

# Xenophobic Violence in South Africa: Economic Implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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*Abstract- This study examined Xenophobic Violence in South Africa: Economic Implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st Century. Xenophobia has been defined as contemptuous of which is foreign, especially of strangers or of people from different countries or cultures. South Africa has been battling recurrent xenophobic attacks since the attainment of democratic rule in 1994 with major incidences in 2008, 2015 and 2017. It also aim and examines the economic implications of xenophobic violence on Nigeria-South Africa relations, employing a survey research design. A sample of 100 respondents was selected from the general public in Nigeria, using simple random sampling from a population of 300. Primary data was collected and analyzed using the mean score rating method. The study found that Nigeria-South Africa relations have been marked by cooperation and conflict, with xenophobia exacerbating development, economic hardships, and immigration issues. The alienation of foreign nationals, particularly black immigrants in South Africa, has created a divide between "we" and "them," undermining African socialism and communalism. This study recommend that the South African government should prioritize empowering the black population to resolve apartheid contradictions and ensure a free society for all. Likewise the white minority controlling South Africa's economy must promote competition and inclusion. Xenophobic violence has significant economic implications for Nigeria-South Africa relations. Addressing the root causes of xenophobia and promoting economic empowerment and inclusion are crucial for fostering cooperation and development between the two nations. It is then recommended that the government of the South Africa should work towards fulfilling its constitutional and international obligation of protecting the lives, properties, and rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the country, irrespective of their race or sex, creed or colour as articulated in various international agreements in which the country is signatory to.*

*Keywords: xenophobic violence, economic implementation, south africa - nigeria relation, xenophobia, economic interdependence.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

On May 11, 2008, xenophobic violence erupted in South Africa, when South African nationals attacked foreign nationals, particularly black Africans living in impoverished areas. The violence, which started in Alexandra, Johannesburg, quickly spread to other parts of the country. Official reports confirmed the deaths of 62 people, 342 foreign-owned stores were looted, and 213 were set on fire. Among the deceased, 41 were foreigners. This incident marked one of the most brutal waves of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, though such violence had occurred before. The attacks reached a climax in May 2008, with "at least 670 people injured and more than 100,000 displaced." In response to the escalating violence, the Democratic Alliance (DA) urged the South African government to deploy the military to assist the police in halting the attacks. However, it took 11 days for the government to deploy the army, during which time approximately "40 people died, hundreds were injured, and thousands displaced." It wasn't until May 26, 2008, that the government declared control over the situation (Ige, 2018).

These persistent xenophobic attacks, particularly against Nigerians, have drawn widespread local and international condemnation. The study aims to shed light on the deep-seated issues of racial intolerance and hostility towards foreigners, especially Nigerians, in South Africa. This phenomenon is closely linked to the country's history of apartheid and post-apartheid socio-economic relations, which have

created complex notions of community, rights, and belonging among black South Africans. Xenophobia in South Africa is a psychosocial legacy of the apartheid regime, deeply embedded in the nation's collective consciousness. The reorientation of black South Africans after apartheid, coupled with the dispossession of wealth and dignity by the oppressive apartheid system, continues to hinder socio-economic progress, particularly within black communities. Xenophobic violence often manifests as aggression by black South Africans against black foreigners, further exacerbating social dislocation and hindering educational, economic, and cultural development. This environment of hostility has far-reaching implications, including the negative impact on South Africa-Nigeria relations, which are shaped by both economic ties and shared histories.

Xenophobic violence has become a recurring phenomenon in South Africa, with devastating effects on foreign nationals, particularly Nigerians (Misago, 2011). The violence has resulted in the loss of lives, destruction of property, and displacement of foreign nationals (Adepoju, 2015). The economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations are significant, with trade and investment between the two countries declining in recent years (Ogunnubi, 2017). South Africa and Nigeria have a long history of diplomatic and economic relations, with Nigeria being one of South Africa's largest trading partners in Africa (Ogunnubi, 2017). However, the recurring xenophobic violence in South Africa has strained relations between the two countries, with Nigeria recalling its ambassador to South Africa in 2019 (Premium Times, 2019).

The economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations are multifaceted. Firstly, the violence has resulted in a decline in trade between the two countries, with South African exports to Nigeria declining by 20% in 2020 (South African Revenue Service, 2020). Secondly, the violence has affected the tourism industry, with Nigerian tourists canceling their trips to South Africa in response to the violence (Tourism Business Council of South Africa, 2020). Finally, the violence has strained diplomatic relations between the two countries, with Nigeria threatening to cut diplomatic

ties with South Africa if the violence continues (The Guardian, 2020). The economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations are significant, with trade, tourism, and diplomatic relations all being affected. This study aims to explore these implications in more detail and provide recommendations for promoting economic cooperation and reducing xenophobic violence.

South Africa's internal environment has been hostile to non-nationals, particularly undocumented migrants, and as such, there is an implicit culture of impunity, which promotes popular justice in most communities. Unquestionably and undoubtedly, this hostile disposition towards non-nationals has subsequently made South Africa one of the most dangerous countries in the country. As a result, Nigerians and foreign business owners are generally attacked during xenophobic attacks. In these dangerous and perilous times in South Africa, xenophobic attacks have inevitably caused many fears and worries, negative feelings in the minds of people living inside and outside the country. Infected, pathetically and emotionally, it has radically discouraged Nigerians and many other foreign investors from coming to South Africa in respect of economic relations. This subsequently put a strain on relations between Nigeria and South Africa; and the economic development of the country. It has also plunged the country into a state of perplexity. Although the country has dynamic and brilliant policies and a framework capable of dealing with criminal offenses or perpetrators of various attacks, these virtues have not really been transformed to reduce the xenophobic attacks directed against Nigerians in South Africa. A major problem arising from this inefficiency is the difficult relationship between Nigeria and South Africa partnerships over the years. This strenuous relationship is lack of mutual diplomatic and tactful reciprocity on the part of the South Africa government and the country's non-state actors for the strategic role Nigeria played in the struggle against apartheid. It is therefore pertinent to assess the pitfalls or effects of xenophobic attacks on South Africa's economic relationship with Nigeria; and imperative to explore whatsoever diplomatic crisis between Nigeria and South Africa. The recurring xenophobic violence in

South Africa has been attributed to various factors, including unemployment, poverty, and inequality (Misago, 2011). Additionally, the violence has been fueled by misinformation and stereotypes about foreign nationals, particularly Nigerians (Adriaans, 2017).

The impact of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations has been significant. In 2019, Nigeria recalled its ambassador to South Africa, and the Nigerian government also issued a statement condemning the violence (Premium Times, 2019). The violence has also affected trade and investment between the two countries, with Nigerian businesses in South Africa being targeted (Ogunnubi, 2017). The xenophobic violence has also had a negative impact on the tourism industry, with Nigerian tourists canceling their trips to South Africa (Tourism Business Council of South Africa, 2020). The background of the study on xenophobic violence in South Africa reveals a complex and multifaceted issue that has significant economic and diplomatic implications for South Africa-Nigeria relations.

Before 1994, immigrants from other parts of Africa and beyond faced discrimination and violence in South Africa. After the attainment of majority rule in 1994, immigrants felt that the incidence of xenophobia would reduce but on the contrary, the incidence of xenophobia increased. Between 2000 and March 2008, at least 67 people died in what was identified as xenophobic attacks. In May 2008, a series of attacks left 62 people dead; 21 of those killed were South African citizens (International Organization for Migration, 2019). Between 2010 and 2017, the immigrant community in South Africa increased from 2 million people to 4 million people (SAHO, 2019). In 2015, another nationwide spike in xenophobic attacks against immigrants, in general, prompted several foreign governments to evacuate their citizens. In 2019, a study conducted by SAHO revealed that 65% of South Africans viewed immigrants as parasitic and a burden on society because they had come to take jobs and social benefits and that 63% of South Africans thought that more immigrants were involved in criminal activities than other groups (SAHO, 2019). In its attempts to overcome the divisiveness of the past and build new

forms of social cohesion, the South African government embarked on an aggressive and inclusive nation-building project. One unanticipated byproduct of this project has been a growth in intolerance towards outsiders, and violence against foreign citizens and African refugees. This problem has become increasingly common and communities are divided by hostility and suspicion. Following the riots and murder of other Africans in 2017, violence again broke out in 2019 (SABC, 2019).

Due to wars, unrest, economic hardships and hostilities in most African countries, some African and non-African people migrated to South Africa in search of safety and a better life. Some were denied refugee status but others from contiguous countries like Mozambique were, on technical grounds, allowed to settle in the 'bantustans' or black homelands created during the apartheid system. Unrest and civil war also drove a large number of Congolese to South Africa. Many of the Congolese became illegal migrants. Over time, the host communities began exhibiting xenophobic attitudes towards refugees such as denying them access to the primary healthcare to which they were technically entitled. The commonly exhibited attitude of police officers against foreigners in cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban to crimes is that most of the undocumented immigrants in those cities were involved in crime despite a lack of statistical evidence to substantiate the claim. Such a misperception as well as the vulnerability of illegal immigrants led to abuse, violence and extortion (Michael, 2019). In January 1995, the immigrants from Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique living in the Alexandra township were "physically assaulted for several weeks as armed gangs identified suspected undocumented migrants and marched them to police stations in an attempt to 'clean' the township of foreigners (Human Sciences Research Council, 2018). In September 1998, a Mozambican national and two Senegalese citizens were thrown out of a train. The assault was carried out by a group returning from a rally and the group blamed foreigners for unemployment, crime and the spread of AIDS (Human Rights Watch, 1998).

In 2000, seven foreigners were killed on the Cape Flats over five weeks in what police described as xenophobic murders possibly motivated by the fear that outsiders would claim property belonging to locals. In the last week of 2005 and the first week of 2006, at least, four people, including two Zimbabweans, died in the Olievenhoutbosch settlement after foreigners were blamed for the death of a local man. Shacks belonging to foreigners were set ablaze and locals demanded that police remove all immigrants from the area. Attacks on foreign nationals increased markedly in late 2007 and it is believed that there were, at least, a dozen attacks between January and May 2008. The most severe incident occurred on the 8th of January, 2008, when two Somali shop owners were murdered in the Eastern Cape towns of Jeffreys Bay and East London (Human Sciences Research Council, 2018). In March 2008, seven people were killed including Zimbabweans, Pakistanis and a Somali national after their shops and shacks were set ablaze in Atteridgeville near Pretoria it resulted in the death of several people and hundreds were injured. This tragic incident prompted the voluntary deportation of immigrants to their home countries and the destruction of immigrant-owned properties. In 2015, another widely documented series of xenophobic attacks occurred in South Africa, mostly against migrants from Zimbabwe. This followed remarks by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu stating that the migrants should “pack their bags and leave.” As of the 20th of April 2015, 7 people had died and more than 2000 foreigners had been displaced. Following the riots and murder of other Africans in 2008 and 2015, violence again broke out in 2019 (SAHO, 2019).

The economic and political challenges in most African countries are predominantly the major causes of migration to South Africa in search of greener pastures. According to Evans (2009), the negative effects of apartheid which did not support the development of the human capacity of black South Africans did not prepare them adequately to hold jobs. As a result of their incapability, foreigners have been found more suitable for employment. This has resulted in agitation and frustration for the indigenous

South Africans who have then resorted to violence to settle the score.

So, the focus of this study is the negative implications of xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa. Migration has its cultural, political, and economic challenges but has huge negative effects on international relations. This study interrogates the danger of using violence to address issues that require policy changes in the country (Haffajee, 2019).

South Africa is back in the news yet again for all the wrong reasons. At least 12 people were killed and hundreds arrested after mobs attacked foreign-owned shops in Johannesburg and Pretoria last week. The attacks drew condemnation from across the African continent and resulted in reprisal attacks abroad. Nigeria began evacuating some of its citizens, recalled its high commissioner, and boycotted the World Economic Forum on Africa summit in Cape Town.

The latest wave of xenophobic attacks is undergirded by the belief that foreigners mainly migrants from other African countries are to blame for South Africa's social and economic woes. And while a significant number of the population hold anti-immigrant views, data shows the country faces bigger challenges than hosting foreign nationals.

### 1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

African socialism which is evidence in her slogan “Mbuntu and Ujamaa” by South Africa and Tanzania registers in our minds the communal lifestyle of African countries which paved way for collectivity in the struggle for nationhood among different African nationalist who saw and place high regards for the African race irrespective of regional divides. This is seen as Africans traditionally prided themselves on being friendly to visitors of all race.

Irrespective of the aforementioned relationship that was previously experienced among Africa countries, the revise is the case in recent times as South Africa has consistently shown discriminatory tendencies toward foreign nationals residing in the country. This discriminative act of apartheid is rather telling as the

country is plagued by anti-foreigner feelings and hate. These resentments and sentiments are becoming more violent, causing diplomatic challenges for South Africa as a whole. Despite efforts put in place by African nationalist in the struggle for independence and the stoppage of apartheid system in South Africa and the establishment of African ideologies for brotherhood of the African state among which is “Mbuntu”. What could have prompted this new idea of xenophobic attack on foreigners? Are there economic impact of such attacks on the country and her economy? This study is posed to answer these questions. It is designed to find out the economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa and Nigeria relationship in the 21st century.

### 1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to assess the economic implications of xenophobic violence on Nigeria-South Africa relations.

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

To assess the relationship between xenophobic violence and the economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

To analyze the impact of xenophobic violence on the economic relationship between South Africa and Nigeria.

To evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to address xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria.

### 1.4 Research Questions

What is the relationship between xenophobic violence and the economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria?

What is the impact of xenophobic violence on the economic relationship between South Africa and Nigeria?

How effective are the measures taken to address xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria?

### 1.5 Research Hypotheses

H01: There is no relationship between xenophobic violence and the economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

H02: Xenophobic violence has no impact on the economic relationship between South Africa and Nigeria.

H03: The measures taken to address xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria are not effective.

### 1.6 Scope of the Study

The researcher has chosen to limit the scope of the study to Xenophobic Violence in South Africa: Economic Implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st Century. The analysis will primarily examine the period from 2000 to the present, considering both historical and contemporary factors contributing to the violence and its impact on bilateral relations.

### 1.7 Significance of the Study

This study seeks to explore how diplomatic protection can be employed by states to seek reparations for their nationals who fall victim to mob violence in foreign countries. It examines the extent to which a state is legally obligated in the international sphere to make reparations for failing to protect foreigners within its jurisdiction. The findings of this study are expected to provide guidance to the South African government regarding mechanisms for seeking redress for its nationals. Furthermore, the study aims to inspire further academic research in this field, thereby enriching the existing body of knowledge on xenophobic violence and its economic consequences.

For South Africa, this research highlights the detrimental impact of xenophobic violence on the country's international relations. Violent attacks on foreign nationals, particularly Nigerians, can severely undermine economic and diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria, further isolating the country on the global stage.

### 1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

**Xenophobic Violence:** Physical and verbal attacks directed towards foreign nationals, particularly Africans, in South Africa (Misago, 2011).

**Economic Implications:** The consequences of xenophobic violence on the economy, including trade, investment, and tourism (Adepoju, 2015).

**South Africa-Nigeria Relations:** The diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between South Africa and Nigeria (Ogunnubi, 2017).

**Xenophobia:** A feeling of dislike or fear towards people from other countries (Adriaans, 2017).

**Intergroup Conflict:** Conflict between different groups, including racial, ethnic, or national groups (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

**Economic Interdependence:** The mutual dependence of countries on each other for economic benefits (Keohane & Nye, 1977).

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter places the study in the context of prior studies. It conceptualized and reviewed the research undertaken on Xenophobic Violence in South Africa: Economic Implication For South Africa-Nigeria Relations In 21st Century, as well as survey of theoretical reviews and empirical studies concerning the variables of the study were extensively reviewed.

### 2.2 Conceptual Review

The Oxford English Dictionary definitions of xenophobia include deep-rooted fear towards foreigners and “fear of the unfamiliar.” In ancient Greece, the terms that underlie the word xenophobia, literally means “stranger fearing.” Xenophobia, an elegant-sounding name for an aversion to persons unfamiliar, ultimately derives from two Greek terms *xenos* which can be translated as either “stranger” or “guest,” and *phobos*, which means either “fear” or “flight.” *Phobos* is the ultimate source of all English phobia terms but many of those were coined in English or New Latin using the combining form -*phobia* (which is traceable to *phobos*). Xenophobia

itself came through New Latin and first appeared in print in English in the late 19th century (Webster Dictionary). Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. Xenophobia can involve perceptions of an in-group or toward an out-group and can manifest itself in suspicion of the activities of others, and a desire to eliminate their presence to secure a presumed purity and may relate to a fear of losing national, ethnic or racial identity. Xenophobia can also be exhibited in the form of an “uncritical exaltation of another culture” in which a culture is ascribed “an unreal, stereotyped and exotic quality”. According to UNESCO, the terms xenophobia and racism often overlap but differ in how the latter is generally centred on prejudice based on physical characteristics while the former encompasses behaviour based on the notion of a specified people being averse to the culture or nation (Michael, 2019).

In South Africa, xenophobia existed in both the apartheid and post apartheid era. Hostility between the British and Boers exacerbated by the Second Boer War led to rebellion by poor Afrikaners who looted British owned shops. South Africa also passed numerous acts intended to keep out Indians, such as the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913, which provided for the exclusion of “undesirables”, a group of people that included Indians. This effectively halted Indian immigration (Michael, 2019). The Township Franchise Ordinance of 1924 was intended to “deprive Indians of the municipal franchise.” Xenophobic attitudes toward the Chinese have also been obvious, sometimes in the form of robberies or hijackings, and a hate speech case in 2018 was put to court and a year later 11 offenders were put on trial. In 1994 and 1995, gangs of armed youth destroyed the homes of foreign nationals living in Johannesburg, demanding that the police should repatriate them to their home countries (Human Sciences Research Council, 2018). In 2008, a widely documented spate of xenophobic attacks occurred in Johannesburg. It is estimated that tens of thousands of migrants were displaced; and property, businesses and homes were widely looted. The death toll after the attack stood at 56. In 2015, another widely documented series of xenophobic attacks occurred in South Africa, mostly against migrant Zimbabweans.

This followed remarks by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini stating that the migrants should “pack their bags and leave.” As of 20th April 2015, 7 people had died and more than 2000 foreigners had been displaced. Following the riots and series the murder of other Africans from 2008 and 2015, violence again broke out in 2019 (SABC, 2019).

**Xenophobia in South Africa before and after 1994**  
According to the Southern African Migration Project, between 1984 and 1992 estimated 50,000 to 350,000 Mozambicans fled to South Africa. They were not granted refugee status but were technically allowed to settle in the Bantustans or black homelands created during the apartheid era. However, the reality was varied, with the homeland of Lebowa outright banning Mozambican settlers while Gazankulu welcomed the refugees with support in the form of land and equipment. However, those in Gazankulu found themselves confined to the homeland and liable to deportation should they officially enter South Africa, and evidence exists that their hosts denied them access to economic resources (Wimmer, 1997). Furthermore, the study reveals that unrest and also civil war saw a large number of Congolese people illegally migrate to South Africa in 1993 and 1994. Subsequent studies found indications of xenophobic attitudes towards these refugees, typified by their being denied access to primary healthcare to which they were technically entitled (SAMP, 2016). It was found that xenophobia in South Africa is perceived to have significantly increased after the election of a black majority government in 1994. The study was based on a citizens survey across member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and found South Africans expressing the harshest anti-immigrant sentiment, with some South Africans in favor of a complete ban on foreign entry and many in favour of strict limitations on the number of emigrants permitted (SADC, 2000).

In 2008, there were incidences of riots and murders of other Africans, and a widely documented spate of xenophobic attacks occurred in Johannesburg. Another incident of attacks and killing of African migrants occurred in 2015. In 2018, hate speech and

xenophobic attitudes were directed against Chinese migrants in South Africa. Also in 2018, there were targeted attacks on foreign-owned businesses, including businesses owned by Nigerians, and incidences of robberies and hijackings also occurred. In 2019, violence broke out and many lives were lost just as foreign-owned businesses were torched (SABC, 2019).

Xenophobic violence has become a recurring phenomenon in South Africa, with devastating effects on foreign nationals, particularly Nigerians (Misago, 2011). This conceptual review examines the economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations in the 21st century. Xenophobic violence in South Africa is often attributed to economic factors, such as unemployment, poverty, and competition for resources (Adepoju, 2015). These factors contribute to a sense of insecurity and frustration among South Africans, which is then directed towards foreign nationals (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

**The economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations are multifaceted:**  
**Trade and Investment:** Xenophobic violence can disrupt trade and investment between South Africa and Nigeria, as foreign investors become wary of investing in a country plagued by violence (Ogunnubi, 2017).

**Tourism:** The tourism industry, a significant contributor to South Africa's economy, is also affected by xenophobic violence, as tourists become hesitant to visit a country with a reputation for violence (Adepoju, 2015).

**Diplomatic Relations:** Xenophobic violence can strain diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria, as Nigeria may view the violence as a failure of the South African government to protect its citizens (Ogunnubi, 2017).

Ogunnubi (2017) examines the role of xenophobia in shaping the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria. The author argues that xenophobia has become a major challenge to the relationship, as it

has led to violence and discrimination against Nigerian immigrants in South Africa.

Furthermore, Ogunnubi (2017) discusses the economic implications of xenophobia on the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria. The author notes that xenophobia has led to a decline in trade and investment between the two countries, as well as a decrease in tourism.

In addition, Ogunnubi (2017) examines the role of diplomacy in shaping the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria. The author argues that diplomacy has been an important tool in managing the relationship, but notes that it has been challenged by the rise of xenophobia.

Adepoju's 2015 conceptual review focuses on the economic implications of xenophobic violence in South Africa. According to Adepoju, xenophobic violence has significant economic costs, including damage to property, loss of livelihoods, and disruption of trade and investment. Adepoju's review also highlights the impact of xenophobic violence on the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria. The author notes that the violence has strained diplomatic relations between the two countries and has led to a decline in trade and investment. In terms of conceptual framework, Adepoju's review draws on the concept of economic interdependence, which suggests that countries that are economically interdependent are less likely to engage in conflict. The author also uses the concept of social identity theory to explain how xenophobic violence is fueled by a sense of group identity and a perceived threat to that identity.

Adepoju's review also examines the impact of xenophobic violence on the economic development of South Africa. The author notes that the violence has led to a decline in foreign investment, a decrease in tourism, and a loss of skilled labor.

Furthermore, Adepoju's review discusses the role of the South African government in addressing xenophobic violence. The author argues that the government's response to the violence has been inadequate and that more needs to be done to prevent

future outbreaks of violence. In terms of methodology, Adepoju's review uses a qualitative approach, drawing on a range of sources including academic articles, government reports, and media accounts.

According to SIT, a person's sense of identity is derived from the groups they belong to<sup>1</sup>. This theory explains how individuals categorize themselves and others into groups, leading to a sense of belonging and identity. Tajfel, along with John Turner, introduced this concept in 1979, highlighting the importance of group membership in shaping our sense of self. The theory consists of three main processes:

**Social Categorization:** We categorize people into groups to understand and identify them.

**Social Identification:** We adopt the identity of the group we belong to and act accordingly.

**Social Comparison:** We compare our group (the ingroup) favorably to other groups (outgroups) to maintain our self-esteem.

These processes help explain how our group memberships influence our behavior, attitudes, and sense of identity.

Social Identity Theory (SIT) provides a framework for understanding the psychological processes that drive intergroup conflict, including xenophobic violence. According to SIT, individuals derive a sense of identity and belonging from their membership in social groups (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). When individuals perceive their ingroup (e.g., South Africans) as being threatened by an outgroup (e.g., Nigerian immigrants), they may engage in discriminatory or violent behavior towards the outgroup in order to protect their ingroup's status and identity (Tajfel & Turner, 1986).

SIT also suggests that individuals who are strongly identified with their ingroup are more likely to engage in intergroup conflict, including xenophobic violence (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). SIT highlights the role of social context in shaping intergroup relations.

For example, social and economic conditions, such as poverty and unemployment, can contribute to the development of xenophobic attitudes and behaviors (Tajfel & Turner, 1986). In the context of xenophobic violence in South Africa, SIT provides a useful framework for understanding the psychological and social factors that drive this phenomenon.

Turner's review also emphasizes the importance of self-determination and community-led initiatives in revitalizing Indigenous food systems. The author highlights several examples of successful community-led initiatives, including:

**Traditional Food Revitalization Programs:** These programs aim to revitalize traditional food knowledge and skills, and often involve community-led workshops, training programs, and cultural camps.

**Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiatives:** These initiatives aim to promote Indigenous control over food systems, and often involve community-led initiatives to develop and manage traditional food systems.

**Community-Led Research Initiatives:** These initiatives aim to promote community-led research and knowledge generation, and often involve partnerships between Indigenous communities and academic researchers.

Turner's review also highlights several key challenges and limitations facing Indigenous food systems, including:

**Colonization and Historical Trauma:** The legacy of colonization and historical trauma continues to impact Indigenous food systems, including the loss of access to traditional harvesting areas and the decline of traditional food knowledge.

**Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:** Climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly impacting Indigenous food systems, including changes to seasonal availability and the decline of traditional food sources.

**Food Insecurity and Nutrition:** Indigenous communities continue to experience high rates of food insecurity and nutrition-related health problems, which are often linked to the decline of traditional food systems.

Turner's review provides a comprehensive overview of the complex issues surrounding Indigenous food systems, and highlights the importance of community-led initiatives and self-determination in promoting cultural and nutritional resilience.

#### 2.2.1 Foreigners and the South African Police Service

The attitude of the police officers towards foreign nationals in South African cities such as Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town was an indication of misperception that most undocumented immigrants in these cities are involved in crime, despite the lack of statistical evidence to substantiate the perception. According to analysts, such views combined with the vulnerability of illegal aliens led to abuse including violence and extortion. In March 2007, a representative of Burundian refugees in Durban; claimed that immigrants could not rely on the police for protection but instead found police mistreating them, stealing from them and making unconfirmed allegations that they sell drugs (Times Live, 2019).

#### 2.2.2 An Historical Overview of Nigeria-South Africa Relations

The history of the Nigeria-South Africa relations could be traced to events arising from the Sharpeville massacre of 21st March, 1960, when the South African police shot and killed 72 blacks and wounded 184 (Zabadi and Onuoha, 2012; Akinboye, 2013). This event which occurred even before Nigeria independence marked the beginning of Nigeria confrontation against white South Africa. The Tafawa Balewa government (1960-1966) upon assumption of office in October 1, 1960 was faced with overwhelming pressure from both domestic and external sources to institute measures to check South Africa apartheid policies. Consequently, Nigeria banned the importation of South African goods into the country and was instrumental to the political and economic sanctions passed against the racist regime.

Furthermore, Balewa went to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference in March 1961 in London, where he spearheaded the move that led to the withdrawal of South Africa from the Commonwealth (Aluko, 1982). By 1962, Nigeria terminated all the privileges of Commonwealth membership which South Africans enjoyed in Nigeria. The Nigerian government anti-apartheid policy continued until the first republic was ousted by Major Nzeogwu's military coup in January 15, 1966. The military coup of January 15, 1966 which seized power from the Balewa regime brought Aguiyi Ironsi transition to the helm of affairs. The brief administration of General Ironsi between January-July 1966 did not record any substantial policy against the apartheid regime in South Africa, due largely to the volatile security situation in Nigeria that was precipitated by the coup (Ademoyega, 1981). Following the take-over of the reins of government in Nigeria in July 29, 1966 by the military-led administration of Yakubu Gowon after the assassination of General Aguiyi Ironsi, a slightly modified policy towards South Africa was adopted. The new policy which was based on boycott and confrontation with white minority regime in South Africa led to a proclamation declaring white South Africans prohibited immigrants in Nigeria. The Nigerian civil war of 1967-1970 further deepened the crisis on the Nigeria-South Africa relations, upon realization that South Africa was sabotaging the efforts of Nigeria in the war. Yakubu Gowon thus strengthened his anti-apartheid policy, and this continued after the war when Nigeria became even much more financially buoyant as her oil resources contributed enormous foreign currency to her coffers than before. The country was hereby able to play a confident and much more dynamic role in world affairs (Ajala, 1993). The Murtala Mohammed government (1975-1976) that ousted the Gowon administration through a coup was, right from the outset, prepared to take radical measures in Africa decolonization process. The Angolan crisis of 1975 provided an opportunity for the Nigeria government to demonstrate her commitment to the anti-apartheid struggle by resolving the political stalemate in the former (Fafowora, 1984; Gambari, 2008). Following the killing of General Mohammadu in the abortive coup led by Colonel Buka Dimkain July 1976,

General Olusegun Obasanjo continued the same radical approach in the country of foreign policy relations with South Africa. Thus, General Olusegun Obasanjo administration was widely perceived as a continuation of Murtala Mohammed administration (Garba, 1987). Thereafter, in the 80s, Nigeria-South Africa relations witnessed the following phases: the civilian administration of Shehu Shagari, and the succeeding military administrations of Muhammadu Buhari and Ibrahim Babangida. Yet there was hardly any difference in their pursuit of Nigeria-South Africa relations. For instance, the second republic administration of Shehu Shagari (1979-1983) was encumbered by a number of domestic challenges which bordered on its inability to deliver on his electoral promises, coupled with a sharp decline in oil revenues. These two factors largely affected the pursuit of Nigeria Afrocentric policies which had serious implications on the Nigeria-South Africa relations. This was evident in the administration inability to contribute financially to the fight against apartheid in South Africa. While in the short-lived regime of Muhammadu Buhari (1983-1985), the Afro-centric foreign policy of the Nigerian government toward South African apartheid regime was revitalized, but not without serious opposition from domestic pressure groups, which clamored for improved standard of living for citizens rather than rendering assistance to other African countries. Therefore, the only appreciable impact of Nigeria-South Africa relations under Buhari regime was the hosting of the second international conference on apartheid, tagged Legal Status of the Apartheid Regime held in Lagos, Nigeria, August 1984. In the conference, apartheid was declared illegal and the result further heightened the pressure on apartheid regime in South Africa, and reinforced Nigeria determination to eradicate all vestiges of racist regimes in Africa. Apartheid regime in South Africa would appear to have been effectively tackled under Babangida's regime (1985-1993). The UN Anti-Apartheid Committee which had enjoyed Nigerian headship for the better part of its existence continued its vigorous campaigns against apartheid. At the level of the Non-Aligned Movement, the dying tempo of decolonization was revived with a resolution for the establishment of an African Fund at the Harare Conference in 1986, to assist the liberation of

Southern Africa as a whole, and at the Paris International Conference for sanctions against apartheid in 1987. Nigeria, in addition to her usual financial support, opted for tougher sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa (Saliu, 2006). However, it is important to note that the requirements of economic diplomacy compromised Babangida famous stand on apartheid. For instance, Nigeria hosted the then apartheid President Frederick De Klerk in Abuja in 1992 despite the reversible steps taken by the apartheid state towards reforms. In essence, Babangida regime rhetorical approach was a mere ploy to redeem the discredited image of his regime (Saliu, 2006). From the foregoing, it is clear that Nigeria policy towards South Africa between 1960 and 1993 was characterized by the former disdain of the latter apartheid policy. Although Nigeria, from independence, maintained a hostile attitude towards South Africa for more than thirty years until the early 1990s, both countries established formal diplomatic relations on the 21st February 1994 following the termination of apartheid policy, the release of the African National Congress (ANC) leader, Nelson Mandela and the conduct of general elections in South Africa. Prior to this time, Nigeria mission was operating through the Angolan High Commission in Pretoria. Subsequently, an exchange of High Commissioners was done by the two countries, with each acutely conscious of the fact that both countries need each other support in the mutually advantageous conduct of their bilateral relations and multilateral diplomacy in Africa (Akindele, 2007). The post-1994 Nigeria-South Africa relations began with a major disagreement over Nigeria's domestic policy. General Sani Abacha's dictatorial military regime (1993-1998), and its decision to hang Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight Ogoni men on the 10th of November 1995, provided the first occasion for an open diplomatic strain in the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa at the aftermath of the apartheid era. Consequently, upon the alleged role of South Africa in the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth at the Auckland Summit in November 1995, the Nigerian state retaliated for the diplomatic offensive by severing diplomatic relations with South Africa (Ibeanu and Nwachukwu, 2004; Akinterinwa, 2009). The frosty relationship between the two countries was

consequently amended by the military regime of Abdusallam Abubakar whose reconciliatory trip to South Africa marked the beginning of a relatively new relationship between the two countries. By the year 1999, Nigeria and South Africa began to redefine their bilateral and multilateral relationships, more so as this period coincided with democratic transitions in both countries. In essence, the period since 1999, ushered in an era of strategic bilateral dealings which herald the formation of Nigeria-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC), inaugurated in October 1999 (Akinboye, 2005). Indeed, the period between 2000 and 2005 witnessed a more focused and active articulation of a strategic partnership between Nigeria and South Africa due largely to the perceived challenges of Africa in a rapidly globalizing world. The personality of Nigerians President at that time, Olusegun Obasanjo and his South African counterpart, Thabo Mbeki, was a major contributing factor to the emerging and cordial relationship between the two countries. Obasanjo and Mbeki perceived the urgent need for Africans re-birth and they shared equal passion for the realization of such goal (Adebajo and Landsberg, 2003). Keying into the re-awakening of Pan-Africanism and regional role conception by Nigeria and South Africa after the end of the Cold War in 1989, there were concerns in policy and scholarly circles on the need for the two countries to play major roles in conflict mitigation and peace building in war-torn African countries. This was moreover in view of the fact that Western countries and the United Nations began to challenge African governments to help resolve regional conflicts in the continent. This new stance was fuelled by the repeated complaint at the United Nations about the shortage of funds to finance peace-keeping operations (Benneh, 2001). Another major collaborative effort by Nigeria and South Africa in promoting continental renaissance was the facilitation of the diplomatic process that transformed the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) in 1999. Nigeria and South Africa were also instrumental to the formation of Africa new development initiative, the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) in 2001, and its governance tool; African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in 2003. The expectations by

the international community, since the year 2000, is that Africans and the continental political leadership would look inward themselves towards solving their problems: no doubt this expectation made those initiatives very important and timely (NEPAD, 2001). However, in a more recent time, Nigeria-South Africa diplomatic relations has deteriorated on many fronts, prompting the visit of President Goodluck Jonathan to South Africa where he addressed the latter joint parliament. The Presidential visit was prompted by the yellow card fever certificate saga that involved both countries. The South African government had on March 2, 2012 deported 125 Nigerians (75 aboard South African Airways) and (50 aboard Arik Air Ways) for possessing fake yellow cards fever vaccination (The Guardian Editorials, March 5, 2012:3). The Nigerian government immediately retaliated what was generally perceived as unfair treatment of Nigerians, indeed an affront to diplomatic norms, by deporting a total of 128 South Africans within two days, citing lack of proper documentation as reasons for shutting them out (The News Editorials, March 19, 2012:50). In a related development, the arms deal that involved both countries which came on the heels of the collapse of a building at the Synagogue of All Nations Church, Lagos, a Nigeria-based religious Centre, claiming the lives of about 84 South African nationals became the latest in the ranks of diplomatic embarrassment that has bedeviled the Nigeria South relations. According to Kayode (2014) failure on the part of the Nigerian government to officially declare the cash of 9.3 million USD, loaded into a Nigerian-owned jet to the South African Customs as required by the latter law attracted negative diplomatic reaction from the South African government. Kayode (2014) argued that the seizure of the cash in the custody of the Nigerian intelligence officials who had attempted to purchase arms through the black market allegedly for the prosecution of war on terror and insurgents did not violate any international practice in the field of security and intelligence. Kayode (2014) concluded that the diplomatic row engendered by the incident in Nigeria-South Africa relations only portrayed the hypocrisy in the international security structure as well as its institutions. From the aforementioned analysis, it is evident that the history of Nigeria-South Africa relations has vacillated

between cooperation and conflict, necessitated by each country foreign policy, regime type, domestic intricacies and international diplomacy.

Since the inauguration of the post-apartheid South Africa in 1994 hardly did any year go by without an incidence of xenophobic attacks on fellow blacks from other African countries by South Africans. This inevitably brought about destruction in human and material resources, which can hardly be quantified. This ugly development unavoidably pitched South Africa against other African countries especially Nigeria. The impacts of such attacks against Nigerians in South Africa can be viewed from political/diplomatic, socio-cultural and economic angle.

Nigeria-South Africa relations have a complex and fascinating history. The two countries have been connected for decades, with Nigeria playing a significant role in opposing the apartheid regime in South Africa. In the 1960s and 1970s, Nigeria was a vocal critic of apartheid, and the country's government provided support to anti-apartheid movements, including the African National Congress (ANC). This led to a period of strained relations between Nigeria and South Africa, with the apartheid regime viewing Nigeria as a threat. However, with the end of apartheid in 1994, relations between the two countries began to improve. Nigeria and South Africa established diplomatic relations, and the two countries began to cooperate on regional and international issues. Despite this improvement, relations between Nigeria and South Africa have not always been smooth. The two countries have had disagreements over issues such as trade, investment, and regional leadership <sup>2</sup>. Additionally, there have been incidents of xenophobic violence against Nigerians living in South Africa, which has strained relations between the two countries.

In recent years, there have been efforts to improve relations between Nigeria and South Africa. The two countries have established a bi-national commission to promote cooperation and understanding, and there have been several high-level visits between the two countries. The history of Nigeria-South Africa relations is complex and multifaceted. While there

have been periods of tension and conflict, there have also been efforts to promote cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

#### Key Milestones in Nigeria-South Africa Relations

1960s-1970s: Nigeria opposes apartheid regime in South Africa and provides support to anti-apartheid movements. 1994: End of apartheid in South Africa, and Nigeria and South Africa establish diplomatic relations.

2012: Nigeria and South Africa establish a bi-national commission to promote cooperation and understanding.

2019: Xenophobic violence against Nigerians living in South Africa strains relations between the two countries.

#### Key Issues in Nigeria-South Africa Relations

**Xenophobic Violence:** There have been several incidents of xenophobic violence against Nigerians living in South Africa, which has strained relations between the two countries.

**Trade and Investment:** Nigeria and South Africa have significant trade and investment ties, but there have been disagreements over issues such as tariffs and market access.

**Regional Leadership:** Nigeria and South Africa have both played significant roles in regional organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), but there have been disagreements over issues such as leadership and representation.

**Cooperation on Regional and International Issues:** Nigeria and South Africa have cooperated on a range of regional and international issues, including peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and global health. The Recent Developments in Nigeria-South Africa Relations is that, in 2019 Xenophobic Violence: In September 2019, there were widespread attacks on foreign nationals, including Nigerians, in South Africa. The attacks led to a significant strain in relations between Nigeria and South Africa.

**2020 Diplomatic Efforts:** In 2020, there were diplomatic efforts to improve relations between Nigeria and South Africa. The two countries agreed to establish a joint commission to promote cooperation and understanding.

**2022 Trade Agreement:** In 2022, Nigeria and South Africa signed a trade agreement aimed at promoting trade and investment between the two countries.

Nigeria-South Africa relations have a complex and multifaceted history. While there have been periods of tension and conflict, there have also been efforts to promote cooperation and understanding between the two countries. As two of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria and South Africa have a significant role to play in promoting regional and global development.

**2.2.3 Causes of Xenophobic Violence in South Africa** South African politicians have consistently complained about the influx of foreign citizens, with some claiming they were burdening sectors including the national healthcare system. Yet data from the government agency Statistics in South Africa showed there were 2.1 million international migrants in South Africa out of a population of 51.7 million in 2011. (Population figures have since jumped to 55.7 million). The government has also cracked down on migrants coming into the country, potentially reducing their numbers over the years. For instance, between January 2012 and December 2016, the Department of Home Affairs deported close to 370,000 people majority of them from neighboring Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Lesotho.

Following a sharp shrink in the first quarter of 2019, South Africa's economy dodged a recession after growing by 3.1% in the second quarter. Despite the rebound, it's hardly time to pop the champagne. As Africa's second-biggest economy, the country boasts good infrastructure, well-developed financial systems, and strong mining and manufacturing industries. Yet growth has been undermined by structural impediments including corruption, weak investment levels, and shortage of high-end skills. Some economists also expect the economy to slow in the third quarter, even as president Cyril Ramaphosa

faces mounting pressure to reverse the state of the ailing economy and improve competitiveness.

Many locals blame immigrants for taking their jobs and driving unemployment levels. Yet joblessness is so pervasive across South Africa that president Ramaphosa recently called it a “deep and serious crisis.” As of July 2019, national unemployment rates stood at 29% impacting an estimated 6.7 million people. Some 56.4% of 15-24 year-olds and 35.6% of the 25-34 year-olds remain jobless with 71% of those in unemployment spending a period of a year or longer looking for work. Poor education levels and weak labor policies have been blamed for the low growth in jobs, while some have pointed to the need to up skill workers in the face of growing technological innovation. Critical to note here is that while South Africans have access to social safety nets and basic services, most foreigners have to fend for themselves without any support.

Foreign nationals, particularly undocumented immigrants, have become scapegoats for crime in South Africa’s major urban cities with both politicians and police pointing fingers at them. The country for sure has a serious crime problem with over 21,000 people killed in the year that ended on March 2019. Besides murder rates, sexual offenses, assault, and robberies have all been rising amidst growing concern about violence against women. Despite that, experts have noted that it isn’t possible to conclude foreigners commit most of these violent crimes because the police don’t publicly release data on the nationalities of those they arrest and in many cases have no idea who the perpetrators are. South Africa continues to have one of the highest inequality rates in the world. The legacy of apartheid’s exclusion, skewed land ownership, limited access to capital, and ailing economic growth have perpetuated the levels of disparity across the country. Inequality in wealth is even higher: according to the World Bank, the richest 10% of the population held around 71% of net wealth in 2015, while the bottom 60% held 7% of the net wealth major factors for xenophobic violence in South Africa are:

**Economic Competition:** Many South Africans view foreigners, particularly those from other African

countries, as competitors for jobs, housing, and other resources.

**Historical and Social Factors:** South Africa's history of apartheid and colonialism has created a complex web of social and economic inequalities, which can contribute to tensions between different groups.

**Lack of Education and Awareness:** Many South Africans have limited understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by foreigners, which can contribute to stereotypes and prejudice.

**Poor Governance and Leadership:** In some cases, xenophobic violence has been fueled by poor governance and leadership, including inflammatory rhetoric and inadequate responses to violence.

**Poverty and Unemployment:** South Africa's high levels of poverty and unemployment have created an environment in which foreigners are often scapegoated for economic problems <sup>5</sup>.

These factors are interconnected and can feed into one another, creating a complex and challenging environment for addressing xenophobic violence.

**Inadequate Immigration Policies:** South Africa's immigration policies have been criticized for being inadequate and ineffective, leading to a large number of undocumented migrants in the country.

**Lack of Economic Opportunities:** Many South Africans feel that foreigners are taking jobs and economic opportunities that should be available to them.

**Housing and Service Delivery Issues:** In some areas, foreigners are perceived as competing with South Africans for housing and other services, such as healthcare and education.

**Crime and Security Concerns:** Some South Africans associate foreigners with crime and security concerns, which can fuel xenophobic sentiment.

**Political and Media Rhetoric:** In some cases, politicians and media outlets have used inflammatory

rhetoric to describe foreigners, which can contribute to a climate of xenophobia.

**Social and Economic Inequality:** South Africa's significant social and economic inequalities can contribute to a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Lack of Integration and Social Cohesion:** The lack of integration and social cohesion between different communities in South Africa can contribute to a sense of "otherness" and fuel xenophobic sentiment.

Other causes could be

**Rumors and Misinformation:** The spread of rumors and misinformation about foreigners can fuel xenophobic sentiment and lead to violence.

**Gangsterism and Criminality:** In some areas, gangs and criminal elements have exploited xenophobic sentiment to further their own interests and commit crimes.

**Lack of Trust in Institutions:** In some cases, xenophobic violence has been fueled by a lack of trust in institutions such as the police and government.

**Unemployment and Poverty:** High levels of unemployment and poverty in South Africa have created an environment in which foreigners are often scapegoated for economic problems.

**Inadequate Service Delivery:** In some areas, inadequate service delivery such as housing, healthcare, and education has led to frustration and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Tribalism and Ethnic Tensions:** In some cases, xenophobic violence has been fueled by tribalism and ethnic tensions within South Africa.

**External Factors:** External factors such as global economic trends, regional conflicts, and international migration patterns can also contribute to xenophobic sentiment and violence in South Africa.

**Social Media:** Social media has played a significant role in spreading xenophobic sentiment and fueling violence in South Africa.

**Lack of Education and Awareness:** A lack of education and awareness about the experiences and challenges faced by foreigners can contribute to xenophobic sentiment and violence.

**Population Growth and Urbanization:** Rapid population growth and urbanization in South Africa have put pressure on resources and infrastructure, leading to increased competition for jobs, housing, and services.

**Corruption and Poor Governance:** Corruption and poor governance in South Africa have contributed to a lack of trust in institutions and a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans.

**Media Representation:** The way foreigners are represented in the media can contribute to xenophobic sentiment and violence.

**Historical Trauma:** South Africa's history of apartheid and colonialism has left deep scars, and some South Africans may direct their anger and frustration towards foreigners.

**Lack of Social Cohesion:** The lack of social cohesion and a sense of shared identity among South Africans can contribute to xenophobic sentiment and violence.  
**Economic Inequality:** The significant economic inequality in South Africa can contribute to a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Brain Drain:** The brain drain of skilled South Africans to other countries has led to a shortage of skills and expertise, which can contribute to a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans.

**Globalization and Economic Change:** The impact of globalization and economic change on South Africa's economy and society can contribute to a sense of uncertainty and insecurity among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Rise of Nationalism:** The rise of nationalism in South Africa has contributed to a sense of "us versus them" mentality, which can fuel xenophobic sentiment.

**Lack of Accountability:** The lack of accountability for xenophobic violence and other crimes in South Africa can contribute to a sense of impunity and encourage further violence.

**Role of Traditional Leaders:** In some cases, traditional leaders in South Africa have played a role in fueling xenophobic sentiment and violence.

**Impact of Social Media:** Social media has played a significant role in spreading xenophobic sentiment and fueling violence in South Africa.

**Lack of Economic Opportunities:** The lack of economic opportunities and high levels of unemployment in South Africa can contribute to a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Inadequate Policing:** Inadequate policing and law enforcement in South Africa can contribute to a sense of insecurity and encourage further violence.

**Role of Civil Society:** Civil society organizations in South Africa have played a crucial role in promoting xenophobia and fueling violence.

**Impact of Corruption:** Corruption in South Africa has contributed to a sense of mistrust and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**Lack of Integration Policies:** The lack of integration policies and programs in South Africa can contribute to a sense of "otherness" and fuel xenophobic sentiment.

**Global Economic Trends:** Global economic trends, such as the 2008 financial crisis, have had a significant impact on South Africa's economy, leading to increased competition for jobs and resources.

**Regional Conflicts:** Regional conflicts, such as the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, have led to an influx of refugees and migrants into South Africa, putting pressure on resources and infrastructure.

**International Migration Patterns:** International migration patterns, such as the movement of people from other African countries to South Africa, have contributed to tensions and conflicts between different groups.

**Globalization and Trade:** Globalization and trade have led to increased economic competition and job insecurity in South Africa, contributing to tensions and conflicts between different groups.

**International Media Representation:** The way South Africa is represented in international media can contribute to a negative perception of the country and its people, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Relations:** South Africa's foreign policy and diplomatic relations with other countries can impact its relations with other nations and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**International Organizations and NGOs:** The role of international organizations and NGOs in South Africa can contribute to tensions and conflicts, particularly if they are perceived as favoring one group over another.

**Global Security Concerns:** Global security concerns, such as terrorism and cybercrime, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Economic Sanctions:** Economic sanctions imposed on South Africa by other countries can contribute to economic hardship and fuel xenophobic sentiment.

**Global Health Concerns:** Global health concerns, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Migration Policies:** Migration policies in other countries, such as those in Europe and North America, can impact migration patterns to South Africa and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Globalization and Labor Market Changes:** Changes in the global labor market, such as the rise of automation and artificial intelligence, can contribute to job insecurity and fuel xenophobic sentiment in South Africa.

**International Human Rights and Refugee Law:** The application of international human rights and refugee law in South Africa can be a source of tension and conflict, particularly if it is perceived as favoring one group over another.

**Global Media and Social Media:** The global media and social media can play a significant role in shaping public opinion and fueling xenophobic sentiment in South Africa.

**International Relations and Diplomacy:** The international relations and diplomacy of South Africa can impact its relations with other nations and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Economic Inequality:** Global economic inequality can contribute to a sense of frustration and resentment among some South Africans, which can be directed towards foreigners.

**International Trade Agreements:** International trade agreements, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), can impact South Africa's economy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Environmental Concerns:** Global environmental concerns, such as climate change, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Security Threats:** International security threats, such as terrorism and cybercrime, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**Global Demographic Changes:** Global demographic changes, such as aging populations and urbanization, can impact South Africa's economy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**International Migration and Refugee Policies:** International migration and refugee policies, such as those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), can impact South Africa's migration and refugee policies and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Health Pandemics:** Global health pandemics, such as COVID-19, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Economic Institutions:** International economic institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, can impact South Africa's economy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Governance and International Law:** Global governance and international law, such as the United Nations Charter and the Geneva Conventions, can impact South Africa's relations with other nations and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**International Humanitarian Interventions:** International humanitarian interventions, such as those in Libya and Syria, can impact South Africa's foreign policy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Economic Sanctions:** Global economic sanctions, such as those imposed on Russia and Iran, can impact South Africa's economy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**International Cyber-security Threats:** International cyber-security threats, such as hacking and cyber-attacks, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**Global Pandemics and Health Crises:** Global pandemics and health crises, such as the COVID-19

pandemic, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Environmental Disasters:** International environmental disasters, such as oil spills and nuclear accidents, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

**International Trade Wars:** International trade wars, such as the US-China trade war, can impact South Africa's economy and contribute to tensions and conflicts.

**Global Terrorist Threats:** Global terrorist threats, such as those posed by ISIS and Al-Qaeda, can contribute to a sense of insecurity and fear in South Africa, fueling xenophobic sentiment.

#### 2.2.4 Impacts of South Africa-Nigeria Relation

##### I. Social-Impact of Nigeria-South Africa Relations

###### a. Positive Social Impacts

**Cultural Exchange:** The relationship between Nigeria and South Africa has facilitated cultural exchange between the two countries, promoting cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.

**Education and Research:** There have been collaborations between universities and research institutions in Nigeria and South Africa, promoting academic exchange and research cooperation.

**Tourism:** The relationship has also promoted tourism between the two countries, with many Nigerians visiting South Africa and vice versa.

**People-to-People Diplomacy:** The relationship has facilitated people-to-people diplomacy, promoting friendship and cooperation between citizens of the two countries.

###### b. Negative Social Impacts

**Xenophobic Violence:** The relationship has been marred by incidents of xenophobic violence against Nigerians living in South Africa, resulting in loss of life and property.

**Racial Tensions:** There have been racial tensions between Nigerians and South Africans, with some South Africans viewing Nigerians as "foreigners" and blaming them for social and economic problems.

**Brain Drain:** The relationship has also led to a brain drain, with many skilled Nigerians migrating to South Africa in search of better economic opportunities.

**Social Inequality:** The relationship has exacerbated social inequality in both countries, with some individuals and groups benefiting from the relationship while others are left behind.

##### c. Mitigating the Negative Social Impacts

**Promoting Cultural Understanding:** Promoting cultural understanding and exchange between Nigerians and South Africans can help to reduce racial tensions and xenophobic violence.

**Addressing Social and Economic Inequality:** Addressing social and economic inequality in both countries can help to reduce the brain drain and promote more equitable economic opportunities.

**Encouraging People-to-People Diplomacy:** Encouraging people-to-people diplomacy can help to promote friendship and cooperation between citizens of the two countries.

**Fostering Collaboration and Cooperation:** Fostering collaboration and cooperation between Nigeria and South Africa can help to promote mutual understanding and respect.

##### II. Economic Impact of Xenophobic Violence

**Loss of Life and Property:** Xenophobic violence has resulted in the loss of life and property of Nigerian nationals living in South Africa.

**Disruption of Businesses:** Xenophobic violence has disrupted the businesses of Nigerian nationals living in South Africa, resulting in economic losses.

**Damage to Nigeria-South Africa Relations:** Xenophobic violence has damaged the relations between Nigeria and South Africa, resulting in a

decline in economic cooperation and trade between the two countries.

#### Political and Diplomatic Impacts

Politically, the incessant wave of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa has a lot of impactful implications if the two governments fail to muster enough political will to deal with this unbecoming situation. It can mar the ties between both countries. In diplomatic circles, once there is a severe row between countries the next option is recalling ambassadors and whenever there exist any breakdown of relationship between countries, it usually take time for such to be restored and taking into cognizance the position of Nigeria and South Africa in the African continent, it will be also to the detriment of the progress of other African countries. Xenophobic attacks in South Africa has received staunch criticism within and outside Africa, following the April 2015 xenophobic attack in South Africa, the United Nations Security Council was quick to condemn the attacks, as did her neighbours, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi, followed suite in denouncing and criticizing these acts (Claaassen, 2015). Nigeria on the other hand, went a step further by recalling her ambassadors from South Africa. The xenophobic attacks thus increased tensions between the two countries, as the Nigerian government felt the South African government was not doing enough to protect her citizens in South Africa, who she felt were the primary target of the attacks. Another dimension to this is its prospect to arouse loss of African solidarity - Africans usually regard each other as brothers and in so many circumstances speak with one voice in the international arena, it is reasoned that a break in relationship between Nigeria and South Africa will lead to a divided Africa thereby limiting their chances in making wave in international politics. Tough visa policies and restrictions also have impactful implications on people migrating in search of safer and more prosperous living conditions. The act of people migrating in search of greener pasture is as old as man and as a matter of fact “ it is the right of any person to migrate in search of safer and more prosperous living conditions; as this is enshrined in the 1984 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination

of all forms of Racial Discrimination. This clearly depicts people freedom to seek better, safer and more prosperous living conditions in any part of the world. However, this freedom can be restricted through stringent visa policies and it is envisaged that xenophobic attacks is capable of making Nigeria and South Africa to adopt stringent visa policies thereby killing the spirit of African brotherhood and making nonsense the new Pan-African Passport and ultimately dampening the seeking and searching of safer and more prosperous living conditions of Africans.

#### Socio-Cultural Impact

Having suffered from the ordeal of colonialism from the Europeans, Africans believes after gaining of independence and the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa that they (Africans) are brother with common history and descent. However, the upsurge of xenophobic attacks by South Africans towards their fellow African brothers depicts a renaissance of past apartheid ordeal and inhumanity of colonialism. Besides the aforementioned, other socio-cultural impactful implications of such ordeal and inhumanity is identity crisis. Identity conflict is one of the worst forms of distress and disorientation resulting from conflict pressures (e.g. colonialism and apartheid) and uncertainty about one's self and one's role in society as it affects the psychology of the victims thereby making them not to realize and achieve their self-esteem and full potentials. Another form of social impact of xenophobic attacks is African disunity. When Africans begin to see the fellow brothers and sisters as strangers and subsequently treating them as one: the impact of such state of disunity is obviously disunity in a continent of brothers and sisters that regards each other with common history and descent. The implication of this is the obvious fear that Africans will have when in other African countries other than their own country of birth. Insecurity also is an impactful implication of xenophobia for when one suffered and got humiliated socially and culturally from one brothers and sisters, the bad thought arising from such alienation and humiliation may lead them into joining bad gangs which might obviously lead to increase in security challenges within the African continent.

### III. Social Impact of Brain Drain

**Loss of Skilled Workers:** The brain drain has resulted in the loss of skilled workers from Nigeria, which has had a negative impact on the country's economic development.

**Disruption of Families:** The brain drain has disrupted families, with many Nigerians leaving their families behind to seek better economic opportunities in South Africa.

**Negative Impact on Nigeria's Economy:** The brain drain has had a negative impact on Nigeria's economy, with the country losing the skills and expertise of its citizens.

### IV. Cultural Impact of Nigeria-South Africa Relations

**Promoting Cultural Exchange:** The relationship between Nigeria and South Africa has promoted cultural exchange between the two countries, with many Nigerians and South Africans learning about each other's cultures.

**Fostering Cultural Understanding:** The relationship has fostered cultural understanding between Nigerians and South Africans, promoting mutual respect and tolerance.

**Promoting African Unity:** The relationship has promoted African unity, with Nigeria and South Africa working together to promote regional integration and cooperation.

#### Cultural Exchange Programs

**Student Exchange Programs:** There have been student exchange programs between Nigerian and South African universities, promoting cultural exchange and understanding between young people from both countries.

**Artist Exchange Programs:** There have been artist exchange programs between Nigeria and South Africa, promoting cultural exchange and collaboration between artists from both countries.

**Cultural Festivals:** There have been cultural festivals celebrating Nigerian and South African culture,

promoting cultural exchange and understanding between people from both countries.

#### Challenges to Cultural Exchange

**Language Barriers:** Language barriers have been a challenge to cultural exchange between Nigeria and South Africa, with many Nigerians speaking English and many South Africans speaking Afrikaans or isiZulu.

**Cultural Differences:** Cultural differences have been a challenge to cultural exchange between Nigeria and South Africa, with different customs, traditions, and values.

**Xenophobic Violence:** Xenophobic violence has been a challenge to cultural exchange between Nigeria and South Africa, with many Nigerians facing violence and discrimination in South Africa.

The cultural impact of Nigeria-South Africa relations has been significant, with cultural exchange programs promoting understanding and collaboration between people from both countries. However, there have also been challenges to cultural exchange, including language barriers, cultural differences, and xenophobic violence. Despite these challenges, it is essential to continue promoting cultural exchange and understanding between Nigeria and South Africa.

#### Economic Impact:

The economic impact of the recurring xenophobic attacks in South Africa on Nigerians is very enormous. Fundamentally, one of the principal reasons for xenophobic attacks in South Africa is tied to the economy i.e. foreigners and locals competing for scarce resources. It is the idea of South Africans to believe that citizens from African countries are taking over their jobs and businesses leading to high rate of unemployment especially among locals. While this argument appears to be correct but it is relatively weak as these people are doing genuine and legal businesses in South Africa. Equally, taking cognizance of the fact that South Africans are also doing businesses in other African countries, it will be better imagined of there exist reprisal attacks on South Africans in residing and doing businesses in other African countries. The implications for the

overall economy of Africa should this scenario play out were clearly depicted by the Nigerian-South African Chamber of Commerce. The chamber holds the view that the outbreak of xenophobic violence in South Africa and the reprisal events in Nigeria, including direct attack on foreign-owned businesses in both South Africa and Nigeria poses a threat to Africa fragile economic recovery and development. It will be equally instructive to note that attacks on businesses in Nigeria and South Africa will obviously bring about job losses, a development which might make the attack victims to be easy prey to terrorist organizations thereby aggravating the already worst security situations in both countries and Africa at large. Today in Nigeria and South Africa most of the crimes committed are usually perpetuated by the youths with the high rate of unemployment as a major factor.

Indisputably, the South African state of xenophobic attacks is disturbing and worrying the minds and feelings of many people not only those residing in South Africa or outside the country but also the citizens themselves (Mistry 2004). As it is often seen and regularly observed that the South Africans themselves were largely living in perpetual fear as they feel they could be the next victims of attacks by the foreign nationals or fear that the foreign nationals could retaliate terribly, and have massive support from the other powerful nations.

If care is not taken, it might lead to war among nations. Claassen (2015) cites that some South Africans were victims of xenophobic attacks, some for not participating in the movement, while other victims were mistakenly judged as foreigners. As regards investment, Oyelana (2015) also reveals that, the majority of foreign investors have lost confidence in the police and the judiciary that fail to protect them. In this regard, the majority of foreign investors lack community security. Consequently, this increases foreign investors exposure to abuse, crime and extortion by individuals and community leaders as revealed by Charman et al. (2012). Foreign investors were therefore, forced to rely almost completely on the authorized institutes of justice and they are hindered by lack of trust and faith in the police and courts aggravated by cultural and language

barriers. Charman et al. (2012) revealed that the police and prosecutor statements usually focus specifically on foreign investors. Regarding the lengthy justice process and foreign investor's victims of crime, it is often seen that the prosecutors and police also faced difficulties in communicating and keeping them engaged during court processes. Hence, according to Charman and Piper (2012), the study revealed there were various forms of violence feared by foreign investors during xenophobic attacks, following the categories used by the South African Police Service (SAPS) which includes: murder; attempted murder; robbery; theft; assault. Besides, in reality, every country is aware of how powerful investments are to their economies. Candidly speaking, any country that does not consider foreign investments as one or part of her economic growth and development priority, is definitely digging for her economic collapse. Observably, some African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana and Zimbabwe have previously implemented xenophobic attacks and this definitely reflected on their economies after sending foreign investors back to their countries. In fact, they regretted their actions and undiplomatic decisions taken against foreign nationals residing in their countries. In addition, the execution of impromptu xenophobic attacks by Nigerians, Ghanaians and Zimbabweans against foreign investors residing in their countries have, however, largely dissuaded many who may wish to invest in their economies (Atsenuwa and Adepoju, 2010; Posen and Ross, 2012). This incontrovertibly implies that xenophobic attacks negatively affect the countries direct foreign investments. Since xenophobic attacks victimize those who fall casualties of the observable fact, this devastatingly, tremendously and overwhelmingly prompts the need to question the government in the areas of its country policy and its legislative environment for possible gaps, and also assess how the victims of xenophobic attacks are compensated or treated (Crisp, 2010; Laubeova, 2012). This is because every citizen, whether South African citizens or foreign nationals, in fact, irrespective of any country one comes from has inalienable rights to be protected and live successively in such a country, provided that one has legal rights to stay either temporarily or permanently. More importantly and constitutionally, no one should take laws in his or her

hands to send anybody back to his or her country unless such person(s) has (have) been tried and found guilty by a competent law court of such country for committing an offense that warrants the verdict of the court on deportation. South Africa being one of the fast developing countries in the world, the rights of all citizens is gallantly and courteously well established in the country bill of rights and supreme constitution (Republic of South Africa 1996). However, recent evidence suggests that the South Africa economic situation or state of affairs is uneven and fluctuating due to inhospitable government policies designed to safeguard foreign investments and as a result, this has hindered huge investment opportunities. There is a need to encourage other investors from different countries such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Somalia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Ghana among others to invest in her economy.

The observable fact remains that those perpetrators who actually participate in these acts of xenophobic attacks have undoubtedly contributed to the downfall of the economic development of South Africa either directly or vice-versa. Devastatingly in South Africa, as soon as these perpetrators are arrested and sentenced, they are often not allowed to serve the appropriate jail term for the nature of the crimes committed; and after a short while, they are often released to walk free in the country. This is a pointer to the fact that South African laws are very lenient on these perpetrators and in fact there is a need for the South African government to review her judicial system and amend some laws as this could be one of the best ways or strategies to improve and strengthen her economic development. Seemingly, either the system is too compassionate, sympathetic, empathetic and merciful to the offenders, uncaring and unsympathetic to follow all the professionally, lawfully and legitimately due process to ensure fairness to the victims, and do justice to the culprits of the crime, or is disregarding the rights of the offenders (DeVilliers, 2006; Jaishankar, 2014). Prominently, recent evidence suggests that South African citizens alone cannot do all by themselves to enhance their current economic state of affairs. Apparently, the fact remains that for any country to improve or maintain success or progress economically in this Global economic dispensation,

there is a substantial or considerable need to be in good accord with other nationals residing in the country, investing one another economy and welcoming foreign nationals into their country with passion; in peace, tranquility and to learn how to live with different people in harmony. In fact, it is very important to emphasize at this juncture that any country executing xenophobic attacks would definitely have a propensity to experience poverty. It is very sad to state clearly that many African countries do not have a deep knowledge or clear understanding of what poverty means. In fact, some African leaders believe that embarking on xenophobic attacks would solve their identified economic problems, make them self-reliant and have full control of all their economic resources (Kasochi 2013). Considering a popular saying that a tree cannot make a forest□ it thus suffices to assert that a country cannot grow or develop on its own; seeing that no state; no matter how technologically advanced, financially buoyant or blessed with natural resources is self-sufficient.

But must be able and willing to accommodate new opportunities such as foreign investments, new technologies from abroad, billion dollar innovations and ideas, good vision and mission as well as the basics such as the labor that foreign nationals bring into the country. It should also be noted that different foreign investments would bring about new and brilliant business ideas, which would invariably bring about empowerment to South African natives and as a result, there would be many employment opportunities to accommodate huge numbers of local citizens who are unemployed as well as the unskilled workers in South Africa. These are potentials that tend to revolutionize the economy of a nation considered South Africa is able to channel the values, labor and the education of these foreign nations which will in turn create ripples of development, productivity and stability to her Economy. However, discussing poverty has a dependent variable, it can be said that its impacts cut across racial lines as it varied effects on the white and black populace. Claassen (2015) explains through a survey research on the subject matter that past experiences of poverty can be seen a causal factor for black respondents as its effects were seemingly less impactful among white

respondents, with a lowly 32% percent of white South African respondents, as opposed to an overwhelming 83% percent black respondents who felt the effect is associated to an heightened intensity of xenophobia. In a nutshell, the result of Claassen survey explicates that individual encounter of experiences with poverty increases xenophobia. Making poverty not only an effect of xenophobia but also a causal factor of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, this ultimately diminishes the productivity levels of black Diaspora living in South Africa, which serves as an economic impact of xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Table below further explains the effects of poverty on xenophobia.

### 2.3 Theoretical Review

Theory Rational choice theory, also known as a choice theory or a rational action theory, is a framework for understanding and often formally modeling social and economic behavior. According to the Rational Choice theory, the rivalry between foreign migrants and locals for scarce resources leads to xenophobia (Wimmer,1997). Xenophobia, not only in South Africa but also in other countries, is commonly justified on the grounds of economic necessity. According to Steinberg (2008), the economy is conceptualized as a finite lump: the assumption then is that access to resources is a zero-sum game and this breeds conflict. Relating this to foreigners, Steinberg (2008) explains that successful foreigners are perceived to prosper by benefiting unrightfully from national resources that belong to South Africans. Consequently, seeing foreigners prosper without any assistance from the state upsets one conception of one own relation to the state and what one sentiments are (Steinberg, 2008). South Africans perceive foreigners as competing with them for jobs, housing and other resources to which they themselves feel entitled to (Dodson, 2010). This is played out against a background of poverty, high unemployment and high income inequality between the rich and the poor. Fears of perceived foreign domination in the job market create conflict and make people feel that labor immigration should be limited and that the government is not doing enough to reduce the number of foreign migrants. The perceived competition for economic opportunities is associated with unskilled and casual jobs in the

domestic sphere, on farms, construction sites, in the hospitality and informal sectors. It is believed that migrants undercut citizens in these sectors where they are willing to work for less pay and for longer hours. In so doing, they also encourage employers to get away with unfair labor practices. Rational choice theory is widely accepted as an explanation for xenophobia in South Africa both at the individual and collective levels. This is supported by the results of a 2009 survey conducted by the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (2009). The survey, which investigated satisfaction and quality of life among 6,636 Gauteng residents and those of selected areas in neighboring provinces, uncovered xenophobic attitudes that cut across race, class and sex. A total of 69% of the respondents were in agreement that foreigners are taking benefits that are meant for South Africans. However, the relationship between xenophobia and a drop in wages or rising unemployment - both economic indicators of intensive competition in the labor market has not been scientifically tested in South Africa. Therefore, rational choice theory is not based on indicators of intensive competition in the economy but on perceptions of illegitimate competition, which has led to resentment of Nigerians and other migrants. While the rational choice theory has laid into explaining the hostile treatment unleashed by South Africans towards non-nationals and the purported institutionalized xenophobia in South Africa, it does not yet explain the conditions which gave rise to the negative perception of migrants given that other countries welcome migrants into their societies because of the positive contributions they make to the economy.

**Social Identity Theory:** This theory, developed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner, explains how individuals categorize themselves and others into groups, and how this categorization can lead to intergroup conflict and violence.

**Social Identity Theory (SIT)** explains how xenophobia arises from individuals deriving a sense of identity and belonging from group memberships, such as nationality, ethnicity, or religion. People categorize themselves and others into in-groups and out-groups, comparing them to enhance their own group's status and self-esteem.

Xenophobia occurs when individuals perceive out-groups, like immigrants or refugees, as threatening their in-group's identity, resources, or status. This leads to out-group derogation, emphasizing perceived differences and inferiority. Simplistic categorizations, like "us vs. them," ignore individual differences and perpetuate stereotypes.

Factors contributing to xenophobia include economic competition, cultural differences, historical and social context, and biased media representation. To mitigate xenophobia, strategies can include intergroup contact, education and awareness, inclusive policies and practices, and encouraging superordinate identities to foster a sense of shared humanity.

**Relative Deprivation Theory:** This theory, developed by Ted Gurr, explains how individuals and groups experience feelings of deprivation and frustration when they perceive that they are not receiving the resources and benefits that they deserve.

It explains xenophobia as a result of individuals feeling deprived of resources, status, or privileges compared to others, often due to perceived differences in group membership. This sense of relative deprivation can lead to feelings of frustration, resentment, and anger towards out-groups, such as immigrants or minorities, who are perceived as enjoying greater advantages or opportunities. As a result, individuals may express xenophobic attitudes and behaviors, blaming out-groups for their perceived disadvantages and seeking to protect their own group's interests and status.

Key factors contributing to relative deprivation and xenophobia include:

**Perceived inequality:** Individuals feel they are not receiving their fair share of resources or opportunities.

**Social comparison:** People compare themselves unfavorably to others, often based on group membership.

**Group membership:** Strong identification with one's own group can lead to a sense of relative deprivation and resentment towards out-groups.

**Economic and social conditions:** Economic downturns, unemployment, and social change can exacerbate feelings of relative deprivation.

As a result of relative deprivation, individuals may express xenophobic attitudes and behaviors, such as:  
Blaming out-groups for their perceived disadvantages  
Seeking to protect their own group's interests and status

Supporting policies that restrict out-group access to resources and opportunities

Engaging in discriminatory or violent behavior towards out-groups.

**Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis:** This hypothesis, developed by John Dollard and others, explains how frustration can lead to aggression and violence when individuals or groups are unable to achieve their goals or fulfill their needs.

**Social Learning Theory:** This theory, developed by Albert Bandura, explains how individuals learn new behaviors and attitudes by observing and imitating others.

**Conflict Theory:** This theory, developed by Karl Marx and others, explains how conflict arises from the unequal distribution of resources and power within society.

**Human Needs Theory:** This theory, developed by Abraham Maslow and others, explains how individuals have basic human needs that must be fulfilled in order to maintain physical and mental well-being.

**Realistic Conflict Theory:** This theory, developed by Muzafer Sherif and others, explains how conflict arises from competition for limited resources.

**Intergroup Contact Theory:** This theory, developed by Gordon Allport and others, explains how contact between different groups can either increase or decrease prejudice and conflict, depending on the nature of the contact.

**Social Dominance Theory:** This theory, developed by Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto, explains how individuals and groups strive for dominance and power over others.

**System Justification Theory:** This theory, developed by John Jost and Mahzarin Banaji, explains how individuals and groups justify and rationalize the existing social order, even if it is unjust or discriminatory.

**Critical Race Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Derrick Bell and Kimberlé Crenshaw, explains how racism and xenophobia are deeply embedded in the social and economic structures of society.

**Postcolonial Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Edward Said and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, explains how the legacy of colonialism and imperialism continues to shape the social and economic structures of society.

**Feminist Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as bell hooks and Chandra Talpade Mohanty, explains how xenophobic violence is often gendered, with women and other marginalized groups being disproportionately affected.

**Queer Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Judith Butler and Roderick Ferguson, explains how xenophobic violence is often linked to heteronormativity and the policing of non-normative sexualities.

**Disability Studies:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Robert McRuer and Jasbir Puar, explains how xenophobic violence is often linked to ableism and the marginalization of people with disabilities.

**Environmental Justice Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Rachel Carson and Vandana Shiva, explains how xenophobic violence is often linked to environmental degradation and the exploitation of natural resources.

**Globalization Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Arjun Appadurai and Saskia Sassen, explains how xenophobic violence is often linked to the global flows of capital, labor, and culture.

**Trans-nationalism Theory:** This theory, developed by scholars such as Linda Basch and Nina Glick Schiller, explains how xenophobic violence is often linked to the transnational flows of people, goods, and ideas.

**Realistic Group Conflict Theory:** The realistic group conflict theory emerged in the 1960's out of an era when a more individual-level approach, authoritarian personality theory was dominant (Adorno et al, 1950). It carries the classic insight of social psychology, that it is the structure of the situation, not personal characteristics of the individual (or an aggregate of individuals) that determines human behavior (Sherif, 1966). According to the theory, inter-group conflict is caused by an incompatibility of goals regarding material resources. It is the struggle over such structural resources as land, oil, gold, and labor that is the source of inter-group conflict, not personal characteristics like a prejudiced personality.

#### 2.4 Empirical Review

Akinrinde, Babalola, and Tar (2021) carried out a study on Nigeria-South Africa relations and xenophobia in post-apartheid South Africa. The findings employed qualitative and case-study methods, utilizing primary and secondary sources, including the South African High Commission and Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Findings indicate that economic competition over limited resources drives xenophobic politics. The study recommends addressing socioeconomic disparities between black and white South African communities to prevent further diplomatic deterioration. This study is relevant to this present work as both studies tend to investigate the Nigeria and South – Africa relations and xenophobia while the former placed its focus on post-apartheid period in South – Africa, the later limits its study from 2000 – 2024.

Alabo, B & Achinulo, A (2020) also conducted a study on Nigeria-South Africa relations from apartheid to post-apartheid, guided by realist conflict

theory. The study provides valuable insights into the complex history of relations between the two nations. Xenophobia in Nigeria and South Africa is driven by economic factors, Addressing socioeconomic disparities between black and white South African communities is crucial and Improving strategic relations and partnerships between Nigeria and South Africa is vital for regional development. The relevance of this study to this present work is seen as while the former investigated Nigeria – South Africa relations from apartheid to post apartheid the later focuses its investigation of both country on xenophobia and its economic impact on both countries. Thus, the later narrows its focus only on xenophobic violence which the former employs as a variable in its study.

Ojukwu, Mbah and Osuchukwu (2019) studied the myth and realities of xenophobia and Nigeria-South Africa relations in post-apartheid era. The study contributes to the existing literature on xenophobia by studying its effect on Nigeria-South Africa relations in the post-apartheid era. The findings include, that xenophobic attacks have become big threat to the political, diplomatic, socio-cultural, and economic integration between Nigeria and South Africa since the end of apartheid in South Africa. The study therefore recommended that the South African government and people should imbibe the spirit of African brotherhood and work assiduously towards peaceful co-existence with citizens of other African countries to strengthen African integration. On the other hand, Nigeria and South Africa should enter into diplomatic agreement on protection of each other's citizens in their territories. This should be backed by sanctions against any defaulting party. The significance of this study by Ojukwu, Mbah and Osuchukwu (2019) to this present research work is seen as both study examined the relations between Nigeria and South Africa in the midst of xenophobic attack unleashed on foreigners in South Africa which Nigeria takes a consideration share. While the former, studied the myth and realities of xenophobia and Nigeria – South Africa relations in post – apartheid era the later limited its study to xenophobic violence and its impact on the relationship between both countries and its economic implications to both countries.

Oni and Okunade (2018) examined the context of xenophobic attitudes in Nigeria and South Africa and noted that both countries presented contrasting dynamics of the manifestation of the phenomenon. The study observed that xenophobia in Nigeria was mild, subtle, non-violent, and driven by the ruling class and politically motivated. Xenophobic attitude in Nigeria was occasioned by state's response to the prevailing economic situation at that period. The study concluded that xenophobic attitudes in Nigeria are distinct from what is experienced in South Africa. The phenomenon was state-driven in Nigeria on both occasions it occurred in 1983 and 1985 through 'immigration order' but the situation in South African is often citizens-driven with deep expression of aggression and recommended that African people and governments need to rethink the basis of their relations and come to the realization that the phenomenon can negatively impact their politics, economy, and society. The place of this study to this present research work is seen as while the former is on the context of xenophobic attitudes in Nigeria and South Africa the later is on xenophobic violence in South Africa: economic implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st century. Both studies are related in content and purpose as they aim at investigating the cause of xenophobic violence in South Africa, the implication of this violence and possible measures to be employed to stop the reoccurrence of such violence thereafter strengthening the economic and political tie between both countries.

Bello and Sakariyau (2017) investigated the implication of xenophobic violence on Nigeria-South Africa relations. The study noted in this study, the latest scenario in Pretoria has resulted in the loss of innocent lives and valuable properties destroyed by some militant youths in South Africa. According to Nigeria's Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Advisor, AbikeDabiri-Erewa, the country has lost about 116 nationals due to the unlawful acts of some hoodlums in South Africa. This remains a significant setback and which poses a threat to the external relations of Nigeria and South Africa. The research relies on primary data. The findings show that the ugly trend of xenophobic attack has resulted in a cold war between Nigeria and South Africa in their

socioeconomic and political relationships. However, the study infers those adequate actions are required to be taken to restore and guarantee peace for the immigrants residing in South Africa. Failure to curb the menace of xenophobic violence in South Africa might degenerate into regional conflict which invariably will affect the relationship between both nations in all ramifications. The study is relevant to this present research work in the place of xenophobic violence and its implication on the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa. While the former investigated the implication of xenophobic violence on Nigeria-South Africa relations the later seeks to examine xenophobic violence in South Africa: economic implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st century. Both studies are focused on investigating xenophobic attacks carried out in South Africa by citizens to foreigners and its economic, social, cultural and political implications on both countries as it concerns their relationship.

Chukwu (2021) assessed Nigeria-South Africa relations in the post-apartheid era (1993-2019). The study acknowledged the Nigeria-South Africa relations as far back to the era of Nigeria's independence. According to this analysis, Nigeria made it plain in her Independence Day speech that Africa is the focal point of her foreign policy, and that the removal of apartheid in South Africa is her greatest issue. That was an affront to the then- South African leadership, who considered Nigeria as a threat and an adversary. This icy friendship lasted until 1992, when President DeKlerk and his entourage invaded Nigeria to hug one other. As result, bilateral Connections were formed that may benefit both countries based on their national interests. This relationship and diplomatic strategies were jeopardized under the administrations of Nelson Mandela and Nigeria's dictator, General SaniAbacha, but normalcy was restored during the regimes of Mbeki and Obasanjo. However, the eras of Zuma and Jonathan have been fraught with diplomatic difficulties. Their policies and interactions are sometimes warm, and sometimes chilly. The two nations' relationship worsened because of a series of xenophobic assaults against Nigerians residing in South Africa in 2017, followed by another in September 2019. This study addresses the basic

themes of racial intolerance and hate for foreigners, with a focus on the Nigeria-South Africa relationship in the post-apartheid era. The relevance of this study to this present research work is seen as both studies hinge on Nigeria and South Africa relations as its concerns xenophobic violence. While the former places its focus on Nigeria-South Africa relations in the post-apartheid era (1993-2019) the later is focused on investigating xenophobic violence in South Africa: economic implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st century. Though with different approach both study seeks to investigate xenophobic violence and its implications on Nigeria and South Africa relations both economically, politically and socio – culturally.

Seteolu and Okuneye (2017) examined Nigeria-South Africa relations with emphasis on political, trade and economic engagements. The research aims into the consistency and changing patterns in Nigeria-South Africa relations, which are linked to Nigeria's failure to diversify its economy and South Africa's refusal to offer an enabling environment for Nigerians in its economic sector. It contends that Nigeria and South Africa have deemphasized the main objectives of leading economic growth and development in Africa in favor of a competitive quest of regional hegemony. The research discusses growing regional cooperation and the promotion of bi-relations based on independent state institutions rather than the personalities of the ruling class. To explore facets of Nigeria-South Africa relations, the study focuses on secondary sources of material such as journal articles, newspapers, and policy briefs. The study suggests that Nigeria and South Africa should transition from competitive to amicable ties to lead Africa's anticipated economic growth, economic development, and political rebirth. The place of this study to this present research work is seen as while the former examined Nigeria-South Africa relations with emphasis on political, trade and economic engagements, the later seeks to investigate xenophobic violence in South Africa: economic implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st century. It is worth mentioning that while the former lays its emphasis on political, trade and economic engagements of both countries relations the later places it focus on xenophobic violence and its

economic implication to the relationship that exist between both countries.

Odubajo and Akinboye (2017) examined the collaboration or competition between Nigeria and South Africa. The dynamics of the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa, probably the two most powerful governments on the African continent, are the subject of this research. Each of the two republics is still attempting to expand its dominion outside its sub-region to emerge as Africa's leading power. These activities are not undertaken in isolation but have an impact on bilateral relations and are linked to the guiding principles of national interest. We examine the trajectory of Nigeria-South Africa ties, from strongly political disputed to the strongest of friendly connections, using data acquired from secondary sources. In the end, the study discovered that collaboration and competition are important factors in inter-state interactions. Nigeria and South Africa currently have a historic chance to interact to advance the African continent's overall interest in the international system. Will the pursuit of their different national interests foster or undermine this role?. This research work is relevant to this present study as while the former examined the collaboration or competition between Nigeria and South Africa the later examine xenophobic violence in South Africa: economic implication for South Africa – Nigeria Relations in 21st century. The relevant study can be deduced in the place of the independent variable of the former which collaboration or competition. While the former places its focus on collaboration and competition between both countries in the economic stake of South Africa which is the major cause of xenophobic violence, the later places its focus on xenophobic violence in South Africa and its economic implication between Nigeria and South Africa. Thus, the former examines the causative agents while the later examines the effects of the causative agents.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### Introduction

This section covers the methods used to address the objectives of the study. The section discusses the research design, research population and sampling

technique, the instrument for data collection, the method of data analysis and the analytical software used for the study. This design is suitable for understanding the historical and contemporary dimensions of xenophobia and its economic implications through quantitative analysis of primary data.

#### 3.1 Research Design

In this study, a survey research design is adopted. Survey is chosen based on the objective of the study. Survey is defined according to Nworgu (2005) as studies that samples individual units from an already known population and its associated survey data collection techniques, such as questionnaire construction and methods for improving the number and accuracy of responses to survey.

#### 3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises of 300 people from the general public in Makurdi.

#### 3.3 Source of Data

The study rely on primary and secondary sources of data. It includes:

- i. Peer-reviewed journals and academic articles.
- ii. Books and monographs on international relations and xenophobia.
- iii. Questionnaire and interview. Source: field.
- iv. Policy documents and communiques between South Africa and Nigeria.

#### 3.4. Sample and Sampling Technique

A simple random sampling technique was used to select 100 respondents from the population for the study.

#### 3.5 Instrument/ method of Data Collection

A mean score rating method was used to analyses the data based on the 2.5 acceptance region format to answer the research questions of the study, while to address the research hypothesis, the chi-square was used. SPSS version 20 was used for the analysis.

#### 3.6 Instruments/ Method of Data Collection

The study made use of primary source of data. Concerning the primary source, questionnaire was

used to gather the data. The questionnaire was divided into two sections; section A is for the demographic information of the respondents, while section B was the main questions to address the research questions. The questionnaire is a four-point rating scale (Likert scale), starting from strongly agreed (SA), agreed (A), disagreed (d), and strongly disagreed (SD). The questionnaire was designed in such a way that every question in the questionnaire was related to the research questions and hypothesis of the study. Also the result was used to answer the research questions and test the relevant hypothesis.

### 3.7 Validity and Reliability of Instrument

To ensure validity, only documents from credible, peer-reviewed, and official sources were used. Content validity was achieved by aligning the data collection guide with the study's objectives and research questions. The study also adopted triangulation by cross-referencing data with the use of Questionnaire to confirm consistency and accuracy.

Reliability was ensured through consistent application of the document review guide, and a peer review of extracted data was conducted to verify the reliability of interpretation and categorization. According to Lincoln and Guba (1985), reliability in qualitative and quantitative research is achieved through dependability and confirmability, both of which were ensured in this study.

### 3.8 Method of Data Analysis

A mean score rating method was used to analyses the data based on the 2.5 acceptance region format to answer the research questions of the study, while to address the research hypothesis, the chi-square was used.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### 4.0 Introduction

This project work aims at Xenophobic Violence in South Africa-Economic Implications for South Africa-Nigeria Relations In 21st Century. This work has been broken down into chapters targeted at exploring the many sides of the subject matter, and

this aspect would look at the discussion of the resultant findings gathered in the course of conducting this research.

### 4.1 Presentation of Results

Showing the numbers of Questionnaire Distributed and Returned.

| Questionnaire | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Distributed   | 100           | 100%           |
| Returned      | 100           | 100%           |
| Total         | 100           | 100%           |

### 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.

| Data               | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age                |           |            |
| Less than 21       | 21        | 21%        |
| 21-25              | 50        | 50%        |
| 26-30              | 20        | 20%        |
| 31 Above           | 9         | 9%         |
| Total              |           | 100%       |
| Marital Status     |           |            |
| Married            | 20        | 20%        |
| Single             | 62        | 62%        |
| Engaged            | 10        | 10%        |
| Divorced           | 8         | 8%         |
| Total              |           | 100%       |
| Religious Identity |           |            |
| Christian          | 82        | 82%        |
| Muslim             | 18        | 18%        |
| Others             | 0         | 0%         |
| Total              |           | 100%       |
| Ethnicity          |           |            |
| Yoruba             | 12        | 12%        |
| Igbo               | 24        | 24%        |
| Hausa              | 14        | 14%        |
| Others             | 50        | 50%        |
| Total              |           | 100%       |
| Level of Education |           |            |
| NCE                | 13        | 13%        |
| HND                | 9         | 9%         |
| B.SC               | 49        | 49%        |
| B.A                | 8         | 8%         |

|        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| Ph.D   | 7 | 7%   |
| B.Tech | 8 | 8%   |
| B.Ed   | 6 | 6%   |
| Total  |   | 100% |
|        |   |      |
| Gender |   |      |

|        |    |      |
|--------|----|------|
| Male   | 57 | 57%  |
| Female | 43 | 43%  |
| Total  |    | 100% |

#### RESEARCH QUESTIONS 1

What is the relationship between xenophobic violence and the economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria?

| ITEMS                                                                       | SA        | A         | SD        | D         | TOTAL | MEAN  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Foreign investors are afraid of coming to South Africa and vice versa.      | 53<br>53% | 34<br>34% | 6<br>6%   | 7<br>7%   | 100%  | 94.75 |
| Many foreign investors have left South Africa because of xenophobic crisis. | 19<br>19% | 66<br>66% | 7<br>7%   | 8<br>8%   | 100%  | 94    |
| Most foreign investors in south Africa are living with fear of crisis.      | 28<br>28% | 40<br>40% | 18<br>18% | 14<br>14% | 100%  | 89.5  |
| Participation of investors is reduced in number due to insecurity.          | 42<br>42% | 36<br>36% | 7<br>7%   | 15<br>15% | 100%  | 88.75 |

The result of the data analysis of table 1 revealed that the items had a mean range of 88.75 to 94.75

showing the relationship between xenophobic violence with countries' economic relations.

#### RESEARCH QUESTIONS 2

What is the impact of xenophobic violence on the economic relationship between South Africa and Nigeria?

| ITEMS                                                                              | SA        | A         | SD        | D         | TOTAL | MEAN  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Insecurity limits people's ability to develop regional economic.                   | 46<br>46% | 40<br>40% | 8<br>8%   | 6<br>6%   | 100%  | 95.5  |
| People are afraid of trying some thing new because of xenophobic.                  | 27<br>27% | 34<br>34% | 17<br>17% | 22<br>22% | 100%  | 83.5  |
| Economic experts are being killed and properties destroyed.                        | 24<br>24% | 39<br>39% | 14<br>14% | 23<br>23% | 100%  | 82.75 |
| xenophobic affects our relationship with other economic counterparts in the world. | 43<br>43% | 29<br>29% | 12<br>12% | 16<br>16% | 100%  | 88    |

The result of the data analysis of table 2 showed that the item had a mean range of 82.75 to 95.5 revealing

impact of xenophobic violence on countries' economic relationship.

### RESEARCH QUESTION 3

How effective are the measures taken to address xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria?

| ITEMS                                                                                                 | SA        | A         | SD        | D         | TOTAL | MEAN  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Joint task force are involved in security of expatriate and our community.                            | 30<br>30% | 49<br>49% | 14<br>14% | 7<br>7%   | 100%  | 94.75 |
| There is always roadblocks at the entrance of our community for stop and search.                      | 29<br>29% | 41<br>41% | 17<br>17% | 13<br>13% | 100%  | 90.25 |
| Traditional institutions are involved are entitled in curbing the menace of xenophobic crisis.        | 30<br>30% | 42<br>42% | 15<br>15% | 13<br>13% | 100%  | 91    |
| Community policing and civil society are plays active roles in the controlling the xenophobic crisis. | 31<br>31% | 37<br>37% | 13<br>13% | 19<br>19% | 100%  | 85.75 |

The result of data analysis of table 3 showed that the items had a mean range of 85.75 to 90.75 revealing the effectiveness of the corrective measures taken to control xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria.

Hypothesis One: There is no relationship between xenophobic violence and the economic relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

Table 1: Percentage analysis of relationship between xenophobic violence with countries' economic relation.

| O  | E     | O-<br>E <sup>2</sup> /E |
|----|-------|-------------------------|
| 53 | 94.75 |                         |
| 66 | 21.6  | 144.6                   |
| 18 | 89.5  |                         |
| 15 | 5.63  |                         |

Df=1, X<sup>2</sup> cri=7.81; X<sup>2</sup> cal=144.6

As shown in table in table 1, the calculated X<sup>2</sup> value of 144.6 is greater than the critical X<sup>2</sup> value of 7.81 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that there is significant relationship between Xenophobic violence and countries' economic relation. Hence null hypothesis 1, which states that there is no significant relationship between Xenophobic violence and countries' economic relation is therefore rejected.

Hypothesis Two: Xenophobic violence has no impact on the economic relationship between South Africa and Nigeria.

Table 2: Percentage analysis of impact of xenophobic violence on countries' economic relationship.

| O  | E     | O-<br>E/E <sup>2</sup> |
|----|-------|------------------------|
| 46 | 95.5  |                        |
| 34 | 83.5  | 171.2                  |
| 14 | 82.75 |                        |
| 16 | 88    |                        |

Df=1, X<sup>2</sup> cri= 7.81; X<sup>2</sup> cal= 171.2

As shown in table 2, the calculated X<sup>2</sup> value of 171.2 is greater than the critical value of 7.81 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that impact of xenophobic violence on countries' economic relationship. Hence, null hypothesis 2, which states that there is no impact of xenophobic violence on countries' economic relationship. is therefore rejected.

Hypothesis Three: The measures taken to address xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria are not effective.

Table 3: Percentage analysis of effectiveness of corrective measures taken to control xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria.

| O  | E     | O-<br>E <sup>2</sup> /E |
|----|-------|-------------------------|
| 30 | 94.75 |                         |
| 41 | 90.25 | 147                     |
| 15 | 91    |                         |
| 19 | 85.75 |                         |

Df= 1,  $X^2$  cri= 7.81;  $X^2$  cal=147

As shown in table 3, the calculated  $X^2$  147 value of is greater than the critical  $X^2$  value of 7.81 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that low effectiveness of the corrective measures taken to control xenophobic violence between South-Africa and Nigeria is significant. Hence, null hypothesis which states that there is low effectiveness of the corrective measures taken to control xenophobic violence between South-Africa and Nigeria is therefore rejected.

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings presented in Table 1 reveal a positive correlation between xenophobic violence and countries' economic relations. This significant relationship aligns with the sentiments expressed by Claassen (2015), who emphasized that the persistent xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa have far-reaching implications for the diplomatic ties between the two nations. If left unaddressed, these violent incidents can strain economic cooperation, undermine mutual trust, and create a hostile environment for bilateral trade and investment. Furthermore, the economic consequences of xenophobic violence can extend beyond the affected communities, impacting the overall economic stability of both countries.

Therefore, it is imperative for the governments of Nigeria and South Africa to demonstrate strong political will and collaborate effectively to prevent and address xenophobic violence, ensuring that their economic relations are not compromised by these unacceptable acts.

Table 2 indicates that xenophobic violence has a profound impact on the economic relationships between countries. This finding is consistent with Oyelana's (2015) assertion that foreign investors have

lost faith in the ability of local law enforcement and judicial systems to protect them.

The lack of confidence in institutional security mechanisms has led to a pervasive sense of insecurity among foreign investors, hindering their ability to operate effectively. This, in turn, can deter potential investors, undermine economic growth, and strain diplomatic relations between affected countries.

Moreover, the erosion of trust in institutional security can have far-reaching consequences, including:

- Reduced foreign direct investment (FDI)
- Decreased economic cooperation and trade
- Increased perception of risk and uncertainty
- Weakened regional and global economic integration

Therefore, addressing the root causes of xenophobic violence and strengthening institutional security mechanisms are crucial for restoring investor confidence, promoting economic cooperation, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

Table 3 reveals the effectiveness of corrective measures implemented to control xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria. This finding aligns with the principles outlined in the Republic of South Africa's Constitution (1996), which emphasizes the inalienable rights of all individuals, regardless of nationality, to live safely and be protected within the country's borders.

The Constitution stresses that every person, including foreign nationals with legal residency status, has the right to due process and protection under the law. It is only through a fair trial and conviction by a competent court that an individual can be deported. This underscores the importance of upholding the rule of law and respecting human rights in addressing xenophobic violence.

The effectiveness of corrective measures in controlling xenophobic violence highlights the need for:

- Strong institutional frameworks to protect human rights

- Effective law enforcement and judicial systems
- Public awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and understanding
- Bilateral cooperation between governments to address root causes of xenophobia

By prioritizing these measures, South Africa and Nigeria can work towards creating a safer, more inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of nationality.

## V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the summary of this research work, conclusion and recommendations, limitation and suggestions for further study.

### Summary

This research examined the economic implications of xenophobic violence on South Africa-Nigeria relations in the 21st century. The study aimed at assessing the relationship between xenophobic violence and countries' economic relations analyze the impact of xenophobic violence on countries' economic relationships and evaluate the effectiveness of corrective measures to control xenophobic violence between South Africa and Nigeria. The study employed a quasi-descriptive survey design, sampling 200 respondents through simple random sampling. Data analysis yielded significant results at the 0.05 level.

### 5.2 Conclusion

Nigeria-South Africa relationship has been marked by cooperation and conflict. Xenophobia, a global phenomenon, plagues African countries, fueled by development, economic hardships, and immigration issues. The alienation of foreign nationals, particularly black immigrants in South Africa, has created a divide between both parties, undermining African socialism and communalism.

### 5.3 Recommendations

This study recommendation is based on xenophobic violence in South Africa and its economic implications for South Africa-Nigeria relations:

An emergency response mechanism should be established to protect foreign nationals during xenophobic attacks,

Increase diplomatic engagement between South Africa and Nigeria to address immediate concerns, Provide economic assistance to affected Nigerian businesses and individuals,

Implement community-based initiatives to promote social cohesion and address xenophobic sentiments, Develop and implement policies addressing economic inequality and unemployment in South Africa, Foster people-to-people exchanges between South Africa and Nigeria to promote cultural understanding, Encourage Nigerian investment in South Africa and vice versa.

In addition, a joint South Africa-Nigeria commission for the purpose of monitoring and address xenophobia issues should be established to address historical and systemic issues driving xenophobia in South Africa,

Promote regional economic integration through African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Develop education and awareness programs to combat xenophobic attitudes, Strengthen regional organizations (e.g., African Union, SADC) to address xenophobia and promote regional cooperation. Increase trade and investment between South Africa and Nigeria,

Develop joint economic projects in areas like infrastructure, agriculture, and mining, Establish a bilateral economic forum to discuss trade and investment opportunities, Encourage South African businesses to invest in Nigeria and vice versa. Promote cultural exchange programs for students, artists, and professionals.

Finally, community centers aimed at fostering social cohesion should be established and an agency should be developed as an initiative to support victims of xenophobic violence,

#### 5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

**Peace building Initiatives:** Investigate the effectiveness of peaceful resolutions and conflict transformation strategies in mitigating xenophobic violence and fostering cooperation between South Africa and Nigeria.

**Trust-Building Mechanisms:** Examine the role of people-to-people diplomacy, cultural exchange programs, and educational initiatives in promoting mutual understanding and trust between South Africans and Nigerians.

**Diplomatic Interventions:** Assess the impact of high-level diplomatic visits and negotiations on resolving conflicts and strengthening bilateral relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

**Economic Cooperation:** Explore the potential of economic partnerships and collaborative projects in promoting interdependence and reducing tensions between South Africa and Nigeria.

**Comparative Analysis:** Conduct a comparative study of xenophobic violence in other African countries to identify best practices and lessons for South Africa-Nigeria relations.

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