

History and Historiography of Origin and Development of Maiduguri Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study discussed the history of Maiduguri as pertain to its growth, economic, educational development and its administrative structure. Materials for the work were mainly retrieved from the library where extant work attributed to some to some scholarly sources were used. The internet was also a useful source as some scholarly papers placed there helped a great deal. In essence, this library research that relied heavily on previous research on the subject of study. Maiduguri, a city in Northeastern Nigeria is relatively a new city of about 100 years of History. The city owed its existence to the quest of the British colonialists for a suitable administrative Headquarters to what became colonial Borno after British conquest. The city became a fast-developing city especially after independence, first, as a provincial capital supervised by the regional government in Kaduna; and as a state capital since 1967. The city's commercial prowess is not in doubt as it is one of the most endowed commercial cities in Nigeria. The city's infrastructure, business, and educational sectors have all seen tremendous growth and development. Its severe and peaceful ambience earned it the epithet 'Home of Peace'. Alas, that tag was tampered with by religious crisis in 2006 when there was a riot against the Danish Newspaper Cartoons that depicted the Prophet of Islam in bad light. But more menacing in the Boko Haram insurgency that has its epicentre from the city and now a National and International problem.

Keyword: British conquest, commercial activities, educational growth, economic development, Maiduguri

INTRODUCTION

All cities developed through the convergence of people who endeavor to reap the benefits enabled by nature upon man. For instance, “

Cities grow whenever a society or a group within it gains control over resources greater than are necessary for the mere sustenance of life” [1].

These resources were obtained in the past through the enslavement of people by other people; for example, taxes levied by the ruling class, or a conquering class provided the means for the development of city life. But in modern times, man has expanded his dominance and triumphed over nature.

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Due to extensive technological advancements and the exploitation of natural resources, a small number of individuals can now meet the fundamental necessities of a large number of people. The fundamental cause of the current rise in cities and city populations is the extension of humankind's dominance over nature, particularly in the western world. For the sake of working for higher wages, and man's quest for greener pastures, people from rural areas stream into cities.

Consequently, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Chicago, and Jamshedpur, an Indian steel hub, rose to prominence as major global industrial centers. The above observations are not in variance with factors associated to the growth of cities in other parts of the world. Therefore, this essay tries to contextualize the growth, economic development and administrative set up of the Northeastern city of *Maiduguri* by analyzing the factors that combined to make it a Metropolis with a spectacular growth over the years [2].

Maiduguri, known by its locals as *Yerwa* is predominantly a *Kanuri* city. The town has its traditional rulership vested with the *Shehu* (King) and its powers are traced to the *Mais* and now *Shehus* of the former *Kanem-Bornu* Empire that have played a part in the politics of the area for nearly 1000 years. In various parts of Africa, Kanem-Bornu is frequently used as an example of how traditional political structures can survive

Maiduguri is located in Northeast Nigerian and is estimated to have a population of 1,907,600 people as at 2007, Maiduguri is in latitude 11, 8450 (1150°42.000" N) and longitude 13,1600 (139°36.000" E); and has an altitude of 300m.

Its climate is classified as hot, semi-arid and the highest recorded temperature was 47^oc (117^of) on 26 December 1979.

The city is situated next to the Ngadda River, which runs seasonal through the firki wetlands near Lake Chad. The Köppen-Geiger climate classification system refers to Maiduguri's typical climate as a local steppe climate. During the year there is little Rainfall. The *kloppen-geider* climate classification is BSH. (en climate data. Org > Africa > Nigeria > Maiduguri). The driest month is January; most precipitation falls in august with an average of 215m.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A balance between the vast majority of people who lived in rural areas and small populations in towns where the main forms of economic activity were market trade and small-scale manufacturing was observed by historians from the earliest cities to emerge in Mesopotamia and Egypt until the 18th century. The ratio of rural to urban population stayed at a stable equilibrium during this time due to the rudimentary and mostly stationary condition of agriculture; yet, a notable increase in the percentage of the global urban population can still be traced to the first millennium [3]. This relationship was finally broken with the advent of the agricultural and industrial revolutions in the late 18th century, and over the course of the 19th century, there was an unprecedented increase in the number of people living in cities. This increase was caused by both continental migration from rural areas and by the enormous demographic expansion that was occurring at the time.

The trends in city growth may not have entirely followed similar patterns throughout the world, but what is not disputed is the fact that cities owe their growth in large part to the movement of people from the countryside in to urban centers.

Lots of factors, such as growth of commerce, strategic location and the availability of infrastructure as well being an administrative center have combined to spur the growth of Maiduguri into an enviable city.

Apart from accommodating the administrative structures of a state by being a state capital, *Maiduguri* also is a center of commerce with a booming trade with three boarder countries of *Niger*, *Chad* and *Cameroon*.

In view of the foregoing importance of the city, the statement of the problem in this essay is to unearth how the city became an administrative capital of the traditional Borno emirate, a state capital, a center of commerce and as well a centre of education.

HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF MAIDUGURI

Maiduguri is a city having just clocked a century of its establishment in 2007. Modern Maiduguri is more or less a creation of the British who flagged off their administrative base of colonial Borno in the city in 1907. The British were said to have been attracted by the city's serenity, natural attractiveness and its secretarial simplicity. The city was formed by the union of three settlements: Herwa (Yerwa), the sanctuary of the Shehu and his companions; Maifoni, the location of the former Government Reserve Area (GRA) and the ancient Kanuri village, founded by Maidugu, an immigrant fighter from Birnin Ngazargamu. *Herwa* or *Yerwa* was founded on the site of *kalwa* and named by the *shehu* traditional ruler of Borno at the time as the new traditional capital of the kanuri people (replacing *Kukawa* – 130 kilometer) towards the northeast, that served as the former capital of Borno empire.

At about the same time that Yerwa or Herwa formed, the British decided to use the settlement of Maiduguri to the south as their military headquarters instead of the nearby maifoni. In 1908, the British built a home in what would become the capital of British Borno. The combined city of Yerwa was divided into the urban Yerwa district and the rural Maiduguri district in 1957. But outside Borno both political units are known as *Maiduguri*. Long before the arrival of the British or that of the relocation of the *Shehu* to Maiduguri, the area was economically viable as the early settlers were engaged in farming, cattle trading, weaving, dyeing of clothes and hunting along with other numerous profitable activities of much more importance, there was a good water source for both human and animal needs. Before Yerwa was established, the Borno cities of Kukawa, Monguno Magumeri, and the region that is now Maiduguri were visited by the British resident high commissioner, Lord F.J. Lugard (1858–1945), who subsequently became the governor general of Nigeria. During the visit Lord Luggard decided to locate the head quarter for the Borno colonial government in *Maifoni* (present Old GRA) Maiduguri.

All the events surrounding the establishment of Maiduguri happened during the reign of *Shehu Bukar Garbai Ibn Ibrahim el-kanemi*, the first Shehu of Borno since the British arrived. *Shehu Bukar* ruled from 1900-1922. *Shehu Bukar's* reign was credited much in matters connected with the rise of modern Borno and especially the dual role of Maiduguri as both capital of the kingdom and that of the British colonial administration [4].

Shehu Bukar was responsible for consenting to the decision by the British to relocate the kingdom's capital to Maiduguri [5]. He was also behind the efforts of having a befitting palace right in the centre of the city with a vast and wide enclosure known as the Dandal which up to now accommodates major events like the durbar and other festivals. The palace was built in Kanuri style which is traditionally bounded by the courtiers' residences. These include *Waziriri*, *Yerimari*, *Talbari*, *Limanti*, *Shettimari*, *Galtimari*, *Kaigamari*, *Abbari*, *Moranti*, and *Karari* with *Shehuri* (Shehu's Palace at the center, from where the *Shehu* gives out his daily orders and instructions). Thus in accord with the above arrangement, Maiduguri has had various compartmentalized communities which are known by their expertise or trade. Hence, places called *kumozomari* (calabash decorators), *mundulmari* (tanners) *arinmari* (dyers) and *Ka'almari* (black Smiths).

It was under *Shehu Garbai* along with the collaboration of the then British colonial officer Mr. H.R Palmer that Maiduguri had its first provincial school in 1915. The school attracted pupils from *Kukawa*, *Monguno*, *Dikwa*, *Ngala* as well from the nearby emirate of *Biu and Fika*.

In Maiduguri, a large number of Nigerians and other West African Muslims were accommodated while traveling to Mecca for the Mecca pilgrimage. Maiduguri benefitted much from these travelers and hence became a center of commerce and learning, with many fertile minds from far flung corners of Africa.

During the Second World War Maiduguri had an added impetus as it attained strategic importance when Germany took control of North Africa. An airbase was built in Maiduguri by the British and their

American allies for logistical reasons, particularly for transferring troops to North Africa and the Middle East. This activity gave thousands of residents' job opportunities and helped swell the population of Maiduguri especially by immigrants from neighboring Chad and Cameroon, for instance:

"The presence of foreign troops and increased injection of cash into the local economy led to rapid urbanization of Maiduguri".

ETHNIC COMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The major ethnic groups that compose the city's population are the Kanuri's who mostly inhabit the palace area *Shehuri* [6]. To a large extent, the various Nigerian communities have settled down in the city and these settlers reside freely in the midst of their host.

Gamboru area was largely inhabited by the *Shuwa* Arabs and various other people from *Chad* and *Cameroon Republics*, who are collectively called *Mbanana* and Sara. Other foreigners found include the *Kabam*, *Kabale*, *Bagirimi*, *Kotoko* and a host of others.

The main Nigerian ethnic groups of *Hausa*, Igbo and Yoruba tribes with other smaller Nigerian tribes also constitute the inhabitants of the city [7]. Amongst the population are civil servants, businessmen and traders. The city used to have a large number of *Arab* traders-*Syrians*, *Lebanese*, *Libyans* and other *Arabs* who owned most of the large shops and business enterprises. They were the first to construct high rise buildings on a large scale and some of them have been completely assimilated to the local population.

In terms of administration, the structure cannot be weaned from the traditional authority traceable to *Mais* (rulers) of the thousand-year dynasty of *Kanem-Borno*; and the reigning *Shehus*. *The Kanem Borno* is ubiquitous in Historical texts and the illustrious part they played in the politics of Borno of which Maiduguri is now the capital cannot be denied. After the current dynasty of *Shehu's* gained control in the early nineteenth century, and with the aid of the British they established a new capital for the dynasty at Maiduguri in 1907. The British left the local tradition and political hierarchy intact. The British found it so convenient in their policy of indirect rule and therefore, left traditional authority and structure to continue. After independence Borno remained fairly autonomous with its native Authority in charge and regional government in Kaduna as the controller of government apparatus played a supervising role.

While traditional authority has become subservient to modern governance since the colonial incursions and the post-independence era, till now one resilient feature of Borno, of which Maiduguri is also the capital of the emirate is the sustenance and perpetuity of the traditional authority. The Kanuri people are noted as one ethnic group that epitomizes the endurance of traditional political institutions.

Maiduguri being the capital of the emirate houses a hierarchy of traditional rulers with the *Shehu* at the top, followed by the *Waziri* (traditional prime minister); then for district administration, the *AJA* (District Head) is responsible, while each village has a village head with the title of *Lawan*. Under *Lawan* are the *Bulamas* (Ward heads). Besides, there are the traditional title holders each of whom have some assigned roles to play in the political, cultural and judicial function of the Borno people. For instance, there are the *Zannas*, the *Shettimas*, the *Kaigama*, *Mutawalli* and a host of other title holders all conferred on by the *Shehu*.

The local government reforms of 1976 however eroded Borno's traditional authority, as the reforms erased the native authority and indirectly made the traditional authority with the *Shehu* at the apex less relevant. And when the civilian regime in the second republic came to power in 1979, the *Shehu's* influence just like that of other traditional rulers got restricted only to cultural and traditional affairs. However, the *Shehu* still exerts influence in the local government on an advisory capacity.

Even as Maiduguri is a state capital with a governor and other retinues of power in the structure of governance, there remains a demarcation between the two domains of influence and functions with each authority allowed or expected to exert authority over their jurisdictions.

The *Shehu's* palace, which serves as the royal quarters of the city and known to the local inhabitants as *Shehuri* was developed and expanded; and followers of the *Shehu* put up their residences around the palace. The houses and roads were resemblances of the abandoned capital of *Kukawa*, with the famous *Dandal* (open space in front of a house where people assemble in the evening), adjacent to the mosque planned and constructed as being befitting for the palace.

The *Dandal* serves as the most dominant feature of Maiduguri as it is of other Borno towns [8]. Its center is an open region that is somewhat rectangular and extends from West to East. The palace and the mosque at the east, and a road towards the West extended by a kilometer which leads out of town. Up till this time, *Dandal* maintains its stature as the one venue used in Maiduguri for *Durbar* and other ceremonial events that particularly has to do with the *Shehu* and traditions of the *Kanuri*. Along with its mosque as described above, the *Dandal* as most Maiduguri streets are, is lined with *neem* trees on both sides of the road and now, befittingly has a dual carriage road constructed, with an alluring array of electric poles that beautifully lit the night and giving a glittering ambiance to the vicinity.

The *Dandal* is also lined with important official buildings that accommodate the local government treasury and the central offices of the Maiduguri Metropolitan council. The Sharia court and the local government workshop known locally as *Fato-Sandi* are also located on the *Dandal*.

The East-West manner in which the *Dandal* is oriented signifies religious connotations, but in addition the position of the palace at the east terminal of the road create a specific relations between government and religion, which could be attributed to the character of Borno as an Islamic state, and hence the character of government land marks found expressions in those specific urban features. Being an ancient empire with a unique history, capital cities seem to have played central roles and have been the hub from which both political power and cultural influence radiated. This is certainly true of *Birnin Ngazargamd*, the same with its predecessor *Birnin Njimi* in *Kanem* as well with *Kukawa*, being seats of political authority and centers of religious and scholastic activities. Thus, Maiduguri in spite of its founding simultaneous with the arrival of British colonial authorities continues to reflect and fulfill roles played by the much earlier capitals.

Immediately the city was established an intensive programme of rapid development was launched. Major roads were constructed, and *Neem* trees planted to the extent that Maiduguri is one of the most shaded towns in Nigeria. Schools and new offices for the Native Authority were built. Most of the Native Authority offices were built near *Shehu's palace*.

Large numbers of people flocked into the new town from all parts of Borno and by 1925 it was estimated about 15000 inhabitants were living in five different wards, viz:

- *SHEHURI*: one of the oldest and most important, approximately 60% of the population used to live in the ward when the town started.
- *AFUNORI (HAUSARI)*: After 1907, a Hausa settlement sprang as part of the town and interchangeably called either as *Afunori* or *Hausari* which all connote – Hausa quarters in Kanuri.
- *MAFONI*: By 1907, *Mafoni* was also part of *yerwa* with a mixed population of nearby tribes, but today it is predominantly *Kanuri*.
- *ZANGO*: *Zango* came into being in 1908 and is close to the *Monday* market. It is in between the market and *Mafoni*. It served as abode for strangers particularly traders who brought in wares from elsewhere.
- *FEZZAN*: *Fezzan* is named after a place in *Libya* and it was founded in 1924. It hosted Arabs particularly from North Africa and beyond.

Wards such as *Gwange* and *Bulabulin* sprang later and *old Maiduguri* as well got incorporated into greater *yerwa* to form the modern city of Maiduguri.

There are dozen new wards and nearby villages that got submerged by the city as it expanded and thus places like *Umarari*, *Ngomari*, *Mairi*, *Zannari*, *Sulemanti*, *Moduganari* are either newly formed wards or formerly proximate wards that got incorporated into the city.

TRADE, COMMERCE, EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Maiduguri is a major city in terms of trade and commerce not only in the Northeast but also pan-Nigeria [9]. Its outstanding commercial prowess is enhanced by its notable proximity and being at the transit point to three other countries – *Cameron*, *Chad* and *Niger*. As earlier noted in the preamble to this essay one of the factors that influenced the growth of cities is the economic pull of the city. Inhabitants from towns and villages flocked into cities to enhance their incomes and improve the quality of their livelihoods.

Maiduguri, being a commercial and trading centre always attracts merchants from near and far who engage in trading on cotton, grains, nuts, cassava, Livestock, gum-Arabic and timber. Besides trading in the afore-mentioned goods, there are some light industries in the city, and these include meat packing, a shoe factory and other leather goods. There is also a perfume firm along with sweets and chewing gum manufacturing. Other firms include a flour mill, a wire making company, oil mills along with two coca-cola plants. Maiduguri also has some small-scale industries engaged in enamelware, along with those that produce sweets and confectionaries.

There are three markets in the city, the biggest of which is the Monday market, which offers an amazing view of the planetarium. In terms of transport and communications, the city has an international airport and a railway line that connects it to *Port-Harcourt*, *Enugu*, *Kafanchan*, *Gombe* etc.

The city is the main hub for trade in northeastern Nigeria, with a minor amount of manufacturing and services making up the majority of the economy.

There are chains of hotels in the city for guest accommodation, the prominent ones being the *Lake Chad hotel*, *Maiduguri international hotel*, *Muna Guest Inn*, *Dujima Hotels*, *Chezcon*, *Desert view* and *Sun City Hotels* amongst numerous others.

According to the Borno State Urban Planning and Development Board (2013), Maiduguri is generally growing quickly. Maiduguri Primarily had its speedy expansion of recent times because it transitioned from being a mere provincial capital (1907-1967), and later as capitals of both Northeastern State (1967-1976) and of Borno State (1976-date) that included Yobe until (1991). The city has been the focus of government employment and trading and a gateway to *Chad*, *Cameron* and *Niger*. *Everyone agrees that Maiduguri attracts more visitors from near and far than any other place in the Northeast because of the agglomerating economies that have grown throughout time.*

In the area of education Maiduguri is a melting pot of both western and Islamic education. It is home to one of the best equipped universities in the country – the University of Maiduguri, which also has a teaching hospital, tagged a centre of excellence. One of Nigeria's top five medical schools is its College of Medical Sciences. Other educational institutions include the *Ramat polytechnic*; college of Agriculture; college of Education and school of Nursing and health technology.

Borno of which the Pivot is Maiduguri has an age long association of excellence as a center for Islamic knowledge. Students from far, within and outside Nigeria come to the city to acquire Islamic knowledge.

The city is also home to some great Islamic scholars and preachers. The *late Idrissa khaddi, late Sheikh Mohammed Abba Aji, late Usman Bidda, late Chief Imam of Borno – Ibrahim Ahmed, late Sheikh Abubakar El Muskin, Sheikh Ibrahim Saleh El Hussain*, and a host of other Islamic scholars enriched Islamic scholarship in the city. This strategic position of Maiduguri as a center of Islamic learning and its indigenous Arabic speaking people along with its proximity to Arabic speaking countries informed the location of the Nigerian Arabic language village in *Ngala*, east of Maiduguri. This move has enhanced the role of the city as an Islamic center and a state with indigenous Arab speakers. Since its inception the Arabic language village has been hosting Arabic students from all the universities in the country, visiting and attending courses at the center.

It is noteworthy that the modernization and development of Maiduguri were impacted upon by certain outstanding individuals. They are numerous, but the preeminent personality in that respect is the much-revered late sir *Kashim Ibrahim*, who as the *Waziri* (Prime Minister) of Borno, and later as Northern Regional Governor put up efforts and influence within his disposal for Maiduguri to excel among the comity of cities in Nigeria [10]. He was instrumental in the establishment of many schools and also in persuading parents to enlist their children and wards into schools, such that most of Borno's western educated pioneer elites owe their later achievements in life to the efforts of *Kashim Ibrahim*. There was also *Shettima Ali Monguno*, an educationalist per excellence who was a member of the Nigeria cabinet in the first republic during the *Balewa* Regime, and as well during the military era of *General Yakubu Gowon* [11]. He was also an influential member of the National party of Nigeria that formed the federal government during the Second Republic (1979 – 1983). He was an ardent exponent for educating all citizens of Borno so as to place them in a better position to compete with other Nigerians [12].

Shettima Ali devoted his resources in giving scholarships to indigent students as well in building on campus hostels to provide accommodation for students. Other personalities associated with the development of Maiduguri included the *late Zanna Bukar Dipchairma, the late Ibrahim Imam, late Abba Habib* and a score of others too numerous to mention, who did one thing or the other that impacted on the city's growth.

Mustafa Umar El-Kanemi was another important figure in the city's development. He was the Shehu of Borno from 1974-2006, a period within which the city witnessed an immense transformation. Maiduguri developed from a medium sized city to a bustling Metropolis of commercial, education and government affairs. During his reign more importantly, the city witnessed a period of calm and peace in contrast to the violent uprisings that bedeviled other Nigerian cities. Hence, the *Shehu* endeared himself to the local folks as well as settlers such that when he died in 2006 he was mourned by all and sundry with much lamentation.

Apart from the educated elites some elders in the business community also contributed in making Maiduguri attain its trading and commercial importance. Thus, *Alhaji Mai Ahmed Deribe, Alhaji Ali Kotoko, Alhaji Umar Ali, A.G Sajomi* - all late, were businessmen with international stature and they left behind landmark properties and businesses in the city [13].

GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION OF MAIDUGURI

At the onset of this essay, the task was to unearth, analyse and present factors that impacted on the tempo of development of Maiduguri into a metropolitan city. In order to accomplish this task, a historical foray was made into the factors that helped in the growth of cities. Cities historically owe their growth because they are centers of convergence for the people from the countryside, especially for trade purposes. To sustain city inhabitants, the people brought in food for sustenance of the urban population. But as time went on, and with industrialization few men could produce what the majority needed. Thus, the city became a centre of economic pull with inhabitants from the countryside trooping into it, in order to enhance their livelihoods.

It is also not so much in variance with factors that made Maiduguri to grow into a big city within relatively short period of 100 years. Maiduguri's physical growth, economic development and administrative structure were discussed. The city owed its origin to the British colonialist quest for a suitable capital from where they could administer the colonial Borno. Borno itself being an empire with a history stretching over one thousand years has had its traditional institutions and hierarchical set of leadership in place –from the Shehu down to the Bulama. In effect, when the British established Maiduguri, the Shehu and his courtiers along with the paraphernalia of traditional authority moved from the hitherto headquarters of the empire Kukawa to Maduguri.

From its establishment in 1907 the city has remained an administrative centre, first as headquarters of British administration of Borno and as well as that of the traditional authority under Shehu. Even as the British left after independence in 1960; Maiduguri remained a provincial capital under the supervision of Northern regional government in Kaduna. By 1967 when the state were created out of the hitherto existing regions, Maiduguri was chosen as the capital of what was then known as the Northeastern state that comprised of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno and Saradauna provinces. It remained so until 1976 when Adamawa and Bauchi were carved out and became states on their own. And it was to remain the capital of the old Borno state that included Yobe, until the later got a state of its own in 1991. Since then, Maiduguri has remained the capital of Borno state.

During the period under review the city has seen enormous transformations in governance structure and physical developments. For instance, Maiduguri is a noted hub of economic activities with almost all Nigerian tribes and foreigners alike involved in trading and commerce in the city. Its commercial powers got much impetus from its proximity to three international borders of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The nationals of these three countries brought in goods, as well brought and took goods to their respective countries.

Maiduguri's advancement in the field of education is nothing but spectacular. It boasts one of the best-equipped universities together with a cutting-edge teaching hospital. It also houses a Polytechnic, a College of Education and College of Agriculture along with numerous secondary Schools and Primary Schools. The first elementary school was established by the British in 1915 and then efforts were made to persuade a somewhat reluctant population averse to western education to patronize the acquisition of knowledge. Some outstanding individuals, especially the much-revered Sir Kashim Ibrahim was instrumental in persuading and even sponsor is people to acquire knowledge. The contributions of Shettima Ali Monguno towards that effort is of no little significance as he engaged in building Mosques for and Hostels for students and sponsoring many indigent students.

Borno's important personalities such as Zanna Bukar Dapcharima, Waziri Ibrahim, Alhaji Mai Deribe, Alhaji Umar Na Alhaji Lawan, Alhaji Umar Ali, Alhaji A. G. Satomi, who passed away recently, and many others have all helped to improve the city in one way or another. One name that is connected with the peace and security of the city was the Late Shehu Mustapha Umar Elkanemi, under whose reign Maiduguri was crowned with the tag: 'Home of Peace.' And there was much lamentation when he died in 2006.

However, in a rather absurd manner the legendary peace and tranquility of the city was put to test when in 2006 a riot broke out in the city as a protest against the Danish Newspaper Cartoons that projected the Holy prophet of Islam in a ridiculing light. Some people were killed and some places of worship were destroyed.

Even more devastating is the Boko Haram insurgency that has the city as its epicenter and since spread wide within Nigeria, and beyond to the neighboring countries of Chad, Cameroon and Niger. The insurgency has reduced Maiduguri into a caricature of its former boisterous and bursting commercial as well administrative city. While peace is coming back gradually it will take a while before the city regains its lost glory.

CONCLUSION

No doubt the phenomenal growth of Maiduguri from a medium size municipality to a big metropolis that played the roles of administering a state Capital, as a Commercial Educational and Religious centre is an awesome achievement. Most importantly Maiduguri achieved all those feats within a short period of a century, unlike other much older cities. It has achieved infrastructural and aesthetic transformation.

However, the decline of traditional authority and the erosion in the powers of the Shehu and his lieutenants has left the city vulnerable to negative outside influence and a situation where the liberal atmosphere of the city has encouraged and groomed criminals that pose hazards to the inhabitants of the city has proved an albatross to the city.

A once tranquil and calm city has now turned into the hot bed of religious and other sectarian crisis with their consequences in lives lost and destructions of property. It is well nigh time to reestablish traditional authority by handing over the city's day to day administration to the traditional rulers, while the state government supervises. In other words the local government system needs to be rescinded; and native traditional authority returned to the traditional rulers for effective and secure administration of the city.

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