

---

## EVALUATION OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY CODE OF NIGERIA WITH RESPECT TO WUSE MARKET, GARKI MODEL MARKET AND KADO MARKET OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF NIGERIA

---

\*Odaudu Ugbede Sunday, S.N. Zubairu & A. D. Isah  
Department of Architecture  
Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria  
Email: [arcodauduugbede@yahoo.com](mailto:arcodauduugbede@yahoo.com)  
\*Correspondent Author

### ABSTRACT

*Fire outbreaks in markets have indeed reached an alarming proportion in Nigeria. Fire outbreak in markets is always occurring in different places. There is no year without their occurrences in Nigerian markets. Frequent fire outbreaks in markets have led to the loss of valuable goods, properties and lives of people in Nigeria. To curtail this problem, the current (2013) National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria was studied with the aim of determining its adequacy with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, in order to generate a frame work to improve it. The research instrument that was used for the collection of the primary research data is detailed discussions with the FCT Markets Operating Bodies such as the Federal Fire Service of Nigeria in the FCT of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Traders in the FCT of Nigeria, and the managing company of the markets. Adequate engagement was also employed for detailed study of the present National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria. The secondary research data were generated from the reviews of relevant literature to this research. The result of the research showed that the current (2013) National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria is not adequate for Nigeria with respect to the frequent fire outbreaks in markets. It was recommended that the current National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria should be reviewed to adequately focus on how to use building design to reduce fire outbreaks and the spread of fires in buildings (passive fire prevention and protection measures) for maximum efficiency, in order to reduce the loss of goods, properties and lives of people in Nigerian markets.*

**Keywords:** *Fire Outbreaks, Frame Work, Generate, Markets, Nigeria.*

### BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

A market is an authorised site and a public place where people meet for trade or where goods and services are exchanged for money; it is where almost all the basic needs of people are sold in both wholesales and retails (Chabbi-Chemrouk, 2007; Lipsey, 1963; Ngugi, 2015). According to Onyango *et al.* (2013) and Ngugi (2015), in Africa, markets developed as open air market places where people met for business transactions in strategic areas. After some times, markets took diverse forms such as street markets and regional built-up markets. These transformations are as a result of numerous factors which are economic, political, social, cultural behaviour in

humans, urban informality, demographic changes and urban land policies for countries of Africa that were colonised. Nigerian markets serve as places for various forms of cultural exchanges because the sales people are usually of heterogeneous ethnic backgrounds. A contextual review of Nigerian markets is therefore essential, in order to appreciate the need for fire prevention and protection measures in markets in Nigeria. Fire safety code is a made regulation under the fire prevention and protection Act that comprises of a set of minimum standards that gives respect to the fire safety around and within existing facilities and buildings (Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, 2016). It improves the safety of lives of people for the first responders to fire outbreak and the public together with the protection of goods and properties by giving a fire hazard management, comprehensive and integrated approach to the regulation of fire safety code. On 4th September, 2013, the Federal Government of Nigeria, during its weekly executive council meeting, endorsed the drafted National Fire Safety Code for implementation across Nigeria (Federal Fire Service of Nigeria, 2013).

From the preface page of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria (2013), the Code came to be as a result of Nigerian cities that continue to expand without corresponding provision for safety infrastructure; building plans are approved without due consideration for safety requirements and markets are constructed without conformity with safety standards. From the acknowledgement page of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria (2013), the Controller General of the Federal Fire Service and Conference of Directors of the Fire Services met severally with the Chief Town Planners from the thirty six (36) States of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing as well as pertinent professional bodies to come up with a draft National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria in March, 2009. It was presented as a memorandum to National Council on Fire at its first meeting that was held in Abuja between 28th and 30th October, 2009. Nwaogu (2015) stated that fire outbreaks in markets have indeed reached an alarming proportion in Nigeria. Fire outbreak in markets is always occurring in different places. There is no year without their occurrences in Nigeria markets. It is an established fact that whether from the fire crackers or electrical faults and other ways of fire outbreaks in markets in Nigeria, lives and millions of naira worth of properties are always lost in the process. According to Federal Fire Service of Nigeria (2016), frequent fire outbreaks in Nigerian markets is a problem and they have led to loss of valuable goods, properties and lives of people. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the adequacy of the current (2013) National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market of the FCT of Nigeria, in order to generate a

frame work to improve it. The objectives of the research are: to engage in detailed study of the present National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria; to ascertain the adequacy of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market through the opinions of the National Fire Service of Nigeria; to find out the adequacy of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market through the opinions of the National Association of Nigerian Traders, and to assess the adequacy of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market through the opinions of their managing company. The scope of this study is the whole buildings in Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market. The FCT of Nigeria is located in the central part of Nigeria (Murray, 2007 and Nnodim, 2011). Wuse Market is located along Sani Abacha Way (off Zone 6 Neighbourhood Park, and Unique World); it is situated in Wuse in the Abuja Municipal Area Council of the FCT of Nigeria (Satellite Google Map Data, 2016a). Garki model market is located along Mustajad Street (off Karaye Street and Samuel Ladoke Akintola Boulevard); it is situated in the central part of the Abuja Municipal Area Council of the FCT of Nigeria (Satellite Google Map Data, 2016b). Kado market is located along Jabi - Karimo road (off Public Works Quarters, and Jabi Reservoir); it is situated in Kado in the Gwarimpa District of the Abuja Municipal Area Council of the FCT of Nigeria (Google Earth Map, 2016).

## RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive survey method was used for this research which led to the generation of qualitative data. The primary research data were gotten from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Markets Operating Bodies such as the Federal Fire Service (FFS) of Nigeria in the FCT of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANT) in the FCT of Nigeria, and the managing company of Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market. The managing company of the markets that were studied is Abuja Markets Management Limited. According to Abuja Markets Management Limited (2016), there are 2,091 sales points in Wuse market, 1,430 sales points in Garki model market and 353 sales points in Kado market. These sales points were considered in generating the primary research data by the FCT Markets Operating Bodies. The research instrument that was used for the collection of the primary research data is detailed discussions with the FCT Markets Operating Bodies. Adequate engagement was also employed for detailed study of the present National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria. The secondary research data were generated from the reviews of relevant literature to this research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ideal National Fire Safety Code is to cover both the passive and active fire prevention and protection measures within and around the buildings and facilities (International Fire Code, 2012; National Fire Protection Association, 2016; National Institute of Building Sciences, 2017; Nigerian Society of Engineers, 2016). However, the 2013 National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria which is currently in use gives little consideration to how to use building design to reduce fire outbreaks and the spread of fires in buildings (passive fire prevention and protection measures). The discussions with the staff of the FCT Market Operating Bodies such as the Federal Fire Service of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Traders and the managing company of the markets that were studied revealed that the current National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria is not adequate for Nigeria with respect to frequent fire outbreaks in markets. It was further emphasised that by considering the design of Wuse market, Garki model market, Kado market and many other Nigerian markets, there is a need for an improvement on the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to markets.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Markets were recapped with their significances which showed that they are public places where people meet for trade or where goods and services are exchanged for money; they are also places for various forms of cultural exchanges because the sales people are usually of heterogeneous ethnic backgrounds. The significances of fire safety code were also recapped as it improves the safety of lives of people for the first responders to fire outbreak and the public together with the protection of goods and properties by giving a fire hazard management, comprehensive and integrated approach to regulation of fire safety code. The aim of the research was to determine the adequacy of the current (2013) National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to Wuse market, Garki model market and Kado market of the FCT of Nigeria, in order to generate a frame work to improve it. The sales points in the study area were considered in generating the primary research data by the FCT Markets Operating Bodies such as the Federal Fire Service of Nigeria in the FCT of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Traders in the FCT of Nigeria, and the managing company of the markets that were studied. The research instrument that was used for the collection of the primary research data is detailed discussions with the FCT Markets Operating Bodies. Adequate engagement was also employed for detailed study of the present National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria. The secondary research data were generated from the reviews of relevant literature to this research.

The result of the research showed that the ideal National Fire Safety Code is to cover both the passive and active fire prevention and protection measures within and around the buildings and facilities. However, the 2013 National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria which is currently in use gives little consideration to how to use building design to reduce fire outbreaks and the spread of fires in buildings (passive fire prevention and protection measures), and this is a very serious weakness. It also showed that the current National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria is not adequate for Nigeria with respect to the frequent fire outbreaks in markets. It further revealed that by considering the design of Wuse market, Garki model market, Kado market and many other Nigerian markets, there is a need for an improvement on the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria with respect to markets. It is recommended that the current (2013) National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria should be reviewed to adequately focus on how to use building design to reduce fire outbreaks and the spread of fires in buildings (passive fire prevention and protection measures) for maximum efficiency, in order to reduce the loss of goods, properties and lives of people in Nigerian markets. There is no assessment that was carried out with regards to the numbers of sales people that are under insurance cover due to the frequent fire outbreaks in markets, in order to know how the sales people are prepared to recover their lost goods and properties when there are fire outbreaks in markets, and this is a gap in knowledge. Therefore, it is finally recommended that in subsequent study of this kind, this gap should be addressed.

## REFERENCES

- Abuja Markets Management Limited (2016). *Our Facilities. A Report of Facilities of Abuja Markets Management Limited.*  
<http://www.abujamarketsmanagement.com/our-facilities/>. Retrieved on 06-06-2016.
- Chabbi-Chemrouk, N (2007). *Koudougou Central Market. On Site Review Report. Burkina Faso 2007 Award Cycle.*
- Federal Fire Service of Nigeria (2016). *Market Fires Killed 600 in 15 Months. The Controller General (Joseph Anebi), Federal Fire Service of Nigeria.*  
<http://punchng.com/market-fire-killed-600-in-15-months-cg/>. Retrieved on 02-01-2017.
- Federal Fire Service of Nigeria (2013). *Early Morning Fire Destroys Properties Worth Thousands of Naira in Abuja Village. Tag Archives of the Federal Fire Service of Nigeria. Information Nigeria.*

Evaluation of the Adequacy of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria With Respect to Wuse Market, Garki Model Market and Kado Market of the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria

<https://www.informationng.com/tag/federal-fire-service>. Retrieved on 28-06-2017.

Google Earth Map (2016). Map Showing the Location of Kado Market of the Federal Capital Territory. Software Application for Google Earth Map.

International Fire Code (2012). Regulations to Safeguard Life and Property from Fires and Explosion Hazards. International Code Council Incorporation. <http://shop.iccsafe.org/2012-international-fire-code-1.html>. Retrieved on 22-01-2017.

Lipsey, R.G. (1963). *An Introduction to Positive Economics*. London: Warden Field and Nicholson.

Murray, S. (2007). Life of Poverty in Abuja's Wealth. BBC, Tuesday, 13-02-2007.

National Fire Protection Association (2016). All Codes and Standards. The Leading Information and Knowledge Resources on Fire, Electrical and Related Hazards. National Fire Protection Association, Massachusetts, United States of America. <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards>. Retrieved on 22-01-2017.

National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria (2013). The First Edition (2013) of the National Fire Safety Code of Nigeria. A Memorandum to the National Council on Fire, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

National Institute of Building Sciences (2017). Fire Protection. Whole Building Design Guide. <https://www.wbdg.org/design-objectives/secure-safe/fire-protection>. Retrieved on 22-01-2017.

Ngugi, G.P. (2015). Urban Retail Market Transformation: A Case of Gikomba Market, Nairobi, Kenya. A Thesis Write-up, Department of Architecture and Building Science, School of Built Environment, University of Nairobi.

Nigerian Society of Engineers (2016). Managing Disasters in Public Buildings. A Report of an Umbrella Organisation for the Engineering Profession in Nigeria. [http://www.nse.org.ng/pic\\_uploaded/resources/SAFETY\\_IN%20PUBLIC\\_BUILDING.pdf](http://www.nse.org.ng/pic_uploaded/resources/SAFETY_IN%20PUBLIC_BUILDING.pdf). Retrieved on 07-10-2016.

Nnodim, N. J. (2011). Center for Performing Arts, Abuja: A Study of the Methods for Improving Accessibility and Increasing Participation of People with Disabilities. A Master Degree Thesis, Department of Architecture Faculty of Environmental Studies University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria.

Nwaogu, C. (2015). Causes, Solutions to Fire Outbreaks In Nigeria. Features on Fire Outbreaks in Nigeria. <http://leadership.ng/features/431229/causes-solution-to-fire-outbreaks-in-nigeria>. Retrieved on 03-08-2016.

Onyango, G.M., Wagah, G. G., Omondi, L.A. & Obera, B.O. (2013). *Market Places: Experiences from Kisumu City*. Kisumu Local Interaction Plat Form. ISBN: 9966-758-11-9, Kenya: Maseno University Press.

Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (2016). Fire Code Overview. Legislation, Directives and Technical Guidelines of Canada. <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/Legislation/FireCode/FireCode.html>. Retrieved on 04-01-2017.

Satellite Google Map Data (2016a). Wuse Market. A Map Showing the Location of Wuse Market in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Wuse+Market/@9.0687427,7.4648097,2983m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xe16251969c0f9ab9!8m2!3d9.0687427!4d7.4648097>. Retrieved on 27-02-2018.

Satellite Google Map Data (2016b). Garki Model Market. A Map Showing the Location of Garki Model Market in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. <https://www.google.com/maps/@9.0220938,7.4905048,452m/data=!3m1!1e3>. Retrieved on 18-07-2016.