


NEW AVENUES FOR PLANNING PRACTICE IN NIGERIA

EDITED BY

**LAYI EGUNJOBI
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New Avenues for Planning Practice in Nigeria

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Preface

This book, *New Avenues for Planning Practice in Nigeria*, is a follow-up to the 11-chapter book, *Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Urban and Regional Planning Practice*, which was published in 2016. Just like the 2016 book, it is a product of the quest to unravel the paradox of 'shortage of planners' and 'unemployment of planners' in Nigeria. The 2016 book focuses on the nexus between urban and regional planning and entrepreneurial practices. However, in this new book, the Town Planners Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC) examines those establishments in Nigeria where planners' services are required, but are hardly realised by the establishments and even by planners themselves.

Therefore, it is the objective of this book to identify such institutions and argue how indispensable the physical planners are in the efficient and effective performance of their statutory duties. The central focus is to awaken professional and student planners to identifying avenues for planning engagement in relevant institutions and organisations. In doing this, planners are expected to see themselves as professionals that can offer many consultancy services by applying their knowledge in specialized areas of their academic and professional training. They should demonstrate their physical planning skills in order to take advantage of the vast job opportunities that exist in the newly-identified areas.

From a similar perspective, institutions and organisations should make use of this book to identify and

explore areas where the services of professional planners are required for effectiveness and efficiency in pursuance of their institutional mandates. The book will also be invaluable to policy-makers and decision-makers in institutionalising the new avenues where the services of planners are required in the public domain.

Layi Egunjobi

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Foreword

Despite the fact that the number of registered planners with regard to Nigeria's size and planning service needs is grossly low, there are several graduate planners who are unemployed. This amounts to a waste of national human resources and underutilization of human capacity. Yet, there is a dearth of planners in agencies, establishments and parastatals where their professional expertise and experience are required.

As such, the Town Planners Registration Council (TOPREC), which is the statutory body established to coordinate the activities of town planners in the country, in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Human Settlements Development at the Federal University of Technology, Minna, envisioned a platform to explore new avenues for the planning practice in Nigeria in selected agencies, establishments and parastatals. This vision birthed this book, conceptualised to aid students, graduates, and professional practitioners in the planning discipline towards exploring new avenues for the planning practice in Nigeria.

The book comprises twenty-two chapters categorised under six sections. Section one explores facilities and services, section two discusses security and safety, section three elaborates on population, while sections four, five, and six discuss the environment, journalism and governance, respectively. Each chapter focuses on the opportunities for planners in a specific government agency or parastatal. The structure and functions of the establishment is delineated and

the specific areas where planning expertise can be employed are identified.

It is my hope that this book will help planners recognize their unique expertise and identify new areas where their skills and proficiency can be annexed in government agencies and parastatals, either as employees or consultants. This book is a milestone in contemporary planning practice, a valuable possession worth acquiring by all.

Opuenebo Owei

Acknowledgment

We are extremely indebted to many scholars, professionals and organizations who contributed significantly to the production of this book.

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The editors will like to thank the various contributing authors for their dedication and doggedness, in that, they responded to the needs of this book project at short notice and also shared their knowledge and expertise in identifying areas of consultancy involvement available for urban and regional planners in various agencies, ministries and institutions in Nigeria.

Additional thanks go to the language editor, Dr. Adesina Sunday, of the Department of English, University of Ibadan, who made relentless effort to ensure quality output of the book. We appreciate his timely response, reliability and value-for-money service.

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Finally, we also appreciate the printer, Mr Paul Gbolagade, and the cover page designer, Tpl. Ademola Adebayo, for their support for this project.

The Editors

Potential of Professional Urban and Regional Planners in the Nigeria Immigration Service

Wole Morenikeji, J.J. Dukkiya, Y.A. Sanusi
and S.O. Medayese

14.1 Introduction

The migration-mobility debate can be located in a political discourse. For demographic, economic and social reasons, all highly-developed economies find themselves increasingly reliant on immigrant labour at all skill levels (CEC, 2005). Virtually everywhere, international recruitment of highly-skilled personnel is considered a good thing, while lower-skilled migrant workers are seen as out-of-place in shiny new post-industrial economies. This is linked to the very hostile public climate towards migrant workers, asylum seekers and poor people from

the developing world. The solution is to designate movement of the highly-skilled as professional mobility, and that of the lower-skilled as unwanted migration. Mobility is considered good, because it is the badge of a modern open society, while, migration is seen to be bad because it reawakens archaic memories of invasion and displacement. To focus on migration, rather than mobility, better reflects current power relations and conflicts arising from the continuous inflow of migrants in and out of various locations.

Despite large inflows of immigrants into and out of many African countries in the last 20 or 30 years, there is no consensus on the causal impact of immigration on labour market outcomes. Two reasons stand out. First, immigrants decide both where and when to migrate given the economic conditions in the source and host countries. Second, natives may respond by exiting the locations receiving these immigrants or reducing inflows to them. The combination of these two endogenous decisions makes it hard to estimate the causal effect of immigration on native labour market outcomes. Various strategies have been employed to understand the consequences of immigration on labour markets. Altonji and Card (1991) and Card (2001) compare labour market outcomes or changes in labour market outcomes in response to local immigrant inflows across locations. To account for the endogenous sorting of migrants across locations, they use what has become known as the immigration networks instrument - past stocks of immigrants in particular locations are good predictors of future flows. This is expected to show the various degrees of challenges

that immigrants will always bring into new locations.

It is generally agreed that migrants have contributed a lot to the development of the advanced world with their skills. These contributions are in the areas of science, sports, infrastructure, agriculture, medicine and a lot more. By the same token, some migrants who have gone to foreign countries for employment but failed to achieve their dreams of gainful employment due to language, cultural barrier, discrimination, the fact that they lack the capacity to perform certain jobs that are available or that jobs are not just there, end up in crime. It is in the view of the attendant challenges of immigration and human mobility that nations across the world have advanced the establishment of immigration services saddled with the responsibility of regulating inflow and outflow of migrants, hence, the establishment of the Nigeria Immigration Services in 1958 (NIS, 2017).

14.2 History and Operational Structure of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)

14.2.1 History of NIS

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has witnessed series of changes since it was extracted from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in 1958. The Immigration Department, as it was known then, was entrusted with the core immigration duties under the headship of the Chief Federal Immigration Officer (CFIO). The department, in its emergent stage, inherited the Immigration Ordinance of 1958 for its operation. At its

inception, the department had a narrow operational scope and maintained a low profile and simple approach in attaining the desired goals and objectives of the government. During this period, only the Visa and Business Sections were set up (NIS, 2017).

On August 1st, 1963, the Immigration Department was formally established by an Act of Parliament (Cap 171, Laws of the Federation Nigeria). The head of the department then was the Director of Immigration. Thus, the first set of immigration officers were former NPF officers. It became a department under the control and supervision of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (FMIA) as a civil service outfit (NIS, 2017). Since that time, the service has come a long way in its march toward reformations and restructuring to be better positioned for the implementation of modern migration management. The structure has been changed to accommodate added responsibilities as well as emerging regional and sub-regional political alignments. The implication was the introduction of the ECOWAS and African affairs/bilateral division. Similarly, aliens' control and border patrol management were added to the responsibilities of the service.

Furthermore, the service was saddled with the responsibility of the issuance of all Nigerian travel documents. The service embraced the use of ICT in its operations with the introduction of the Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card (CERPAC). Ever since then, the service has taken giant strides in the use of ICT in its processes and operational procedures, notably the introduction of online payment for its facilities. In other words, e-revenue collections

by the service popularized this mode of revenue collection leading to it becoming a Federal Government policy. Earlier on the service created a website with the domain name www.immigration.gov.ng. This was in a bid to create a platform for interaction and dissemination of information about its operations to a wide-ranging clientele (NIS, 2017).

The introduction of machine readable electronic passports in 2007 was a landmark achievement by the service, in that Nigeria became the first country in Africa to introduce the e-passport and among the first forty countries in the world to do so. The embrace of the e-passport has become a major tool in the fight against trans-border criminality, as the e-passport contains the biometric details of holders, thus making it easy for detection of persons travelling under false identities or compromised travel documents, especially as the service is poised to introduce the PKD at our borders, which has been approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

In due recognition of Nigeria Immigration Service's stride as exemplified above, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the global body that regulates standards for travel documents, admitted Nigeria into its board as the sole African representative. Currently, the country is cutting over Machine Readable Passports (MRP) to the electronic passport (e-passport) whose initial deadline was December 2010 but was extended to April 2011 (NIS, 2017). As a result of the above development, e-passport machines have been installed in all the states of the federation and some missions abroad, while efforts are still ongoing to deploy e-passport machines to all our missions abroad. The Nigeria Immigration Service has been sending its

personnel for passport intervention to all regions of the world in line with the Federal Government foreign policy of citizen diplomacy. This implies taking the mobile passport issuing equipment to acquire and process passport for Nigerians in diaspora (NIS, 2017).

Mission Statement: The mission statement of the Nigeria Immigration Services is to have an IT-driven security outfit that can conveniently address the operational challenges of modern migration and give the immigration service a new sense of direction that can make it relevant at all times to the world security order and responsive to global migration trend.

14.2.2 Operational Structure of NIS

As a result of the restructuring of the service, the directorates have been increased to seven (7) from the previous three (3). Eight zonal offices, thirty-six state commands & Federal Capital Territory and Immigration offices in the 774 local government areas. The seven directorates are:

- i. Human Resources
- ii. Finance and Accounts
- iii. Planning, Research and Statistics
- iv. Work and Procurement
- v. Investigation, Inspectorate/ Enforcement
- vi. Operations/ Passport
- vii. Border Patrol, ECOWAS/ African Affairs

In view of the various responsibilities of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), myriads of challenges have been

observed militating against the service as a result of the constant inflow of migrants across the Nigerian borders. These challenges of the NIS include poor manpower, obsolete equipment for scanning, screening and manning of border posts, siting of border locations, manning and delineation of border towns, analysis of immigration dynamics, analysis of human traffic flows, poor transport terminal design, regional migration challenges. All of these challenges have been observed to have put the NIS in serious position of ineffective service delivery which is a major cause of various trans-border banditry, boundary conflicts along border towns, increase in the rate of human trafficking along porous borders, and other associated challenges of migration in Nigeria. It is, therefore, imperative to chart a way forward through urban and regional planning on basic measures that can be taken to effectively tackle the identified challenges of the effective service delivery by the Nigeria Immigration Service as an instrument of management of migration issues in Nigeria. Basically, by training, the urban planner is a professional saddled with the responsibility of harnessing resources both natural and human for the purpose of ensuring safety and convenience for man in his environment.

14.3 The Roles of Planners in Nigeria Immigration Service

Basically, immigration and emigration are the essential responsibility of the Nigerian Immigration Service. In view of the enormous responsibility of the Nigeria Immigration

Service, it is divided into various directorates as presented in the organizational structure of the service. The responsibilities of planners as both staff and consultants in the immigration service include border control, human traffic, immigration dynamics, system approach, transport terminal planning and regional migration dynamics.

14.3.1 Analysis of Border Control

The demarcation of the borders were done by the colonial masters without considerations to the culture of the people as can be seen in the cultural ties of marriages, celebration of religious festivities, language and many more. Boundary delimitation affects the cultural and ethnic homogeneity of the border communities to the extent that one cannot differentiate a Nigerian from Nigerien owing to the fact that communities with homogenous culture and language are found at different sides of the borderline, making it difficult to put in place immigration laws when members can just change their identity when they deem fit (Akinyemi, 2013).

One of the core mandates of the Nigeria Immigration Service is to ensure an efficient border control and effective manning of border area. With this mandate comes the enormous responsibility of ensuring that only legal migrants come into the country and such migrants carry on their legitimate business within the confines of the Nigerian laws. This responsibility therefore requires that the Nigeria Immigration Service to have an efficient database of the inflow and outflow of migrants. Furthermore, the service must be able to effectively control and police the various control points to ward off any external

aggression and criminality against the nation-state through the various border areas. Therefore, to effectively discharge this duty of effective policing of the border areas, the service requires the duty of planners in order to site the various control points that will ensure proper policing of the border locations. Nigerian borders are artificial creation from colonialism which continues to pose a serious threat to the country.

Another challenge militating against border control is the effective planning of border towns. Planning of border settlements in terms of setbacks and other planning guidelines is the exclusive reserve of the planner. Over time, it has been observed that most of the towns around border locations in Nigerian areas where serious criminality and dangerous activities are domiciled. These areas are also observed to be the flashpoints of innovations, as they are the first point of physical contact for various migrants coming in with different ideas from their various points of origin. Effective planning of these border towns to leverage on the advantages of being a contact point of innovations and development is the duty of the planners to lead the way in providing land use plans, layout plans and development plans that will promote security and functionality of the border towns. However, most border towns in Nigeria have been observed to be sprawl locations without effective planning to guide the direction of growth. Therefore, the onus is on town planners generally to provide sustainable plans for these areas and the residents of the border towns.

Another critical responsibility of town planners in border control is resettlement planning. This involves provision of decent accommodation, infrastructure and health facilities

for border residents in the case of boundary disputes. Currently, Nigerians who had to resettle in Nigeria are confronted by crisis, as a result of the green tree agreement by the International Court of Justice on Bakassi peninsula, which granted the ownership of the oil-rich peninsula to Cameroun against Nigerians living around the Nigerian-Cameroun border in Cross River State. These Nigerian residents would have been better planned for if a proper resettlement scheme with effective input of the planners based on the training and expertise obtained. These boundary-dispute areas are the essential domain where physical planning must be harnessed in order to ensure that the resettled migrants are effectively catered for and security of lives and properties around the areas are sustained. This action requires the technical input of the planner in order to ensure the safety and functionality of the border towns and its residents.

Planning and border management is another essential responsibility of the Nigeria Immigration Service which requires the expertise of the planner as a professional in land resource allocation and management. The planner is in pole position to analyse the various techniques based on the peculiarities of the environment where his work is required and the resources available to chart a defined course for land resource management within the precinct of the border area and around the settlements where such migrants decide to settle in. It is, therefore, imperative for the Nigeria Immigration Service to reinforce its physical development units with experienced and up-to-date planners who can help analyse and project the requisite space required within the

border locations, plan the land uses within these areas for effective service delivery.

Design of border post also comes as one of the duties that the town planner is required to effectively deliver in his position as either a staff or a consultant to the immigration service. This duty of the planner requires that he prepares a layout plan based on the vagaries of security and challenges of mobility along the border areas. This duty of providing and designing of border post is essentially the responsibility of planners who understand the nature and characteristics of the proposed border location with respect to the inflow and outflow of migrants, which is often a function of the various economic, social and political factors prevailing in the location. Therefore, since the planner is expected as an expert to be vast in the knowledge of human mobility and behavioural pattern which cause immigration or emigration from a particular location, he is in pole position to harness this knowledge into provision of the requisite space for border design and management.

Control point, which is an essential element in the design of border post is another essential element of the immigration service, as this serves as the muster points for humans, animals and various services moving across border locations. This is an essential infrastructure for effective service delivery of the immigration service. This facility is, however, located in space which then requires proper planning, as it must be able to effectively cater for the various needs of the border locations. This control post often requires in its design the provision of certain infrastructures, such as quarantine services, weighing services, monitoring, surveillance, medical care, and other

spatially referenced functions which allows for effective service delivery by the immigration service. Therefore, since the planner is equipped with the requisite knowledge on the basic space standards for all these functions, the planner becomes indispensable in this area of responsibility to any nations immigration service instrument.

Records have shown that most settlements around a border location are often sprawl areas. This places the physical planner in a vantage position to advance adequate sprawl management technique which will effectively deal with the type of sprawl in a particular locality around the border settlements. This responsibility of the planner is essential because of the technical expertise of the planner in line with his training as a manager of space and human resources.

14.3.2 Analysis of Human Traffic

Density is a major factor in the process of migration studies. The density of an area describes the number of people or population per square metre of land area. A detailed understanding of the density of any location is a function of population and space. These two components are the critical factors of expertise of the town planner. Therefore, the continuous injection of migrants into a location is basically dependent on the availability of space in the location. The town planner can carry out an advisory role with respect to space and available infrastructure; the number of migrants that can be housed in a particular location based on the pattern of travel of the migrants, their origin and supposed destination. This shows that the planner can help to determine by the various indicators

of migration-mobility characteristics, occupancy ratio and available space for residence. All these factors are often harmonized by the planner in order to prepare a detailed development plan that will help to judiciously utilize available space for all the essential land uses required for daily living by any individual moving into any specified location.

Provision of facilities and infrastructure is a critical role of town planners globally, as the planners are experts in ensuring that the infrastructures provided are commensurate with the population of the area and within the threshold of the population. Since the agglomeration of population in a particular location is dependent also on the availability of both economic prosperity and properly harnessed natural resources the planner has the responsibility to effectively recommend the adequate infrastructure that is required to sustain the population which migrate from a specified origin to a defined destination, which is basically the understanding of human mobility. Furthermore, the population and the carrying capacity of an area will determine the effective yield of the resources in the area. Therefore, if the resources in a particular location will yield effectively over time, the planner must be able to properly advise on the population carrying capacity of a location with respect to the available resources in the location. Therefore, for the planner that is permanently employed to serve either in an advisory role or as a resident planner within the service, the duties of such planners also cover to the proper allocation of space and resources based on the inflow and outflow of population and the carrying capacity of the area.

14.3.3 Consultancy on Immigration Dynamics

The failure of government to provide basic social amenities in the rural areas and the border communities has been the bane of security challenges around most of the border communities and rural areas. This is another factor militating against good border security, when the people at the rural areas and the border communities are living in abject poverty and lack of basic infrastructures, cross-border activities and involvement in clandestine activities, such as armed banditry, smuggling and many more. There is need for the government to develop the rural areas and the border communities. The spatial dynamics of these border communities and the level of inflow and outflow from this communities determine the extent of safety that will be enjoyed in such locations. The planner can serve as a consultant because of his training in the area of urban governance and poverty study chart, a defined course for infrastructure provision and livelihood improvement in this border areas. Furthermore, a better planned rural environment around border locations will improve human inflow and socio-economic livelihood. The planner can recommend appropriate measures in improving safety and security along such border communities through a comprehensive rural development plan.

Furthermore, projecting population against land carrying capacity is also an area where the planner can effectively function within the immigration service. The population of an area against the carrying capacity of such area in terms of infrastructure provision will determine the level of

settlement sustainability in such border town locations and rural communities. The planner can serve as a policy adviser to the service on the pattern of population increase as a function of immigration and the corresponding infrastructure provision that will help sustain the population and ensure sustainability of land and infrastructure, through provision of land use plans and geo-spatial data.

14.3.4 Designing of Transport Terminal

Akinyemi, (2013) observes that the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of People, Goods and Services was established by the ECOWAS member states in 1979. The main aim of this protocol is to facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services within West Africa without visa. This simply means that any ECOWAS citizen who possess valid travelling document and International Health Certificate can transverse the entire region without a visa. This compels all member states to abolish the use of visa in order to ease the movement of people in the region. However, in spite of the positive pronouncement of this protocol, it has its own negative effects. This protocol allows the movement of criminals across the border, who engage in cross-border activities under the pretext of this protocol. Borders have become a safe passage for people without identities, as ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement has been abused to mean an entry without valid documents.

The following factors pose a serious threat to the internal security of lives and property in Nigeria, as the

infractions at the border call for enforcement of reforms of the border control system. Terrorists move in and out of the country, and smugglers of all kinds of contrabands continue with their business. For instance, with regard to the recent security challenges in Nigeria, there are speculations that these groups are also from neighbouring countries. This would not have been possible if there were adequate security at our national borders. The borders are seen as means of smuggling of illegal weapons and all contrabands. Armed robbers usually escape through the boundaries after committing crimes in the country. All these tend to endanger the socioeconomic development of the country and affect political stability. Also, the integrity and the image of the country is now put to questioning as Nigerians face a lot of harassment outside the country.

In view of the aforesaid, the expertise of the planner in terms of design and monitoring development plans, urban plans, environmental impact assessment, development control and other physical development instruments and geospatial information system, critical appraise and adequate ports locations, land border entry points and adequate facilities for sustainable service delivery at the various entry points for migrants in order to effectively check most of the cross-border crimes and terrorism being promoted and transported across border as a result of the ECOWAS protocol. Therefore, planning, designing, implementation of design and monitoring of the designs of the border posts, layouts and the number of border posts are major responsibilities which planners can be

involved in within the Nigeria Immigration Service; they can also serve as consultants in the organisation.

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