

SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICANS AND NIGERIAN MIGRANTS: CAUSES, CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract

Study analysis is rooted on realist and frustration-aggression theories. Data were gathered from primary and secondary sources. Descriptive/thematic methods of analysis were adopted. Study reveals that socio-political issues including: Increasing migrants influx into South African cities due to ineffective migration control by post-apartheid regimes which started 1994; Bad governance leading to poor condition of living - unemployment, poverty, inequalities, homelessness, poor healthcare and education; The fear of loss of social status and identity linked with migrants taken over jobs stories by South Africans; and the involvement of some Nigerians in criminal activities due to influence, caused the continuous xenophobic crisis in South African cities. Reactions from stakeholders reveal extra-judicial killings of Nigerians; serious future economic and resettlement challenges. Study argues that, continuous occurrence of xenophobic practice against black migrants in South Africa, could inspire retaliation against nationals and businesses of South Africa in other African countries, insecurity will thrive and effort towards achieving the objectives of African union, economic integration as well as development in the continent would remain an illusion. Therefore, policies recommended in this paper should be considered for implementation to address the socio-political issues causing crisis.

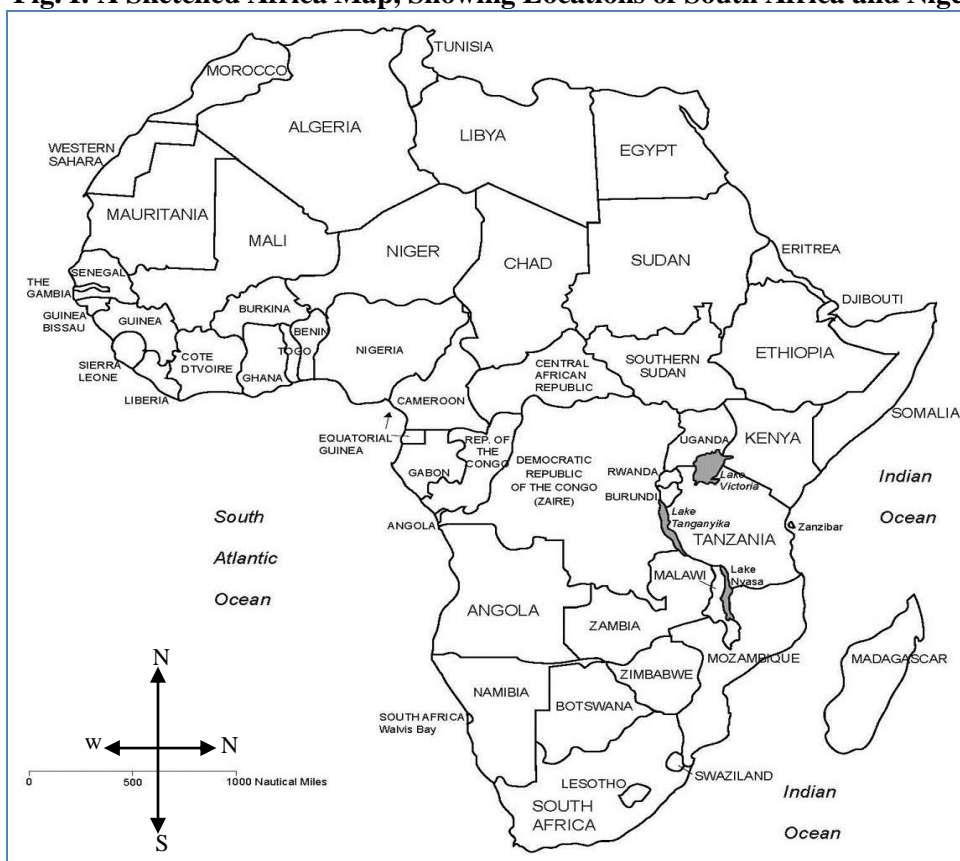
Keynotes: Nigerian, Migrants Influx, Post-Apartheid, South Africans, Bad Governance, Inequalities, Xenophobic Crisis and Resettlement.

Introduction

Nigeria played a very crucial role in the eradication of apartheid in South Africa but Nigerian migrants in South African cities continue to face violent attacks. The intolerance practice against Nigerians appears to have triggered reactions from various stakeholders, posing serious challenges and *threatening* brotherhood, unity, integration, peace, security and progress in the African continent. The reoccurring scenario have create several *questions* in the mind of the people as to why South Africans violent attacks against migrants and particularly the Nigerians who are resident, doing business, schooling and working in South African cities? According to a report on *recent social-political crisis* in April 2015, Nigerians have lost about eighty four million Naira to xenophobic attacks in South Africa (Channels Television, April 26, 2015). Many have asked, why such uncivilized, and inhuman

attitudes towards a country that have supported them in era of the struggle against racial segregation and colonial domination? Many would have thought that with the significant role of Nigeria in the liberation of South Africa from external domination and racism perpetrated by European forces in the past, South Africans will reciprocate by maintaining peaceful and friendly relationship with Nigerian migrants and not to have exhibited phobia, hatred or intolerance that have degenerated into several attacks and huge loses. For the right therapy to be prescribed, this issue requires adequate diagnoses. The *main aim of study* is to examine the socio-political issues leading to xenophobic crisis between South Africans and Nigerian migrants. However, *specific objectives* include to find out: (i) the *causes* of xenophobic crisis between South Africans and Nigerian migrants (ii) the *challenges* pose by xenophobic crisis; (iii) *implications* for Nigeria-South Africa relations; Africa's unity as well as economic integration and development. This study is significant, as it makes *suggestions* that will serve as *policy guide* to addressing the socio-political issues.

Fig. I: A Sketched Africa Map, Showing Locations of South Africa and Nigeria.



Source: Retrieved from www.google.com, January 2017.

Literature Review

A *socio-political crisis* is a situation where the pursuit of specific objectives or a failure to satisfy certain demands by different parties leads to high levels of political, social or military mobilization and/or the use of violence that does not reach the level of armed conflict and may include fighting, repression or attacks. That if escalated, the situation could degenerate into an armed conflict. Tensions emanating from such situations are usually linked to: the demands for self government, identity issues; opposition to political, economic, social or ideological system of a State or policies of a government (Alert, 2010). According to Merriam-Webster, *xenophobia* is the hatred and fear of foreigners or strangers or anything that is foreign and strange (Lee, 2016). It is embodied in discriminatory attitudes and behaviours that often ends in violence, abuses of all types, and exhibitions of hatred (Solomon and Kosaka, 2015). For SAHO (2016), it is a 'the deep dislike of *migrants* by nationals of a recipient State,' but Valji (2003) reveals that Harris contends, xenophobia in South Africa is not just an attitude, but an activity, a violent practice that results in bodily harm and damage. Pizarro (2002), the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, describes *migrants* as: Persons who are in the territory of another State and do not enjoy the general legal recognition of rights, which is inherent in the granting by the host State of the status of refugee; naturalised person or persons in the territory of another State by virtue of diplomatic agreements, visas or other agreements. This definition of migrants reflects the current difficulty in distinguishing between migrants who leave their countries because of political persecution, conflicts, economic problems, environmental degradation or a combination of these reasons and those who do so in search of conditions of survival. Brigadier General Lasbry Odunwa (rtd), a Rector of Risk Control Academy, Ajah-Lagos who served in the Army in different capacities, home and abroad, confirms that the migration of Nigerians to South Africa in search of better jobs and improved standards of living, started shortly after the country's independence in 1994. A second wave of economic Nigerian migrants started moving to South Africa from 1999 when nascent democracy took root in Nigeria. Since then, there have been increasing migration with the usual negative effect, such as Nigerians getting involved in crime, drug pushing, sex trade and other vices. Nigerians hardly worked in the mines and other menial, labour intensive jobs. They are mostly small and medium scale entrepreneurs who run fashion shops, provision stores, restaurants and car wash businesses (Vanguard, May 5, 2015).

However, contributions on the relationship between South Africans and Nigerian migrants before and from 1994 revealed friendly and unfriendly scenario. Umezurike and Lucky (2015) unfolded that after Nigeria independence in 1960 there was friendly relationship between her and the liberation movements in South Africa, especially with the African National Congress (ANC). Nigeria untiringly opposed not only to colonialism on the African continent, but also to the racism that existed in South Africa before 1994. Okolo (2008) in his article reveals the love shown to South Africans by Nigerians in the apartheid period. He said "during the apartheid era, Nigeria amongst other independent African states, fought for the liberation of their

black brothers and sisters in South Africa. Assistance was provided for the liberation movements both by the government and individuals. Nigerian government spent over US\$61 billion in its fight against apartheid. Nigerians also remember that after the 1976 Soweto uprising, students of all levels in Nigeria were levied to contribute money towards the education of their black brothers and sisters in South Africa. The Nigerian High Commission in Botswana during the apartheid era is reputed to have issued 300 Nigerian passports to black South Africans to travel the world with, since the apartheid government did not grant some of them those privileges. On the musical scene, artistes like Ozzidi King Sony Okosun waged wars against apartheid with songs like - Fire in Soweto, Papa's Land. Nigeria and indeed Nigerians were therefore thrilled in the early 1990s when the apartheid regime was demolished." Similarly, Byrnes (1996) confirms how South African President shows concern for the citizens of Nigerians during the military regime of General Sani Abacha. He said President Mandela of South Africa was among the few world leaders who in late 1995 appealed to Nigeria's military Head of State, General Sani Abacha, to spare the lives of the writer and environmental activist, Ken Sarowiwa and eight others convicted of inciting violence that resulted in several deaths in Nigeria. After Sarowiwa and others were executed on 10th November 1995, Mandela called for international sanctions against the Abacha government.

Nevertheless, in post-apartheid South Africa, there have been reoccurrence cases of xenophobic expression and hatred attitude towards Nigerians and other black migrants by the South Africans. Odunayo (2015) unfolds *a scenario of xenophobic expression* by some groups of South African nationals, including the Patriotic Movement, Pan Local Forum, Unemployed Workers Forum and the Anti-Crime Movement, warned Nigerians and other migrants to leave South Africa in a statement that reads:

Dear neighbours from Africa and other parts of the world, we have travelled the world and have not found one country that allows the floods of humans across its borders as South Africa is experiencing. Even in war-torn parts like Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and Somali. We were seven million people in Johannesburg city in 2011. Today, we have an estimated 13 million. In Johannesburg alone, you have taken over entire suburbs: Yeoville, Berea, Bez Valley, Turfontein, among many. You have even moved into rural parts of our country that have 80-per-cent unemployment...We are pleading with you to return to your home countries. "South Africans not fully employed or who were found guilty of crimes, were repatriated from Nigeria. Our people are preparing for war against all foreigners. Millions will die if you don't (Odunayo, 2015).

Following the above unfriendly threats, one of the Nigeria's popular news papers heralds that, the violence in South Africa targeted at migrants in several cities was horrible, as gangs of weapons-wielding South African youths descended on migrants/foreigners, killed, injured, looted their shops and restaurants, and destroyed

their property. These went on with law enforcement agents seeming to derive some pleasure from watching. Many traced the violence to a statement credited to the Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, who called on migrants, who he blamed for the high crime rates and unemployment among South Africans, to leave. Nigerians were a sizeable proportion of those attacked. Nigerians suffered great losses as their businesses were targets and many injured. These attacks have been regular since 2008, the only difference each time is the increasing intensity. Though, the attacks were unofficial (*Vanguard*, April 23, 2015).

Umezurike and Lucky (2015) pointed out unfriendly official action taken against Nigerian migrants on 5th March 2012 that resulted to a *major diplomatic crisis*. According to Umezurike and Lucky, President Jacob Zuma's government took decision that led to the *deportation* of about 125 Nigerians who landed at OR Tambo International Airport. The Nigerian migrants were prevented from entering South Africa because they did not have the required documentation for vaccination against yellow fever as required by South African port health authorities. Reports showed that 75 of them were sent back home via South African Airways, and another 50 were flown back by the Nigerian airline, Arik Air. The Soweto reported that the then Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Gbenga Ashiru, responded that the South Africa does not have a monopoly in deporting travelers and vow to retaliate. Hence, in a surprise move, 28 South Africans were turned back at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, and another 56 were deported between 6th and 7th March 2012. After six days of diplomatic standoff, a total of 256 nationals of both powerhouses, Nigeria and South Africa, were deported to their respective countries without following due process. Nigeria responded by deporting a total of 131 South Africans. But, the countries after blaming each other actions, resolved amicably.

From the above review, it was established that migration of Nigerians to South Africa in search of better jobs and improved standards of living, started shortly after 1994 and the second wave of economic Nigerian migrants started moving to South Africa from 1999. Also, we have pointed out some friendly and unfriendly relationship between South Africa and Nigeria. However, this present study is bent on looking at socio-political issues leading to xenophobic crisis between South Africans and Nigerian migrants: the causes, challenges, and implications in order to proffer lasting solution.

Theoretical Framework

Realist and frustration-aggression theories are relevant to this study. The realist theory is a widely accepted approach to understanding international relations and politics. Realists pessimist about human nature of politics according to Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) is that political struggle among humans is probably inevitable, because people have an inherent dark side. He believed that humans possess an inherent urge to dominate, an *animus dominandi*. That "if any two men desire the same thing, which nevertheless they both cannot enjoy, they become enemies and... endeavour to destroy or subdue one another" (Rourke, 2003). According to Leibler (2014) the realists believe that in international relations, no permanent friends *or*

enemies, only permanent interests. Friend today, may become enemy tomorrow. Morgenthau (1967) argues that...those who are not happy with the state of politics or government, will seek to augment their situation by seeking for change in the *status quo* to force change to maximize their interests. According to Johan and Dennen (2015), frustration-aggression theorists proposed that a particular frustration instigates aggression primarily against the source of the frustration, but also instigates aggression against targets that are to some degree related to that source. Aggression is not just undertaking as a natural reaction, but the outcome of frustration. A situation where the desire of an individual is denied either directly or by indirect consequence of the way society is structured, the feeling of disappointment may lead such a person to express his anger through violence that will be directed to those he holds responsible or people who are directly or indirect related to them. The South Africans who are involve in xenophobic attacks claimed that Nigerians and other African migrants in South Africa have taken over their jobs and constituting social nuisance (Ojonugwa, 2015). Hence, the inability of South Africans to enjoy the needs expected socio-economic welfare in post-apartheid regimes frustrated them to transfer aggression on the migrants, given credence to frustration-aggression theory. It follows that if attacks on Nigerian migrants persist, despite the good relationship Nigeria and South Africa have enjoyed in the past, Nigeria may retaliate, given credence to realist theory, no permanent friends...only permanent interests, especially as citizens diplomacy is at the core of Nigerian foreign policy.

Methodology

Primary data were directly collected using a Research Assistant resident in South Africa, who received the survey questions through electronic mailing system and liaised with other leaders of Nigerian Unions in South Africa (NUSA) to provide relevant feedback. Secondly, relevant contents based on literatures, electronic and print medias, majorly articles, comments and reactions were explored. The primary data were used to support secondary data where necessary. Therefore, the method adopted was descriptive/thematic analysis and affiliated Authors are duly acknowledged.

Research Results

Socio-Political Issues: Causes of Xenophobic Crisis.

The first issue that has caused crisis between South Africans and Nigerian migrants *is the increasing migrants influx, due to ineffective migration control.* Before the dawn of democracy in South Africa, large number of foreign nationals emigrated to South Africa in search of better living, including Nigerians. However, after 1994 elections, due to the high expectations from the post-apartheid ANC-Led government, the *number of foreigners* continues to rise. According to Sigwela (2015):

Over 3 million Zimbabweans, over 32,000 Somalis and over 250,000 Nigerians live in South Africa. This is underestimated as many of them come into the country illegally and in control of small businesses in most of the

cities especially in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. In Johannesburg, most companies relocated to Sandton because of the influx of migrants in the cities. These people are all over the country, self-employed with their own businesses, sells goods at lower prices to beat competition. While, the South Africans complaint about the high levels of unemployment, the migrants have a lower rate of unemployment. Because they take jobs that South Africans are reluctant to take. The majority of South Africans lived in squatter camps with no running water and sanitation, most of the schools in remote areas had pupils learning under trees.

The second issue: *Bad governance, leading to poor condition of living.* The new government failure to create jobs, build houses, provide good healthcare, equal education for the poor masses as promises prior to 1994 election worsened the condition of living in post-apartheid era. Fayomi, Chidozie and Ayo (2016) revealed from the released United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2003 report that: Human Development Index worsened in the post-apartheid South Africa (from 0.73 in 1994 to 0.067 in 2003), poverty engulfs 48.5% of the population (21.9 million in 2002), income inequality was increased (from 0.60 in 1995 to 0.63 in 2001), the majority of households have limited access to basic services, and the official unemployment rate sharply increased to more than 30% in 2003. Olupohunda (2015) says “unemployment rate in South Africa increased to 25.5% – the worst rate of joblessness seen since the first Labour Force Survey in 2008” “The number of the unemployed increased by 87,000 over the second quarter of 2014 to 5.2 million, the highest level since the inception of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in 2008” According to Fayomi; Chidozie and Ayo (2016), the report of an oral interview in 2013 reveals that the *economic condition* in post-apartheid South Africa became pronounced when it was discovered that about 13 million Nigerians lives in South Africa cities. This consequently provoked the recent waves of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians, bringing into reality the dominance of Nigerian business community in post-apartheid South African economy. Many Nigerians lost their properties and their shops were looted. Sigwela (2015) added that the inability of South African government to: tackle corruption in the public service; plan to better the lives of the citizens and controls the inflow of migrants who dominated informal businesses sector made South Africans angry, and between 2008 and 2015, South Africans attacked migrants for stolen jobs and women.

Third issue: *The fear of loss of social status and identity by South Africans.* According to Solomon and Kosaka (2015), South Africans saw loss of social status and identity as a threat perceived to their economic success and the feeling of superiority. Xenophobia basically derives from the sense that non-citizens pose threat to the recipients’ *identity and rights*, which is connected with the concept of nationalism (the sense in which individual sees his membership of a political nation as essential ingredient in his or her sense of identity). To this end, a notion of citizenship can lead to xenophobia when it becomes apparent that the government

does not guarantee protection of individual rights. This is all the more apparent where *poverty* and *unemployment* is rampant. It has connection with a feeling of superiority, where unfulfilled expectations of a new democracy resulted in migrants is “causing unemployment, poverty and deprivation.”

Fourth issue: *The illegal drug trading by Nigerians.* According to Aderounmu (2014), when apartheid rule ended, some Nigerians in South Africa blended with the South Africans underworld and engaged in negative social practices including drug, fraud, sex trade and other related criminal activities over which growing number of Nigerians are imprisoned. Oosthuysen (2016) substantiates that more than 50,000 Nigerian nationals are said to be in South Africa illegally, many of whom are involved in facilitating the further transportation and distribution of drugs, trafficking of cocaine and heroin from South America into South Africa.

The National Party spokesperson on home affairs Frik van Deventer similarly claimed that since 1994 "eighty percent of all suspects appearing in Court in Johannesburg as a result of drug crimes are Nigerians." Police officials confirmed this, in a Press Interview where a Police captain mentioned that 90 percent of Nigerians who were in South Africa seeking asylum status are involved in drug trade. These statements are reinforced by constant police claims and press reports on 'crime sweeps.' Constantly linking the issue of undocumented migration to rising crime in South Africa has increases resentment and potential violent attacks against Nigerians. However, most Nigeria coming to South Africa are not involved in crime, but attacks on them are legitimized by statements of this type (Online Search 2016, <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports98/sareport/Adv5a.htm>).

The Challenge Posed by Xenophobic Crisis

The responses of Mr. Collins Thomas Mgbo, and other leaders of the Nigerian Union South Africa (NUSA) reveals a serious *extra-judicial challenge* some Nigerians have faced in South African cities between 2010 and December, 2016 thus:

In 2010, we recorded more than 20 death cases and some died in Police custody. Between 2010 and January 2017, more than 200 Nigerians died and most of them as a result of Police brutality. In 2016, 20 Nigerians were killed in South Africa through extrajudicial means. One of the victims was from my Province, Chinedu Ikejiaku and others from other Provinces were, Monday Okorie, Adeniyi Olumoko, Gideon Ogalaonye, Christian Onwukaike, Nnamdi Michael, Tochukwu Nnamdi. Another particular painful death case in my Province, is the one Autopsy result confirms Mr. Onyebuchi Iweaku was suffocated to death by Police officials on 23rd May 2013. Also, the Police suffocated Victor Tochukwu Nnamdi to death on 29th December 2016. Till this day, the cases are not properly handled and so are numerous death cases that affected Nigerians in South Africa" (Survey Research, January 2017).

A recent reaction to xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa cities reveals a serious *future economic or business challenge*. According to Fayomi; Chidozie and Ayo (2016), in August 2013, a group of South African women married to Nigerian migrants named United Nigerian Wives in South Africa (UNWISA) organized mass protest in Johannesburg against the continuous *stigmatization, discrimination, and humiliation* of Nigerian migrants by South African nationals, government departments, agencies and officials. UNWISA, *threatened to persuade the Nigerian government to stop South African businesses operating in Nigeria*. Following this protest, Gondyi (2015) confirms, there was call to boycott South African produce and services in Nigeria and the Nigerian House of Representatives *threatened to frustrate* “South African interests in Nigeria should attacks persist.

The reaction by Nigeria Union in South Africa (NUSA) reveals *resettlement challenges due to destruction of property*. The union reported that xenophobic attacks against Nigerians and other migrants in Sternekopf, Namakwa Municipality, Northern Cape Province of South Africa, was a nasty acts similar to the attacks between March and April 2015, which *claimed immigrants lives*. NUSA President, Ikechukwu Anyene said, report by Northern Cape Province Chapter NUSA's Chairman, Kennedy Osagie shows that *shops, cars and houses* belonging to Nigerians were *burnt, looted and destroyed*. Though, some Nigerians took refuge with their families in nearby Springbok community, but other Nigerians affected victims were stranded (Ochelle, 2015). South Africa hosted between 2 and 5 million illegal migrants including Nigerians, many of whom are running from African countries with *weak socio-economic and political systems*, were hit with deadly xenophobic crisis (Ochelle, 2015). Ambassador Uche Ajulu-Okeke, the Nigerian Consul-General in South Africa, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said Nigerians in South Africa have lost more than N21m since xenophobic crisis started (Buari, 2015). A print media report in April 2015 shows that, about N84 million has been lost by Nigerians to xenophobic crisis in South Africa (Channels Television, April 26, 2015). The NUSA leaders also confirmed that they met:

About 300 Nigerians in Jeppes town, who fled for their safety and about 50 of them do not have any place to stay. Nigerian shops and businesses in Durban and Johannesburg have been looted and some burnt, two shops belonging to Nigerians in Durban were looted. In Jeppes town, near Johannesburg, five shops were looted and one burnt (Survey Research, 2017).

In 2015, the South Africa President, Jacob Zuma responded to the challenges posed by xenophobic crisis in Durban. He instructed the police to work around the clock and promised to beef up border security as well as to improve *capacity* of Home Affairs department to better handle immigration issues.” In addition, the ruling party, African National Congress (ANC), Secretary General, Gwede Mantashe, suggested *putting immigrants in camps and tightening immigration laws*. Melissa Steyn, director of the Wits Center for Diversity Studies and a leading South African

expert on diversity and xenophobia disagrees that *Camps are absolutely not* the way to address the challenge because the situation reinforces citizenship issue.” Sociologist Steyn also agrees that *immigration legislation needs to be enforced* to stop xenophobic attacks as many illegally people are in South Africa (Finnan, 2015). However, Collins Thomas Mgbo, a leader of NUSA response and the recent 2016 xenophobic attack shows that adequate measures are yet to be put in place to resolve issues causing crisis and posing challenges. Mgbo says:

Nigerian Consulate in Illovo Sandton, Johannesburg through the help of the Consular General, Her Excellency Mrs. Uche Ajulu Okeke communicated with the South African government, but the crisis is unresolved. The embassy in Pretoria is not helpful and has not committed itself in that regard. The South African government has no measure in place to stop xenophobic attacks besides condemning the act whenever it is perpetrated. Nigerians are facing numerous challenges in South Africa." Both legal and illegal migrants have continued to face the scourge of xenophobic crisis including lecturers, teachers and business people. For instance, application for renewal of documents is denied migrants and affected migrants are left helpless and miserable. I know of a Medical Doctor whose permit was withheld for more than twelve months and was later deported, I also know of one Professional business analyst and strategist hatred removal from his job by South Africa Home Affairs (Survey Research, 2017).

Discussion with Implications

From our research findings, it is glaring that socio-political issues responsible for the xenophobic crisis between South Africans and the Nigerian migrants include: ineffective migration control; bad governance leading to poor condition of living; The fear of loss of social status and identity by South Africans; as well as criminal or illegal activities engaged in by Nigerians. However, further analysis will enable us to draw implications and recommendations.

First, it is not only Nigerian migrants that were affected by xenophobia crisis, other African nationals are affected as well. The fruitless migration control by South Africa and Nigeria paved way for free migrants movement into the South Africa in the post-apartheid regimes. The opportunities Nigerians and other black migrants have to secure employments and business over South Africans as well as the South African government inability to provide jobs, housing, healthcare and education facilities needed by her nationals to tackle poverty and inequalities, worsen condition of living in South Africa post-apartheid regimes. These frustrations inspired the aggressive attacks by nationals who fear they have lost their opportunities, status and recognition to foreigners. Hence, poor migration control, none access to job, housing, educations and healthcare facilities are major problems that need to be addressed and if they are not address, the implication is that, xenophobia in South Africa cities would not only continue to threatening fundamental human rights of black migrants, but would

continue to reveal serious disregard to the principles and spirit of Africa unity and brotherhood, threat to economic integration and development in Africa.

Second, it is palpable that the engagement of Nigerians in negative social practices or criminal activities, such as illegal drugs and sex trade due to bad influence, keep the numbers of Nigerians dominant among foreigners in South African prisons. This demand urgent attention, and if not given, the *implication* is that it will continue to present Nigeria and South Africa with bad image in the international community.

Third, the *extra-judicial challenge* facing Nigerians in South African cities was revealed, legal procedures not duly followed when Nigerians are arrested for an alleged crime, security officers smothering of arrested Nigerian suspects and denying of Nigerian legal migrants renewal of documents constitutes serious abuse of rights. The implication of this is that the South Africa security clusters are taken law into their hands.

Fourth, from our research finding, xenophobic crisis between the two countries nationals and the various reactions and responses reveal threats to the future of Nigeria-South Africa *economic or business investments*, as Nigerian authorities have vowed frustrating the interest of South Africa in Nigeria business environment, if attacks on Nigerians persist in South Africa. In addition, reactions show that crisis has continued to create *insecurity of lives and property of Nigerians* in South African cities, leading to *resettlement challenges*. These also have *implications* that both governments would continue to spend their limited resources on humanitarian issues arising from xenophobia. Another *implication* is that, it has the tendency of degenerating into a more disturbing continental issue that would cause tension in the African diplomatic community. Though, there have not been any record of retaliation as to stopping the operation of South African businesses by Nigeria and other African countries whose nationals are affected. It must be noted, that the threat by Nigerians, that if attacks persist they would frustrate South Africa businesses in the Nigeria, signal a possible future reprisal on South Africa investments and her citizens in Nigeria and in Africa. And this would create serious tension, threat to: peace, unity, economic integration and development in the continent. It would frustrate foreign investors who have investment in the continent and discourage intending investors. The multiplier effect is that unemployment and crime rates would increase in the continent.

Policy Recommendations

To address socio-political crisis and prevent it from degenerating into a more serious continental issues: (1) South Africa and Nigeria should ensure that departments, organizations, agencies responsible on the issue of migration *maintain strict compliance with migration policies and laws through effective sensitizations, checking the validity of passports and cooperate for due enforcement of the law* to reduce illegal migration. (2) Both countries should have a well managed databank for

documented migrants, this will help to easily identify illegal migrant and take necessary action. (3) All the Ambassadors of African countries including that of Nigeria in South Africa should collaborate with South African Home Affairs and Security Departments and other stakeholders to ensure due process laws in the treatment of foreigners' pending and future criminal cases, this would reduce extrajudicial killings and abuse of migrant rights. (4) Both countries should take their constitutional responsibilities on citizens' welfare seriously by implementing viable policies to improve the condition of living of citizens. The policies should include: (i) South Africa government should develop and sponsor a *free entrepreneurial skill acquisition program* for every South Africans who have completed tertiary education and yet to gain employment should enroll, the National government should make it as a matter of policy for all the Provinces. It should be implement in each ward and start-up funds, in form of loans should be provided to successful candidates to establish their own business as this will go a long way to address the lost of status, identity and foreigners taking our jobs tales and boast the economy. The loan should also be planned in such a way that it would be easy to pay back. This policy is require in all the State in Nigeria to reduce the illegal migration in search of better condition of living (ii) South Africa government should consider an *health policy scheme* that is affordable and accessible to all the poor nationals, this would also give them a sense of belonging and identity and make them friendly with foreigners. (iii) South African government should also consider a *housing policy scheme* that is affordable and accessible by nationals across the Provinces. This would ameliorate the frustration of the homeless nationals. (5) Nigeria and other African countries government should consider a policy that would ensue emigrants are sensitized under umbrella of the Africa Union against negative socio-cultural practices such as drugs, fraud, sex trade and other criminal activities, capable of exposing them to hatred, torture or humiliation in host countries. (6) There is need for African Union to establish a policy that will subject any member countries that stigmatize, discriminate, humiliate, attacks or engage in any act injurious to migrants/foreigners to a fine, this would serve as deterrent. (7) African union should have a policy that will impose sanction on any employers in member states that employ irregular migrants as these could reduce movement of undocumented migrants in the continent.

Conclusion

We have been able to discuss the socio-political issues that have caused the crisis between South Africans and Nigerian migrants, the challenges posed by the crisis as well as the implications. However, the policies recommended above are suitable for addressing issues and to prevent them from posing continental challenges. However, if this policies are neglected and xenophobic practice continue in South African cites, it may possibly inspire attacks on South Africans residing in Nigeria and in other African countries, insecurity would thrive and effect towards Africa unity, economic integration as well as development would be frustrated.

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