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Foundations for Urban Development in Africa

The Legacy of AKIN MABOGUNJE



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Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums



UN-HABITAT

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Preface

This book showcases Professor Akinlawon Ladipo Mabogunje's contributions to development and the environment. Professor Mabogunje is recognized as one of the best geographers and social scientists in Africa, and, indeed, in the world at large. He was born on October 18, 1931, in Kano, a city in northern Nigeria. After completing his elementary and secondary education, he went on to the University of Ibadan (then known as University College, Ibadan) and University College, London, for his undergraduate and post-graduate training. He earned a Master of Arts and a Doctorate from the latter and wrote his doctoral dissertation on "Lagos: A Study in Urban Geography."

Professor Mabogunje began his academic career in 1958 as a Lecturer at the University of Ibadan. He was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer in 1964 and a year later became a full Professor, a position he held until his retirement from the University on September 30, 1981. At the University of Ibadan, he was the Dean of the Faculty of the Social Sciences (1968–1970) and Director of the Planning Studies Programme (1972–1981). In addition, he has held visiting professorships in universities in the United States, Canada, Sweden, England, Brazil, and Hong Kong.

A scholar and practitioner, he is renowned for translating his theoretical visions into actionable steps and policy interventions, which are useful in political as well as academic circles. In this regard, he has been appointed to a number of key positions in the Nigerian government. Most recently, he served as Chairman of the Presidential Technical Committee on Housing and Urban Development and the Technical Board of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria. He has also been a Board Member of the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures, Office of the President of Nigeria. His national service has included posts in Nigeria's private sector.

Professor Mabogunje has been named to more than 20 boards and committees. Chief among them are the following: President of the International Geographical Union and the Pan-African Institute

for Development; Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements; and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Population Council; the United States National Academy of Science, Committee on the Geographic Foundation for Agenda 21 and Committee on Africa's Lost Crops; and the Board of Directors of the African Centre for Health and Security at George Washington University.

Professor Mabogunje has an almost endless list of honors and distinctions. At the national level, he is a recipient of Nigeria's highest honor for excellence in scholarship, the Nigerian National Order of Merit. He is also Commander of the Order of the Niger, and a Fellow of the Nigerian Geographical Association, the Nigerian Economic Society, the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, the Nigerian Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, and the Social Science Academy of Nigeria. He was the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council of Ogun State University (now Olabisi Onabanjo University) and is currently the Chancellor of Bells University of Technology, Ota. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from two Nigerian universities.

Internationally, he holds honorary doctorate degrees from Michigan State University and the Stockholm School of Economics. His other honors include the David Livingstone Centennial Gold Medal from the American Geographical Society, the Murchinson Award from the Royal Geographical Society, the Anders Retzius Gold

Medal of the Swedish Association of Anthropology and Geography, the Research Gold Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, the Grande Medaille of the French Geographical Society, Distinguished Africanist Award of the African Studies Association of the United States, and the Scroll of Honour from UN-HABITAT. He has also been the Melville Herskovits Distinguished Professor of African Studies at Northwestern University, a Fellow at the University of London, and a Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Science.

For Professor Mabogunje, retirement has not meant an end to his highly productive scholarly life. In fact, he has published as many scholarly papers in retirement as he did while on the university faculty. He has written 23 books, over 100 articles in international journals, and at least 100 unpublished papers, primarily keynote addresses at conferences and workshops.

The following chapters present a selection of Professor Mabogunje's works. Although he began as a student of cities, he went on to address other concerns related to urbanization, the most recent of which are urban governance issues. Even this recent concern, along with the others that engaged his attention throughout his academic and professional career, were alluded to in his earliest major work, *Urbanization in Nigeria*. In fact, that book represents a road map for his career as his subsequent works appear to have emanated from his analysis and thoughts on urbanization.

Acknowledgments

A global team of experts from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and other international agencies have launched the Professor Akin Mabogunje Project (PAMP) to acknowledge his enormous contributions to urban development principles and practices, especially in Africa. This book, *Foundations for Urban Development in Africa: The Legacy of Akin Mabogunje*, builds on that momentum. It is being launched as part of the activities celebrating Professor Mabogunje's 75th birthday in October 2006. It is intended both as a tribute to Professor Mabogunje's erudite scholarship and as a means of ensuring that his pathbreaking work is available to future generations. We are grateful to the Cities Alliance for making this publication possible.

We want to acknowledge the laudable contributions of the late Professor S. I. Abumere, a close associate of Professor Mabogunje. He was the editorial consultant for the book until his untimely death in November 2005. I took over the editor's role, working closely with Professor Stanley I. Okafor. Professor Okafor collated, abstracted, and provided critical analyses of a selection of Professor Mabogunje's published and unpublished writings for this book. He was assisted by Mr. Dayo Adesina.

We equally appreciate the painstaking work of the editorial committee headed by Mr. Michael Cohen, with Ms. Mariam Yunusa and Messrs. Emiel Wegelin and Mark Hildebrand as members. We also acknowledge the very useful contributions of Professor Johnson Bade Falade and Mr. Paul Okunola to the final version of the book.

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Professor Michael O. Filani

University of Ibadan

Ibadan, Nigeria

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ABOUT THE EDITORS

Professor Michael Olanrewaju Filani, the editorial consultant for this book, is a Professor of Geography at the University of Ibadan, where he has lectured for the past 35 years. His research interests include transport planning and development, economic geography, and regional development planning. He has written and published numerous journal articles and books as well as technical and consultancy reports on transport, regional development, and planning, particularly in Nigeria.

Professor Stanley I. Okafor is Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Ibadan. His teaching and research interests include political geography, regional and international development, medical geography, and geographic thought. He has held visiting professorships in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany, and was a member of the International Geographical Union's Commission on Geography and Public Policy. He studied under Professor Mabogunje.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CBD	Central Business District
CPT	Central Place Theory
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GNP	Gross National Product
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
PAMP	Professor Akin Mabogunje Project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme