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Drug Prohibition and the Problem of Conformity in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The paper examines drug prohibition and the problem of conformity in Nigeria. Drug prohibition policies and laws are premised on the health, social and economic implications of certain drugs especially those that have psychoactive substances. Drug law enforcement agencies, no doubt, have made several efforts in combating non-conformists. Defaulters are prosecuted and sent to prison for varying jail terms, suffer forfeiture of all articles, vehicles or vessels used in the crime, manufacturing sites are sealed, consignments of prohibited or fake drugs worth billions of naira are utterly destroyed. In spite of these punitive measures, people still embark on the cultivation, manufacture, exportation, importation, sales and consumption of drugs that are prohibited. The rational choice theory of deviance is used in explaining why conformity to drug prohibition laws remains but a mirage in Nigeria. The paper offers recommendations that border on adequate awareness program on the negative consequences of drugs that are prohibited, provision of conventional job opportunities, orientation program for personnel of law enforcement agents. Law enforcement agents who deal in, consume prohibited drugs or aid and abet those that deal in prohibited drugs and substances should be made to face the wrath of the law.