



## **Urban Architectural Neglect and the Politics of Abandonment: the case of the Nigerian Politics in the Built Environment**

**Obiadi Bons,**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

**Onuorah Ikenna,**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

**Mba Paschal,**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

**Okafor Calistus,**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

**Kikanmen I. Emmanuel**

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

**Keywords:**

architecture,  
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**Abstract:** *The politics of hatred, politics of buy and conquer and the systemic politics of self gains and enrichments have hampered and for a long time, the growth and developments in Nigeria's built environment. Those types of politics' equally resulted in Architecture of Governance," dealing with abandonment of projects with the exit of a sitting governor in different states. This paper investigated and evolved modalities that would ameliorate the problems and it adopted content base analysis (secondary data sources), where the authors analyzed and interpreted works of other authors as they applied to this work. Nigeria is into money politics and politicians buy their offices from the delegates in the primary elections and in the general elections, from the voters. Competence and ideology are no longer considered as eligibility for election. Electability now depends on how much one can afford and who has the capability to outspend the other. In other for Nigeria to grow socio-economically and the cities built environments blossom, the politics of hatred, buying votes and Godfatherism*

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*must stop and government remains continuous*

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## Introduction

The world is changing and in most cases, changing for good in the civilized world and in the developing world, it appears as if in decline and especially, in the built environment. In decline because of the uncontrolled increase in corruption, favoritisms and self gains by the politicians, dominating the economy of the developing countries. This decline is also noticed in most of the developing countries built environment. The politicians are not investing in the infrastructure in their areas or, refurbishing the existing ones and this is resulting in the collapse, of the colonial masters built infrastructures, be it roads, classical buildings, landmark structures, open spaces and tourist centers in their urban areas and these are modern days trends. The developing countries are not trying to modernize their urban areas and cities because of their style of politics and facing the challenges of modernization. Modernization has challenges and in most cases, challenged by the urban actors and government agencies because of interests and political agendas. Part of the problems with modernization is neglect and not caring about the future (sustainability and continual growth) by the politicians and that is detrimental to the developing countries urban areas infrastructure hence, decline in their urban built environment.

Modernization also came with the decline in the quality of the architecture of public spaces as was the case in the eras past. As indicated by

Curran (1983:5), directly related to the reduction of architectural structures to the status of objects, the most dominant characteristic of the modern tradition has been the deterioration and virtual disappearance of the public domain. No longer sustaining a range of activities traditionally associated with urban life, the public domain has been reduced to the exclusively use of the automobile, and the city, as a collection and system of spaces having multiple social as well as functional roles, was lost. This has paralleled the decline of public participation in government, industry, community affairs, etc., which represent the other vital dimension of the public domain. Accordingly, the city-making process has been fragmented into separate and specialized professions, including city and regional land-use planning, road and highway engineering, landscape architecture, architecture, etc. As in factory-line production, each is concerned with a single aspect of the process, while the effects of their input within the community has been lost to abstraction.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, many planners felt that modernism's clean lines and lack of human scale sapped vitality from the community, blaming them for high crime rates and social problems. Modernist planning fell into decline in the 1970s when the construction of cheap, uniform tower blocks ended in most countries, such as Britain and France. Since then many have been demolished and replaced by other housing types. Rather than attempting

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to eliminate all disorder, planning now concentrates on individualism and diversity in society and the economy; this is the post-modernist era (Morris et al. 1997).

A global perspective tells the story of this global shift and transformation, highlighting the role of architects, urban designers, planners and their clients: central government, local governments, communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), developers and world institutions in city planning and development. This is accomplished through the urban actors and the urban actors adopt urban design models and elements to achieve that goal in city planning, development and transformation. The first theme (model), in city transformation is that, the urban actors need to cooperate not only in building the city, but to maintain and regenerate it, to modify and transform it. Cities are about people living together, and this requires organization and skills in managing the affairs of the local community and larger city (Shane, 2011: 14).

Bishop Matthew Hassan KUKAH, Bishop of Sokoto, did not study architecture neither did he study urban and regional planning, but understands the principles of both urban planning and

architecture more than most architects and planners. At the Lagos 8.0 Conference by the Nigerian Institute of Architects, Lagos Chapter, at the Eko Hotel, 10-12<sup>th</sup>, May 11, 2017, the Bishop, in his address detailed his mastery of the fields. He has studied the sufferings of both the urban poor and the people living in rural

communities, suffering because of the professions inability to champion and direct their good living irrespective of the fact, that the professions have had good representations in all classes of the government. Be it ministerial, governorship, Vice Presidents (Arc (Dr.) Alex Ifeanyichukwu Ekwueme, GCON, fnia and Arc Mohammed N. Sambo, GCON, etc.

The Bishop mastered the fundamental sufferings of the people through his orientation and growing up in impoverished areas as most of us, the architects and planners. However, we are not applying our knowledge and skills as the Bishop, who is not an architect and not a planner. Given, all of us cannot be architects and planners, but we can at least, apply our knowledge and skills in emancipating pains and sufferings in our people.

Bishop Kukah, the architect of a speech that we will rename, the Architects Failed : a case of not properly planning, coordinating architectural designs and delivery to brace the needs of the needy in our communities, captivated his audience and not to over flog this, but on a brighter side, he delivered a speech on *"The son of man had nowhere to lay his head: Homelessness as a moral scar on Nigeria's face."*

He indicated that the issue of the architects, is a moral one, that homelessness in Nigeria resulted from the failure of urbanization, the arrogance of the elits and we blame the poor and homeless without knowing that they have no name, no identity and we make policies

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without identifying their issues. They are the result of wars, urban crises, etc.

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

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

After the Bishop’s speech, the Nigerian Institute of Architects President, Arc Tonye Oliver Braid, fnia, supported the Bishop’s concerns and

indicated that the institute would look into the “Architecture of Governance,” dealing with abandoned projects, continuity with existing projects in different states and projects should not die with the exit of a governor. The dynamics and the changing behaviour of the politicians in Nigeria are negatively affecting the economy and the country’s built environment. The goal and focus are shifting from public interest to private and selflessness, detrimental to the nation’s socioeconomic activities and urban infrastructure.

## Statement of Problem

The politics of hatred, the politics of buy and conquer and the systemic politics of self gains and enrichments have hampered and for a long time, the growth and developments in Nigeria. After the colonial master’s administration in Nigeria, the Nigerian politics entered into the era of Godfatherism and the root cause of bad governance in Nigeria. Today, Nigeria is into money politics. Politicians buy their offices from the delegates in primary elections and in the general elections, from the voters. Eligibility depends on how much one can afford to spend and his capability in out spending others and no longer on ideological or competence to execute the work. The politics of hatred and the politics of buying of votes have grown into the Architecture of Governance in Nigeria, dealing with abandonment of ongoing projects with the exit of a sitting governor and this is a huge challenge to the continual growth and development of the built environment in Nigeria.

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## Aim

It is the aim of this work to investigate the reasons for incessant project abandonments in the Nigerian communities especially, with the exit of sitting governors and evolve modalities that would ameliorate the problems, letting the politicians understand that government is continuous and that projects started with a sitting governor should not die with the exit of a governor.

## Research Method

Qualitative research methods that embraced observational, interviews and archival methods were adopted for this paper and content base analysis (secondary data sources), where the authors analyzed and interpreted works of other authors as they applied to this work.

## Projects Abandonment in Nigeria

The trend and the policies of abhorrence within the Nigerian government and offices are without doubt, affecting the Nigeria's built environment. That the urban actors need to cooperate not only in building the city, but to maintain and regenerate it, to modify and transform it are

equally declining in Nigeria and not to mention that, cities are about people living together, and this requires organization and skills in managing the affairs of the local community and larger city (Shane, 2011: 14). Politics and politicians in Nigeria have redefined the landscape, redirected the meaning of succession and that government is continuous has no meaning to them. In the glory days of Nigeria (in the 1970s and 1980s), magnificent buildings like the National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos (plate 1), National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos (plate 6), the old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos (17), and to mention, but a few were built and within years, were abandoned and in total disrepair. This now, questions the role of architects, urban designers, planners and their clients: central government, local governments, communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), developers and world institutions in city planning and development as Shane (2011: 12), indicated.

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Plate 1. National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos

Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

Nigeria is going through architectural changes, what one could call architectural eruption although only in some selected urban centres such as Abuja, Lagos, and Port Harcourt and a handful of other cities. Although we are still inhibited by and embracing our orthodox style of architectural practices, building without adequately considering the uses and the users, one will not fail to see the gradual changes and influence of western architecture in our latest designs and buildings, especially, within the last twenty years. Even within these cities, some of our dilapidating structures ready to be torn-down are still seen everywhere. Architecturally, the country is in disrepair and without the movement, like in most of the older cities in disrepair in the western world, where groups

(urban actors) come together primarily to start rehabilitating their run-down areas that would create optimism and hope in their people. These groups usually, introduce new architectural movement and aesthetic awareness that propel the architecture of their areas into a new direction which in most times, resulted in architectural rehabilitation and rebirth (Obiadi, 2015).

Nigeria architecture is gradually shifting from our “quick fix” syndrome that has jeopardized its growth for a long time, to an exemplified and acceptable architectural standard. We rush to build without adequate and proper maintenance plans to prolong the use of the projects and it is one of the biggest architectural problems facing this country and other developing countries. We

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also rush to build without adequate analysis, plan reviews by the proper authorities and have accepted quacks as equals in the profession. Non professionals are running and managing most planning and developments offices in the Nigerian. Following up on this, in citing one of the reasons the Abuja Master Plan was not properly implemented, Jibril (2006), indicated that, the derail and distortion of the Abuja Master Plan was also attributed to lack of professional personnel managing, planning the development and implementing the Abuja Master Plan. That the main cause of the distortions of the Master Plan was the creation of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) in 1980 and its being super imposed on the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA). The Ministry lacked the professional personnel to understand the philosophy of a Master Plan and the need for detailed planning and design to be carried out before the Master Plan could be transformed into construction activities in any part of the City. Jibril (2006), further indicated that, in 2003, a Ministerial Committee on Illegal Structures in the FCT was constituted to collate a list of all illegal structures in the FCT and present a strategy for demolition. Interestingly, most of the members of the committee were not professional planners,” and that is the problem with the

establishment and implementation of urban development laws in Nigeria. Being in charge of managing most urban areas environmental development laws, the nonprofessionals along with politicians would ignore what is needed to be done because of lack of ideas and knowledge. Not knowing what to do, the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos (plate 1), such a massive, imposing and marvelous structure has remained abandoned for a long time with only a sprinkle of eatery joints. The structure, which in modern day architecture, competes with any stadium anywhere in the world, is in total disrepair, underutilized (plates 1 to 5). The Nigerian government has forgotten that the underlying principle concept of the stadium was for sports, entertainment and economic resources for society and access to and full utilization of the facility is not only important, but vital to its sustained and continuous growth.

Given, constantly changing socio-economic and political conditions of any society affects its infrastructure and that was the problem with the national stadium. Abuja became the new capital of Nigeria in 1992 and came with it was a new stadium and that, reduced the attention paid to the National Stadium, Sululere, Lagos.

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Plate 2. Interior of the National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

The influence of the architecture of the National Stadium, in Surulere, Lagos can never be overemphasized. However, the problems, weaknesses and improper execution of the fundamental maintenance and up keep of the stadium's architectural to its standards are the problem the government and the politicians can no longer continue to ignore. Government is continuous and the continual functioning of the stadium is the responsibility of the government. Functional architecture guarantees obligatory acceptance of our created environment that leads to accomplishments in all social activities. Our architectural and urban development symbolic poverty is a reflection of our legislated laws without adequate implementation and

execution. The richness in our architecture and urban growth should come from understanding the laws, abiding and implementing them and creating projects with possible variety of both private and public uses. Our National Stadium that has both public and private uses has been ignored and abandoned for a long time without considering the implications and loses associated with it. The country claims it loves sports without supporting sports. We look at sports as just going to the games instead of entertainment that has more positive values than negatives. Sports have common bond with architecture and we have not taken advantage of that in this country. They have come together to create outstanding building types,

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entertainment, businesses and jobs for those involved. The infrastructure, which the architect creates, forms the basis and the fundamental factor in all sports developments.

Architecture does not play subservient role to sports. Sports follow architecture, and that role

opens the doors for other things to follow. Architects create the environment for sports and sports are good sources and means of entertainment, business developments, jobs creation among others.



Plate 3. Collapsing seats at the National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

In just one game, a good and functional stadium like the National Stadium, Lagos would attract the services of the following: players, landscapers, parking attendants, small and medium size businesses, outfits that in turn employ hundreds of other hands, drivers, mechanics, electrical contractors, mechanical engineers and contractors, media crew, medical team, restaurant / hospitality industry, signage companies, security personnel, etc.

Abandoning the stadium and its infrastructure is not good for a country with millions of unemployed people roaming the streets and looking for how to make ends meet. Its resuscitation would provide gainful employment to the youths and in turn help cut down on the society's crime waves. Architects create functional sports centers and sports centers create employments. Abandoning the National Stadium is a disservice to Nigerias

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especially, when we know that through its architecture and sports, millions of people will develop their own businesses, create and become employers of labour and in return, pay taxes to local, state and federal governments.

We must understand that the stadium remains a resource centre that must not be ignored any longer. Since the major focus and attention has shifted from the National Stadium, Lagos to the National Stadium, Abuja, the former has remained undoubtedly underutilized and

abandoned. The concern to create jobs for job seekers demand that the stadium be put back to use. Both the government and the politicians need to consider the values of the stadium and the opportunities redeveloping it will bring to the public. The society must utilize the economic potentials of the stadium to project the goals and redevelopment options that would bring new uses to an abandoned national treasure.



Plate 4. Pedestrian walkway of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos

Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

Both the government and the politicians need to develop social equity policies that would bring government agencies, community leaders and businesses together to strategize and bring both

unemployed and underemployed to understand that the stadium could be turned into a mega commercial center. The strategy should be to encourage and provide spaces for restaurants,

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shopping centres, entertainments and office spaces at the abandoned stadium without overloading or favoring any of the activities. This strategy, if successfully implemented, would gain support from individuals currently using the stadium for different physical fitness exercises, community residents, visitors, office workers and more especially, businessmen losing their stores and facilities to Lagos State

expansion program and incessant fires and explosions. Furthermore, if successfully implemented, we would have established six goals: put back in use an abandoned national treasure, create and develop entrepreneurs and jobs, attract growth to the area, manage the attendant growth, distribute the benefits of the growth and restore hope and optimism in our people.



Plate 5. Side view of the National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

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Plate 6. The view of the VIP stand of the National Stadium, Sulurere, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 25, 2011)

Along the same line, another national treasure, the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos, designed by a Bulgarian architect and constructed in the late 1970s, when Nigeria hosted the International Festival of Black Arts and Culture (FESTAC) remains underutilized and abandoned. The simple, but complex theatre's concept yet unique, the CAP of a military officer

is a major landmark in Lagos, public attraction and a tourist center after construction even till today. It was designed and built with 3000 seats in its main auditorium, two cinema screens, a well positioned and appealing bar and conference halls. Till today, the National Theatre remains a masterpiece and a head turner yet, abandoned (plate 6).

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Plate 6. National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

This worldly known theatre, that once hosted an international festival is now, mostly used by the Nigerian movie industry, Nollywood for their activities. It is mostly used for concerts, plays, launchings and all other general public functions not in the magnitude of major gatherings and presentation with national and

or, international appeal. Noticeable, outside the theater are some aluminum frame sheds, built not too long ago and used mostly by beer sellers (plate 7); all in efforts to keep the once vibrant National Theater, needing urgent attention and be kept functioning.



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Plate 7. Aluminum stores at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

Also worthy of note are, in the effort to keep the theater going and make visitors want to know more about the history of the theater, on the buildings around the theatre are boldly written names of, the National Gallery of Crafts and Design, National Studios and Work Shops,

National Gallery of Modern Art and the Universal Studios of Art (plate 8). With all these national institutions, one would think that the National Theatre would be maintained to remain a huge tourist attraction in Lagos, but that is not the case.



Plate 8. Offices of different Institutes at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

The magnificent structure is underutilized, poorly managed and maintained and even collapsing. The access (pedestrian) bridges surrounding the theatre are collapsing (plates 9 to 16). The vehicular accesses and culverts are cracking, sinking and at the verge of collapsing (plates 9 to 16), yet we sit and watch.

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Plate 9. Collapsed bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 10. Part of a collapsed bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 11. Collapsed bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011)



Plate 12. Collapsed bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

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Plate 13. Collapsed pedestrian bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 14. Collapsed pedestrian bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 15. Polluted water at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 16. Collapsed pedestrian bridge at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

The National Theatre is a national treasure and requires utmost attention. Maintaining and managing the facility is a good source of employment for thousands of our young school leavers and job seekers in need of jobs. The reconstruction of the bridges and culverts are

good contract works for our indigenous engineering and construction companies that would in turn, hire our unemployed to do the work.

The landscaped water areas surrounding the theatre could be cleaned and converted into

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functional fishponds. In return, the fishponds could produce fish that could either be used for games or for consumption yet, another source of income and taxes for the local, state and the federal governments. The management of the ponds could be employment opportunities for our job seekers. Managing the ponds would entail hiring experts in fishing business, maintenance people, fish producing people, security guards, transports and logistics and a whole list of other professionals to be engaged in just one business. Tourism, performing arts, commercial and more have their own list of employment opportunities too. Ignoring and not putting the National Theatre to capacity use is a disservice to our unemployed communities and the professionals in different areas of

interest that would benefit from the programme. We cannot be seeking for jobs while we have sustainable facilities that could generate their own revenues and pay their worker. We cannot be hitting the news media about lack of jobs in the country while we have job creating machines and have not taken advantage of them. The National Theater has enough and contiguous expanse of land for developing animal husbandry. Birds alone could create and generate thousands of tourists to the area and that will also, attract hundreds of employment for our people. It is all about our priority, prerogatives and national interest and up to the nation's urban actors, politicians and the responsible government officials.

Just in Lagos again, is the old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos and equally abandoned. In 1992, the capital of Nigeria was relocated to Abuja, in the northern part of the country. Relocating from Lagos to Abuja, meant that most of the federal offices moved, more especially, the ones located at the old Federal Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi. As a result of that, the Federal Secretariat, now, commonly known by a lot of people, as the Old Federal Secretariat, Ikoyi, Lagos was affected,

emptied and since then, remained empty and abandoned for a lot of reasons The reasons for the abandonment is not of interest in this work (plate 17). The complex was sold a long time ago by the federal government and the use has since then, changed. For clarity, avoidance of doubt and misunderstanding, this work is strictly focused on job creation, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment missed by not putting the complex to active and proper use and nothing more than that.

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Plate 17. Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

In a society where millions of people are unemployed and remained unemployed, millions of people are homeless and cannot afford basic shelter over their heads and living on substandard daily diets and in most cases, living in the open areas of the Nigerian urban areas. In a properly administered and managed system, a lot could have change in their lives with that complex in absolute and proper use.

It is humiliating seeing such an imposing complex, standing in total disrepair and abandoned while it could have been converted

into apartments units, offices, retail and or, major commercial complex for the benefit of all. Whatever it is converted to, it will create jobs and thousands of the young school leavers and job seekers would find comfort and benefit from it. It would create both high and low income jobs; create opportunities for more entrepreneurs within the society and a good tax base for the government. Such complex should not be left for city bus drivers using the sides as bus parking and storage grounds (plates 18 to 26).

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Plate 18. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

Refurbishing the complex would put back to work hundreds of people in the building industry, architects, planners, quantity surveyors, estate management, etc. These professionals would evaluate and refurbish the complex. The people in the building industry would in return, put back the people in the building materials business back to business, the people in the building materials business would return the money back to the manufacturers, the manufacturers will return

the money to the raw materials sector and finally, back to the banks and the banks would use the money in loaning again. When banks grant loans, the economy would reverse and blossom again and the community would be happy and have honest smiles on their faces. By so doing, we shall stop feeling guilty, but proud that Arc Isaac Fola-Alade's creative architectural work is back in use and bubbling again.

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Plate 19. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 20. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 21. Different view of the Old Federal



Plate 22. Different view of the Old Federal

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Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos, showing bus parking area.  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos, showing bus parking area.  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 23. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos, showing bus parking area.  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 24. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos.  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

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Plate 25. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).



Plate 26. Different view of the Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos  
Source: Obiadi (May 14, 2011).

At Enugu Independence Layout, an uncompleted Conference Center (plate 27) has been left unattended since the former governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani let office, again, a typical example of “Architecture of

Governance.” The Bishop is correct, projects should not be abandoned because a governor completed his time in office without completing the project. Government is continuous and on going projects should not die with the exit of a governor, a challenge for the architects.



Okafor Calistus, and Kikanmen I.

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Plate 27. An uncompleted Enugu Conference Center left unattended since the former governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani let office

Source: Obiadi B. (August 11, 2017)

## Recommendations

The loathing and the systemic policies of abhorrence within the Nigerian political class have not help the socio-economic situation in the country rather, deepens the bad and horrible conditions under which the citizens of the country live. The government as well as the politicians, should come together and fine ways of sanitizing the country's corrupt and crooked political practices dehumanizing the citizens of Nigeria and denying them their fundermental human rights and privileges. These factors are equally, affecting the Nigeria's urban built environment and particularly, housing and public centers. The common practice within the governors' circle of abandoning projects not completed by their predecessors should be discouraged. Government is continuous and uncompleted projects must not stop with the exit of a governor.

The government workers, urban actors, professional bodies and different community groups need to start working together, forming alliance and challenging incoming governors to continue and complete projects started by their predecessors and through that, can abandoned projecrs be stopped in the communities. They should cooperate not only in building the city, but continue with existing projects, modify and transform them into active projects. They should equally understand that, cities are about people living together, and this requires organization and skills in managing the affairs

of the local community and larger city (Shane, 2011: 14).

## Conclusion

Politicians in Nigeria have perfected ways of buying themselves into offices and challenging positions resulting in them, not caring about the communities they represent. Corruption and systemic self gains and enrichments are the order of the day and they are affecting the socio-economic conditions of virtually, all the Nigerian communities. The infrastructure and support service facilities in Nigeria are all in total disrepair: roads, electricity, municipal water supply, markets, schools, hospitals, recreation grounds and facilities to mention, but a few are all collapsing. While it is obvious that the politicians are only interested in replenishing their pockets, restocking the money they spent during the elections in buying votes, efforts should be made to draw their attention to the needs of the common people. Unemployment has skyrocketed, the infrastructure in the universities, secondary and primary schools are collapsing and average income families are no longer affording school fees for the children, hospital bills and three square meals yet, they vote-in the politicians every election.

Major projects in Nigeria, the National Stadium, Lagos, National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos and Old Federal Government's Secretariat Complex, Ikoyi, Lagos have been abandoned for a good number of years and they are all in total

**Obiadi Bons, Onuorah Ikenna, Mba Paschal, Okafor Calistus, and Kikanmen I.**

**Emmanuel**

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disrepair, questioning the role of the urban actors and the professional bodies in city

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