

Emerging Challenges within the Context of Urbanization in Africa Since 1900

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Abstract: To a large extent, the question of urbanization gained prominence in Africa immediately when there was a big shift from Africans way of life of being a nomadic to Africans that have permanent settlements. Basic necessities of life change the course of history of Africans. With the passage of time, Africans were stable and remain focus by raising their own food, provided material surplus that caters for the feeding of some people with food production. They constructed shelters, weave clothes, and make tools amongst others. The paper through a historical analytical methodology, interrogates major secondary documents to examine how urbanization is not only an evolutionary process of redistributing human population within a given society, but also a way of transforming many patterns of social, economic and political life towards satisfying the development of needs of man. The paper argued that urbanization in Africa brought about emergence of cities which invariably led to both specialization and higher living standards before the arrival of colonial masters. Ironically, the first set of urban revolutionary processes and patterns of African cities development were disrupted during the scramble and partitioning of Africa by the European powers. The paper submits that with the creation of new cities or urban centers by the colonial powers, emerging challenges that arose was that labour was pulled away from the country side to the new urban centers making Africans to live in unsatisfactory conditions prone to illnesses amongst other challenges.

Keywords: Urbanization, Africans, Cities, Challenges, Emergence, Country.

INTRODUCTION

In the continent of Africa, the context of urbanization is not new. Perhaps it has been in existence for several years when settlements were founded by African themselves having ceased to be wanderer but gatherer of food. Historically, Africans were pastoralists' in nature, but with the passage of time, things changed and they were able to have a place of settlement. Within their new place of settlement, they were equal to the task and got engaged in many affairs. This exactly made many Africans spread to several areas which eventually led to cities creation before the arrival of the colonial masters. As expected, cities that were created by Africans in all the regions thrived for several years and became a force to be identified with because they became not only an economic nerve centers but also useful administratively and politically even when the colonial masters arrived. In Nigeria, West Africa we have existence of cities such as Kano, Zaria, Ibadan, Benin, Enugu, Jos, and outside Nigeria, we have also in Djenne, Kumasi, Gao, Kumbisaleh, and in other places. Suffice to mention that, existence of these led to a greater urbanization across Africa. Many of the European traders especially in Portugal, France, Germany and Italy were able to have commercial connection across several of these cities [1].

With the passage of time, after partitioning of Africa by the European powers, they did not intend improving African conditions, but rather seek for means of bringing about separation which they did by creating a new reserved area equipped with all the necessary infrastructural facilities. Further afield, overwhelmingly they embarked upon destroying existing urban structures through the introduction and establishment of economic, administrative and political system in order to pave way for the creation of their own urban centers. Having created their own urban centers, this undoubtedly led to the wiping away of erstwhile flourished pre-colonial African cities because those cities were neglected and jettisoned by the European powers. This inadvertently changed the history of urbanization in Africa. Within this period, people had cause to migrate from the rural areas to urban centers despite few challenges such as inadequate housing problems, insecurity, lack of enough jobs, poor sanitary conditions amongst others. At this point, many of the urban centers created by the European powers had with it its attendants' problems bringing to fore the question of urbanization in African context. Be that as it may, what partly could have explained reasons for migration and causes of urbanization in Africa may not be of same when compared to what was prevalence in Europe.

Indeed, Africa has her own peculiar problems associated with nature of urbanization which cut across cities. But the quest to solve and put an end to some of those challenges and peculiar problems remains a herculean task.

Without doubt, instruments of colonialism coupled with that of imperialism may have hindered continent of Africa in finding solutions to perennial problems associated with urbanization during the colonial era and which equally escalated to the period of post-colonial era. Against this backdrop, this article beam its searchlight on some of the inherent problems arising from urban centers development in the pre-colonial down to the colonial era and how even after attainment of independence, governments in Africa put up efforts to ameliorate challenges posed by urban centers development. But have African governments put in place right mechanism to arrest some of the challenges emanated due to rural-urban migration such as high rate of unemployment, diseases, corruption, absence of good governance, civil war, brain-drain, curbing of environmental pollution, criminality, and host of others. All said and done, this article argued as such that African governments needs to seriously identified with these perennial problems with a view of lasting concrete solutions without paying a lip service to them. Problems of such magnitude deserve thorough and serious steps toward arresting them irrespective of whose ox is gored.

African Cities and the Question of Urbanization Challenges

Because Africa changed patterns of life from being a wanderer to a specific pattern of having a permanent settlement which invariably gives life a better meaning made the question of urbanization to surface. Progress and development of Africans in terms of political, economic and social led to many changes in history. However, since Africans could provide for basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter, at a point spread to several areas. After spreading out, came the issue of intergroup relations and establishment of series of networking amongst themselves. Africans transited from small scale traders to large scale traders across all regions after founding of several market places. This inadvertently led to formation and flourishing of many known centers which developed along the trade routes and which also later transformed to urban cities. Historically, Africa had in existence many centers that flourished before the coming of European powers. In the urban settlement, there exists influx of people from the rural areas, notably in search of greener pasture or better conditions of living. Relatively, existence of many of these flourished centers brought rapid urbanization and with some attendants challenges. As the cities or centers became famous, so also we have inherent emergence problems. These problems range from the period of pre-colonial, to the colonial as well as post-colonial era.

Understanding Urbanization in Africa's Pre-colonial

Flourishing urban centers came into being out of trade routes prior to the scramble and partitioning of Africa by the Europeans. Therefore, it is to be understood that in pre-colonial Africa, urbanization has been widespread borne out of increasing economic activities among people. Understanding urbanization within this context should not be attributed to the colonial master's intrigues but by changes that occurred in the early history of African people. Invariably, incursion of European merchants and traders with the passage of time led to destruction of some of the urban centers culminating in the dwindling economic virtue and political prowess of Africa. To a large extent, another form of trade was introduced by the Europeans having ensured destabilization of many good standing empires.

For instance, it is on record that the role played by the British, Portugal, French and Denmark merchants before 1550 brought about total decline of legitimate trade in Africa and led to the introduction of human trafficking. As such, this singular trade changed the cause of urban centers as well as escalation of civil strife among African people. Many notable chiefs' took to human trafficking and invested heavily on it. This lasted for well over 300 years when able bodied men and women were carted away to the new world. In an attempt to capture people for trafficking, empires in Africa rose up and fight wars among themselves leading to destruction of urban centers. European merchants even supplied arms to many of the war lords in order to assist them raiding more villages for capturing of people [2].

The earlier urban centers that were developed along trade routes now became battle routes as those relative economic interaction and trading activities among empires which propelled urban growth ceased to exist. On record similarly, many of the empires rulers made use of the profit of this illegitimate trade to consolidate their ruling, maintain, expand, and finance their own military command. This could be seen when Old Oyo Empire have in existence the "ESO" a semi-standing specialist cavalry soldiers. The empire through the "ESO" controlled several vassal states and collect tributes from them. In addition, prominent sea ports as we have in Alexandria, Carthage, Zanzibar, Tunis disappeared and also urban centers that grew initially with much population of well over 400,000 got declines. Before seventeenth century, many European merchants strive hard to have in place their own urban centers suitable to them for the purpose of ascertaining control not only on economic structure neither political activities but to have good administrative systems in order to put in place better urban settlement.

Interrogating Urbanization in Colonial Africa

Specifically, the introduction of new phase of trade by the European brought about new trend in

economic activities perhaps in the second half of the nineteenth century. During this period mercantilism of the European got expanded and transformed into colonialism [3]. This process of transformation was inspired by the outbreak of industrial revolution in Europe giving rise to the quest to search for cheap raw materials, agricultural produce as well as markets for manufactured exports. On the other hand, an attempt to govern Africa by the European brought the development of new cities, administrative headquarters and mining facilities which had destructive effects on the earlier existing social formations and urbanization in existence. European powers device means of bringing under control the trade monopoly of the Arabs, established new networks of transportation, ports and trading posts along the coast for the purpose of stimulating their business activities and as well for easy transportation of commodities to their home countries. Invariably, what surfaced next were new urban settlements that got developed from the various port centers: for instance, Dakar port in Senegal, Calabar port in Nigeria, Tunis port in Tunisia, Mombasa port in Kenya, Accra port in Ghana. As time passes by, fairly large number of these port centers including trading posts grew and became urban centers. Similarly, for the purpose of maintaining cheap labour force in many of the urban centers, European powers imposed tax and equally neglected system of agriculture in Africa. By so doing, several other systems put in place administratively and politically led to a change in colonial Africa's urbanization.

Contemporary Africa and the Question of Urbanization

Historically, attainment of independence by most African countries before year 1980 brought about a significant note concerning urbanization in Africa. This period witnessed many changes and transformation in styles of urbanization in post-colonial Africa. Relatively, continent of Africa witnessed rapid growth in stages of urbanization even starting from time immemorial to colonial era and now to contemporary period. Extant literatures abound testified to the fact that even though there are new settlements established by the European powers during colonial rule, yet Africa keeps experiencing expansion of urban revolution including growth in many cities. People moved from rural-urban and lived in best places bringing about increase in population in such urban centers except in circumstances where there exist restrictions and segregation policy as witnessed during the era of Apartheid in South Africa. The growing and development of more cities in the post-colonial era looks to be the best time people seek for greener pastures in the urban centers, yet such urban centers aggravated some of the side effects hampering processes of political development. In addition, in the urban centers there is need to resolve menace of crime, violence, civil disorder, inadequate housing, inadequate

jobs, problem of electricity, poor funding of education, poor sanitary conditions and lot of others.

In the post-colonial era, urbanization increases human activities especially within formal sector making it possible for availability of jobs but on the other hand, menial jobs were available for those at the lower rung of the ladder [4]. Within the circle of informal sector, principles of organization entail ethnicity, friendship, and kingship having roots deeply across societies. As such, people find it easy finding job as a door keeper, street vendor, and street cleaner/sweeper including any other menial jobs in order to eke out a living. Invariably, virtually every family member got involved in this. Urbanization at some stage in the post-colonial era was rapid and successes recorded in agricultural products production especially after Africans achieved political independence [5]. This further explains increment in living standard of people coupled with much pressure on land cultivation and generating opportunity for labour. However, non-availability of room for expansion of land made people focusing their attention on urban centers in order to find employment. Be that as it may, urbanization progresses as more people moved to urban centers with expectation of seeking jobs but greater caution of not producing more children, as having more children could hinder them of finding good jobs and at the same time raise their children up in a normal standard compared to rural area where there is high birth rate. At urban centers families choose to live longer and control birth rate realizing that more children means more burden.

It is instructive to note that African urban centers created witnessed massive movement of people with political benefits expectation and invariably many of these urban centers turn out to be capital cities with several policy makers, administrative system managers and as well as policy actors taking advantage of it in enhancing social and political activities. Along this line, governments critically moved in high speed to create functioning facilities to benefit many of their properties located in the cities. Whereas, there was lack of proper attention paid to predominant farmers and did not encourage rural dwellers in more agricultural practices, provision of storage facilities in order to improve storage of farm produce and also failed to put in place several other needed facilities. All these could have attributed to rural areas existence of poverty and poor meaningful ways of life. While rural areas keeps facing neglect and degradation in terms of non-availability of due attention, the urban centers keep having rapid growth population wise and the struggle of meeting the enormous challenges ranges further[6].

Revisiting Urbanization in Africa's Twentieth Century Democracy

Undoubtedly, urban centers witnessed population explosion arising from massive movement of people from rural areas who had opted to have better

ways of life in the new cities and as well optimally experience democracy far from oppressive rule of colonial masters in the time past. Ostensibly, there is dire urge to put in place democratic practice by the government. At that level, government owes it a duty to have firm control of population and several infrastructural facilities such as housing and adequate health care in urban centers. With democracy in place many hope of having a sense of belonging aside taking responsibility and enjoyment of liberty.

Ironically, the challenges in several of the urban cities such as enough capital, deficiency in technical standard, problems associated with electoral issues could not be curtailed by many successive governments in Africa even far after independence. Therefore, in West Africa for instance, places like Calabar, Kaduna, Ibadan, Sokoto, Zaria as well as Lagos could not enjoy development of much modern houses making it difficult for those places adjusting to new social changes.

Democratic practice has the tendency of thriving in many of the new urban centers if what stands as obstacle were removed or ameliorated [7]. In this case, there is need for having good developmental plan making it easy to create identifiable polling units for easy voting during election period. This explains some of the difficulties voters faced especially in city of Ibadan, Nigeria as many of the suburbs there in places like Beere, Oje, Adamasingba, Aperin, Oniyere, and few others not visibly marked nor numbered as such, voters could not access many of the polling units during time of voting [8].

Because of the inability of many residents living in the suburbs of the new areas gaining unhindered access to polling booths during election, many of them turned apathy as they were disenfranchised. In most cases due to the fact most affected people were the low income earners, thus, often times outcome of elections do not wholly represent their whims and caprices subsequently led to political unrest in some cases.

Urban centers challenges remain a great impediment to thorough management of election in most parts of Africa. This explains reasons why those in the urban cities in Africa do not accord much believe in democracy and government institutions. On the other way round, electoral officials would be less stressed if there is a good structure in place addressing creation of voter's registration centers, well numbered electoral wards and proper identification of slums with densely population in order to avoid rigging, intimidation of voters as well as malpractices during election. Further afield, all these would make collation of election results much easier.

Similarly, meaningful government needs to address urban centers challenges by resuscitating agricultural facilities in the rural areas to avert and curb incessant flow of rural urban migration. Also, they need to put in place viable developmental plans for viable distribution of resources through solid economic plans. Again, some of the challenges prevalent before elections must be addressed in order to put an end to political apathy in urban centers as it is from urban cities that fairly large number of materials used for the election is distributed to the suburbs and villages after printing.

Understandably, electoral process in Africa got distorted in some cases due to inconclusive of elections in urban cities leading to total down play of management of election. Added to this, many dwellers in urban cities with the assumption that electoral officials would not be at voting centers as schedule apart that materials for the election would not be available, they showed lackadaisical attitude by not coming to voting centers early or not even voting at all if the voting exercise did not commence on time. Therefore, the more people got disenfranchised, the more they keep having doubts and nurse conflicts racially concerning the system of democracy on ground in Africa.

Be that as it may, any government not elected on popular stand but through electoral malpractices could not perform creditably well especially by bailing urban residents out of insecurity challenges. It is expected of any good government elected through ballot boxes to address political violence and also douse urban centers tension relating to general insecurity. Doing so would go a long way restoring confidence on essence of democratic governance and making series of reforms taking place in urban centers and enhance real city master plan implementation.

Political leaders in Africa needs to strive hard in ensuring that democracy thrives and that people enjoy dividends of democracy otherwise educated urban elite may have feelings for the military to return to power again as witnessed in some countries where group of politicians canvassed for the return of the military. Cases of military usurping power could be seen in countries like Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, Tunisia, Guinea Bissau, and Libya.

It is instructive to note that, when people enjoy dividends of democracy, they will put the military perpetually in the barracks and there would be more time embarking on policies that would make urban centers grow in Africa, however, in the twentieth century, patterns of governance in Africa did not really address development and growth of urban centers as illegal houses demolition policy invariably hampers urban centers dwellers expectation participating in democracy especially during voting period because if

having registered as a voter in a particular place, and his house got demolished, without doubt he/she would definitely relocate to another area and will not be able to vote during election.

Similarly, in the urban centers category of those not educated were found seeking for white collar job and trying as much as possible to eke out a living. Further afield, they are likely to promote religious sentiments, tribal as well as hegemony. Therefore, this invariably led to much increase in rural-urban migration. It is to be added that to these class of uneducated, they might be ignorant of democracy structures value and its processes. But those who are educated remain active politically and have the tendency of making use of state's wealth to control power. By and large, in the urban centers, there exist democratic elections violence, racial differences and much more of incompatible interests especially between the uneducated and educated group.

To a very large extent, most voters in Africa during elections as extant literatures proves choose their preferred candidates collectively as a group rather than based on competence and merit individually. As such, to the class of uneducated, they perceive elections most especially in the urban cities as a struggle meant for political hegemony in a bid of controlling state's resources within the confine of ethnic groups. Instead of showing loyalty to any political party, they opted for sectional and ethnic interest, values and more of ideologies.

Most of the post elections violence witnessed in Africa especially in Nigeria, West Africa was borne out of thuggery and political struggle simply because many of the home group wanted their preferred candidates winning the elections at all cost. This partly explains most of the violent ethnic conflicts that erupted in Plateau State, Nigeria after elections held in year 1999 up to 2011.

In view of these, greater part of Africa had challenges of democratic transitions and management of elections virtually in urban cities in spite of growth in population and despite prevalence of social, economic and political opportunities. It is instructive to mention that in existing urban cities there is a record of elections management inefficiency due to unplanned structure. Yet, democracy remains a vital tool of political development as well as desirability to industrial development apart from being an economic nerve of urban cities in all parts of Africa.

Resolving Food Crisis in African Urban Centers

Understandably, earlier urban cities virtually in Africa came to limelight in regions said to be fertile where predominantly there was crops raising and farming. As such, activities of the gatherers as well as the hunters could hardly have any effect of neither

agricultural production nor the environment due to the simplicity of their technology [9]. However, since many of urban cities in Africa witnessed considerable growth in population subjecting agriculture and production of food a big contest. Bone of contention now remains how to manage, resolve and organize agricultural economy coupled with the multinational corporations influence on managing political dependence and agricultural development across urban cities to reflect changes on spatial distribution of cities and towns to reduce food crisis.

Cities formation in Africa had tendencies of affecting production of food due to urban development intermediate stage referred to as pastoral or horticultural stage. It must be understood that horticulture and pastoralist impact on agriculture has limitation simply because individual relied solely power of the muscle to produce agricultural services and production of other goods. However, with the creation of modern facilities in the urban cities, there was acute control of the environment which led to the outbreak of industrial revolution in the post-colonial expansion of Africa. Invariably, outcome of this industrial revolution was that the earlier muscle power now paved way to engines that burn fossil fuels, oil and coal at fire. By this development of use of machineries, urban cities witnessed low production in agricultural activities due to more consumption of natural resources and release into atmosphere of more pollutants.

In addition, virtually all urban cities became industrialized; they consume more of energy and engaged in producing more goods far more than those in the rural areas. At this level, urban cities witnessed influx of people from rural areas due to higher living standards which resulted into massive dearth labour shortage needed for adequate farming and production of food in the rural areas leading to consequences of food shortage in the urban cities. Put succinctly, existence of food crisis in the urban cities could be seen as if the food system not responding to the yearning needs of the cities inhabitants but on the basis whereby food items prices was out of the reach of populace dwelling in urban cities who were still struggling to eke out a living. Far more importantly, protracted food shortage witnessed in most parts of urban cities in Africa resulted out of poor food system as well as agriculture economic management. Those individuals still interested in practicing farming were not really encouraged in the urban cities, mostly they have no enough or adequate lands, even few available lands have been acquired and sold off by government themselves to highest bidder or converted into residential buildings. Most cities especially in Nigeria witnessed a scenario of feudalist approach in the management of land and agriculture leading to deprivation of lands to farmers.

Again, it is to be noted that many of the capitalists made use of state power in converting

communal lands into personal estates leading to multiplier effect on production of food. Invariably, in the urban cities, production of food is now rested on costs optimization, seeking of profit and labour force exploitation across all sectors of production. This was the major bone of contention when explaining control of the capitalist in production of food exploitation resulting in food shortages across cities in Africa. As such, the capitalist have a major stake in influencing the direction of food production going the way of Marxist approach as far as urban cities is concerned in Africa.

The basic idea of capitalism through internalization within the context of World cities is to see how urban cities are encouraged in the areas of being interdependent and interconnected with high hope of cosmopolitan. Again, it is to see urban centers in the promotion of capitalist values through which making of economic decision, international labour flow, finance and capital are entrenched. On a broader perspective, urban cities that having much to do with economic power, and international finance control automatically have global investments command as well as capital accumulation. For instance in global cities like Singapore, London, Belgium, Paris, and Germany remain solid homes of stateless transnational corporations (TNC) apart from being the leading centers of World Finance, these cities equally controls systems of Finance in places like World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank. To a large extent, these leading international capitalists determine extreme political, economic as well as activities of agriculture in virtually all urban cities in Africa and beyond.

At this juncture, it is pertinent to state that many of the global centers remain a good point of reference not only as economy in Africa but also as organization of agriculture urban centers. They further stand as vital market points for leading industries from perspective of global centers including that of raw materials sources. Significantly, for the purpose of ensuring free flow of division of labour internationally coupled with enhancement of political dependency of many African urban cities, there is cause for international banks including transnational corporations (TNC) with their corporate headquarters in Asia, America, or Europe to put in place viable policies in Africa concerning agriculture as well as urban food production strategic management.

Within the process of agriculture strategic control and production of food to achieve political dependency value in African urban centers and beyond, what came from global region especially of the North by the capitalists and the transnational corporations was a policy concerning development on agro economic referred to as 'Green Revolution' between 1960s and 1990s which in turn led to food system destruction in the urban and rural areas of Africa. Ostensibly, diverse

of research centers in agriculture and international institutions sees The Green Revolution policy strategic option through which they could modern agriculture in the rural as well as urban settlements areas in Africa. Similarly, within the perspective of production of food in urban cities, outcomes of the programme remain significant, yet, land increase failed to have impact directly on food crisis and hunger reduction virtually in many of the urban cities.

As a programme put in place in across towns and villages in African urban centers, Green Revolution enhanced promotion of agricultural exports which aided reserves of foreign currency, but on the other hand reduced countries in the continent of Africa to the monoculture baseline economy also limiting the supplies of commodities on agriculture for local consumption which further boosted the raw materials needed by industries in most parts of Asia, America and even in Europe.

What constituted major obstacles were removed paving way into Africa from Europe and United States of America smooth entry of subsidized agricultural products at a reduced price that the local agro products, this further lower the morale of local investors in agriculture and food production. As such, policy of this kind had impact negatively on security of food and later increase on the economic, political and dependency of agriculture of African urban centers, villages and suburbs on supplies of food from United States of America and Europe. Quite apart from The Green Revolution option strategy there are still some deep issues that explain more of food production crisis in African urban cities.

Similarly, it is on good note that food systems destruction was caused by the economic policy of The Green Revolution as well as Structural Adjustment Programmes driven by the international finance institutions, the global cities of the North and the transnational corporations. Attached to all these were within the circle of rescheduling of foreign debt, commercialization and privatization of public enterprises, trade liberalization, arbitrary neo-liberal Structural Adjustment Programme policies coupled with the food production and agricultural model of the capitalist were the reasons for food crisis on African urban centers on the global cities of the North.

Further down, it is pertinent to mention also that public goods privatization and Green Revolution policies of the agro-economic indeed had negative consequences long term effect on food security in the real urban cities for many down trodden especially poor peasants dwelling in the urban centers areas of slums. Greater effect was the scattering of indigenous food system of agriculture in Africa which had security of food for peoples of Africa. Thus, International Monetary Fund programmes and that of the Structural

Adjustment became interested on how countries in Africa would repay back most of foreign debts based on their agro-economy. To this extent, many cities in Africa removed subsidies on many agricultural commodities especially on wheat, sugar, milk, and bread with high tendency of devaluating their national currency, creating a room for exporting of agro-products at a cheaper rate with also purchasing power reduction which invariably led to visible and abject poverty in both rural and urban areas in Africa resulting in food crisis and international capital dependency, finance, markets, investments under the auspices of the global capitalists.

Challenges of Urban Centers in Post-Colonial Africa

Undoubtedly, there are some challenges in many of the urban centers after independence. Many governments find it difficult to sustain and curtail the inflow of people from the rural to urban centers. However, the capitalist mode of production in the continent led to some visible changes of urban cities structures. With this kind of structures, it remains a viable way of capitalism approach accrued to the urban cities development in Africa which in turn places African urban centers on a high pedestal of recognition in order to have a good stand and compete well with other several cities in the globe [10].

Capitalist values application in the economic activities and politics of urban cities paved way for a solid economic yardstick which changes the cities for the purpose of profit maximization bringing wealth created into few hands and limiting or restricting government roles to actively participate in economic areas activities as well as industrialization. As such, in African cities, for the purpose of enhancing African urban cities development, economic elites and that of political actors remain anxious satisfying the request of the capitalists globally and struggle to gain the attention of foreign investors by adopting neo-classical liberalism within the policy of economic reform.

Politically, the Soviet Union disintegration and global socialism demise, Neo-classical liberalism or governmental monetary obligation became more and more influential in African politics as a version for the monetary development of the urban cities. Be that as it may, with the upcoming string of democracy process put in place in African centers most especially the Neo-classical liberalism in 1900s merged into the management of economic of African centers as a model for development with sole purpose of stimulating African peoples into the capitalist style of social benefits.

Put differently, present classical liberalism brought in by government in African urban centers in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank programmes of economic reforms. Many of such programmes centered on classical liberal

approaches as put in place by both International Monetary Fund and World Bank was simply to attract direct foreign investments through elimination of subsidy, reduction of government function in monetary sports, privatization, structural adjustment programmes as well as monetary austerity all for the purpose of boosting development of the economy in cities of Africa.

The foreign investments appearance in intensive capital manufacturing has greater effect in accelerated output and industrialization in the city centers. Again in the urban centers, many businesses arose with intent of providing services connected to activities of the manufacturing. To many of those that reside in the rural areas, there was false impression of existing high rewarding employment availability in the urban cities therefore, the inflow of people to urban cities in search of high paying jobs, however, on getting to the cities, they soon discovered that things were not as they had expected, invariably, they ended up taking informal jobs. Those on informal jobs were the least paid amidst labour force in the urban cities. Due to many challenges they faced in the cities such as landlords requesting for high rent, they have no choice than to accept living in slums, causing more growth population wise in the suburbs, which have been orchestrated by high cost of living standard.

With the passage of time, in Europe and United States of America immediately after 1950, greater decline in industrial centers informed the decision by many of the corporate elites shifting their mode of production base to the Third World nations referred to as developing urban centers in Africa where they could get labour at cheaper rate. Due to availability of labour at cheaper rate, many of the jobs that have to do with handbag, engineering design, garment, shoes, and host of others are out-sourced by many of the multinational corporations to African urban centers.

Invariably, there arose again growth in urban population as well as labour migration in the urban cities for purpose of meeting up with many of the jobs. An attempt to secure attention of foreign investors in order to meet up with the demands of urban growth population, made most nations in Africa to open up their urban centers economy in order to compete favourably with established industrialized global cities through the procedure of economic liberalization and the structural adjustments programme.

This eventually resulted in fresh global trade inequalities as well as that of structural globalization [11]. It must be mentioned that greater means of livelihoods were lost due to the kind or type of structural inequality put in place which led to an increase in much sufferings and prevalent poverty in many cities in Africa, and it equally keeps the politics as well as economy of urban cities dependent on the

reform economic policies of that of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Significantly, diverse of many conflicts in cities of Africa was orchestrated out of joblessness since an idle hand is definitely a ready tool in the hands of the devil [12]. Series of wars erupted internally; violence and insurgencies became order of the day in many of the cities in Africa. As such, in most parts of African cities, persistent struggle remain visible between those that are rich and the poor coupled with a gap in livelihood means due to the rich exploiting the poor resulting in series of conflicts. Based on this, borne out of contention of having basic needs fulfillment in life, made individual getting involved in conflict since means of livelihoods are scarce, low returns from agriculture, and high unemployment. In the urban centers, there further exist violent protests triggered off out of frustration and structural deficiencies among the people bringing about much protest in violence, insurgencies acts and revolution against political actors in the state as could be seen in places like Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Mali and Libya. These violence acts borne by frustration and poverty resulted much in militant groups violence most especially in African urban cities [13].

People form insurgency groups due to abject poverty to carry out violence acts such as Boko Haram and Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) in cities of Jos, Abuja, Niger Delta and Maiduguri. Purpose of forming insurgency groups is to use terror in drawing government's attention to series of economic exploitation and years of long neglect of people living in abject poverty within the slums in the cities side. People within the circle of abject poverty, and those low income earners joined insurgency groups by attacking government institutions in the cities making cities ungovernable so as to mount on government to drop unimpressive policies relating to the economy and much reform in the society bringing about better ways of life in cities of Africa.

Concluding Remarks

The context of Africa's urbanization does not arise from the point of view of colonialism product and erroneously, Africans cities has been said to be the creation of European masters. As such, Africans has further been sidelined to a level of inability of putting in place viable and visible urban centers but instead Africans only lived in the slums, jungles and isolated places before the arrival of the European powers.

On the contrary it was recorded that first outbreak of urbanization came to limelight in Northern Africa in 3200BC which later spread to the rest of Africa before eventual coming in 1400 of colonial masters.

This article discusses historical antecedents of urbanization commencing from the pre-colonial period up till Africa's twentieth century. It further interrogates

urbanization in colonial Africa and equally explains contemporary Africa and the question of urbanization. It touches on resolving food crisis in Africa's urban centers, and equally made mention of challenges of urban centers in post-colonial Africa.

The article finally submits that meeting basic needs fulfillment in life, made individual getting involved in conflict since means of livelihoods are scarce due to low returns from agriculture, and high unemployment in the urban centers aggravates violent protests and many of insurgencies acts and revolution against political actors in the state as could be seen in places like Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Mali and Libya. These violence acts borne by frustration and poverty resulted much in militant groups violence most especially in African urban cities.

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