

URBANIZATION AND INSECURITY IN AFRICA: ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract:

Urbanization as an agent of development is currently shifting to agent of underdevelopment in many continents of the world, especially in Africa. Urban development in Africa continues to be threatened by high rate of insecurity which impedes the progress of individuals and society at large. This study is necessitated by the current trend of insecurity in many urban sectors. This assessment depends on the broad-writing survey and narrative gathering of documentaries on issues pertaining to urbanization vis-à-vis insecurity in Africa anchored on Optimists/Pessimists theory. These involve overpopulation, rapid structural change, unemployment, rural-urban migration, high social pressures and social injustices, politicizing security issues with respect to administration of urban areas, et cetera. The paper further assessed the dimensions of these challenges comparable to the issue of insecurity in urban zones. It therefore maintained that urban areas if properly streamlined ameliorates persistence insecurity challenges, promote emotional stability and socio-economic development in Africa.

Keywords: Urbanization, Insecurity; Issues, Problems and Prospects.

Introduction

The issue of insecurity has been a global concern due to incessant loss of lives and properties in many continents of the world, particularly in Africa. African continent has witnessed several forms of attacks which have affected its human and material resources both in the rural and urban areas. Mostly, urban areas are characterized by overpopulation, rapid structural change, unemployment, insecurity, high social pressures and social injustices. Lately, in the quest for greener pastures people migrate from the rural to urban areas.^[1] This rural-urban migration seems to have constituted an overcrowded urban environment in most African countries. Evidently, there has been a sporadic increase in number of people living in urban areas ranging from 13% in 1900 to 49% in 2005.^[2] It is further submitted that rural-urban migration increased to three billion as at 2012 and will continue to skyrocket by 2050 to about five billion or more.^[2] Despite this increase in migration of people from rural to urban areas, urban populace has not witnessed improved developmental standard.^[3] Research has shown that Africans will meet urban standard by 2030 when most of its populace migrates from rural to urban areas.^[4] It was reported that urbanization in Africa is bedeviled with a lot of intrigues, especially in Nigeria.^[5] Nigeria as a country is the most jam-packed African Nation and is driven by population explosion.^[6] At the interval, the current development pace of

Lagos city as the third biggest city on the planet has a population of 24m.^[7] However, this situation is not peculiar to Nigeria as other nations like Cameroon, South-Africa among others are also driven by high population index.

Globally, urbanization is the driving force of the economy especially in developing nations.^[8] According to^[2] urban areas offer individual a lot of opportunities to improve one's standard of living. It was further maintained that urbanization is characterized with improved access to good housing facilities, transportation, employment, merchandise and other basic amenities for inhabitants in creating a better livelihood. Collaboratively, it is clear that urbanization is the crux for individual development and societal change that offer business opportunities, affluent, security and social incorporation among others.^[3] However, urbanization in Africa has shifted from achieving those developmental components of social and economic sustenance to conglomerates of social unrest and economic despondency.^[9] For instance, many developing nations like Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger Republic had been witnessing incessant attacks and killings by Boko Haram insurgence, armed bandits, Fulani herdsmen among others. These violent operations of Boko Haram, a Nigeria-based jihadi terrorist group which began in Nigeria's Northeastern Borno State in 2009, have affected several other countries in the region of the Lake Chad Basin. Explicitly, Cameroon has been experiencing the spread of Boko Haram's operations on its soil since 2013.^[10] The socio-cultural, linguistic and religious ties that Cameroon's Far North region shares with northern Nigeria eased Boko Haram's spillover into Cameroon by combatants and fleeing Nigerians.^[10] This sparked a military response from the government, supported in January 2015 by a Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) from the Lake Chad Basin Countries, overseen by the African Union which yielded little or no result.

Nevertheless, thousands of Cameroonians eventually joined Boko Haram at different times due to ideological or religious conviction, out of opportunism or under duress.^[11] This enabled the jihadist movement to gather support and gain ground in Cameroon's Far North region. After Nigeria, Cameroon is the second largest victim of Boko Haram's attacks which have led to multiple displacements and persistent insecurity in the country's Far North region. Moreover, the region shelters more than 100,000 Nigerian refugees who have fled Boko Haram's violence in their country with close to 60,000 of them living in the Minawao camp which was specifically built for Nigerian refugees in 2013.^[12] Although the intensity of the war between Boko Haram and Cameroon de-escalated in 2016, the humanitarian situation remains precarious and the resurgence of attacks by the extremist group on Cameroon's Northern border with Nigeria, still poses a major threat to national security. While Boko Haram is again recruiting fighters in Cameroon and attacking the Northern border, separatists on the other hand are fighting in the North West and South West regions to create an English-speaking state called Ambazonia.^[13] Also, there exists lingering conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria over

the Bakassi Peninsula, governance challenges, security issues in the East Region that emanated from the crisis in the Central African Republic, piracy along the Gulf of Guinea, highway robbery in the North and terrorist insecurity in the Far North. Again, longstanding grievances of Anglophones in the North West and South West regions against the Francophone-dominated government escalated since October 2016 into what is today known as the “Anglophone crisis”.^[13] Subsequently, Nigeria as the giant of Africa witnessed another dimension of agonizing imbroglio such that in 2014, about 260 Chibok school girls were kidnapped; in 2020, more than 300 students were also kidnapped in Katsina and presently the wife of Nigerian President-Aisha Buhari ran away to Dubai after a sporadic shooting by unidentified armed men in Aso-Rock Presidential Villa, Abuja (urban area).^[14, 59, 60] It therefore becomes pertinent to ask: if the wife of the Chief Security Officer and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria flew away to another country over insecurity, what is the place of ordinary citizen? These tragedies have imposed brouhaha and insecurity of lives and properties among the entire populace with thousands of persons dead and millions internally displaced.

Sadly, not only have these issues of insecurity caused societal unrest and economic decay, it has as well triggered mental health problems among these migrant youths in urban areas. Previous research with youths has found that those who experience multiple traumas such as Boko Haram insurgency, armed bandit and herdsmen attack are more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder or depression than those who experience one traumatic event ^[15] and are also more likely to experience more subsequent traumas ^[16]. Also, low socio-economic status is a factor for developing post-traumatic stress disorder among youths that results to abuse of substance and criminal tendencies. ^[17, 18, 19] This could be the reason why many individuals who were unable to have access to quality standard of living in urban areas resort to crime, thereby, threatening the existence of security and permeating insecurity in the area.

Indeed, insecurity of lives and properties in not only urban but also rural areas in Africa has risen to unimaginable state to warrant global attention and response from various international agencies such as United Nations, African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC), International Crisis Group among others. These organizations/agencies have sent scores of soldiers, armed personnel on boot, relieve materials among others to various African countries with high rate of insecurity to curb it. Despite interventions by these agencies to curb the issue of insecurity in most African countries, the menace still escalates. In most cases, government officials and other stakeholders responsible for tackling insecurity in many urban areas politicize it. As a result, addressing the issue of insecurity in urban areas in Africa is a jamboree messed in strategy irregularity, political class insensitivity, politics and politicking, lack of sufficient funds to counter security challenges and diversion of accessible funds among others.^[3] Consequently, it is

maintained that urbanization process in Africa has subsequently been portrayed as pseudo-urbanization.^[9] This assertion could be as a result of deteriorating insecurity in the continent's urban areas which has threatened its human and material resources. Based on this scenario, this paper examined issues pertaining to urbanization as it relates to insecurity in urban areas with prospects of achieving economic and social development in Africa.

Statement of the Problem

Urbanization as a global phenomenon is considered a major index for development in various continents of the world especially in Africa. This is because African continent is still regarded as third world countries or developing nations due to shortfalls in its developmental stride compared to other continents like Europe, Asia, et cetera. It is worth note that collection of people of different tribe, race or ethnic groups in urban areas begets exchange of ideas and resources that propel development of any continent. Unfortunately, this collection of people in urban areas comprised mainly of rural migrants prompted a high degree of insecurity of lives and properties presumably in the quest for survival. However, most of these migrants are believed to be youths with low socio-economic background who on the course of migration experience varying traumatic events such as insurgence that invariably affects their mental health. This is because low socioeconomic status is a factor for developing post-traumatic stress disorder among youths that results to abuse of substance and criminal tendencies. Evidently, it has been noted that those who experience multiple traumas are prone to develop post-traumatic stress disorder or depression than those who experience one traumatic event and are also more disposed to exhibiting tendencies for criminal activities. This situation could be the cause of high rate of insecurity in many urban areas, especially among youths in African nations.

Regrettably, insecurity of lives and properties in urban areas has eroded or rather threatened the essence of African existence as of late with an end goal to handle the security challenges in urban areas. Perhaps, the continent has directed an impressive piece of her national financial plan to re-establishing security in many urban areas. In spite of these gigantic costs on security, the degree of insecurity in the continent is still high particularly in urban areas. With the enduring insecurity challenges and the failure of the security contraption of the legislature to guarantee wellbeing and security in the continent, prompted this investigation. Therefore, this research sought to explore various issues surrounding urbanization and insecurity with prospects to achieving development in Africa.

Objectives of the Study

Generally, the study sought to determine the issue of urbanization and insecurity bearing in mind its problems with prospect for African development. Specifically, the study sought to:

- 1) ascertain the major functional elements of urbanization;
- 2) evaluate issues pertaining to insecurity in Africa;
- 3) ascertain the problems of urban insecurity in Africa;
- 4) estimate prospects to achieving urban security in relation to attainment of socio-economic development in Africa.

Significance of the Study

This paper has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study is anchored on Optimists and Pessimists theory by ^[20, 21] which proposes that urbanization facilitates greater efficiency, either through acting on growth, providing innovations or making more important economies of scale, specialization or agglomeration. While, pessimists argue that urbanization may have a detrimental impact on financial execution in the event that it is inordinate or heedless. It is therefore paramount that Africans understand the need to maintain a security threat free society in its urban areas so as to improve on the growth and development of the continent's socio-economic base.

Practically, this study will be beneficial to government officials, security agencies, urban and regional policymakers/planners as well as the entire populace. Hopefully, government officials will benefit from this study if published and lobbied for legislation in various government agencies. It would enable them understand the damage meted by insecurity in urban areas and hasten move to control such. Again, security agencies will benefit from this study if published and used as a manual of instruction to enlighten various security apparatus of the government during their training and recruitment exercise. It would enable them to effectively and efficiently utilize various technological security machineries within their disposal. Also, if this study is published and used by government and non-governmental organizations to enlighten urban and regional policymakers/planners during workshops/seminars will help them make better policies that would ameliorate urban security bridge. Finally, if this study is published in the internet hopefully will be beneficial to the public as they would understand the need to always monitor activities capable of causing security threat in their environment and report any suspicious movement to the security agencies.

Methodology

The data used for this study was obtained from archival materials and documented evidence from secondary sources such as newspapers, magazines, journals, internet among others. This was complimented by direct observations and professional experience of the researcher who had travelled in many African nations for

conferences/workshops. The aforementioned provided sufficient data needed to clarify the issues of urbanization and insecurity in Africa as it affects socio-economic development. Therefore, data analysis was logically based on content analysis.

Review of Literature

This section is carried out under the following sub-headings: Conceptual Frameworks, Theoretical Frameworks and Summary of Literature Reviewed.

Conceptual Framework

Concept of Urbanization

Urbanization is an overall event that has modified and will keep on changing events and the manners by which social orders operate. ^[22] Ref ^[8] opined that, urban communities are characterized by improved business, training, medicinal services administrations, culture that contribute optimally to national economies. Urbanization is one of the significant segments of economic development in developing nations, with substantial complications for the financial turn of events. ^[2] However, ^[23] in the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary affirmed that urbanization is the circumstance of having loads of towns, roads, processing plants, and so forth as opposed to open country. Moreover, urbanization is the physical development of urban zones because of rural movement and even suburban fixation into urban communities especially the exceptionally enormous ones.

Urban areas vary from country to country. However, urbanization is the move from rural to an urban culture which includes an expansion in the number of individuals in urban regions during a specific period ^[8, 2]. The United Nations Habitat in 2006 refers to urbanization as the expanded centralization of individuals in urban communities instead of in rural regions. Urbanization is the result of social, monetary, and political advancements that lead to development of enormous urban areas, changes in land use and change from rural to the metropolitan. ^[24] Outside Europe, the biggest urban cities were Tokyo and Beijing. ^[25] Today, the appropriation of the world's biggest urban areas is notably extraordinary being commanded by urban communities in developing nations. It was evidenced that, by 2011 just three urban areas from the created nations, specifically Tokyo (37.2 million), New York (20.4 million) and Los Angeles (13.4 million) were among the world's best twenty urban areas. ^[26] Lagos, Nigeria was positioned nineteenth (11.2 million) "whereas, the urban populace of Ukraine declined by 2 million and Bulgaria by 0.2 million. ^[6] The world's urban populace is relied upon to increment by 72% by 2050, from 3.6 billion out of 2011 to 6.3 billion out of 2050. For all reasons, the typical advancement including its populace will be sure to be amassed in urban networks of developing nations whose populace is expected to increase from 2.7 billion of every 2011 to 5.1 billion out of 2050. ^[6] Lagos, Nigeria, for instance, is expected to have a populace of 18.9 million, making it the eleventh most jam-packed city. This indicates

that most of the urban advancement occurs in developed nations with developing African nations struggling to attain urban standard. Regardless of the way that the world has accomplished a portion of urbanization in 2007, Africa is probably going to arrive at the half-pace of urbanization benchmark in 2035. ^[6] As indicated by the 2011 World Urban Planning Correction Project, 1.4 billion individuals are relied upon to profit by urban regions around the globe somewhere in the range of 2011 and 2030, of which 37 percent will originate from China (276 million) and India (218 million). The report predicts that a further 1.3 billion individuals will be added to the world's urban populace somewhere in the range of 2030 and 2050. With an all-out extension of 121 million people, Nigeria will be the second biggest contributor to India (270 million). It is therefore clear that African continent irrespective of high population index in various urban areas have not met urbanization criteria.

Concepts of Security/Insecurity

Lately, efforts have been made to move the conceptualization of security from a state-driven perspective to a more extensive view that puts a premium on individuals, where human security which is part of national security of human rights and national progression clarify this fact. At the core of this conversation, efforts have been made to widen and expand the idea of security from the degree of states to individual and social context.

However, the conceptualization of human security in this study is based on neo-pragmatist theoretical system which is dependent on the force and centrality of the state. It explains security from the perspective of the fundamental commitment of the State. It is posited that human security consolidates political, money related, social and common risks, including those that are prepared for the fight to come. ^[27] Along these lines, Buzan plot a tripartite security examination that is subject to the worldwide system, state-level, and individual level which contended that sovereign states ought to remain the best security supplier. The ensuing strategy is a post-innovator or pluralistic view that looks to remove the state as a significant security supplier, however rather puts more accentuation on non-state characters on the screen. As a rule, the defenders of this approach will contend that the possibility of security goes past the military confirmation of dangers. As shown in ^[28], States and governments ought to never again be the key referents of security, since governments that ought to be the shields of their social orders' have rather become the primary wellspring of insecurity for the numerous people who live under their capacity. For instance, the massacre of many African inhabitants in the fight between Nigerian Government and Cameroonian counterpart over Bakassi Pennusula; the genocide on Nigerians by South-Africans is another pointer to this and the Anglophone region of Cameroon crisis also known as Ambazonia war which claimed more than 3,000 lives with millions internally displaced among others are all clear indications of governments insensitivity to the security of its people. Along these lines,

[28] likewise contended that human security is finally more significant than state security. This is in line with the assertion that the security of individuals ought to be of far more important to the society than the security of the State.^[29]

Security therefore, is the condition or sentiment of prosperity brought about by harm or peril, the gatekeeper, protection, and the non-appearance of risks that offer ascent to regard.^[30] Security in the objective sense challenge the non-appearance of danger which theoretically connotes non-participation of dread that such characteristics would be assaulted.^[31] Regardless of its determined unpredictability, the understanding of the term indicates that security is critical for national association, concordance, and sensible improvement. Security has to do with circumstances from danger to the limit of a nation to guarantee and make itself, to propel its esteemed characteristics and genuine interests, and to improve the flourishing of its family members. In this regard, interior security could be viewed as a chance or absence of help to those inclinations that could subvert inner association and co-ordinate proximity of the nation and its ability to keep up its basic establishments for the progression of its core value and socio-political and money related destinations, just as to meet the genuine targets of people. Internal security also hypothesizes an opportunity from threat to life and achievement.^[32] It subsequently alludes to the chase for avoiding, premonition, diminishing, or resolve serious conflicts – regardless of whether the hazard starts from different states, non-state on-screen characters, or subordinate budgetary conditions.^[33]

It is obvious from the prior that national security is an objective, a sine qua non for financial turn of events and improvement of any country.^[34] Security is fundamental in each nation's life, as it pulls in and pushes ahead. The possibility of headway has been a progressive condition for all records since the end of the subsequent Universal War. In the mid-1940s, the ideological contrasts between the Communist East and the Industrial West appear to have influenced the significance of security issues and conceptualization of the term. It is posited that the way of thinking itself has become an issue of progress because of lethargic limit or rather some degree of complacency in tackling security-related issues.^[35] Various scholars proposed models of headway by maintaining that adequate security plays a greater role to the advancement of a nation and thus should be maintained.^[36, 37, 38] The supposition that fiscal advancement would make resources for hypothesis and infrastructural improvement that would guarantee a better day to day environment friendly for people erode insecurity.

Insecurity has different meanings such as: lack of safety; threat; danger; vagueness; absence of protection and defense. Insecurity refers to a condition of terror or apprehension owing to lack of security.^[39] Insecurity is also defined from two dimensions. First, insecurity is the condition of being volatile or prone to risk or threat of danger, where danger is the state of being vulnerable to harm or hurt. Second,

insecurity is the condition of being exposed to fretfulness or anxiety, where anxiety is an indistinct obnoxious feeling that is experienced in expectation of some calamity. ^[40] These definitions of insecurity emphasize foremost that those affected by insecurity are not only unsure or ignorant of what would happen but they are also susceptible to the threats and dangers when they happen. In this study, insecurity is defined as a violation of tranquility and security, whether religious, regional, socio-economic and political that begets frequent conflicts, and cause indiscriminate destruction of human lives and property. Human insecurity has reached alarming levels in Africa, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). More than 40 percent of its 800 million people live below poverty level and this percentage is expected to increase. ^[41]

Furthermore, incident of conflicts and instability is high in Africa. Presently, Ivory Coast, the Great lakes region, Somalia, Darfur (Sudan), and the Horn remain very much unstable. Africa at present has the biggest group of UN peacekeepers – 17,000 strong in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).^[42] Also, Africa is devastated by a range of diseases, and at present the universal epicenter of the dreaded HIV/AIDS.^[43] More so, food and nutritional shortages have escalated to the extent that over 28 percent of all children in SSA are underfed as a result of undernourishment.^[43] And, while the typical percentage of undernourishment in the developing world is 17, that for SSA is 33 percent. Southern, Central and the Horn of Africa recurrently remain susceptible to droughts, painting a bleak picture for food security. The mixture of all these distressing developments presents SSA as an irrefutable area of high human insecurity. While there is a huge agreement on the incidence of human insecurity there has been little investigation on its basic causes. In the case of SSA, the propensity has been to assume the usual neo-classical formula and point to factors that are mostly internal to the area. ^[44, 45] One may argue that what is often regarded as internal causes of insecurity such as poverty, disputes, ecological dilapidation, food, health and educational insecurities are, in fact, signs of the crisis. In viewpoint, these are the product of more essential causes, as well as widespread structures and practices within the international system. Poverty is not natural; in Africa no one is born to be poor and fated to lead an insecure life. Neither does poverty come down from the skies like rain; instead it is the result of other basic causes. This is similar to conflicts. No persons in their correct senses like to always exist under circumstances of violence and crisis that threaten their individual or collective security. There are always rooted issues that instigate or predispose individuals to violence. It is thus not sufficient to tip to human insecurity devoid of identifying its basis or cause, particularly when the problem is threatening. So, in order to proffer efficient solution to a crisis, it is crucial to identify its root causes. To elucidate the core causes of human insecurity in Africa, ^[46] maintained that human insecurity is consequences of violence, which can be direct or indirect. Directly, the executor of violence is known. Indirectly, variously referred to as “structural violence”, violence is built into structures in the form of unequal power relations. This scenario accentuates a good background for

comprehending human insecurity in SSA. Although some may argue that the structural violence argument is deficient in failing to explain environmental insecurity, the study demonstrated that urbanization is another factor to insecurity in SSA.

Summary of Review on Urbanization

In fact, urbanization in Africa is especially conflicting due to each political and monetary motive.^[25, 47, 48] Economically, statutory allocations to states are stimulated with the aid of their populace. As an end result, states with reputedly low populations are distracted from asset allocation and other stage benefits or incentives from the authorities. Strategically, the general public rule commencing legislative problems is a chain of numbers, and ideological companies controlling great populations may be at a favored position. Similarly, the population is one of the indices on which parliamentary representation is based. In spite of the disputes, available information gives good enough indicators of the city-state of affairs in Africa.

For instance, prior to the British colonial administration in Nigeria and French's colonial administration in Cameroon, there had been genuinely huge human settlements at that factor.^[49] They were determined especially in phases of the profession (inclusive of the alternate of slaves) and management. However, pre-independence in Nigeria and Cameroon had an extremely low city population much like city populace development.^[50] Starting in 1921, the best ten Nigerian settlements had city fame and by way of 1931, best urban communities, Lagos and Ibadan, had more than one hundred thousand populations each. Post-independence Nigeria and Cameroon have seen a regularly rapid pace of urbanization turned out to be an increasingly more urbanized and concrete society considering independence. Specifically, by the mid-1960s, Lagos and Ibadan had a large part of a million people in abundance.^[50, 51, 52] In addition, there have been 24 urban regions with populations of at the least 100,000 humans. Nevertheless, until 70's owing to technological advancement, Nigeria and Cameroon witnessed a dramatic upward thrust in urbanization, taken into consideration the very best pace of urbanization at the globe at that level.^[53]

Africa's economic and environmental indices monitor horrible facts, irrespective of how one takes a look at it. Destitution is a chief hassle in Africa. Nigeria has one of the maximum prices of need in sub-Saharan Africa and the 0.33 biggest number of negative within the international after China and India.^[54] Urban poverty rose from 28% in 1980 to 66% in 1996. 55% of urban residents surely live underneath what one dollar a day of purchasing power on an equal footing.^[54] According to America International Advancement Office (USAID) in 2006, the maternal loss of life charge in Nigeria was estimated at 800 deaths in keeping with 1000 births in 2000. The future is the most important degree of a country's well-being. Nigeria's future becomes 44.9 years old in 2003, down from 47.5 years in 1999. It is one of the lowest on the earth, behind that of

Ghana (55.4) years and Cameroon (48.0 years).^[55] In this context, it is clear that urbanization and insecurity in Africa is faced with myriads of problems that require sincere commitment to handling it.

Theoretical Frameworks

Optimists/Pessimists Theory

This study is premised on Optimists and Pessimists Classes theories. Ref^[20, 21] proposed that urbanization facilitates greater efficiency, either through acting on growth, providing innovations or making more important economies of scale, specialization or agglomeration. Pessimists maintained that urbanization may have a detrimental impact on financial execution in the event that it is inordinate or heedless. This is because urban development implies a high collection of individuals. With a greater workforce, each worker would have fewer profit-making elements (especially capital) both collected and uncollected to deal with. Therefore, irrespective of how the average yield grows, the per capita yield would usually be smaller. This cynical view depends on the Malthusian convention, but with significant changes and upgrades. Pessimists, however, suggest that rapid urbanization would be beneficial if there is a large capital structure or other substantial boosts that would be necessary to mitigate the low-level balance-sheet trap that may be triggered by rapid population growth.

Frustration–Aggression Theory

Frustration-aggression theory, also called frustration-aggression hypothesis was proposed in 1939 by John Dollard and colleagues. The theory posits that frustration always produces an aggressive urge and aggression is always the result of previous frustrations. Neal E. Miller, one of the proponents of this theory, afterward maintained that frustration can lead to several kinds of actions but noted that the urge to aggression will dominate as the upsetting persists. The theorist proposed that if we experience frustration, this leads to aggression. The aggression is a therapeutic discharge of the build-up of frustration.^[56] It was further stated that if the person is prohibited from achieving an aim by few external factors, then frustration sets in which begets aggression.^[56] The aggression cannot always be aimed at the basis of aggression, which may be intangible such as lack of money, or too powerful, as the risk of punishment is too high. This is because frustration is a feeling of anxiety that results when our efforts to achieve certain goal are hindered. When this arises, it can produce feelings of anger, which invariably can cause feelings of aggression and aggressive behavior. This could be the reason why many people migrating to the urban areas in search of greener pastures got frustrated when they could not meet their desired goals and invariably become aggressive. As a result, when such persons become aggressive they resort to exhibiting abnormal behavioral tendencies capable of bridging the security apparatus of the urban areas in which they live. For instance, due to high cost of living in urban sectors and incessant quest for material acquisition among youths teeming population, many of them

engage in criminal activities such as vandalism, armed robbery, cyber-crime among others in order to meet up those challenges or rather earn a living.

Securitization Theory

Securitization theory ^[57] further advanced this study by showing that national security policy is not a natural given, but cautiously chosen by politicians and decision-makers. According to securitization theory, political issues are constituted as intense security issues to be dealt with at once when they have been labeled as ‘unsafe’, ‘threatening’, ‘frightening’, ‘distressing’ and so on by a ‘securitizing actor’ who has the social and institutional authority to shift the issue ‘beyond politics’. So, security issues are not just ‘out there’ but somewhat ought to be expressed as problems by securitizing actors. In contrast, politics and politicking have bedeviled many Africa countries to the point that many political actors politicize security issues. For example, in Nigeria and Cameroon evidence abound of diverting funds meant for securing arms in fighting Boko Haram insurgency in the nations by the politicians. In some cases, many security agencies have been compromised by the politicians and the security architecture of the states infiltrated through security agencies’ collaboration. Therefore, messing up the fight against Boko Haramic extremists which has resulted to unquantifiable loss of lives and properties with thousands of persons displaced internally. Calling insurgency, a ‘threat to national security’, for instance, shifts insurgency from a low priority political concern to a high priority issue that needed action, like procuring sophisticated arms with modern tracking devices, safeguarding security agencies information data base, securing borders among others. Securitization theory challenges conventional approaches to security and affirm that issues are not really frightening in themselves; to a certain extent, it is by referring to them as ‘security’ issues that they become security problems. Securitization theorists determined five sectors: the economic, the societal, the military, the political and the environmental sector. In each sector, a specific threat is articulated as threatening to others like in the case of African nations where each of the five sectors aforementioned have witnessed the detrimental effect of the extremists group. Insecurity in many urban areas rose to unimaginable state that all and sundry including the securitizing actors (political class) is gripped with tension.

Issues and Challenges of Insecurity in Urban Areas

Evidence has shown that majority of urban centers have a significant number of ghetto settlements, and these ghettos are known for a significant level of social unrest, which tend to be a grooming ground for most persons exhibiting unlawful acts that affect urban centers. These included:

- (a) Criminal hideouts for hoodlums: Owing to the random environment with ghettos, lawbreakers and people with criminal motives are easily infiltrated. There are people who take part in night-time drills using the ghettos as their base and/or camps. Also, because of the location of these wretched ghettos, there is high

tendency of prevalence of terrorist activities in these communities and its environs. The consequences of this ghetto camps degenerates into grooming hoodlums with criminal tendencies.

- (b) Indiscriminate sexual activities: The high rates of sexual impunity are also witnessed among these ghetto inhabitants. Most of these ghetto dwellers lack good parental upbringing thereby exposing them to susceptibility of indiscriminate sexual conduct. It is presumed that individuals who lived in ghettos at early childhood are prone to sexual wantonness, which causes high rates of unwanted pregnancy, premature births and the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases. Consequently, children born from this ghetto parents mostly end up not being cared for, thereby, constituting nuisance to not only the urban areas but society at large by resorting to criminal activities later in life.
- (c) High rate of school drop-outs: I-do-not-care attitude predominant in ghettos predisposes its inhabitant to incessant quest for material things or immediate gratification. The quest could be to achieve or satisfy individual interest or to contribute to family upkeep which invariably results to a high rate of school drop-outs among young people. This issue is further complicated by extreme poverty of their parents who hardly put food on the table daily, talk more of paying school fees. As such these inhabitants are eager to do anything whether legitimate or illegitimate in order to earn a living or rather improve one's standard of living and that of their parents.
- (d) Illicit drug hawking, abuse and addiction: It is clear that in ghettos there exist prevalence of illicit drug hawkers, drug consumers whom have become habitual consumers or takers. These categories of people constitute nuisance in the areas of residence and the society at large, perpetuating all forms of social vices such as breaking into peoples' home, snatch of peoples' belongings, harassing and molesting both passer-by and residential among others which negatively influence other young ones. They have little or no regard for the security agencies or the law and most of the times engage security personnel in gun battle killing many of them.
- (e) Fire arms dealing: Most ghetto settlements are center point for dealing in arms and other deadly weapons. Subsequently, the inhabitants are predisposed to the evil exercises of hoodlums and bandits occupying the areas as their refuges. The problem of arms dealing in ghettos becomes rampant. This situation has triggered climate of insecurity given rise to anarchical situation, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, assaulting, vandalism and looting among other vices.

Results of Insecurity in Africa

Lately, instability and political warfare have been a major challenge to the African government and its urban population. The activity of the Islamic group (Boko Haram) led to the loss of life and property in the continent, especially in Northern Nigeria. Some of these activities include kidnapping or taking hostage, suicide bombing attacks, assault,

armed robbery, sporadic shooting of citizens, burning of police headquarters and religious worship centres et cetera. Politicization of security and political brouhaha among politicians or rather government officials were another major challenge facing the continent. This ugly situation has eroded African's cultural heritage of being one's brothers' keeper and instill fear of known and/or unknown into the nucleus of its inhabitants as well as driven away peace and harmony previously existing in its social order. This has adversely affected the advancement of the African economy. Collaboratively, this review has indicated that fear-based oppression and insecurity have adversely affected economic improvement in African countries. It has made it possible for the political class to mismanage the security votes resources meant for improving the security apparatus of various nations. This finding is consistent with the various findings made by the different nations of the world. Nigeria and Cameroon has been included as one of the world's fearful monger nations. Numerous lives and property have been destroyed, and an overwhelming number of people have been destitute. Youngsters are becoming vagabonds with no desire for what is to come. Many African leaders has made some little but insignificant attempts to address these challenges posed by psychological warfare and insecurity in the continent, but the pace of fear-based oppression and insecurity is still overwhelming. Furthermore, insecurity in Africa has impeded socio-economic, emotional and political stability of the continent in different ways to include: social disengagement and displacement; social stress, increases citizenship outcry; disengagement and disturbance of family and shared life relationships; uneasiness, dehumanization of citizens, uproar of war and/or genocide among others.

Insecurity in Africa has hindered its financial development in various ways. These include:

- i) Social disconnection and public relocation
- ii) Social strains and displacement which caused Muslims/Christians or persons from an ethnic group migrating to Muslim/Christian commanded enclaves.
- iii) Increases citizenship agitations that beget hostile vibe among inhabitants.
- iv) Detachment and interruption of family and shared life.
- v) The overall atmosphere of distrust, fear, apprehension, and commotion
- vi) Dehumanization of women, men and even children mainly in areas where assault, child trafficking and disregard are used as instruments of war.
- vii) Extending of yearning and poverty in the nation.
- viii) Stampedes local and international business enterprises.
- ix) Ends business activities in a period of violence and circumvention of numerous ventures in the areas or zones where high levels of insecurity exist.
- x) High cost of security expenditure by business empires and governments.
- xi) Relocation of individuals from zone or locale where there is a pervasiveness of insecurity.

Prospects of Urbanization/Insecurity in Africa

Economic emancipation is the essential objective of every good government, and is essentially dependent on the degree of economic activities of any nation. Therefore, the degree of economic activities is enhanced by an environment free of chaos or any form of security threat on individuals and other social structures. Without security, economic liberation cannot be supported because it affects financial, human and social capital. Likewise, the activities of other state armed forces in different nations in Africa pose a real risk to the monetary strength of these regions. Security emergencies in various parts of countries in Africa are crushing the existing foundation and making a serene situation in order to improve the future framework and the protected domain. For the economic activities of people to give them financial boost that will empower family units to be independent and improve their standard of living, security of lives and properties in urban areas is paramount.

In concordance, the World Bank report on "Struggle, Security and Improvement" showed that about 1.5 billion individuals live in nations influenced by political and criminal savagery, exacerbating human wretchedness, and upsetting urban advancement. Insecurity is the most contemptible aspect of advancement in Africa, especially in urban areas. ^[58] Insecurity is costing many countries like Nigeria and Cameroon its dominant role in Africa as far as development is concerned. Subsequently, more and more constructive measures to tackle the danger of urban instability and fear-based exploitation are required in Africa, as stability is vital to socio-economic development, and no continent advancement can be accomplished if the urban environment is not secured. Therefore, the need be of different apparatus of government such as security agencies to devise means of liaising with the citizens especially those in the urban areas to tackle the menace caused by insecurity in Africa. This could be achieved through formulation of community policing and neighborhood watch across the continent with regional cooperation of its leaders.

Conclusion

From the above discourse, it is clear that insecurity is a cankerworm to Africa's development and has instigated violence conflicts and other social vices in the continent's urban areas. Urban communities present the bait of improved business, training, medicinal services administrations, culture and they contribute excessively to national economies. To guarantee development in many African nations, adequate security of lives and properties of citizens, especially in urban areas is paramount. The study concludes therefore that security is fundamental in each nation's life, as it enhances infrastructural improvement that would guarantee a better day to day environment for people.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government and non-governmental agencies should make security-related issues a priority in Africa, since the continent cannot make any significant progress amidst insecurity.
2. The administration must be proactive in managing security issues through the use of modern technological apparatus and information based facilities in the coordination and supervision of security threats.
3. Governments at all levels should ensure that there are adequate social welfare packages designed and duly implemented for its citizens to enable citizenship engagement. This will help occupy their minds and avoid all sorts of negative thought because it is said that an idle mind is a devil's workshop.
4. Government should liaise with other non-governmental agencies in creating employment opportunities for its teeming unemployed youths who parade in the street aimlessly. This will enable these youths who constitute majority of the populace to earn a better living.
5. Citizens should also use their creativity to eke-out other skills inherent in them so as to empower themselves and not always depend on government provisions.
6. Adequate housing and other basic facilities should be made available through government housing scheme and other intervention scheme. This will assist the citizens meet their basic needs and avoid living in ghettos which is believed to be a grooming ground for criminal elements.

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