

*Original Research Article*

# Evolutionary Trend, Spatial Distribution and Issues associated with Markets in Kano Metropolis

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Abstract

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The paper attempts to establish the evolutionary trend and spatial distribution of traditional marketplaces in Kano metropolis and as well evaluates organizational and operational issues that characterized the Kano business landscape on environmental perspectives. The methods used include: Analysis of Satellite Imageries of 2011; Inventory and Field Observation; Use of Official Records; In-depth Interviews; FGD; and Case Study. The results show that there are total of 43 existing markets and as well they are the strength of Kano business landscape. 22 are community markets; 7 metropolitan; 5 regional; and 9 international markets. The evolutionary trend shows that the Kano markets evolved in three main phases namely: the first generation markets; second generation; and the recent or contemporary markets, but unevenly distributed which has been found to have both negative and positive environmental repercussion. Moreover, the business landscape is characterized with the proliferation of super-stores, shopping malls and other trading avenues along major roads and streets which on their own sphere form another kind of market (the unconventional markets). Frequent conflagratory fire outbreak; absence of security and peace due to militant crusade; and operational issues such as inadequate electric power supply; noise pollution and ambient air contamination are the major challenges facing the growth and development of markets and the sustainability index of the entire Kano business landscape. Based on the scenario of Kano business landscape, a descriptive model was drawn which portrays how markets served as central controlling or coordinating unit in terms of interception of supplies and demands and discharging them accordingly. On that direction, it has been postulated that if the operational challenges inherent in the Kano business landscape are overcome and good governance has been sustained, Kano would experienced an industrial breakthrough in about 20 years and it will emerge as the first megalopolis in West Africa. It was therefore recommended that, markets should be included in the economic development plan of Kano; Environmental management system should be put in place; and Good governance should be pursued at all levels; among others.

**Keywords:** Trend, Distribution, Issues, Markets, Kano

## INTRODUCTION

Despite human advancement in trade and commerce; the E-transaction, traditional marketplaces are still relevant in

the contemporary business activities as well as urban environmental management. This is due to the fact that

Table 1. Trend of Markets Development in Kano Metropolis

S/N	Name	Age	Importance	Status	Nature
<b>First Generation Markets (13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century)</b>					
1	Yarkasuwa	1392	Metropolitan	Ceased	Mixed
2	Karafka	1438	Metropolitan	Ceased	Mixed
3	Kurmi	1487	International	Exist	Mixed
4	Mandawari	1567	Community	Exist	Mixed
5	Madabo (K. Idau)	1700	Community	Relocated	Mixed
6	Na'isa (Sharada)	1706	Community	Relocated	Mixed
S/N	Name	Age	Importance	Status	Nature
7	Aisami	1880	Community	Exist	Mixed
8	Kul-kul	1887	Community	Exist	Mixed
<b>Second Generation Markets (1900 to 1959)</b>					
9	Sabongari	1914	International	Exist	Mixed
10	Kwari	1934	International	Exist	Single
11	Rimi	1937	Regional	Exist	Mixed
12	'Yan'awaki	1940	Metropolitan	Relocated	Single
13	'Yantaya	1942	Regional	Exist	Single
14	WAPA	1959	International	Exist	Single
15	Sharada	1960	Community	Exist	Mixed
16	'Yan'itace	1965	Metropolitan	Relocated	Single
17	Abattoir	1967	Metropolitan	Exist	Single
18	Brigade	1969	Community	Exist	Mixed
<b>Third Generation Markets (1970 to Date)</b>					
19	Akija	1973	International	Exist	Single
20	Asibitin Nasarawa		Community	Exist	Mixed
21	Dakata		Community	Exist	Mixed
22	Danladi Nasidi	1997	Community	Exist	Mixed
23	Dawanau	1977	International	Exist	Single
24	Farm Centre (PV)	2010	Metropolitan	Exist	Single
25	Gwawarwa		Community	Exist	Mixed
26	Hajj Camp		Community	Exist	Mixed
27	Hotoro		Community	Exist	Mixed
28	Kofar Ruwa	1977	International	Exist	Single
29	Kofar Wambai	1977	International	Exist	Mixed
30	Kurna		Community	Exist	Mixed
31	Mariri		Regional	Exist	Single
32	Mazaunar Tanko		Community	Exist	Mixed
S/N	Name	Age	Importance	Status	Nature
33	Post Office		Community	Exist	Mixed
34	Rijiyar Lemo		Community	Exist	Mixed
35	Rijiyar Zaki	2013	Community	Exist	Mixed
36	Rimin Kebe		Community	Exist	Mixed
37	Singer	1977	International	Exist	Mixed
38	Takari	1985	Community	Exist	Mixed
39	Tarauni		Community	Exist	Mixed
40	'Yangoro (Ujile)	1977	Metropolitan	Exist	Single
41	'Yankaba	1977	Metropolitan	Exist	Single
42	'Yankatako (RL)		Regional	Exist	Single
43	'Yankekuna		Metropolitan	Exist	Single
44	'Yanlemo	1978	Regional	Exist	Single
45	'Yanmata		Community	Exist	Mixed
46	'Yarkasuwa Sheka		Community	Exist	Mixed

Source: Fieldwork, 2013/14

market as an economic institution plays a vital role in the economies of hosting communities and the nation as a whole. It also serves as an index of measuring the performance of urban environmental quality. In

developing countries in particular, most of their economic activities either originate from markets or terminate at markets. Also, in urban Africa, where most of the urban populace partakes in small-scale retail trading and other

forms of commercial activities, the presence of traditional marketplaces are inevitable and as well indispensable in the discharge of economic activities, growth and development, and social values. Kano metropolis being the second largest commercial centre in Nigeria after Lagos and the most dominant commercial area in Northern Nigeria is engulfed with the proliferation of numerous daily marketplaces that are distinct from one another in terms of mercantile commodities; scale of operation; history; planning attributes; and importance. Their common features on the other hand, include: massive congestion; poor accessibility; encroachment on roads; inadequate supply of basic utilities such as water supply, electricity, fire services; and poor refuse disposal and sanitation facilities. However, despite these buoyancies and defects, there exist no comprehensive studies in entity on marketplaces in Kano metropolis. Most of the existing studies are either on trade and traders of Kano such as Gilbert (1969); Lovejoy (1970); Johnson (1976); Bello (1982); Dan-Asabe (1995 and 2000); Gwangwazo (2007); and Tanko and Halima (2014) or on indirect operational issues such as Ado-Kurawa (2006); Musa (2010); and Maigari (2014a) among others. Thus, the aim of this paper is to fill up this gap, by establishing the evolutionary trend of markets development in Kano metropolis; their spatial distribution and as well evaluates management and operational issues that characterized the business landscape of Kano metropolis on environmental perspectives.

### Evolutionary Trend

The existence of market in Kano cannot be separated from the history of Kano itself (Dala), which most historians traced to the early 7<sup>th</sup> century. However, the evolutionary trend shows three major developments: the first generation; the second generation; and the recent or contemporary markets. The first generation markets are those that emerged from early 8<sup>th</sup> century to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although the markets that had existed between 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were few and occasional, their sites were not definite, and their names changed according to local need or purpose. The only prominent among these was the 'Yarkasuwa market founded in 1392. From 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, markets in Kano began to get stands in terms of site, name, and relevance, as a result of wider spectrum of trade contact between Kano and the Arabs world; the Trans-Saharan Trade. Thus, between 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries a total number of seven markets were established. These are: Karafka (in 1438); Kurmi (in 1487); Mandawari market (in 1567); Madabo (in 1700); Na'isa (in 1706); Aisami (in 1880); and Kul-kul (in 1887). Among this category, only Kurmi market retained its historic and international status; 'Yarkawusa and Karafka were phased off and their sites were converted to

residential area. Madabo and Na'isa markets were relocated; while Mandawari, Aisami and Kul-kul markets were reduced to local neighborhood patronage as against their former international status.

The second generation markets are those that emerged from the 1900 to some years after National Independent (1960s); after trading contact had been extended up to Europe. These include: Sabongari market established in 1914 following railway construction in 1912; Kwari market in 1934; Rimi market in 1937; 'Yan'awaki around 1940; 'Yantaya in 1942; WAPA in 1959; Sharada in 1960; 'Yan'itace in 1965; Abattoir in 1967; and Brigade in 1969. Among these, 'Yan'awaki; 'Yan'itace and Sharada markets were respectively relocated to Na'ibawa, Mariri and Sharada-Masallaci areas. Sabongari, Kwari and WAPA markets retained their international status; while Rimi market has been reduced to regional as against its former international importance. The detail is presented in Table 1.

The promulgation of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion (Indigenization) Decree of 1972; over a decade after national independent, and amended in 1976, which allowed Nigerians to own and participate in economic enterprises, has brought about so many changes in the national economy, especially, in terms of facilitating growth and economic development (Mohammed, 1985). In Kano, metropolis, among other things, it has led to the development of 21 more markets; the contemporary or the recent markets (Third generation). The notable among these include: Akija established in 1973; Singer; Dawanau; Kofar-Wambai; Kofar-Ruwa; 'Yankaba; Ujile; 'Yankekuna; and 'Yanlema in 1977, and Takari in 1985, among others. The detail is presented in Table 1.

From Table 1 above it can be observed that out of the 46 inventoried markets in Kano metropolis; 43 still exist. Two were phased out and four relocated (Na'isa is now Sharada; Madabo now Kukar-Idau; 'Yan'awaki and 'Yan'itace still retained their names). Among the existing markets, 22 are serving their respective communities; 7 are metropolitan; 5 regional; and 9 international markets. In terms of the nature of the dominant marketing commodities; 16 are single commodity but with different specification and the remaining 27 are mixed. Table 2 shows the single commodity markets according to their respective specification.

In addition to the 43 existing markets in Kano metropolis, more are still coming up; such as the ongoing ultra modern market. Also the business landscape is characterized with the proliferation of super-stores, shopping malls and other trading avenues along major roads and streets which on their own sphere form another kind of market (the unconventional markets; See 5).

**Table 2.** List of Single Commodity Markets in Kano Metropolis

S/N	Name	Importance	Com. Type	N. Transaction
1	Abattoir	Metropolitan	Meat	Retail
2	Akija	International	Vehicles	Retail
3	Dawanau	International	Grains	Bulk
4	Farm Centre (PV)	Metropolitan	Cell-phone	Retail
5	Kofar Ruwa	International	Spare parts	Retail
6	Kwari	International	Textile	Bulk
7	Mariri	Regional	Kola nut	Bulk
8	WAPA	International	Currency	Exchange
9	'Yan'awaki	Metropolitan	Livestock	Single
10	'Yangoro (Ujile)	Metropolitan	Kola nut	Retail
11	'Yan'itace	Metropolitan	Fuel wood	Bulk
12	'Yankaba	Metropolitan	Vegetables	Bulk
13	'Yankatako	Regional	Timber	Bulk
14	'Yankekuna	Metropolitan	Bicycles	Retail
15	'Yanlemo	Regional	Fruits	Bulk
16	'Yantaya	Regional	Tires	Retail

Source: Fieldwork, 2014

### Spatial Distribution

Analysis of satellite imageries (2011), shows the 43 existing markets in Kano metropolis occupied a total land area of 44.41Km<sup>2</sup>; about 32.42% of the total land area of urban Kano (about 137Km<sup>2</sup>). Out of this figure, International markets covered 58.2%; Regional markets 10.9%; Metropolitan markets 6.1%; and Community markets 24.8%. The detail is presented in Figure 1 and Table 3 below.

The distribution pattern as can be seen in Figure 1 is not even; there are more concentration of markets in the inner areas of the metropolis and less at the outskirts. The markets in the inner areas of the metropolis are mainly first and second generation markets while those at the outskirts are third generation markets. On the basis of urban planning ethic, however, the distribution pattern has demonstrated two contrasting images. First, the inner dense concentration of markets has demonstrated poor conception or weak application of urban planning principles along the development trend by the then institution or constituted authorities. Even though these markets have undergone series of transformation which gave them their present features, yet their concentration in almost one place could be very risky. Currently, there are twelve markets aligned in almost a circular form with one adjoining to another in the inner major central business district (CBD). In this circle, 6 are international markets; and 2 each regional; metropolitan; and community markets respectively. Moreover, the top 10 markets in the circle represent the strength of Kano business landscape. For example, Kantin Kwari textile market alone, in the year 2004 was valued at about =N=20 Billion (K-SEED, 2004). Even with that stand,

FGD result shows that 'Kwari market is far behind Sabongari; Singer; WAPA; and Akija markets in terms of wealth'. Thus, this means any hazard that affects any one of the markets in that circle (area) is bound to affect the rest and as well can endangered the strength of the entire Kano business landscape. In urban planning and indeed urban environmental management such situations are not only avoided but are also eliminated right from project design so as to ensure safety of life and property and enhance environmental quality. A study by Maigari (2014a) on operational issues in Sabongari (including Singer), Kwari, and Wambai markets revealed that human health is at risk due to high noise level and ambient air contamination resulting from high vehicular movement and smoke from electric power generators. In another direction, frequent fire outbreak has become an annual phenomenon in most of the inner zone markets (See 7). Therefore, all these and many other detrimental effects could have been prevented if the inner zone markets were adequately planned and decentralized.

Secondly, the disperse distribution at the outskirts, shows among other things infusion of planning principles along the development trend. It has also demonstrated how flexible the Kano business landscape is to change. Contrary to the opinion and reaction of some traders towards the 1977 and 1978 decongestion and relocation of markets exercise that 'the affected markets would collapse and business would come to a standstill', the business landscape has absorbed the change; the outskirts markets are functioning very well and have even attracted other forms of development. For example, Dawanau market located at the far north; 'Yanlemo (far south); 'Yankaba (far Northeast); and Mariri Kola nut market (far southeast) were products of 1977

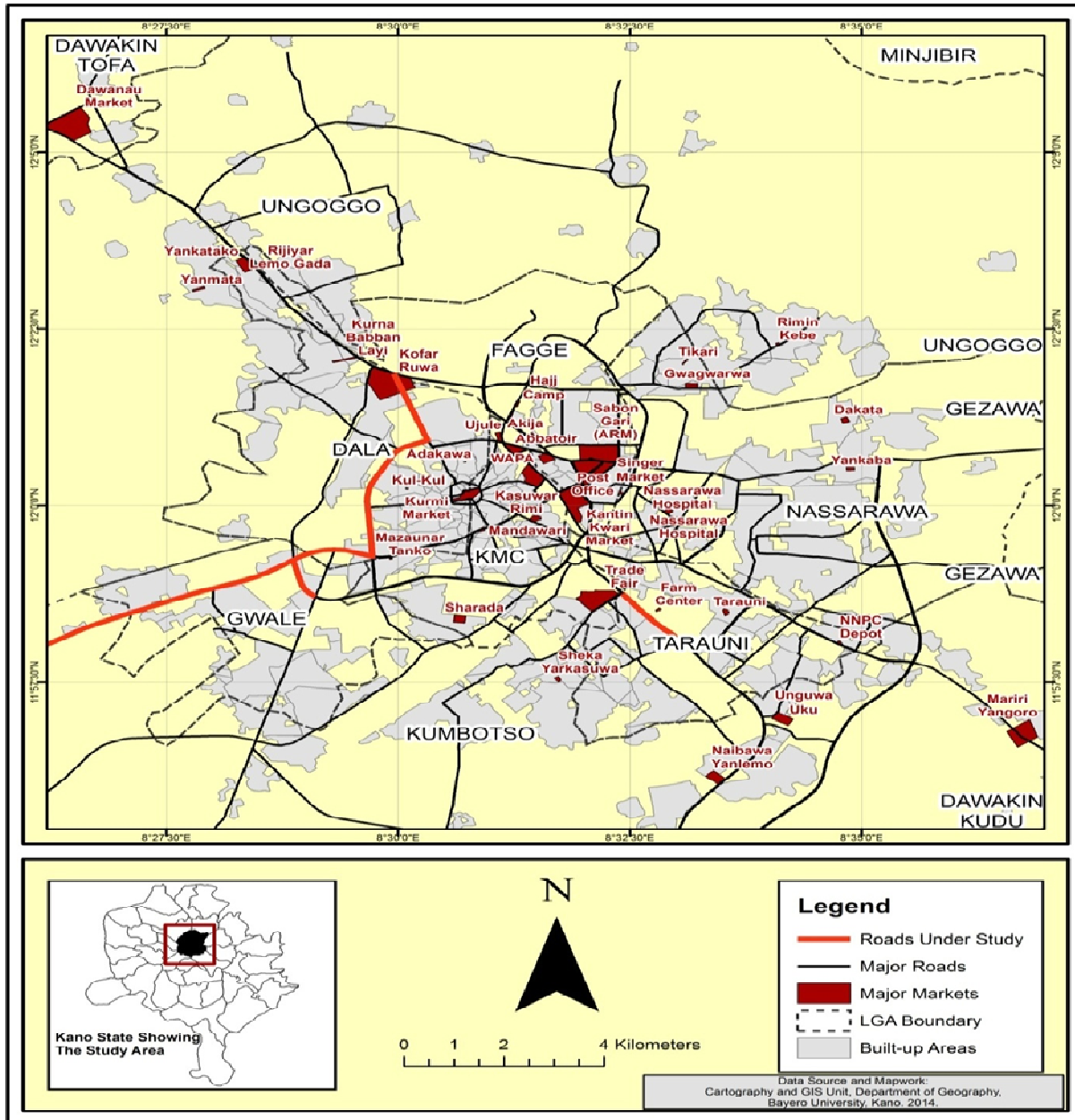


Figure 1. Spatial Distribution of Markets in Kano Metropolis

Table 3. Land Cover of the Existing Markets in Kano Metropolis

M. Status	T. Number	Land Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Total	Ranking
International	9	25.86	58.2	1
Regional	5	4.84	10.9	3
Metropolitan	7	2.70	6.1	4
Community	22	11.01	24.8	2
Total	43	44.41	100	-

Source: Satellite Imageries, 2011 & Fieldwork, 2014

decongestion exercise, but are currently among the busiest markets in Kano metropolis and their growth have

exceeded two times of their initial delineated areas (FGD result).

**Table 4.** Inventory of Commercial Outlets along some Major Roads

S/N	Location	Distance Km	Total No	Average
1.	BUK New site to Kabuga	3.7	698	188.65
2.	Kabuga to Kofar Famfo	0.5	100	200*
3.	Kabuga to Tal'udu	1.6	164	102.5
4.	Tal'udu to Mambayya House	2.2	280	127.3
5.	Mambayya H. to Kofar Ruwa	1.88	212	112.76
6.	Kundila Fly Over to Dangji RB	1.7	209	130.63
7.	Rufar S. to Old Rijiyar Zaki	0.7	117	167.14*
8	Kadawa Road	1.3	142	109.23
9.	AFCU Road	0.8	121	151.25*
Total		14.38	2,043	143

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2014 \*High Density Areas

### Market Administration

During the pre-colonial periods, the general administration of marketplaces in Kano lies on the hand of the emir who administer through his representative known as *Sarkin-Kasuwa* (market head). Each market has its separate head that is responsible for all matters affecting it. Each *Sarkin-Kasuwa* advise or report to the emir on matters pertaining to market site, expansion, allocation of shades, arrivals of non-indigene traders, lost and found items, and disputes for final approval or further action. In the colonial times, such system was also maintained under Native Authority but with some few modifications. Revenue collection was introduced; the market heads were co-opted as employees of Native Authority; and colonial government improved some of the market structures and employed market guards and cleaners. For example, Kurmi market was renovated in 1912; Sabongari market was restructured in 1919 and expanded in 1932, 1940, and 1948; and Kwari was restructured in 1945.

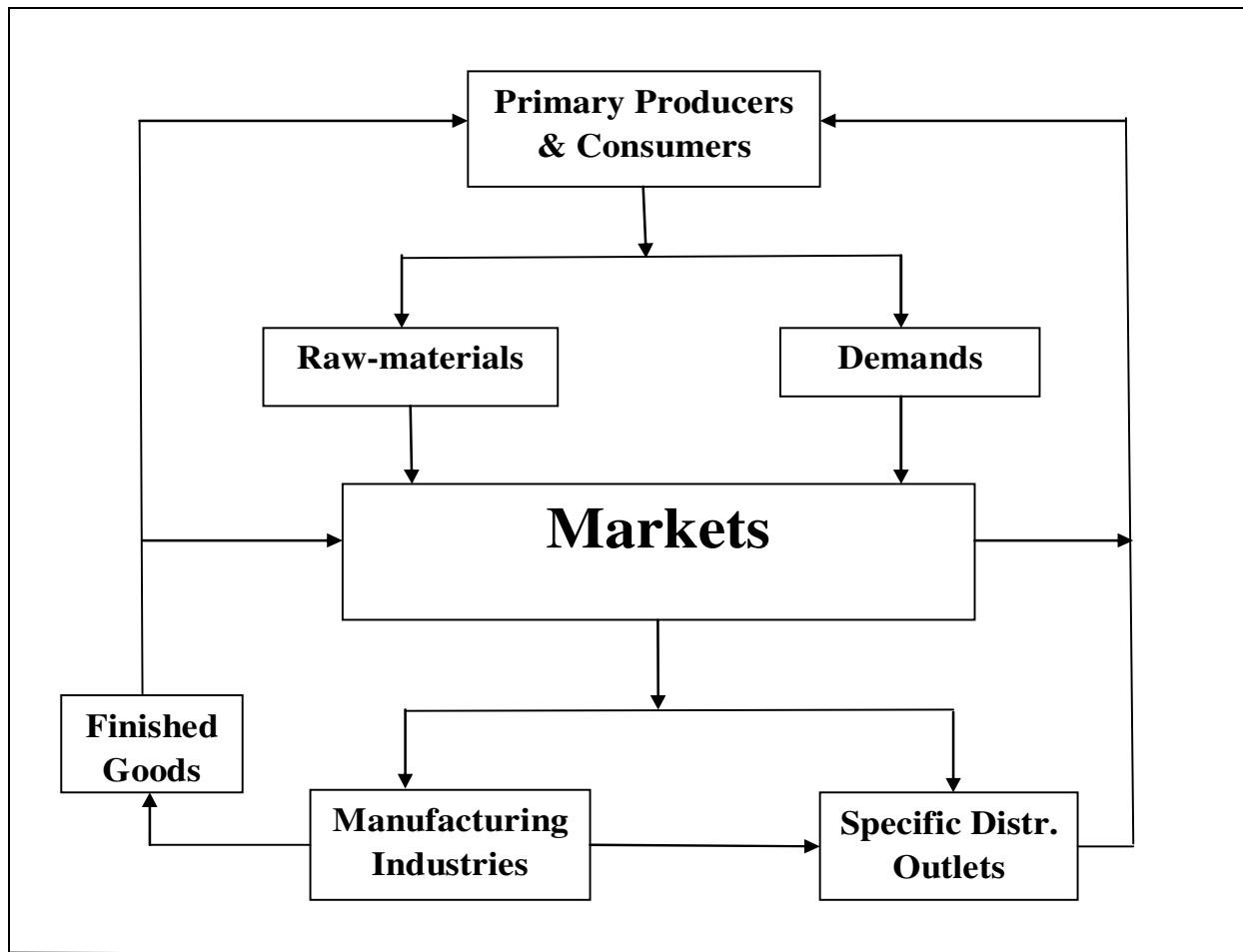
After independence, the administration of markets in Kano metropolis shifted to the hands of Local Government Authorities and the State Government. International; Regional and Metropolitan markets in particular are administered by the state government through the Chamber of Commerce; a parastatal under Ministry for Industries, Trade and Commerce. Sabongari market which is the main central market is administered by a sole administrator appointed by the state government while the rest are run by their respective Traders Associations; elected officials. The community markets, on the other hand, are administered by their respective local government authorities. Issues pertaining to trader's welfare and market security are handled by Traders Associations while sanitation, drainages, land allocation, and revenue collection are handled by local government authorities. Conflict issues if not resolved at associational level, are treated at the court of law; mostly *Sharia* courts.

### Unconventional Markets

In addition to the ever growing daily marketplaces in Kano metropolis, are the proliferation of numerous trading (mostly retail) outlets along major roads and streets. They are comprised with a chain of shops, kiosks, workshops, dispensing outlets, offices, super-stores, and shopping malls along all wings of major roads. They are commonly seen and patronized by the general public as neighborhood services and shopping facilities. Owing to their eminent role in the discharge of commercial activities, such trading outlets are vehemently considered in the general urban planning and development matters. An in-depth interview with government officials revealed that 'Kano Urban Planning and Development Authority (KANUPDA) as well as Kano State Ministry of Lands considered those trading outlets as commercial areas and the grant or allocation of such areas are treated separately from full term residential allocations'. In terms of real estate value, an in-depth interview with estate agents revealed that 'the value of commercial areas; both property and rent is about three to four times higher than that of the adjoining residential areas'.

A detailed case study aimed at assessing the volume of trading outlets along some major dual carriage ways including adjoining tributary roads where applicable revealed that 'the density of services and shopping outlets increases with increasing population density and vice-versa'. An inventory of services and shopping outlets along 9 selected locations (6 dual carriage ways and 3 single lane roads) measuring 14.38Km revealed a total sum of 2,043 commercial outlets with an average of about 142 commercial outlets per a distance of one Kilometer. The detail is presented in Table 4 while inventoried location is presented in Figure 1.

From the above give details it is evidently clear that the proliferation of services and shopping outlets along roads and streets in Kano metropolis is quite enormous and among other things it has revealed three major issues. First, it has portrayed the extend at which trade and trading activities are taking place in Kano metropolis



**Figure 3.** Simplified Model of Kano Business Landscape

**Source:** Based on Compiled Data Set, 2014

and indeed support the claim that “everything in Kano is sale-able and every inch of a space in and around the city is a potential market place”. Secondly, it entails the multi-dimensional nature of distribution outlets inherent in the Kano business landscape and how urban Kano is a market to itself, thus trading can still exist even if commercial visitors are not forthcoming. On a liberal sense, the goods and services that a population of over 4 million would produce and consume, is a great economy. Thirdly, it depicts the kinds of challenges facing urban environmental management as it relates to smooth traffic flow and chances of hold-ups; development control; preponderance of planning and planning ethic; disappearance of open space and green belt; and efficient municipal waste collection and disposal system, among others.

### Scenario of Kano Business Landscape

The Kano business landscape is made up of consump-

tion, manufacturing and distribution with markets as the central controlling or regulating unit. The markets intercept supplies from primary producers (raw-materials or semi-processed goods) and manufacturing industries (finished goods) and demands from consumers, which after have been refined or fine-tuned by market forces are accordingly released into distribution outlets. The distribution aspect is also discharged by the numerous markets discussed above; which attract thousands of visitors from all segments of Nigeria and the neighboring countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Ghana, Niger, and Togo on daily basis.

The huge number of Kano urban population (over 4 million) and commercial visitors within and outside Nigeria; demands from primary producers and manufacturing industries; and export requirements formed the consumption unit. While the manufacturing unit is comprised with the supplies from primary producers; finished goods from manufacturing industries in Kano and other parts of the country, and imported

mercantile commodities. Thus, these three major units (the production unit; distribution unit; and consumption unit) formed the Kano metropolis business landscape and their mutual interactions indeed, sustained its base and the general wellbeing. Although commercial banks are also important but their role could be seen in terms of facilitating smooth flow of supplies and demands in and out of the distribution unit. This observed formation is presented in a simplified model below (Figure 2).

From this simple descriptive model, about three issues can be ascribed to it. First, it has clearly demonstrated the role of market as a central place where economic activities are either generated or being terminated at. Equally on theoretical dimension, it has gone along in support of the Walter Christaller's theory of Central Place Tendency (1903). Secondly, the model has in a simplified manner described the importance of market on general sense in promoting primary as well as secondary production. Thus, without the role of intercepting supplies and demands and discharging them accordingly, the size of Kano business landscape could have been very minute and unidirectional and the distribution outlet would have been single, static, and limited to a highly localized set up. Numerous studies right from pre-colonial periods to date have attributed the growth and development of Kano as agricultural zone and industrial centre to its being a major trading post. Currently, there are over 400 privately owned industries; ranging from large, medium to small scale factories in Kano. This makes Kano the second largest industrial area outside Lagos (See Bashir, 1983; Ado-Kurawa, 2006; Tanko and Halima, 2014). Moreover, the interception unit and the distribution outlets have demonstrated how people and products move in and out in a circular manner, which in a wider sense promotes circulation. FGD result shows that 'on average about one million people visit Kano weekly on commercial mission'. Indeed, these give details, among others, made Kano business landscape very large, dynamic, and multidirectional.

Thirdly, it has showcase Walt Whitman Rostow's (an American Economist) argument on the significance of functioning markets in the path of industrialization. The remaining two factors are highly productive agricultural sector and stable government. According to Rostow (1961) 'once these preconditions are met, industrialization could enter the "take-off" phase - a brief period of 20 to 30 years in which the process of industrialization is completed'. Kano region has been for centuries being a productive agricultural area; ground nut production, cotton, gum-arabic, and skin and hide were the main products that made Kano a commercial centre during the colonial periods (See Bello, 1982). Currently, intensive agricultural production, both rain fed and irrigation, in Kano Close Settled Zone in particular, is not only producing food and raw material to Nigeria as a whole but is also drawing the attention of researchers

and international bodies on issues pertaining to population - resource relationship. For example, a study by Mortimore (1993) in Kano Close-settled Zone from 1964 to 1984 on the Intensification of Pre-urban Agriculture as in Maigari (2014b) revealed that 'the Kano triple system of crop, livestock and tree husbandry has survived intact the pressure of urbanization... that the functional relationships between these three elements are stable ecologically and economically, and that rather than damage the sustainability of the system, the increasing dense population has chosen to diversify out of primary production'. Similarly, tree density has been stable over decades at about 15/ha as against what was obtained in the 1960s; about 0.8/ha (Cline-Cole et al., 1990).

In line with Rostow's observation, therefore, the only step missing in the process of industrial breakthrough in Kano is a stable government. However, if the current trend of urban rehabilitation and infrastructural development is sustained by the succeeding state government and the proposed Kano State Electric Power Generating Plant is fully actualized, Rostow's views could strongly hold in Kano (See 8: Future Horizon).

### Challenges of Development

Frequent conflagratory fire outbreak is one of the leading factors affecting the growth and development of markets as well as the sustainability index of the entire Kano business landscape. An analysis of the records of fire outbreak from the year 2000 to 2014 revealed that marketplaces in Kano metropolis have sustained a total of 88 incidences of fire outbreaks. Among the inventoried 43 existing markets, only 12 markets (27.9%) were not involved. Most of those that sustained fire outbreaks are international markets (54); followed by regional markets with 18 incidences; community and metropolitan markets with 12 and 4 incidences respectively. On average, over the 15 years period, about 6 markets got on fire annually (the detail findings are presented in Table 5). This entails the amount of wealth being lost annually; which if otherwise would generate, based on the spectrum of trading activities, about one and a half (1.5) equivalent profit. An in-depth interview with some officials of Rimi market Traders Association revealed that 'the past incidences of fire outbreak have made over 200 traders in Rimi market out of businesses'. Based on the detailed records in Appendix I, Rimi market almost every year sustained fire outbreak (13 incidences from 2000 to 2014).

Similarly, the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 fire outbreak in Kwari market has destroyed over 1,000 stalls and hundreds of makeshift stands in 6 blocks of shops, resulting in the loss of billions of naira in goods and property. Two persons were said to have died at the scene while trying to evacuate their belongings (Leadership Weekend, News



**Table 5.** Incidences of Fire Outbreak in some Marketplaces from 2000 to 2014

Year	Markets Category			Total
	International	Regional	Metropolitan	
2000	2	1	-	3
2001	2	1	-	4
2002	4	1	-	6
2003	2	2	-	5
2004	3	2	1	6
2005	1	1	-	3
2006	4	2	1	7
2007	4	2	-	7
2008	5	2	-	8
2009	6	-	1	9
2010	4	1	-	7
2011	4	1	1	7
2012	5	1	-	6
2013	4	1	-	6
2014	4	-	-	4
Total	54	18	4	88
Average	3.6	1.2	0.27	5.87

**Source:** Analysis of Kano State Fire Service Records, 2014

Paper, 19/01/2014).

The militant crusade (*Boko Haram*) since the past four years to date, in most parts of Northern Nigeria, has led to the general absence of security and peace. This to say the least has greatly retarded trade and trading activities in Kano metropolis and the whole of Northern Nigeria in general. Respondents maintained that 'from the year 2012 to date (2014) trade and trading activities have declined by about 45% in Kano metropolis. The number of commercial visitors also, most especially from the Northeastern Nigeria, has drastically fallen by about 65%'. Moreover, the markets are now being frequently attacked by armed robbers. For example, WAPA currency exchange market was attacked 3 times and Kwari textile market 2 times and the attackers went away with several millions of Naira.

In another direction, inadequate electric power supply; noise pollution; and ambient air contamination due to persistent use of electric power generators; are the key operational issues affecting trade and trading activities in the existing marketplaces of Kano metropolis (See Maigari, 2014a). These to say the least result in producing unpleasant atmosphere to traders; that often made them to lose their customers, close very early, and sustained various forms of health injuries.

On urban environment management standard, however, massive congestion; poor accessibility; encroachment on roads; inadequate supply of basic utilities such as water supply, electricity, fire services; and poor refuse disposal and sanitation facilities that characterized markets in Kano metropolis are matters not to be reckoned with. It is as a result of ill management of these matters that the above two challenges: incessant fire outbreak and deformation of ambient air quality

through noise pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> and CO contamination in particular, that became more glaring in most of the international markets. Therefore, these matters as well should be looked upon serious in order to improve urban environmental quality and safeguard human health and property.

### Future Horizon

From the forgoing analysis of marketplaces in Kano metropolis: their historical development; spatial distribution; and issues that featured in the development trend and operational exposition, it is evidently clear that the future horizon of Kano metropolis is very astonishing. Especially if the operational challenges are overcome, it is very certain that two major developments are bound to take place. These are industrial breakthrough and the emergence of a megalopolis. Already the business landscape has prepared for the industrial take up as suggested by Rostow (1961). Probably the time frame of 20 to 30 years may be lessened to 15 years or more if Kano is to achieve its dream of independent electric power development. For, it will go along in rehabilitating and resuscitating of hundreds of industries that have closed and those that are about to close. In another direction, it will also make the inland containers, dry port, and export processing facilities to function very well. Thus, the multiplier effect of such would stimulate further capital investment; emergence of new more industries; generates more employment opportunities; and facilitates the development of other sectors of the economy. The 16 years of democratic governance has put in place many infrastructural facilities in Kano metropolis and across

Kano state. For example, in the last six years (2008 to 2014) Kano metropolis has witnessed remarkable urban renewal projects such as expansion of road networks and construction of new roads, fly-over, and under-ways; expansion of municipal water supply; improvement of municipal waste and sanitation services; housing development; ultra modern market facilities; and laying the foundation of electric power plant, among others. These to say the least would go in line with the demand and requirements of high and rapid population growth that characterized the state in general; accommodates impending industrial requirements; and urban growth. Therefore, if such good governance and infrastructural development are sustained in the next 16 years and at most 20 years, Kano metropolis would achieved industrial breakthrough.

All things being equal, if the challenges facing the development of markets and the entire business landscape of Kano metropolis are overcome; good governance has been sustained; and industrial breakthrough has been achieved, the size of urban Kano (currently about 137Km<sup>2</sup>) and the inhabiting population (currently over 4 million people) would not be the same in the next 20 years. Going by the current population – land ratio of about 30,000 people per square kilometer (30,000/Km<sup>2</sup>) and the annual population growth rate of 4.5%, the population of urban Kano in the next 20 years would double itself (about 8 million people). The pull factor mechanism of commercial and industrial activities would attract at least 1 million people (50,000 people per annum) thereby making a total of about 9 million people. To fully accommodate such impending population in line with planning standards and environmental quality controls, it will require at least the whole of Kano metropolitan area (499Km<sup>2</sup>); about 3.6 times of the current area of urban Kano. That would give rise to another wonders of Kano: the Kano Megalopolis; the highest stage of human settlement formation. When such is achieved, it would be the first megalopolis in West Africa and the 4<sup>th</sup> in African continent, after Greater Cairo in Egypt with about 16 million people; El Jadida-Casablanca-Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region in Morocco with more than 11 million people; and the Gauteng City region in South Africa with over 10 million.

This could be possible because the seed to a megalopolis formation in Kano has for long been planted, probably since the pre-colonial periods. This has been indicative in the trend of growth and expansion of Kano city from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to date. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the size of the inhabited area in Kano was 4.5Km<sup>2</sup>. However, with the development of some more first generation markets; such as Karafka, Kurmi, and Mandawari markets; as a result of wider spectrum of trade contact between Kano and the Arabs world; the inhabited area of Kano increased to 7.0Km<sup>2</sup> in the 15<sup>th</sup> century; 7.5Km<sup>2</sup> in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; and 8.5Km<sup>2</sup> in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (See Liman and Adamu, 2003). Moreover, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

the size of the inhabited area of Kano was around 48Km<sup>2</sup> and currently the size of urban Kano is about 137Km<sup>2</sup> (See Falola, 2002 and Maigari 2014c). All these can be largely attributed to growth and development of trade and commerce in Kano metropolis.

The glaring features of major world's megalopolis are cosmopolitan population and the dominant growth of white collar labour force; Kano metropolis has already possessed all these. As observed by Osaghae, (1994) that 'right from its formative stages, Kano developed a cosmopolitan outlook ...' this has been attributed to Kano's openness to the migrants from southern Nigeria, principally the Igbo and Yoruba. Prior to colonialism, Kano was a large urban settlement, by 1851; it was organized into about 74 quarters (Mabogunje, 1968 in Osaghae, 1994). Crowder (1978:30 in Osaghae, 1994) reported that each quarter or ward was headed by the *Mai Unguwa*, who was responsible to the Emir. This quarter chieftainship according to Osaghae, (1994) constitutes one of the distant roots of the emergence of migrant ethnic empires while colonialism expanded its cosmopolitan frontiers. Thus, inside the ancient Kano city, for example, many people traced their ancestral roots to as far away places as Yemen, Syria, Mali, Libya, Senegal, Ethiopia, Sudan, Burkina Faso etc (Dan-Asabe, 2000).

Although the population of Kano during the pre-colonial period was dominantly agrarian, the employment status kept face with changes in trade and commercial development. Currently, over 70% of the people inhabiting within Kano metropolis draw their livelihoods off agricultural production (Maigari, 2014c). This to say the least promotes higher level of social and physical organization as demonstrated by high investment in health, housing, transport, and education. The growing proliferation of private hospitals and clinics, rental houses and private school in Kano metropolis alone is a testimony to the multiplier effect of population growth in Kano and avenue for the growth of white collar jobs.

## CONCLUSION

The forgoing analysis has demonstrated the role of markets in Kano metropolis towards achieving its economic as well as societal development. The hope and the expectations, therefore is to sustainably counteract the impediment challenges facing markets and the entire business landscape in Kano metropolis and to develop environmental management plans that would go along with changes accompanying population growth, urban growth, and economic growth and development. The trend at which these are going on in Kano metropolis is quite alarming; planning regulations are grossly too weak to check development control measures and environmental management ethics are seriously being violated. Open spaces, green belts, recreational sites,

historical monuments, and marginal sites such as streams, marshy lands and ponds are vehemently converted to commercial areas, mostly in form of shopping and services outlets or in some cases market extension. Therefore, in order to sustained the ongoing trade and commercial development in Kano metropolis; fully realized the buoyant benefits; and improve the environmental well being of current and future Kano, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration: i. The congested markets, especially the inner zone markets should be decongested and adequately planned; ii. Utilities such as water supply; electric power; sanitary facilities; and fire and safety facilities should be put in place; iii. Neighborhood markets should be created and its concept should be integrated in urban development plan; iv. Markets generally, should be included in the economic development plan of Kano State; v. Environmental management system should be put in place in order to mitigate the current detrimental activities such as noise and ambient air contamination that characterized marketplaces in Kano metropolis and to safeguard, improve, and maintained environmental quality in the future; vi. Good governance is the best medication to the all forms of crises bedeviling Nigeria in general not only the current absence of security and peace in Northern Nigeria, thus it should be pursued at all levels. It is only with good governance that Kano would achieved and arrived at industrial break through and megalopolis formation; vi. A more detailed research is need on the tendency of the predicted feature of Kano and on contingency plans towards arriving at such postulated future.

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## Appendix I: Incidences of Fire Outbreak in some Markets in Kano Metropolis from 2000 to 2014

S/N	Name	Frequency	Year
1	Abattoir	2	2004,09
2	Brigade	1	2010,
3	Dakata	2	2002,11,
4	Dawanau	2	2001,08,
5	Hajj Camp	2	2006,08,
6	Kofar Ruwa	6	2000,02,08,09,11,13,
7	Kofar Wambai	8	2001,03,05,06,09,10,12,13
8	Kurmi	11	2002,03,04,06,07,08,09,10,12,14
9	Kurna	2	2005,13,
10	Kwari	10	2000,02,04,06,07,08,09,10,12,13,14
11	Mazaunar Tanko	2	2001,10,
12	Post Office	1	2009,
13	Rimi	13	2000,01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,10,11,12,13,
14	Sabongari	9	2002,04,06,07,08,09,11,12,14
15	Singer	5	2007,09,12,13,14
16	Takari	1	2003
17	Tarauni	1	2007
18	Wapa	1	2011
19	Yankaba	1	2011
20	Yantaya	1	2010
21	Yar'kasuwa	2	2008,09
22	'Yangoro	4	2003,04,06,07

Source: Kano State Fire Service Record 2000 - 2014