

APPLICATION OF CARTOGRAPHY FOR MAPPING OF LUNATICS MOVEMENTS AND THEIR SOCIAL NUISANCE IN UYO CAPITAL TERRITORY OF AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract:

Introduction:

This paper centered on application of Cartography for Mapping of Lunatics Movements and their Social Nuisance in Uyo Capital Territory of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. It has been shockably observed that the presence of lunatics in a number 4 Oil Producing States in Nigeria, which is open to international business, can harbour the presence of lunatics. In the light of this development, it has been noted that lunatics movements in Uyo capital Territory had registered social nuisance in the study area leading to social disorder along the streets, roads, motor parks, markets squares, schools, and the City plaza, just to mention but a few. At night the lunatics retires to any situation convenient for them to sleep which ranges from verandas of shopping buildings, round-about platforms, roadsides, open market shops, bus stops, drinking parlors, public buildings like post offices etc.

Objectives:

Objective of the study implied the application of cartography for mapping their movements to show lunatics social nuisance activities in Uyo Capital Territory of Akwa Ibom State. Also to document situation for early warning precautionary attention to the Government of the day.

Methodology:

The data for this research came from direct field observations using photographs and interviews, while the envisaged Cartographic techniques and mapping was derived from Uyo capital Territory map on Scale 1:750,000 to 1:250,000 for legibility of details. The research covered a period of two years from October 2006 to September 2008. A total of 2000 copies of questionnaires were randomly sampled for care, control measures and medication on the lunatics in each year. A simple percentage calculation was used in analyzing the data.

The field work revealed that the social nuisance caused by the lunatics were noted ranging from brushing on people while moving, touching and seizing of food items from hawkers and market women, hitting on cars at traffic jam and those parked by the roadside, defecating anywhere at ease, unexpected road traffic accidents as they detract motorists and pedestrians attentions due to their outlooks. Others included fright on people due to their naked awful sight, appearing with body paintings like the masquerades, dressed in rags stench attires, drinking of water from open drainages,

eating from refuse dumps, shouts of uncontrollable noise and attempts of fighting fits on pedestrians, market women, school children.

Results:

The result had 80% and 90% of respondents in the study periods agreeing that these insane people should be removed from Uyo Capital Territory and admitted into Psychiatric hospitals and rehabilitated.

Conclusion:

The end product of Cartography – map would provide ideas for the Government authorities to clean up lunatics, which will further provide fearless minds in people and avoidance of crisis from the aggrieved populace.

Introduction:

Movements of Lunatics in Uyo Capital Territory of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria have raised much dust on the safety, and serenity of carrying out business in the study area. The shock remarkably expressed by the populace within the zone of research left much to be described, for Uyo Capital Territory, accommodates the seat of Government for the Akwa Ibom State, a core zone for settlement of international and local functionaries, a number four oil producing city in Nigeria where investors of different category had been attracted for business transactions could not have witnessed lunatics but for none rehabilitation, care, control, ignorance and negligence of the government and NGO had caused the people a lot of embarrassment due to social nuisance from these insane men and women.

Based on the social nuisance caused by the lunatics in the study area, the researcher took up the study to limelight cartography for mapping of their movements. The envisaged and product of cartography, which is a map, would provide easy and quick capture of lunatics for rehabilitation from the study area by the government and the Non Government Organization.

Location of the Study:

Uyo Capital Territory has a dimension of 15sq km, (Master plan, 1991 and Obot 2005). It lies between latitude $4^{\circ} 52'$ and $5^{\circ} 07'N$ and also between longitude $7^{\circ} 50'$ and $8^{\circ} 05'E$. See figure 1. It accommodates the Administrative Arms of Government functionaries and industrial zone of the State.

The map was produced cartographically from scale 1:750,000 to 1:250,000 for legibility of details, (Obot, 2005).

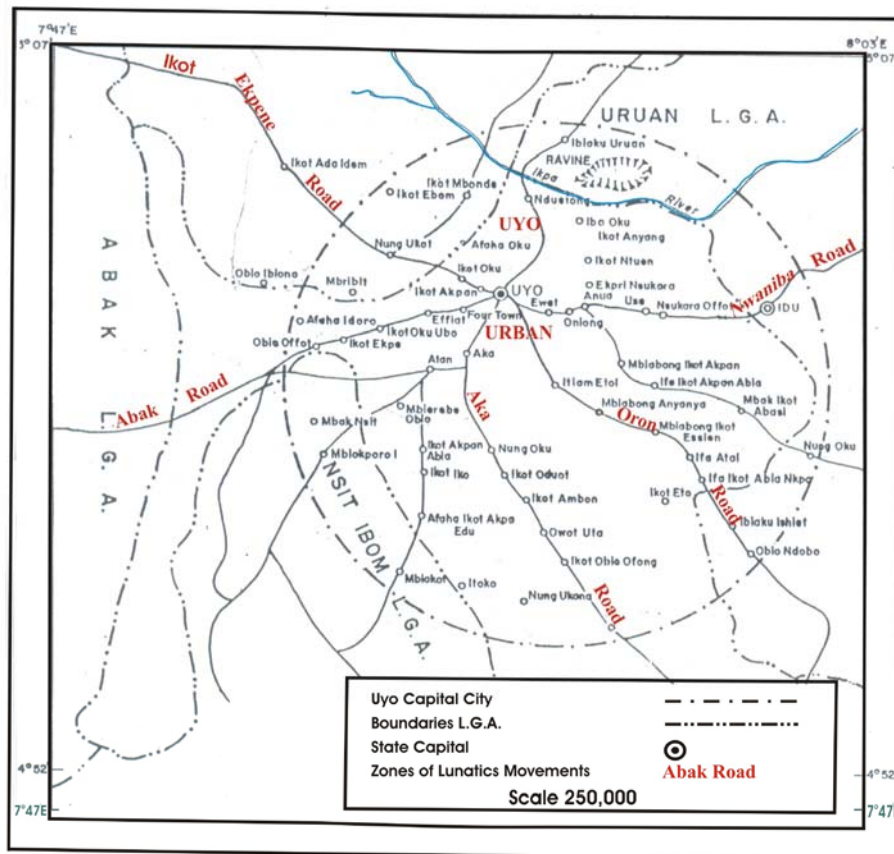


Figure 1: Uyo Capital Territory showing sampling zones of lunatics movements

Discussion:

The limit of Uyo capital territory was divided into six zones, which comprised of Aka Road¹, Abak Road², Ikot Ekpene Road³, Oron Road⁴, Nwaniba Road⁵ and Uyo Urban⁶. A Total number of sixty lunatics were registered during the field work for the two years period of 2007 and 2008. See the photo plates from 1-12 below. Due to limitation of this submission, twelve of them were randomly sampled with photographs showing their movements and activities.

Aka Road Zone One: Among the Lunatics there in, a typical one was sampled in Uyo city central market where photo plate number one was registered. This near naked female lunatic was moving freely in the market within the midst of people, from one trader to the other begging for food items. The imagination there that baffled people revolves on how insane ones are allowed to roam about among the normal and descent people in a famous city of this nature in Nigeria.

Abak Road Zone Two: A male young lunatics was seen moving along the road in between pupils going to School at a close range, see photo plate number 2. The pupils were in fear and about running away from the scene for fright of being molested.

Ikot Ekpene Road Zone Three: One of the most dreadful Lunatics with heaps of rags on his body was seen lying down by the road side dozing, probably due to tiredness. He is nicknamed **Peter Touch** due to his unkempt hair style. His sight frightens pedestrians and motorists, see photo plate number 3. Seated vaguely few

meters from him on a drainage pavement is the one whose insanity hasn't been long, see photo plate number 4.



Lunatics photo plates no. 1-4

Oron Road Zone Four: Another teenage boy half naked was also located by the road side standing beside a business tent of GSM recharge cards whose keeper had ran from seat because of his presence, due to his awful sight and for any un-expected attack. See photo plate number 5. Same on that axis is a woman standing with a hoe to weed grasses from the road side refuse dump as one can see litters on the ground, an unpaid labour, as she is being directed by the demons operating in her, see photo plate number 6.

Nwaniba Road Zone Five: By the side of a refuse evacuation van are two of the lunatics. One is standing beside the lorry while the other stood behind the same vehicle. Both of them had different bags containing stinking rubbish in them picked from the refuse dump. They were there to feed from droppings in the dump, see photo plate number 7 and 8





Lunatics photo plates no. 5-8

Uyo Urban Zone Six: This is a zone most paraded by the lunatics. They move about at traffic close-up, plazas, verandas of public offices, along the streets; sitting at road pavements and motor park etc. doing one type of action and the other. The lunatic in photo plate number 9 is very peculiar in his own way. He is seated on a heap of stones with a knife in his raised hand and fragment of food in his left hand while photo plate numbers 10 and 11 showed two of them walking along the major roads leading to the city plaza, whereas photo plate number 12 is a female lunatic sitting on a pavement close to a public building.



Lunatics photo plates no. 9-12

Lunatics Social Nuisance in the Study Area:

The populace becomes frightened due to their awful attires, nakedness and shouts of uncontrollable noise. (Delgado 2000)

Their fighting fits on pedestrians, market women and school children raised alarm against people's security whereby they can run into a moving vehicle in an attempt to keep away from the lunatics. (<http://content.apa.org/journals>).

The food hawkers took to their heels at the sight of any lunatics for fear of seizing their commodity. (Bloch and Geis 1970).

The general acceptance of lunatics being possessed by demons dread the people that whatever is touched either human or material by them faces ill lucks of any kind and one must look for spiritual deliverance. (Kroll and Bachrach, 1984)

The public expresses bitterness on their sight for drinking water from the drainage openings and eating from refuse dumps.

Their rags stench attires, body paintings like the masquerades, while some carry physical weapons spurs people to run, hide way for their safety.

Recommendations:

The State Government should expand the Ministry of Health by recruiting able-bodied men who will drive out for control and removal of lunatics in Uyo capital territory to psychiatric hospital in order to avoid imminent public crisis due to lunatic nuisance in the study area.

More psychiatric hospitals should be established in the three senatorial districts of the State –Eket, Ikot Ekpene and Uyo.

The State should give scholarships to interested person for studies in psychiatry discipline.

Modern drugs should be procured for treatment of lunatics. (www.newscientist.com)

Relations of lunatics should be enlightened not to abandon them but report any new cases to the nearest hospital for care, treatment and rehabilitation. (www.lunatics.control.com)

Borders into the study area should be monitored against lunatic's infiltration into Akwa Ibom State from other neighbouring States.

The discharged persons from the psychiatric hospitals should be rehabilitated into any profession before finally releasing them to their originated destinations.

Results:

The result had 80% and 90% of respondents in the study periods agreeing that these insane people should be removed from Uyo Capital Territory and admitted into Psychiatric hospitals and rehabilitated.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the end product of Cartography – map would provide visually organized ideas for the Government authorities to clean up lunatics in the study area, which will further provide fearless minds in people and avoidance of crisis from the aggrieved populace within Uyo Capital Territory.

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Biography Details of Authors and Photos



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