desirable way. Monitoring should be done through surveillance, modernise existing infrastructure, enhance legal framework, cameras and increased lighting. Lastly awareness campaigns should be carried out educating people about the consequences of border smuggling. Nevertheless, having illustrated all these remedies the research claims that as long as the broader administrative environment remains feeble these remedies will not create their own strength to work effectively.

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CHAPTER I

1.0 Introduction

This study looks at the impact of current border security in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post. Chapter one looks at background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research questions, assumptions, limitations, definition of key terms and summary.

1.1 Background to the study

Beitbridge border is a very important port of entry into Zimbabwe and northwards countries connecting the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) market. It has also proved to be a place of criminal activities ranging from petty theft to organised crime such as smuggling and corruption. The border has been described as a gateway for human trafficking, contraband and illegal drugs, and it is estimated that around \$2 billion worth of goods are smuggled through the area each year (Beardsley & Stares, 2016).

Crime trends at borders vary depending on the country and region, but there are some general patterns that can be observed. One common trend is an increase in organized crime and smuggling, as criminals take advantage of the increased security and surveillance at borders. Additionally, there is often an increase in human trafficking and sexual exploitation of migrants at borders. Other common border crime trends include drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and money laundering.

Global crime trends at borders have become increasingly interconnected, with many of the same trends observed in different regions of the world. One of the example is US-Mexico border where there has been an increase in the smuggling of contraband, such as drugs, weapons, and people. Another global example is the use of transnational criminal organizations to smuggle goods and people across borders. The use of organized crime groups to smuggle people from Africa to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. The use of shipping containers to smuggle drugs from South America to Europe. Migrants are

often smuggled across borders, with many suffering abuse, violence, and exploitation. This is a major issue in Europe, with many migrants coming from the Middle East and Africa (Bender, Porto & Morikawa, 2015).

There are a number of statistics that provide insights into global crime trends at borders. Here are a few examples. The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates that transnational organized crime costs the global economy between \$870 billion and \$1.6 trillion each year (The International Criminal Police Organization, 2018). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that human trafficking generates \$150 billion in annual profits, making it the third most profitable crime after drug and arms trafficking (The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2016). The World Bank estimates that money laundering costs between 2-5% of global GDP, or up to \$2 trillion annually (World Bank, 2016)

There have been a number of studies conducted on crime trends and statistics at the Beitbridge border post. One of the most comprehensive was conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2017. This study used a variety of data sources, including police records, interviews with local residents, and media reports. The findings of the study showed that crime rates at the border had increased significantly in recent years, with a wide range of crimes being committed, including human trafficking, drug smuggling, and theft. In particular, the study found that there had been a sharp rise in the number of human trafficking cases (International Organization for Migration, 2017).

Another study, conducted by the African Union Border Programme in 2018, also found an increase in crime at the Beitbridge border post. This study used data from a variety of sources, including official statistics, interviews with key informants, and a survey of residents living near the border. The findings of the study were similar to those of the IOM study, with a range of crimes being reported, including smuggling, human trafficking, and theft. In addition, the study found that the border post was a hub for the trafficking of counterfeit goods (African Union Border Programme, 2018).

1.2 Statement of the problem

Both government of Zimbabwe and South Africa have deployed security officers, drones, sniffers dogs and other means to prevent smuggling and other crimes at

Beitbridge border post. However crimes has been increasing from time to time. Despite ongoing efforts to tighten border security at Beitbridge, smuggling continues to thrive. This raises a critical question: How effective are current border security measures in combating smuggling activities at Beitbridge border post?

1.3 Purpose of the study and Objectives

The study sought to investigate the impact of current border security in combating smuggling.

1.3.1 Objectives of the study

1. To identify the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post.
2. To identify the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post.
3. To examine the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post.
4. To recommend strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post.

1.3.2 Research questions

To achieve the research aims and goals the following questions were produced and the research seeks to answer them.

1. What are the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post?
2. What are the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post?
3. What are the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post?
4. What are the strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post?

1.4 Significance of the study

1.4.1 to the researcher

The research will help the researcher to understand the effectiveness of security at the border post, how it affects the local economy and how smuggling can be combated.

1.4.2 to the border security

The presence of acknowledgment to the role of security can play an important role in improving the border security in Zimbabwe. The research embraces the opinion that this research gave the theoretic evaluations and useful application of different security measures to improve the border security in Zimbabwe.

1.4.3 to the government

The results of the study will help the government of Zimbabwe to comprehend the challenges and opportunities related to border security. It will also provide recommendations on how to improve security at the Beitbridge border post, and how to better coordinate efforts with other government agencies and neighboring countries. The study can also inform policy decisions on how to address smuggling, and can help to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively.

1.4.4 to the university

This information is beneficial to Bindura University of Science Education as it can be used to inform future studies. Additionally the study will contribute to the university's reputation as a center of academic excellence and the study will demonstrate the university's commitment to producing high-quality research that is relevant to the needs of the country.

1.4.5 to the Beitbridge border post

A secure and efficient border post will help increase trade and economic activity, reduce illegal activity and improving the quality of life for people living in the area. A better understanding of border security could help to address smuggling issues and improve the functioning of the border post

1.5 Assumptions

-  The researcher assumed that participants cooperated and the resources are sufficient to carry out the study effectively.

- ✚ The researcher assumed that effective border security measures should deter and disrupt smuggling activities.
- ✚ The researcher assumed that the government is committed to securing the border and has the resources to do so.
- ✚ The researcher assumed there is a clear understanding of the different types of crimes that need to be addressed such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, smuggling and terrorism.
- ✚ The researcher assumed that the people living near Beitbridge border post are willing to cooperate with security measures.

1.6 Delimitations of the study

The study took place at Beitbridge border post from 2023 to 2024. It was geographically delimited to the Beitbridge border post. The study involved data collection from various participants within the border security apparatus such as customs officers, police officers, army officers, immigration officers and the local people. The scope of the study focused on the effectiveness of current border security strategies in deterring and apprehending smugglers, the impact of smuggling activities on the Zimbabwean economy and national security.

1.7 Limitations

The limitations of the study includes financial constraints as the researcher did not have enough resources to conduct the research. For example the researcher needed to secure the funding to cover the costs of data collection, travel, and other expenses. There was also need to secure permission from relevant authorities to conduct research in certain areas which was costly. There was also need to pay for access to relevant data. Another challenge the researcher faced was the lack of cooperation from participants. As the researcher conducted his research some of the participants refused to cooperate. For example individuals involved in smuggling were unwilling to participate in the study due to fear of repercussions.

The researcher used different methods to overcome financial problems that is the researcher had to borrow from friends and other external sources such as foundations. The researcher had to work with team of collaborators who had to share costs. On

participation the researcher had to employ snowball sampling or incentive to encourage participation. The researcher had to build trust with respondents through ethical and respectful treatment.

However there are specific considerations such as ethical implications of the methods used by the researcher to overcome financial limitations, and also public awareness campaigns which highlighted the negative consequences of smuggling on the economy and national security.

1.8 Definition of key terms

1.8.1 Border

The physical, conspicuous boundaries that separate political, social, and economic regions are what Newman (2006) defines as borders.

1.8.2 Border Security

Cultural researchers are more likely to focus on how cultural and ethnic variations preserve borders while also forming social and cultural identities as borders alter. Scholars in the historical discipline, on the other hand, are more likely to focus on the relationship between boundaries, identities, territories, and the sovereignty of nation states. Similarly, scholars whose fields deal with security issues will concentrate on border security. Political scientists will tend to focus on issues such as how states exercise their authority over national borders and define how populations are managed by determining who and what enters a nation's territory (Sassen, 1999).

1.8.3 Smuggling

It is the illegal transportation of goods or people across a border. These include smuggling of drugs, weapons and illegal immigrants. Smuggling often involves bribery or other forms of corruption, and can involve serious consequences to the economy (Pienaar, 2015).

1.9 Summary

The chapter presented the foundation and background of the study. It also covered the statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions. The chapter highlighted the significance of the study, the scope of the study, limitations of the study as well as the overall layout of the dissertation structure.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents literature review and related models or theories to the research problem. It is organized into conceptual framework, theoretical and empirical reviews leading to the derivation of knowledge gaps existing in various previous research studies. The chapter also contains conceptual framework on the impact of current border security agents in combating smuggling using a case of Beit-bridge border post and lastly the researcher provides the justification, gap analysis of the study.

2.1 Conceptual and theoretical framework

In this section, the concept of smuggling will be explained in detail and the theories or models that revolve around the concept of smuggling.

2.1.1 Concept of smuggling

Smuggling is the illegal transportation of objects, materials, information or people, such as out of a place with restricted access, like across national borders in a manner which is intended to circumvent customs, tax or law. This is primarily done for financial gain in the form of profit (Alexander and Sawhill, 2021). Smuggling, the intentional movement of goods across borders in violation of legal frameworks, is fundamentally defined by political factors (Bierschenk and Heffernan, 2022). Borders and laws that make cross-border trade illegal are social and political constructs, rendering the boundaries of smuggling movable and embedded within the context of the activity itself. Critically, these boundaries are conditional not only in space but also in time (Bierschenk and Heffernan, 2022). Historical studies of cross-border trade demonstrate that the same exchange of goods between settlements can transition over time from neighbourly exchange to legal international trade to smuggling, without any variation in its practice (Bierschenk and Heffernan, 2022). The history of smuggling is deeply

intertwined with border-making, colonialism, and the territorial expansion of states, illustrating the dependency of smuggling on political factors (Andreas & Nugent, 2022).

A more historicized approach to smuggling challenges the perceived neutrality or inevitability of the dividing line between legal processes and their "underbelly" (Bierschenk and Heffernan, 2022). What is commonly referred to as "global drug smuggling" would have been incomprehensible 200 years ago, not only due to changes in borders but also because the concept of "drugs" as a particular set of criminalized, medically harmful recreational substances is a distinctly contemporary notion (Porter & Hough, 1996).

Smuggling involves sneaking goods or people into a place either without paying customs fees or duties, or prohibited items that are banned from import or export altogether. Common smuggled items include cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, weapons, antiquities, gemstones, flora, fauna, currencies, pirated goods like DVDs and software. Smugglers may use creative techniques like hiding contraband in vehicles' secret compartments, luggage linings, shipments of legal goods and even on one's person, (Darien, 2019). Some key reasons for smuggling are to avoid taxes and tariffs imposed on legal trade, circumvent quotas or embargoes on certain items, and profit from prohibited but highly demanded goods and services. Particularly for drugs, humans and wildlife, smugglers play on the huge price differences that exist between countries due to disparities in regulations and supply-demand dynamics. There is big money to be made by those willing to take risks to move goods illicitly across borders, (Picarelli, 2015).

Smuggling harms governments through loss of tax revenue that could be generated through legal trade. It also undercuts domestic industries if smuggled alternatives are cheaper than locally produced goods due to circumvented duties. There are social costs like increased addiction and crime from smuggling of drugs, weapons and humans. Environmental damage can occur from smuggled wildlife, timber and other natural resources illegally extracted. The activities of smuggling rings often involve other criminal acts like document forgery, bribery and violence, (Williams, 1994).

2.1.2 The types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post

The types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post are police officers, army officers, immigration officers, ZIMRA officials, customs officers, intelligence agencies, border patrol agencies and health officials. As alluded to by Rosenblum (2012), border security agents play a critical role in safeguarding a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. They are the frontline defence against various threats such as illegal immigration, smuggling of contraband goods, trafficking of drugs and weapons, and potential terrorist activities. This means that the presence of these agents not only deters unlawful activities but also ensures the smooth flow of legitimate trade and travel. Effective border security measures, supported by well-trained and equipped security agents, are essential for maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, and upholding the rule of law within a country.

2.1.3 Causes of smuggling

Tariff Burden

Tariff burden, the economic weight imposed by import taxes (tariffs), is a significant driver of smuggling activities. Due to high trade restrictions, traders often find illegal ways of trading for example smuggling and miss-invoicing. In literature, a positive relationship is observed between tariff burden and smuggling. High tariffs create a significant price difference between goods in countries with varying import duties. This disparity incentivizes smuggling as individuals or groups seek to exploit the price gap and generate profit margins (Wajid and Iqbal, 2007). For instance, cigarettes with a high tax in Zimbabwe are being smuggled into neighbouring South Africa with lower taxes, where they can be sold for a considerably higher price due to the avoided tariff. Smuggling undermines legitimate trade by creating unfair competition. Businesses operating legally and paying customs duties struggle to compete with smuggled goods offered at a lower price due to the absence of tariffs (Katsios, 2006). This not only reduces government revenue from import taxes but also discourages legitimate businesses from operating within the formal economy.

Unemployment

Unemployment creates economic hardship and financial insecurity. Individuals struggling to find legitimate work opportunities may be more susceptible to the lure of smuggling, despite the associated risks. The potential for higher income, even if

obtained illegally, can be a tempting proposition for those facing unemployment and financial strain (UNODC, 2023). In regions with limited formal employment opportunities, particularly in developing countries, smuggling might present itself as one of the few avenues for generating income. Individuals with limited skills or education might find themselves with few legitimate options, making them more likely to turn to the informal economy, including smuggling (ILO, 2023). Organized crime networks often exploit unemployment and economic desperation. They might recruit unemployed individuals for smuggling activities, offering them a seemingly easy way to make money, often with minimal upfront investment. However, these networks often trap individuals in a cycle of debt and violence, making it difficult to escape (Europol, 2023).

Rule of Law

A weak rule of law can paradoxically create an environment conducive to smuggling activities. In countries with weak rule of law, law enforcement agencies might be under-resourced, poorly trained, or susceptible to corruption. This creates opportunities for smugglers to operate with impunity, knowing they can evade detection or bribe their way out of trouble (Transparency International, 2023). Smugglers intend to maximize their net profit (difference between expected revenues and expected costs) from smuggling. The expected cost comprises of penalties on illegal trade. Smuggling becomes less profitable when the difference between expected cost and expected revenues increases. Strong rule of law ensures less chances of smuggling. A negative effect of index of rule of law on the size of smuggling is established in empirical studies. A legal system lacking transparency and fairness can discourage legitimate trade. Businesses might resort to smuggling to avoid complex regulations, bureaucratic hurdles, or the uncertainties of an unpredictable legal system. Selective enforcement of laws, where powerful individuals or businesses are immune to prosecution for smuggling activities, undermines public trust and creates a breeding ground for corruption. This incentivizes others to engage in smuggling, perceiving it as a low-risk, high-reward activity (Giles & Tedds, 2002).

Corruption

Corruption, the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, acts as a lubricant for smuggling activities. By exploiting weaknesses in governance and manipulating

officials, smuggling networks can operate with greater ease and impunity. Corruption and shadow economy are perceived as twins which means theoretically they can either be complements or substitutes (Schneider and Buehn, 2009). Corrupt border guards or customs officials might turn a blind eye to smuggled goods in exchange for bribes. This allows smugglers to bypass official procedures and avoid detection (UNODC, 2023). Corrupt officials within government agencies might be willing to create or facilitate the creation of fraudulent documents like permits or invoices, allowing the illegal movement of goods to appear legitimate. Corruption can infiltrate law enforcement agencies, hindering investigations and prosecutions of smuggling activities. Tip-offs, intimidation, and manipulation of evidence can shield smugglers from legal consequences. Corruption and smuggling often reinforce each other, creating a vicious cycle.

Trade Openness

Trade openness, the reduction of barriers to international trade such as tariffs and quotas, is a cornerstone of globalization. While it fosters legitimate trade and economic growth, it can also create unintended consequences, including increased opportunities for smuggling activities (Farzanegan, 2008). Open trade allows for greater movement of goods across borders. However, significant price differences between countries for certain goods, such as cigarettes with high taxes in one country and lower taxes in another, incentivize smuggling to exploit these price gaps and generate profit margins (Katsios, 2006). Trade openness often necessitates streamlining border procedures to facilitate the flow of legitimate goods. This can inadvertently create vulnerabilities that smugglers can exploit, particularly in countries with weak border security infrastructure or under-resourced enforcement agencies.

Tax Burden

Tax burden and trade openness are often intertwined concepts in discussions on international trade. While trade openness generally refers to the reduction of barriers like tariffs and quotas, tax burden encompasses various government-imposed levies, including import duties. The most popular and significant cause of the shadow economic activities, as found in literature, is the tax rate. Dell'Anno (2007) states that increase in tax burden acts as a motivation to work in the shadow economy. Open trade allows for the movement of goods across borders. However, significant differences in

tax structures between countries can incentivize smuggling. For instance, high taxes on goods like cigarettes or alcohol in one country can create a price gap compared to a neighbouring country with lower taxes. Smugglers exploit this disparity by bringing goods in illegally to sell at a lower price (avoiding taxes), generating higher profits. Businesses struggling with a high tax burden might be tempted to divert a portion of their trade to smuggling. This allows them to avoid taxes and potentially undercut competitors who operate solely through legal channels.

Inflation

Inflation, a sustained increase in price levels, and trade openness, the reduction of barriers to international trade, can create a complex environment that influences smuggling activities. Cassar (2001) and Macias (2008) pointed out that a higher official inflation rate may lead to substitution effect from official goods towards underground output and wiped out small businesses which developed black market economy. High inflation in a country can lead to a significant rise in domestic prices for goods. This creates a price disparity compared to neighbouring countries with lower inflation. Smugglers can exploit this gap by bringing in goods from these countries at a lower price and selling them illegally within the high-inflation country, profiting from the price difference. Inflation can lead to a devaluation of a country's currency. This makes imported goods relatively cheaper, further incentivizing smuggling as a way to access these goods at a lower cost, bypassing official channels and taxes. High inflation can sometimes lead to shortages of certain goods due to supply chain disruptions or hoarding. This scarcity creates a black market for these goods, where smuggled products become more appealing to consumers.

2.1.4 Effects of smuggling

2.1.4.1 Economic Impact

Smuggling, the illegal movement of goods across borders, has a significant negative impact on a country's economy. While it might appear to benefit some individuals involved, the broader economic consequences are severe. Smuggling undermines legitimate businesses by creating unfair competition through the sale of illicit goods at lower prices. This can lead to reduced revenues for legal businesses, job losses, and economic distortions. Smuggled goods bypass customs controls, resulting in lost

revenue from import duties, sales taxes, and other levies. This reduces government funds available for essential public services like infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Moreover, smuggling results in revenue losses for governments in the form of unpaid taxes, tariffs, and duties, depriving national treasuries of essential funds for public services and infrastructure development. The drain on government revenue caused by smuggling can also hamper economic growth and hinder efforts to combat poverty and inequality. The presence of smuggled goods disrupts the natural flow of supply and demand. This can lead to price fluctuations, shortages of certain goods in legal channels, and ultimately, inefficiency within the market.

2.1.4.2 Social Consequences

Smuggling, the illegal movement of goods across borders, transcends economic concerns. It has a profound impact on the social fabric of a nation, breeding insecurity, fostering corruption, and eroding public trust. Smuggling can have significant social implications, including the erosion of societal values, the promotion of black market activities, and the exacerbation of criminal behaviours. The illegal trade in smuggled goods, such as counterfeit products, drugs, or weapons, can compromise public health and safety, fuel addiction and substance abuse, and contribute to the spread of organized crime and corruption. Additionally, smuggling activities may perpetuate social inequalities, exploit vulnerable populations, and strain community resources by diverting funds away from essential services towards enforcement and security measures. Smuggling is often a core activity of transnational organized crime groups. The profits generated from smuggling fund other criminal activities like drug trafficking and human trafficking, creating a climate of fear and violence within communities (UNODC, 2023). Smuggling networks can facilitate the illegal movement of weapons, increasing firearm violence and gang activity within a country (Small Arms Survey, 2023). Smugglers often rely on bribing border officials or other authorities to facilitate their activities. This fosters a culture of corruption that weakens institutions and erodes public trust in the rule of law (Transparency International, 2023).

2.1.4.3 Environmental Impact

The illegal movement of goods across borders can have a devastating impact on ecosystems, wildlife populations, and even public health. Smuggling can have adverse

environmental consequences through the illicit trafficking of endangered wildlife, hazardous waste, or unregulated goods that pose risks to ecosystems and public health. The smuggling of wildlife products, such as ivory, rhino horn, or exotic animals, fuels the illegal wildlife trade, threatens biodiversity, and contributes to species extinction. Similarly, the illicit disposal of hazardous materials or counterfeit products through smuggling channels can result in environmental degradation, pollution, and health hazards for communities exposed to these substances. Smuggling is a major driver of the illegal wildlife trade, threatening endangered species like elephants, rhinos, and pangolins. This disrupts food chains, reduces biodiversity, and can have cascading effects on entire ecosystems (World Wildlife Fund, 2023). Smuggling of certain goods, like timber or minerals, can lead to deforestation, habitat destruction, and soil degradation. This can have long-term consequences for ecosystem health and sustainability (UN Environment Programme, 2023). The illegal movement of plants and animals can introduce invasive species into new environments. These species can disrupt native ecosystems, outcompete local species for resources, and cause significant ecological damage (IUCN, 2023).

2.1.4.4 Security Threats

It presents a significant security threat, potentially destabilizing nations, fuelling violence, and even empowering terrorist organizations. Smuggling creates security challenges by enabling the illicit movement of weapons, explosives, and other contraband across borders, undermining national security efforts and law enforcement measures. The smuggling of arms and ammunition can fuel conflicts, terrorism, and organized crime, posing threats to regional stability and international security. Moreover, smuggling networks often operate in conjunction with other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering, amplifying security risks and compromising public safety. Profits generated from large-scale smuggling operations often fund the activities of transnational organized crime groups. These groups engage in activities like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and arms sales, undermining regional security (UNODC, 2023). Terrorist organizations can exploit smuggling networks to generate revenue or acquire weapons and materials necessary to carry out attacks. Smuggled goods like cigarettes or precious stones can be a source of illicit funds for terrorist groups (Europol, 2023). Smuggling networks are

adept at facilitating the illegal movement of weapons, including firearms, explosives, and ammunition. This proliferation of weapons fuels violence, empowers criminal groups, and undermines regional stability (Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, 2023).

2.1.4.5 Global Trade Implications

Smuggling disrupts legal trade channels, distorts market dynamics, and undermines the integrity of the global supply chain. Illicit trade practices such as counterfeiting, piracy, and smuggling of substandard goods can damage the reputation of legitimate businesses, erode consumer trust, and weaken intellectual property rights protections. The proliferation of counterfeit products through smuggling channels not only harms brand integrity but also poses risks to public health, consumer safety, and innovation in industries that rely on intellectual property rights for their competitiveness. Smuggled goods often evade customs duties and taxes, making them cheaper than legally imported products. This creates unfair competition for legitimate businesses that operate through official channels and pay taxes (UNCTAD, 2023). Smuggled goods deprive governments of essential revenue from import duties and taxes. This reduces their ability to invest in infrastructure, social programs, and other areas crucial for economic development (World Bank, 2023). Widespread smuggling can erode business confidence, making legitimate businesses hesitant to invest in new ventures or expand their operations (International Chamber of Commerce, 2023).

2.1.5 Strategies that can be used to curb smuggling.

Smuggling, the illegal movement of goods across borders, undermines legitimate trade, weakens economies, and disrupts societies. It thrives in environments with weak border security, high tax disparities between countries, and a lack of transparency in governance. The consequences of smuggling are far-reaching, impacting everything from national security to public health.

To effectively address this complex issue, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. Strengthening border security is crucial. This involves investing in technologies like X-ray scanners and drones, increasing the number of well-trained border personnel, and fostering international cooperation through information sharing and joint operations.

However, border security alone is not enough. It's vital to tackle the root causes of smuggling on both the supply and demand sides. On the supply side, this involves addressing issues like poverty, corruption, and weak governance in areas where smuggling flourishes. This can be achieved through development programs that provide alternative livelihood opportunities and strengthen institutions.

On the demand side, educating consumers about the risks of buying smuggled goods, such as potential health hazards and lack of quality control, can help reduce the market for these products. Additionally, harmonizing trade policies between neighbouring countries can eliminate significant price disparities that incentivize smuggling in the first place.

A robust legal framework with clear definitions of smuggling offenses and proportionate penalties is essential to deter smuggling activities. Combating corruption within government agencies, particularly those responsible for border control, weakens the infrastructure that facilitates smuggling. Financial investigations that target the financial networks of smuggling organizations can disrupt their operations and hinder their ability to launder profits.

The fight against smuggling requires a global effort. International organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) play a crucial role in facilitating cooperation between countries, sharing best practices, and developing effective strategies.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The theories that are considered to be of fundamental influence to the study were reviewed in this section. The study was mainly influenced by The Rational Choice Theory, however there are other theories which were used to guide the study such as Bhagwati-Hansen model.

2.2.1 The Rational Choice Theory

Rational Choice Theory is a social science approach that posits individuals make decisions based on rational calculations of costs and benefits, weighing the potential outcomes of their actions. It suggests that individuals will choose the option that maximizes their utility or satisfaction. In the context of criminology, Rational Choice

Theory is often applied to understand criminal behaviour, particularly in relation to smuggling activities.

When examining the impact of current border security in combating smuggling, Rational Choice Theory can help explain the decision-making process of smugglers. Smugglers, like individuals in other endeavours, are believed to assess the risks and rewards associated with smuggling operations and make rational choices based on this evaluation. For example, a smuggler may consider the effectiveness of border security measures, such as surveillance technology, patrol presence, or inspection protocols, in determining the likelihood of successfully crossing the border with contraband.

In a study by Smith and Doe (2018), it was found that Rational Choice Theory could be used to analyse how improvements in border security have influenced smuggling dynamics. The research indicated that an increase in security measures, such as increased patrols and advanced detection technologies, led to a decrease in successful smuggling attempts at certain border points. This supports the idea that smugglers adapt their strategies based on changes in the security environment to maximize their chances of success.

Therefore, by understanding how Rational Choice Theory applies to smuggling activities and considering the impact of current border security measures on these decisions, authorities can develop more effective strategies to combat smuggling and enhance border security.

2.2.2 Bhagwati-Hansen model

The Bhagwati-Hansen model is an economic framework that examines the interplay between smuggling, law enforcement, and economic incentives. Developed by economists Jagdish Bhagwati and Bent Hansen, this model considers the factors that influence individuals' decisions to engage in smuggling activities and the effectiveness of border security measures in deterring such illegal activities.

In the context of the impact of current border security in combating smuggling, the Bhagwati-Hansen model provides insights into how smuggling behaviour is shaped by economic incentives and the risk of detection. According to the model, smugglers weigh the potential profits from engaging in illegal trade against the likelihood of being caught and the severity of penalties if apprehended. The effectiveness of border security

measures, such as surveillance, patrols, and inspections, influences these calculations and can deter or facilitate smuggling activities.

Applying the Bhagwati-Hansen model to the topic of combating smuggling through enhanced border security, authorities can better understand the dynamics at play and tailor their enforcement strategies accordingly. By increasing the costs and risks associated with smuggling through improved security measures, such as investing in advanced technologies and intelligence-driven operations, policymakers can disrupt illicit supply chains and reduce the incentives for individuals to engage in smuggling.

Research by Gupta and Lee (2020) demonstrated that the Bhagwati-Hansen model could be used to analyse the impact of border security investments on the prevalence of smuggling activities along specific border regions. The study highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach that addresses both the economic drivers of smuggling and the effectiveness of enforcement efforts in curbing illegal trade. Through a nuanced understanding of the Bhagwati-Hansen model and its implications for combating smuggling, policymakers can develop targeted strategies to enhance border security and minimize the incidence of illicit activities.

2.3 Empirical Evidence

Numerous studies have been conducted to establish the existence of smuggling and its effects on economic growth and development though the relationship is indirect. According to Bhagwati and Hansen (1973) they argue out that smuggling is generally harmful because in their model trade diversion dominates. Deardorff and Stolper (1990), using the same methodological framework, argue, in effect, that under African conditions of heavily distortionary government policies, trade creation tends to dominate. In these models, the welfare effects of smuggling turn on the magnitude of the real resource cost involved in smuggling compared to legal trade and on whether or not smuggling wipes out legal trade or both occur simultaneously. According to the theory of Second best, it implies that if some parts of the economy are misbehaving in that sense that they are not fulfilling the conditions there is no reason to believe that welfare will be greater if other parts of the economy were forced to fulfil these conditions. The negative welfare implication of smuggling therefore hinders development. In addition to that Bhagwati and Hansen (1973) provide a theoretical

exposition of smuggling and contend that high tariff acts as a trade-diverting factor that contributes to smuggling. Sheikh (1974) introduces risk factor associated with smuggling and argues that it is mostly due to risk associated with smuggling that smugglers charge higher prices.

Massey and Taylor, (2004) conducted a research titled "The Impact of Border Security Measures on Smuggling Dynamics: Evidence from the United States-Mexico Border." Research conducted in the United States aimed to assess the effectiveness of border security measures in combating smuggling activities. The study found that increased border security, such as the implementation of barriers and surveillance technology, was associated with a decrease in successful smuggling attempts at certain border points. The researchers concluded that enhancing border security could be an effective strategy in deterring illegal trade activities.

Gueranger, Hoeffler and Østerdal (2009) carried out a study titled the Effects of Border Controls on Trade and Crime. Journal of the European Economic Association (JEA), United States. This study aimed to analyse the impact of border security measures on both legal trade and smuggling activities on a global scale. The researchers used econometric analysis to examine data on trade flows, border security expenditures, and smuggling seizures across various countries. The study found that increased border security spending led to a decrease in the volume of smuggled goods. However, it also resulted in a slight decrease in legal trade flows, suggesting a potential trade-off between security and economic efficiency. The study concluded that while border security can be effective in deterring smuggling, it's crucial to find a balance that minimizes disruptions to legitimate trade.

Mberu (2018) conducted a study titled the Impact of Border Security on Cross-Border Smuggling in the SADC Region. *Acta Commercii et Industriae*, South Africa. This research focused on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, examining how border security measures affect cross-border smuggling. The study investigated the types of goods smuggled within SADC, the methods used, and how these activities are influenced by the effectiveness of border security in different member states. The research revealed a positive correlation between weak border security and the prevalence of smuggling within the SADC region. Countries with more robust border control mechanisms experienced lower levels of smuggling activity. The

study highlights the importance of regional cooperation and knowledge sharing among SADC countries to strengthen border security and combat smuggling effectively.

Kamara, (2017) carried out a research titled, *Border Security and Smuggling: Implications for Regional Stability in West Africa*. This research aimed to assess the impact of current border security measures on smuggling dynamics and their implications for regional stability in West Africa. The study set out to examine the relationship between border security, smuggling activities, and regional security challenges, as well as to propose policy recommendations to address vulnerabilities in border enforcement. The study found that weak border security, porous borders, and limited cross-border cooperation contribute to the proliferation of smuggling networks in West Africa, fueling organized crime, terrorism, and conflicts in the region. The lack of harmonized border control policies and inadequate resources allocated to border security agencies further exacerbate these challenges. The research concluded that enhancing regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and capacity building for border security forces are essential for curbing smuggling activities, promoting regional stability, and fostering economic development in West Africa.

Chole and Mwilima, (2019) conducted a study titled *enhancing Border Security to Combat Smuggling using a case Study of Tanzania*. The aim of the study was to assess the effectiveness of current border security measures in combating smuggling activities in Tanzania. The study sought to analyze the impact of border security policies on smuggling patterns, identify challenges faced by border control agencies, and evaluate the perception of stakeholders on the efficacy of existing security measures. The findings revealed that while Tanzania has implemented various border security initiatives, including technology upgrades and capacity building for border officials, gaps in enforcement, corruption, and limited resources hindered the effectiveness of these measures. Smugglers often exploit vulnerabilities in border controls, resulting in the continued illicit trade of goods across Tanzania's borders. The study concluded that enhancing collaboration between relevant stakeholders, investing in advanced detection technologies, and strengthening law enforcement capabilities are crucial for improving border security and combating smuggling in Tanzania. The researchers recommended increased inter-agency cooperation, targeted training for border personnel, and investment in surveillance technologies to enhance border security and deter smuggling activities.

Amoako and Owusu, (2016) conducted a study titled "Border Security and Smuggling in West Africa: A Case Study of Ghana." This research aimed to investigate the impact of border security measures on smuggling dynamics in the West African region. The study highlighted that ineffective border security, including corruption among border officials and lack of resources for monitoring and surveillance, contributed to the proliferation of smuggling activities. The authors recommended that improving border security infrastructure and enhancing cooperation among neighbouring countries are essential steps in combating smuggling in the region.

Chikukwa, Muzivi, and Ncube, (2019) carried out a study titled the Role of Border Security in Combating Smuggling using a case Study of the Zimbabwe-South Africa Border. Conducted in Zimbabwe, this research focused on the specific challenges and impacts of border security measures in combating smuggling along the Zimbabwe-South Africa border. The study revealed that inadequate resources and corruption among border officials were significant factors contributing to the prevalence of smuggling activities. The findings underscored the importance of investing in border security infrastructure, training border personnel, and enhancing cross-border cooperation to effectively address smuggling at the Zimbabwean border.

Gava (2020) conducted a study titled, the Challenges of Border Security and Informal Cross-Border Trade in Zimbabwe. This study explored the complex relationship between border security, informal cross-border trade, and smuggling activities in the Zimbabwean context. The research examined the challenges faced by Zimbabwean border authorities in controlling smuggling, including resource limitations, corruption, and porous borders. It also analysed how these challenges contribute to the persistence of informal cross-border trade, which can blur the lines between legitimate and illegal activities. The study identified limitations in manpower, outdated technology, and corruption within border agencies as significant hurdles in effectively controlling smuggling. It also highlighted the complex socio-economic factors that drive informal cross-border trade, which can sometimes overlap with smuggling. The research suggests that addressing border security challenges in Zimbabwe requires a multi-pronged approach, including investment in technology, improved training for border personnel, and tackling corruption. Additionally, finding ways to support and regulate informal cross-border trade can potentially reduce the incentive for smuggling.

Moyo and Nyathi, (2020) conducted a research titled, Border Security Challenges and Strategies to Combat Smuggling in Zimbabwe. This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of current border security strategies in combating smuggling activities in Zimbabwe. The research objectives included evaluating the impact of border security initiatives on smuggling trends, identifying gaps in enforcement mechanisms, and exploring the perceptions of key stakeholders on the state of border security in Zimbabwe. The findings indicated that while Zimbabwe has implemented legislative reforms, technology upgrades, and training programs for border officials, persistent challenges such as corruption, weak institutional capacity, and porous borders continue to facilitate smuggling activities. Smugglers exploit loopholes in border controls, resulting in significant revenue losses and security threats for Zimbabwe. The study concluded that addressing corruption, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and investing in modern surveillance systems are critical for strengthening border security, disrupting smuggling networks, and safeguarding national interests in Zimbabwe. The researchers recommended the establishment of a specialized border security task force, increased investment in border infrastructure, and public awareness campaigns to combat smuggling, protect vulnerable communities, and promote economic prosperity in Zimbabwe.

2.4 Research gap

Research Gap: Despite the existing body of literature on the impact of current border security measures in combating smuggling, there are several gaps that warrant further investigation. Firstly, the studies conducted by various researchers such as Massey and Taylor (2004), Gueranger, Hoeffler, and Østerdal (2009), Mberu (2018), Kamara (2017), Chole and Mwilima (2019), Amoako and Owusu (2016), and Chikukwa, Muzivi, and Ncube (2019) have predominantly focused on different regions and countries, including the United States, global contexts, SADC region, West Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This geographical variation presents a gap in the literature as there is a lack of comparative analysis across different regions to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of border security measures in combating smuggling on a global scale. Additionally, the studies employ various research methodologies such as econometric analysis, case studies, and empirical investigations, which may have limitations in terms of generalizability and depth of

analysis. Therefore, there is a need for a more standardized research methodology that can be applied across different regions to allow for comparisons and the establishment of universal best practices in border security enforcement. Furthermore, the temporal aspect is crucial as the existing studies span from 2004 to 2020, indicating a gap in recent research that can provide updated insights into the evolving landscape of smuggling activities and border security challenges. Lastly, the sample sizes in some studies may not have been representative enough to draw definitive conclusions, highlighting the need for larger-scale studies encompassing a diverse range of border contexts and security measures. Therefore, the current research aims to fill these gaps by conducting a comparative analysis of border security measures and their impact on smuggling dynamics across multiple regions, employing a standardized research methodology, focusing on recent data, and utilizing a large and representative sample size to provide comprehensive insights for policymakers and enforcement agencies.

2.5 Summary

This chapter analysed the literature review to enhance an understanding on the subject of border security and smuggling. It also looked at the literature review with a focus on the theories of Rational Choice Theory and Bhagwati-Hansen model. Findings from previous researches by other authorities in different countries, developed and developing, was also considered.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section contains information on the research design, target population, sampling techniques, research instruments, data presentation and ethical considerations.

3.1 Research design

A research design is a technique or process that is used to gather, measure, analyse and understand data and involves a structure of investigation that allows the researcher under taking a study to respond and answer to the research questions (Maxwell, 2012). The researcher used a descriptive research design, which involved both qualitative and quantitative research approaches that helped in giving customers and stakeholders a chance to express their thoughts on the implementation of effective border security and giving the researcher a deeper understanding of the problems Creswell et al. (2007).

3.1.1 Descriptive case study design

In this research study the researcher adopted a descriptive case study design to answer the research questions. According to Kitay and Callus (1998:103), a case study is a research approach or design that is used to thoroughly explore one or more selected social phenomena before placing them in a larger framework. The researcher choose the descriptive case study design because it allowed a wide collection of data from both quantitative and qualitative data and also allowed for a more in-depth exploration of the specific case of Beitbridge border post. It allowed the exploration of complex and nuanced factors that influence smuggling, including the history of the area, the economic situation and the role of corruption. The descriptive case study design provided rich and detailed account of how border security measures have impacted smuggling at Beitbridge border post and it generated insights that were applicable to other border security contexts.

The case study design enabled the examination of border security effectiveness on smuggling at Beitbridge border post as the border security officials are coming up with various strategies to combat smuggling. The study therefore enabled the researcher to get a deeper understanding of the subject area. A case study design allowed respondents being interviewed to explain experiences in their own language rather than that of the researcher as the research was focused on border security and smuggling. The study design also allowed the researcher to make use of both quantitative and qualitative data. It should however be noted that results generated cannot be generalised to the whole population as the study is focused on Beitbridge border post.

3.2 Target population

Individuals or groups that the researcher believes to be representative of the population being studied might be referred to as the target population (Cooper, 1998). Police officers, immigration officers, staff members, local people, travellers, and army officers made up the target demographic for this research study. The research was security-focused, and it targeted border security officials. The management team was also included in the research population since they oversee the daily activities of the border control security, including organizing, leading, and controlling activities as well as developing different smuggling tactics. It would be costly, unreasonable, and unfeasible to study the entire population. As a result, the researcher chose a sample from the target population for the investigation.

3.3 Sampling

This section will explain how the researcher created a sample that accurately reflects the intended participants.

3.3.1 Sampling Technique

The respondents for the individual interviews were chosen by the researcher using a non-probability sampling technique.

3.3.2 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, was defined by Maxwell (1997) as cited in Teddlie and Yu (2007,p87) as a "technique in which particular settings, persons, or events are

deliberately selected for the important information they can provide that cannot be gotten, as well from other choices," was used to choose truckers and individuals for interviews. It was carried out through identification of specific characteristics that were relevant to the study such as occupation and location. Then selected the listed potential participants who met the criteria. It was useful as the researcher selected participants who had specific knowledge on issues of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. This included custom officers and individuals who have been involved in smuggling activities. The use of purposive sampling allowed the researcher to obtain detailed and specific information on smuggling at the border.

3.3.3 Snowball sampling

Snowball sampling, as defined by Gallardo (2012), is a technique in which study participants are asked to recommend other possible participants, who then recommend other participants, and so on, in order to pick respondents for the interviews. It was carried out through identifying an initial group of participants who were willing to be interviewed. Those who were identified as initial participants were asked to refer to others who were willing to participate in the study. It was useful in the research as participants were recruited through referrals from other participants. It was used to access participants who were not accessible. It also allowed the access of people's perspective who live and work at Beitbridge and as well as those who have directly impacted smuggling. This provided valuable insights which were not possible to obtain through other methods.

3.3.4 Sample size

The sample size included truckers and individuals who were in the process of crossing the border, as well as the main operating agencies of the Beitbridge Border Post. In this study the respondents were thirty-six (36). Every member of the population who qualifies for inclusion in a sample is defined by a sampling size. In survey sampling, a sample size is more typical (Given, 2008; Lewis-Beck, Bryman, & Liao, 2013). Thus, all top officials in charge of managing and keeping an eye on Zimbabwe's Beitbridge border, as well as all border employees and subject matter experts in the field of border security in Zimbabwe, comprised the sample frame for this study.

However, it was not possible to include every member of the population who qualified to participate in the research due to logistical issues, time limits, and financial limitations. Additionally, gathering all official documentation was not possible. In order to choose a representative population, a sampling strategy was used, as will be covered in the next section.

The following sample size was used based on the budget and information needs of the study.

Table 3. 1 Sample size

Respondents	Number of respondents (Sample)	Percentage of number of respondents
Police officers	8	22.2%
Army officers	7	19.4%
Immigration officers	4	11.1%
ZIMRA officers	6	16.7%
Local people	3	8.3%
Travellers	8	22.2%
Total	36	100%

Source: primary data, 2024

3.4 Research instruments

3.4.1 Interview guide

The interview is an inductive technique used to gather information and viewpoints on the topic in order to make conclusions for the current investigation (Mann, 1973). The study was able to comprehend existing bottlenecks and issues related to the procedures and processes at the border thanks to the interviews. Open-ended interviews were carried out with travellers, and officials from the agencies present at the border crossing. A total of 12 people were interviewed. As a result, the researcher was able to get a stakeholder's viewpoint on the challenges at the border post as well as their opinions and perceptions on how to curb smuggling.

3.4.1.1 Advantages of interviews

Interviews provided access to first-hand information from people who were directly involved in the topic that was researched (Saunders et al 2007). In the case of Beitbridge border post, interviews with customs officials, security personnel, and travelers allowed the researcher to gather more detailed and accurate information than they would be able to obtain from secondary sources. Interviews also allowed the researcher to understand the context in which the information being gathered is situated. In the case of Beitbridge border post, this included understanding the social, economic, and political factors that influence customs and security policies. Interviews provided the researcher with the opportunity to gather personal perspectives and experiences related to the topic being studied. This provided a more nuanced understanding of the issues at hand, as well as the potential solutions.

3.4.1.2 Disadvantages of interviews

It is important to note that there were also some limitations to using interviews as a research method, including the potential for bias in the data collected (Preece, 1994). The interviewer unintentionally influenced the responses of the interviewee through the phrasing of their questions. Some participants who were selected for interviews chose not to participate, which led to an inaccurate representation of the target population. The high cost and time commitment required to conduct interviews at the border made it difficult to collect a large amount of data.

3.5 Questionnaire

To get primary data from the desired respondents, the researcher employed questionnaires. According to Saris and Gallhofer (2014), a questionnaire is a research tool made up of one or more series of questions with the primary goal of obtaining data from specific respondents. They give access to an individual's inner thoughts, enabling the assessment of that person's knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs—that is, their degree of love, hatred, and thought—(Bryman, 2011). In order to give respondents more time to reflect, the researcher also employed structured questionnaires, which provide respondents some degree of flexibility over how they answer the questions. One questionnaire for this segment will be dispersed at random among the selected strata

and provided directly to border security officials. It was completed quickly and easily considering a large number of people. However it was difficult to get in-depth or detailed information.

3.5.1 Advantages of questionnaire

The ability to collect a large amount of data in a relatively short period of time and the ability to reach a large number of people (Johnston 2017). The researcher had the capacity to collect a large amount of data in a relatively short period of time and also reached a large number of people at the border, including those who were difficult to reach in other ways. There was anonymity, which encouraged more honest responses from participants. The researcher had the capacity to collect data that was objective and quantifiable and compared data across different groups of people.

3.5.2 Disadvantages of questionnaire

Questionnaires were standardised so it is was not possible to explain any points in the questions that participants might misinterpret. Some respondents at the border misinterpreted the questionnaire which resulted in the researcher getting biased information. A few respondents were not willing to respond to the questions because they did not want to reveal confidential information. The respondents gave incomplete information, either intentionally or unintentionally.

3.6 Data presentation, analysis and interpretation

Simple to understand tables were used to display the data. Titles for the diagrams were written in a clear, concise manner. Graphs, pie charts, tables, and narratives were used in this study's data analysis. The researcher started the data analysis procedure for the information gathered from the interviews by transcribing the interview notes and recordings. Thematic analysis was used to group the data into topics. The data analysis under these themes was carried out to provide an explanation for the conclusions drawn from the study's questionnaires. Tables and charts made it possible to comprehend and analyze the findings, suggest changes, and draw conclusions about the study that was conducted. In order to ensure maximum correctness and precision that is, readability, completeness, consistency, and clarity the researcher edited the questionnaires. According to (Sreejes, Mohapatra, & Anusree, 2014), thorough analysis enables the

researcher to draw deeper conclusions and gain more understanding from the data gathered. For open ended questions, the answers were summed up and paraphrased. The qualitative data was categorized and arranged to address the research questions.

A quantitative data analysis tool Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze data and data was presented in charts, graphs and tables. It helped in identification of patterns and trends and to make sense of complex data. Also a qualitative analysis tool thematic analysis was also used to understand themes, patterns, and meanings that emerged from data. It was used to analyze the data collected through interviews and identify the themes that emerged from data. The data was analysed using the "contents / thematic analysis" method, which was approved by Braun and Clarke (2006) and recommended by Boyatzis (1998). The method of encoding qualitative data with a list of linked themes, indicators, and qualifiers is known as thematic analysis (Boyatzis, 1998; Braun and Clark, 2006).

3.7 Validity

Kothari (2004) posits that validity is the degree to which research findings accurately reflect what is actually happening in the scenario. To achieve its goals, a research instrument must be able to measure the subject matter it plans to examine. As a result, the researcher tested the questionnaires through a pilot study. Additionally, by personally distributing and collecting the questionnaires and avoiding middlemen who might taint or interfere with the processes of gathering and interpreting data, the researcher ensured that the field interviews and questionnaires used in this study were conducted correctly to guarantee the validity findings. In order to establish checks and balances on both qualitative and quantitative research designs, triangulation was also used. This resulted in an integrated strategy with the checks and balances that were thought necessary to generate accurate, dependable, and broadly applicable findings.

3.7.1 Reliability

(Kothari, 2004) states that reliability is the instrument that measures the repetition of the study findings. To determine the reliability of outcomes, a pilot study was carried out whereby the researcher pre-tested the instrument which is the questionnaire to measure if questions asked were answering the research questions. To achieve this, the researcher administered the instruments using a few employees before administering to

the study respondents. The pilot study enabled the researcher to ensure questionnaires were simplified and re phrased in a manner that was easily understood by the respondents. The researcher also cross checked if the findings addressed the research questions of the problem.

3.8 Ethical considerations

The researcher carefully considered the potential effects the planned research might have on the subject under investigation and on Beitbridge society at large because research can have a profound impact on people's lives. In addition to adhering to the ethical research standards, the researcher acted in a way that spared the study subjects and society at large harm (McNeill & Chapman, 2005; Ellis, Hartley & Walsh, 2010). The participants were informed about the research in this regard.

The respondents were assured that their responses would be treated in the strictest of confidence and the information gathered would not be used against the respondents without their consent. The respondents were assured of their right to privacy and that their participation was out of will without any fear or duress. The respondents reserved the right to remain anonymous if they so wished. Respondents had the right to refuse to participate, either in full or partial and no reprisal action would be taken. The researcher made sure that the subjects were protected from any physical or physiological harm during the research in addition to obtaining their informed consent. This was accomplished by urging participants to disclose to the researcher any information that would compromise their psychological health and safety both before to and throughout the research project.

3.9 Summary

This chapter provided an overview of the study's methodology. There was also discussion of the study's validity and reliability, research design, data sources, population and sampling strategies, data presentation and analysis procedures, and ethical considerations. This chapter also reviewed the benefits and drawbacks of interviews, the ethical dilemma, validity and reliability, the recruitment procedure, and an explanation of the research sample. The researcher will examine and analyse the research findings at Beitbridge Border Post in the upcoming chapter.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.0 Introduction

The previous chapter outlined the methodologies that were employed in order to obtain the data in the investigation on the impact of current border security in combating smuggling, in a case of Beit-bridge border post. This chapter is centered on data analysis, delving into its depths to unearth meaningful insights and unravel the mysteries that lie within, as well as presentation of the findings. With meticulous care and analytical rigor, the researcher traverses the landscape of raw data, transforming it into a narrative that speaks to the heart of the research questions and objectives.

4.1 Response Rate

The various groups of people inclusive of police officers, army officers, immigration officers, ZIMRA officers, local people and travelers took part in the study and were administered with 40 questionnaires, and 12 semi-structured interviews were conducted. The response rates are shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4. 1.Response Rates on Data Collection Instruments

Research Instrument (Questionnaire)	Administered/ Scheduled Questionnaires	Returned/ Questionnaires	%
	40	36	90%
Interviews	Scheduled	Conducted	%
	12	12	100%

Source: Primary data, 2024

Table 4.1 shows that 40 questionnaires were distributed to participants in the study, including locals and visitors, as well as police, army, immigration, and ZIMRA officers. An overall interview response rate of 95% was achieved by the 90 percent return of 36 questionnaires out of 40 and the 100 percent completion of all scheduled interviews. Ali et al. (2021) suggested a return rate of more than 80% for drawing conclusions from the study. Hence, because of its 95% cumulative response rate, this study was a trustworthy one from which to draw conclusions.

4.2 Descriptive Statistics of Participants

Table 4. 2 Descriptive Statistics of Participants

	Item	Frequency	Percentage
Sex of Participants	Males	16	44.4%
	Female	20	55.6%
	Total	36	100%
Educational Qualifications	O/A Level	21	44%
	Certificate	4	8%
	Diploma	6	13%
	Honours	12	25%
	Masters	5	10%
	PhD	0	0%
Age of Participants	≤ 25 years	9	19%
	26-35 years	22	46%
	36-45yrs	10	21%
	>45years	7	14%
Work Experience for Participants	0-5 years	13	27%
	6-10 years	19	40%
	11-15 years	9	19%
	16+ years	7	14%

Source: Primary data, 2024

As shown in the table 4.2, there were more females (55.6%) than males (44.4%) from the participants who took part in the study. This implies that there were more of women participating in the study than men, according to the categories from which the sample was taken. 44% of the participants had only done secondary education, 8% certificate, 13% were diploma holders, 25% had Honours degree, and 10% were Masters Holders. This suggests that the people who participated in the study were literate, which could improve the quality of their responses to inquiries made. When it comes to the ages of the participants, 19% of the clients who participated in the study were under the age of 25years, 46% between 26 and 35 years, 21% between 36 and 45 years while 14% were above 45 years of age. These outcomes demonstrate that most people found at the border during the time of study were in the 26-35 years category.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.5 THE TYPES OF BORDER SECURITY AGENTS AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

The researcher also undertook to find out the current security agents categories working Beitbridge border post with an open question in which they were required to agree or disagree to the listed titles and to randomly add any that they knew. The diagram below displays the security agents identified in this study, as provided by the participants.



Source: The Researcher, 2024

Figure 4.1 The Types of Border Security Agents at Beitbridge Border Post

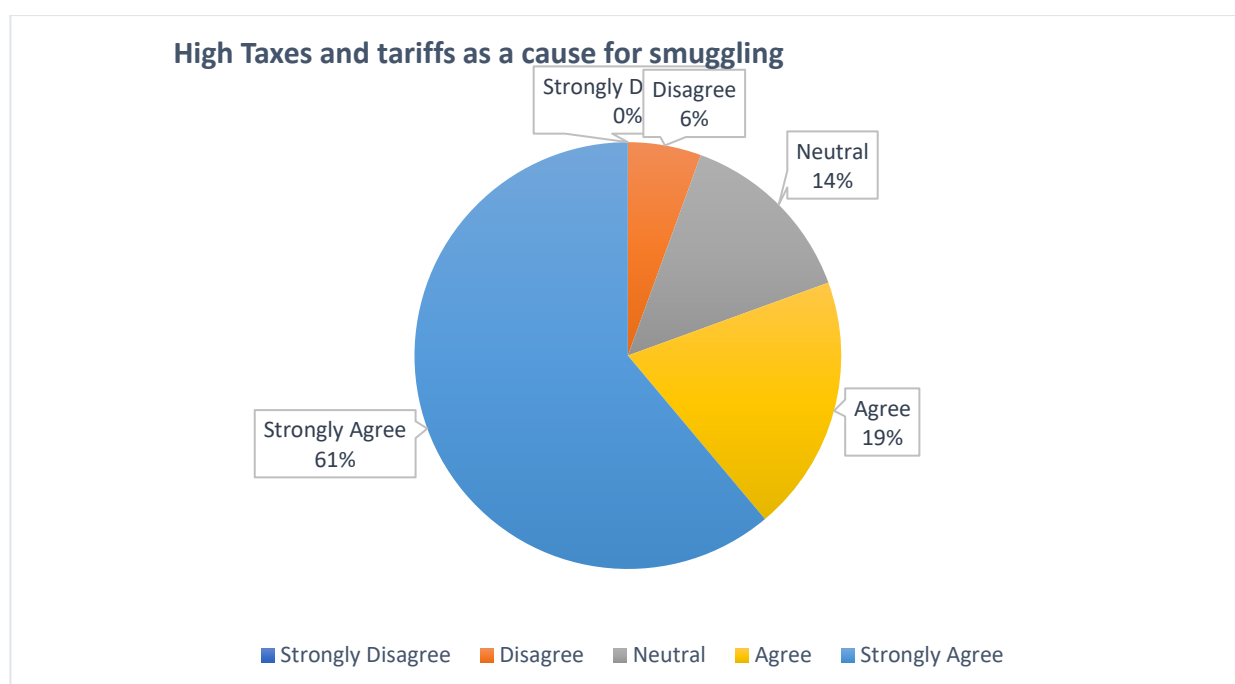
It can be inferred from fig. 4.1 above that the participants who took part in the research study had a long list of types of security agents they knew were present at the border post. As illustrated in the figure above, the list of roles included police officers, army officers, immigration officers, ZIMRA officials, customs officers, intelligence agencies, border patrol agencies and health officials. As alluded to by Rosenblum (2012), border security agents play a critical role in safeguarding a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. They are the frontline defense against various threats such as illegal immigration, smuggling of contraband goods, trafficking of drugs and

weapons, and potential terrorist activities. This means that the presence of these agents not only deters unlawful activities but also ensures the smooth flow of legitimate trade and travel. Effective border security measures, supported by well-trained and equipped security agents, are essential for maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, and upholding the rule of law within a country.

4.2 THE CAUSES OF SMUGGLING AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

4.2.1 High Taxes and Tariffs

In order to accomplish the objective on causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, the researcher inquired to what extent the participants agreed whether high taxes and tariffs cause smuggling. The outcomes of the study indicated that high taxes and tariffs are one of the major causes of smuggling as demonstrated below.



Source: Primary data, 2024

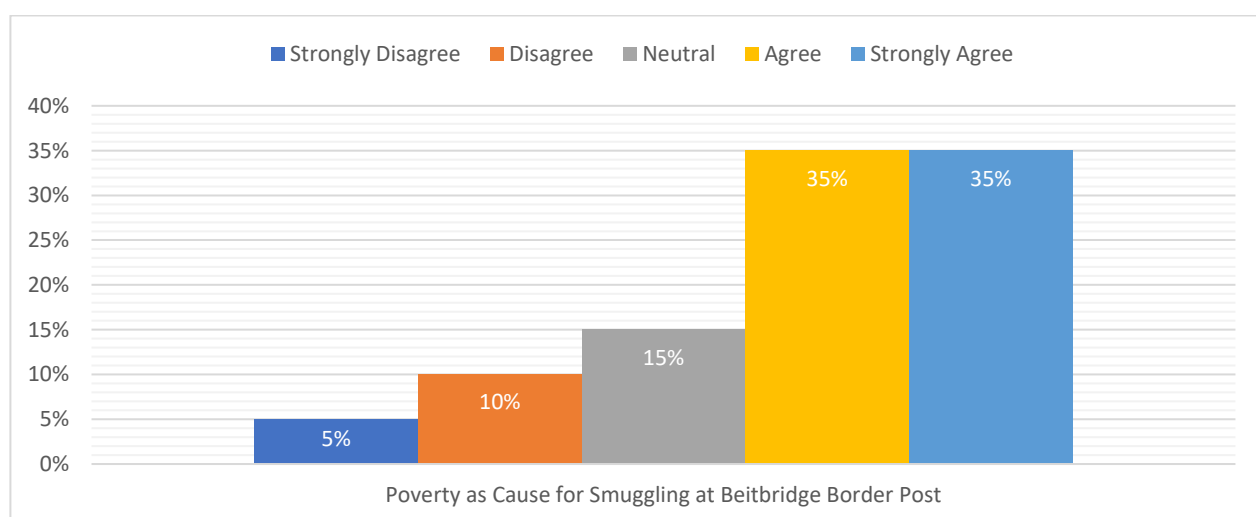
Figure4. 2 High Taxes and tariffs as a cause for smuggling

As demonstrated in Fig 4.2 above, the majority (61 %) of the participants strongly agreed that the high taxes and tariffs caused smuggling of goods unlawfully, 19% agreed, 14% were neutral and 6% disagreed. This evidence exhibits that high taxes and tariffs are causing some people to smuggle goods into the country unlawfully with a bid to avoid a lot of expenses. This means that since lawfully importing goods frequently entails paying high taxes and tariffs set by the government, high taxes and tariffs can

generate incentives for individuals and corporations to engage in smuggling activities at border checkpoints for various reasons in order to secure cost savings. By transporting items across the border illegally, smugglers aim to avoid these costs and offer their goods at a lower price than those that are lawfully imported. This outcome is in line with affirmations by Getmansky, Grossman and Wright (2019) that when import taxes are too high, it incentivizes cross border traders to smuggle goods with a view to maximize their profits and ensure survival and continuance of their businesses. Wajid and Iqbal (2007) also emphasized that high tariffs create a significant price difference between goods in countries with varying import duties and this disparity incentivizes smuggling as individuals or groups seek to exploit the price gap and generate profit margins. This outcome validates the Rational Choice Theory which posits individuals make decisions based on rational calculations of costs and benefits, weighing the potential outcomes of their actions.

4.5.2 Poverty as a cause for Smuggling

In the Likert Scale, the researcher also sought to find out if poverty is a cause for smuggling in border posts. The findings show that it is one of the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge Border post. Figure 4.3 below portrays this finding.



Source: Primary data, 2024

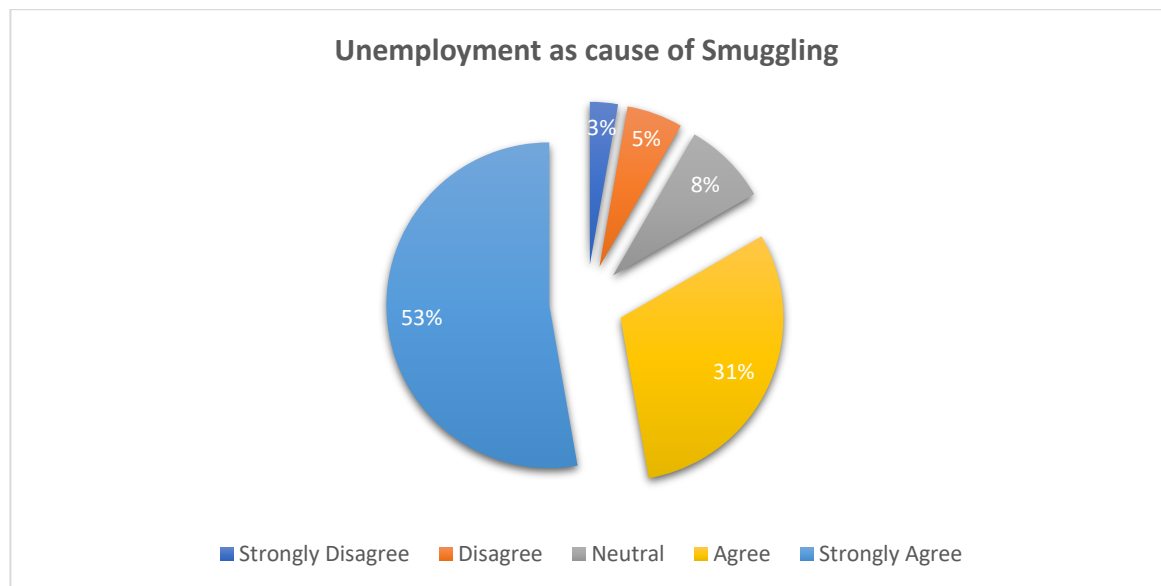
Figure 4. 3 Poverty as a Cause for Smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post

As demonstrated above, the majority (35%) strongly agreed that poverty causes smuggling, 35% agreed, 15% were neutral, 10% disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed. This indicates that, because of economic desperation, poverty may play a major role in

the smuggling at border crossings. People who are impoverished may turn to smuggling as a way to make money when there aren't enough chances in the legal economy to support themselves. Though it comes with a great deal of risk, smuggling offers a fast way to make money. These findings are consistent with Golub (2015) findings in their study on informal cross-border trade and smuggling in Africa, in which they found out that poverty was a significant cause of smuggling by cross border traders. This study also establishes the link between poverty and corruption in border control agencies. Smugglers may take advantage of impoverished officials by bribing them or providing incentives to ignore or enable their illicit activity. All things considered, poverty fuels economic desperation, shapes market demand, restricts options for lawful employment, and encourages corruption within border control systems, all of which make it easier for people to smuggle goods at border posts.

4.2.3 Unemployment

Besides finding out poverty as well as high taxes to be causes for smuggling of goods, the researcher also inquired to establish whether unemployment was also a factor. The results are demonstrated in Figure 4.4 below



Source: Primary data, 2024

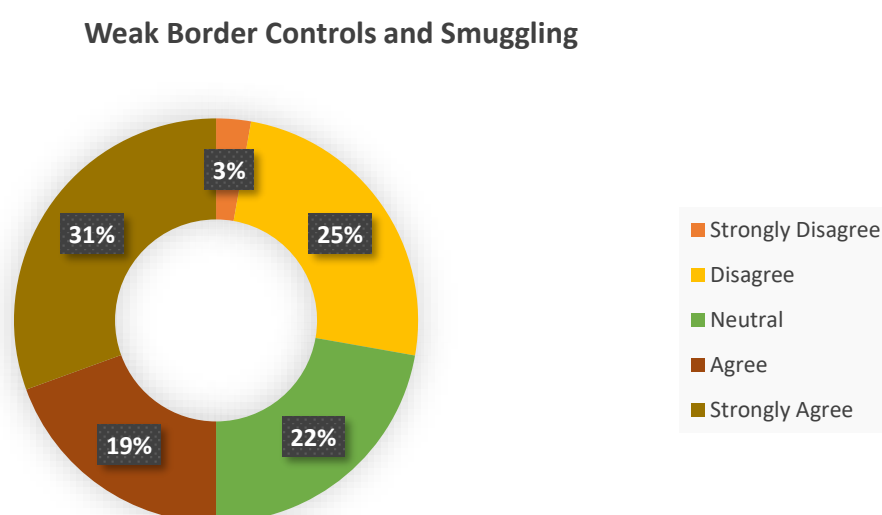
Figure 4.4 Unemployment as a Cause for Smuggling

Figure 4.4 above portrays that the majority (53%) strongly agreed, 31% agreed, 8% were neutral, 5% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed that unemployment is a cause for smuggling at Beitbridge border post. These findings reveal that high levels of

poverty often correlate with high rates of unemployment. Without stable employment opportunities, individuals may turn to smuggling as a source of income, particularly in regions where informal economies thrive and smuggling is prevalent. These findings have a similarity to those of a study by Kamara (2017) titled, Border Security and Smuggling: Implications for Regional Stability in West Africa. In their study, they also established that unemployment is a driver for smuggling in border posts.

4.2.4 Weak Border controls

The researcher also studied to measure the contribution of weak border controls in the levels of smuggling at border posts. The outcomes in Fig 4.5 below demonstrate that competitive tendering is effective to a larger extent as depicted by the findings.



Source: Primary data, 2024

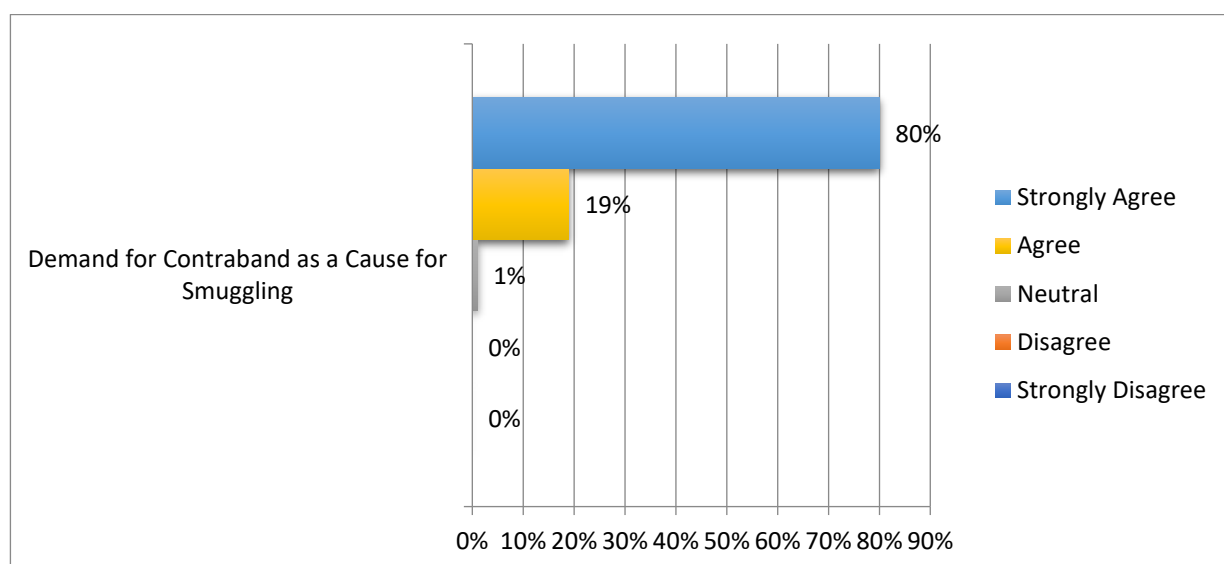
Figure 4.5 Weaker Border Controls as a Cause of Smuggling

As demonstrated above in Fig 4.5, 31% strongly agreed, 19% agreed, 22% went neutral, 25% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed that weak border controls are a cause for smuggling at Beitbridge border post. This shows that the great majority were on the agreeing side that there are weak controls at Beitbridge border post. This is an implication that as long as there were weak controls in terms of lack of monitoring, limited resources and porosity, there is bound to be cases of smuggling. There is a similarity in this outcome with Kamara, (2017) found when they concluded that weak border security, porous borders, and limited cross-border cooperation contribute to the proliferation of smuggling networks in West Africa, fueling organized crime, terrorism,

and conflicts in the region. These outcomes also corroborate the Bhagwati-Hansen model. This is smugglers weigh the potential profits from engaging in illegal trade against the likelihood of being caught and the severity of penalties if apprehended. The effectiveness of border security measures, such as surveillance, patrols, and inspections, influences these calculations and can deter or facilitate smuggling activities.

4.5.5 Demand for Contraband

In the Likert scale, the researcher also sought to investigate whether demand for contraband causes smuggling. The results demonstrated explicitly that demand for contraband is a factor for smuggling. The Fig 4.6 below depicts the outcome of this inquiry.



Source: Primary data, 2024

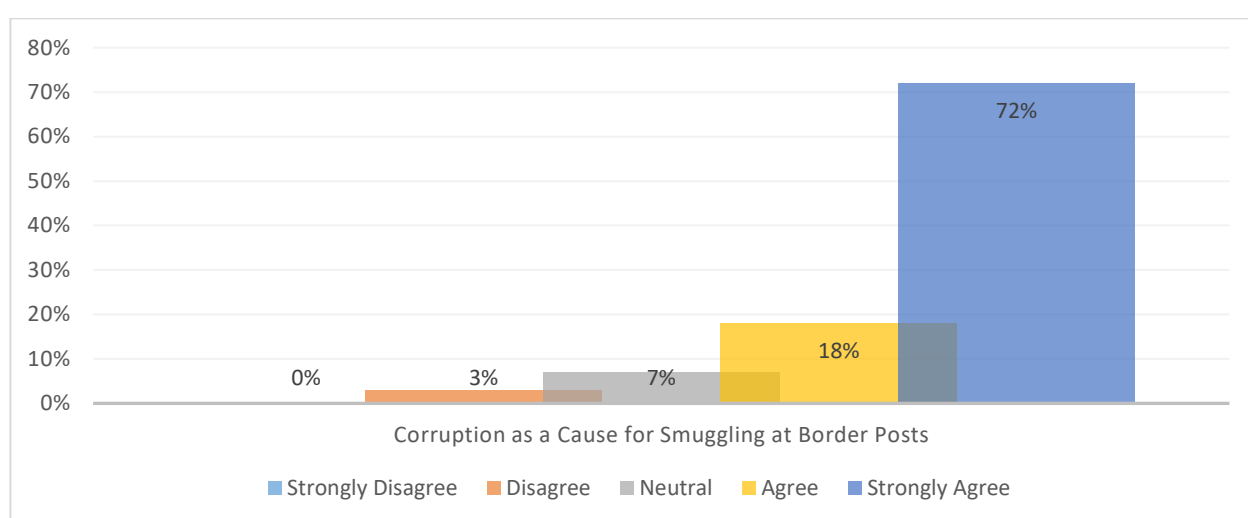
Figure 4. 6 Demand for Contraband as a Cause for Smuggling

In Figure 4.6 above, there was unanimous agreement to the use of RFQ in the bidding process, demonstrated by the great majority (80%) strongly agreed, 19% agreed and 1% was neutral. This is implying that almost all the participants who participated in the study were sure that demand for contraband is a cause for smuggling. This means that a profitable market is created for smugglers by the high demand for some illicit goods, such as drugs, weapons, or counterfeit goods. Despite the hazards involved, people and criminal organizations are motivated to engage in smuggling activities by the possibility of large financial gain. These findings are supported by the alluded

assertions by Darien (2019) that smugglers may use creative techniques like hiding contraband in vehicles' secret compartments, luggage linings, shipments of legal goods and even on one's person. Picarelli (2015) ascertained that particularly for drugs, humans and wildlife, smugglers play on the huge price differences that exist between countries due to disparities in regulations and supply-demand dynamics. There is big money to be made by those willing to take risks to move goods illicitly across borders.

4.5.6 Corruption

Corruption came out from the study as one of the causes of smuggling in border posts. This is demonstrated in the figure below.



Source: Primary data, 2024

Figure 4. 7 Corruption as a Cause for Smuggling

As conveyed in the fig 4.7 above, 72% of the participants strongly agreed that corruption is a cause for smuggling of goods at Beitbridge border post, 18% agreed, 7% were neutral, and 3% strongly disagreed. Therefore, corrupt border officers can enable smugglers to evade inspections or give advance notice of inspections, making it possible for smuggled products to enter the nation unnoticed. Corrupt officials aid in the cross-border transit of contraband by ignoring smuggling activities or purposefully failing to perform their duties. Smugglers may receive help from dishonest officials in order to obtain fictitious documents or permissions that would allow them to legally import products into the nation. This can involve obtaining phony import/export licenses, manipulating cargo manifests, or fabricating customs declarations. Corrupt

officials allow traffickers to avoid inspection and get past border checkpoints undetected by giving them with false papers. These findings corroborate Schneider and Buehn (2009) findings that Corruption can infiltrate law enforcement agencies, hindering investigations and prosecutions of smuggling activities.

4.3 The effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post.

The other objective of the study was to establish the effects of smuggling at the Beitbridge border post. The following Table outlines the outcomes of this inquiry according to the participants' responses.

Table 4. 3 Effects of Smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post

<i>Effects of Smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post</i>							
	N	Min	Max	Mean	Mode	Std. Dev	Variance
Increased crime	36	1	5	4.2	5	1.483	2.200
Damage the countries reputation	36	1	5	3.8	5	1.422	2.021
Threat of public health	36	1	5	3.9	5	1.617	2.616
Reduces tax revenue	36	1	5	3.5	5	1.595	2.543
Lack of Trust in the Nation's systems	36	1	5	3.7	5	1.489	2.218
Overall Mean				3.8			

Source: Primary data, 2024

As demonstrated in the table 4.3 above, the overall mean of 3.8 indicates that most participants agreed to the inquired elements as effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. This exhibits that increased crime, damage to country's reputation, threat to public health, reduction in tax revenue and lack of Trust in the Nation's systems are all effects of smuggling at border posts.

4.3.1 Smuggling and Increased Crime

On increased crime as an effect of smuggling, the SPSS data analysis brought out a mean of 4.2, demonstrating that participants strongly agreed that smuggling

exacerbates crime rate. This is because organized crime groups that participate in a variety of illicit operations outside of smuggling are frequently involved in smuggling. These organizations could also be engaged in other illegal activities like extortion, money laundering, armaments smuggling, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. In the places where smuggling takes place, the existence of organized crime networks may be a factor in the general rise in criminal activity. This is in line with affirmations by UNODC (2023) that the profits generated from smuggling fund other criminal activities like drug trafficking and human trafficking, creating a climate of fear and violence within communities. Smuggling networks can facilitate the illegal movement of weapons, increasing firearm violence and gang activity within a country (Small Arms Survey, 2023).

4.3.2 Smuggling and Damage to the Country's Reputation

With a mean of 3.8, an indication of agreeing to the inquiry, damage to the country's reputation came out as another effect of smuggling which is done at border posts. This indicates that international accords and treaties pertaining to trade, customs, and border security are violated by smuggling. A nation's reputation as a trustworthy partner in international cooperation can be damaged and criticism from other countries can result from the perception that it is unable to maintain control over its borders and enforce its laws. Consequentially, there will be loss of credibility. That is, in the eyes of the world community, smuggling damages a nation's reputation. It can cast doubt on its capacity to respect the rule of law, safeguard intellectual property rights, and uphold regulatory norms since it conveys a lack of control over illegal activity taking place inside its borders. This is consistent with World Bank (2023)'s highlight that illicit trade practices such as counterfeiting, piracy, and smuggling of substandard goods can damage the reputation of legitimate businesses, erode consumer trust, and weaken intellectual property rights protections.

4.3.3 Smuggling and Public Health

There was an almost unanimous agreement to the inquiry on whether smuggling poses threat to public health. With a mean of 3.9, many participants strongly agreed that it has a negative effect on public health. This is because the trafficking of illegal substances including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine is frequently linked to smuggling. Due to smuggling, these drugs are available, which increases the risk of substance misuse, addiction, and associated health issues in communities. A number of health

problems, including as overdose deaths, mental health conditions, and infectious diseases like hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, are linked to drug misuse. The public's health is seriously endangered by the smuggling of fake pharmaceuticals, which include drugs, vaccinations, and medical equipment. These fake goods frequently have poor quality control, potentially dangerous substances, or poor therapeutic efficacy. Drug counterfeiting can result in treatment failures, bad reactions, and even death, especially when patients depend on these treatments for life-threatening conditions. All such drugs cannot be imported into the country following proper legal means, but are smuggled. These results are supported by UNCTAD (2023) who submitted that the proliferation of counterfeit products through smuggling channels not only harms brand integrity but also poses risks to public health, consumer safety, and innovation in industries that rely on intellectual property rights for their competitiveness.

4.3.4 Smuggling and Reduction in Tax Revenue

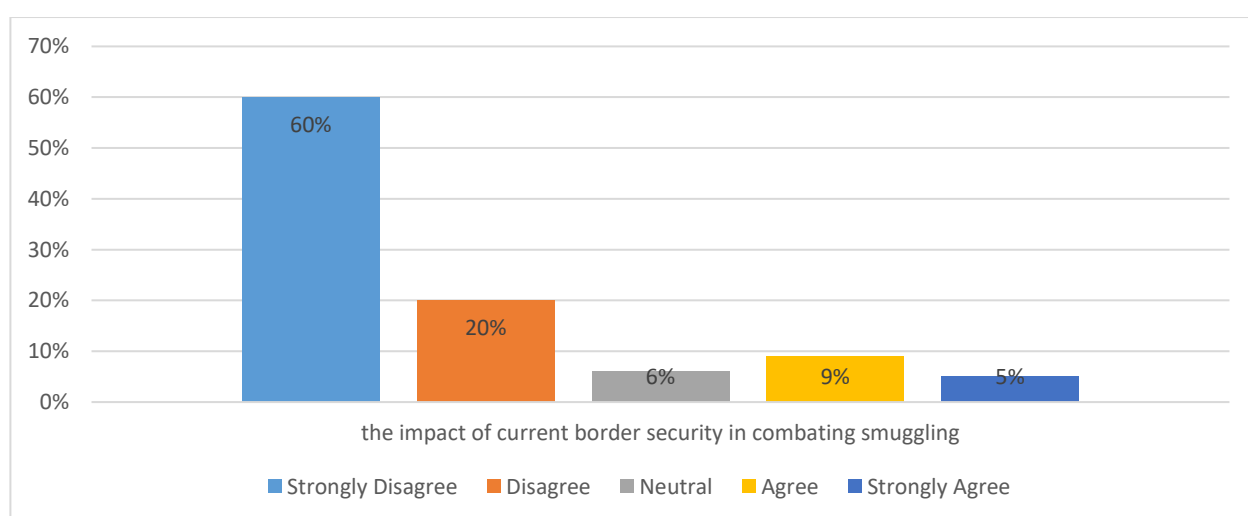
As demonstrated in the table above, reduction in tax revenue as an effect of smuggling has a mean of 3.5, signifying an agreement to this inquest. It shows that when there is increased smuggling, tax revenue won't be gained according to expectations, owing to that. This exhibits that smugglers often avoid paying import duties, excise taxes, value-added taxes (VAT), and other levies imposed by governments on imported goods. By evading these taxes, smugglers can undercut the prices of legally imported or domestically produced goods, gaining a competitive advantage in the market. This results in a loss of tax revenue for governments that rely on these taxes to fund public services and infrastructure projects. More so, smuggling bypasses official customs controls and procedures, allowing smuggled goods to enter the country without detection or documentation. This undermines the effectiveness of customs authorities in collecting import duties and other taxes owed on imported goods. Smugglers exploit weaknesses in border security, corruption among customs officials, and gaps in regulatory enforcement to evade taxation. These findings are analogous to Katsios (2006) study findings that smuggling harms governments through loss of tax revenue that could be generated through legal trade and it does not only reduce government revenue from import taxes but also discourages legitimate businesses from operating within the formal economy.

4.3.5 Lack of Trust in The Country's Protection Systems

From the table above, with a mean of 3.7, it can be seen that the participants agreed to lack of trust in the government's protection systems is another effect of smuggling, as brought out by the research findings. This is due to the fact that smuggling frequently highlights flaws in a nation's infrastructure and systems for border protection. The public's faith in the efficacy of border protection measures is weakened when smugglers manage to avoid border checkpoints, avoid detection by customs officers, or cross international borders without being identified. The ability of the government to protect national borders and stop the unauthorized entry of persons, goods, and contraband may be questioned by the public. Corrupt practices, bribery, and cooperation between law enforcement, criminal networks, and government officials are further conditions that foster smuggling. The public loses faith in the honesty and dependability of the nation's security measures when those tasked with policing the borders participate in smuggling operations. The public may view corruption as a structural issue that jeopardizes national security and undermines rule of law.

4.4 The Impact of Current Border Security in Combating Smuggling

The researcher undertook to investigate the participants' perception on the impact of current border security in Combating smuggling. The question was coded as to what extent they agree to the current security's effectiveness. The findings are portrayed in the figure 4.8 below.



Source: Primary data, 2024

Figure 4. 8 the Effectiveness of the Current Security in Combating Smuggling

As depicted in the figure 4.8 above, 60% participants strongly disagreed, 20% disagreed, 6% were neutral, 9% agreed and 5% strongly agreed that the current security system at border posts is effective in combating smuggling. This exhibits that the current security system at border posts is failing to combat smuggling fully. The incapacity of border security services to identify smuggling activities and take prompt action is hampered by the absence of sophisticated equipment including radar systems, drones, high-resolution cameras, and sensors. Because corrupt border authorities enable smugglers to bribe or persuade people to turn a blind eye to unlawful activity or actively help in smuggling operations, corrupt border officials weaken the effectiveness of border security measures. Corrupt practices such as accepting bribes, collusion with criminal networks, and insider involvement compromise the integrity of border controls and facilitate the illicit movement of goods across borders.

4.5 QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

This section presents the qualitative data obtained from the 12 participant's interview using a semi-structured interview guide. This thematic content analysis aims to synthesize insights from the 12 participants regarding the causes of smuggling, its effects, and strategies to combat it. Through qualitative analysis in addition to the quantitative data obtained through questionnaires, this study sought to offer nuanced perspectives and actionable recommendations for enhancing border security measures.

4.5.1 Demographic Data of the Interview Participants

The demographic data of the participants during the interviews is outlined in the table below.

Table 4. 4 Interview Participants Demographic Data

	Sex	Age	Occupation	Education	Experience
P1	F	34	Police Officer	O' Level	3 years
P2	F	42	Local Vendor	A ' Level	16 years
P3	F	29	ZIMRA Official	Diploma	5 years
P4	F	29	ZIMRA Official	H/Degree	3 years
P5	F	37	Traveler	O Level	10yeras
P6	F	33	Local vendor	ZJC	8 years
P7	F	35	ZIMRA Official	Diploma	8 years
P8	F	28	Police Officer	O Level	1 year
P9	F	33	Army officer	O Level	7 years
P10	F	44	Traveler	Certificate	16 years
P11	F	30	Border Patrol Agent	Diploma	2 years
P12	F	27	Traveler	ZJC	4 years

Source: Primary data, 2024

4.5.2 Causes of Smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post

The responses obtained from interview participants on the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge boarder post revealed an interplay of various economic and social factors.

P1 stated that "Economic disparities in neighboring countries drive individuals into smuggling as a means of survival. Otherwise, if our country had a stable economy and people being able to live on local means, there could not be such cases of smuggling ". Another participant P6 had this to say, "*Nzara ndiyo inopusha vanhu kuti vapinde kutenga nekutengesa zvisiri pamutemo, vachitsvaga kurarama. Apo ma taxes acho anenge achidura futi, saka zvinonetsa*" (Indeed, poverty pushes many into the illicit trade, as people seek alternative sources of income. At the same time, there will be high taxes to follow legal means). Another participant P4 echoed that, "Corruption among border officials exacerbates the problem, with some exploiting their positions for personal gain. This is also based on the poverty and economic hardships in Zimbabwe".

As conveyed in the excerpts above, an interplay of factors drive people into smuggling. Poverty and economic inequality operate as fundamental triggers for smuggling since they allow people to escape from financial difficulties. Also, people smuggle in order to evade taxes while at the same time, corrupt border authorities allow smugglers to get over security measures, and hence the unlawful trade is further encouraged. In the

atmosphere of poverty, corruption, and weak governance is where smuggling flourishes. These findings corroborate findings in a study by Kim and Tajima (2022), who found out that economic disparities, corruption, and weak enforcement contribute to the prevalence of smuggling and informal trade. An integrated strategy involving anti-corruption and socioeconomic development programs is needed to address the underlying causes of smuggling. Stakeholders can lessen the motivations and chances for smuggling by encouraging economic opportunities and transparency inside border institutions. These results also support the Rational Choice Theory which posits individuals make decisions based on rational calculations of costs and benefits, weighing the potential outcomes of their actions.

2. Effects of Smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post

On the effects of smuggling, the interview participants brought out numerous views based on their perceptions. One participant P7 stated that, "Smuggling results in economic losses through tax evasion and undermines the integrity of the market. This has a detrimental effect on both the country which receives the smuggled goods and also affects legitimate businesses operating within its borders. Local industries are destabilized and fair competition is distorted" Another participant **P8**, a police officer had this to say, "Smuggling causes a rise crime rates, especially organized crime networks, poses a significant security threat." Another participant P11 yet detailed that, "Smuggling causes deterioration of diplomatic relations with neighboring. Moreover, it leads to social consequences such as increased substance abuse and exploitation of vulnerable populations were raised".

The information gathered from the aforementioned comments shows that smuggling has an impact on society and security in addition to its negative economic impacts. Illegal commerce threatens economic stability and public safety by undermining government revenue, warping market dynamics, and facilitating the growth of criminal networks. These findings are consistent with results of a Tanzanian study by Chole and Mwilima (2019), in which they found that smugglers often exploited vulnerabilities in border controls, resulting in the continued illicit trade of goods across Tanzania's borders and it affected government tax revenue as well as local businesses. A comprehensive strategy that tackles the issue's economic and security facets is needed

to mitigate the effects of smuggling. To counteract illicit commerce and its repercussions, government agencies must work together, strengthen border security measures, and improve law enforcement skills.

3. Strategies to Combat Smuggling

From what the interviewer gathered with regard to strategies in combating smuggling, the excerpts below display some propositions brought out. One participant P11 mentioned that, "Investing in advanced technology and increasing personnel can enhance surveillance and detection capabilities which can combat the prevailing smuggling activities". Another participant P9 indicated that, "I think anti-corruption measures and strict penalties for complicit officials are crucial in deterring collusion with smugglers". Another participant P4 voiced that, "Cooperation with neighboring countries and international organizations is essential for sharing intelligence and coordinating efforts."

These findings exhibit that a complex approach including institutional changes, technology advancements, and global collaboration is needed to combat smuggling. Stakeholders may improve border security measures and disrupt illicit trade networks by utilizing cutting-edge tools, fortifying accountability structures, and cultivating partnerships. In a study by Smith and Doe (2018), it was found that Rational Choice Theory could be used to analyze how improvements in border security have influenced smuggling dynamics. The research indicated that an increase in security measures, such as increased patrols and advanced detection technologies, led to a decrease in successful smuggling attempts at certain border points. A coordinated strategy that tackles the root causes of the illegal trade and makes use of the assets of multiple stakeholders is required to effectively combat smuggling. Through the implementation of a comprehensive approach that integrates technology breakthroughs, institutional restructurings, and global cooperation, policymakers can fortify border security protocols and alleviate the hazards associated with illicit operations.

Gupta and Lee (2020) demonstrated that the Bhagwati-Hansen model could be used to analyze the impact of border security investments on the prevalence of smuggling activities along specific border regions. The study highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach that addresses both the economic drivers of smuggling and

the effectiveness of enforcement efforts in curbing illegal trade. Through the implementation of effective tactics, mitigation of its consequences, and addressing the underlying reasons of smuggling, stakeholders may improve border security measures, foster regional stability, and protect the integrity of international trade. This analysis emphasizes how crucial cooperation, inventiveness, and proactive government are to tackling the various issues that smuggling activities bring.

4.6 Chapter Summary

This chapter gave data analysis and presented findings on all the objectives of the study in order to establish the impact of current border security in combating smuggling, in a case of Beit-bridge border post. The chapter gave demographic data for the participants, descriptive statistics as well as inferences on the data analyzed. The next chapter focusses on the summary, conclusions and recommendations; marking the end of the study.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion and recommendations on the research objectives of the study. The objectives of the study sought to identify the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post, to identify the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to examine the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to recommend strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post. The chapter closes with proposals of issues relating to areas needing further research.

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post

From the study it was reviewed that they are various types of border security agents, and these include customs officers, police officers, army officers, border patrol agents, health officials, immigration officers, intelligence agencies, and ZIMRA officials. These agents play a crucial role in national security by preventing illegal immigration, smuggling, and potential terrorist activities. Their presence ensures smooth legitimate trade and travel while upholding the law within the country. Therefore, the findings suggests that cooperation and coordination among these different agencies is essential for effective border security and the prevention of smuggling.

5.1.2 Causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post

Based on the findings, the following factors have been identified as potential causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. Economic factors that is high levels of poverty and unemployment, corruption, weak border controls. The study found that a majority of participants (61%) strongly agreed that high taxes and tariffs are a major cause of smuggling. High taxes and tariffs make legal imports expensive. Smugglers can avoid these costs by bringing goods illegally and selling them cheaper. People are incentivized to smuggle for profit or to get goods at a lower price. This aligns with the

idea that people make choices based on cost and benefit (Rational Choice Theory). Participant P4 echoed that, "Corruption among border officials exacerbates the problem, with some exploiting their positions for personal gain. This is also based on the poverty and economic hardships in Zimbabwe".

5.1.3 Effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post

From the findings we can deduct that smuggling has negative effects on the country. The overall mean of 3.8 indicates that most participants agreed to the inquired elements as effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. This exhibits that increased crime, damage to country's reputation, threat to public health, reduction in tax revenue and negative impact on wildlife are all effects of smuggling at border posts. Economically smuggling distorts prices and disrupt legal trade, resulting in revenue losses for legitimate businesses and reduced tax revenue for the government. Socially smuggling facilitates the movement of illegal drugs, weapons, and human trafficking, which leads to an increase in criminal activity and social instability in the region. Environmentally smuggling contribute to the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the trafficking of endangered wildlife species, which have serious impacts on the environment. A police officer pointed out that smuggling fuels organized crime, posing a security threat. Another interviewee added that smuggling can damage relations with neighbouring countries and lead to social problems like substance abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people.

5.1.4 Strategies to combat smuggling at Beitbridge border post

The study found that there are different strategies that can be used to combat smuggling. That is technological advancements, increased use of surveillance and detection tools to improve border security. Institutional changes, strengthening accountability and cracking down on corruption to prevent officials from aiding smugglers. Global collaboration, sharing intelligence and coordinating efforts with neighbouring countries and international organizations. One participant P11 mentioned that, "Investing in advanced technology and increasing personnel can enhance surveillance and detection capabilities which can combat the prevailing smuggling activities". Another participant P9 indicated that, "I think anti-corruption measures and strict penalties for complicit officials are crucial in deterring collusion with smugglers".

Based on the findings, the impact of current border security in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post can be summarized as follows. Partial effectiveness, current border security measures have had some success in detecting and preventing smuggling activities, but remain vulnerable to weaknesses in enforcement, corruption, and inadequate resources. Room for improvement, while current border security measures have shown some success, there is still significant room for improvement in areas such as training and capacity building, corruption prevention, and coordination among agencies.

5.2 Conclusions

It can be concluded that, the objectives of this study was to assess the impact of current border security in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post and to propose recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness. The findings suggest that, while current border security measures have achieved some success, they remain insufficient to fully address the scale and complexity of smuggling activities at the border. A comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of smuggling, enhances enforcement capabilities, and fosters regional cooperation is required to effectively combat smuggling at Beitbridge.

Additionally, the analysed data collected to investigate the impact of current border security measures on smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post showed a high response rate (90%) achieved from 40 questionnaires and 100% from 12 interviews. Participants included police officers, army officers, immigration officers, ZIMRA officials, local people and travellers. Findings revealed various causes of smuggling at Beitbridge Border Post including, high taxes and tariffs, poverty, unemployment, weak border controls, demand for contraband, corruption.

It can be concluded that the study also identified negative effects of smuggling such as, increased crime, damage to the country's reputation, and threat to public health, makes it difficult to attract investors, and reduces tax revenue, lack of Trust in the Nation's Systems

Analysis of the effectiveness of current border security measures showed that the majority of participants felt the current system is failing to adequately combat

smuggling. Reasons included lack of sophisticated equipment and presence of corrupt officials.

Qualitative data from interviews provided further insights into the causes and effects of smuggling, as well as strategies to address it. Interviewees highlighted the interplay of economic and social factors that drive smuggling, and the importance of a multifaceted approach to combating it.

The need for a comprehensive strategy to combat smuggling incorporates, investment in advanced technology for surveillance and detection, anti-corruption measures and strict penalties, international cooperation and intelligence sharing, addressing the root causes of smuggling such as poverty and unemployment.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the research, a number of recommendations can be made for Beitbridge border post in order to combat smuggling. The researcher recommends international cooperation. Working with international agencies, such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, can help share information and develop joint operations to tackle smuggling.

The researcher recommends engagement in the private sector. Engaging the private sector, such as trucking companies and logistics providers, in the fight against smuggling can help identify smuggling activities within the transportation sector. The researcher recommends the development of a customs intelligence unit. Developing a customs intelligence unit can help authorities to collect, analyze, and act on intelligence related to smuggling activities.

The researcher recommends the implementation of "whole-of-government" approach. Collaborating across government departments such as customs, immigration, police, and intelligence can help create a comprehensive approach to combating smuggling. The researcher recommends strengthening collaboration with neighboring countries. Collaborating with neighboring countries can improve intelligence sharing and allow for the interception of smuggling activities before they reach the border. That is collaboration between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The researcher recommends financial tracking. Tracking financial transactions can help authorities detect suspicious activities and identify smugglers. The researcher recommends community policing. Engaging with local communities through community policing can help to build trust, gain intelligence, and deter smuggling activities.

The researcher recommends border liaison offices. Establishing border liaison offices with neighboring countries can enhance cooperation and improve intelligence sharing related to smuggling activities. The researcher recommends the use of undercover operations. Using undercover operations, such as sting operations, can help identify and disrupt smuggling networks.

The researcher recommends conducting targeted operations. Targeted operations, such as intelligence-led searches and targeted inspections, can be effective in disrupting smuggling activities and making arrests. The researcher recommends increasing penalties for smuggling. Implementing harsher penalties for smugglers can act as a deterrent and discourage illegal activities.

The researcher recommends making public awareness campaigns. Launching public awareness campaigns about the dangers of smuggling and the penalties for smuggling can educate the public and discourage participation in such activities. The researcher recommends offering incentives for reporting smuggling activities. Providing incentives to local communities for reporting smuggling activities can encourage them to cooperate with authorities and help deter smuggling.

The researcher recommends tackling corruption. Addressing corruption within the border force can help to remove obstacles to successful smuggling prevention. The researcher recommends enhancing communication. Improving communication between different government agencies and departments can help identify smuggling patterns and develop effective strategies to address them.

This study recommends that further research be conducted on other borders such as Plumtree border post, Sango border post, Forbes border post, Chirundu border post, Kariba border post and Victoria Falls border post in order to curb smuggling across the country.

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APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE COVER LETTER

LETTER FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH



Bindura University of Science Education

P.Bag 1020

Bindura

Zimbabwe

Dear Sir/ Madame

RE: REQUEST FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

My name is Nigel Muzonzini. I am a fourth year student at Bindura University of Science Education undertaking a Bachelor of Honours Degree in Financial Intelligence. I am conducting a research on the topic entitled: The impact of current Border Security in combating smuggling. A case of Beit-Bridge Border Post.

The researcher is kindly asking for your assistance as respondents to the research understudy by filling in the questionnaire. The responses you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used sorely for academic purposes

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated

Yours Faithfully

Nigel Muzonzini

QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

Complete this section by ticking in the appropriate box for your answers

1.1 GENDER

MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐

1.2 MARITAL STATUS

MARRIED ☐

SINGLE ☐

DIVORCED ☐

SEPARATED ☐

WIDOWER ☐

1.3 AGE IN YEARS

20-30 ☐ 31-40 ☐

41-50 ☐ 51-60 ☐

ABOVE 60 ☐

1.4 HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

SECONDARY ☐ TERTIARY ☐

CERTIFICATE ☐ DIPLOMA ☐

MASTERS ☐ DOCTORATE ☐

1.5 NUMBER OF YEARS WORKIN AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER

1-5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐

15-20 ☐ ABOVE 20 ☐

1.6 POSITION IN ORGANISATION

EMPLOYEE ☐ MANAGER ☐ OWNER ☐

SECTION B: THE TYPES OF BORDER SECURITY AGENTS AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

In this section, may you indicate the security agents you know are present at
Beitbridge Border Post? Tick the applicable

Security Agent	Yes	No
Police officers		
Army officers		
Immigration officers		
ZIMRA officers		
Border Post Patrol Agents		
Intelligence Officers		
Customs Officers		
Health Officers		

Additional types of border security

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SECTION C: THE CAUSES OF SMUGGLING AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

This section describes your overall evaluation on the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. Please indicate your level of agreement to the stated factors (causes). Strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), and Strongly agree (5). Simply check one choice next to each statement.								
C1	High Taxes or Tariffs	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C2	Poverty	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C3	Unemployment	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C4	Weak Border Controls	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C5	Demand for Contraband	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C6	Corruption	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree

Additional types of border security

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SECTION D: THE EFFECTS OF SMUGGLING AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

This section describes your overall evaluation on the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post. Please indicate your level of agreement to the stated factors (effects). Strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), and Strongly agree (5). Simply check one choice next to each statement.

C1	Increased crime	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C2	Damage the countries reputation	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C3	Threat of public health	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C4	Reduces tax revenue	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree
C5	Lack of trust in the country's system	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly agree

Additional effects of smuggling

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SECTION E: THE STRATEGIES THAT CAN BE USED TO CURB SMUGGLING AT BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST.

Do you agree that the following are the strategies that can be adopted in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post?

Place an x in the appropriate box

The strategies that can be adopted in combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post.	Agree	Disagree
Strong law enforcement presence		
Cooperation between agencies		
Training and education for security personnel		
Increased use of technology		

Additional strategies that can be adopted in combating smuggling

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

APPENDIX II: Interview Guide for Management

Interview Guide

My name is Nigel Muzonzini. I am a fourth year student at Bindura University of Science Education undertaking a Bachelor of Honours Degree in Financial Intelligence. I am conducting a research on the topic entitled: The impact of current border security in combating smuggling. A case of Beit-Bridge Border Post.

The following will provide you with information about the research that will help you in deciding whether or not you wish to participate. All information you provide will be treated as confidential and will not be associated with your name. When this study is complete you will be provided with the results of the research if you request them, and you will be free to ask any questions. If you have any further questions concerning this study, please feel free to contact

Nigel Muzonzini

0787506784 or nigeltmuzo@gmail.com

Participant signature:

1) What are the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post?

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2) What are the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post?

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3) What are the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post?

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4) What are the strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

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ABSTRACT

Smuggling is a national issue for countries because of its negative effects on the country. The problem, according to smuggling laws, allows many researchers to find ways to curb all activities leading to its causes and effects. The law needs more practical evidence and ideas related to the subject matter. Nevertheless, there is need for further survey. This research looks at the impact of current border security on combating smuggling at Beitbridge border post.

The objectives of the study are to identify the types of border security agents at Beitbridge border post, to identify the causes of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to examine the effects of smuggling at Beitbridge border post, to recommend strategies that can be used to curb smuggling at Beitbridge border post.

The researcher used a descriptive research design, which involved both qualitative and quantitative research approaches that helped in giving customers and stakeholders a chance to express their thoughts on the implementation of effective border security and giving the researcher a deeper understanding of the problem. The sample size comprised of thirty-six (36) respondents. Information and data was obtained at Beitbridge border post through interviews and questionnaires. The outcomes of this research showed that Zimbabwe was facing challenges in controlling its border. The failure to provide effective security is because of certain factors. These factors include the absence of physical barriers at the border, scarcity of physical and human resources and ineffective ways of monitoring Zimbabwe's border.

A quantitative data analysis tool Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to create charts, graphs and tables to visualize data and also a qualitative analysis tool thematic analysis was also used to understand themes, patterns, and meanings that emerged from data.

Based on the findings and conclusions of the research, a number of recommendations were made at Beitbridge border post in order to curb smuggling. The research recommended that border security agencies should be put in an optimal and more desirable way. Monitoring should be done through surveillance cameras and increased lighting.

Lastly awareness campaigns should be carried out educating people about the consequences of border smuggling. Nevertheless, having illustrated all these, researches the research claims that as long as the border administration environment remains like this, these measures will not come their own strength to work effectively.

CHAPTER 1