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Extra-Continental Migration and the Challenge of Development in Africa

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Abstract: This paper explores extra-continental emigration of Africans and the challenges it poses to the development of the African continent. The analytical research method was employed for the study and the Dependency Theory was espoused as a framework of analysis. The paper reveals that, though there is a 4.88 percent difference in favour of intra-continental migration of Africans, extra-continental emigration of Africans experiences stronger growth than the former. The study also finds extra-continental emigration of Africans culpable for the critically short supply of the core values of development on the African continent which have led to absolute underdevelopment of the continent. The paper establishes that, between 2011 and 2018, the African continent lost 17, 516 migrants at the Mediterranean Sea which is a direct cost to the development of Africa. Equally too, the African continent loses \$2.0 billion annually, through extra-continental emigration of African professionals in the health sector alone, which is an indirect cost to the development of the continent. The paper also discovered that, remittances inflows in Africa have increased and it was projected that it would hit \$85 billion in 2019. However, it cannot be compared to the direct and indirect cost of extra-continental emigration of Africans to the development of the continent. The paper concludes that, if the governments of the African continent do not address the phenomenon, it will further affect development. The paper recommends pragmatic leadership that will address the concerns that lead to extra-continental emigration of Africans.

Key words: Africa, Challenge, Development, Extra-Continental, Migration

Introduction

The African continent in 2020, according to the Worldometers (2021) had a population of 1, 340, 598, 147 which is 17. 19 percent of the world population and a land mass of 29, 648, 481 kilometer square, which comfortably places her as the second largest continent in the world coming only after Asia. Africa's population is projected to rise to 2.5 billion by 2050, because the continent has the highest fertility rate of 4.4 children per woman in the world, followed by Oceania with a distant 2.3 fertility rate (Worldometers, 2021). The continent is also noted for its richness in natural resources as found in Yahya's exposition when he states that,

Africa is the most valuable region in the world in terms of under and aboveground resources. It has 8% of world's natural gas reserves: 45 countries on the continent have oil reserves. It has 57% of the world's cobalt, 47% of its diamonds, 49% of its manganese, 31% of its phosphate and 21% of its gold. Moreover, the continent has a tremendous potential for hydroelectric power, solar energy and geothermal energy. Africa has abundant arable lands and many countries in the world lease lands in this continent for agricultural purposes (Yahya, 2016, p. 1).

However, in spite of Africa's richness in human and natural resources, the continent is the least developed in the world.

O'sullivan and Sheffrin as cited in Andza and Akuva, (2018; p. 122) notes that "development includes the process and policies by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people". Nations do not exist in a vacuum as every nation is within a continent and so the development of a nation conversely is the development of the continent within which it is located and so the conception of development as cited above is valid in the context of this paper. Though the African continent

cannot be said to be bereft of policies to improve the economic, political, and social well-being of its people, it is unarguable as it is evidently clear that such processes and policies have not actually improved the lot of the African people.

The United Nations, Committee for Development Policy (UN, CDP) (2021) indicates that 33 out of the 46 least developed countries of the world are in Africa and 31.47 percent of the population of the African continent lives below the global poverty line (Hamel, Tong & Hofer, 2019). This implies that 71.73 percent of the least developed world is in Africa and 61.11 percent of the African continent is least developed. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are basically characterized by low-income confronting severe structural impediments, highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and they have low levels of human assets. Unarguably, a high level of human asset is the greatest asset any country or continent can boast of, as it is the conveyor of development. It is in this light that, Grant, Mahoney and Kor as cited in Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) (2017) notes that, the twenty-first century has seen the shift from the production economy where physical assets were believed to pave the way for economic success, to the knowledge economy where the intangible abilities and skills of the workforce and the knowledge inherent within a country or continent's structures, routines, systems and processes contribute towards the knowledge capital of a country or continent.

In spite of the imperatives of human asset, especially high level of it to development, Africans have continued to leave their continent in droves at the detriment of the continent's development. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD) (2018, p. 43), there were 17 million stock of extra-continental African emigrants in 2017 which majority of them lived in Asia, Europe and North America with a negative net migration rate of -54.54. Thousands of professionals such as medical doctors, nurses, accountants, engineers, managers and teachers among others constitute a good chunk of the extra-continental African migrants.

According to Clemens and Pettersson (2008; p. 1), approximately 65, 000 African-born physicians and 70, 000 African-born professional nurses were working overseas in a developed country in the year 2000. That is over twenty years ago and probably; these figures must have risen, given the pace of extra-continental emigration of Africans in recent years. This is unarguably true because, the US Bureau Census Data Records as cited in Otumu (2017; p. 1) aver that “Nigerians official current professional population is estimated at 168, 876 in America alone”. These figures, if comprehensively collated would show mind blowing number of African professionals who have emigrated from the African continent. As a result of the extra-continental emigration of Africans, many parts of the continent are currently affected by a shortage of qualified human resources which, as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2018) noted, has heightened the dependency of African economies by compelling them to resort to costly foreign expertise in many areas, which in turn creates a widening vicious circle.

This paper therefore, investigates the challenges that extra-continental emigration of Africans pose to the development of the African continent. For an organized analysis, the paper is structured into seven sections beginning with introduction as section one, followed by clarification of concepts which is section

two. Section three is dedicated to laying a theoretical foundation that explains the implication of extra-continental emigration of Africans to the development of the African continent while section four examines the causes of extra-continental emigration of Africans. Section five dwells on the challenges that extra-continental emigration of Africans pose to the development of the continent and section six is the conclusion. The paper is wrapped up with recommendations in section seven.

Clarification of Concepts

Development

Tayebwa (1992) noted that, development is a broad term which should not be limited to mean economic advancement, economic welfare or material well-being. It is in the light of the broadness of the concept of development that Mabogunje (2002) emphasized the relevance of wealth creation and the general transformation of institutions, mores, and attitudes of the people towards development as the basic ideas that underlie the concept of development. For Okigbo (1987, p. 34), the position of man in the development process is more relevant hence his assertion that “economic growth relates mostly to things whereas development relates to man”. The World Bank (1991, p. 1) is in no less agreement with Okigbo’s assertion as it held that “the challenge of development...is to improve the quality of lives...better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, cleaner environment, more equality of opportunity, greater individual freedom, and a richer cultural life.”

This challenge of development conceivably must have informed Todaro’s definition of development as “a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national

institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty” (Todaro as cited in Andza & Akuva, 2019, p. 97). He argues that development is a physical reality and a state of mind in which society has, through some combinations of social, economic and political process secured the way of obtaining better life.

Migration

The International Organization for Migration (2011) defines migration as the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It further explains that it is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification. It is in the light of this that the IOM (2011) also conceives a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of stay is.

Basically, migration is the movement by people often over long distances from one place to another and in this context across national boundaries with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, in a new location. It is the long-lasting change of a dwelling place by an individual or group but it excludes such naturally transitory movements as nomadism, commuting, and tourism.

Theoretical Framework

The theory that underpins the explanation of the implications of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of the African continent as adopted in this paper is the dependency theory. The theory was a product of a research report written by a group led by Raul Prebisch, an Argentine economist and Statesman in 1950s and an essay produced by Cardoso and Faletto in the mid-1960s (Ates, Es & Bayraktar, 2005). The central premise of the theory according to Sunkel (1969) is, resources flow from a “periphery” of poor and underdeveloped states to a “core” of wealthy states, enriching the later at the expense of the former. It is a central contention of the dependency theory that, poor states are impoverished and rich ones enriched by the way poor states are integrated into the “world system”. It is paramount to note that, the ultimate important determinant and courier of development is human resources. Human resources and largely, the most energetic and qualified human resources that we see emigrate from the African continent to other continents, especially, the global North led credence to the efficacy and validity of the dependency theory in explaining the implications of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of the African continent.

It is also the contention of the proponents of the dependency theory that, poorer nations are primarily exporters of commodities and importers of the finished goods that the industrialized nations produce with these commodities. This is no less a fact as seen in the extra-continental emigration of African professionals which have led to a shortage of qualified human resources which, as the IOM (2018) noted, has induced a profound dependency of African economies by compelling them to resort to costly foreign expertise in many areas, which in turn creates a widening vicious circle. So the development of the

African continent is limited by the increasing and continuous extra-continental emigration of Africans.

Causes of Extra-Continental Migration of Africans

The causes of migration are generally explicated in the context of push and pull factors. Push and pull factors refer to conditions which forces people to leave their homes while pull factors refer to the reasons that attract people to move to a certain area. According to Andza, Dera and Agu (2019) these factors can be grouped into economic, social, political or environmental factors. Among these factors however, the economic factors are favoured in explaining the causes of migration and it is in the light of this that Boswell as cited in Andza, Dera and Agu (2019) grouped the causes of voluntary economic migration into root causes, proximate causes, enabling/constraining conditions and sustaining factors. Among the root causes are economic restructuring, economic mismanagement, environmental degradation and population growth. The proximate causes are unemployment, low income, labour demand in destination country, migration legislation in destination country and migration systems. The enabling conditions are financial resources and information, travel routes, migration control in receiving country, and migration networks while the sustaining factors are legislation on family reunion, migrant networks, and “culture” of migration in place of origin.

The Pew Research Center (2018) identified high unemployment rates and relatively low wage rates, crowded job market, high fertility levels that will mean even more people competing for jobs, political instability and conflicts as causes of extra-continental emigration of Africans. Political instability and

conflicts are real in Africa and as Williams (2019, p. 2) held, there are 25 million Africans who are forcibly displaced on the African continent as a result of conflicts. Andza, Dera and Agu (2019) identified networks of migration, the culture of migration and youth adventurism as the cause of irregular extra-continental migration of Africans especially Nigerians.

To the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2018), climate change and the growing competition for natural resources as well as demand for labour in key economic sectors are the drivers of extra-continental emigration of Africans. UNCTAD’s identified reasons for extra-continental emigration of Africans is also not out of place as increased flooding, draught, heat and hazy weather conditions have permeated the African continent and is a source of concern not just for Africa but the whole world. Africa’s high fertility rate which has led to increased population of the continent has actually brought about the growing competition for natural resources which sometimes result into conflict and crises and as such, to some extent can explain the extra-continental emigration of some Africans.

The International Organization for Migration (2018) states that, the main reason for extra-continental migration of Africans has been to improve their living conditions, either by pursuing studies or by seeking better-paying jobs. This is in agreement with UNCTAD’s exposition as earlier stated and it cannot be hurriedly dispelled as almost all extra-continental African emigrants, regular and irregular alike identify improving their living conditions as the reason for migrating. Though an interrogation of some of the causes of international migration especially irregular migration by Andza, Dera, and Agu (2019) indicates

that they do not meet the threshold of blame, however, it is limited to Nigeria as a country and as such, it does not wholly apply here as the scope and context of this paper differs.

An Overview of Extra-Continental Migration of Africans

The number of international migrants worldwide has grown faster than the world population and Africa accounts for 14 percent of the global migrant population coming after Asia and Europe with 41 and 24 percent respectively (Achieng 2020, p. 1). UNCTAD (2018) indicates that, there were 41 million international migrants from, to or within Africa. Of these, 19 million representing 46.34 percent, resides within Africa, 17 million representing 41.46 percent, were resident outside of the continent and 5 million representing 12.19 percent, were immigrants from the rest of the world. Though the figures of intra-continental migration of Africans is greater than those for extra-continental emigration of Africans by 2 million representing 4.88 percent, extra-continental emigration of Africans experienced stronger growth than the former between 1990 to 2017. Despite the fact that, there is paucity of comprehensive and accessible data on extra-continental African professional migrants, Otumu (2017, p. 1) quoting the US Bureau Census Data Records states that, Nigerian official current professional population is estimated at 168, 876 in America alone. Otumu's exposition though limited to Nigeria, has provided a mental picture of African professionals who have left the African continent.

In as much as many people draw the conclusion that migration in Africa is basically intra-continental based on the fact that, there is a 4.88 percent difference in

favour of intra-continental migration as against extra-continental emigration, Africa still has a negative net migration rate of -54.54 percent, indicating that, more Africans leave their continent than people from other parts of the world come into the African continent. The number of extra-continental emigration of Africans would have more than doubled and surpassed the 4.88 percent difference in favour of the intra-continental migration but, there are factors which have militated against extra-continental emigration of Africans which needs our elucidation here to demystify the popularly held view that majority of Africans migrate within the continent. First, unlike citizens of more developed regions, many Africans, by virtue of the passport they carry, have limited options in terms of the number of countries they can access. The 2018 Henley and Partners Passport Index which ranks passports by number of countries their holders can access without a visa as cited in World Economic Forum (2018), only three African countries- Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa are among the world's 100 most mobile passports. This explains the limited chances that Africans have in leaving the continent.

Secondly, International Organization for Migration (2018) indicates that, from the 2000, North Africa had been receiving large members of sub-Saharan African migrants "in transit", who plan to enter Europe and an annual 22, 000 irregular migrants, took the route from either Tunisia or Libya in the 2000 to 2005 period. This decreased in 2006, but it has increased greatly as a result of the political instability that engulfed the Arab world which began in 2011 particularly in Tunisia and Libya. Between 2011 and 2018, there have been a recorded 765, 403 irregular migrants sea arrivals in Italy alone and 17, 516 deaths at sea (European Commission, 2017 and IOM, 2018). Though the figures have dropped in the past two years

which is sequel to the signed deal between the European Union and the Libyan coastguard which saw the later received training and equipment among others which has halted the irregular Mediterranean sea crossing, it remains a fundamental truism that, there are thousands of African migrants in Libya and other northern African countries waiting for an opportunity to cross over to Europe.

The Challenge of Extra-Continental Emigration of Africans on the Development of Africa

Development in its essence, according to Todaro (2000) must represent the whole gamut of change by which an entire social system, tuned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system, moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory, toward a situation or condition of life as materially better. It is in the light of the essence of development that, Goulet (1971) identified three basic components as core values (sustenance, self-esteem and freedom from servitude) which should serve as a conceptual basis and practical guidelines for understanding the “inner” meaning of development. It is, these core values of development that we anchor our analysis of the implications of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of Africa on.

Sustenance as a core value of development is the ability to meet basic needs of food, shelter, health and protection. Absolute underdevelopment is when any of these is absent or in critically short supply. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2012, p. 4)

states that, food production (primary crops and meat) in Africa has been growing at a very slow rate of less than one percent per year which is alarming considering the fact that, food growth rate should not be statistically different from population growth rate. This raises concerns about Africa’s ability to self-insure against food insecurity. Without both food imports and serious efforts to boost food production, Africa would not be able to insure adequate food supply for its population. More worrisome is even FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO (2020, p. 11) exposition that 250.3 million Africans are undernourished accounting for 36.39 percent of the 687.8 million people undernourished in the world in 2019. Though FAO (2017) indicate that, climatic conditions and conflict, often occurring concurrently, are key factors driving increase in food insecurity in the continent, the same factors are also fingered for been responsible for the increase in extra-continental emigration of Africans.

Extra-continental emigration of Africans cannot escape culpability of food insecurity in the continent because a chunk of the population mostly able bodied (1.35 percent of the continent’s population) and some good number of professionals in the agricultural sector who would have contributed meaningfully in surmounting the food insecurity and malnourishment on the continent have emigrated. This implies that, food shortages and malnourishment on the African continent may continue to persist if the pace of growth of extra-continental emigration of Africans especially the professionals is allowed to go on unabated which will keep the continent in perpetual absolute underdevelopment.

Shelter as a component of sustenance which is a core value of development is also in critical short supply on

the African continent. The World Bank (2015) held that 60 to 70 percent of African households live in slums and 90 percent of them live in informal housing, where living conditions are often substandard, unsafe and without basic services like water, electricity and sanitation. Parby as cited in the World Bank (2015) noted that, from the immediate and obvious benefit of adequate housing, a well-functioning housing sector leads to economic growth that can improve livelihoods, create jobs and expand the market for goods and services. Housing construction and ownership not only benefit families, but also create jobs for masons, carpenters, electricians and other traders. The most active population of the continent that should have contributed to reversing the ugly housing trend in Africa has however been continuously and increasingly migrating to other parts of the world.

The monies spent on training of African professionals who many have left the continent would have been used to judiciously apply in reversing the ugly housing trend on the continent. Likewise the monies spent by irregular extra-continental African emigrants as transport to their destination countries. Kemp (2017) aver that it cost not less than US \$5, 000, equivalents of N1, 895, 000 at an exchange rate of N379 to a dollar as provided for in the 2021 Nigerian budget (Ngene, 2020) to irregularly travel to Libya, the major transit country of irregular sub-Saharan African migrants to Europe. This implies that, conservatively, the African continent has lost over US \$4 billion on transportation of irregular migrants' arrivals in Italy alone by Sea and those that died in the Mediterranean between 2003 and 2018.

Health is also a component of sustenance as a core value of development and the African continent is

confronted with three major diseases, namely, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs. These diseases have, to a large extent compromised the health of Africans and cost the continent immense human and material resources in spite of the appreciable number of physicians who are of African descend in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) (2019) asserts that in 2017, there were 219 million malaria cases and an estimated 435, 000 malaria deaths in the world and sub-Saharan Africa had a disproportionate share of 201, 480, 000 representing 92 percent, and 404, 550 representing 93 percent, of malaria cases and deaths respectively. WHO (2019) also noted that, total funding for malaria control and elimination reached an estimated US \$3.1 billion in 2017 and contributions from governments of endemic countries which implicitly refers to the African continent amounted to US \$900 million, representing 28 percent, of the total funding. The continent would have saved these monies for infrastructural development if its physicians had remained on the continent and tackled the malaria menace.

WHO (2017) also indicate that, in 2016, 2.5 million people fell ill with tuberculosis on the African continent. This accounts for a quarter of new tuberculosis cases worldwide and an estimated 417, 000 people died from the disease in Africa out of the 1.7 million deaths recorded globally from the disease which represents 24.52 percent. Africa is also the most affected continent by HIV/AIDs in the world, particularly among young people who are the most active population. In 2017, there were 1, 170, 000 new HIV infections, 25. 7 million sub-Saharan Africans were living with HIV/AIDs and 660, 000 AIDs related deaths in Africa (WHO, Regional Office for Africa, 2017). The impact of this on development is unarguable as high rates of HIV-related sickness and

premature adult deaths compromise household stability and investment in children; stress extended family and broader social networks; and diminish labour supply and productivity while increasing costs for households, public institutions, and private sector companies. The prevalence of these diseases on the African continent definitely would have not attained the level it is if the number of African physicians abroad were home to tackle these diseases.

Extra-continental emigration of Africans have led to shortages of professional human resources on the African continent which have made the dependent on the developed world for its professional needs insidious and is capable of making nonsense of self-esteem, another core value of development. As cited in Andza and Akuva (2018, p. 128), self-esteem means to be a person. That is to have a sense of worth and self-respect of not being used as a tool for others' end. However, the continuous and increasing extra-continental emigration of Africans after being trained and or sponsored with resources pulled together by family members, friends and in some cases, communities without working in the continent to shoulder the education of others have left many African youths unable to access education and as such are not productively engaged. This has made these youths become willing tools in the hands of politicians and conflict entrepreneurs who equip them with arms and weapons to do their biddings. Goulet, (1971) believes that development is an important way of gaining self-esteem and that cannot be said to be in an environment where people are used.

The extra-continental emigration of Africans is also capable of thwarting freedom from servitude, a different core value of development. Freedom from servitude means to be able to make political and

economic choice that does not infringe on others rights. Economic growth allows individuals to expand their range of human choice but this cannot be easily achieved in Africa, at least in the near future because of the social and economic exclusion of the youth, which is to some extent sequel to their lack of capabilities as a result of impoverishment of their families and or communities to train and or sponsor the extra-continental emigration of their relatives and friends. As a result, many have instead taken to crimes using the quantum of arms and weapons in the continent as leverage with its attendant consequences on the development of the continent. Political and economic choices may and as a matter of fact, are guided by the fear of those that own and possess arms and weapons, thereby making people perpetually enslaved as seen in many countries on the African continent ranging from Nigeria and Mali in West Africa to Sudan and South Sudan in North East Africa. On the other hand, those who own and possess arms and weapons may be emboldened to make economic and political decisions not minding whether they infringe on others' right.

In advanced economies, it is the economic growth that allows individuals to expand their range of human choices but in Africa, choices are very rare to the point that deciding when and where to take a vacation is hardly unthinkable as a day without work may mean a day without a meal whereas people are supposed to be free to exercise their choices and to participate in decision making that affect their lives. According to Miller, Kim and Roberts (2019, p. 68), the 2019 Index Score for the 47 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that were graded generally fell into the lower categories of economic freedom. A quick facts check on sub-Saharan African region indicates that, the region had a population of 1.01 billion, GDP per capita (PPP) of \$4,

005, one year growth of 4.0 percent, a five (5) year growth rate of 4.7 percent, inflation of 13.2 percent, unemployment rate of 7.5 percent and public debt of 48.4 percent of GDP (Miller, Kim & Roberts, 2019). Out of the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 28 of them representing 58.33 percent, are graded as Mostly Economically Unfree, 12 countries representing 25 percent, are graded as Economically Repressed, 5 countries representing 10 percent, are graded as Economically Moderately Free and two (2) countries representing 4.16 percent, are graded as Economically Mostly Free while one (1) country is not graded. This trend is not likely to be reversed in the face of extra-continental emigration of Africa's most productive population and professionals who their productiveness would have accelerated economic growth in the continent.

The extra-continental emigration of Africans also has the potency of impacting negatively on development in ways of direct cost, indirect cost and obstruction of delivery and access to public goods. The direct human cost of extra-continental emigration of Africans is seen in the form of deaths, injuries and diseases contacted by extra-continental migrants. Most, if not all of the extra-continental African emigrants are adults or adolescents who are the most productive segment of the continent's population. Their extra-continental emigration albeit irregularly no doubt records a number of casualties and the lives lost is capable and/or has reduced the number of young people available to work and help development of the African continent. The European Commission (2017) and the International Organization for Migration (2018) indicates that between 2011 and 2018, 17, 516 extra-continental African emigrants died at the Mediterranean Sea caused by real shipwrecks,

purposeful disabling of ships in order to solicit rescue as well as lack of assistance.

The reported number of dead African irregular migrants is grossly underestimated. This because as the IOM (2017, p. 6) noted, "deaths at sea are not directly recorded unless bodies are found and no mechanism of systematic, direct recording can be put in place for counting drowned persons as individual identities and numbers of people boarding the boat were not registered at departure". As such, the probability for a death to be reported therefore grows with the probability for a surviving migrant to be apprehended and counted and when there are no survivors and the sinking has remained unnoticed, all the involved deaths will most likely remain ignored. Also the International Organization for Migration as cited in Kemp (2017) exposit that, crossing the Sahara dessert is more dangerous than the Mediterranean Sea and it may have claimed many more lives than the figures indicated above, though data on such hardly exist for obvious reasons.

It is also of paramount importance to note that, several other extra-continental African emigrants lost their lives through diseases they contact in detention camps especially in Libya because of the subhuman conditions of the Libyan detention camps. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights described the Libyan detention camp as "characterized by severe overcrowding, lack of ventilation and lightening and insufficient washing facilities and latrines" (Telegraph March 25, 2019). Even some that have survived the subhuman conditions of the Libyan detention camps have remained useless to make any meaningful contribution to the development of the continent. This is because the life threatening diseases they contacted have rather made them dependent on

their families and friends with its attendant consequences on household income.

Another cost of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of Africa is in terms of monetary value. Kweitsu, (2018) posits that, on average, it cost each African country between US\$21,000 and US\$59,000 to train a medical doctor. Nine countries namely, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have lost more than \$2.0 billion since 2010 from training doctors who then migrated out of the African continent. Annually, it is estimated that Africa loses around \$2.0 billion through extra-continental emigration of African professionals in the health sector alone (Kweitsu, 2018).

Destination countries do not pay for the cost of training African doctors they recruit. For instance, one in ten doctors working in the UK comes from Africa, allowing the UK to save on average US\$2.7 billion on training costs. Similarly, the US, Australia and Canada save respectively about US\$846 million, US\$621 million and US\$384 million in training cost from African physicians they recruit. It is estimated that Africa has lost \$4.6 billion in training cost for home-trained doctors, recruited by these four-top destination countries (Kweitsu, 2018). These costs are only in the health sector alone and there are several other professions which Africans have specialized in and have emigrated out of the African continent.

The extra-continental migration of Africans is also capable of encumbering the economic development of the African continent as it has resulted in the loss of a sizeable population of the continent which is the most productive age demography which also implies that the future generation will also be lost. Even though in

some cases, those extra-continental African migrants will return to their countries communities, a good proportion of them may permanently settle in places other than their original places of abode.

The extra-continental migration of Africans is capable of obstructing or has obstructed delivery and access to public goods. Public goods such as health and education are vital to economic development of any continent. With adequate health services, the population is able to maintain a lower death rate and minimize the duration and spread of illnesses among its citizens. This improved health in the population ensures continuous economic development. The impact of extra-continental African migration especially professionals is particularly pervasive when it comes to public service delivery in the health sector. In too many African countries, there are more locally born physicians residing outside their continent than in it. This puts an enormous strain on public health delivery on the continent, especially considering that there are not enough physicians to attend to citizens in most African countries.

The WHO as cited in Kweitsu (2018) indicates that the African average (calculated using the latest data year in the period 2012-2016 for 26 countries for which data is available at the time of collection) is 0.45 physicians per 1,000 people which is short of the World Health Organization's recommended doctor population ratio of 1: 1,000. Currently, only three African countries have at least one physician per 1,000 people: Libya, Mauritius and Tunisia, with a physician-to-population of 2.09, 2.00 and 1.29, respectively. The implication of this scenario is that, accessing adequate health services on the African continent will remain a mirage and as such minimizing the duration and spread of diseases as well as lowering

death rates is not likely to abate with its attendant consequences on economic development. The same applies to other public services that help sustain economic development such as education. As a result, extra-continental emigration of Africans has and is still limiting Africa's ability to economically develop in both short and long term.

Development, the world over is a product of planned, sustained, and productive research which presupposes that, there is no development that is accidental and it cannot be gotten on the platter of gold. Unfortunately, African professionals who would have engaged in researches to bring out workable solutions to the embarrassing situations of food shortages, malnutrition, diseases and other challenges that are militating against the development of the African continent have emigrated out of the continent leaving governments of countries of the continent to engage costly foreign experts on issues that would have been effectively handled by African professionals, if they had not emigrated out of the continent. Besides, in most cases, the results of researches of some of the foreign experts engaged by African countries do not even take into cognizance the peculiarities of the countries for which their researches are going to be implemented and as such, cases of failure of policies and programs suggested by costly foreign experts on the African continent are not scarce with a resultant waste of resources and valuable time.

Many of the costly foreign experts engaged by African governments adopt and or apply policy learning from other successful experiences of economic catch-up instead of home grown programmes that identify and address challenges faced by African countries. This explains the importation of outdated and or inappropriate machines and or products in the African

continent and as such, adequate strategies and policies to be applied in the African continent to eradicate poverty have been on trial with no effect ever since the era of Structural Adjustment Programs (Niyonkuru, 2016). This is because, those programs are not people oriented and as such they do not take into cognizance the needs of the people and as a result, they are not even appreciated by the people for which they are intended.

The birth of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) and its endorsement by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in July, 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia shows that the challenge of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of the continent has not gone unnoticed. The MIDA is a capacity building program of the IOM which helps to mobilize competencies acquired by African nationals abroad for the benefit of Africa's development. The IOM launched this program to strengthen its capacity building efforts in assisting African countries to benefit from the investment they have made in their nationals which is an attestation of the fact that, extra-continental emigration of Africans has actually posed a challenge to the development of the African continent.

However, some people have argued that, extra-continental emigration of Africans benefits both the sending and receiving continents. They particularly point to remittances received by African countries from their nationals abroad as been the major benefit as it is said to contribute significantly to Africa's GDP. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEWS) as cited in the Guardian Newspaper of September 20, 2018 wrote glowingly about the benefits of remittances to Africa when it held that, "despite the recent growth slump; all regions in Africa

are projected to report a positive economic outlook, with remittance income expected to be a key economic booster in the coming months". Remittance income is emphasized as a major economic factor for most African countries and it was projected that it will reach US \$85 billion in 2019 (Xpress Money February 1, 2019). Remittances are said to make up 2.5 percent of the continent's GDP and are particularly important to certain countries like Liberia, Comoros, and the Gambia, where they make up over 20 percent of GDP. Even in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, remittances were worth 5.6% of GDP in 2017 and the country's oil revenues in 2017 of around \$20 billion were lower than the \$22 billion it received in remittances (Guardian Newspaper September 20, 2018).

Be that as it may, the cost of remitting funds to the African continent is worrisome as it is exorbitantly inconceivable. The World Bank as cited in Kopf (2018) indicates that, the cost of sending remittances to sub-Saharan Africa continues to be far higher than any other region in the world. It further states that, on average, to send \$200 to a country in the region cost almost \$19 in the first quarter of 2018 which is 9.5 percent. This implies that, all things been equal, it will cost Africa US\$8, 075, 000, 000 billion to receive the US\$85 billion projected for the continent in 2019. This, it is said to be more than 20 percent higher than the charge for remittance to any other region in the world (Kopf, 2018).

One of the reasons for the expense of remittances is that, in many countries, consumers lack choice of money transfer operators as the national post office has an exclusive partnership with one money transfer operator in many African countries. Since the post office is the most accessible place to collect their

remittances for many people, particularly in rural areas, this means they are facing a virtual monopoly, which means, higher mark ups on such payments, and less money in the pockets of the rural poor. Besides, we are not unaware of the Pakistanis economist, Mahbub ul Haq's argument which has changed the development narrative in the world that, GDP as a tool for measurement of human progress has failed to account for the true purpose of development which is to improve people's lives. This therefore explains why in spite of the seemingly appreciable contribution of remittances to Africa's GDP, it has not transmitted into improving the living conditions of the people. This evident in the shortage of the core values of development on the African continent and as such cannot be compared to the direct and indirect cost of extra-continental emigration of Africans to the development of the continent.

Conclusion

It is discernable from the foregoing analysis that, extra-continental emigration of Africans exists in fact and truth as there is a negative net migration rate of - 54.54 percent. Though the figures of intra-continental migration of Africans is more than those for extra-continental emigration, the later experienced stronger growth than the former over the years and it is likely to overtake the former soonest. Various reasons have been adduced for this scenario which include but not limited to high unemployment rates and relatively low wage rates, crowded job market, high fertility levels, political instability and conflicts, networks and culture of migration as well as youth adventurism. The continuous and increasing extra-continental emigration of Africans as it has emerged from the analysis have led to a shortage of qualified human resources in segments of the continent's economies and has increased reliance of African economies on

costly overseas expertise in many areas, which in turn creates a widening vicious circle.

The major take home point of this paper is that, the African continent may remain underdeveloped if its people continue to emigrate because development is not only driven by people but it is also people centered which is why the World Bank in its World Development Report 1991 avers that, “the challenge of development...is to improve the quality of life ...better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, cleaner environment, more quality of opportunity, greater individual freedom, and a richer cultural life”. To that extent, the implication of extra-continental emigration of Africans on the development of the continent is real and visible even to the blind and the deaf can also loudly hear the wailings and anguish brought about by extra-continental emigration of Africans. So development is most likely to continue to elude the African continent and until the phenomena of extra-continental emigration of Africans is abated.

Recommendations

1. Governments of African countries should develop working policies that encourages safe migration to curb the direct and indirect cost associated with extra-continental emigration of Africans especially irregular migration.
2. Intra-continental migration should be strengthened through the continent’s sub-regional bodies to guard against extra-continental emigration of Africans.
3. Birth control measures should be put in place to check population explosion on the African continent that leads to unhealthy competition for natural resources which in turn results to

conflicts that induces extra-continental emigration of Africans.

4. The educational curriculum of African countries should be overhauled to incorporate to a greater extent, science, technology and entrepreneurship that will make for self-reliance to check the phenomenon of increasing unemployment, low wages and crowded job market that trigger extra-continental emigration of Africans.
5. The networks of extra-continental emigration of Africans should be destroyed and there should be a cultural reorientation for those who extra-continental emigration have become a culture among them.
6. Stiffer conditions should be imposed on intending professional African extra-continental migrants to discourage them.

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