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# **KILLING FOR LIVING: EXPLAINING THE ECONOMIC ESSENTIALS OF IBADAN CENTRAL ABATTOIR, AMOSUN, 2009-2021**

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## **Abstract**

This article examines the economic benefits of Ibadan Central Abattoir (ICA), Amosun between 2009 and 2021. It argues that abattoir is a global industry that has attracted the attention of scholars the world over. However, these academic inquiries are not historical in nature and also neglected the positive aspects of the abattoirs. Besides, they have not hinged directly on the ICA. It is the gap accentuated by extant literature that prompted this study. The study adopts an interdisciplinary methodology, using primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of data collection for qualitative analysis of the phenomena. It reveals that the ICA has affected (positively and negatively) the economy and society of the host community, Oyo State, and Nigeria from a broader perspective. It concludes that the positive effects of the ICA surpass the negative ones. Though, this study does not claim that the ICA has totally transformed the economy of the operators. The argument is that the ICA contributed marginally to the economy of its operators largely because of the challenges that bedeviled the facility since its inception up to 2021. The study, therefore, offers a roadmap regarding the

ways of nipping in the bud, the challenges of the ICA for its optimal performance, that could translate to environmental sustainability, improvement of the economy and transformation of the stakeholders' immediate society.

**Keywords:** Killing; Cows; Economic Essentials; Central Abattoir; Ibadan

## **Introduction**

In an attempt to cope with his daily challenges, man has engaged in diverse economic activities. Some of these activities are agriculturally inclined relating to crop production while others focus on diverse agri-businesses including animal husbandry and pastoralism. The animal aspect of the economic activities of man motivated the establishment of abattoirs, globally. This is done for capital formation and the dietary needs of man. Abattoir has become a topical issue in the academic discourse in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world. A lot of work has been done on abattoirs. For example, J. Y. Magaji and C.D. Chup hinged their study on, "The Effects of Abattoir Waste on Water in Gwagwalada- Abuja, Nigeria"<sup>1</sup> emphasizing that untreated waste from the slaughterhouse is not properly managed, at times they discharged into open drainage which flows into the nearby and the adjoining streams. The implication is that the leachate from the dumped and decomposed waste usually percolates into the soil and also flows into streams thereby endangering human health.

Similarly, Y.O. Bello and D.T.A. Oyedemi, delve into the study of "The Impact of Abattoir Activities and Management in Residential Neighbourhood: A Case Study of Ogbomoso"<sup>2</sup>. The study discloses that mismanagement of the abattoir paves way for the air and water pollution and the most affected people are those whose residences are closely located to the slaughterhouse. The authors, therefore, note that the health implications of the said abattoir to man are numerous, ranging from coughing, typhoid, diarrhea, malaria, fever, and muscular pains, among others. To address these teething challenges, the study recommends the exclusion of abattoirs from the residential neighborhood. Y. Buhari, A, S.M. Dabai, and A. Abdulazeez in their joint study of "Abattoir Management: A Case Study of Malumfashi Local Government, Katsina State, Nigeria"<sup>3</sup> reveals that lack of poor management of abattoir usually results in infectious diseases or even life-threatening morbidities. The study identifies the challenges of the abattoir spanning from substandard facilities, mismanagement, and

paucity of funds. The study calls for the intervention of the government and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the proper management of the facility.

Relatedly, O.O. Olusola-Makinde, D.T. Orotupin, and F.C. Adetuyi invested twelve months into a study of "Year-round Bacteriological Quality of Onyearugbulem Abattoir Waste and Allied Water Bodies in Akure, Nigeria".<sup>4</sup> The study postulates that Nigeria's abattoir, including the one under review, are unmechanized and ill-equipped, and constructed by non-architect. The unmechanical and structural deformity paves the way to poor management which in turn exposes humanity, animals, and animals products to infectious diseases. Their study of the facility shows a high level of bacteria in the surface associated with Onyearugbulem and the need to take precautions against the associated health risks of these bacteria.

O.Osibanjo and G.U. Adie's work which examines "Impact of Effluent from Bodija Abattoir on Physioco-chemical Parameters of Oshunkaye Stream in Ibadan City, Nigeria"<sup>5</sup> states that good quality water is scarce. This arises as a result of untreated effluents being discharged into surface water bodies. The authors investigate the qualities of effluent and stream water (before and after mixing effluent) using basic water parameters. The study shows that Oshunkaye falls in the class of grossly polluted water after mixing with effluent from the slaughterhouse. Before the mixture, it was categorised as partially polluted. The implication is that the slaughterhouse effluence has to be treated before discharging in the receiving stream for the safety of humanity.

The above extant studies have shown that a historiographical gap exists on the subject of the abattoir. Moreso, the above literature shows that there is near to absence of literature on the positive/economic aspects of abattoirs. Thus, this present study intervenes to close the existing knowledge gap by analyzing the extent of the contributions of the ICA to the economy and society with a specific reference to the people of Oyo State and Nigeria from a broader perspective. Methodologically, the study employs the interdisciplinary approach in line with the use of primary and secondary sources of data ( in another way it adopts qualitative methodology with empirical data) to examine the economic essentials of the ICA. The fieldwork consists essentially of identifying printed materials in the form of books, journal articles, statistical, and internet materials that treat the issues relating to the abattoir in Ibadan, Nigeria, and elsewhere in the world. Besides, oral interviews were conducted with cattle traders, government representatives (civil servants- veterinary and medical doctors) canteen operators, drivers, university lecturers, and members of the general public for the

purpose of corroborative analysis and objectivity. Neither of these sources could be considered inferior or subordinate to the other, but rather complement each other. Sequentially, besides the introduction, the paper conceptualizes abattoir, traces the location and historical foundations of the ICA, examines its economic benefits as well as the debilitating challenges that accompanied the facility under consideration. The paper attempts a concluding thought and advances some policy options that would help in stemming the tide of challenges that impeded the ICA during the period under consideration and for future reference.

### **Abattoir Conceptualized**

This segment of the paper attempts a scholarly and contextual analysis of the word abattoir. A.S. Hornby, on the one hand, conceptualizes abattoir as a place where slaughtering of animals and processing of meat products for human consumption is performed.<sup>6</sup> Food Agricultural Organization, on the other hand, defines an abattoir as a formally established institution that ensures humane handling of animals and hygienic processing of meat animals and their products.<sup>7</sup> As colorful as this definition seems to be, it has not shown a true picture of how animals are handled in the course of transporting them to slaughterhouses in Nigeria. For example, most animals that are brought to slaughter at the ICA are usually transported from the Northern part of the country. These animals especially cows are usually maltreated while they are still alive which is against the rules and regulations governing the handling of animals. At times they are tied in ropes to one another; sometimes the ropes pass through their noses causing them injuries and difficulty in breathing. In many cases, the cattle dealers tied ropes to their horns and twist their necks to enable them to have a space in the truck to carry as many as possible per trip. Due to this horrible treatment, many animals died on the way to the ICA.

Abattoir establishment is supposed to ensure that final products produced follow adequate antemortem and post mortem inspection as well as hygienic processing to ascertain safety before retailing and distribution to the public.<sup>8</sup> However, the above assertion contradicts what is obtainable in many abattoirs across the Nation. The Central Abattoir Ibadan (ICA) also lacks the facilities and capacity that depict the meaning of abattoir as stated above. The lack of ultra-modern facilities has degraded the level of hygiene that is supposed to be maintained at the ICA. The processes and methods the ICA customers use in transporting the meat from

the abattoir to their various food canteens across the town are equally unhygienic. Some transport the meat from the abattoir to their various food centers using motorcycles. These meats are usually exposed to specks of dust and fly thereby exposing them to health hazards. Those customers who usually hire the services of commercial drivers known in the Yoruba language as *Maruwa* also experience the same challenges. Similarly, Cordex Alimentarius looks at abattoir as:

A licensed facility that has been duly registered and approved by the controlling authority to collect, slaughter, and process animals to ensure the production of safe and wholesome meat for human consumption. It applies to premises provided by relevant authorities for butchers and other animals meat handlers for the slaughter and processing of livestock to produce meat.<sup>9</sup>

In the process of performing the above tasks, abattoirs are supposed to ensure surveillance of animal diseases at the time of slaughtering to avoid zoonotic transmission to humans through meat consumption. Contributing to the meaning and content of abattoir, the *Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia* was more forthcoming when it espouses that:

An abattoir is a building for butchering. The abattoir houses facilities to slaughter animals; dress, cut, and inspect meats; refrigerate cures, and manufacture byproducts. The largest abattoirs are those of the meatpacking industry. Plant construction, drainage, water supply, disposal of refuse, and all operations are under government regulations.<sup>10</sup>

The material above provides a comprehensive meaning of abattoir. Deducing from the above conceptual underpinning, it is clear that the ICA meets some characteristics of abattoir like slaughtering and inspection of meats. Despite these, the facility lacks pipe-bone water, electricity, and modern facilities to refrigerate processed meat. Moreso, the abattoirs lack machines for proper waste disposal thereby constituting a threat to human and animal health. Additionally, Y. Buhari, A, S.M. Dabaj, and A. Abdulazeez opine that:

Abattoirs are facilities approved for the collection, inspection, and slaughter of food animals for human consumption. The facilities are established to centralize slaughtering processes and ensure the safety of meats and meats products. However, if not properly managed, abattoirs are good sources of infection or even life-threatening morbidities.<sup>11</sup>

Extrapolating from the above definitional analysis, this paper conceives abattoirs as a slaughterhouse or a facility where animals are killed by men for earning a living. It is a business venture or an industry that provides a source of income to man and also satisfies his dietary needs. It is a licensed and registered agri-business where animals are killed basically for capital formation or economic purposes. Abattoir provides funds to the individual

businessmen and both local and state governments (in this case the ICA provides funds to Akinyele Local Government Area and the Oyo State Government of Nigeria).

### **Location and History of Ibadan Central Abattoir, 2009 - 2021**

Amosun is a settlement and one of the wards in Akinyele Local Government of Oyo State. Amosun ward is among the eleven local government areas that make up the Ibadan metropolis (with a projected population of 3 million).<sup>12</sup> Amosun has two main markets for cattle products, namely: Kara Market (with abattoir services) and Ibadan central abattoir. The ICA is located at Kilometre 16, Ibadan Oyo Express Way, Ibadan. The ICA is situated on a ten-hectare land in Amosun. This project was initiated in 2009 by the Adebayo Alao Akala (the the Governor of Oyo State) Administration as a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) project for 30 years. The development continued with Governor Abiola Ajimobi who succeeded Adebayo Alao Akala.<sup>13</sup>

Before the establishment of the ICA, there was no central slaughterhouse, and as such butchers in Ibadan operated on different places in different slabs. According to Yinka Fatoki, the then Executive Secretary of the Oyo Bureau of Investment Promotions and Private Partnership, the decision to move all the abattoirs in Ibadan to a central place was based on sanitary and health needs of the inhabitants of Oyo State.<sup>14</sup> The ICA according to Fatoki came into the limelight because of the unsanitary situations of the major slabs at Bodija, Aleshinloye, and Gege areas of Ibadanland, amongst others.<sup>15</sup> To corroborate on the health status of the abattoir, Governor Abiola Ajimobi noted during the opening ceremony of the ICA that, the slaughterhouse provides both modern and traditional slaughtering methods, rapid turn-around, and proper hygienic conditions in comparison to the informal structure that did not permit for hygienic slaughtering and meat distribution in the State.<sup>16</sup> Associated with the above, the *Guardian Newspaper*, Femi Ibiroga brings to the fore that the ICA is a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) initiative to ensure the public is supplied with healthy and hygienically prepared beef while the butchers and developers undertake the business for profit maximization.<sup>17</sup> To justify further the establishment of a Central abattoir, Mr. Toye Arulogun reiterated that the closed abattoirs (former ones) were hygienically unfit for preparing cattle and other animals for human consumption and this motivated the establishment of the ICA.<sup>18</sup>

The construction work on the ICA was done by C and E limited, a local construction company that specializes in PPP ventures.<sup>19</sup> Bisi Oladele described the ICA as a multi-billion Naira abattoir, which is the largest in Nigeria. Oladele specifically notes that it took one year to complete the construction work. All these and many more went into the emergence of the ICA which is perhaps, the largest in West Africa.<sup>20</sup>

### **The available Facilities of ICA**

The abattoir has diverse facilities ranging from medical clinic complex that comprises the veterinary doctor's office, modern laboratory, and three concrete paved holding pens for animals before slaughtering. The holding pens are approximately 12, 000m<sup>2</sup> in size.<sup>21</sup> The abattoir has two cold rooms and a modern brick incinerator. It also has three guest houses and a Police Station for security purposes. The ICA has a large office complex for the administrative staff (both of the firms and the related workers). The block also houses the Butchers Co-operative Building, a commercial bank, a canteen, and a clinic to serve the butchers' needs, members of staff of the ICA, and the customers.<sup>22</sup> The abattoir also contains 224 shops for renting by meat sellers and other traders trading at the premises. In terms of external facilities, the abattoir contains five conveniences, a good road network with concrete drainage, and solar-powered street light.<sup>23</sup> These facilities are set out to provide enabling environment to the workers and in the course of doing their work and served as facilitators. It also generates employment for different classes of people as discussed in the subsequent analysis.

### **Economic Benefits of Ibadan Central Abattoir (ICA), 2009 - 2021**

Despite, the fact that all the economic benefits of Ibadan Central Abattoir (ICA) are tied to the provision of employment and income generation/capital formation. To enhance a lucid understanding of these two major benefits, these benefits are broken down into different points as presented herein. The ICA provides employment opportunities to a good number of the teeming population of the Oyo State and even beyond. In conjunction to this matter, an oral informant, Olumide Adewale revealed that:

On daily basis, about 2,000 people usually come into the ICA premises for different economic purposes. Some are workers of the abattoir, while others are traders or patronizers. The ICA has about forty health and environmental professionals, six hundred casual workers, and

laborers. The number of customers that patronize the services of the facility cannot be exactly quantified. However, the facility receives and attended to a lot of customers every day. The patronage is usually more competitive during the festivities such as *Sallah*, Christmas, and Easter, among other festivities.<sup>24</sup>

Relatedly, an interviewee, who is also a prominent butcher at the facility under review, Adewale Sheriff corroborated this information by noting that the abattoir employed the services of butchers, cleaners, and security personnel, among others. This is because the ICA has other supporting facilities like a clinic, Microfinance bank, and a commercial bank.<sup>25</sup> This implies that the abattoir has contributed to the employment strength of the inhabitants of Oyo State.

Furthermore, Amosun abattoir has enhanced cattle market/ business both within and outside the host state. A lot of cows are slaughtered every day in the slaughterhouse. In discussing this matter, Sheriff was very specific when he said that an average of five hundred cows are being slaughtered and processed on daily basis at the ICA to supply the dietary needs of the people.<sup>26</sup> These cows are reared by both the Fulani people (who mostly reside in the Northern part of the country) and the Hausa migrants who migrated to Ibadan metropolis and its suburbs in large numbers and settled in places such as Akinyele, Shasha, and Onidundu in Amosun Council ward. They rear cattle in large quantities and sold to the cattle marketers on daily basis to earn their living. It is the presence of the ICA and other abattoirs in the country that the cattle rearers continue to sustain their business.

In the course of transacting in cattle and cattle products, the transportation business is enhanced both within the host community, Oyo State, and across the nation. This is because cows that are being slaughtered at the abattoir are mostly reared far away in the Northern part of the country and as such bringing them to Ibadan where the facility is situated requires the use of transportation.<sup>27</sup> The transporters usually charge heavily to transport the cattle from far places like Kebbi, Borno, Gombe, *et cetera* to Ibadan city and its suburbs. It also reveals that about 500-700 cattle are usually offloaded at the said abattoir every day. The Hausa cattle traders who settled in the suburbs of Ibadan also pay for the cost of transporting their cattle to sell at the abattoir and the butchers at times go to these suburbs, purchase and transport them to the slaughterhouse. Since the Hausa cattle traders in the suburbs of Ibadan operated in intra- state routes and in most cases their products are loaded in mini-trucks, their transport charges are lower than those that usually come from the North.<sup>28</sup> Explaining the how the abattoir gave impetus to transport business, a Micra (small car inform of Starlet, usually use



for commercial purpose in Ibadan and the adjoining areas) driver, Sunday Fatoye acknowledged that:

Micra drivers' services are hired by the canteen and beer parlor operators in Ibadan and the adjoining areas like Oyo Town, Ikire, Apomu, and Ikoyi, among other places to transport meats to their restaurants. Anytime we are hired for such services we get a reasonable amount of money at once and that also serves as a business morale booster. The hiring of our services by the aforementioned operators usually relieves us of the stress of scouting for passengers which usually takes us some time before our vehicles are filled.<sup>29</sup>

It is factual that successful services at the abattoir cannot be rendered without effective transportation. Because of its vitality to the business. Commenting on the importance of transportation to abattoir, D. Ljungber, G. Gebresenbet and S.A. Messmer posit that:

Transportation and handling are essential factors in the pre-slaughter production chain, playing an important role in animals' welfare, meat quality, and the risks of disease transmission. The pre-slaughter logistics chain comprises the transport operation and includes scheduling, management, and control of animals transport from farms to slaughterhouse.<sup>30</sup>

Nevertheless, the ICA constitutes a source of revenue to both the Akinyele Local Government and the Oyo State Government of Nigeria. It is the responsibility of all the income earners to pay taxes to the government authority (whether to the local, state, or federal government). The operators of the slaughterhouse under study are also not exempted from tax payment. They pay based on the income generated from their business ventures. The tax they pay is supposed to be used to execute development projects at different tiers of government.

Additionally, the operation of the abattoir has led to the emergence of ancillary businesses inside the abattoir premises. Due to high patronage that involved a lot of people who come to work or to buy meat at the abattoir, different petty trades have emerged.<sup>32</sup> There are food vendors, selling most especially, African dishes. Some petty traders (especially women) engaged themselves in grinding soup ingredients while doing so, they sold other condiments as they grind. Others specialized in the selling of assorted vegetables. To add to these, they were operators of provision stores in the abattoir where both of the staff and customers approach in times of their needs. The location of the mini-market actually at the premises has reduced the stress and also save the time of both the workers and the customers from going out to look for their needs.<sup>33</sup> The said market created a source of income for traders and this goes a long way in improving their economic strength. Deducing from the

above analysis one cannot hesitate to say that there are a lot of economic benefits obtained from the abattoir.

### **Challenges of the Ibadan Central Abattoir, Amosun, 2009- 2021**

Since the inception of the Ibadan Central Abattoir (ICA), it has faced some critical challenges that mitigated its desirable healthy operations. Some of these challenges were faced by the Oyo State Government in attempting to have a central facility for the slaughtering of animals. Other challenges were hinged on the host community while the butchers also faced some challenging issues in the course of working. The animals also encountered some challenges before their slaughter. The customers/buyers also faced some daunting challenges in the process of patronizing the facility for harnessing its economic benefits or gains. For clarity, these challenges are treated one after the other in the subsequent discourse.

Firstly, in a bid to centralize the abattoir services in State, the Oyo State Government revoked all the licenses of all other slaughter slabs and withdrew the veterinary Doctors that were previously inspecting the health status of both animals and the meat.<sup>34</sup> Also, in December 2017, the state government took about sixty members of the National Butcher's Union of Nigeria, Oyo State Chapter for an excursion to Agege Abattoir in Lagos State to see the benefits and sanitary status of a good abattoir.<sup>35</sup> This was done to convince people of the need for having a central abattoir in Ibadan. Even after this, some of the members of the butchers union did not immediately move into the new abattoir premises. According to Femi Ibirogbo:

The union demanded four conditions before moving to the central abattoir and they included adequate security of life and cattle; effective transportation system; a pedestrian bridge to cross from the expressway; and reduction of the cost of cattle handling from N 5,000 to 3,500.<sup>36</sup>

The then, Secretary of the National Butchers Union, Oyo State Branch, Olagoke Lateef, noted that the government had taken care of their welfare by granting their request apart from the construction of the pedestrian bridge. The government also held a town-hall meeting with over 2, 00 members of the union in April 2018, and set up a committee of all stakeholders, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, yet some members were reluctant

in relocating to the new site.<sup>37</sup> Josiah Oluwale in throwing light on the role and challenges the government faced in relocating the facility, recollected:

Since 2014, the State had ceased to collect the due rates and taxes from all abattoirs in Ibadan, to encourage compliance and ensure that the operators wind up and comply with the meat law of Oyo State which makes it illegal for anyone to operate any slaughter slab, abattoir or slaughterhouse without the authority and license of government.<sup>38</sup>

Despite the government efforts and enough time given to the butchers, the State Ministry of Agriculture had observed that instead of winding up their activities, some bad elements in the Union were rather establishing new slaughterhouses in unhygienic towns and suburbs without any form of certification or mandate.<sup>39</sup> Deducing from the foregoing, it is clear that some members of the butchers union were not in agreement with the State government over the relocation of the abattoir facilities to the newly established central abattoir in Amosun village. This may be as a result of the long distance from Ibadan city to Amosun the facility and lack of social amenities, and so forth.

Besides these challenges, members of the host community also suffered certain challenges that emanated from the ICA project. For instance, it is alleged that the Oyo State Government took the ancestral lands of the host community without due compensation and this has denied them access to their farmlands thereby aggravating their poverty level. Explaining the challenges the abattoir metted on the people of Amosun village (the host community), an interviewee, whose name was not disclosed by the *Vanguard Newspaper* expressed his acrimony thus:

Since the Oyo State Government's bulldozer ravaged the farmland, destroying residents' cash crops to make way for the modern abattoir, the people of Amosun have lost their means of earning an income, and many have been living from hand to mouth.<sup>40</sup>

Aside from the destruction of farmlands in the host community, there is an allegation that the farmlands of Amosun village have been confiscated by the government. Recounting his ordeal, a patriarch of Amosun village, Pa Lamidi Amosun was quoted verbatim saying:

We were among some of the richest in the community; our fathers were well-to-do and showed us the act of farming as a means of livelihood. Today, all the fame, land, and farm produce are gone. Look at my grandchildren there, they are all playing when they suppose to be in school. During my father's time, parents took their children along to the farm if they could not go to school. We learned to be hunters or farmers, but look at them, we have nothing to hand over to them.<sup>41</sup>

To corroborate the above, Ojo Amosun (the son of Pa Lamidi Amosun) stated that he takes his wife and their first son to the neighboring villages to assist people on the farm and get paid daily or weekly to enable him to take care of his children and his aged father.<sup>42</sup> Commenting on the siting of the abattoir on their ancestral land, a member of the Amosun family as well as a former resident of Amosun village, Olayiwola Adio postulated that he has left for another community in Ibadan where life seems to be more meaningful to him.<sup>43</sup> He emphasized that he will not be able to cope in a community without having a source of livelihood. Adio was more forthcoming when he reiterated that, ‘ many of our families have left for nearby areas where life is meaningful. I am now a yam seller in Ibadan, I can not cope with the community any longer’.<sup>44</sup> The narratives above, confirmed that members of the host community were not satisfied with the establishment of the ICA on their ancestral lands based on the alleged claim that they are not giving any form of compensation.

Health-wise, the host community is also affected since a lot of waste is usually accompanying abattoirs that are not ultra-modern in nature. There is a pollutant in animals waste as a result of poor waste disposal and this has impacted water through several possible pathways, including surface runoff and erosion, direct discharges to surface waters, spills and other dry-weather discharges leaching into soil and groundwater, and air releases, including subsequent deposition back to land and surface water.<sup>45</sup> Analyzing the health implications of the ICA on the host community, a specialist in Biochemistry, Ann Adeyanju espouses that:

Animals’ manure (decomposed animals' horns, bones, blood, *et cetera* ) can result in water and air degradation, which in turn impact both the aquatic and the terrestrial ecosystems. As regards water degradation, the animal’s manure leach into the water system affecting the biochemical oxygen demand of aquatic organisms, it also pollutes the water and thereby renders it useless for drinking and irrigational activities.<sup>46</sup>

Abattoirs in Nigeria including Oyo State and the ICA, in particular, have difficulties in disposing of untreated effluence or processing these wastes in an environmentally acceptable manner. Due to this reason, there is a high risk of environmental pollution like bad odor, soil pollution, and public health risks through the transmission of zoonotic diseases to humans. In 2009, Aderemi Oluwale reported that it was a similar unhygienic condition that paved the way for the outbreak of cholera in Bodija abattoir in Ibadan in 2008 which in turn led to the communal clash between the butchers and members of the host community.<sup>47</sup>

Furthermore, other challenges bedeviled the operation of the abattoir that was suffered by butchers. For example, a renowned butcher at the facility under examination, Olawale

Sheriff disclosed that the facility lacks running water and this has posed a challenge to the butchers and has also affected the hygiene and neatness of the abattoir.<sup>48</sup> As a result of the lack of tap water, the butchers relied on buying from the water vendor through tanker supplies. The profit which could have been used to meet up with other needs is being diverted for the purchasing of water. The butchers faced the challenge of the obsolete method of meat processing. As at the time of this study, the butchers were solely on their local initiatives which in most cases was detrimental to human health. For example, they relied on the use of fuel for roasting animals since they did not have grasses to roast the animals which in addition to being harmful to human health is also costly.<sup>49</sup> The ICA also lacks electricity for the storage of the unsold fresh meats and as a result of this relied on the purchasing of petroleum and diesel which is very costly.

The customers/buyers, on the other hand, suffered the challenge of high transport fare. This is because the ICA is located in a place, very far away from Ojo, about 16 kilometers precisely. This distance is farther compared to other towns in the Ibadan metropolis. The distance has made the commercial drivers to charged them high for transporting their meat to their various canteens located in Ibadan and in the adjoining areas. Because of the location or distance, it usually takes the customers a reasonable time of business to access the facility. At times, after finishing their purchase, they still wait by the roadside for quite some time before getting a vehicle to go back to their various business locations.<sup>50</sup>

Animals also encountered some challenges on their way to the abattoir. As earlier stated, the animals are usually brought from the Northern part of the country. And the distance from the North to the West where the facility is located is quite far. In the process of transporting these animals for the business transaction, they suffered. For example, they overload them in the lorry. On transit, the owners did not care to feed them with food or water since they consider it as an additional cost for their business expenses. In some instances, the animal's necks are twisted and tied to one another to have a space to transport more of them at the same time in one truck. In the course of doing this, they passed thick ropes through their nose to cause them pain in case they want to jump out of the vehicles or to fight among themselves.<sup>51</sup> These, contradict the rule guiding the handling of animals. Supporting this position, Professor of Zoology, Olajumoke A. Morenikeji noted that the above cruelties are antithetical to the laws governing animal-human relations. She noted that anyone who cruelly beats, ill-treats, overrides, overloads, tortures, infuriates, or terrifies animals, amongst others

is a defaulter of the law.<sup>52</sup> The Penal Code makes provision for protecting animals from cruelty in Section 207<sup>th</sup> which provides that:

Whosoever, cruelly beats, tortures or otherwise wilfully ill-treats any tame or domestic animal or wild animal which has previously been deprived of its liberty or arranges for fights between cocks, rams, and other domestic animals shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may be extended to one year or with fine which may extend to fifty pounds or both.

The law further provides that whoever wantonly over-rides any animal or wantonly employs any animals which by any reason of age, sickness, wounds, or infirmity is not in good condition to work or neglects any animals in such a manner as to cause it unnecessary pain is subject to face the wrath of the law.

## **Conclusion: Pathway to Stemming the Tide of the Challenges of the ICA, Amosun**

This paper hinged on the economic essentials/benefits of the Ibadan Central Abattoir (ICA), Amosun. It is obvious from the preceding analysis that hygiene was the fundamental reason that occasioned the establishment of the ICA. Before the establishment of the ICA butchers operated on different slabs in different areas in Ibadan, thereby threatening the health of the inhabitants. It was this unhygienic condition that led to the outbreak of cholera in 2008 in the Bodija, abattoir. The study delved into the history of the ICA and stated that the abattoir was established as the PPP and based on the tenant of Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) for thirty years. It brought to the fore that the ICA is the brainchild of the then Governor of Oyo State, Governor Adebayo Aloa Akala, and the project was fully executed by his successor, Governor Abiola Ajimobi. The paper revealed that the ICA impacted both positively and negatively the economy and society of the host state and by extension Nigeria at large. Positively in the sense that, the abattoir has provided job opportunities to a lot of people and boosted cattle market/business between Hausa/Fulani of Northern and the Yoruba people of Western Nigeria. Negatively, it has succeeded in polluting the air and water of the host community as well as allegedly confiscating the ancestral land of the people of Amosun Village. However, the negative and the positive aspects are cross-examined; one would not hesitate to say that the economic/positive impact of the ICA surpasses its challenges/negative effects. Despite this, it cannot be denied that the abattoir contributed marginally to the

economy of the operators and other stakeholders because of the critical challenges that impeded its activities.

## **Recommendations**

- ❖ Based on the challenges that mitigated the activities of the ICA, the paper recommends some policy prescriptions or the pathways that it felt, would help in stemming the tide.
- ❖ Firstly, the major stakeholders in the abattoir business should work out modalities to create proper waste management to do away with the problem of environmental and water pollution which is harmful to the health of the host community and the ICA workers.
- ❖ Secondly, members of the host community should be adequately compensated. The Oyo State Government, the major stakeholders in ICA, the owner of all lands in the State should allocate new plots to them as a form of compensation. The government should also provide basic amenities for them, such as electricity, roads, tap water, health facilities, and free education, among others, to make life more meaningful to them. These infrastructural facilities (especially water and electricity which are also lacking at the ICA) if provided would also be used by the ICA staff and the customers.
- ❖ Thirdly, the major stakeholders of the ICA (the Oyo State Government) and her partner company (the C& E Ltd) should procure meat vans for supplying meats to the customers at their various food centers across the State. This would help to protect meat against disease or bacteria infections. By transporting the meats, the abattoir will also generate money out of it and this, in turn, will improve on its financial strength.
- ❖ Besides, the idea of the ICA was conceived by the C&E Ltd and the Oyo State Government to offer modern abattoir services. In this wise, it should have a plant to train scientists and technicians to enable them to produce biogas out of the animal wastes. If this is done, would have a stable power supply and reduce its expenditures on the procurement of diesel and petroleum. This supposed source of power will also be extended to the host community as part of its community development services.
- ❖ Finally, the health workers (medical and veterinary doctors) are not working enough; they should insist that slaughtered animals are not roasted with fuel in the course of processing them into the meat. This is because using fuel to roast animals which will eventually be consumed by humans can affect human health. The reason is that fuel contains chemical compounds known as polycyclic hydrocarbons which when released,

can act as free radicals, and bioaccumulation of these radicals in the body can lead to cellular damages, cause cancer, suppress the immune system, and in some instances lead to death. If the above policy options are considered and implemented the activities of the ICA would be improved and more economic benefits would be derived from the ICA as desired.

- ❖ Expansion of the economic base of the ICA should be viewed from the angle of provision of infrastructures

## Endnotes

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