

**THE CHANGING PATTERN OF AFRICAN MIGRATION: BETWEEN  
POLITICALLY FORCED AND ECONOMICALLY INDUCED  
MOVEMENT ENGENDERED BY GLOBALIZATION**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Migration which is as old as world civilization has been a dynamic phenomenon in African history. Long before colonization, movement of people has been a permanent feature of development in Africa. However, colonization brought another dimension to the entire philosophy of migration, now involving international movement of people all over the place. That period witnessed the movement of Arabs, Indians and Europeans in large numbers to the continent. Typical destinations were northern Africa, East and Southern Africa. The independence and more precisely the advent of neocolonialism saw Africans in great numbers leaving the continent in what economists described as pull factor, a phenomenon induced by economic reasons of seeking greener pastures abroad. This was the feature until the African economies nosedived and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) of the World Bank became continental economic policies. The SAP having failed all over the continent, the new policy also championed by the western powers was anchored on political imperatives of democratization and human rights. This new policy better described by push factor has brought untold hardship to Africans in terms of war, poverty and joblessness causing forced migration all over the continent with the attendant consequences. While this persists, the economies have not been able to pick up and so with poverty all over the place, families were being forced through subtle strategies and campaign to migrate or emigrate to Europe or developed countries on working Visa and so Africa is at cross roads of forced migration by political reasons and forced migration engendered by economic rationale caused by poverty, joblessness and economic*

*downturns. Hence, the focus of this paper is this neglected area of research in particular, this type of forced economic migration or emigration propelled by the advanced countries or their agencies in dire need of qualified manpower and labour. And the inability of African governments and policy makers to appraise the consequences of this novel brand of migration or emigration of active and qualified labour force out of Africa under the guise of seeking greener pastures from the harsh economic conditions and joblessness in Africa should be a matter of concern for government and policy makers and be checked before Africa is once again depopulated for lack of foresight. The paper went further to insist on adequate policy formulation on population planning and migration by African governments and policy makers.*

**Key Words:** *Migration, population, emigration, policy maker, economic policies, labour force, globalization, Africa.*

### **Introduction**

Africa is typified by migration, a process which has distinguished the continent before civilization began making it a continent on the move. In actual fact, movement of people within the continent, from one country to the other has been a permanent characteristic of development and cultural exchange before colonization changed the entire philosophy and modality of movement. First, it introduced intercontinental and international dimension to the whole phenomena. It began by the penetration of the Arabs, Europeans and Indians to the continent. They settled in the north, east and southern parts of the continent. The Africans also migrated abroad essentially for knowledge such that the first generation of leaders mostly travelled abroad for higher education; such were the Nkrumah's, the Azikwe's, Awolowo's who came back as nationalist leaders. All through this period, migration has not posed any noticeable problem internationally except the forceful partition of African continent by the colonization whereby kith and kin were separated into different countries which continue to affect the geographical imbalance in intra / international border relations.

Then came independence and the realities of colonization, modernization, industrialization and the forceful integration of Africa into the world economy totally destroyed traditional forms of production and social relations and lead to reshaping of nations and states. (Castles: 2009). The intensity and unpreparedness of this changes brought underdevelopment, impoverishment, bad

governance, endemic conflicts and wars. These conditions lead both to economically motivated and politically forced migration (Castles: 2009; 34) with attendant consequences, while the African policy makers have not been able to adequately manage these migration flows in terms of statistical and empirical data between intra national movements and international emigrations because most studies or publications are based on projections.

In this dilemma, is centered the focus of this research, purportedly to create awareness on the level and volume of “economically” forced migration of highly skilled professionals moving out of Africa on masse through subtle but powerful information mechanism, diplomatically pursued by the developed nations. The unsuspecting strategy is diversity population mix whereby countries whose nationals are not well represented in their economies are attracted through diversity visa to fill shortfalls in occupational employment. The target of this policy is the developing countries while the focal countries are from Africa. As a result, thousands of Africans, the more intelligent, the highly qualified professional are attracted by this campaign through visa lottery and working Visas to depopulate Africa of the educated ones who are the future and the present brains to develop the continent. Hence, the changing pattern of emigration of brain drain from Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century engendered by globalization is going to cause serious doom to Africa than beneficial. To marshal this position, the paper is divided into four parts. Following this introduction is the statement of problems entitled: upsurge of skilled emigration from Africa: the root cause of brain drain: part two will focus on conceptual and theoretical formulation. Part three: the disruptive effect of forced economic migration on economic growth and development. Part four will strive to examine strategies to reverse the trend or a pladoyer for technological and knowledge transfer to Africa even via diaspora.

### **Statement of Problems: the Upsurge of Skilled Emigration from Africa**

Never in the history of Africa has the continent been faced with a double tragedy, on the one hand, it is the continent with the greatest population of poverty stricken people on the other, it is a continent with the greatest number of underdeveloped countries, with the attendant socio-economic depravity, coupled with internecine conflicts and wars. Despite these, it remained the foremost continent on the move, a people with passion for migration.

Thus, migration has been an age long preoccupation of Africans but majorly intracontinental with people crossing borders into neighbouring countries or circulating within the continent. This has been the case even today (Bakewell and de Haas; 2007; Castles 2009). But since independence and era of globalization, migration pattern has little been altered. In which case, movements have shifted beyond neighbouring countries to farther countries through still intra-continental but also across the Mediterranean to Europe, Asia and America. Despite this noticeable international migration, but as remarked by Bakewell and de Haas (2007), taking into consideration West Africa, the region of sub-Saharan Africa with the highest rate of migration to industrialised countries, regional (internal) migration is at least seven times higher than movement to the rest of the world. This observation notwithstanding, migration in itself is a biblically good enterprise. Infact, the process of movement from one place or culture to another is viewed as a purveyor of innovation, technological development and progress in such a way that international migration has continuously forged and reformed societies, peoples and states since the beginning of man's civilization (Gugler: 1969, Adeolaetal, 2010; Castles etal, 2009).

While the impact of migration is incontestable, since the 1980's and the increased role of global capital coupled with the structural Adjustment Programme have not improved average incomes nor brought the expected stimulus to industry and trade, on the contrary, it has led to decline of income to many and overall reduced middle class employment in sectors such as Health, education, administration and industry (Akokpari 2000, Adepoju, 2006). These factors have impacted harshly on households and even governments which have seen incapacitated to respond with adequate palliative policies, the result being the motivation to migrate even beyond the shores of Africa. This is a great dilemma putting the continent at a crossroads of forced migration or emigration whichever way it is perceived.

The crux of the matter is the pathetic case in which the highly qualified and the middle level work force are those involved in the current migration trends and gradually but incisively African continent is being depleted of the best human materials that should transform the continent from developing to developed. The current globalization induced migration is onlybut shifting goal post of Africa's possibility of meeting up with the developed countries.

The most criminal aspect of the migratory process is in the area where it is the developed countries that have designed strategies or throwing carrots to lure the unsuspecting Africans to migrate while the African policy makers are watching painfully unconcerned. As a result, and in the absence of vision, the industrialized world are all over Africa introducing various diversity visas and working visas to the highly educated and literate African citizens to emigrate with all the consequences of depleting the educated and professional workforce as well as pragmatic depopulation of the continent. In this scenario, the issues being raised by this changing pattern of African migration, induced by world market forces & globalization is: are there theoretical justifications to stagnate Africa?

### **Conceptual and Theoretical Framework**

Migration, a phenomenon that has been with humanity since civilization remains both an intra and international revolution that is shaping and reshaping nations, societies and political conurbation around the world (Adeola, 2011; Castles et al, 2009). A process which man has reacted to with natural instinct of movement or wandering from one place to the other for economic survival as the primary motive, though it has also resulted in fleeing for war, famine, natural disaster, and settlements. Migration is a permanent flux that is embedded in the nature of man, but can be influenced by political, economic, social and even geographical factors. In this age, forced migration has taken various forms. And since the subject matter of this paper is the changing pattern of African migration, the key word which is “forced” or rather forced migration, will be clarified. How do we conceive forced migration in this paper? Although some non-governmental organizations and scholars have defined forced migration as the movement of refugees, asylees and internally displaced people (FMO, IASM, Castles, 2003) while we may not have quarrel with this definition, but in this paper we see forced migration as movements whereby people are constrained to migrate through economic factor induced by wage labour, including all migrations inspired by diversity visa lottery or work visa. This paper also conceived of all African oversea migration or emigration under any guise, be it economic, political or social but end up as permanent settlement outside Africa. Popularly referred to as diaspora and the current type of migration of skilled professionals and educated people out of Africa to countries or regions such as Europe, United States of America, Canada, Australia, even Asia, motivated by forced economic emigration out of Africa can only result to negative consequence for Africa.

Much as migration can be a necessary mechanism for development, in fact, international migration has been one of the most dynamic forces in the development of contemporary states and societies, including many of those with a record of economic success (Ezzarqui, 2006; Global Commission on International Migration, 2005), it can also portend adverse effect on the socio-economic progress of societies as is currently the case with Africa. As a result, the conditions that have warranted the exodus of skilled manpower out of Africa should be sought, while adequate policies are put in place to redress the situation.

In the current African dilemma or situational crossroads of losing her most qualified personnel to foreign cultures and societies, are there theoretical justifications?

Fundamentally, migration has been part of African culture. Most scholars have described Africa as the continent with the world most mobile population while West Africa as the most mobile region of the continent (Curtin, 1997, Zlotnik, 2004). What today we refer to as international migration within the continent was nothing but intra African movement. It was colonial penetration and politics of subjugation that shaped and divided African nations and imposed arbitrary borders such that kith and kin were scattered into different states making the same ethnic group to belong to two or more states at the same time (Castles; 2009). Despite this imposed colonial administrative practice, migration in Africa has been predominantly internal and intra continental. Thus, preceding colonialism, migration has been spurred by economic motives for work or better economic conditions within the continent. Other factors did play a role but in West Africa sub-region, theoretically economic reason remain primordial, (Adeola et al 2011). Although in the post-colonial Africa in regions such as the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia), East Africa, the great lakes regions and central Africa especially Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi driven by forced migration resulting from long, protracted and recurring wars (Mafukdze, 2006).

Overall, the neo-classical theorists link migration to movement from low to high income area that is, individuals move to country of residence that maximizes their well-being. In other words, the mere existence of economic differentials or disparities between various areas should be sufficient to propel migration. These approaches are known as push-pull theories. (Borjas, 1989; Castles et al; 2009). The “push factors” include lack of economic opportunities and political

freedom among others and “pull factors” demand for labour, good economic opportunities and political freedom.

The latter form of movement has been typical in African migration tending towards economically buoyant and prosperous region from weak economic areas. Movements have tended towards growth poles such as Libya in the North, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria in the West, Gabon in central Africa, South Africa and Botswana in the Southern part of the continent. But the largest contemporary movements are from the Northern inland to the Southern coastal regions in the fast-growing cities like Lagos, Dakar and Accra. In essence, movements within Africa could be mutually advantageous for both sending and receiving countries within the neo-classical paradigm.

However when other theoretical parameters are introduced such as segmented labour market theory in which international migration is caused by structural demand within advanced economies for both highly skilled workers and lower skilled manual workers (Fiore, 1979) with a division into primary and secondary labour markets; the workers in the primary labour market are carefully selected on the basis of human capital while those in the secondary labour market are disadvantaged for lack of education (Sassen, 1991, Castles 2009). Segmented labour market theory helps to understand the critical role of employers and governments with particular reference to developed economies in international migration and the persistence of migration even when international wage differentials decline (Massez et al, 1998: 28 – 34; Castles, 2009).

This explains the current international migrating trend between Africa and the rest of the world in which Africa is deprived of its most human capital thus depleting the necessary workforce for development. According to available statistics by organization for migration (IOM), Africa has already lost one third of its human capital and continued to lose its skilled personnel at an alarming rate. Yet, the politics of subtle but forced migration mounted by industrialized countries to lure qualified professionals and graduates to fill their aging workforce continued unabated. The strategies of attracting Africans are continually modernized directly through various diversity visa lottery and work programmes under the guise of diversifying the nationalities of their population as propounded by USA. Other developed countries are not left out in sourcing qualified labour from Africa which is draining the continent of its brains.

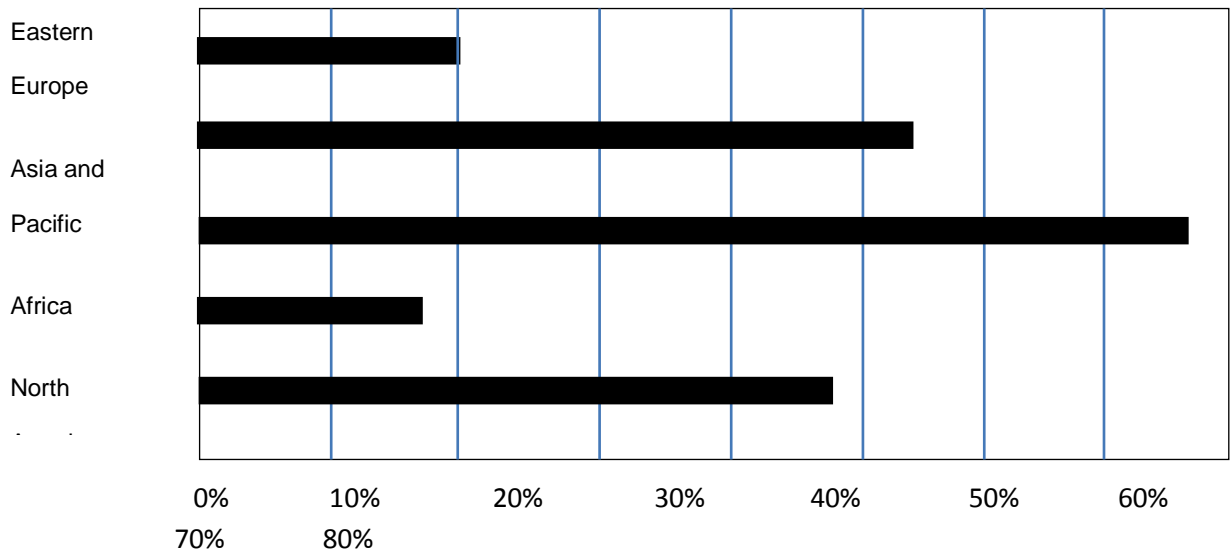
This segmented labour market theory given fillip by governments of industrialised nations explains the strategy to depopulate Africa of its qualified manpower, can be complemented by historical structural theory (Castles 2009). From the perspective of historical structural approach, rooted in the imperialistic unequal distribution of economic and political power in the world capitalist economic system, migration was perceived as a way of mobilizing cheap labour, attracting the qualified manpower and brain from the developing countries. A process of exploitation that begun during colonization and persisted till now, making the poor countries poorer and the richer, richer (Castles et al, 2009; Cohen, 1987; Sassen, 1988) of course, this theory can be understood better when it is laid side by side with the Marxist political economy approach in particular, the dependency theory or more appropriately, the world systems theory which focused on the ways the less developed - the peripheral economies were forcefully incorporated into the capitalist world economy, controlled by the foremost capitalist advanced countries of Europe and America. The mode of production relation, governance, taste etc. of the developing countries are modeled after the dictate of the capitalist hegemony through the interpolation of the multinational corporations or directly through the influence of information technology. Consequently, this forced nature had resulted in dislocation of the economies of developing nations, evidenced by bad governance, corrupt leadership, soaring unemployment, conflicts, violence and wars etc. As remarked by Adejumo (2003) that the content and character of globalization promote social fragmentation, disintegration, disaggregation and disarticulation; split groups and identities into warring factions; undermines the state by emptying it of its social content and relevance, and sacrifices the human soul for the fundamentalism of the market. These imminent tendencies erode the social basis of existence and warrant the struggle for survival at all costs, including the search for greener pastures outside the shores of one's country (Shambhavi and Olorunjobi, 2012). In these societal disorder citizens, educated or not, highly qualified or not are cutups in the search for better alternative destinations to actualize their destiny. They are thus easily lured by developed nation's propaganda of overseas employment. Unsuspectingly educated and highly qualified Africans are uprooted by force in million to fill the gap in the workforce of advanced economies thereby disrupting the economic growth of African countries, deepening the gap of development between Africa and the rest of the world in particular the capitalist advanced economies. But how do we explain this disruptive effect?



**THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF FORCED MIGRATION ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES**

The emigration of highly qualified professionals and middle level workforce out of the continent of Africa in accelerated volume in recent times has continued to be a serious threat to the stability and development of the economies of the constituent nations. Concerned Africans are worried of the consequences of this mass exodus of brains out of the continent and are beginning to ask questions whether the governments or those charged with policy formulations are up to the task of taking steps to reverse the trend, whether Africa can ever catch up with the industrialized nations technological speaking. Until concrete actions are effected, the reality is challenging; for example, a study (see Lowell; 2001: 1) has provided a statistical analysis of skilled international migration from developing to developed countries for the year 1990. The analysis (fig. 1) shows clearly that emigration of highly educated persons from Africa to developed countries was far greater to other regions or continents of the world. The study also shows that European countries including the United Kingdom and North America are the greatest recipients of skilled migrants from other parts of the world. It particularly noted the upsurge in skilled emigration in the recent years from Africa in the direction of developed countries. There is therefore every reason for Africa to be agitated.

**FIGURE 1: TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL SELECTIVITY OF EMIGRANT STOCK BY SOURCE REGION 1990**



Considering statistics published by Global Commission on International Migration for the year 2005; of the total number of migrants put at 191 million globally, developing countries account for 75million migrants (Ezzarqui, 2006). Africa records a 16.3million migrant which is 2% of Africa's population. On a causal perusal, one is tempted to think that the number of Africa's international migrants is manageable, but when considers the quality of the migrants (the educated ones) in relation to the overall population, the figure is outrageous.

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**Table 1.** Emigration of Skilled Africans to Industrialized Countries (*Based on IOM and ECA Estimates*)

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Average Annual Rate</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
1960-1974	1800	27000
1975-1984	4000	40000
1985-1989	12000	60000
Since 1990	20000	-

**Source: Brain Drain in Nigeria: Facts and Figures.**

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) revealed that Africa had already lost one third of its human capital. Statistically, about 20,000 medical doctors, University lecturers, engineers and other professionals have left the continent annually since 1990. Also noteworthy are the over 300,000 highly qualified Africans in Diaspora, of which about 30,000 have Ph. Ds (IOM; 2007).

Within the same period in Nigeria between 1986 and 1990 based on Presidential Committee set up by Babangida's administration an estimated 30,000 highly skilled and professionals migrate out of the country. In the tertiary institutions, over 10,000 lecturers went abroad (Gopalkrishna and Oloruntoba, 2006). The sordid reality of emigration of professionals and highly skilled workforce from Nigeria enroute to developed countries of Europe and America is a replica of forced economic migration all over the continent. Though profound in West Africa which according to earlier report (Global Commission on International Migration) accounts for 42% of the continent's international migrants and East Africa 28%, yet, in other regions where we have less (12% in North Africa and 9% in Middle & South Africa), it has been recorded that South Africa loses on average 13% of yearly turn over in professional employment, a situation which persistently has dampened economic growth (Lowell; 2001). Ethiopia, a country in the horn of Africa lost approximately 74.6% of its professional and highly qualified person between 1980 and 1991 while for a period of 15 years or more corresponding to the time of war with Eritrea, half of those who went abroad for higher studies did not return(IOM, 2007). The situation is lamentable when it is considered the amount of resources that the African countries are devoted to the education of their human capital only for them to leave the countries for greener pastures without benefitting their home countries by extension Africa. (Gopalkrishna et al, 2006). Some scholars have tried to quantify roughly in monetary terms the amount involved in education of a graduate ,Okeke (2008) quoted by (Gopalkrishna et al, 2006) highlighted that it costs about USD40,000.00 to train a medical doctor, and USD10,000 – USD15,000 to educate a university student. Before settling down to be useful to the continent, they are lured to forced economic migration, ending all the expectations of Africa on them. They are thereafter seen contributing and helping to further the building of foreign economies that have attained exceeding great heights but abandon their native economy to stagnation, unwarranted struggling and undeveloped.

**Table 2.** Occupations of Employed Workers in the Civilian Labor Force Age 16 and Older by Gender and Origin, 2009.

	African born		Foreign born (total)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of persons age 16 and older employed in the civilian labor force	547123	369167	13,143,161	9,377,865
Total (percent)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Management	12.5%	9.0%	10.7%	10.5%
Information technology	4.4%	1.2%	4.2%	1.9%
Other sciences and engineering	5.1%	1.5%	4.0%	2.2%
Social services and legal	2.9%	4.0%	1.1%	2.0%
Education, training and media,	5.3%	8.2%	3.5%	7.3%
Physicians	2.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.0%
Registered nurses	1.4%	8.2%	0.4%	3.6%
Other health care practitioners	3.5%	5.9%	1.1%	3.2%
Healthcare support	3.3%	13.9%	0.7%	5.6%
Services	15.1%	18.7%	18.5%	26.5%
Sales	10.7%	9.0%	7.8%	10.3%
Administrative support	7.4%	13.1%	5.3%	14.2%
Farming, fishing, forestry	-	-	2.7%	1.0%
Construction, extraction, transportation	15.9%	1.8%	24.5%	3.0%
Manufacturing, installation, repair	9.7%	4.1%	14.2%	7.8%

**Source: US Census Bureau. 2009 American Community Survey.**

Table 2: looking at Africans in various categories of occupation, the number is very high. It demonstrates that Africans are an important part of the labour force in America

The brain drain thus continued with calculated intensity disrupting the already fragile African economy. The consequence is that African have economies increasingly become devastated. As reasoned by Castles & et al (2009; 5) *migration is bound to persist due to the growing inequalities in wealth between the north and south, a situation which is likely to compel more people to migrate in search of better opportunities and living conditions elsewhere*. As a result, and except governments do something that will affect the people concretely, Africa may have to contend with massive emigration of her educated and qualified professionals. This phenomenon can be compared to Biblical parable which says; from him that had little shall be taken and added to him that had much. It is no gainsaying, the difference or rather the gap of technological

advancement between Africa and the advanced industrialized nations. Hence, the issue of international migration taken professionals out of Africa should be confronted with mutually agreed policies between Africa and receiving countries of the world, especially with the intensity of competition for skilled labour both highly qualified and middle level workers worldwide. In the mean time, we shall examine strategies that had been put in place to stem the tide of massive emigration of educated citizens out of Africa.

**Table 3: Black Immigrants by Region of Origin, United States, 1980 - 2009**

	<b>1980 (thousand)</b>	<b>1990 (thousands)</b>	<b>% Change 1980 to 1990</b>	<b>2000 (thousands)</b>	<b>% Change 1990 to 2000</b>	<b>2008 – 09 (thousand)</b>	<b>% Change 2000 to 2008 – 09</b>
All Immigrants	14,079	19,682	40	31,133	58	38,234	23
All Black Immigrants	816	1,447	77	2,435	68	,3,267	34
Black African Immigrants	64	184	188	574	212	1,081	88
Black Caribbean Immigrants	453	897	98	1,428	59	1,701	19
Black Immigrants from Other Regions	299	366	22	433	18	485	12

**Source: MPI analysis of data from the 1980, 1990, and 2000 US Census of Population and Housing (census); 2008-09 American Community Surveys (ACS), pooled.**

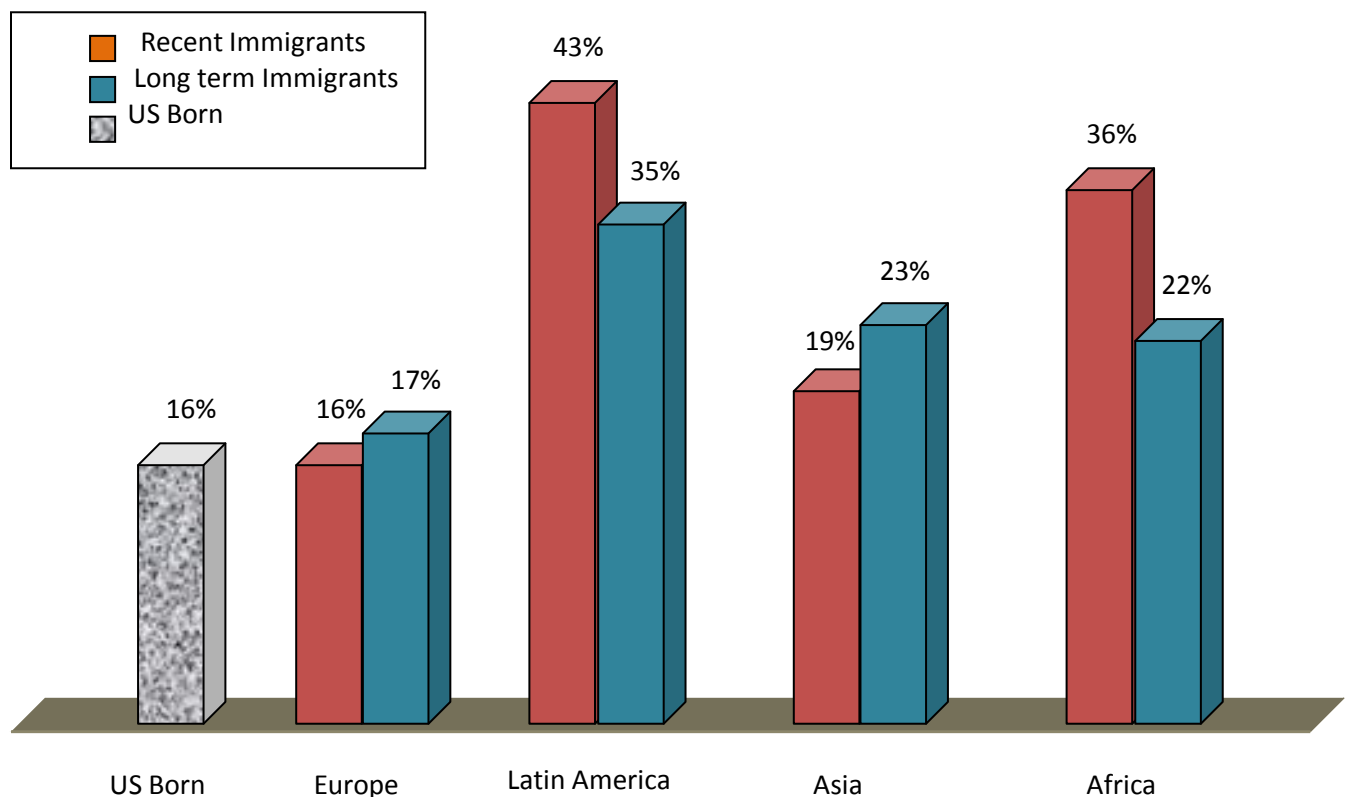
Perusing Table 3, it is clear from the figures that the total numbers of those from Africa is the highest. And when we consider the total numbers of black to other immigrants to the US, blacks generally top the chart.

### **Strategies to Revert Massive Emigration of Qualified Manpower out of Africa**

The current trend of uncontrolled massive migration of professionals out of Africa may be attributed to the death of adequate policies to protect the interests of African nations in their quest for development and better standard of living. In this age of globalization, where the world political and economic relations have become more competitive, engineering economic liberalization, internationalization of capital, convergence of information and communication

technologies, increasing interconnectedness of regions, nations and institutions worldwide, thereby fostering integration of economies and societies of which the result is borderless world (Adeola, pg. 1 Awaiting publication) so must be added the integration of global labour market. In this scenario, any policy or policies no matter how laudable that will not involve or be jointly acceded to by both parties; that is the sending and the receiving countries, may have limited impacts. It is inrecognition of this profound issue that we shall appraise reasoned suggestions to reverse the trend of depleting Africa of her educated workforce. The urgency has even taken the form of *pladoyer* for technological and knowledge transfer to Africa through her nationals in diaspora.

Figure 3 – Shares of High-Skilled US Immigrants Working in Unskilled Jobs, 2009.



*Note.* \* “Unskilled occupations” require no more than modest on-the-job training (for example, construction laborers, drivers, and maids). “High-skilled immigrants” here include only those who earned their college degrees abroad; US-trained immigrants are excluded. “Europe” includes Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. “Recent” immigrants have been in the United States for ten years or less, while “long-term” immigrants have been in the country for at least ten years. **Source: MPI analysis of 2009 ACS.**

Figure 2: shows the most pathetic picture of immigration as a larger part of the brains from Africa are wasted in unskilled jobs

South Africa that could be regarded and of course the most developed country in the Sub-Saharan Africa, is paradoxically the most terribly affected by emigration of skilled professionals. Fundamentally, because of her enviable position in the southern part of the continent being surrounded by far less developed neighbours that look up to her for skilled professionals while on the contrary there are no reciprocal migrations of skilled workers to South Africa. While this type of migration is still beneficial to Africa since by our estimation, it is regarded as internal migration. The other type of migration outside Africa involving a large number of South Africans in the direction of United Kingdom needs governmental intervention to stem the tide. As documented by Lowell & Findlay (2001). There are about 800,000 South Africans in possession of British Passport which is due to historical reason. Coupled with this, is the link between former British colonies United Kingdom has always been most preferred destinations for professional emigrations as London is the haven of international finance investment and trade links of South Africa.

Other countries in the continent that are experiencing serious skilled emigration are Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, among others and for these countries which also apply to the entire continent, foremost is to design a concerted grand policies of retention. Henceforth sectorial skilled manpower demand should be made available at the labour and employment bureaus for employers consumption such that where there are shortages of skilled manpower, embargo would be totally placed in such occupations for foreign employer or recruitment for overseas appointments. Closely related to this policy is to encourage skilled migrants from Africa to return home from developed countries. In this perspective, the strategy would be to design policies that would make migrants willing to return home. The other strategy is that from now and where nationals could be employed for overseas jobs, it must be on contracts for few months and must not be more than a year and return home to contribute his/ her experience, while other candidates can then be given opportunity. This policy must be within a grand strategy of temporary placement abroad. What this policy is saying is that government must be more interested in the movements of skilled citizens outside Africa and ensure that they are sojourning for a short stay. Since the bottom line is development and catching up with the advanced



industrialized nations, the impact of Diaspora cannot be down played. Gone are the days when the importance of Diaspora was not fully appreciated. The deepened technological impact of globalization especially in financial transfers has suddenly brought to the front burner the contributions of Diaspora to economic virility of Africa.

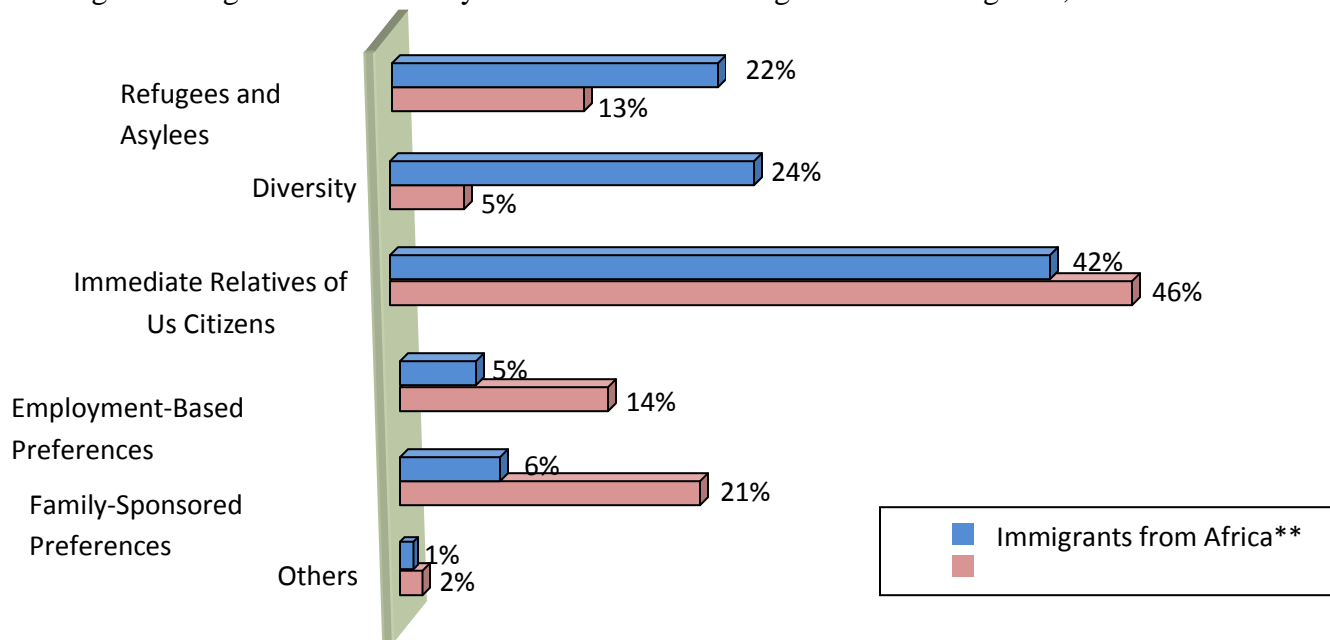
In situations where official remittances flows to developing countries have doubled the amount of development assistance received by developing economies, then of course, the issue of Diaspora cannot be undermined. Available statistics according to Taiwo (2007: 18) showed that emerging economies received about \$251 billion officially in remittances in 2007; while informal remittances were estimated at \$86 billion, totaling \$337billion for developing countries worldwide. Within the same period Nigeria recorded \$15billion in 2007 (Taiwo; 2007: 18).

While the remittances are critical to national investment, the Diaspora can be more impactful when they physically return which according to Lowell and Findlay (2001: 5) can *resupply the highly educated population in the source country and to the degree that returned migrants are more productive*. The factual return of migrants can be more productive when it is backed by transfer of technology. In other words, there is need for a push factor policy in the direction of Diaspora and all types of migrants to return to Africa. All said and done, in the current global economic competition, and beyond the amount of remittances, African countries are grossly at disadvantage because economically speaking development is not just the money, but the human capital. It is the human intellectual input that will transform the economy. The negative or disruptive effect of forced economic migration or emigration of human capital out of Africa is far greater than financial contribution or the entire foreign assistance combined. Therefore, to arrest the upsurge and intensification of highly skilled emigration of human capital out of the shores of Africa, the time has come to go beyond palliative measures and take concrete actions to be effected continentally.

**Concluding Remarks**

Africa has been described as the most mobile continent globally, an acronym that would have been exceedingly beneficial as migration is a unique and historically purveyor of development. Unfortunately, in a highly competitive world where she is struggling to meet up with the other continents far advanced and prosperous, is mitigating migration especially of her skilled manpower is a necessary strategy to arrest unrelenting brain drain if she must catch up with the rest of the world. This position as we can see from the foregoing analysis, needs a dogged determination of realization because of the impact of globalization on the world political economy. The concept of globalization is rooted in liberal policies with particular reference to borderless trade and market integration including internationalization of labour market. Of course, in the emerging globalization practically, exchange of skilled professional would have been a healthy and necessary development among nations when there is a sort of equality or balancing in the development stage but in the present scenario where Africa is the poorest continent in comparison to the rest of the world, this economic disparity will continue to engineer migration of the skilled from the continent to other advanced economies, in particular Western Europe and America. From American Immigration Policy Brief (Elissa, 2005: 1) showed that contemporary African immigrants to the US are largely professionals with relatively high level of educational attainment. They number 50,000 annually that enter US mostly through Diversity Visa. Interestingly, Africans possess the highest average level of education of any immigrant group: 49 percent of African immigrants hold a bachelor's degree, 19 per cent have master's degree and over 30,000 have Ph.Ds before entry into USA (Castles et al, 2009, 156).

Figure 3. Legal Admissions\* by Class for All US Immigrants and Immigrants, FY 2010



*Note.* \* Legal admissions include both immigrants obtaining permanent residency upon arrival in the United States as well as those who apply for and receive LPR status after substantial periods of residency in the country without such status \*\* Includes African immigrants of all races; the legal admissions data disaggregate admissions by country of origin and not by race. *Source.* US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), "Table 10: Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status by Broad Class of Admission and Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Year 2010," in *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (Washington, DC: DHS, 2010, revised March 30, 2011), [www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/LPR10.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/LPR10.shtm).

Figure 3 shows the influx of African to the US through family connections, diversity visas and refugees which should be a challenge to our governments in providing the dividends of democracy

The effect of this is that Africa is undergoing serious shortages of qualified manpower in critical areas. Among them is the health sector. The minimum standard for basic health care stipulated by the World Health Organization is one doctor for every 5,000 people. According to UNDP (2006), 38 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa fall far below this standard and 13 have one or fewer

doctors for every 20,000 people. Niger Republic, the nation with the lowest Human Development Index in 2006, had only three doctors for every 100,000 people, a condition which has placed the continent in a terribly complicated health problem resulting in a dual brain drain of emigration and death. While most of the challenges can be seen from forced economically induced migration, there is the self-inflicted politically forced migration necessitated by impoverishment, famine, poor governance, endemic conflicts, wars, human rights abuse and consequences of failed states. This is the most pervasive and devastating to political stability, good governance, peace, security and development.

The stark reality which no nation can run away from is the continuous interconnectedness of world economies and migration is a key component of contemporary world development and innovation. Continents such as Africa lagging behind technologically speaking will have to result to what she has to get what she wants. And this is the involvement of her own people in Diaspora in leveraging the shortfall in brain drain through brain exchange, brain circulation, technology and knowledge transfer – all these within a concerted policy of population planning and migration of qualified African outside the continent. African governments and policy makers can no longer play down on the dangers inherent in massive exodus of trained manpower out of Africa. Now is the time to stem the tide.

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