

# **TIN MINING, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN PLATEAU STATE, 2001- 2016**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Tin mining began in Jos-Plateau at the arrival of the British during the pax Britannica. The British came and exposed mining in the area to commercial production and further subsumed the area under the defunct Bauchi province. Tin mining and mines related activities which was one of the major sources of income in the Nigeria before the discovery of oil in commercial quantity has opened a lot of communities in Plateau State to environmental degradation which had appeared in the form of lake, gorges, holes, depletion of top soil, erosion, deforestation and other challenges such as food insecurity, land scarcity and its attendant consequence such as land fragmentation and land disputes among others. This study attempted to examine the relationship between tin mining, environmental degradation and the challenges of development in Plateau state. The study focused on the aftermath of tin mining in the state such as environmental degradation and incidences of the intermittence conflicts that is common with the state which are associated with mining related activities in the state. Combinations of methods were employed in the study such as survey, historical and ex post facto to investigate the causality under study. The secondary sources of data are utilized in this study and were generated from documentary facts drawn from array of both published and unpublished materials such as text books, journals, newspaper, magazine, conference and seminar papers, internet materials, reports of panel of investigation, report of commission of inquiry. Qualitative tools and observation were utilized to enhance historical and analytical description of the phenomenon under investigation. It was found out that tin mining has exposed the state to the challenges of environmental degradations and other anomalies such as the basis of intermittence violence and underdevelopment in the state. Recommendations such as compensation and provision of palliative tools to tin mining communities, need for the development

of national sustainable environment strategy, religious and cultural tolerance and a lot of others were proffered.

**Keywords:** Tin and tin mining, environmental degradation, conflicts and under-development.

## 1. Introduction

Tin mining started in Plateau State in the 18 century before the arrival of the Europeans. Its exploration was local and was marketed by the Arab's caravan. Its offshoot in the 19 century in a lime light at the arrival of the British in the area. Plateau State was at the time place under the ancient Bauchi Province in the Northern part of Nigeria (Cinjel, 2010). The equanimity of the weather and the high demand for tin make the area European commune. The Europeans have a lot of settlements in the area and this motivated them to create a lot of routes which linked Jos (Plateau) to other area of the then province. Railway was constructed from Kaura, Namoda, Nguru, and Maiduguri to Jos down to other parts of the country (Abdulah, 2016)

This is to create an ease in conveying mined tins to the coastal land. Tin at of the time was valued and was giving a serious attention. The British built the Nigerian economy on tin and few agricultural produces such as groundnut, cotton and cocoa (Asemota, 2001). The premium given to tin at the time further lead to the trooping of labourers, most especially the Hausa /Fulani ethnic groups to work at the mines. They have age over other ethnic groups in term of proximity to the white men (Aghahino, 2006). They were mostly in charge of the work and this is because of their first contact with the European and their numerical advantage.

Before the oil exploration began in Nigeria, the economy of the country was built with resource tapped from mining and agricultural produce and the inhabitant of these areas are now the victims of the aftermath (Oladeji, 2006). This can be seen in the form of environmental threats such as existence of numerous ponds, devastation of agricultural land and the insistence of crisis over who owned some certain areas and elective positions (Plateau State Peace Group, 2014). The pattern of rulership introduced at the time has also contributed in the lingering crisis in the State. This has shown that the present ecological hazard and the persistence indigene-settler conflicts are products of tin extraction in the state (Smith, 2000).

## 2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One of the obvious factors which promoted this study is the connect between the challenges of under development and ecological and environmental problems which existed in the form of sumptuous ponds that often turned as death trap to the citizens, devastation of vast agriculture land and a lot of others.

There is also the existence of menaces such as the insistence challenges of ethnic and religious conflict in the state which were all as a result of the emanation of diverse

groups who came to seek for colonial jobs at the mines. Now the state is at the receiving end and its inhabitants are suffering as the victims.

### 3. RESEARCH QUESTION

The study will attempt to answer the following research questions:

- (a) What is the relationship between tin mining, environmental degradation and the current problems of development in Plateau State?
- (b) In what ways do tin mining activities contribute to the lingering ethno-religious conflict in Plateau state?

### 4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to examine the effect of Tin mining activities and its adverse consequence on the environment and socio-economic development in Plateau State.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- (a) To examine the relationship between Tin mining, environmental degradation and the challenge of development in Plateau State.
- (b) To find out the relationship between ethno-religious conflict in Plateau State and Tin mining.

### 5. METHODOLOGY

The study used combination of methods. Survey and expo facto research designs were employed to examine the causality under investigation.

We also used qualitative and historical method that was critical and analytical in providing descriptive and historical details. The qualitative and historical method provides us with clear perspective into our research problem by giving us the opportunity to understand the historical details and accurate account of the past and use it to discuss the present.

The data of the study were generated from qualitative tools. This comprises of both published and unpublished materials such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazine, conference and Seminar papers and internet materials. Interview was also utilized to elicit information from key informant and traditional institutions in the state.

### 6. CONCEPTUAL EXPLICATIONS

In order to gain a stated understanding of the gist in this work, it is considered necessary that we undertake a clarification of the meaning of the following three key concepts: Environmental degradation, Mining and Development.

(a)**Environmental Degradation:** The word is a coinage of two English words “Environment” and “Degradation”. The Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary of Current English stressed that the word environment entail surrounding influences and

degradation on the other hand denotes loss as decline in quality which can either be through human activities or natural factors such as erosion, flood, earthquake and a lot of others. According Onuoha (2007), Environmental degradation is a concept which explains a situation of declining in resources of an environment. It provides all life support system of every human society and this life support system is sustained by the natural resources found in air, land and water. These resources include fresh/safe water, fisheries, arable land, plants, animals, mineral resources, air, and marine resources, among others. These resources often occur in variable sizes and classifications. Human being and their activities mostly post a serious threat to these resources. The misuse or over use of these resources affects its quality and its quantity. According to Miller as cited in Jinoh (2006), environmental degradation refers to the downward trend in the environmental resources such that their level of use in the human societies equally decreases at an increasing rate. Wikipedia defines environmental degradation as the deterioration of the environment both in term of quantity and extinction of some wildlife species and quality like air, water, and land pollution.

It can therefore be deduced that environmental degradation is a state of diminishing in both quantity and quality of the resources of the environment such as water resources, mineral resources, land, vegetation, flora and fauna, wildlife, air, among others as a result of poor climatic condition as unsustainable exploitation by human factors. Common examples are deterioration of rangeland, depletion of fresh water, pollution of air and water Formation extinction of animals and a lot of others.

(b) **Tin Mining:** This is a concept that refers to the activities of extracting tin either by digging or tapping from water channels. In the word of Stevenson (2010), Tin mining are resources from the ground or laying explosives in the name of mines. Boshvov (2008) sees Tin mining as the process of obtaining useful tin from the earth crust. The process includes excavations in underground mines and surface excavation in open-pit as open cut (strip).Yusuf (2010) sees tin mining as an operation that involves the physical removal of rock and earth.

The essence of mining is to extract a valuable known as mineral resources which could be either metalliferous or non metalliferous. It is a naturally occurring substance of definite chemical composition and consistent physical properties. An ore is a mineral combination of mineral from which useful substance, such as metal, tin, gold, cold and other resources can be extracted and marketed at a price that will recover the cost of processing and yield a profit (Bellamy, 2010).

The naturally occurring substances are usually divided into metalliferous ores such as the ores of gold, iron, coppers, lead, zinc, Tin and manganese and non metalliferous minerals such as: cold, quarts, bauxites, trona, borax, asbestos, talc, feldspar, and

phosphate rock. Building and ornamental stones, which form separate group and this includes slate, marble, limestone, trap rock, travertine and granite (Best, 2007)

We can therefore inference that mining be it of a tin or any mineral resources is any economic venture or activities which involves the removal, extraction and excavation of the soil or rock to get access to mineral resources which can be metalliferous or non-metalliferous in nature.

### (c). **Concept of Development**

All available evidence as shown in the literature on development portends the concept as nebulous, hence it has different meanings in different contexts and sometimes even in the same context. Consequently, several schools of thought, models, paradigms and theories have emerged to explain the concept (Nnadozie, 1986).

The western liberal scholars see development as a total transformation of a traditional or a primordial society into the type of technologies and associated social organization that characterize advanced economically prosperous and political stable nations of the Western world (Todaro and Smith, 2005). The above definition implies there is one average or normal path to development which countries have followed in the past and which they are obliged to in the future [Stevenson, 2012]

The scholars of Marxist philosophical persuasion, found the above conception of development grossly deficient, because it has not led to real development, instead, it enhanced the progressive underdevelopment of most third world state (Bello, 2013). Thus, they see development as socio- economic transformation which man engenders as he, jointly with his fellows, interacts with the natural environment through labour power. In a similar vein, Okoli and Onah [2002] define the concept as a human issue which should involve the total full mobilization of a society. Espousing a similar view, Nnoli (2003) conceived development as a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with their physical, biological and inter human environment, transforming them for their own betterment and that of humanity at large and being transformed in the process. It can be construed from the above mentioned definitions, that development implies the capacity to secure and sustain a better life to humankind in the society. The striving to elevate human life and comfort from a given level considered unsatisfactory to a better and perhaps more comfortable level.

Apparently piqued by this lack of an all-embracing definition of development, Seers (1972:47) poses three (3) basic questions, about the meaning of development when he asserts:

The question to ask about a country's development is therefore: What has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to

inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income has soared.

But the phenomenon of development or the existence of a chronic state of underdevelopment according to Todaro and Smith (2003) is not only a question of economics or even quantitative measurement of incomes, employment, and inequality. It is a real fact of life for over three (3) billion people in the world. To them development must therefore be conceptualized as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty. Most importantly, development must represent the whole gamut of change by which an entire social system turned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system, move away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory and towards a condition or situation of life regarded as materially and spiritually better.

Guolet (1990) defined development as the enjoyment of good things of life. He mentioned three basic values that should necessarily serve as a conceptual basis and practical guideline for understanding the inner meaning of development. These according to him are life sustenance (food, shelter, health, and protection), self-esteem (sense of worth and self-respect of not being used as a tool by others for their own understanding, dignity, respect and recognition) and freedom from alienation of material condition of life and from social solitude to nature, ignorance, other people, misery, institutions and dogmatic beliefs.

Rodney (1972) sees development as a many sided process. He stressed further that at the level of the individual, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being, and at the level of the social group, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Development therefore to Rodney is when members of a society jointly increase their capacity for dealing with their environment.

What is discernable from the above definitions is that development is man-centered and can be seen as a multi-dimensional process involving the fundamental transformation of society in its totality (economy, polity, culture, etc.). In other words, development implies growing self-reliance, both individually and collectively. The

basis for a nation's development must be its own resources, both human and material fully used to meet its own needs.

## 7. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MINING AND CONFLICTS IN JOS

History has it that there is a clear relationship between mining activities in Jos (Plateau State) and the present conflicts which are engulfing the State. In the early part of 18 century (Pax Britannica) to the colonial period, Jos and its environs was known for its richness in mineral resources such as tin, columbine, zinc, lead and a lot of others (Borgard, 2014). It was the tin mine that attracted the Hausa-Fulani settlement from neighbouring state such as Bauchi, Kano, Sokoto, and a lot of other groups in the area. This was equally the reason why the colonial masters linked the state with rail lines down to the coast for the easy conveyance of tin from the area to the overseas. Cyprian Ekwensi in his work the passport of Mallam Iliya enthused:

Late in 1947, my train was gasping and panting up the steep incline that leads on to the Bauchi-Plateau State in northern Nigeria.... My companions were mostly Hausa men, Biroms from the Plateau, a few Yoruba trader who cluttered up the train.... going to the land of tin mines. That was how we spent the few hours left between us and Jos.

The discovery of tin and tin mining activities ushered a lot of ethnic groups and predominantly the Hausa- Fulani into the state. It further offshoot with the emergent of the British who gave more recognition and headship to the Hausa-Fulani at the mines camp. At the early part of the colonial era, Plateau State was subsumed under the control of Bauchi province and the emir of Bauchi control the head of the mining camps (Apleby, 2000). He receives homage from the native groups and imposed leadership of *Bunu* and *Barde* in the mines camps to spear head the activities of the Hausa- Fulani labourers but was later misconstrue as the overall head of the whole groups in the area. Ngavugher (2010) have this to say in relationship to the conflicts in Jos and mining activities.

The 1994 disturbance was a climax of the sore relationship that had existed between the indigenous Christians and traditionalists and the so-called Jasawa. They are made up of Hausa-Fulani Muslim settlers from some core northern states of Bauchi, Kano, Sokoto, Katsina, Jigawa, e.t.c. who moved to Jos for mining activities at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century .Owing to the imposition of Muslim emirs on the indigenous communities during the colonial regime, Jos was placed



under the rule of the emir of Bauchi who appointed a Hausa man as chief of Jos.

This selection and imposition of headship by the Emir of Bauchi on the Native during the colonial period breed ground for the conflicts which the state is witnessing. The placement of Jos under Bauchi encourages the influx of the Hausa-Fulani groups in the shore of the state. What worsens the situation is how they were even crowned as chief to head the natives in the mines camp and later the mines communities which happened to be among them. Nguvugher (2010) asseverated further that:

Following intense campaign by the indigenous people against this development, the colonial masters separated the Jos area from Bauchi in 1926 and reappointed an indigenous person, Chief Rwang Pam, as the chief of Jos. This did not go down well with the Muslims who did not challenge the colonialists' decision until 1987 when a Hausa Muslim politician, Alhaji Saleh Hassan, began to call upon the Jasawa youth to recover chieftaincy of Jos as their right.

The scenario conflagrated with the appointment of a Hausa Muslim as the chairman of Jos North Local Government by the military administrators of Plateau State which the indigenous groups sees such act as the beginning of the fulfillment of their wishes. There were protests and this led to the suspension of the appointment. The Hausa-Fulani groups which are known as the Jasawa were hurt and decided to take the law into their hands by rampage killing, maiming, burning, looting and causing unquantified havoc. This development was the foundation upon which most conflicts are traced in Jos and its environs (Uchebu, 2002).

**Table 1: Mining and Challenges in Plateau State**

S/N	CHALLENGES	EFFECTS
1	Poor crop yield	Food Insecurity
2	Range land depletion	Food Insecurity
3	Degradation of top soil	Extinction of wild
4	Depletion of fresh water	Food insecurity
5	Holes	Health problems
6	Deep gorges	Death Trap
7	Decline in soil fertility	Death Trap
8	Erosion	Death Trap
9	Ethnic conflicts	Destruction of lives & properties
10	Religious conflicts	Destruction of lives & Properties
11	Ethnic politics	Sentiment

Sources: Researchers' Survey, 2017



Gandu (2002) also acknowledged that the first cases of inter-ethnic violent conflict and the displacement of people in the Africa began in urban centres. He went further to state that, it started in the northern Nigeria and between the Hausa-Fulani and the indigenous group in Jos. The centerpiece of the conflict is on the tussle of headship which later erupted into violent clash in 1945 (Kenaar, 2000)). This development has shape out the settlement of a lot of communities in the state. Jos North is carved out as a local government area in 1993 by the then leadership of Ibrahim Babangida(Aghahino, 2000). The creation is somewhat political and one of the reinforcing factors in the Plateau state conflicts. The so-called settlers that is predominantly Hausa-Fulani group has larger population than other ethnic group and it's a fact that in term of contest like election, there is power in population and any attempt to rig off the election in favour of the native will be greeted with violence (Bellamy, 2012). This has been the reason behind the conflicts of 1994, 2001 and 2007 in Jos and its environs. Apart from Jos north, there are other mining environment that are battling with this issue. *Bukuru* in Jos South, Ladi in Barkin Ladi headquarters *Kuba*, *Kunet* and different places in Bokkos local Government area, *Halle* in Mangu Local Government area of Plateau State. All of the aforesaid communities housed larger number of Hausa-Fulani ethnic groups whose root were traced from mining and mining related activities. In the aforesaid communities, the so-called settlers have a say because of their population and any attempt to frustrate their effort would result to conflict (Cinjel, 2010).

## 8. PLATEAU STATE, TIN MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Plateau state is one of the states in Nigeria and its capital is Jos. The original name of the state was actually *Guash* but it was wrongly pronounced as Jos. The British began to exert colonial control of Nigeria in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. At that time much of Plateau state was part of Bauchi province. In 1926, Plateau province made up of *Jos* and *Pankshin Divisions* was carved out of Bauchi. The border changed several times in subsequent years as the government sought to split ethnic groups (Cinjel, 2010). In May 1967, Benue and Plateau State province were merged to form the large Benue – Plateau state.

Following the civil war, Benue-Plateau state was one of the several states which were further slit up following pressure on the federal government. Under the military administration of *General Yakubu Gowon*, the country was further divided into nineteen states in 1976 and Plateau state was created from Benue-Plateau covering the area of the original province. In 1996, Nasarawa state was carved out from Plateau state. The state is also divided into chiefdoms and emirate, each encompassing ethnic groups who share common affinities (Best, 2007). Leaders of the chiefdom are elected

by the people from among several contestants who may not be related to any past chieftdom leaders, while succession to the position of an emir is hereditary. The state has over forty ethno-linguistic groups. Some of the indigenous tribe in the state are Berom, Afezere, Amo, Anaguta, Aten, Bogghom, Buji, Chip, Fier, Gashish, Goemai, Irigwe, Jarawa, Jukun, Kofyar (comprising Doemak, Kwalla and Mernyang), Montol, Mushere, Mupun, Mwaghavul, Ngas, Piapung, Pyem, Ron-Kulere, Talet, Taroh, Youm and a lot of others. The state is equally blessed with natural resources such as *Cassite*, *Baytes*, *Kaolin*, *Columbite*, *tin*, *gemstone*, *Galena*, *Quartz* and *feldspar* (Best, 2007). The history of mining in Plateau state is dated back to the pre-colonial period. It became more pronounced in the later part of 19 century when the British colonialist took interest in the mines activities. It was the presence of tin, columbite and other numerous mineral resources that attracted the British and lured them in extending rail line to the area to the coastal area where it could easily be mined and transported outside the country (Borgard, 2014).

The British who were mostly closer and familiar with the Hausa-Fulani ethnic group that were predominant in the Northern region used most of them as linkage and intermediaries between them and the native communities. It was in-tune with this development that the British placed the region under the province of the defunct Bauchi and also under the headship of the then emir of Bauchi (Nghuvgher, 2010). This development was rebuffed and rejected but the native who protested vehemently till the area was carved as a region of its own but the seed of the conflict was already sowed because the Hausa-Fulani have already created bases and were also established (Nghuvugher, 2010)

Apart from the seed of violence that was planted, the area of mines which covered seven local government areas which comprises of Jos North, Jos South, Jos east, Riyom, Bokokos, Barkin Ladi and Mangu Local Government area were devastated as a result of mining activities. Years of mining had left a lot of communities in the aforesaid local government area with deep gorges, lake, holes, and decline in soil fertility, poor crop yield, range land depletion, deforestation, degradation of top soil, depletion of fresh water and a lot of others (Cinjel, 2010). The implication of this degradation is that it disrupts socio-economic life of the immediate human population who depends on natural resources for sustenance. This has contributed to the challenges which ultimately led to food insecurity in the mines communities (Cinjel, 2010). It is a renowned fact that during the colonial and post colonial period, tin and columbite which were mined from Jos were among the major mediums of income generation in the country. Income generated its activities was used by the federal government in strengthening the economy before the exploration of oil in commercial quantity (Best, 2007).

It was the discovery of oil in commercial quantity that shifted the attention of the Nigerian government from the area. The mines are now forgotten sites and are now constitute serious problem to the inhabitants. Apart from the aforesaid ills associated with the act, it has incapacitated agricultural activities of the host communities and created ground for the growth of anomalies like incessant attacks and clashes between the native communities and settlers who had settled in the mines areas in the time past. The situation happened in the past and the harm had already been done. It took place at the time where the native were still primitive and uncivilized to agitate for substances like derivation, ecology and a lot of others as it is now be practiced in the *Niger-Delta*. Youth protesting and agitating groups were not sensitizes to the point that they would urges government to compensate the host communities or provides palliative measures to ameliorate the suffering of the host communities.

## 9. EXPLOITATION THEORY

Exploitation theory was adopted as the theoretical underpinning of the study. It was propounded by *Evgen von BohM-Bawerk* and *Rodbertus in 1987*. The theory stressed that exploitation is a migraine to development. It stressed further that the society that is exploited or had suffered from the hands of exploiters often have a retarded growth. The theory advocated that most societies that are lacking are either exploited or are still at their primordial stage of development. The theorist created a correlate between societies that were exploited from colonial tendencies and their state of retrogression.

Another variance of theory is that some elites conspire and sometime act as the propellant of exploitation in their host communities. They further stated that this type of elites betray their communities and uses such avenue as medium for their wealth. They are the internal collaborators who do not have the interest of the society at their heart. A subset of the variance and also led by Peterson (2000) asseverated that economic growth and development largely depend on the characteristic of the people. It stressed further that exploitation abound in society where the people have negative qualities such as lack of inventiveness, lack of dynamism, irrationality, low achievement, laziness and a lot of others.

A civilized society will not suffer the kind of exploitation which a primitive society can encounter. This is based on the fact that the society is well enlightened, there is awareness, there is sensitization and people react to any acts that affect them. Some of the theorists in the school of thought use fatalism to justify the cases of exploitation. The often substantiated their loci on the scriptural inscription which stated that “whoever has will be given more and they will have and abundance”. The theory has the following tenets:

- a. Exploitation can leads to under development
- b. Exploitation retard development

- c. Exploitation can be enhanced by an activities of elites
  - d. Internal collaborators stimulates exploitation tendencies
- The theory is applicable to the study in the following direction:
- a. **Government Neglect:** The Nigeria government had neglected the tin mining communities in Plateau State after the discovery of oil. Work of PIDAN (2010) and Plateau state conference (2012) shows that income generated from tin mines play vital role in setting the basis for oil exploration in the country. But despite all this, the tin mining area are neglected and abundance by the government leaving the inhabitants of such area to a lot of hazard and perils. The inhabitants suffer a lot of setback resulted from tin mining in the area. Some of this manifested in the form of holes, deep gorges, lake, decline in soil fertility, poor crop yield, range land depletion, devastation, degradation of top soil, depletion of the soil, food insecurities, poverty and clashes on few good land for agricultural production
  - b. **Conflicts:** The discovery of tin in Plateau state has significant linkages to the nowadays challenges of ethno-religion conflicts in Plateau State. The crisis of Plateau State (Jos) is the creation of British Colonialist who were fond of regrouping of groups for spatial interest and ease of administration .It was during the period that Plateau State was subsumed under Bauchi Province and the then emir imposed his king men in charge and at the helm of mines and by extension all labourers in the mines communities. This development was later construed as the headship of the mines communities and not only the mines and thus the bedrock upon which the conflicts in Plateaus was built.
  - c. **The Characteristics of the People:** The people of the affected communities where tins are mined have developed certain attributes such as neglect of agriculture and probably because of land scarcity, poor yield due depletion of the top soil from mine activities, laziness due reliance on income from mines related activities. The elites of the communities also contributed to the under-development of the area. The amount which is sent to the state by the federal government as ecological fund to help in indemnifying the affected communities is mostly diverted by the elites in the state. A case in point is the skirmish between former governor of the state-chief *Joshua Dariye* and the *EFCC* over the alleged diversion of the 360 million ecological funds which was sent by the Olusegun administration as compensation to mines affected communities. There are other factors such as lack of inventiveness and irrationality by the host community to agitate and convince government in order to be part of the beneficiary of the so-called derivations which is currently enjoyed by oil producing states.

## 10. MAJOR FINDINGS

- a. Plateau State is apparently one of the degraded environments in Africa and this is as a result of mine activities which have resulted to deforestation, loss of biodiversity, waters pollution, lakes, gorges, holes erosion and a lot of others. The impact of environmental degradation on the environment of the people in mines communities has been devastating. The incident in the state has affected the land, water and agricultural practices in the state.
- b. In the course of the study, it was found out that there is a linkage between environmental degradation and incidence of poverty in the area. A lot of lands were debased and this has been a migraine to agricultural production. The few existing ones are competed for and are under challenges of land fragmentation. This also amount to the increasing cases of land and land ownership disputes in the state and specifically communities where tin and other resources were mined.
- c. It was uncovered that there is a correlation between mine activities and the violence which the state is witnessing at presence. The mine activities have attracted a lot of people in the state such as the Hausa and Fulani extraction and a lot of others in the state. These ethnic groups had created basis and also are well established in the state most especially the Hausa- Fulani extraction. The definition of some of these groups most especially the Hausa- Fulani growth with the label of settlers identity often receive repulsion and has been one of casus belli of the conflicts in the state.
- d. The study also found out that colonialism also contributes to the basis of the physical challenges such as poverty and conflicts which the state is currently witnessing. The colonialist did not have the interest of the host and mines communities at heart. What was in their heart was to tap and exploit tin and transport them to their host country. They equally place the headship of the host communities under the rulership of the settlers groups and answered to the dictate and yearning of the then emir of the defunct Bauchi province than what ought to have been done. The changes they later did failed to have much impact because the seed of discords were already established. This for long has been a thorn in the flesh of peaceful co-existence in the state. The settlers communities often uses such as justification to substantiate their ownership of some communities in the state and thus the outbreak of violence and challenges of development. This assertion were validated by work of Chentu (2008), Plateau State Conference (2010) PIDAN (2010) and other empirical work conducted by Egwu (2001), Best (2007) and a lot of others.
- e. In the study it was also unraveled that Plateau state has suffered from societal menaces such as marginalization. This is in term of resources allocation and

resources control within the context of the Nigerian federation. The peculiarities of Nigerian federalism tend to encourage some sort of inequalities and imbalances in the process of power and fiscal relation in the Nigerian federation. The apparent peripheralization and alienation of the state vis-à-vis Nigeria's federalist relations is a crucial issue in the state. Work of *Chentu* (2008), *Cyprian Ekwensi* (Passport of Mallam Illiya) (1979), *PIDAN* (2006) and *Best* (2007) asseverated that tin mining was one of the back born of Nigerian economy during colonialism, post colonialist and before the exploration of oil in commercial quantity. Tin in the time past was used to finance capital project such as the installation of oil exploration, building of roads and rail lines.

Despite all this, the state has now become a forgotten area after it was exposed to a lot environmental degradation which the citizens are battling with till today. Before and even at presence, the state has not been compensated and not given certain consideration in tune with its contribution in the development of Nigerian economy and the present challenges engulfed the states mines affected communities.

- f. It was found out that tin mining in Jos and its environs had attracted a lot of people from states such as Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Jigawa, Kebi and a lot of others. Works of *Chentu* (2008) and *PIDAN* (2010) shows that colonialist were the one that subsumed the Plateau state areas under the Bauchi province and the headship of the then emir of Bauchi province who in turn appointed *Bunu* and *Barde* who comes as tin-mining labourers to head the activities of the Hausa labour in the mining camps but was later translated as the endorsement of a full-fledged traditional rulership. This development up to present has exposed the state to a lot of violence scenario.

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sets of recommendations were proffered:

- a. The capacity of the state and federal institution saddled with the responsibility of environmental protection and managements should be strengthened through legislative and financial intervention as well as sustained capacity building project to enhance their effectiveness in regulating the activities of corporation in the extractive industries.
- b. The vulnerable groups and communities that were shattered with mine activities should be empowered with the requisite capacity to understand, adapt and cope with any future disaster. To this end, the importance of environmental

education and monitoring groups as key interventions strategies for mitigation and managing environmental related problems cannot be emphasized.

- c. There is need for the development of a national sustainable environmental strategy (NSEDS) that would provide the framework for addressing holistically the mines environmental challenges facing the region. Such NSEDS must adopt an integrated approach to development in Nigeria which should emphasize acts such as biodiversity conservation, diversification of sources of energy, protection of the rights of the people, particularly of the vulnerable groups and ratification and domestication of international environmental degradation conventions.
- d. The Nigerian government should provide a mollifying tool in the form of compensation packages and degradation allowances to vulnerable communities whose environment has been devastated and debased from mine related activities in the state. This will help to curtail cases of poverty and challenges often encountered as a result of shortage of land and lands that were eroded from mine related activities.
- e. Individuals and groups should respect the customs and traditions of their host communities. In a similar vein, the host communities should accord recognition to the culture, customs and tradition of the settler communities. These Spirit of mutual co-existence should in a reciprocal manner be demonstrated in line with sections 41 and 42 of the 1999 constitution. This will help to reduces violent tendencies that are associated with Jos and its environs.

## F. CONCLUSION

Tin mining and mines related activities for long have contributed to challenges of environmental degradation in Plateau State. The activities which started during the colonial period and to the post-colonial period had led to the degradation of the environment in the mine communities. This degradation manifested in the form of lakes, gorges, holes, erosion, depletion of the top soil, deforestation, land scarcity and a lot of others have affected the communities and exposed them to hazardous condition.

This development does not stop at that but had led to other challenges such as poverty, food insecurities and challenges of land such as land dispute, land fragmentation, and a lot of others. The fertilize lands which for long were used for agricultural purpose were exposed to mining and subsequently its devastation.

It does not stop at that, but it has further opened ways for mediums such as violence. The host and indigenous communities are always in dispute with the Hausa-Fulani



group who were seen and denoted as immigrants and labourers in the mines communities. These conflicts of interest and categorization are the basis for the dispute that often rear up its ugly head in the state. The foundation of this woeful development was lay by the British colonialist who came to the area and unknowingly places the headship of the mine camp to the Hausa-Fulani group and its later translation to the entirety of the communities. This development had led to different violent confrontations. The first of such confrontation was in 1932 and the subsequences one which continued to rear up to this time. The separation of Plateau state from Bauchi province in 1926 and subsequent appointment of an indigenous person in person of Chief Rwang Pam to correct the scene has not yielded much impact because the seed of discord is deep in the fabric of the state

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