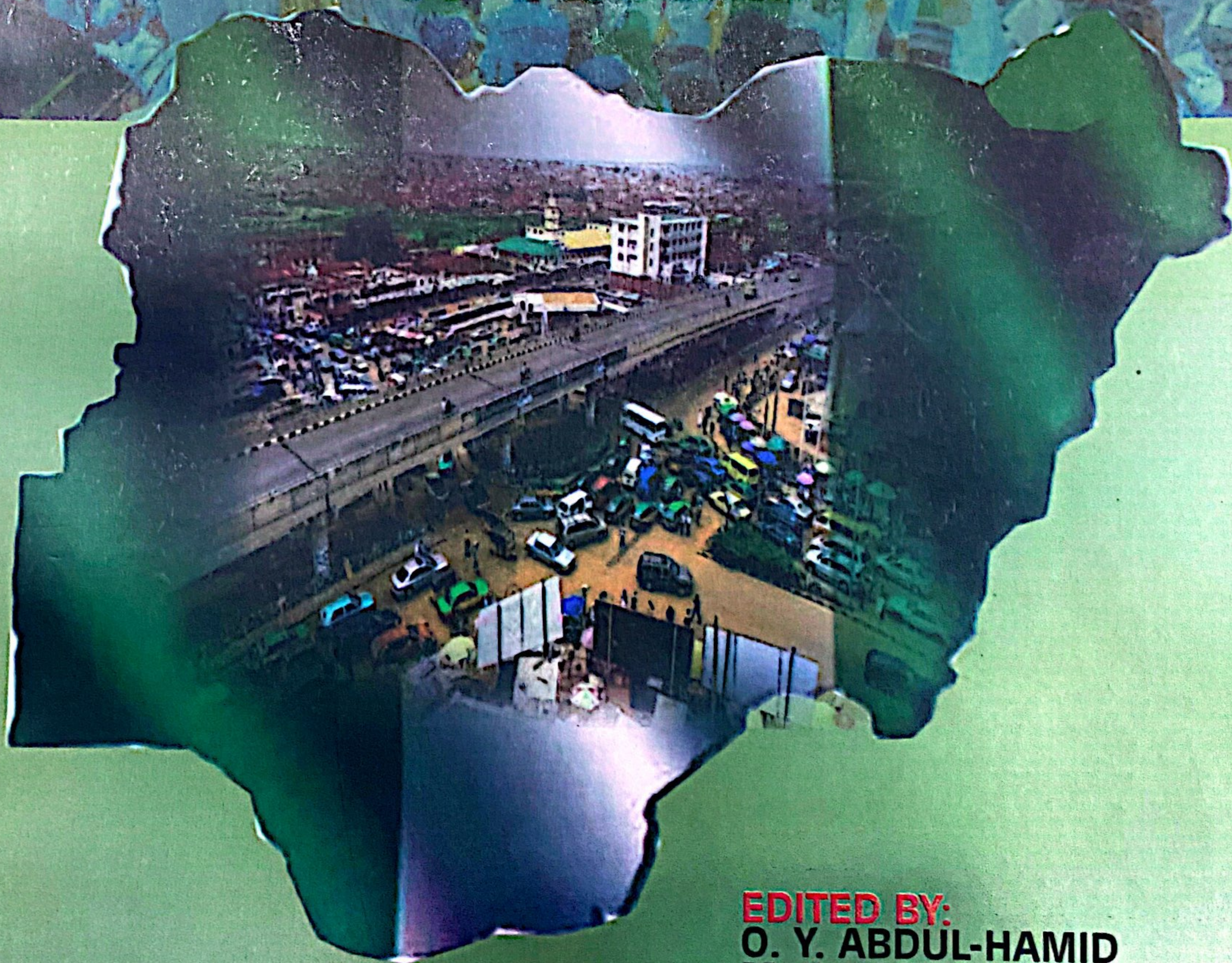




THE PLACE OF ILORIN EMIRATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA



EDITED BY:
O. Y. ABDUL-HAMID
M. A. ADEDIMEJI
A.L. AZEEZ
A.I. ABDULKABIR

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FOREWORD

Ilorin Emirate, as a frontline socio-political structure, has been an important stakeholder in the Nigerian's political system, contributing significantly to the development of Nigerian's democracy through active involvement and participation of her sons and daughters in shaping the Nigerian polity. This book, *"The Place of Ilorin Emirate in the Development of Nigeria"*, the fifth in the book of readings series of the Centre for Ilorin Studies, University of Ilorin, is a wide, rigorous and intellectual interrogation of Ilorin Emirate's political and socioeconomic activities as a crucial focal point of Nigeria politics and development. The essence of the book is to underscore Ilorin Emirate's political history and socioeconomic dynamics within the context of Nigeria's development. As can be gleaned through the book, Ilorin Emirate's unique composition, resulting from its cosmopolitan and multi-ethnic orientation, has produced many exemplary leaders that have contributed immensely to nation building in Nigeria. To this end, the Emirate has a history of active political participation that cannot be over-emphasized in its significance and role, particularly as it relates to the shaping of the sociopolitical history of the nation.

Whether we are talking about the unforgettable contest between the Northern Progressive Party (NPC) and the Action Group (AG) (that formed an alliance with the Talaka Parapo Movement) or the catalytic role of Pakata dynasty in sprouting and building sons and daughters that enthusiastically partook in political process, Ilorin Emirate's impact in the Nigerian political destiny cannot be ignored. Whether we are dissecting the activities of the Ilorin Emirate Development Union (IEDPU), as a hometown association, in bridging the gap between the government and the society or we are interrogating the impactful role of the Emirate's traditional structure in building and maintaining social cohesion, and ultimately peaceful co-existence, we cannot underestimate the effect of the precepts or models that Ilorin Emirate offered as a panacea to the recurring ethno-religious violence being perpetrated by radical groups across Nigeria. Indeed, the influence of democratic engagements in Ilorin Emirate on the educational system in the Emirate cannot also be over-emphasized. All these and many other remarkable political issues or praxes, are critically presented and examined in this 5th Edition of the Centre for Ilorin Studies Book of Readings. The conclusion from the divergent examination and analyses in this book provides overwhelming and convincing corroboration to the fact that: the trajectory of democracy and the economy of Nigeria cannot be complete without full appreciation of the roles and active involvement of Ilorin Emirate.

The overarching question one of the authors of the chapters in this book asked is: what is the impact of both the dominance and visibility of Ilorin Emirate

on the political terrain of the country and level of development? Although the author aligned himself with the second perspective of the two opposing answers he offered for proper interrogation. I believe that the Emirate is highly regarded in the Nigerian political affairs; and, through its active political participation, it is getting its own fair share of national dividends. The gains might not yet be full and gratifying enough at the moment, there is every indication that the Emirate is not missing out. Nobody can deny the prestige and reputation of Ilorin Emirate in the political terrain, history, calculations, and schemes of this country. I agree with the author that there are great opportunities that have come on the way of the Emirate, which had not been adequately utilized for the good of the largest number of the people of the Emirate. Nonetheless, I believe that there are still many more opportunities that will accrue from the persistent involvement of the Emirate in the already deeply entrenched democratic process in the country. I do not have any doubt that the opportunities will be much more judiciously used for the development of the Emirate and for the greater good of the greatest number of the people in the Emirate.

If I were to choose one word to describe this 5th edition of the Centre for Ilorin Studies' book series, it would definitely be 'awesome.' Editors of the book, headed by the Director of the Centre, Professor Oba Abdul-Hamid, have invested lavishly their personal, intellectual and professional resources to secure and edit this representative array of high-quality contributions. The authors of the chapters in this book, who are, indeed, intellectual path breakers and custodians of the evolution, history and dynamics of Ilorin Emirate, are also unselfish in crafting essays that have deepened our understanding of what makes Ilorin Emirate, unique, tick and progressive.

When calls were made for presentations at the Centre's 5th Biennial National Conference, it was envisaged that the 'outcome of the intellectual engagement will no doubt have far-reaching implications for the development of the Nigerian democracy and the understanding of the role of Ilorin Emirate in that developmental process.' It was also envisaged back then that the ideas, reflections and understanding that would result from the conference would go a long way in positioning Ilorin Emirate for self-assessment. Such assessment would facilitate the consolidation of her gains of discovery or throw up the need to chart a new course of recovery and relevance. It is, to me, incontestable that the chapters in this book have generously provided the anticipated concrete, authentic, profound scholarly reflections that have, indeed, satisfied our yearnings for a deeper intellectual understanding of the position and contribution of Ilorin Emirate in the political and economic spheres of our nation. This book is, therefore, a concrete manifestation of the continued efforts of the Centre for Ilorin Studies at enhancing academic endeavors aimed at understanding the unique history, potentials, setting, epistemic and spiritual preeminence of Ilorin Emirate.

I am highly excited to read in this book, many special contributions from intellectual giants across different fields. I am, indeed, pleased that our aspiration in establishing the Centre for Ilorin Studies in 2012 as a multidisciplinary centre is being fulfilled with the traversed ideas and information from different perspectives and paradigms that I have seen in this book. The special contributors are not only reputable researchers in their own different fields, but also sentinels of the history, values and heritages of Ilorin Emirate. I, therefore, appreciate them, especially for remaining engaged through the process that consummated this book of readings. I equally appreciate the reviewers who, through their rigorous review, feedback and guidance, immensely enhanced the quality of all the chapters in this book.

Most importantly, the editors of the book are highly commended. They must have gone through a rigorous process in ultimately making appropriate selections, out of the many other qualitative submissions, to constitute this invaluable Book. They are also commended for the painstaking editing works that had gone into this book to make its reading strikingly smooth and easy.

Undoubtedly, a good reading is in store for the potential readers and researchers, who should take advantage of the verified facts, information and data that dotted this book. I want to assure all readers, stakeholders and researchers, whose interest is passionately on the history and heritages of Ilorin Emirate, that the book series from the Centre for Ilorin Studies is permanently a tradition and an enduring symbol of the Centre's commitment to academic documentation of the trajectory of Ilorin Emirate. It will never die. Rather, it will continually grow or increase in quality year-in year-out.

Long live Ilorin Emirate and her heritage!

Professor Sulyman Age Abdulkareem
Vice-Chancellor,
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May 2022

PREFACE

A city of destiny, Ilorin has remained for many decades one of the iconic and amazing state capitals in Nigeria. Apart from its uniqueness as the geographical confluence of the northern and southern parts of the complex Nigerian state, the landmark achievements the city has recorded in all gamuts of national development have made it a reference point and standard bearer of no easy comparison.

In politics and education, scholarship and craft, diversity and harmonious coexistence, Ilorin is a city to beat and it is little wonder that it has been developing in geometric proportions as it continues to magnetise the best to itself. It is apposite to say that today, many topmost professionals and leaders of thought and industry have their educational and career roots in Ilorin. The distinction of Ilorin, its cultural vitality, religious dexterity, ethnic diversity and cosmopolitan identity have coalesced to make it a melting pot of sociopolitical dynamism and subject of academic enquiry.

This foregoing reality must have informed the thoughtfulness of the University of Ilorin in establishing the Centre for Ilorin Studies in 2011 during the tenure of Prof. Is-haq Oloyede as Vice-Chancellor. Under its successive Directors, from the mercurial Prof. A. G. A. S. Oladosu, who laid a solid foundation for the Centre at inception, through the astute leaderships provided by Prof. Zakariyau Oseni and Prof. Ibrahim Jawondo, to the dynamic Prof. Abdul-Hamid Oba, who is deepening the culture of excellence now, the Centre has blazed the trail in many areas and justified its establishment.

One of the areas in which the Centre has carved a niche for itself is the organisation of annual/biennial conferences for critically engaging in discourses that ignite value and subsequently publishing books that edify scholarship and learning. Of all the Centres in the university, the Centre for Ilorin Studies appears to be the most consistent in the publication of books, a legacy that should be sustained by future leaders of the Centre.

So unstoppable is the Centre in its avowed mission and impressive commitment to its ideals that the combined forces of COVID-19 lockdown and strike of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) could not stop it from planning and executing its conference project in 2020. The outcome of the innovative conference, one of the first of its kind in hybridising virtual and physical modes of presentation in the country as a response to the much-touted 'new normal', forms the bulk of this intellectually stimulating volume.

The Place of Ilorin Emirate in the Development of Nigeria is a rich collection of latest studies in the dynamics of politics, socioeconomics, history, education, religion, law and shariah, peaceful development, cultural and general affairs of Ilorin Emirate. Though the book thematises political and

socioeconomic components of development, it offers refreshing perspectives in allied areas that would enrich the researcher and excite the perceptive reader. It provides a window for viewing the Ilorin Emirate as a raving phenomenon in the Nigerian polity from multidisciplinary lenses while providing pathways out of our contemporary challenges.

Perhaps because Islam, which is dear to Ilorin Emirate, is a religion of five pillars and Muslims pray five times a day, it is stylistically important that the book is divided into five sections. Each section addresses a thematic area with relevant chapters devoted to interrogating the issues that propelled the intellectual curiosity of the authors. The expertise deployed to the preparation of the chapters is proportional to the adroitness of the scholars in handling their subject-matters, leaving different impressions and shades of colour in the psyche of careful readers.

As a result of its gainful multidisciplinary approach, since a society is not always monolithic, this book certainly offers something beneficial to everyone at the broadest level while it is particularly nourishing to researchers and scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Definitely, all those interested in the crosscurrents of history, culture and development of Ilorin Emirate both as ends in themselves and means to more ends will find the book an invaluable resource material.

While congratulating the Centre on yet another eye-popping achievement recorded through the publication of this book, one also salutes the 39 authors on the discipline, diligence and dedication that they invested in writing the papers. It is hoped that researchers in particular and the reading public in general will find the book relevant to the understanding of issues that undergird the preeminence of the "the frontier Emirate", as Danmole (1980) aptly describes Ilorin Emirate, which this book highlights and preserves.

As a resource material of multidimensional benefits, this volume is not only good for scholars and students in various tertiary institutions in Nigeria but also beneficial to all sons and daughters of Ilorin Emirate and those who hold episteme dearly. It is educative, informative and functionally refreshing.

Happy reading and best wishes to the Centre and the University!

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May, 2022

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CHAPTER 24

THE INTERPLAY OF POLITICS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT: AN OVERVIEW OF ILORIN METROPOLIS

ABDULRAHEEM M.O.¹

INTRODUCTION

Human beings depend solely on the environment for all resources that guarantee their survival and wellbeing. Therefore the success of mankind depends on how best he can cooperate with the rest of nature while trying to use nature's resources for his benefit. This fact was succinctly put by Gro Harlem Brundtland the chairman, World Commission on Environment and Development in his landmark report in 1987, titled "Our common Future" where he stressed in his foreword that "the environment is where we all live; and development is what we all do in attempting to improve our lots within that abode. The two are inseparable". Development is a function of Man's quest and attempt to become more urbanized, technologically advanced and economically developed hence modifying the environment to suit one and other's needs.

Development should however be considered on the basis of their long and short term effects on the environment as myriad of man's activities have translated into several negative impacts, most of which has altered ecological systems thus resulting into much harm being done to man and the proper functioning and cycling of materials in the environment. Expressive evidence of man's activities like flooding, erosion, pollution, depletion of the ozone layer, depletion of oxygen layer in the atmosphere, desertification, and drought among others have posed critical challenges for urban planners and created anxiety for all lovers of the environment hence the need to control man's developmental activities.

Planning, concisely is the art and science of organizing the use of land for the greater good of the society. Land use planning could therefore be expressed as physical planning. This is because physical planning attempts to achieve an optimal spatial coordination of different human activities for the enhancement of the quality of life. Planning is described as the systematic assessment of land and water, alternative pattern of land use and other physical, social and economic conditions in such a way to encourage land user to select options that increase productivity

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and meet societal needs in a sustainable manner (Onibokun, 1985). Physical planning involves the reconciliation of land uses, provision of the right site for the right use, control of development, provision of facilities, services and public goods, preservation, protection and conservation of resources, preservation of heritage among others (Oduwaye, 2009). It ensures association of mutually helpful and compatible land uses, guarantees orderly development, checkmates man and his activities, forestalls any unfavourable side-effects of industrialization, urbanization and economic development, provides functional and aesthetically pleasing environment and satisfactory services in a sustainable manner. It is the spatial expression of the desired form of social and economic development. In other word, physical planning established the 'ground rules' for sustainable development as it ensures that developments are carried out without harming the environment. The process ensures that such developments are socially just.

Effective urban land control and management particularly in areas with rapid urban sprawl is crucial to tackling growing land use problems such as slum formation, rising costs of land, accessibility to urban land for housing, incompatible use, flooding, overcrowding and congestion among others for the purpose of achieving sustainable city development and ensuring the safety and health of the people (Oyesiku, 1997). Sadly, politics despite its positives aspects, has interfered with the realization of the full objectives of physical planning in most Nigerian cities and the city of Ilorin is no exception. Many laudable schemes, proposals, projects and ideas for the development of the historic city, were truncated or sacrificed on the altar of politics. This study assesses the interplay of politics and urban planning in Ilorin Metropolis.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF CONCEPTS

The Environment

The environment has been defined in various ways by different authors. According to Hagget, (1975) the environment is defined as the sum total of all conditions that surrounds man at any point in time on the earth's surface. However, the *Oxford advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* defines environment as "conditions; circumstances, etc affecting people's lives". In another proposition, it is defined as the sum total of all the surroundings of a living organism, including natural forces and other living things which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage (Web finance 2014).

Functions of the environment

Research has shown that the environment functions as a big life support system for man. It sustains life by offering man the sun, clean air, vegetation, water, flora and fauna which are essential for survival, otherwise man's life will be in jeopardy. In fact, Human life is delicately linked to the ecological benefits provided

by other organisms in the environment. Waste disposal, air purification, solar energy absorption, soil formation, solar energy absorption, soil formation, nutrient cycling and food production are all offered by planet earth. In many environments, high diversity helps biological community to better withstand environmental stress, and to recover faster than those with fewer species. It is also estimated that 95% of pests and disease carrying organisms in the world are controlled by natural predators and competitors.

Oxygen produced by trees in the environment is very vital to life and indeed trees have rightly been called the earth's lungs. The reason being that as trees and forests in our environment give us oxygen, they also absorb many toxic gases and helps to keep the air pure. In addition they absorb the main greenhouse gas (CO₂), thereby helping to reduce global warming. Furthermore, they regulate the hydrological cycle since forest water-shed acts as giant sponges, absorbing rainfall, slowing down the run-off and gradually releasing the water for recharging of springs. Our environment enhances the quality of life for all, through the scenic beauty it offers from its rivers, valleys, mountains, grasslands, woodland, and beaches which add value to our lives.

Trees serve as wind breakers and protect our building from destruction by wind storms. Cutting down too many trees expose our buildings to destruction during strong winds. It is in the atmosphere that condensation of water vapour to form cloud takes place causing rainfall. The environment is the home to many other animals and birds created by the almighty.

The Environment in an Urban Context

O'Sullivan, (2000) defined an urban area as a geographical area containing a large number of people in a relatively small area or an area with a relatively high population density. Urban environments are characterized by large human populations and settlements. Urban settlements are made up of many interdependent systems of government, transportation, manufacturing, economic, health, education, energy etc. In addition, Chiras, (1998) depicted the urban environment as a complex web of systems. All urban areas have extensive systems for provision of housing (housing system) water (water system) production of goods (manufacturing system) transportation of people and goods (transport system) hydro-electric generation (energy system). There is an elaborate food processing facilities (food production system), waste handling (waste management system) and training for individuals (education system) to function efficiently in the complex web of urban systems.

Urban environmental problems

Urban development implies qualitative life style in the urban area in which all the sub-systems function optimally to provide excellent well-being to every urban dweller. Sadly, this has been difficult to achieve and sustain in most developing countries which are bedeviled with severe urban environmental problems. Such problems are more serious in rapidly growing urban centers like Ilorin, the Kwara state capital. Poorly planned and defectively managed large urban areas, have produced ineffective urban systems in Nigeria which have resulted in serious urban environmental problems such as flooding, erosion, air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, biodiversity loss, incompatible land usage, haphazard development, slums, poor housing, inefficient transport systems, poor refuse disposal methods, overcrowding, traffic congestion, poor water supply system, poor sanitation, inadequate infrastructure, traffic congestion, urban sprawl, squatter settlements, urban heat Island to mention a few.

Environmental Degradation

Man in his domestic activities, developmental and economic efforts, usually harms the environment which results in environmental degradation. In other words, the wanton abuse of natural resources bestowed on man leads to gradual deterioration of the environment, depletion of resources (air, water, land, rivers, vegetal, forests etc), destruction of ecosystems and extinction of wild life. Most importantly, man's careless attitude continuously aggravates the effects of environmental degradation e.g. use of pesticides, use of firewood, burning of fossil fuels, excessive logging of forests, over-cropping of arable land, overgrazing, industrialization, oil exploration, improper solid and liquid waste disposal methods, emission of carbon monoxide from automobiles, use of non-degradable materials for packaging amongst others. A cursory look at the effects of environmental degradation will enable us to appreciate its dangers.

Deforestation is massive forest clearance which has led to the destruction of forests in several parts of the world especially the lush tropical rain forests of Africa. The extent, diversity and stability of Nigerian forests have also been reduced due to agricultural development, urban growth, industrial expansion and quest for timber firewood and recently charcoal. Bush fires and general pressure from increasing population have also taken their toll on forest resources in Nigeria. Globally, commercial logging has been identified as one major cause of deforestation as blue chip companies pay huge sums of money to fell trees in large numbers for export and other uses. Ilorin, being a state capital has suffered from this menace due to rapid urbanization which required massive clearance of its woodland forests. *Soil erosion* aided by wind, water, ice is responsible for a high percentage of land degradation all over the world. It is often caused by the removal of native plant communities during construction of buildings, building of roads, through poor agricultural practices, over-cultivation of land, tampering with the

natural vegetation and poor soil management. Erosion creates gullies and turns good land to waste land. It increases the frequency and destructiveness of floods. In Nigeria, gully erosion has become a serious menace which has resulted in destruction of houses, public infrastructure and roads.

Flooding occurs from the interaction of human activities and natural phenomena. Many serious disasters have been linked to flooded cities in various parts of the world. Modern day floods are more disastrous in terms of property loss than those of the past because humans have removed water absorbing plants covers from the soil and also constructed buildings of flood plains. In Nigeria for example, the Ogunpa floods in the 70's & 80's led to loss of many lives and properties. The year 2012 flood has been described as the most devastating which swept through 33 states and 245 L.G.A in Nigeria due to release of water from dams (Kanji, Shiroro, Jebba and Lagos). Flooding has been aggravated in many Nigerian cities due to indiscriminate removal of natural vegetation, building on flood plains, blocked drainage channels, dumping of refuse in drainages and construction on road and building setbacks. Ilorin city has witnessed many flooding episodes some of which were really destructive leading to loss of properties and lives. In recent times, it is observed that anxiety of the residents increases with the herald of each rain season.

Desertification results from human activities such as over-grazing, indiscriminate cutting of trees, use of wood for fuel, over-cultivation of land, bush burning, deforestation, poor farming practices etc. The harmful effects of desertification are erosion, loss of vegetation, loss of agricultural land, famine, landslides, displacement of people from indigenous lands, refugee problems, among others. Much of this phenomenon has not been witnessed in Ilorin but care must be taken not to trigger its occurrence.

Biodiversity loss- this results from the destruction of habitats, when land is cleared for agricultural purposes or through the indiscriminate burning of bushes. Biodiversity loss leads to the extinction of exotic species of plants and animals. The end result is the disappearance of basic natural resources of food, plants, timber, medicinal roots and barks, fishes, game etc.

Ozone layer depletion- this is another serious side effect of abuse of the environment. Ozone is the protective layer usually found about 20 – 30km above sea level which prevents the penetration of the sun's harmful rays from reaching the earth. The release of chlorofluoro – carbons (CFCs) or greenhouse gases pollutes the atmosphere and causes the depletion of the ozone layer. This allows the harmful ultra violet rays to reach us directly from the sun. It has been proved that most of the skin diseases experienced and low agricultural output are caused by this harmful ultraviolet rays. In addition, it causes deterioration of synthetic material such as paints, construction materials e.g. marble etc. *Global warming*- this is the gradual but persistent rise in atmospheric temperature which disturbs the established weather patterns thereby disrupting ordered living or planning. It

is caused by the continuous buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include carbon- dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). They absorb infrared radiation and increase atmospheric temperature. Some activities that lead to increased emissions of greenhouse gases are industrial activities, burning of fossil fuels for energy and transport, cattle rearing which leads to methane emission by ruminants, clearing of forests, reduced CO_2 absorption, use of CFCs in refrigerants. Effects of global warming include rise in sea level, frequent overflow of ocean banks, Impacts on the amount, type and distribution of precipitation, soil erosion, flooding, drought etc.

Pollution- this ensues when potentially harmful substances are released into the environment. Sources of air pollution include burning of refuse and fossil fuels, use of pesticides and sprays, frying and smoking of food items, thermal power plant, automobile exhaust fumes, pollen grains, biological decay, earthquakes, forest fires and volcanic eruptions. Air pollution causes chronic coughs, cancer, respiratory problems, memory lapses, headache, and aggravates asthma. Air pollution damages buildings and corrodes surfaces. A housewife using wood for cooking is said to inhale BAP (Benzo (a) pyrene) equivalent to 20 packets of cigarettes a day.

Water can be polluted from industries, thermal or nuclear power plants discharge of heated waters into aquatic bodies, decomposed domestic wastes, water hyacinth, petroleum mining, discharge of household effluents into water bodies, run-off from agricultural lands, acid rain etc. Furthermore, ground water can be polluted through septic tanks, mining effluents, industrial chemicals etc. Pollution of ground water through these sources is usually irreversible.

Land pollution which results from toxic substances released unto land from solid wastes has become a serious problem in most cities. In less developed countries, a larger part of household waste is vegetable, paper, diary wastes etc. In contrast, refuse from highly urbanized communities contains greater amounts of hazardous wastes, mercury (from batteries), toxic chemicals from cleaning liquids, paint and wood preservatives, computer parts and medical wastes.

In the city of Ilorin the problem of wastes disposal has become a serious nuisance. Most often household wastes and refuse from commercial areas are disposed on road medians (meant for flowers and beautification) and any available open space within the town. At times, garbage is heaped at strategic places in major markets within the city, this constituting an eye sore in such markets like Ipata, Oja Oba, Oko Olowo to mention a few. Serious health and aesthetic problems are associated with open dumps including rodent infestation, air pollution, awful odour, insect invasion among others. It has been established that all soil pollutants eventually affect human health.

ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PHYSICAL PLANNING

Concept of planning

Planning connotes pre-arranging or pre-thinking things before an event takes place. Careful planning allows us to move away from mistakes of the past while we are guided to make wiser decisions for the future.

The main rationale for planning as posited by Adeoti, (2004) are: to think and act wisely, to avoid failure, to reduce waste and to correct an imperfect system. However, various forms of planning exist, such as social planning, economic planning, national planning, defense planning, physical planning to mention a few. Physical planning is the focus of this work.

Physical planning

Physical planning is also known as Town planning or Urban and regional planning. There have been different definitions of the term by different authors, the most popular being that proposed by Keeble (1969), where he described physical planning as the science and art of ordering the use of land for the purpose of securing the maximum acceptable degree of economy, convenience and beauty. However, Oyesiku (2004) posited that Physical planning can be considered as being concerned with the functional relationship among the various land uses with a view to ensuring that services are conveniently and efficiently available and accessible to all. Physical planning has also been defined as the distribution and utilization of everything that could enhance the quality of human life and the environment (Sanni, 2015). According to Mgog and Chamey (2012) Urban planning can also be regarded as a technical and political process concerned with the development and use of land, protection and use of the environment, public welfare and the design of the urban environment, including air, water and the infrastructure passing in and out of urban areas such as transportation, communication and distribution networks. He believes Urban planning guides orderly development in Urban, suburban and rural areas.

Object of Physical Planning

The essential objectives of physical or town planning can be recapitulated into four:

- i) Health ii) Convenience iii) Beauty iv) Environment.

Health: The objective here is the creation of healthy environments for all the people, both the rich and the poor to live, work, play and relax. This objective is accommodated in physical planning schemes by provision of parks and

playgrounds in the suitable sections of the city, containing pollution to the barest minimum, subdividing land into zones such that residential land use is situated far away from industrial or commercial areas. It helps to prevent the encroachment of one zone over another and ensures orderly development of the entire town.

Convenience: The object of convenience has to do with provision of public needs of the community in respect of social, economic, cultural and recreational. These amenities include cheap power and electricity supply, portable water supply, transport facilities, easy waste disposal, suitable sites for industrial and commercial, and business enterprises. The goal is to encourage trading with cheap power supply, transport facilities, and easy access to raw materials etc. convenience is also concerned with provision of recreational facilities such as parks, open fields and playgrounds for children, gardens, community centers stadiums etc for adults.

Beauty: The objective of beauty is achieved by preserving the individuality of the town by taking advantage of the natural conditions surrounding it and also by giving architectural finishing to all components of the town. It includes the preservation of natural greenery, trees, ancient architectural buildings, mosques, churches, buildings of cultural importance, sites of historical significance, architectural control on public buildings, enhanced domestic buildings and buildings of civic beauty and pride, etc.

Environment: This objective is achieved by ensuring the environment is organized in such a way that man can go about his daily activity with the least amount of stress and anxiety. Indeed the complex problems of modern society have gradually led towards serious maladjustments between man and the kind of life he has to live. These include long and stressful travel to work, long busy hours at work, limited time spent with family, lack of communal living etc.

The town planner is mostly concerned with bringing about a better relationship between man and his environment by removing all these maladjustments that have tend to destroy the vitality of urban living.

Sadly most cities grew without being guided by development plans, or where plans exist, the implementation has however been poor. This situation has resulted in haphazard city growth with the consequent malfunctioning of the cities and attendant negative effect on the quality of life of the urban dwellers (Egunjobi & Moruf, 2015). One is forced to query why urban planning with all its attractive objectives aimed at achieving orderly, well planned, healthy and aesthetically pleasing urban environments, fail to achieve much success in Nigeria, the city of Ilorin inclusive. Indeed the failure of physical planning in many cities in Nigeria has been attributed to some core factors chief of which is politics.

Politics and the Challenge of Leadership in Nigeria

In an ideal situation we all believe a perfect political system should be transparent, open, honest, and decides on the best possible projects that maximize benefits to all citizens. In a democratic society, the aim is to give every citizen equal opportunity in policy making. Ideally, it is assumed that many separate interests would put forward their perceived solutions to communal problems. These are discussed, debated and evaluated reasonably and equally. Policy choices are then made democratically but compassionately, while implementation is fair and productive for all stakeholders.

Regrettably, this is not always the way our political systems work. The system, more often give those with the most power and money the greatest voice in public affairs or decision in today's Nigeria. Policy makers are not motivated to make decisions on the basis of societal goals, but rather to maximize their own rewards, power, money and re-election.

Democracy can be summarized as a basic principle that believes no one should be governed without his or her consent. Leadership has been identified as a major challenge of development in Nigeria. Leadership by example is a substructure on which democracy and development can be established. To realise the immense possibilities that good governance offers, there is need for a leadership that has the capacity and the conviction to mobilize the rest of society in order to attain those possibilities. Indeed no society can have institutions that are transparent, democratic and accountable without leaders who have vision, integrity, credibility, intellect and commitment to progress. Achebe (1983) said and I quote, "the political class has become a major obstacle to political order, progress and development. Politicians today have contracted the virus of bad governance that the previous regimes suffered."

It has been observed that master plans produced for metropolitan areas are in many ways a reflection of the organizational and political settings that produced them (Abbot, 2009). Good governance should therefore include the way in which metropolitan governments solve city problems and the relationships with professional planners in doing so (Alaba, 2015). Urban and regional planning and land use planning are key criteria to effective metropolitan governance, simply because of their competence to ensure harmony in the cities and order in the affairs of cities.

Ilorin Metropolis: Interplay of Politics and Physical Planning Administration

In reality, it is important to note that no tangible growth or sustainable development can occur unless concerted efforts are put in place to address the constraints encountered by physical planning profession and professionals in managing the Ilorin metropolitan area and its suburbs. In reality, urban planning and local politics are supposed to work together in city development, since planning involves everything that affects the city and its governance. Nevertheless,

it is very obvious that planners in Ilorin are confronted with the challenges of negative political influence. This has had a lot of bearings on the effective discharge of their primary responsibility of ensuring orderly and sustainable growth and development of human settlement and natural environment.

Political interference in urban planning occurs when the administrative arm of government uses its power and influence to disturb or hinder the process of urban planning that, prevents the natural flow or the desired outcome. Political interference in urban planning has its roots in the fact that, politicians formulate decisions that affect the activities of their urban areas and administer those decisions through government agencies and bureaucrats. Planning authorities and commissions are some of these government agencies and professional planners are some of the bureaucrats.

Discussed below are situations where political interference had prevented, annihilated or thwarted otherwise laudable urban planning decision in Ilorin, Kwara state capital.

- 1- The twelve miles radius acquisition of 1969 was proposed for Ilorin City since it was just made a new state capital then, in order to guide its growth and expansion. The aim was to make sure that any development within that radius was approved by the town planning authority. It was intended to make sure the city grew in a well planned, healthy and orderly manner and to protect the city from environmental hazards. This policy failed due to local politics. The resultant effect was urban sprawl, haphazard development, decay and discordant land use within the city and its periphery.
- 2- Relocation of old Oja Oba market away from the Emir's palace / Central mosque area has become an albatross due to local politics involved. Indeed, up till this moment, motorists experience serious traffic bottle neck in the Emirs road - Oja Oba Market - Agaka Street- axis due to the continuous presence of Oja Oba market in its present location.
- 3- Street trading at Oja Oba has continued unabated despite the erection of concrete barriers along that road. The traders are supposed to do all trading behind the barriers thereby, leaving the road for motorists. However, the opposite has been the case because of poor political will.
- 4- Relocation of Ilorin West Local Government Headquarters is a very positive move which succeeded due to the strong political will and government backing for the milestone decision.
- 5- Due to political idiosyncrasy, many new Local Government Areas were created in year 2002 within the existing Ilorin West Local Government Area. This made planning administration very cumbersome and inefficient. In fact, planning administrators had a tough time dealing with many physical development issues, due to uncertainty in the areas of jurisdiction.

- 6- Politicians came on board and confiscate parts of land belonging to several government owned secondary schools for their private use. This has jeopardized the security set up of many of these institutions, because in some cases residential houses were built almost adjacent to or overlooking the play fields and other important sections of these public schools.
- 7- Kwara shopping mall has been adjudged a laudable project that has improved the economy and has been a tourist attractions in the city of Ilorin. However, due to politics of opposition the land acquired for the mall is currently under litigation.
- 8- Abandonment of some major motor parks for the road sides e.g. Sawmill Motor Park, is a feature that has generated concerns for many urban managers in Ilorin metropolis. This trend has continued unabated due to poor political will to curtail the trend. Many roadsides have now been converted to motor parks for buses, cars, taxis even tricycles (popularly called Keke Alafia). The traffic chaos created is a problem traffic warden and security agents have to contend with on daily basis.
- 9- The indigenous traditional area is long overdue for upgrading and urban renewal. However resistance to any move for upgrading of this section of the city has been largely due to local politics, political interference and partly lack of cooperation by the indigenes having their family houses within those areas. If the trend continues, the area will become unhealthy and uncomfortable to live in.
- 10- There is also a new trend in Ilorin of using plots that were hitherto earmarked as residential in the GRA and other government layouts to build hotels, club houses and guest houses. The planners are unable to curb this practice because it is said that most of the clubs or hotels are owned by the politicians in power or their friends. This is an unsafe and sad development because it exposes the children or teenagers raised within those neighbourhoods to high risk. In addition, it compromises the security of lives and properties of the citizens living within those areas because they can easily be put under surveillance by miscreants who patronize some of these outfits.
- 11- Haphazard and excessive location of petrol filling stations (PFS) within the traditional and modern area of Ilorin City has become a source of anxiety and worry for all urban managers. Petrol stations are located at every available space all around Ilorin even adjacent to, opposite, in front of schools and residential areas. In some cases, the petrol stations are lined up along the same street with blatant disregard to any safety standards. The major reason usually proffered is that many of the stations are actually owned by politicians in power or their cohorts. About thirteen petrol stations can be counted lined up on either sides of the road from GTB

- junction through Tanke road, through Oke-Odo up to the main gate University of Ilorin, a road of just 5.4 km.
- 12- Balkanization and distortion of layout of the government residential area (GRA) is another sad legacy of the civilian government. Every political party that comes into power demands for a plot within the GRA for its members and associates resulting in the balkanization of the entire landscape in the area.
- 13- Political interference has led to the distortion of layout and land use type at Adewole Housing Estate, Ilorin. The situation is not very different from what has happened to the GRA residential layout. In fact large religious houses have been allowed to erect massive structures within this residential area. Most residents complain of noise pollution and inability to sleep whenever the worshippers do their vigils or use loudspeakers for their programmes.
- 14- The Master plan of Ilorin in 1974 earmarked the large areas for University of Ilorin (UNILORIN), University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH), Ilorin International Airport and Kwara State Polytechnic (Kwara Poly). These large old acquisitions are being encroached on by the former land owners who are believed to have been compensated by the Federal or State government accordingly. They are said to have been encouraged by politicians who do so with the hope of gaining popularity and securing the votes of these land owners during elections.
- 15- Political appointments are not always based on merit since the politicians usually appoint people who will do their bidding into offices. This has permitted charlatans to get to positions of authority in Ministries and parastatal without the requisite professional competence to manage the affairs of such offices.
- 16- Construction of shops on road set-backs have become the order of the day in the city of Ilorin due to the immediate past and present governments' drive to generate revenue by any means. The move has obliterated the streetscape infrastructure within the modern section of the city. According to physical planning standards, road set-backs are meant for road expansion, ornamental trees, street lights, pedestrian walkways and drainages. More worrisome is the fact that shop owners generate a lot of garbage that end up blocking drainages and exacerbating incidence of flooding in the capital city.
- 17- Conversion of green spaces and open spaces meant for relaxation and air purification in cities for other uses is a current practice in Ilorin metropolis. The politicians convert such spaces to build shops, malls and commercial centers with impunity and against planning standards. This practice violates the world health standard for accessibility to green spaces in urban centers. It also results to pollution and unhealthy cities.

- 18- Landuse Act and Family Land issue is another area of conflict in planning administration and implementation of layout schemes. It is hoped that a review of the land use Act will remedy the anomaly involved.

CONCLUSION

Indeed nature supplies us all the basic necessities for our survival; air, food, shelter, clothing, medicine and energy. However, constantly increasing human population, industrialization, technology, and urbanization have created a heavy demand on all these natural resources. It is feared that unless deliberate efforts are made to protect and preserve environmental resources, humanity will face severe hardships now and in the future. Let us therefore, honour the earth that sustains us and governs our survival and at the same time celebrate the seasons, keep each day on earth sacred. We must also be careful not to drive other species to extinction.

Planning our cities and rural areas is a must if, we must live healthy, safe and comfortable lives. Indeed, everyone can live in surroundings similar to the GRAs if proper physical planning and development control are adhered to, in all sections of the city. The only reason why the GRAs are loved by all is because they were planned before they were inhabited.

Physical Planning must therefore be recognised as a social service which the government is responsible for. Whatever form of government a country has, be it democratic, socialist, or military, it is the responsibility of government to plan the use of land and the environment in both urban and rural areas for its citizens.

In the city of Ilorin, the Kwara state capital, physical planning must be given its pride of place devoid of retrogressive political interference. It is only then that the town can develop in a controlled, healthy and orderly manner, where there will be no clash of activities. In fact, land will be distributed rationally for various functions and the city will also look aesthetically pleasing. Otherwise, Ilorin will continue to witness traffic congestion, haphazard growth, incompatible land usage, noise pollution, air pollution, defective road systems, squatter settlements, unhealthy living condition, slums, inadequate open spaces, lack of electricity, drainages, water supply and various other problems of urbanization which are usually complex and difficult to resolve in future.

Furthermore, Government must abstain from the practice of converting physical planning and development control into revenue generating activities. This has forced many planners to overlook anomalies, become ineffective or engage in unprofessional practices, all in the name of meeting up government targets set for revenue generation.

Indeed, effective political will and leadership at all levels has become imperative to sustain physical planning in Ilorin and its environs in order to implement government policies associated with physical development.

On a final note, "what is the use of that beautiful house without a safe and healthy city to put it on"?

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