Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal – Vol.7, No.8
Publication Date: August 25, 2020
DOI:10.14738/assrj.77.8744.
Obiadi, B. N. (2020). Architecture Of Cities And The Politics Of Abhorrence In Nigeria: A Case Of Political Neglect, Abandonment And Homelessness. A*dvances in Social Sciences Research Journal,* 7*(8)* 218-236.

Architecture Of Cities And The Politics Of Abhorrence In Nigeria: A Case Of Political Neglect, Abandonment And Homelessness

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ABSTRACT

Architects, planners and engineers anchored firmly in the present, not able to resist good opportunities presented by the society. They are impulsive, do not plan or plan for tomorrow, impetient and in most cases, not caring about the growth, development and the people they are depriving of the basic needs to survive. The questions are, what are the reactions of the people in the building industry about Nigeria's homelessness as we they no sence of succession and, what would they do about project abandonment by sitting govenors? This article draws attention to the colossal failure of the professionals in the building industry in providing adequate housing to eradicate homelessness and have not challenged the governors to complete the projects left by their predecessors. The instrument of more than two research strategies; quantitative and qualitative research methods and their tactics were used. Secondary data were based on direct observation and relevant documents from previous studies on the related matter. Most Nigerian politicians are idealogically incompetent with questionable competence executing their legisletive duties that, resulted in housing inadequacy and homelessness. The medical and psychological conditions of the homeless people should be the society's primary concern and the recommendation of this paper. Architects are known for their graphic skills and communications, but they are not using them for the growth and development of the communities and they have derailed in the true objective and values of what should have been, the growth and development of the communities devoid of systemic inequality.

Keywords: homelessness, architecture, abandonment, housing, urbanization

INTRODUCTION

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Bishop of Sokoto did not study architecture neither, did he study engineering, urban and regional planning, but understands the principles of both urban planning and architecture more than most architects and planners. At the Lagos 8.0 Conference by the Nigerian Institute of Architects, Lagos Chapter, at the Eko Hotel, 10-12th, May, 2017, the Bishop, in his address detailed his mastery of the fields. He has studied the sufferings of both the urban poor and the people living in rural communities, suffering because of the architects and engineers' inability to champion and direct their good living irrespective of the fact, that the professions have

had good representations in all classes of the government. Be it ministerial, governorship, Vice Presidents, late Arc Dr. Alex Ifeanyichukwu Ekwueme, and Arc Alhaji Mohammed N. Sambo, etc.

The Bishop mastered the fundamental sufferings of the people through his orientation and growing up in impoverished areas as most of us, the architects, plannera and engineers. However, the professionals are not applying their knowledge and skills as the Bishop, who is not an architect, engineer or a planner. Given, all of us cannot be architects, engineers and planners, but we can at least, apply our knowledge and skills in emancipating pains and sufferings in the poor people. We can come togeher to eradicate homelessness in our communities, make our governors more responsible and forcee them to carry through, all the project started by their predicessors. In the words of Corretta Scott King, the wife of Martin Luther King Jnr, the foremost African American civil rights hero, "the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Bishop Kukah, the architect of a speech that I will rename, "the failure of the architects and engineers : a case of not properly planning, cordinating architectural designs and delivery to brace the needs of the needy in our communities,"captivated his audience at the 2017 Nigerian Institute Architects, Lagos State chapter Forum. Bishop Kukah delivered a speech on "The son of man had nowhere to lay his head: Homelessness as a moral scar on Nigeria's face."

The Bishop indicated that the issue of the architects, is a moral one, that homelessness in Nigeria resulted from the failure of urbanization, the arrogance of the elits and we blame the poor and homeless without knowing that they have no name, no identity and we make policies without identifying their issues. They are the result of wars, urban crises, etc.

In his speech, he asked to know what and how the government would or should respond to the issues of homelessness as we have no sence of succession (continuity in our government)? What should architects do to to help? Should they be politicins because by their training, architects should be influential? He indicated that we have political elits that are hostile to intelectual growth. That we are not a nation of planners and do not have the capacity to complete or generate good data. Policy planners do not have the capacity to deal with our real issues (socio-economic issues) and that those in sciences must start dealing with measurable sciences. As a result of these, it appears intellectialism is banned in Nigeria. For the architects and their training, architects should be more immaginative. Architects should consider breaking the mold, take challenges and make changes.

The Bishop questioned what he called, "the Architecture of Governance,"dealing with the abandoned projects (plates 1 to 3), continuity with existing projects in different states and that projects should not die with the exit of a governor. He alluded and strongly emphasized that unacceptable qualities of inequalities in the world and especially in Africa is becoming alarming and that the architects must take charge and take the lead.



Plate 1. An uncompleted Enugu Conference Center left unattended since the former governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani let office

Source: Obiadi, 2020

We, the architects, planners and engineers are achored so firmly in the present and our behavior and motivation are rooted completely in the present, selfish and not able to resist good opportunities as presented by the society-: self enrishment, power and vernity.We are impulsive, do not plan or plan for tomorrow, impetient and in most cases, greedy and not caring about the growth, development and the people we are depriving of the basic needs to survive.While a few architects and enginers have strong inhibitions about denying others the basic and fundamental needs to survive and exist, a lot of them do not, resulting in pains and humiliations experienced by the unpleviledged few in their communites. In the words of Senator John McCain, the late famous American Senator, "We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patrotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the glob."

We, the profesionals have always blamed the government for our short comings, typical characteristics of the failed professional responsibilities and the question is, when will that stop? The truth is that we have proven that we are professionally incompetent. To the poor, we are emotionless and never available, only interested in our relentless drives to accumulate wealth and be seen as ambassordors.We have always rationalized our behaviors and form aliance with interested parties. It is never the collective interest of the Nigerian elected politicians, building team and technocrats to regenerate their communities, transform the lives of the poor and homeless rather, to make more money and be worshiped by the poor and homeless.

It is always alignment and realighment in favor of us (figuatively speaking). It should not be illusionay, but reality and perspective at the Nigerian Institute of Architects. We have always taken undue advantage of the common expectations of the poor, that our class (educated, sarrvy and skilled) are presumably trustwordy because of our social and professional credentials. The training

we received has given us the skills and credentials to embrace and rejuvenate our communities to an extent that, homelessness should be comfronted. Challenge the governors to complete projects started by their predecessors. In Enugu, the uncompleted Enugu Conference Center left unattended since the former governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani let office is still standing and untouched (plate 1). In Anambra State, both the Awka (plate 2) and Nnwei (plate 3) Shoprites (plates 1 to3) are still there and untouched, indicative of the failed nature of the building industry team in Nigeria that has not been responsible enough to comfront and challenge sitting governors, to complete projects started and left by their predecessors.



Plate 2. Awka, Anambra State uncompleted Shoprite project left by Governor Peter Obi
Source: Obiadi (May 21, 2020)



Plate 3. Nnewi, Anambra State uncompleted Shoprite project left by Governor Peter Obi
Source: Obiadi (May 21, 2020)

Without boring the reader, in a presentation by Bishop Kukah (2017), "the Son of Man had Nowhere to Lay His Head: Homelessness as a moral scar on Nigeria's face" out of which a major part of this section is extracted, Kukah indicated, as we all know, Homelessness has become the face of life in the third world. It is the poster that welcomes everyone who knocks at the gate of every African city today. It is pertinent to ask the question as to how Homelessness came upon us and why it has become the norm and the counter narrative to our failed development strategies. When we ask the reasons for homelessness in Africa, the elite will give us many reasons and excuses for their colossal failures in protecting the interest of the poor and homeless.

It is interesting that those who give us the reasons for homelessness are those whose selfishness, greed, profligacy and neglect have contributed to the tragedy of homelessness in our society. We do not hear the voices of the homeless themselves. They are not able to say why they are homeless. For us who deliver the lectures, serve as Consultants, and write long, unreadable seminar papers for the United Nations and its agencies, for those who design the model buildings, for those who govern, the homeless are a problem. The Homeless are a social or an economic category in development literature. They have no names. They are merely a noun or an adjective, an indictment, embarrassment and irritants on our landscape. They are problems to be resolved, dirt to be cleared, not excuses to be listed.

The Homeless are presented as their own worst enemies. If we were to describe or give reasons for homelessness, most of us would naturally say something like:

- They are the products of failed urbanization
- They rushed to the city thinking the roads were paved with gold
- In their poverty, they breed too many children
- They are unemployed, lack skills.
- They are lazy and have bad social habits such as alcoholism

The urban development experts even categorise homelessness into different grades. And of course, these categories are important for planning, but they are also a form of indictment that often blames the victim. For example, the homeless are often classified as falling under these categories:

Chronical Homelessness

These ones are beyond redemption and the empty streets and its elements are their permanent addresses. They roam the streets and have no place to call home. As in the words of the hit song by the Temptations titled, Papa was a Rolling stone, *Wherever he laid his hat was his home*.

Cyclical Homelessness

These are persons who suffer loss of abode as a result of temporary tragedies, for example, death of a bread winner, victim of a fraud, loss of employment, an accident or a misfortune, etc. They could overcome the circle and climb back if opportunity knocks

Temporary Homeless

These are more or less the same but they could be victims of war as we have today in the Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps across our country. They often have hope that they could resolve their problems when conditions change.

As I have stated, the popular temptation is the arrogant assumption in which the state and its agents, who should actually be in the dock turn around to blame the victim. Thus, from the comfort of their humungous structures often built from the proceeds of corruption, they continue to blame the homeless for some of the reasons I have mentioned above. However, I believe it is more plausible to argue that the homeless must be seen as those whom the government left behind. I will argue that homelessness should not be seen as some sort of inevitability. Like war, it is often the outcome, the product of planned or unplanned human actions, inactions and decisions. Homelessness is the failure of politics, the collapse of compassion, a cancer inflicted on the poor by those who are paid to protect and defend them.

Government policies are often haphazard and lack a coherent design plans that go beyond the exigencies of political considerations. Successive governments are often reluctant to pursue the programmes of their successors. There is also an overconcentration on the care and welfare of government functionaries to the exclusion of the welfare of ordinary citizens. Social behaviours of office holders in areas such as polygamy have impact on the economy and housing. How many of the public officers' wives is the government supposed to pay for? Is it the duty of the federal government to provide housing for four wives in four different cities for example? There are laws on paper, but these habits make it impossible for resources to be adequately allocated for the welfare of citizens.

Homelessness should be considered a moral issue because everything else about our humanity revolves around the dignity imposed by the need for housing. We can quibble over whether the right to housing is synonymous with the right to shelter. What is most critical is whether a government has enough sensitivity to appreciate the needs of its citizens. This is purely based on whether it has the capacity to plan. And, of course, there can be no planning without data and statistics.

We keep hearing long stories about government planning to educate, feed, create jobs for its citizens. Most of this is empty talk that is never backed by any serious knowledge on the part of politicians who know very little about the ethnic, demographic composition or habitats of their people. They come to power and then discover that with no data, they cannot achieve their goals. The results of this ignorance are to be found in the white elephant projects that have become part of our landscape. Due to poor planning and obsession with politics, politicians often end up abandoning much advertised and popularized problem solving projects.

We have all the various Departments and Institutions in the bureaucracy, created largely to help the government provide services. Sadly, even these institutions are seething with corruption and inefficiency. We have Population Commission, we have offices of Statistics, Departments of Weights and Measures and so on and so forth. Yet, there is very little evidence that government policies are guided by sound advice and input from these institutions. How can a government deliver services when it is unsure and knows so little about its own people? How can it plan when it has no accurate data, has no details of the social, cultural, religious housing needs of its people?

Homelessness is an indictment on those who have pledged to govern us and have custody of all our resources to be judiciously used for us. Homelessness is one of the greatest definitions of inequality; it is the greatest scar on our common humanity.

Clearly, the greatest cause of homelessness is not so much the falsehoods that have been popularized by policy makers which blame the victims. We blame population explosion among others. Important as these are, a government should be able to plan and anticipate these developments and not wait until numbers overwhelms it. And this is where the scientists like you architects come in. I recall how excited architects were when Alhaji Namadi Sambo was made Vice President. Architects got a good piece of the action. However, looking back, what can we remember about that period? Could Architects have taken advantage of this situation to embark on some memorable project as a legacy?

Today, professionals, especially scientists must not become obsessed with patronage and politics. Only science can change our landscape. Too many professionals have become ensconced in the warm embrace of power and as such, there is little room for dreaming and offering solutions to the nation's problems. I give you an example that you all know better than myself, that is, the Capsule Hotels that have emerged in Japan.

The famous Japanese Architect KishoKorukawa (1934-2007) designed the first capsule hotel in Osaka in 1972 and it was opened in 1979. Apart from Architecture, Korukawa read Philosophy which changed his worldview and made him a more adventurous Architect. He founded what was called, the Metabolism movement, a crop of adventurous Japanese Architects who wanted to change lifestyles through their science. It was this adventure that produced the Nagakin Capsule Tower hotel. A capsule hotel is made up of just a little bed that looks like a drawer for those who just need a place to put their head down for the night. It is meant for those who could not afford regular hotels and they are very cheap. Now, they are scattered in Japan. China, Belgium, India are also experimenting with the capsule hotel.

This is what imagination does when professionals aim at solving problems rather than designing to meet the stinking opulence and taste of the rich. Architects should be courageous enough to extend the frontiers of imagination. Architects and Artists are the closest expressions of God's gift of imagination because all the wonderful designs exist in their heads before we finally see them. They are dreamers and therefore our squalor should be considered an indictment on their ability or inability to dream and dream big.

What do architects have to say about how to end homelessness? Of course, as a social problem, homelessness will probably never end. The real challenge is how to revolutionalise the concept of habitation and dignity to make it work in favor of the poor. You should be the ones to help us provide housing or shelter for our people at the cheapest cost and based on what we can afford locally. Our poor people cannot continue to wait for Dangote or to decide their fate on whether they will have a roof over their heads. Must the future of shelter among our people depend on cement, fans and air conditioners which we do not produce? Architects should unleash their creative imagination to help our nation find solution to the problems of homelessness. To do this, a new generation of architects must be ready to break the mold.

The issue of homelessness is a serious indictment on our leadership. It is a direct byproduct of the greed of those who have custody of our commonwealth. While they live in mansions and their children who have contributed nothing to the country drive exotic cars and travel the world in private jets with our collective resources, homelessness should prick our conscience. For how can

a country so well-endowed live with so much squalor? We will always have the homeless with us, but, we can do more to make shelter more accessible without subjecting our people to shylocks who continue to exploit them through dubious promises of cheap housing and shelter.

Following the step in the right direction, the people of Ebunyi and Enugu States elected their governors to lead and take them through the right direction, but they are falling into abject poverty. In a write-up by Sam Amadi (2020), why are Ebonyi and Enugu States having such high poverty rates? They are the only Southeast states with poverty rate above the national average. Enugu is 58.13% and Ebinyi is 70.76%. Ebonyi particularly, is a concern. Its poverty rate is similar to those of Northeast and Northwest states. The Ebonyi governor has been pleading some sort of political exceptionalism from other Southeast states. He is modeled as a high performing governor, but his high performance has not translated to significant improvement in social and economic wellbeing of Ebonyi State people. Didn't they say that authoritarianism is a better model of government then democracy for African states and societies?

So, why haven't Umahi's authoritarian politics and repressive leadership style lifted Ebonyi from chronic poverty as captured by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) poverty and inequality report?

Yes, Umahi has built stronger and better roads than most Southeast governors. He also built more needless structures. But he has neglected investments in the economic and social wellbeing of Ebonyi for the past 5 years. His good-enough physical infrastructure initiatives have come at the cost of hugely needed initiative in economic and social wellbeing. When I traveled to Abakaliki as the Chairman of a private sector-based innovation hub in Ebonyi, I went around the state capital and returned the verdict that the governor has done well in physical infrastructure, but has failed big on human development. I did not see the level of commercial transactions that will lift up thousands trapped in chronic poverty. I did not see the level of political freedom you expect to see in Southeast state. The atmosphere was repressive and those I spoke to confirmed the significant lack of political freedom in Ebonyi. Somehow, lack of political freedom maybe both an indicator and a cause of economic un-freedom.

Governor Umahi should revise his policy script for the rest of his tenure to change the poor rating of his beloved state. And when he finishes his tenure, Ebonyi people should elect as governor, someone who understands the value of economic and political freedom and will invest in projects that will improve economic and social wellbeing rather than on concrete and blocks. Same goes for Enugu. Enugu State changed the game after Gburugburu, you hear, your low-energy politics and politics of perverse elite consensus need revision. Imo too, has bad politics, but it is saved by good social capital. The governors in the states would have to engage the services of the experts, architects, engineers and planners to promote growth and development.

The architects cannot solve our problems alone, but they can offer us a starting point. As the saying goes, if you only look at the size, eating an elephant seems an impossible task. However, all you need is to take the first bite. It may take a almost forever, but you would have started. Similarly, we may not end homelessness in one generation, but we can start with one courageous step in the right direction (Kukah, 2017).

AIM OF THE ARTICLE

The aim of this article is to draw attention to the colossal failure of the professionals in the building industry who have not worked hard to provide adequate housing and eradicate homelessness in their communities. They have equally not challenged the governors in Nigeria to complete the projects left by their predecessors as government never ends, but governors, come and go.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The instrument of more than two research strategies; quantitative and qualitative research methods and their tactics were used. Secondary data were based on direct observation and relevant documents from previous studies on the related matter.

FINDINGS

Whichever form the making process of an urban center, town or city is examined, one must contend with the complex nature of the subject because its political, social and economic implications that are characterized by 'urban development' and 'urbanization,' which underscore, in a permanent way, the making of urban centers at any time, in any place and at any scale. If urbanization could be summed up as the process of concentration of people and their socioeconomic activities within a place over a period of time, urban development does not depend on steady concentration and coalescence of urban facilities and services about a given center; it is fundamentally guided by man's reaction to his environment which passes through successive stages of transformation.

However, while concentration process of people in a place (urban center) could be continuous and seemingly unstoppable, as is the case in Nigeria, the environmental transformation that accompanies it has important implications for proper understanding of the political, social and economic structure of the built environment of the place. As the form and meaning of the built environment are transformed and changed overtime, they both express the spiritual and intellectual conception of the universe which men have made for themselves, in response to human, organizational and institutional need (Okonkwo, 1998).

The emergence of Urban Design as both intellectual, professional and administrative instrument to address urban development failures can never be over emphasized. Architecture, engineering, urban planning and settlements cannot be reasonably discussed without fundamentally understanding the history of urban design, which ties them together. According to Dalley (1989:120), the history of urban planning focuses on the people, places, concepts, and practices of planning of urban development over time.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Union of Architects (UIA) Charter (2001), in its preamble stated that: We, the architects, concerned for the future qualitative development of the built environment in a fast changing world, believe that architecture involves everything that influences the way in which the built environment is planned, designed, made, used, furnished, landscaped and maintained (physical planning).

According to Catanese and Snyder (1979), physical planning must now be defined to include all these diverse examples without excluding the more traditional focus upon the design of the "built environment." One such definition is that physical planning is the determination of the spatial

distribution of human actions and conditions to achieve predetermined goals. This concept is the key to understanding the expanded role of physical planning.

All human actions and conditions are distributed in space: groups, cultural beliefs, buildings, vehicles, environmental pollutants, political power, energy consumption, skills, and technology. Any of these variables can be defined, observed, located, and translated into a map to show how they are distributed in space. Almost all urban planning activities sooner or later refer to a map showing the spatial distribution of critical variables that typically include population figures, economic and social conditions, and characteristics of the physical environment. Interest in the spatial distribution of activities and condition is not limited to urban planning. Many disciplines, including geography, architecture, engineering, economics, agriculture, sociology, anthropology, business, and public health use the concept of spatial distribution for solving problems.

Simply including spatial distributions in the analysis of an urban problem does not imply that physical planning is taking place. Only when a spatial distribution is part of an action recommended to achieve some purpose can we say that a physical plan is being proposed. For example, if a planner analyzes the socioeconomic conditions in areas of the city and recommends a social program which does not differentiate between areas, then there is no physical plan, only a social plan. However, if social programmes vary among areas, there is a physical plan. What kinds of actions and conditions do planners spatially distribute, and for what purpose? There are essentially four types of variables whose spatial distribution is manipulated in physical plans: objects, functions, activities, and goals.

Within the context of physical planning, the spatial distribution of objects refers to items such as buildings, parks, trees, roads, highways, sewer lines, and utility plants. Spatially distributed objects may be as small as traffic signs and as large as airports. This aspect of physical plans comes closest to the traditional image of the urban planner. For example, the layout of pathways, residences, and marketplaces was a function of the planners in ancient Greece. Today planners are still actively engaged in planning the layout of suburban subdivisions, the design of new towns, and the location and distribution of parks, recreational facilities, hospital, schools, museums, libraries, and art centers.

There are other less obvious situations in which planners are concerned with the spatial distribution of objects. The location of a series of firehouses or ambulance stations is a form of physical planning in which objects are placed to achieve an effective distribution of critical public services. Large objects, such as industrial parks, highways, and shopping centers, also must be planned and located in space. Although the explicit functions of these objects are of paramount importance to the physical planner, they have many other attributes with which the planner must be concerned. For example, while an urban highway fulfills the function of transportation, because of its properties as a physical object it has a significant impact upon the quality of life within the neighborhoods through which it passes. Determining what impacts will occur and who will be affected is critical in the spatial distribution of such objects. Similarly, in the design of a downtown center the aesthetic qualities of the objects are as significant as the functions of the building. Thus the spatial distribution of objects is often an extremely complex problem that relates not only to the proper location of an object from the standpoint of its explicit purpose, but also to its form and visual quality, symbolic importance, and its interaction with other objects and human activities (Catanese and Snyder, 1979: 176-178).

The complexity of this problem is made manifest in various noticeable attempts (formal and informal) by urban dwellers (both poor and rich) to provide housing for themselves in the city. Housing, according to Uji and Okonkwo, 2007:17), Turner (1974), sees 'housing' as human dwelling, a roof over one's head meant to serve as shelter for human living, interaction and carrying out of activities away from in clemencies of weather. Uji and Okonkwo (2007) further indicated that, Turner (1974) associates housing with the process of responding to the needs for shelter and the associated demands of social services, health and public facilities which go with the physical shelter in order to ensure congruent living with the environment. Housing generally refers to the social problem of insuring that members of society have a home to live in, whether this is a house, or some other kind of dwelling, lodging, or shelter (Housing, 2013).

The process of urbanization of the cities in Nigerian has been seen to rather produce what the present work could term "spatial dialectics" especially in spatial distribution of objects. The city is characterized by dual urban spaces: the formal (where all is organized) and informal (undeveloped squatter settlement). Overtime, both the formal and informal spaces have also developed an interdependent relationship. While the formal spaces are inhabited by the rich or those who could afford them, the urban poor and homeless are crowded in the informal urban spaces which dot mostly the central city areas of Nigeria (plates 4 to 6). Thus the public spaces in these informal settlements have become or have assumed the function of "housing/shelter" for the Nigeria's urban poor and homeless people (plates 4 to 6).



Plate 4. Abuja's public space (housing/shelter)
Source: Obiadi (May 18, 2020)



Plate 5. Abuja's public space (housing/shelter)
Source: Obiadi (May 18, 2020)



Plate 6. .Abuja's public space (housing/shelter)
Source: Obiadi (May 18, 2020)

A typical space becomes the shelter/house and the house becomes the space (for most of these people who are commercial vehicle drivers, who could not afford rent around loading motor parks, security guards, their relations and friends):- the case of homeless people, urban poor and urban

poor housing in Nigeria. They spend most of their time outside and outside becomes their home. Most times, they sleep on mats with mosquito nets over them. In most cases, these spaces are without spatially distributed objects yet, they are side by side with formal settlements without proper links and visually acceptable urban objects, elements and qualities. The nature, socioeconomic complexity of these informal spaces, which analysis is shown above, constitute a strongly identifiable character which is in this work christened *Spatial Housing*. It is so termed because of the assumption of the public/open space into the provision of the basic (spatial) socioeconomic, psychological, shelter, etc needs of the homeless people and the urban poor. This phenomenon is different from those of the destitute in the rural areas. The informal inhabitants are more or less fixed in location (even though improper location) and actively dependent on the socioeconomic activities of the urban economy.

However, economic growth in urban areas has not kept pace with the increase in the urban population (BBC, 2013). To that effect, the Nigerian cities urbanization is growing more than the areas urban development vis-à-vis housing, medical attention and economic resources. In the formal sense, spaces can be defined and differentiated, however same cannot be said in the informal, hence 'spatial dialectics'.

As indicated earlier, urban objects includes buildings, parks, trees, roads, highways, sewer lines, and utility plants used by urban planners and architects in defining spaces. Space: is the boundless three-dimensional extent in which objects and events have relative position and direction (Space, 2013). Within the space is the spatial housing characterized by informal volumetric and unvolumetric combination now called the 'spatial house', 'open house' or 'house without limit, where the Nigeria's cities homeless people and the urban poor found themselves and called home. .

In a larger scale, the spatial housing would serve the interest of the Nigerian cities homeless people and urban poor, caught up in both Nigeria's spatial dialectics and dualistic economy. The homeless and urban poor are equally known to live in the open, in shanty structures, marshy sites, and poor sanitary environments in want of where to live to stay close to work, both formal and informal. The homeless people and the urban poor inhabitants of "spatial housing" live within the formal areas while caving out their informal spaces within the same. According to Okonkwo and Agbonome (2012) citing Llyod (1979), the urban poor are considered to be inhabitants of shantytowns, slums and squatter settlements, who ordinarily, cannot afford, or have no access to means of meaningful existence. In order words, they generally are supposed to have no (or limited) access resources, employment and opportunities for self-improvement, education and advancement in the sense of modern technological developments.

Knowing and believing that they do not have access to resources, employment and opportunity for self improvement, most of the government and politicians efforts in helping then are centered on self gains because of corruption and want for control and dominance. Subsequent governments in Nigeria have not helped matters. Politicians made housing production promises to get elected and after their election, all their promises would become things of the past. Almost all the politicians who have ran for offices in Nigeria promised to build affordable housing for the poor and homeless, but never followed up. As a result, housing inadequacy in Nigeria could equally be attributed to failed political promises by the politicians and bad governance.

Along the same line, most of the politicians in Nigeria abandoned the projects started by their predecessors forgetting that government never ends. Government is continues, but governors come and go. The attitude of most of the politicians in Nigeria is repulsive. They concentrate their efforts on projects they would not finish before leaving office and this resulted because of poor to bad consultations and unavailability of accurate data in the country. This has resulted in abandoned projects in Nigerian cities as shown in plates 1 to 3. Some of these projects, if completed could create jobs that would gainful employment some of our homeless people who come to the city in droves for greener pasture.

According to Alake (2018), in reference to a homeless man in Lagos, he claims he came to Lagos to make it and he is not about to give up on that dream now. He is one of 108 million homeless Nigerians, according to the World Bank and Nigeria will require NGN59.5 trillion to address that issue. Homelessness is a global pandemic, a major headache, even in the most advanced economies where wealth is vertically accessible in relative doses. In New York and California, you see homeless men on the streets despite the presence of homeless shelters for people in these advanced climes. It just proves that no matter the global standing of any country, there will always be homeless people, probably due to choice, grit to make it or insufficient affordable housing. Homelessness is sadly a scourge we might never be able to eradicate as a people.

In Lagos, the term ‘sleep under a bridge’ (plate 7) was coined in the '60s and '70s, at the start of Nigerian industrialization, when Lagos made its earliest claim to becoming Nigeria’s commercial hub, harboring scores of migrants from smaller, less-commercial Nigerian cities who made a staple that represented the struggle. Some of these people come to Lagos for opportunity and a chance at making it, without a support system, so they sleep under bridges and in unholy places till they can afford homes.



Plate 7. A homeless man in Lagos (NaN)
Source: Alake Motolani, 2018 (Retrieved May 21, 2020)

The hardship in the country still drives more people out of the rural communities to the urban areas and in the urban areas, high rents and unaffordable housing make it easier for people to take shelter in the slums. Homelessness and poverty have been associated with all manners of criminal

activities, vanderlization and destruction of infrastructure notwithstanding. According to Bukola Adebayo (2020), a CNN reporter in Lagos, authorities in Nigeria evicted thousands of impoverished residents from a Lagos slum, leaving many homeless. Residents described scenes of panic and confusion Tuesday as hundreds of navy personnel pushed into Tarkwa Bay and neighbouring island communities on the Lagos Lagoon, ordering them to leave within an hour. Navy Cmdr. Thomas Otuji, a spokesman for the operation launched in December, said the planned demolition of buildings aims to tackle oil theft along pipelines that run through the coastal city.

Plate 8. Tarkwa Bay residents pack their belongings on boats on Tuesday after military personnel



from the Nigerian navy invaded the community.

Source: Omoregie Osakpolor

Mohammed Zanna, a resident and paralegal, told CNN that the forces shot sporadically in the air as residents, who said they had no prior notice, scrambled to find their families and pack their belongings. "Everyone was panicking and packing everything they could carry. The men were shooting in the air and shouting that people should leave," Zanna told CNN.



Plate 9. A boy looks on as Tarkwa Bay residents pack their belongings on boats on Tuesday.

Source: Omoregie Osakpolor (Retrieved May 21, 2020)

Many residents queued at the harbor till nightfall (plate 9), trying to secure boats to transport their families from the island to the city (plate 8), said Megan Chapman, co-director of the Justice & Empowerment Initiatives, a nonprofit that assists poor communities. She visited neighborhoods while the evictions were ongoing, Chapman said. "We saw dozens of boats (plate 8) filled with belongings and families trying to see how they were going to leave the island. Most of them did not know," Chapman said.

A consortium of advocacy groups, including JEI and the Nigeria Slum/Informal Settlement Federation, put the number of displaced persons in the thousands. The navy's Otuji said he did not have an exact figure of those impacted by the eviction, but residents in affected communities had been told to leave before the exercise began. Residents were still packing their belongings out of the waterfront settlement (plate 10) on Wednesday, according to Zanna. Tarkwa Bay, home to at least 4,500 people, is among dozens of communities with structures that have been marked for demolition by the navy. All are accessible only by water. In some communities, bulldozers have already done their work.



Plate 10. Residents trying to secure a boat ride at the Lagos Island jetty on Tuesday.
Source: JEI (Retrieved May 21, 20202)

Otuji said residents had been advised to leave in December after authorities found that the majority of homes on the islands were built along pipelines. They also discovered that some structures in the slum were being used as a disguise for crude oil theft operations (plate 11), he said. "We found at least 300 illegal spots and dug out pits where oil products were being tapped and sold illegally, even to neighboring countries," Otuji said. "They have been there doing all sorts of illegalities. This is dangerous for people to be living in these areas with oil pipelines. What else can we do but to make sure that we salvage the situation?" he said.



Plate 11. A pit used to siphon oil from pipelines in Kamaru community in Lagos, according to the Nigerian navy.

Source: Omoregie Osakpolor (Retrieved May 21, 2020)

Chapman said authorities should have targeted those involved, instead of evicting innocent families in the community, mostly inhabited by fishermen and artisans. "The law does not allow for collective punishment and summary demolition as a security measure. If there are individuals involved in these activities, what the law requires is for the individuals to be arrested and prosecuted for any crime they might have committed," Chapman told CNN. People living in waterfront communities in Lagos, a city of 21 million people, have been forcefully evicted in recent years by authorities citing safety concerns. In 2016, more than 30,000 families were sent packing from Otodo Gbame, a fishing community, after state security agents allegedly destroyed their homes. Many of them are still homeless despite a court ruling that the Lagos state government should resettle those affected by the demolition. The problem is, with all the demolitions, provisions are not made for alternative housing for the displaces people yet, more homeless people and homelessness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The process and methods of electing the Nigerian politicians need to be changed. Nigerians would have to start electing people in office who would bring modernization to them, embrace or rejuvenate the energy and socio economic growth in their communities. They need to elect change makers and stop electing selfish individuals not interested in their affairs, but keep up with their corrupt practices. People who could give more than expected should be elected into offices so that, the affairs of their communities would be their primary concerns.

Homelessness and urban poverty should be the concern of all as a result, the socio economic needs of the poor people especially; the homeless should be of concern to all. As indicated in the introduction, the reasons for homelessness in Nigeria have not been truly addressed by any government yet, the society blames the people for been homeless. The medical and psychological conditions of the homeless people should be the society's primary concern and the recommendation of this paper. Attention should be paid to homelessness in Nigeria and efforts for housing adequacy

regenerated so that the society can have a society devoid of spatial dialectics. Nigerians must not keep adapting to this extra ordinary living styles, they must work together to make life livable for everyone.

CONCLUSION

Architects, planners, engineers and policy makers in Nigeria have not tried hard enough, alleviating pains in people, in the poor communities of Nigeria and this is putting it in a casual way. A lot of politicians in Nigeria are idealogically incompetent and with questionable competence executing their legisletive duties. That, resulted in housing inadequacy and homelessness in the country. We, in the professioal community are educated. In our three-piece suits, we commmit crime in different ways not minding the communities we are depriving their fundermental needs. Illutionary or not, it appears as if we use charm, deceit, and manipulations to gain the confidence of our victims (the poor) yet, systemic inequity.

Architects are known for their supper graphic skills and graphic communications. However, instead of using them for the growth and development of their communities, they are taylored towards self gains, ego and popularity contexts. These, have derailed the true objective of what should have been, growth and development using our graphic skills, communications and backgrounds in architectural training in promoting socio-cultural diversity and economic empowerment in poor communities. Lack of interest in the poor communities is devastating the entire country's poor communities, creating the impresion that they are not part of the society and unproductive.

The professionals poor artitude towards growth and development and their inability to constructively get engaged or, involved in government policies that would have positively impacted growth have littered the communities with broken careers, sufferings and psychological damages that cannot be quantified. The society is more or less indispensably complex and we need each other, rich and poor to survive. The Nigerian politician are damaging our communities, making our civilization fragile because of their career, not minding the careers of the people that elected them, the poor and homeless. In honesty, their lies and deceitful behavior towards the poor and homeless have nothing, but created hysterical and or, panic in the communties.

For the politicians and professionals charged to develop policies that will better the lives of all especially, the poor and homeless, it is life and for the unprivileged, suicidal. It is lunacy for the politicians to keep telling the poor communities and homeless, what they would do for them when elected while they knew nothing about life in impoverished communities.

The professionals in the building team, politicians and technocrats should understand that, the society is bounded by science. In life, data, research and constructive analysis are necessary for all reasonable policy implementations for the growth and development of the people, rich and poor. The professionals in the building team should come together and insist on reviewing project proposals by politcians and by so doing, they would make sure that all proposed projects meet scientific standards and would be completed and put into adequate use. Upon completion and fully in use, gainful employment opportunities would be created for the people, both the poor and homeless and, housing adequacy would even be tackled through that process.

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