

Shine Brighter 2^{de}

Snapfile 19 Building tomorrow's megacity

Vidéo p. 164 – Extrait du reportage “Nigeria’s Growth Is Unsustainable. Here’s Why”, *Faultline*, 2023.

Voice-over: Lagos is currently the largest city in Nigeria and by the end of the century it could be the largest in the world. What was once a small coastal town has today exploded into a mega city with a population of 15 million, which, get this, is set to double by 2050.

Today two thirds of the population in Lagos live below the poverty line. The city also struggles with a high crime rate, an inefficient public transport system and an impact on natural resources due to climate change. To tackle this though the government of Lagos has come up with this: a 30-year plan to make Lagos Africa’s model mega city and transform it into something that they call an ultra-modern economic destination. Right now, all eyes are on Lagos, because if they managed to achieve this, it could be the start of a new era of urbanisation in Africa.

Today Lagos houses more than 7% of Nigeria’s population, but more than two thirds of the people in Lagos State live in informal housing, including several in slum areas. Most facilities in these areas are either basic services like water and sewage and are often controlled by private companies that overcharge because of which people can barely afford it.

Public transport is hardly functioning and mainly consists of these minivans and motorcycle taxis. In fact, on average, Lagos residents spend more than 1,500 hours in traffic annually whilst people in LA for example, which is a city known for awful congestion and traffic jams, spend just 128. The city of Lagos also has the smallest land mass in Nigeria making it very difficult to accommodate for a growing population and their need for infrastructure. In fact poor drainage systems are partly responsible for recurring floods like these.

Vidéo p. 165 – Extrait du reportage “Life In a Floating Slum in Africa– Makoko”, *The Journey*, 2024.

Voice-over: Lagos is home to a remarkable, yet starkly contrasting community known as Makoko—a floating slum that vividly embodies both the resilience of the human spirit and the dire consequences of urban poverty. In this unique aquatic settlement, you can find everything—homes, marketplaces, workshops, schools, bars, all perched precariously over the Lagos Lagoon. Beneath the surface of Makoko’s waterborne vibrancy lies a harsher truth: the waters, a vital life source, are tainted with sewage and pollution.

This construction technique not only mitigates the risks posed by flooding but also optimises the limited available space, allowing for the dense settlement patterns observed in the community. The ingenuity of Makoko’s residents is evident in their adaptation to the limited space and resources. Boat building and repair workshops dot the water’s edge, catering to the community’s essential need for reliable transportation. These workshops not only service the local community but are also known to supply canoes to other parts of Lagos, showcasing the craftsmanship and skill of Makoko’s boat builders.

This unique settlement, floating on the waters of the Lagos Lagoon, encapsulates the complexities of survival and adaptation in one of Africa’s most dynamic urban landscapes.

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'oral – Guide pédagogique

Vidéo – Extrait du reportage “Nigerian Megacity Experience: Infrastructure And Transport Crises”, *The Lagos Story*, *News Central TV*, 2022.

Bettina Nwelih: In a metropolitan area sprawling across nearly 1,200 square kilometers, much of which has been informally settled, Lagos has 20 million inhabitants struggle daily with infrastructure deficits. This situation automatically worsens during festive Seasons with no exceptions for even the few wealthy enclaves. Arguably the worst problem is the transportation crisis as the city is dependent on roads and there is a choke of cars trucks motorbikes and packed yellowed minibuses along with hawkers who weave in between the unruly lanes of traffic.

Seeking to change this, the Lagos state government has drawn up ambitious plans including a new airport and a mass-transit network of trains, buses and ferries. Lagos State is eyeing another resource using the Lagoon that lies between the city and a narrow strip of Coast on the Atlantic as a means of transports. Around 300 private boat operators will be brought into a more regulated system along with larger state ferries to move more people. With these moves it is hoped that in the nearest future gridlocks will be the least of problems for residents of Lagos State, Nigeria.