Security Considerations for Future Hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper highlights the importance of security as a major factor to be considered for a successful staging and hosting of future Common Wealth Games in Abuja. Having been denied the hosting right of the 2014 Commonwealth Games which some considered is on security grounds and the socioeconomic benefit loss on that account, the paper aimed at studying the level of insecurity in Abuja – a potential future host city – the types of crimes that are prevalent, and the security threats that are associated with the hosting of a mega-event with the view of recommending possible physical planning measures to prepare the city for future mega event hosting. Secondary data sources were used in data collection which were related to current events in the city with which the authors are familiar. The study result shows that robbery, fraud and car-theft are the three major crimes in Abuja with fraud being the most common. The paper also reveals that Abuja is over-policed, under-secured but with improving security situation by the day. Road construction, use of road signs and traffic light as well as increased security consciousness are responsible for the improvement in the security situation. Bearing in mind that Mega events from past experience were found to be vulnerable to terrorist attack, the paper recommends the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the design and provision of infrastructure in all possible future venues of Mega events in the city, especially areas used for sports, accommodation, transportation, tourism and parking lots. The paper further recommends good governance, private public sector partnership in facilities management, and an efficient urban land use planning and infrastructure development as the components that should be properly harnessed in order to achieve adequate security in the study area.

Key Words: mega event, Commonwealth games, Abuja, security, physical planning

1. Introduction

The Commonwealth Games is the world's third largest mega multi-sports event after the Olympic and Asian Games. Abuja Nigeria was bidding head to head with Glasgow, Scotland for the hosting right of 2014 edition of the Commonwealth Games. If successful, Abuja would have become the first African city to host the event, which would have coincided with the commemoration of the 100 years of amalgamation of Nigeria which took place in 1914. Hence, the 2014 Commonwealth Games would have been an integral part of national Centenary Celebration plans for Nigeria. However, Glasgow was declared the winning city. Many problems, especially logistics, demonstrated that Nigeria was not quite ready to host something as large as the Commonwealth Games. Among the social problems confronting Abuja, security can be considered as one of the most threatening, as it directly affects life and property. Insecurity can also have

serious negative impact on hosting a mega event as big as the Commonwealth Games. Nigeria has been reported as under-policed with an average of one policeman to 5000 Nigerians, instead of the average of one policeman to 400 persons in most developed nations [1]. Although the situation in Abuja is better and nationally has improved as Kimani [2] reports that Nigeria with 370,000 police officers met the United Nations recommended 1:400 police population ratio and has been described as "over-policed but under-secured", the international community would not consider Abuja in isolation from other parts of Nigeria where security level has degenerated lately [3]. The legitimate desire for the nation to host and benefit from hosting international mega events of any form could only be realized if problems like insecurity are appropriately addressed.

The crime rate in Abuja is on the increase and Abuja has also shared in the series of bombings in northern Nigeria [3]. The number of armed robbery cases reported

to the police over five years period rose from 42 in 1993 to 70, 21, 36 and 14 in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively. As more people are forced by administrative fiat to move to Abuja, so also has the incidence of armed robbery risen between 1993 and 1994. The reduction in the number of cases reported after 1994 was due to apathy of the people in reporting to the police seeing that not much succour was received [1] while also affirming that the three most prevalent crimes in Abuja in recent times are robbery, fraud and car theft with fraud being the most common. Another major offence which has been increasing in Abuja is traffic accidents, many of which are fatal. This is because of the wide free ways in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT); absence of effective road signs; and lack of effective policing pointing to insecurity in the area.

This paper examines the security implications of hosting a mega event of the magnitude of the Commonwealth Games, which has implication not only on the security of the host city but on the economy of the host nation. It equally examines the impact of terrorist threat and attack on mega events with a view to advancing evidence-based experiences. Terrorism is becoming a global issue and mega-sporting events are providing a favourable and vulnerable location for terrorist's attack. With the foiled bombing of the United States of America (USA) passenger air craft by a Nigerian on the 25th December, 2009 and the current insurgence issues, the nation will have to put more efforts to its internal security in order to de-list itself from the U.S. terror list as well as convince the international community that it is not a terror zone. Also, if the internal security system of Nigeria is improved, it will open up opportunities for Nigeria, among which will include the granting of rights to host any mega-sporting event as big as the Commonwealth Games.

The security of life and property as well as the welfare of the people is the primary responsibility of government in any modern society hence most governments of the world invest heavily on security [4]. In fact the importance of security is clearly amplified under the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria [5] hence section (1) (b) of the constitution provides *inter-alia* that "Security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government." This also underscores why security is a critical and key component of Late President Yar'Adua 7 Point Agenda. In Nigeria today, most cities are experiencing an upsurge in crime, particularly armed robbery, car snatching, kidnapping, politically motivated killings, arson, religious and ethnic violence, fraud and corruption [4] a situation that has become worrisome that some Nigerians are beginning to feel that the greatest problem in Nigeria today is insecurity and that the police which are meant to be the antidote to criminality appear to be getting overwhelmed by this phenomenon, hence the involvement of the Nigerian Army.

2.0 Mega Events

Silvestre [6] identified other terms used in describing mega events as special event [7], major event [8], and hallmarks but the differences among them are not very clear [9]. Using the term of hallmark as an umbrella concept we can distinguish mega-events by their 'high levels of tourism, media coverage, prestige and economic impact on the host community' [10]. The term mega event is used to describe events such as the Olympic Games and the World Cup in football. In order for an event to become a mega-event, certain factors need to be fulfilled. According to Hiller [11] there is no clear definition of the term mega event, but there is a distinction between a big event and a mega event, which is not only related to the number of participants. Based on her study, she asserts that mega event is first of all of fixed duration and on a short term basis. The event has a high profile, there is a worldwide interest linked to the event and there is a sustainable and measurable economic outcome. The event does in the end not necessarily have to be financially successful, but it will have a certain impact on the economy of the host as a whole e.g. by generating tourism and infrastructural improvements. It also improves employment both on short term and permanent basis. It unites people from different backgrounds and apparently for diverse reasons.

Mega-events are critically positioned in the marketing, decision-making and strategy development of tourism destinations. The value of a mega-event is determined by the success of the event in its own right, in terms of what the event does for the hosting country or city and whether the host location is left better off than before the event [12]. To Silvestre [6] therefore, the most commonly accepted definition of mega events is that hallmark events are "Major one-time or recurring events of limited duration, developed primarily to enhance the awareness, appeal and profitability of a tourism destination in the short and/or long term. Such events rely in their uniqueness, status, or timely significance to create interest and attract attention."

The government will usually advocate for the economic benefit of a mega event for the host nation/community, hence a mega event is conceived as an economic initiative [11]. Mega events do not have to be linked to any sport, neither must it be a big annual or seasonal event. It may be religious, social environmental or even a political event which has a unique one time nature relative to the specific host nation/community. One of the most important reasons to legitimize decisions to host a mega event is not the impact on a nation's economy, but that a mega event changes the legacy of the place where it is held. Bearing in mind the usually huge investments on infrastructure of mega events, Planners are always concerned about the adequacy, location, effectiveness and efficiency as well as the

security of lives and property in such events and post-event use of mega event facilities.

3. The Commonwealth Games: An Overview

The Commonwealth Games is a multinational, multi-sport event which features competition involving thousands of elite athletes from members of the Commonwealth Nations. Organized every four years, they are the third largest multi-sport event in the world, after the summer Olympic Games and the Asian games. As well as many Olympic sports, the games also include some sports that are played mainly in Commonwealth countries. The Games are overseen by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), which also controls the sporting programme and selects the host cities. The host city is selected from across the Commonwealth nations; to date, eighteen cities in seven countries have hosted the Commonwealth Games.

The event was first held in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, under the title of the British Empire Games [13]. The event was renamed British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1954, British Commonwealth Games in 1970, and gained its current title in 1978. It currently has 54 members of the Commonwealth of Nations including Nigeria. The CGF is the body charged with the organization of the Commonwealth Games. The heads of Commonwealth governments meet to discuss common problems every two years at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM). In addition, ministers and experts in education, health, finance, science, law, women issues, youth affairs and various technical fields meet frequently to consult and act on important issues [13].

4. Proposed Host City: Abuja, Nigeria

Abuja was planned with a vision of becoming one of Africa's great capital cities and one of the world's great new cities [1]. Abuja is the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria. The FCT was created in 1976 following the recommendations of Justice Akintola Aguda committee and the promulgation of the Federal Capital Territory Decree on the 4th of February 1976 [1]. Abuja officially became Nigeria Capital on 12 December 1991, replacing the role of the previous capital Lagos. Abuja is located in the centre of Nigeria, approximately between latitudes $7^{0}25"$ – $9^{0}20"$ North of the Equator and longitudes $6^{0}45"$–$7^{0}39"$ east of Greenwich Meridian. The FCT covers an area of 8000 km^2. As of the 2006 census, the Federal Capital Territory has a population of 778,567, with a density of 1,091.9 persons per km^2 (2,828 persons/ sq mile). The FCT consist of six area councils, including Abuja municipal, Bwari, Abaji, Kuje, Gwagwalada and Kwali area councils.

5. Terrorism and Mega Events

Terrorism has been linked to the threat of carnage to achieve political objectives by way of fear, intimidation or coercion [14]. They also quoted the States Department which terms terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents usually intended to influence an audience." It is through this process that terrorists create an atmosphere of fear and vulnerability thereby extending their influence as far as possible.

Sporting mega events have been considered significant targets of terrorism because they relate to the huge national and international media attention directed to the mega events as well as how the media frames the event. A second incentive for terrorist attack on mega event may be the potential for mass causalities. A third recognized motivation of international terrorist groups relates to the impact that a terrorist attack may have on national and international economies [15]. Therefore, an attack on mega event will provide the terrorist with the desired scandal and controversy to cripple a countries economy. However because no significant terrorist related attempts, specifically relating to previous commonwealth games have been made public, the uncertainly of such an attack may be called into question.

5.1 Terrorist Attack at Other Sport Mega Events

One of the most tragic examples of terrorism at a mega-event occurred in 1972. during the Olympic games in Munich, Germany a Palestinian group known as "Black September" stormed the Olympic village killing two Israelis and taking others hostage. After a 20-hour standoff the German government attempted a rescue at a nearby airfield, the failed attempt resulted in nine Israeli athletes killed, along with the five terrorists [13]Miller *et al* (2008). Another more recent terrorist attack occurred at the 1996 Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia in which a detonated bomb resulted in killing 2 and injuring 110 individuals [13] (Millers et al, 2008).

5.2 Reasons for the Vulnerability of Mega Sporting Event to Terrorist Attack

Millers [14] identified the following reasons;
a. The venue are symbolic target
b. These venue are difficult to secure because large groups of people gather entering and leaving the facilities
c. Sporting venues have been attacked in other countries demonstrating their attractiveness as a target. Thus, sporting venues especially those hosting mega events may be chosen as targets because of their representatives economic value, public image, and ease of access.

6. Types of Crime in FCT as Reported by the Police

Agbola [1] identified some crimes that are specific to Abuja as reported by the Police:

a. Robbery: Residents of satellite towns of the FCT especially Karmo, Gwagwa, Kubwa and Mpape are the most affected. The hoodlums lunch attacks on their victims at night in their houses carting away property and money, sometimes inflicting injuries on their victims with few deaths recorded. In most cases, the battle has been between the police and itinerant robbers. The number of cases reported to the police in 1999 and 2000 were 34 and 64 respectively.

b. Fraud: this includes obtaining money under false pretence popularly called 419. Bank frauds and simple cheating which largely involve land cases. The number of cases reported between 1999 and 2000 rose automatically from 24 to 306

c. Car theft: stealing of cars is rampant especially around the Federal Secretariat Complex. This is as a result of the number of cars parked there on working days without good security system by the owners. This crime has been effectively checked and are on the decline 67 and 40 cases were reported in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

6.1 The Hot Sport in Abuja

Abuja and its environs are growing at a very fast rate and the population is cosmopolitan. Similarly, not many people know their neighbours or even bother to interact with them [1] this explains why most crimes are committed in medium and low income settlements most of which are informal with spontaneous development. These include: Mpape (near Maitama), Detsen-Alhaji, Kubwa, Kuchigoro and Lugbe, Mabushi, Karmo etc. Most criminals are found in these areas as shown in Table 1. They take refuge in the old (core) settlements which are not planned and are inhabited mostly by the low-income earners and move out to other areas at night to carry out their notorious activities.

Table 1: Identified Hot spots in the FCT and Areas that Give Police the Biggest Problems, Night and Day.

S/No.	Identified Hot Spot in the FCT	S/No.	Areas that give Police Biggest Problems Night and Day
1	Idu-Karmo Axis	1	Asokoro Maitama
2	Berger Junction	2	Apo Village/Legislative Question
3	Nyanya	3	Area 1/Garage junction–Durumi 1,2 & 3
4	Tipper Garage	4	Federal Secretariate complex
5	Airport/Giri	5	Berger-junction – Mabushi roundabout
6	Area 1 junctions leading to Durmi village/Garage	6	Karmo village
7	Mpape village	7	Nyanya/Karu
8	Deeper Life junction	8	Idu forest
9	Wuse old/new market	9	Airport Giri Junction
10	Apo mechanics village	10	Ministers Hill
11	Mabushi Village	11	NASS complex
12	Kado village	12	Mpape Junction
13	Gishiri village	13	Village Behind Abacha Barracks
14	Damube close	14	Jabi Kubwa pipeline junction
15	Gwarinpa village		
16	Deidei Junction		
17	Karu Abbatoir/FHA Phase I		
18	Wazobia Garage Gwagwalada		
19	Dutse Alhaji Village		
20	Angwa Dodo Gwagwalada		
21	Zuba Motor park		
22	Basharati Sabo/Lokoja Road Abaji		
23	Rubochi Junction		
24	Angwa Hausa Karsho		
25	Rubochi Abaji Road		

Source: The Nigeria Police, Abuja, 2001 in Agbola [1]

6.2 Public Sector Reaction to Crime and Insecurity in FCT.

Available evidences show that the federal government through the Nigerian Police, is still the major crime watch dog in the city [1]. According to the Nigerian Police, about five different methods are used to Police Abuja. The first category includes such methods as: stop and search; use of check points; mobile patrols; foot patrols; joint police – military patrol; plainclothes surveillance.

In the discharge of these duties, the FCT Police command is segmented into divisions each headed by a Divisional Police Officer (DPO). The number of divisions in each area council depends on the population, level of development and other activities, the presence of Hot Sports etc. According to the Nigerian Police in Agbola [1] Abuja area command has 2,451 police officers (Table 2). With an estimated population of 2,451,000 the police – citizen ratio in Abuja is 1:100. Table 2 below gives the detail of police formation in FCT as well as their manpower - distribution.

Table 2: Area Councils Number of Police Divisions and Manpower Distributions by Division in FCT.

S/N	Area Council	Division	SPOS	Inspectors	Rank & File	Total
1	AMAC	Garki	6	15	243	264
		Wuse	10	14	256	280
		Asokoro	9	12	212	233
		Life Camp	5	15	204	224
		Maitana	4	13	200	217
		Lugbe	4	12	102	118
		Gwagwa	5	18	136	159
		Nyanya	4	8	9	103
		Karsh	2	6	41	49
		Sub-Total				1,647
2	BWARI	Kubwa	6	17	119	142
		Bwari	4	8	87	99
		Sub-Total				241
3	KUJE	Kuje	3	8	66	77
		Rubochi	1	3	31	35
		Sub-Total				112
4	GWAG WALAD A	Gwagwalada	8	15	124	147
		Zuba	5	18	89	112
		Sub-total				259
5	ABAJI	Abaji	3	13	92	108
		Sub-total				108
6	KWALI	Kwali	3	11	70	84
		Sub-total				84
	GRAND TOTAL					2,451

Source: Abuja Command, 2001 in Agbola [1]

6.3 Kidnapping

Kidnapping is a more recent crime in Nigeria whose rampant origin can be attributed to the chaos and militant activities in the oil rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Some kidnapping incidences within a month of 2009 are reported in Table 3. This social crime has spread to other parts of the country with unprecedented speed.

Kidnapping can pose serious threat to the hosting of a mega-event such as Commonwealth Games.

Table 3: Kidnapping in the Month of September, 2009

Date	Incidence	Location	Victim
September 10, 2009	Kidnapping of Medical Doctors	St. David's Hospital Owerri	Dr. Anyanwu
September 14, 2009	Gun men kidnapping Imo State Lawmaker for a ransom of N10 million	Imo State	Law maker
September 16, 2009	Police nabbed 3 kidnappers demanding N10 million ransom	Owerri	Mr. Ihekwo Aba's Son
September 17, 2009	One Cajetan & Co. kidnapped a boy in Lagos and brought him to Enugu	Lagos to Enugu	Master Namdi Adiegwu
September 17, 2009	Attempt to kidnap two Minister by 4 university undergraduates	Abuja	2 Ministers
September 29, 2009	Kidnapped SSG	Kaduna	SSG's Kaduna

Source: The Leadership Newspaper. September 10 – September 17, 2009 in Agwu [16].

With the low level security technology in Nigeria the confidence of international participants and spectators, relating to the ability of the country to guarantee their safety may be jeopardized. Though a notable attempt to kidnap two ministers in the FCT, was not successful as seen in Table 3. The failure is mainly due to the level of security accorded to their office which cannot be extended to the entire citizen in the FCT.

6.4 Road Accident

Another major offence which has been in ascendancy in Abuja is traffic accidents, many of which are fatal [1]. This is because of the many wide free way in FCT; absence of effective road signs, and lack of effective policing. Table 4 presents a five year record of road accidents in Abuja

Table 4: Reported Road Accident Cases and Casualties in Abuja, 1993 – 1997

Year	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
1993	74	35	119	228
1994	90	66	150	427
1995	8	13	8	29
1996	11	6	18	35
1997	112	205	169	486

Source: FOS, Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1998 in Agbola, [1]

7. Security Implications of Hosting Commonwealth Games in Abuja on Physical Planning

Governments and other stewards of public welfare including planners have a clear responsibility to provide for the safety of those entrusted to their care. When considering security levels for the safety of an urban area or its infrastructures, they should also consider the cost on the physical environment [17], one way to assessing the impact of security facilities on the physical environment conceptually is the probability of the development multiple by the consequences of that development [17]. The assessment can be defined by three questions [17] what can go wrong with the development, what is the likelihood that it would occur and what are the consequences.

Therefore the future hosting of Commonwealth Games will have significant security implication on physical planning. This implication will affect the host city (Abuja) holistically in order words all the land uses should be secured according to their security requirements. The security of both sporting and non sporting infrastructure should be guaranteed, security should also form the integral part of the physical developments which are embarked upon as a result of the Commonwealth Games.

Therefore security considerations for the hosting of commonwealth games in Abuja will have implication on the following aspect of physical planning:

7.1 Accommodation

There will be need to construct a Games Village that will accommodate about 10000 people including athletes and officials. The Games Village will make adequate provision of security for the populations that are directly involved in the Games. Therefore a combination of Radburn and pedestrian precinct design concept should be adopted for layout design of the Games Village. The main physical features or physical planning elements that characterized the Radburn concept are the generous use of cul-de-sac, at which ends are clusters of building it provided access [18]. While the pedestrian precinct concept, is a design concept configuration that is intended to reduce or restrict vehicular movement in an area, this concept also induces park and walk way in its area of application. The combination of these two concepts will enhance the security of the Games Village to meet the need of the purpose of the people it was built for because athletes will require more walking than driving.

Consequently the Games Village construction will cause displacement and resettlement of the people that currently inhabit the site of the proposed Games Village. It will also result to massive housing constructing in the new site which will require serious physical planning for effective security planning within the residential developments which will emerge as a result of the Commonwealth Games. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be adopted. Also known as "designing out crime" is concerned with the design of space inside and outside of buildings, the positioning of buildings in relation to one another, the street lighting, entrances and exits and landscaping [19]. They defined CPTED to mean specific management, design, or manipulation of the immediate environment in which crimes occur in a systematic and permanent way.

According to Salam and Lawanson [19], the three main assumptions behind the theory of CPTED are:

a. Crimes against people and property are less likely to occur if other people are around
b. It is important that people in adjoining buildings and spaces are able to see what is happening
c. It is important to give people safe choices about where to be and how to anticipate and respond to problems.

They also argued that the concept of CPTED is based on the following principles: (i) Surveillance (ii) Visibility (iii) Territoriality (iv) Access and escape routes (v) Target Hardening. The implication of security on hotel accommodation should also be considered.

7.2 Transportation

Transportation is one of the physical planning aspects where security is highly required during tournaments as big as the Commonwealth Games. Security will have implication on all forms of transportation mode e.g. air transport, water transport, land (road, and rail) transport, and transportation facilities during and after the games.

Abuja air port was planning to be modernized to cater for the capacity of influx and meet current security and safety standards due to the Games. A lit rail transit system was also proposed to feature in the new Abuja getting ready for the 2014 Abuja Commonwealth Games. There is the need to beef up security at the Abuja International Airport by the introduction of metal detectors and wands, scanners, surveillance etc. the same should be provided at the seaports, though there is absence of water transportation in Abuja. However, artificial lake was among the proposed physical development scheduled for the Commonwealth Games.

There will be the need to construct an underground stretch (rail line) to link the Games Village and the Sport Venue. This will reduce travelling time for athletes as well ensure their security on transit from the Village to the sports venue. There will also be the need to expand road infrastructure in order to accommodate the influx of traffic during the games. Early warning signs to drivers and road users of dangerous spots or bends are recommended. With inter-state high way systems large and small traffic signs are used in addition to the bill boards. These direct the traveller to off the high way

attractions which present their own way of signs [16]. Road security involves.

a. Hierarchical system of streets especially in new cities
b. Widening of narrow roads to achieve traffic segregation
c. Checking excess speed on the collector and local streets and
d. Installing early warning apparatus for road users

Road sign development, effective policing of the roads will ensure that motorist and road users adhere strictly to road laws etc. However, the effective policing of the roads by the agencies concerned will require surveillance the use of video surveillance on Abuja roads will resolve so many problems associated with road for instance the actual cause of an accident can be viewed from video surveillance. Video surveillance will also mitigate other road associated crimes such as armed robbery, car snatching, drunk driving etc.

7.3 Sports Venue and Parking Lots

Most sport venues have not been designed with high level security in mind, particularly regarding the ability to control access and visibility of attendees. Hence, there is need for incremental measures to resolve security problems in our sport venues. The car parks should also be designed and located in such a way that all the activities within the car park will be very visible from a distance. All the cars entering the sport venues should be screened to ensure that they are free of arms, drugs, explosives etc.

One of the ways to increase the safety of spectators is through the utilization of closed circuit televisions (CCTV) in the immediate area of the event. Technological measures and strategies need to be part of the overall facility and event security strategy. Some of the measures that may be included are auto mated technologies that provide barriers protection, surveillance, employee identification, inspection of goods and fans, and alarm systems especially at car park [14]. Metal detectors and wand should be set at the entrance of the sport venue. Video surveillance should also be required at the car parks and parking lots.

7.4 Tourism

The hosting of Commonwealth Games in Abuja will definitely influence tourism development in the host city; in order words both the participants and spectators will not be restricted to field and tract but will also want to tour the tourist attraction sites of the city. Therefore, there will be need for a holistic approach to the security of Abuja during and after the event. This is the only way that the safety of the tourist can be guaranteed. In fact, there is significant relationship between the level of security provided at tourist sites and the amount of revenue generated from the tourist sites.

7.5 Socio-Economic Consideration

The socio-economic benefit of adequate security provision to either the entire urban area or for the sake of a mega-event such as Commonwealth Games is enormous. The social aspect will include the crime free Abuja syndrome that will be created. However this has the ability of resulting to an unfavourable population increase which if unchecked will create further security problems within the FCT. Nevertheless the psychological satisfaction that security as safety guaranteed Abuja will offer its residents is immeasurable.

Subsequently there will be the great economic boost if security is assured and proved for the future hosting of the common wealth games in Abuja. It will provide job opportunities both on temporary and permanent basis for a good number of people especially Nigerians. Statistics from the paper shows that Abuja is under policed with 1:1000 of the police – citizen ratio and the total number of police in Abuja as at 2001 is 2,451. More or less that mean in order for a Abuja to be fully policed according to the developed nation police-citizen ration of 1:400 about 3000 police officers will be recruited, and this is a reasonable number of employment opportunity.

Furthermore it will be economically beneficial to the Town Planners that will be engaged in the design of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concept which was discussed earlier under accommodations implications. This installation and maintenance of protection technologies will also engage professionals in that field. Non-police security personnel will also be employed at the Hotels, recreation and tourist centres. More so, effective security planning for the possible hosting of a commonwealth games will ensure a huge turnout for the game especially from the 54 member countries of Commonwealth of Nations. This has implication of resulting to intensive economic activities within the FCT. This will in turn yield numerous economic benefits to both the FCT and the country at large.

7.6 Post Event Use of Security Facilities

One outstanding advantage of security planning is that it is long term oriented. Therefore all security measures that will be taken and implemented as a result of the Commonwealth Games, will more or less compliments the status of the FCT, as the administrative capital of Nigeria. For this reason there is no limit to any conceivable security measures implemented in other to protect the FCT.

8.0 Conclusion

Recent efforts in Abuja have shown that the city is striving to meet the needs of hosting criteria for the Commonwealth Games and other mega-events. The road construction efforts and the use of road furniture, the rail

project, improvements on the airport and security technology within the city as well as security consciousness among the citizens are heart-warming developments. Although, Abuja lost the hosting right of the 2014 edition of the Games to Glasgow, because of some problems which were mainly logistic, the commitment to security has risen and one hopes the efforts will be incremental.

The three major crimes that are most present in Abuja, in recent times include robbery, fraud and car theft, with fraud as the most common. The structures in place to address these crimes are enough to handle them if the commitment improves. It has become clear now that Abuja is not under-policed but has been under-secured. The utilisation of appropriate technology in handling security issues in the capital city need be sustained in the dream of the crimeless Abuja is to be realised. Past experience also show the vulnerability of mega-event to terrorist attack. There is also growing worries about the recent emergence of kidnapping in the country as well as the rate at which is it growing. Some hot sports that constitute major security problems to the police in FCT which have been identified need be totally dislodged. Given these, Abuja is prepared for hosting any mega event of the level of the Commonwealth Games.

9.0 Recommendations

Security either for the purpose of mega event or for an entire city is a multidimensional and complex issue. Therefore to provide adequate security for the possible hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Abuja the following need to be harnessed; Good governance, private public partnership in urban management and infrastructure development, public participation, public education and awareness as well as land use planning and urban design. Consideration should also be given to the concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Subsequently, a holistic approach that considers the security of the entire city should be adopted rather than a piece meal or adhoc approach that will focus mainly on the event. The holistic approach is more sustainable and has the potential to guarantee cost-effectiveness. There is also the need for institutional collaboration, in managing the security system. The importance of security surveillance techniques and technology should not be undermined due to their proven potential in collecting information on organized crime.

Finally, sustainable security should involve the following funding, government intervention and public participating. These three should be seen as a team. That represent the interest of the entire stake holders involve

in security provision as well as that of the city at large.

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