

NOTICE : - This is the 4th set of Rest of Africa notes sent.

- Make sure you have received and written down the first 3 sets in your new notebook of Rest of Africa .

POPULATION IN AFRICA

Population refers to the total number of people living in an area at a given period of time.

Africa's current population is estimated at approximately 1,111,000,000.

Densely populated countries include ;

- Nigeria
- Egypt
- South Africa.

Sparsely populated countries are;

- Equatorial Guinea
- Djibouti
- Burundi.

Population terms

- 1) **Population distribution**- the number of people in a place at a given time.
- 2) **Population density(PD)**- the number of people in a given place at a given time per square kilometer.

$$PD = \frac{\text{No. of people}}{\text{Total area(land size)}}$$

- 3) **Birth rate(BR)** - number of live births per a 1000 people in an area per year.

$$BR = \frac{\text{No. of live births}}{1000}$$

- 4) **Death rate(DR)** - the number of deaths per a 1000 people in an area per year.

$$DR = \frac{\text{No. of deaths}}{1000}$$

- 5) **Natural increase(NI)** - the difference between the death rate and the birth rate

$$NI = BR - DR$$

- 6) **Growth rate(GR)** - the natural increase in population size of an area in a specified period of time.

$$GR = \text{current population} - \text{previous population}$$

- 7) **Dependency ratio**- the ratio of the productive population (15-65) to the economically non-productive population (0-14 and above 65).

Factors favoring population distribution in Africa

- 1) **Nature of vegetation**- dense population is found in savannah as it can easily be cleared for agriculture and settlement unlike tropical rainforests
- 2) **Nature of landscape**- very steep and hilly landscapes are rarely inhabited while gently sloping or flat landscape attracts dense settlement.

- 3) **Women fertility rate**- the possible number of children to be born by a woman in her reproductive life time.
- 4) **Climatic conditions**-conducive temperature and heavy rainfall attract settlement like tropical, equatorial unlike desert conditions.
- 5) **Political atmosphere**- politically stable areas attract dense population while war-torn areas are sparsely populated.
- 6) **Economic activities**- areas viable for trade and employment opportunities attract dense population in order to seek for better standards of living.
- 7) **Social service delivery**- areas well served with education, health, banking, transportation, recreation, etc attract many people.
- 8) **Open surface water**- areas with rivers and lakes attract many people while those having few water sources or none have sparse population.
- 9) **Soil fertility**- areas having deep fertile cultivable soils favor agriculture and settlement.

High population distribution

This is a situation where an area has a high number of people coupled with a high growth rate.

Advantages

- 1) Abundant labor force to engage in the production process.
- 2) Better security of the country.
- 3) Ready market for fresh and manufactured goods.
- 4) Innovation, creativity, discovery and research in science and technology.

- 5) Urban development due to increasing population demanding basic infrastructure and social service delivery.
- 6) Utilization of natural resources and land inclusive for agriculture, tourism, etc.

Disadvantages

- 1) High rate of dependence on the working population.
- 2) Promotes rural-urban migration in search for better living standards.
- 3) Moral decadence due to a mix of people from all walks of life.
- 4) Dependence on other countries for aid.
- 5) Dumping of industrial rejects due to high levels of poverty.
- 6) Difficult for the government to plan and implement national programs.

Low population distribution

This is where the population is far below the sustainable capacity of natural resources coupled with a low growth rate and population density.

Advantages

- 1) Easy to monitor and govern.
- 2) Easy planning and implementation of national programs.
- 3) Less strain on social amenities and service access.
- 4) Less government expenditure in providing social services to the people.
- 5) Low congestion in inhabited areas.

- 6) Low cost of living as people seem to have the basics of life.
- 7) Low risk of disease spread.

Disadvantages

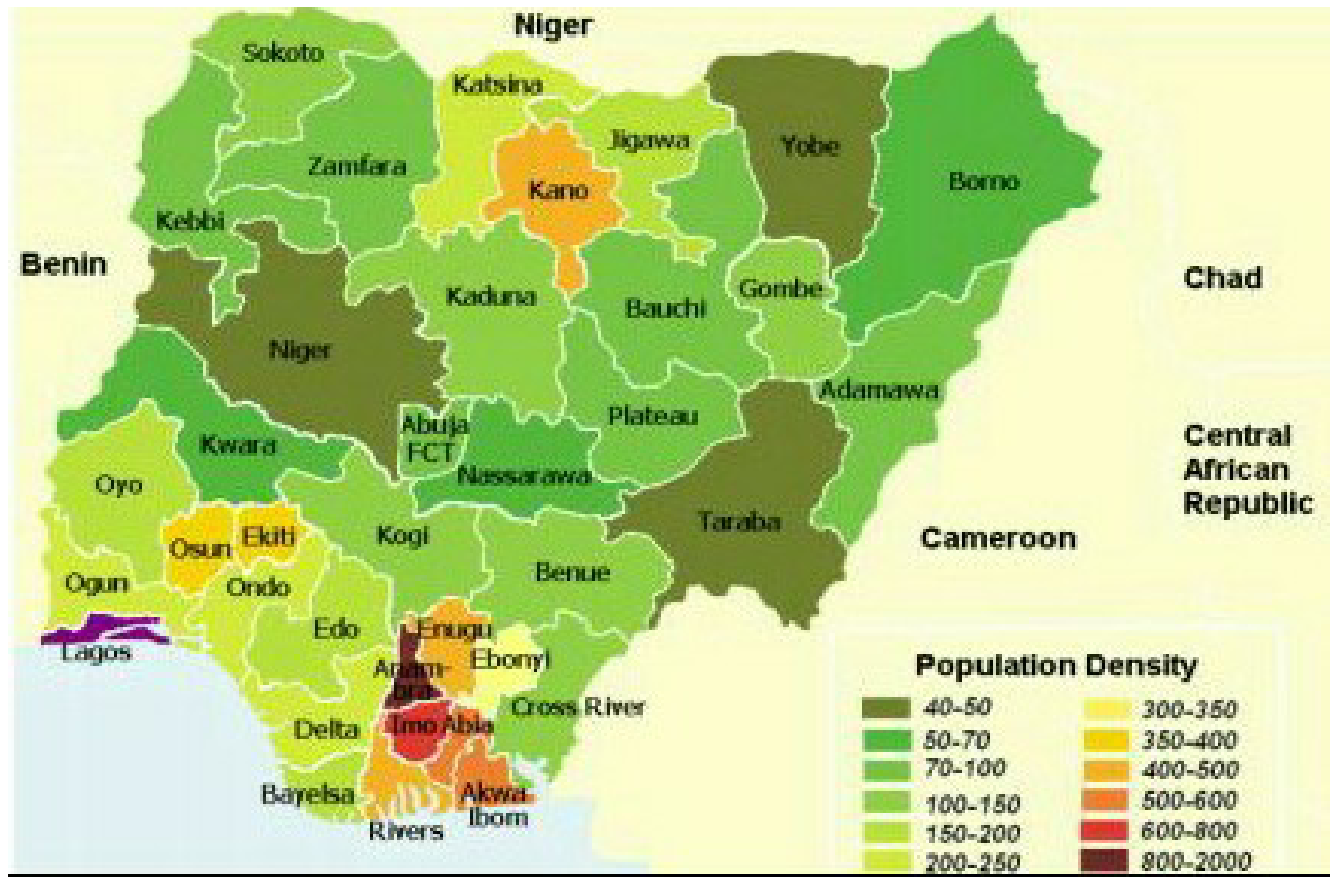
- 1) Shortage of labor either skilled, semi or non-skilled.
- 2) Low tax base for the government.
- 3) Limited market for agricultural and manufactured items.
- 4) Low infrastructure development due to low expected returns
- 5) High vulnerability to insecurity since the population is low and can not stand against a strong external military force.
- 6) Many resources remain redundant.
- 7) Low creativity, innovation, etc
- 8) Low urbanization
- 9) Prevailing of primitive cultural practices due to conservatism .

NIGERIA

Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa having 1/6 of Africa's population.

Her population stands at 149,229,090 people.

Sketch map showing population distribution in Nigeria



Factors for population distribution

- 1) **Relief**- the most inhabited areas are the plateaux, coastal low lands, river valleys where agriculture and settlement is possible.
- 2) **Climate**- being a mix of tropical savanna in the central, equatorial in the south and desert in the north.

- 3) **Soils**- the sandy soils in the north, alluvial soils in the valley areas and coastal lowlands with deltas.
- 4) **Vegetation**- the desert vegetation in the north has discouraged settlement savannah in the east, equatorial vegetation in the west and south.
- 5) **Mineral deposits** especially in the south with great oil potential in the Niger delta.
- 6) **Government policy**- this aimed at resettling people in the west that was vegetated and the arid north sparsely occupied by the pastoral Fulani.
- 7) **Industrialization**- setting up of manufacturing industries in the south, east and north.
- 8) **Urbanization**- the increasing level of urban development in the south, west and along the Niger river valley.
- 9) **Well laid transport** and communication networks in the south delta area, west and central parts.
- 10) **Influence of ancient kingdoms** especially in central and southern parts e.g. Hausa, Yoruba, etc.
- 11) **Culture**- the pastoral nature of the Fulani in the north makes the population projections unstable.
- 12) **Religion**- the dominance of Islam especially in the central and northern parts.

Effect or impact of the high population in Nigeria

Consider advantages and disadvantages of high population.

INQUIRY : MR. SSENDAWULA SIMON. 0758101482(Wtsp)