**PES7052: SUSTAINABLE CITIES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

**ESSAY – PART B**

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# **a. Urbanization pattern**

Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, currently features an entirely distinct sort of urbanized construction. The ruling heritage's constructed environment has frequently deteriorated. The city is full of disjointed infrastructure pieces, figments, instructions, and traces of prior modernism that still exists in a broken form but hardly possesses the information that was initially associated with it. As a result, the city's operation is constantly interrupted by disintegration (Mbala, 2022). These shards are intertwined with other ancient temporalities and patterns, as well as wholly additional levels of community systems, facilities and residential property entitlements. The boundaries of what is feasible in a city are defined by faltering structural facilities and an urbanised market.

Kinshasa has always attracted rural people from remote regions due to the abundance of wealth there. The target audience movement to urban regions was accelerated by civil unrest after freedom. The differences between urban and village levels of existence have lately been made worse by the turbulent financial and political situations of the decade that followed. As a result, living in an urban area has become more appealing as agricultural life has degraded quicker still than urbanised infrastructure. Following autonomy, official initiatives to reduce urban migration, such as recurring compilations and expulsions of urban jobless people to rural areas, have been ineffective. Inhabited communities that have popped up all over the outer edges of Kinshasa and other communities offer plenty of proof of the catastrophe.

The Kinshasa Urban Development and Resilience Project sought to improve Kinshasa's robust economy by improving danger data intake and hazardous situation knowledge in critical financial decision-making procedures. The World Bank's $150 million Kinshasa Urban Development and Resilience project benefited from the venture's planning and execution. This one initiative aids its attempts to better enhance the well-being of residents of particular Kinshasa impoverished and impoverished areas by making a variety of expenditures. These expenditures were invested in weather-proofing, and best practices were spread, thanks to the ACP-EU NDRR initiative. According to O'Neill (2023), Congo's proportion of individuals living in urban areas stayed roughly the same in 2021 compared to 2020 at 46.24 per cent. However, with 46.24 per cent, 2021 nonetheless marks a high point for the percentage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is predicted to expand at a pace of 4.1 per cent year, which translates to approximately one million people coming to cities annually. Over roughly a decade, the urban population might quadruple if the present pattern holds. By 2030, Kinshasa will have inhabitants of twelve million and be growing at a pace of 5.1 per cent term, making it the highest populated metropolis in Africa (worldbank.org.2021). Due to the tremendous need for societal facilities medical treatment, and other basic services, as well as the shortage of focused revenue generation, urban areas face a pair of primary obstacles that must be overcome in order to make them more habitable and diverse.

According to the Urbanisation Report of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the nation is urbanising at varying speeds, and the Kinshasa area stands out for its particular potential and difficulties. From the findings of urbanagendaplatform.org (2022), it was asserted that The Urbanisation Assessment offers strategies built on a variety of tools, such as establishments, facilities, and efforts, to assist Kinshasa in meeting its unique demands despite gaining the advantages associated with financial concentration. A turning point has come for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The government may have a chance to broaden its financial system and make investments in the production industry as a result of the current drop in the value of commodities. The moment is right for Congolese managers to put money into cities which will restructure the nation structurally and promote increased connectivity with economies throughout the continent and beyond. By taking these actions, Kinshasa in the Congo could be positioned to develop as a structured metropolitan centre.

# **c. Slums and housing**

As per the statistics from data.worldbank.org. (2023), 44 per cent of the population of Congo lives in slums. One of the well-known slums of Kinshasa is Pakadjuma. It has regrettable notoriety for both sexual activities and criminality. Kinshasa has an elevated rate of joblessness, yet notwithstanding this, it draws many migrants from different areas of the vast nation. Several young individuals in Kinshaha's slums do not have access to or enjoy limited job possibilities, and therefore seek the best deals they are able to in an alternate economy that is unofficial, ungoverned, and frequently pricey. To minimise extremely susceptible circumstances like the consumption of drugs and violence caused by poverty and an abundance of chances, PSUP focuses on reintegrating adolescents via possibilities for work and expectations for young residents of slums.

The absence of infrastructure negatively impacts slum inhabitants' bodily, psychological, and mental health, making slums a serious disaster. In the Congo, a few steps involving improving and demolishing have been tried but frequently unsuccessful. Whenever housing issues are resolved in a large metropolis like Kinshasa, that city would never again be considered a slum. The grounds underneath the current agreements are mostly ignored by Kinshasa's government officials (Pembi *et al.* 2022). Slum expansion is a result of individuals moving from country to urban regions in search of possibilities that are superior to those available in agriculture. Slums are a glaring example of the imbalance involving urban migration and local financial stability.

There is an immediate requirement to earn increased ownership certainty as a result of rising industrialisation. The Ministry of Development, Budgetary, and Housing have contributed USD 250,000 to co-finance PSUP the third stage in order to help address these issues. Additionally, the local authorities of Kinshasa have allocated financing for PSUP in its yearly expenditure programme $300,000 (Balasha *et* *al*. 2022). In the Republic of Congo's Kinshasa, the majority of the population lacks adequate housing. In light of this circumstance, Congolese authorities consented to use a portion of PSUP's Local Controlled Investments to alleviate problems and the neighbourhood's quality of life. The neighbourhood decided to construct a "House for Women," where women may participate in seminars and other forms of help.

Several youngsters in Kinshasa's slums lack access to job prospects, so they get the best deals they are able to in an unofficial, ungoverned, and frequently pricey secondary economy. In order to reduce potentially dangerous scenarios like drug misuse and violence caused by poverty and an absence of chances, PSUP focuses on reintegrating adolescents via possibilities for work and possibilities for adolescent residents of slums.

Inadequate housing, increasing airborne pollutants, and inadequate facilities and amenities are all effects of the rapid pace of urbanisation. Affordability spending has fallen below urban development (Sikuzani *et al*. 2019). The unintentional expansion has created unattractive, inefficient, and disaster-prone areas. Extracting improved the country's gross domestic product in 2020 from 1.7% to 5.7%, above the 4.5% average for Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2022, prosperity and impoverishment have to be reduced. The two greatest threats to the nation are impoverishment and global warming. During a natural catastrophe, residents are helpless to repair and secure their residences. These effects would significantly harm the weak and poor, which will help unemployment expand. Future growth depends on climate stability, yet the authorities have no sustainability policy.

# **e. Environmental issues**

***Water pollution***

Since there are no facilities to properly manage garbage and discharge, the Congo River, which lies close to the centre of Kinshasa, is very contaminated. So, sewage is just dumped into the water's edge, which lowers the overall purity of waterways. The drainage network in Kinshasa serves just five per cent and eleven per cent of the city's inhabitants, despite the fact that it gathers forty per cent and forty five per cent of each day's water requirement in the city (Kahindo *et al*. 2022). The rest is emptied into drilling or onto the sidewalks. In addition to the insufficient treatment of the water, this scenario not only adds substantially to the contamination in the stream, but it additionally serves as an incubator of illness. The Kinshasa area has developed an arrangement for the construction of a wastewater removal facility to address this issue.

***Air pollution***

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in Kinshasa, the yearly level of environmental pollution and contamination is 2.5. In urban areas like the sprawling metropolis of Kinshasa, that is residence to greater than eleven million individuals, it may go substantially beyond World Health Organization air hygiene guidelines. Considering over ninety per cent of people in the Democratic Republic of Congo consume biomass from forests, the bulk of the citizens are additionally frequently subjected to unhealthy amounts of inside airborne contaminants (Blaise and Gumbo, 2022). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is estimated that contaminants in the air in homes and the general environment kills more than thirty-two thousand people each year.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mineral extraction, trash, the execution of rocks, woodlands, crop production, and residential development are some of the factors that contribute to air contamination. A key component of interior airborne contaminants and a factor in the elevated interior particulate matter at ten and particulate matter at two level concentrations observed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to the utilisation of biomass and charcoal for preparing food. The nation's degrading terrain, extractive industries, and farming methods are the primary causes of air pollution. Furthermore, deforestation contributes significantly to overall contamination, particularly if it is done by burning.

***Soil pollution***

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is Africa's next-biggest emitter of mercury, especially in regions like Kinshasa. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, underground gold extraction and coal-fired electricity generation employ approximately fifteen thousand kg of mercury annually, aggravating the soil quality issue there (Balasha *et al.* 2022). The stress from agriculture and the release of biochemical compounds have also contaminated the soil of Congo. As a result, it weakens the aspects of the country ground and impairs the stability of the farming grounds.

***Addressing the issues***

The enactment of a shared cleanliness approach has been suggested by Syndicat Interdépartemental pour l'assainissement de l'agglomération parisienne to municipal leaders as a replacement for the already inadequate and broken sewage and stormwater system. The decrease of numerous contaminants in the Congo basin and a broader enhancement in the condition of water are two outcomes of this stream's repair approach. Additionally, the amount of substance in the waterways has decreased, and visitor access to the stream has improved. By putting back the proceeds from the disposal of trash in the marketplace, this enterprise is facilitating the growth of a business model that is Additionally, this reconstruction initiative advances the missions set by the United Nations, especially objectives, which deal with accessibility for watering and cleanliness.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo became a member of the Coalition for Climate and Air Quality in 2017 (Mwanza *et al.* 2019). It is currently working to fulfil its ecological responsibilities to the global community, especially completing the execution of its national programme for the Montreal Protocol, which seeks to minimise and eventually get rid of pollutants that damage the atmosphere from global warming. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has adopted legislation and rules as part of its attempts to prevent the loss of biodiversity. The Environmental Protection Regulation outlines the main principles for safeguarding the planet. Threat mitigation and the battle towards all types of emissions and annoyances were the goals that followed. The measure additionally acts as the foundation for additional regulations controlling the regulation of industries which are unquestionably unrelated to the natural world but have significant either immediate or secondary environmental effects.

Many regulations have now been implemented or changed to conform to ecological and societal ideals. The extraction and processing programmes, which were implemented in 2018 by legislation n° 18/001, amend the earlier extraction regulation that was put into effect in 2002 after the conclusion of the long war of independence in the nation, as opposed to completely replacing it. The former coal legislation had some flaws that the updated regulation fixes, most notably the absence of uniform guidelines outlining coal corporations' social and ecological duties to those living nearby.

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