



Research Paper

## The Assessment of *Kalare* Eradication Policies in Nigeria: A Study of Anti *Kalare* Squad and Talba Empowerment Scheme (TES)

Mohammed Umar Bashir<sup>1</sup>, Kamsiah Bt. Ali<sup>2</sup>, Lucy Sebli Siedelson

<sup>1</sup>University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>University Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan Sarawak, Malaysia

<sup>3</sup>University Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan Sarawak, Malaysia

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**ABSTRACT:** Government or public policies are policies that are made at different times and in most cases by different governmental organizations. This can be at the federal, state and at the local levels through which the governments advance and make meaningful economic and human developments. Gombe state government in Eastern Northern Nigeria in its response to the numerous complaints by its citizens over the political violence activities perpetrated by youth groups known as *Kalare* in the state has formulated two policies with the intention to eradicate these violence activities. These policies include Anti *Kalare* Squad and Talba Empowerment Scheme (TES) but unfortunately these policies achieved limited success especially in eradicating the violent activities perpetrated by the youth. Hence, this paper assessed the factors responsible for the limited success of the two policies. The findings of this paper revealed that the implementation of these policies was marred by political interference influenced by personal interest and political sentiments. The study recommends that a monitoring and evaluation and mediating committees should be set up which will function as mediator among the different *Kalare* groups to ensure proper implementation of the policies.

**Keywords:-** Assessment, *Kalare*, Eradication, Policies, Gombe state

### I. INTRODUCTION

Government or public policies are made at different time and in most cases by different governmental organizations. This can be at the federal, state and at the local levels through which the governments advance and make meaningful economic and human developments. Therefore, it is well known that public or government policies are made to solve a particular problem or problems so as to improve on the living conditions of its citizens. In its attempt to respond to the numerous complaints made by its citizens over the political violence activities perpetrated by youth groups known as *Kalare*, the Gombe state government has formulated two policies which aim to eradicate these violence activities. These policies include Anti *Kalare* Squad and Talba Empowerment Scheme (TES), unfortunately both policies have achieved limited success. Hence, this paper will attempt to analyse factors that hinder the successful implementations of the said policies. However, before I go any further, I would like to discuss the conceptual framework used throughout this paper.

#### 1.1 Conceptual clarification

‘Public policy’ is mostly applied to formal decision or a plan of action that is/are put in place that have to do with state or federal government organisations” (Richards and Smith, 2002). Furthermore, policies are made to improved or discourage certain situation which may be targeting the whole population or a segment of its population (Cairney, 2015). However, Nwagboso, (2012), perceived public policy as the action of the government intentionally planned and adopted to resolve issues of public concern. The issues of public concern must have benefits or implications on the lives of the majority of the population. This means policy may be made to ban, for example, importations of both new and used vehicles through the land borders as introduced recently by the federal government of Nigeria in December 2016. The ban which was to take effect in January 2017, was aimed to enhance the auto policy of 2013 which ordered the charging of 70 percent tariff on imported vehicles into Nigeria as well to enforce the presentation of roadworthiness certificate of the cars from their countries of origin (Okon, Punch Newspaper, 2016 Dec. 5th). This means policy can be both for the benefits of the government and its population.