

Causes and Effects of Xenophobic Activities on Bilateral Relations: A Case Study of Nigeria-South Africa in the Fourth Republic (2007 - 2015)

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ABSTRACT: The study focuses on the cause and effects of xenophobic attacks on citizens of Nigeria that are in South Africa. A survey design, was used to gather information on the causes of xenophobic attacks on citizens of Nigeria. The researcher used simple random sampling technique to select the respondents who were met in their offices and public places. The researcher also selected 20 respondents from the Nigeria Ministry of Foreign affairs, South-African embassy in Nigeria and some diplomatic security agents who were so helpful during the research work. The instruments of data collection for this study were open interview and structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The structured questionnaire divided into four sections, each containing items related to the research questions meant to elicit responses designed to guide the study. Each part has four clusters of questions meant to address each question. The response option was in Yes and No. The data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed using percentage and the results evaluated. 70% of the respondents ascertained that foreign criminals are the major cause of xenophobia in South-Africa between 2007 and 2015. While 30% of the respondents disagreed that Foreign criminals are the major cause of the xenophobic acts in South-Africa between 2007-2015. 90% of the respondents consider fear of competitions by local businessmen instigate xenophobic violence on foreigners especially Nigerian citizens in South-Africa due to the economic and political competition between the two strongest countries in the African continent.

Keywords: Xenophobic activities, Nigeria-South Africa bilateral relations

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INTRODUCTION

The ongoing wave of attacks on foreign-owned businesses in several South African townships raises unpleasant issues about xenophobia in the country. This attitude raised issues such as, "How much can South Africa's inconsistent immigration policy be blamed for xenophobia?" Is it true that foreigners 'steal' South African jobs? Do foreign-owned small enterprises have an unfair edge over South African-owned businesses?

The questions arising from this stance indicate a growing preoccupation with the impact of South Africa's inconsistent immigration policy on xenophobia. It is important to thoroughly evaluate how much the policy contributes to tensions between locals and foreigners. Additionally, it is essential to scrutinize assertions about

foreigners 'taking' South African jobs and whether small businesses owned by foreigners have an unfair advantage over those owned by South Africans. These inquiries underscore the intricate nature of the issues at hand and the need for a well-rounded, evidence-based approach to understanding the interplay of immigration, employment, and entrepreneurship in South Africa.

In Africa, xenophobia is growing more prevalent. According to worldwide media reports, prejudice against non-nationals, particularly fellow Africans, is on the rise from Kenya to the Maghreb and across Southern Africa. According to Crush (2008), discrimination based on the notion of being "non-native" has persisted in Africa since the continent's independence and was formalized

throughout colonialism. Africa has had limited conceptions of citizenship for the past two centuries, and one of the most recent examples of this trait is modern xenophobia. The escalation of xenophobia in South Africa, particularly in the form of attacks on foreign nationals, has become a concerning issue since the country's transition to democracy in 1994. Efforts to promote social cohesion inadvertently led to increased intolerance towards foreigners. This has resulted in a rise in violence and suspicion towards foreign citizens and African refugees, creating division and strained social dynamics. Addressing xenophobia requires policy measures, anti-xenophobia education programs, promoting intercultural dialogue, and addressing underlying socio-economic factors. Fostering inclusivity and understanding in South African society is crucial, and requires collaborative efforts from the government, civil society organizations, and community leaders to promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

Xenophobia, originating from the Greek words *xenos* and *phobos*, signifies a deep fear or aversion to the unfamiliar or different. It often leads to prejudice and discrimination against outsiders. This has significant implications for social, economic, and diplomatic relations. In the Nigeria-South Africa context, xenophobia has negatively impacted their interactions. Researchers, Oluyemi et al. (2015) highlighted how xenophobic sentiments harm minority groups and hinder positive international relations. Addressing xenophobia requires multifaceted approaches, including education and diplomatic efforts, to promote inclusivity and understanding for a more harmonious global community. The Dictionary of Psychology (1978) defines Xenophobia, more generally as "a fear of strangers." The "achievement of a non-racial society" is one of the core concepts and goals of the post-apartheid constitution that has allowed South Africa to enjoy around two decades of majority rule. Nonetheless, despite the initiatives to establish "the rainbow nation," issues of racism, class, and gender oppression and exploitation continue to be major concerns in modern-day South Africa (Gqola, 2001 cited in Hendricks, 2005:103; Trimikliniotis et al, 2008).

According to Onouha (2008), "the Sharpeville massacre of 21st March 1960 provided the first opportunity for Nigeria to implement her foreign policy on anti-colonialism." During the incident, "white South African police attacked South African blacks protesting against racial discrimination and domination." This incident, which resulted in the deaths of 72 blacks and many injuries, "marked the beginning of Nigeria's diplomatic confrontations with South Africa."

Nigeria-South Africa Bilateral Relations

The bilateral ties between Nigeria and South Africa, often referred to as Nigeria-South Africa relations, have been characterized by a complex interplay of historical,

cultural, and diplomatic factors. Both nations are members of the African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations, reflecting their shared colonial past as former British colonies. Nigeria is represented in South Africa by a general consulate in Johannesburg and a high commission in Pretoria, while South Africa maintains a high commission in Abuja.

Nigeria played an active role in the global opposition to South Africa's apartheid government, demonstrating solidarity with the oppressed majority and supporting the international campaign for sanctions against the apartheid regime. However, despite the end of apartheid in 1994, the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa has experienced significant challenges. These challenges have included conflicting cultural and economic influences, xenophobic riots, and violence directed at Nigerians living in South Africa, among other diplomatic issues.

The relationship between Nigeria and South Africa has been described as a "love-hate relationship," reflecting the complex dynamics that have characterized their interactions. While there have been periods of cooperation and mutual support, there have also been instances of tension and disagreement. The two countries have sought to navigate these complexities through diplomatic engagement and dialogue, recognizing the importance of their relationship within the broader context of African regional integration and cooperation. Despite the challenges that have arisen in their relationship, Nigeria and South Africa continue to engage with each other on multiple fronts, including trade, investment, and regional security. Both countries recognize the potential benefits of closer cooperation and have expressed a commitment to addressing the underlying issues that have strained their relations in recent years. Efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and economic collaboration have been identified as key areas for potential improvement in the bilateral relationship.

Moving forward, it is essential for Nigeria and South Africa to work towards building a more stable and constructive partnership based on mutual respect, understanding, and shared interests. This will require sustained efforts to address the root causes of tension and to foster greater trust and cooperation between the two nations. By leveraging their respective strengths and resources, Nigeria and South Africa can contribute to the advancement of peace, stability, and prosperity in Africa, while also serving as positive examples of constructive engagement for the continent as a whole.

Research questions

- I. What is the cause of the recent barbaric xenophobia attack on the Nigerian citizens in South Africa especially in the fourth republic (2007 - 2015)?
- II. What are the suggested possible ways in which the

lives and properties of Nigeria citizen in South Africa can be protected?

Objectives of the study

I. To examine the cause of the recent barbaric xenophobic activities in South Africa on Africans especially Nigerians during the year 2017 – 2015 living in South Africa during the fourth republic (2007 - 2015).

II. To suggest the possible ways in which the lives and the properties of Nigeria citizens in South Africa can be protected against the xenophobic act

Hypotheses of the study

H₀₁: The cause of the recent barbaric xenophobic act has significant impact on the Nigeria citizens in South Africa especially Nigerians during the fourth republic (2007 - 2015).

H₀₂: The cause of the recent barbaric xenophobic act has no significant impact on the Nigeria citizens in South Africa especially Nigerians during the fourth republic (2007 - 2015).

H₀₃: The suggested possible ways in which the lives and properties of Nigerian citizens can be protected against xenophobic act in South Africa has significant impact.

H₀₄: The suggested possible ways in which the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizens can be protected against xenophobic act in South Africa has no significant impact.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Xenophobia stems from the Greek terms "xenos" (stranger, alien, or foreign) and "phobos" (fear or freight) (Fatoki, 2014). Adeleke (2020) defines xenophobia as fear and hatred of foreigners, which can lead to violence, loss of belongings, and death.

The Effects of Xenophobia on African Unity and Diplomatic Relations

1969: Kofi Busia, former Prime Minister of Ghana, introduced the Aliens Compliance Order which sought to expel 'illegal aliens' from Ghana. Prior to this order, there was a general perception that Nigerians in Ghana were the cause of large-scale unemployment. This order resulted in the deportation of 900 000 to 1 200 000 individuals (mostly from Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo and Ivory Coast).

1972: Uganda expelled thousands of Asians from the country during a downturn in economic conditions. Asians from Britain, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania and

Zambia were given three months to leave Uganda, and their businesses were expropriated by the State.

1978: Gabon expelled all Beninese from the country amid the drawing of an alleged aspersion on President Bongo and the people of Gabon by Beninese President Kerekou. Earlier, in May 1977, Kerekou had accused Gabonese officials of a foiled mercenary coup and this was the beginning of heightened tensions between the two countries. About 9000 Beninese were expelled from the country.

1983: Nigeria expelled over 2 million foreigners from the country. This action was in response to a decline in economic fortunes as well as the perceived involvement of migrants in crime. Over a million of the 2 million people initially expelled from the country were Ghanaian with a further 300 000 leaving in a second wave occurring in 1985.

1999: Ivory Coast expelled between 8000 and 12000 Burkinabe. This was in reaction to the declining economic situation in the 1990s whereby President Bedie drove the idea of 'ivoirite' to reinvigorate the economy by infusing Ivorian identity into political and economic access. This fuelled resentment against migrants and resulted in mass deportations.

2004: Following an attempted coup, allegedly headed by a mercenary group, the President of Equatorial Guinea clamped down on migrants in the country. Many were detained, intimidated and subsequently expelled. An estimated 1000 migrants, mostly of Cameroonian descent, were expelled from the country. In 2007, the government banned West Africans from owning shops in the country, and all existing shops were taken over by the government or abruptly closed.

2004: The Government of Angola expelled an estimated 100 000 Congolese people from the country. This was following an increase in rhetoric blaming of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for stealing the natural resources of Angola. A further 160 000 Congolese were expelled in a 12-month period, between December 2008 and December 2009.

2009: DRC expelled 50 000 Angolans as retaliation for the mass expulsions experienced in the years prior.

2009: Burundi expelled an estimated 1 200 migrants following increased pressure put on the State to address rampant crime. The expelled foreigners mostly hailed from Tanzania, Uganda and Senegal.

2013: The Government of Tanzania expelled close to 11 000 undocumented foreign nationals in a drive to bring a decline to high levels of crime. The majority of those

expelled originated from Rwanda (6 400).

2015: Following terrorist attacks in N'Djamena, the government of Chad implemented a measure to expel illegal immigrants in the country to "clean up undocumented foreigners". Close to 300 undocumented Cameroonians were expelled from the country, and in July, a further 2000 undocumented Nigerians were sent back to Nigeria ([PAN-AFRICANISM](#), [SOCIAL COHESION](#), [XENOPHOBIA](#)).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out with the use of survey design. A survey design, was used to gather information on the causes of *xenophobic attacks on citizens of Nigeria*. It should be noted that survey research is also descriptive for it is used to find meaning and obtain an understanding of the present condition systematically, factually and accurately. Survey design, therefore, was used in this study based on the fact that it will help the researcher to sample individual that are actively involved in the area of interest of the study.

Population of the study and sample size

The target population is Nigeria ,the giant of Africa using the 2006 population census (because it is the only official figure available now, even through the population of Nigeria has naturally increased; this figure will be used) the population of Nigeria is over 140Million (Cited in [http://www.nigeriamasterweb.com /Nigeria of census fig.htm](http://www.nigeriamasterweb.com/Nigeria_of_census_fig.htm)). However since it is impossible to reach everyone in Nigeria, therefore, a sample of the population will be chosen as a representative of all. The population of the study will be Nigeria based on purposive sampling and Igbo speaking in particular. This is because they are the one's adversely affected by the xenophobic barbaric acts in South Africa due to their high level of trade both nationally and international. Nigeria consist of 36 States and Abuja with a population of 140 million according to 2006 population census, the Igbo speaking people of Nigeria majorly have five States of the South Eastern Nigeria. However, Igbo are found virtually in all nooks and cronies of Nigeria and abroad hence they are our sampled population.

The Nigeria population is projected to be more than 180 million now, this research will make used of the projected population. The researcher used simple random sampling technique to select the respondents who were met in their offices and public places. The researcher also selected 20 respondents from the Nigeria Ministry of Foreign affairs, South-African embassy in Nigeria and some diplomatic security agents who were so helpful during the research work.

Instrument of data collection

The instruments of data collection for this study were open interview and structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The structured questionnaire divided into four sections, each containing items related to the research questions meant to elicit responses designed to guide the study. Each part has four clusters of questions meant to address each question. The response option was in Yes and No.

Method of data collection

The researcher was directly involved in the collection of data from the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South African embassy and other foreign services agent. The researcher collected the completed copies of the questionnaire after filling by the respondents.

Method of the data analysis

The data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed using percentage and the results evaluated.

RESULTS

Citizen Diplomacy, as a Foreign Policy, was formulated for the citizens of Nigeria at home and abroad, especially in protection and promotion of their welfare and security. The citizens of Nigeria are affected by the xenophobic killings in South- Africa, between 2007 and 2015. Many Nigerian citizens have being killed in South - Africa. Citizen Diplomacy and Foreign Policy have no any significant or positive impact to the Nigerian citizens in all ramifications. The study shown that 60% of the respondents affirmed that Nigeria-South African bilateral relation was profitable to the Nigerian citizens in South-Africa between 2007 and 2015; while 40% of the respondents are of the view that Nigeria South- Africa bilateral relations was not profitable to the citizens of Nigerian in South Africa due to the recent cases of Xenophobia in South Africa.

Factors that caused the recent killings in South Africa includes unemployment, instigating comments of by elite or politicians, foreign Criminals, prostitution, robbery by the foreign nationals especially Nigerians.

This is in line with the study objective one which is "to examine the cause of the recent barbaric xenophobic activities in South- Africa on Africans especially Nigerian citizens living in South- Africa between 2007 and 2015. Consequently as shown in the view of Akindes (2014) when he explained the factors that are responsible for the cause of xenophobia in South-Africa. The factors include the anxiety of loss of identity and social status, fear of succession on the part of the economy, superiority feeling among the indigenous, fear of boundaries in a national crisis; and misinformation from the culture, media and

political elite of the South-African government which increases the tension to the Nigerian citizens residing in their country. The issue affected the bilateral relation between the two nations.

Again another 70% of the respondents ascertained that foreign criminals are the major cause of xenophobia in South-Africa between 2007 & 2015. While 30% of the respondents disagreed that Foreign criminals are the major cause of the xenophobic acts in South-Africa between 2007-2015. For the matter to be successfully addressed, since the Nigerian citizens were accused of carrying out illegal businesses in South-Africa, it has become necessary for the Nigerian government to investigate the causes thoroughly as well as use professionals so as to get the proper lasting solution, e.g. negotiation prosecution, bargaining, or using security personnel to tackle the issue at once. Also the South-African government should apologize to the people Nigeria and to the Nigerian government.

However, the above result attested to the fourth research objectives to suggest the possible ways in which the lives and properties of Nigerian citizens in South-Africa can be protected against the xenophobic attacks between 2007 and 2015. About 80% of the respondents indicated that the immigration work ethics is also the reasons for xenophobic killing which is carried out by the South African citizens on African nationals and Nigerians in particular; whereas the 20% of the respondents disagreed that immigration work ethics is the cause of xenophobia in South-Africa between 2007-2015 which was observed by Eke (2009) confirms that many Nigerian were killed in the 2007 extra judicial circumstances, besides cases of harassment intimidation and brutalization by south Africa Police and security agencies, this suggests that if there are enough jobs opportunities in Nigerian for employable citizens. The number of Nigerians glamouring to travel to south Africa for employment opportunities would have been minimal but alone exposing Nigerian nation also to hazard and horrendous to treatments.

Moreover, 90% of the respondents consider fear of competitions by local businessmen instigate xenophobic violence on foreigners especially Nigerian citizens in South-Africa due to the economic and political competition between the two strongest countries in the African continent; while 10% of the respondents disagreed with the view that fear of competitions by local businessmen instigate xenophobic violence on strongest countries in the African continent; while 10% of the respondents disagreed with the view that fear of competitions by local businessmen instigate xenophobic violence on

African nationals and Nigerians, in particular, But 100% of the respondents were strongly supported the view that South-African media is a major contributory factor to the xenophobic conflict or violence against the African nationals and Nigeria in particular. Respondents

were able to confirm that the South Africa media broadcast fake and instigating news on television, radio, social media which engineered and make their citizens to re-act. Another 100% of respondents strongly believe that the activities of South African politicians impact xenophobic violence in South Africa, particularly between 2007 and 2015.

DISCUSSION

From the summary of the proposition, it was shown that 75% of the respondent accepted the basic proposition which stated that the nature of Nigerian Foreign policy and citizen diplomacy has significant impact on Nigeria-South African bilateral relations between 2007 and 2015. Generally speaking, Nigeria and South African are the two most powerful nations in the continent of Africa. There exist bilateral relations between the two nations show ever right from inception during the apartheid regime until recent. The bilateral relation is hegemony in nature just as reported by Landsberg, (2012) and Games (2013). The leadership styles differ between the early post-apartheid regimes during the ruling of military junta of Nigeria General Sani Abacha. In as much as President Nelson Mandela of South Africa portrayed a democratic attitude, the military junta of Nigeria Late General Sani Abacha portrayed a despotic disposition between 1995 and 1999. This, however, caused unfriendliness between the two nations e.g, the suspension of Nigeria from the committee of commonwealth of nations in 1995, the yellow fever issue which led to the deportation of 131 Nigerian citizens in South Africa in 1996 and the withdrawal of the invitation of Super Eagles to the fourth tournament game in 1996, South Africa declined to sign a non- visa regime pact with Nigeria which was earlier agreed (Agbu, 2010:144). The Nigeria Nobel Prize winner, Professor Wole Soyinka, was delayed at the airport in 2015 despite his invitation by the South African Government. Also the non-recognition of Nigeria at Mandela's memorial service spurred criticism of South Africa by the civil society, media and intellectuals who opined that South Africa was repaying good with evil to Nigeria. Nigerian which is seen as the leader in the African continent need to be respected anywhere in the world, not just by South Africa (Akinrewaju, 2013). Even the late President of South Africa said "The world will not respect Africa until Nigeria earns that respect. The black people of the world need Nigeria to be great as a source of pride and confidence". Nelson Mandela.

The hegemony competition between the two countries affected the bilateral relations in various ways; both in economic relations and diplomatical relations especially between 2007 and 2015. Just like in 2014 when arms scandal occurred between Nigeria and South Africa where Pretoria seized about 15 million dollars from Nigeria government almost crumbled the engagement

and bilateral relations. However, in 2014, another seizure of 45.7 million dollars which was found in two suitcases in a Nigerian private jet and the confiscation of 9.3 million dollars nearly threatened their engagement diplomatically. The South African Ambassador to Nigeria was summoned by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Nigeria in respect to the case. The nature of the relation between Abuja and Pretoria will likely have implications for the trajectories of Africa's growth and development (Akinrewaju, 2013). There was a setback of the relations in 2012 during Jonathan administration, due to xenophobic killings which so many Nigerians and African nationals were killed and their 188 Businesses and properties destroyed. The setbacks in Nigeria – South Africa relation is to the failure of leaderships.

Otto (2012) indicates that unstable political situation explains the inability of Nigeria - South Africa to sustain cordial relations. The re-introduction of citizen diplomacy by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's government in 2007 which was created to protect the citizens of Nigeria at home and the globe has not shown any positive impact to the citizens of Nigeria in South Africa especially in 2007 - 2015. The lack of implementation of these Foreign policies affected the cordial relations in Nigeria and South Africa, both economically and politically. Significantly government intends through these policies to improve the security of her citizens in South Africa and the globe.

This would be achieved by providing safety to her citizens especially in conflict states like South Africa. Consequently, Otto (2012) is of the view that increasing political, economic and diplomatical situation which affected the bilateral relation of Nigeria-South African cordial relations can be negotiated which will increase the safety of her citizens in South Africa. Otto (2012) stated that despite the problems in the bilateral engagement of the continental giant of African leadership, the development of the region can be achieved when the state go beyond context and rise above petty rivalry and unhealthy competition among the states. He canvasses for the implementation of the foreign policy and the development of the developmental policies and the mutual interest for their citizens' safety and security of the region.

On the contrary, 25% of the respondents disagree with the view that the nature of Nigerian foreign policy and citizen diplomacy has no significant or positive impact to the Nigeria - South African bilateral relations between 2007 - 2015. Because the bilateral relations between Nigeria and South Africa had faced so many difficulties in the region, both in economic, political, international and multi-lateral system. That was the reason a Bi-national commission (BNC) was introduced in 2008 between Nigeria and South African with the intention to renew and improve bilateral relations. In another vein, the test of proposition indicated that 60% of the respondents affirmed that the Nigerian Citizens Diplomacy has significant impact on Nigerian citizens in South Africa in

promotion and protection of their welfare and security, especially between 2007 and 2015.

This is evidently shown in the view of Ogunbamni (1986:162), as it pertains to Nigeria. For instance:190. The national interest of Nigeria which Ambassador, ideally should sell and prosecute including political stability, security, export, promotion access to external resources and technology, foreign aid, the protection of its citizens abroad, the cultural and moral expressions of Nigeria and a fair effective and vigorous presentation of Nigeria's point of view on regional and global issues. Robinson (1989:189) corroborates the above view points by maintaining that the primary interest of all nations consists in the security of national territory and in safeguarding the lives and values of its citizens. Also Holsti (1992:83) identifies the common objectives of the states as falling into such categories as self-preservation, security, wellbeing, prestige, power and promotion and the protection of ideology. While analyzing the role of security agencies on Nigeria at home, Dickson (2010) observes that:

Reconnecting the state with the citizen and vice versa is a major area of needed intervention for all Nigerians. Back home, the average Nigerian is treated badly by the authorities for instance, the Nigerian Police Force vested with the responsibility of maintaining internal peace and security have in all ramifications, turned to agents of terrorism engaging in extra-judicial killings, arrest and detention of innocent citizens, extortion of multifarious dimensions and brutality.

However a close look of the above statement by Dickson (2010), one may assume that the Nigerian Government is not more concern with every Nigerian at home let alone those outside the shores of the country. Despite the introduction of Citizen Diplomacy by the Nigerian government Nigeria's foreign affairs ministers over time like to give a distinctive affiliation to their own foreign policy style. As a matter of fact, during the field work of this study, about 40% of the respondents revealed that in 2007-2015 there was no protection, welfare and security of any Nigerian citizen in South Africa especially during xenophobic killings which affected the Nigeria-South African bilateral relations negatively. In consonance with the above, Member House of Representative committee on Diaspora Matters, Rita Orji in 2016 condemned the killings and alleged lackadaisical attitude of the Federal Government of Nigeria towards the protection of Nigerians outside the country, saying the Government was more interested in remittances than the welfare of the citizens abroad. From the data collected during field work, it shows that about 80% of the respondents agreed that the cause of the recent xenophobic act has significant impact on Nigerian Citizens in South Africa between 2007-2015, while 20% of the respondents disagreed with the proposition. Xenophobic attacks in South Africa especially in May 2008 were horrendous and 192 Noteworthy.

Nigerian citizens and their businesses were the target in 2008 attack according to Ashaver (2014). The attack claimed over 62 lives and displaced several others. Many lost their properties and their shops looted, an indication of an orchestrated attack on the businesses of the Nigerians in South Africa (Alii, 2010; Charman and Piper, 2012). In fact, this is an indication that the South-Africans harbored morbid hatred for other Africans and Nigerians in particular. Just as Okeke and Aniche (2014) would believe that the agony Nigerian people face was baseless, just by being citizens of the most populous Black Nation in the world.

However, some of the perpetrators of May 2008 xenophobic attacks had alleged that foreigners were responsible for taking their jobs, which some medias had reported that foreigners are the ones engaging in crime and corruption. Charman and Piper, (2012); Eke, (2009) confirms, that "many Nigerians were killed in 2007 extra judicial circumstances, besides cases of harassments, intimidations and brutalization by the South Africa police and security agencies. This suggests that if there are enough jobs opportunities in Nigeria for employable citizens, the number of Nigerians glamouring to travel to South Africa or other foreign countries for an employment opportunities would have been minimal let alone exposing Nigerian nationals to hazard and horrendous treatments. South Africa has been a cesspool of sporadic xenophobic attacks against foreigners with example Kenyans, Ethiopians, Mozambicans, Somalis, zimbabweans, Angolans and Nigeria among other victims since 1994. The relationship of Nigeria-South Africa has been soured for long period of time since the beginning of xenophobic attacks especially in 2007 - 2015. The main reason for the barbaric xenophobic attacks was that during apartheid South Africa was in control of their territory and now foreigners have taken over the territory, which is a loss to the South Africans. There are also issues of political elite fueling the situation with instigating comments so called "the rise of nationalism all over the world today also help to fuel the situation (Keshi 2017) Another reason is the issue of employment, to them some foreigners have taken over their jobs hence a bit of gang war. In his view, (Keshi 2017) said that xenophobic attacks is a combination of racism, criminality and anger. The South Africans need to understand one thing about the conflicting issue of xenophobia. There are criminals on the streets trying to take control in this kind of situation; certainly people will capitalize on it to do what they want to do (Keshi, 2007).

Moreover, 20 respondents did confirmed in the field data research work that the cause of the xenophobic act has no significant impact on the Nigerian citizens in South Africa especially between 2007-2015 due to the several xenophobic killings in South Africa where mostly the victims are the Nigerians citizens and other African nationals residing in South Africa. There were more violent attack across the country in 2007, 2008 –

2015,2016 especially the xenophobic act or killings were reported in mostly the areas town where Africans and specifically Nigerians are staying and doing their businesses e.g in Cape Town, Alexandra, Ganteng Province, Durban and Limpopo provinces, Soweto Township mostly the victims are Nigerians. In South Africa about 116 Nigerians were killed between 2007 – 2015 and 2018, Till date about 800 Nigerians have been killed altogether which has negatively affected the Nigeria-South Africa bilateral relations in different ways e.g politically, and economically. Another incident of violent attack occurred after Zulu King Godwill Zwelithin made some instigating comments that all foreigners should go back to their home countries because they were changing the nature of the South Africa society with goods and enjoying their wealth that should have been for local people for almost a week. The attacks on foreign national reigned on April 12 2015, in KwazuluNatalShops and Umalzi, Kwamashi, outside Durban, were torched in V section a shop owned by a foreign national was set on fire by Mob where five people reportedly killed. In cognizance of the above matter, Akinteriwa (2017) states that citizen-centered diplomacy refers to a national reactive response to the way its citizen are treated or handled by other nations. By this approach, the foreign policy attitude of a nation towards other countries would no longer based on political arrangements just like the situation in South Africa, they act aggressive to their fellow African state of citizens both political and socio-economic activities which the xenophobic act affected their bilateral relations with some nation e.g Somalis, Ghana, Kenya, Burkina-Faso and especially Nigerians, in particular. Each nation would therefore account for its own stewardships towards the nation of a particular country and expect some measures of treatment, like in the Nigerian context, as put by the former Foreign Affairs Ministers in his own words; if you are nice to our citizens we will be nice to you, if you are hostile to us, we will also be hostile to you"(Maduekwe 2017:2). In another vein, a close look of the summary of test of proposition 70% of the respondents in the (Table 1) agreed that the suggested possible ways in which the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizens can be protected against the xenophobic act in South Africa especially between 2007- 2015 has no significant impact. These are recommended. The recent xenophobic deaths of African nationals in South Africa, particularly Nigerian people residing there, are evaluated here (Tables 1 and 2). The Government of Nigeria took a step by assigning her House of Representative to meet with the South Africa High Commissioner in Nigeria to discuss on the recent xenophobic killings and how Nigerian citizens in South Africa are maltreated in schools, market and in their house without taking action by the South African government to put an end to the conflicting issue which disturb the African leaders. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Senior Special Assistance to President on foreign affairs and

Table 1: Summary of Research Questions Responses.

Questions	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Is the Nigeria – South Africa bilateral relations profitable to the citizens of Nigeria – South Africa	Yes	12	60
	No	8	40
Are foreign criminals a major cause of xenophobic actions in South Africa.	Yes	14	70
	No	6	30
Does Nigerian foreign and citizenship diplomacy influence the living standard of Nigerians in South Africa.	Yes	18	90
	No	2	1
Is fear of unemployment by South Africans a cause of Xenophobia	Yes	150	100
	No	0	0
Does immigration work ethics cause xenophobic acts by South Africa.	Yes	16	80
	No	4	20
Does fear of competitions by local businessmen instigate xenophobic violence on foreigners especially Nigerians in South Africa	Yes	18	90
	No	2	10
Does the actions and in actions of South politician influence xenophobia.	Yes	150	100
	No	135	90
Does the South Africa media contribute to the xenophobic activities in South Africa.	Yes	100	100
	No	99	19.8

Table 2: Summary test of hypotheses

	Response	Frequency	Percentage
The causes of the barbaric xenophobia act has no significant impact on the Nigerian citizens in South – Africa especially in the Fourth Republic periodize to 2007 - 2015	Agree	8	40%
	Disagree	12	60%
The suggest possible ways in which the lives and properties of Nigerian citizen can be protected against xenophobic act in South Africa has no significant impact	Agree	7	35%
	Disagree	13	65%

Sources: Research Questionnaire 2019

diasporas matters has called on the South African government to take decisive measures to protect Nigerian citizens and other African nationals residing in South Africa. Also Chairman of the House Committee on Diaspora Matters, Rita Orji in 2015 condemned alleged lackadaisical attitude of the Federal Government of Nigeria towards the protection of Nigerians outside the country, saying the government is more interested in remittances than the welfare of her citizens abroad. Nigeria in the last 10 years has lost about 800 of her citizens in South Africa. This is unacceptable to the people and government of Nigeria (Dabiri-Erewa 2015). Also in the view of ambassador Lawrence Epkebu who says Nigerians are usually attacked silly in South Africa because 197 Nigerian embassy in that country is not dynamic enough to tackle the problems facing its citizens in South Africa. Effectiveness of poor funding, inadequate of modern facilities as well as inadequate training and non-utilization of professionals, as part of the reason that give negative meaning or impact to the Nigeria-South African relations. The relations has been affected both diplomatically, economically and also the issue affecting the performance of the embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The feud between the countries is a very complex issue which ought to be handled with diplomatic tact. There should be proper funding of the embassies, not just South Africa but all over the globe. To make sure the aids and staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are trained in order to take care of the Nigerian citizens anywhere in

the world. The embassies should be given modern facilities in Foreign Services so that they can protect Nigerians in South Africa and the globe. Another measure that need to be adopted is the implementation of the foreign policy which was introduced in 2007 - 2015 by the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. According to Okocha and Nzeshi (2007:3), Citizen Diplomacy is geared towards "protecting the image and integrity of Nigeria and realities against countries who are hostile and who brand Nigeria as corrupt country. In their view, Okocha and Nzeshi (2007). Giving reasons for the formulation and adopting of the policy in Adejumo, (2007) explains further:

"Our foreign policy has come of age and the age of innocent is over, we remain proud of our track record from Tafawa Balewa's up till now.

The country that is the largest black nation in the world could not do otherwise. A world where every sixth Blackman is a Nigerian could have done otherwise. We should ask ourselves some hard question to what extent our foreign policy has put food on our table?. Has our foreign policy benefited the Nigeria citizens? In order words where is the citizen in our foreign policy?" For the measure to be successful, Nigerian government needs to investigate the cause thoroughly as well as use the professional so as to get the proper lasting solution which will give positive impact to the two states.

Despite the challenging relationship between the two nations, peace talks and diplomatical negotiation between the two countries could still help to stop the crisis. It is good to understand that International relations is very dynamic and not static. It depends on the ability of the countries to manage their friendship for a long time; it takes a lot of maturity and understanding to manage the bilateral relations. Such steps are also necessary to prevent the crisis from escalating into dangerous retaliatory and South Africa in returns. In the view of the aforementioned another 30% of the respondents in test of proposition data disagreed with the above view that the suggested possible ways in which the lives and properties of Nigerian citizen can be protected against xenophobic act in South Africa especially between 2007-2015 has no significant impact due to the lack of implementing the policy made by the government decision maker. The policies which are formulated but were hardly implemented. The lack of implementing these policies which was created by the government of Nigeria especially between 2007 -2015 has affected the diplomatical unrest or issue e.g the yellow fever certificate issue, the visa issue, the chairman of AU seat tussle, and the interference of the South African government on the President Laurent Gbagbo for his refusal to vacate the seat, after he lost during the election and took over the control of Cote d'Ivoire in 2011. Also the bilateral relations suffered a setback during the tenure of Presidents Goodluck Jonathan and Jacob Zuma as a result of lack of implementation of the newly introduced Foreign Policy and Citizen Diplomacy Policy all these had adverse effect on the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa.

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