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## Creating African Futures in an Era of Global Transformations:

## Créer l'Afrique de demain dans un contexte de transformations mondialisées :

## Criar Futuros Africanos numa Era de Transformações Globais:

## بعث أفريقيا الغد في سياق التحولات المعولمة :

# **Strengthening Rural-Urban Interactions as a Contemporary Paradigm to Sustainable Development in Africa: The Case of Meme Division, South West Region, Cameroon**



## CODESRIA

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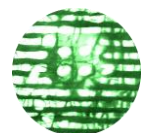
## Dakar, Senegal



## **ABSTRACT**

The world's population is increasing by around 85 million every year- the equivalent of another Egypt or Mexico, and most of this growth by 2025 is expected to be within urban areas of developing nations. This implies a continuous supply and dependence on raw materials and other infrastructural developments. This study therefore seeks to examine the flow of people, finance through remittances as well as the flow of goods and services between rural and urban settlements in developing nations using the Meme Division of the South West Region of Cameroon as a case study. The problem of most development theory and practice based on the dichotomy between rural and urban settlements is reflected through the division of policies along spatial and sectoral lines, with urban planners concentrating on urban nodes with less attention on the rural nodes. This has widened the development gap between rural and urban centres, thus accelerating rural-urban migration and a consequent increase in the rate of urban poverty and urban primacy in most developing countries. As main objective, the study sets out to investigate the relationship between small and intermediate urban centres and their surrounding regions, with particular attention to spatial and sectoral linkages which constitutes the basic tenets for a win-win development situation. To attain the objectives, both primary and secondary sources of data were utilized. The secondary sources constituted internet sources, available materials on rural-urban linkages while the primary was principally from direct interviews and administration of questionnaires. A systematic sampling technique was used to generate information from the sampled population and the Spearman Rank correlation used to analyse collected data to categorise areas of high linkages and their levels of development. Findings revealed that encouraging rural-urban linkages will constitute a contemporary approach in solving urban problems of increasing slums and urban poverty while reducing rural exodus. From findings, it was recommended that planning should be done on regional basis rather than sectorising settlements into urban and rural as well as developing route ways to ease communications between the two areas. The study concludes that regional development as a development option will go a long way in bridging the gap between the rural and urban areas, thereby accelerating regional integration and development as a whole.

**KEYWORDS:** Rural-Urban interaction, Africa, Primate city, Sustainable development, Meme Division, Regional integration

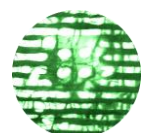


## 1. INTRODUCTION

The world's population is increasing by around 85 million every year – the equivalent of another Egypt or Mexico. According to the United Nation's Projections (2010), the world's population will grow to more than nine billion by 2050. The United Nations expects that between 1995 and 2025, the number of people living in urban areas will nearly double from 2.8 to 5.3 billion, and that 90% of that growth will be in developing countries. This implies a continuous supply and dependence on raw materials and other services from the rural areas as urban spaces keep reducing through housing construction and other infrastructural developments (Fombe et al., 2010).

Rural-urban linkages according to UN-HABITAT (2010) include flows of agricultural and other commodities from rural-based producers to urban markets to serve the needs of the urbanites on the one hand and to the regional, national and international markets on the other hand; and in the opposite direction, flows of manufactured and imported goods from urban centres to rural settlements. They also include the flow of people between rural and urban settlements, either commuting on a regular basis, for occasional visits to urban-based services and administrative centres, or migrating temporarily or permanently. Financial flows include, primarily, remittances from migrants to relatives and communities in sending areas, and transfers such as pensions to migrants returning to their rural homes including investments and credit from urban-based institutions. These spatial flows overlap with inter-linkages between sectors both at the household level and at the level of local economies and include backward and forward linkages between the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors (Mulongo et al., 2010). Most urban centres, especially small and intermediate ones, rely on broad-based demand for basic goods and services from their surrounding populations to develop their secondary and tertiary sectors (Takoli, 2005). On the whole, synergy between agricultural production and urban-based enterprises is often a key to the development of more vibrant local economies and, on a wider level, to less unequal and more 'pro-poor' regional economic growth and integration (Lucatelli et al., 2011).

In most developing countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of urbanization is rapidly increasing (UNEP, 2010). This can be largely attributed to the few available cities within the continent concentrated mainly along the coast. Colonial influence in Africa accounts for most of the city development along the coast as the colonialists created route ways for evacuation of raw materials from Africa to European industries during the colonial era. In French colonial Africa especially, city development followed the pattern of creating major urban centres for development impulses to diffuse from the urban centres to its surrounding settlements subsequently. This, if properly implemented will lead to regional integration and growth of the nation as a whole. The trend has however not been effective as most of these cities like Dakar in Senegal, Abidjan in Ivory Coast, Accra in Ghana, Lomé in



Togo, Lagos in Nigeria, Douala in Cameroon, Pointe Noire in Gabon, Mombasa in Kenya among others have continued to grow as primate cities absorbing growth potentials from their surrounding settlements (Fombe et al., 2010). This constantly restricts the spread of development impulses into these surrounding settlements but rather an increasing flow of resources from rural to urban areas leading to the increasing gap between urban and rural areas (Kjell et al., 2014).

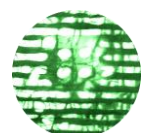
Given the expected trends of rapid urbanization in Africa, it has become imperative to plan for such unprecedented urbanization by strengthening the connections between urban and rural environments if humanity must live up to the expectations of sustainable urban development and regional equality.

## **2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Spatial integration calls for separate regions to interact through development impulses. According to this concept, there should be an easy flow of ideas, movement of people, goods and services and communication between the different parts. Considering third world continents, identified regions such as countries, natural and functional should be capable of benefiting from the advantages of each other for a balanced and equitable development. Nonetheless, most regions of the world are hardly integrated spatially due to a number of problems. Most developing economies especially in Africa according to Abumese (1987) are dual. That is a nation of haves and have nots (an economy of supply and exchange (urban areas) and one of subsistence (rural areas). The primate cities of Africa all tend to absorb growth within them at the expense of surrounding rural settlements leading to their continuous growth and development.

Most development theories and practice are implicitly based on the dichotomy between 'rural' and 'urban' areas, populations and activities (Elbe et al., 2009). This is reflected in the division of policies along spatial and sectoral lines, with urban planners usually concentrating on urban nodes and paying little attention to rural-led development, while rural development planners tend to ignore urban centres and define rural areas as consisting only of villages and their agricultural lands. This has widened the development gap between rural and urban centres.

The Kumba urban space is not an exception as development is concentrated entirely within the urban centre leaving its surrounding rural areas underdeveloped despite the fact that they contribute at least 75% of total input in terms of agricultural raw materials and labour supply. These rural satellites suffer from the absence of basic social facilities such as health facilities, electricity supply, pie-born water supply and the lack of storage facilities in cases where electricity is virtually unavailable. These situations have led to increase in unbalanced development and a reduction in the rate of rural-urban interaction.







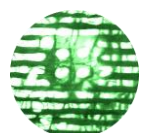
As cited in Fombe (2006), urban poverty is rural poverty transferred. That is, the lack of regional integration between rural and urban environments in most African states has necessitated the high rate of rural exodus leading to the prevalence of urban poverty in major cities of Africa. According to recent studies by UN-HABITAT (2013), the urban poor in most African cities live in worse conditions twice or more than their rural counterparts. There is therefore a need to redress this situation by providing a win-win situation for both urban and rural areas.

The main objective of this study is therefore to identify the missing links between the urban and rural areas as they draw a lot from the rural areas with limited counter flow. Also, the study examines the implications of these interactions in the light of regional integration and growth of the region. Using the Meme Division of Cameroon with Kumba as a major urban and primate city of the area, such missing links will be determined for policy options towards the strengthening of regional integration will be suggested.

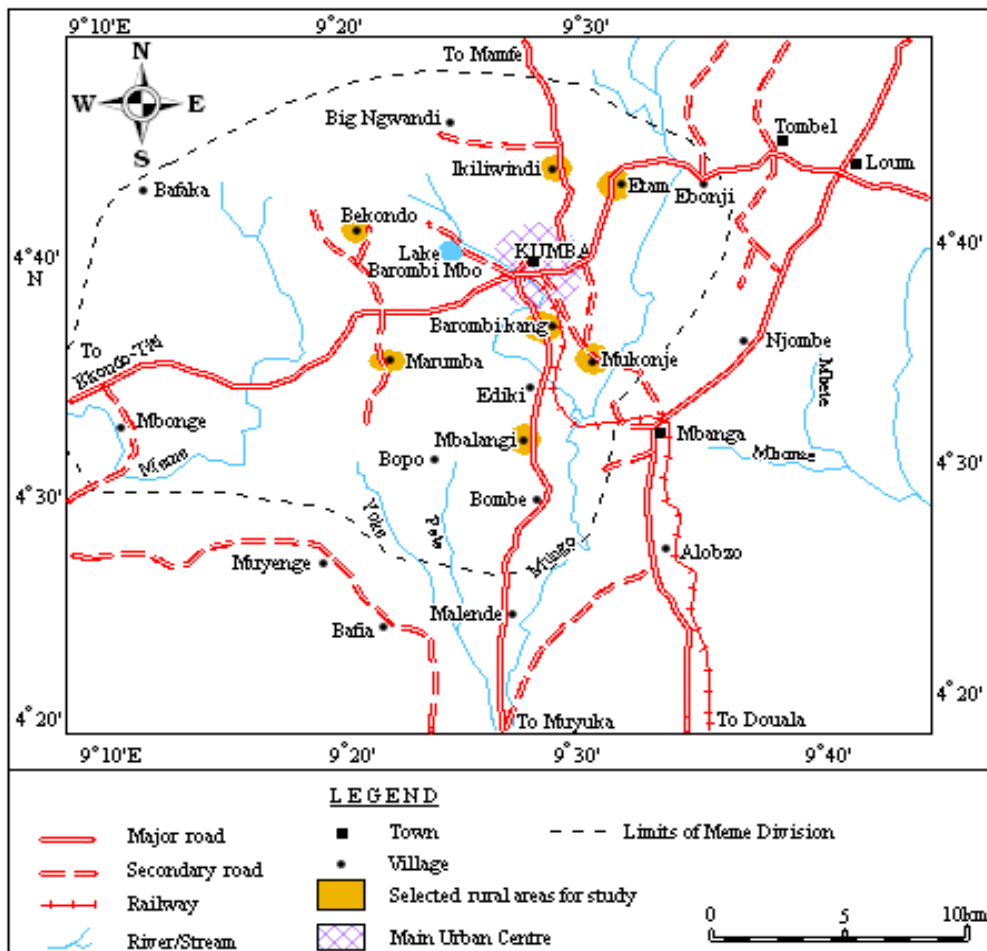
### **3. THE STUDY MATRIX AND METHODOLOGY**

#### *3.1 The Study Matrix*

Meme Division is a second-order administrative division and hosts the largest city –Kumba– in the South West Region. It is located at Longitude 9<sup>0</sup>20'E and latitude 4<sup>0</sup>50'N sitting on an elevation of approximately 785 meters above sea level as illustrated in Map 1. The division has an approximated population of about 300,000 inhabitants (2005 Census and 2010 estimate) with the major ethnic group being the Bafaw people. However, due to the cosmopolitan nature of Kumba, the division is hosts to different ethnic groups like the Bamelike, the Bayangs, the Bakossis', the Irokos', amongst others including the Igbo tribe from Nigeria. Major languages spoken within the region include English, French and the Pidgin-English.



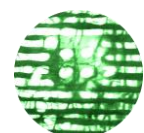
Map 1: Meme Division locating Kumba and its surrounding rural settlements



Source: Adapted from SW-R Administrative Extract (2012)

### 3.2 Methodology

This study was undertaken in Meme Division of Cameroon. Kumba, the main primate city of the region constitute the urban area while seven surrounding settlements (Bekondo, Ikiliwindi, Mukonje, Marumba, Etam, Mbalangi and Barombi Kang) constituted the rural areas. These study sites were selected based on the role they play in terms of movement of agricultural goods and services, administrative and health services within the region. The methodology of study involved the use of both primary and secondary data. The secondary sources were collected from published and unpublished materials from the Senior Divisional Office (SDO) Archives-Kumba, Kumba Regional Hospital inpatient and outpatient data, journals and articles amongst others. Primary data constituted direct interviews, field survey



as well as questionnaire distribution and were collected through the use of stratified, systematic and random sampling techniques.

The population of study in the rural areas were stratified into three- the cash crop farmers, the food crop farmers and retailers while for the urban areas, the urban market, cash crop buyers, administrative functions and hospital comprised major areas of interest within the Kumba urban space. Within each stratum of the rural area, the respondents were randomly interviewed to obtain information regarding where they sell their farm products, where they go for health and administrative services. Also, rural retailers on their part were interviewed to know where they buy goods from and the quantity of products they can buy at a time. The urban market constitutes an avenue to understand where goods sold in the market come from. The Regional Hospital Annex in Kumba was also sampled to deduce the catchment of the hospital within the region.

A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed to each of the stratum using a systematic random sampling pattern in the six rural settlements and the Kumba urban market. This was to reduce bias and save time during field work. Direct interviews were made with some agricultural ware house owners in Kumba who were noted to buy in large scale some cash crops like cocoa from these rural areas. This was done to understand the respective rural areas they buy from, the problems faced in transporting the products and proposed measures to ameliorate the situation.

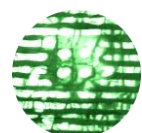
#### **4. Conceptual view**

This study makes use of two main concepts- the Growth Pole and Growth Centre concept by Perroux and the Trickle down and polarization effects by Hirschman. The Growth pole and Growth centre concept was used to show the current situation of primate cities in Africa and the Trickle down and Polarization effect is being used as a way forward for regional integration and equitable regional development in Africa.

##### *i. Growth poles and growth centres by Perroux (1950)*

Perroux (1950) in this concept attempted to understand the mechanisms by which development impulses are transmitted through the whole economy. According to him, growth poles are centres or foci from which centrifugal forces emanate and to which centripetal forces are attracted. Perroux was not concerned with the geographical pattern of economic activity/growth, intra- and inter-regional shifts, but as an economist in abstract economic space. He stressed that a growth pole is an “industry (firm) which is propulsive, having direct and indirect dominance over all other activities and enjoying oligopolistic concentration.

For the mechanism of growth pole to be effective, it must have certain linkages; forward, backward and lateral (interaction between the various production sectors in an economy-



primary, secondary and tertiary) - a 3-dimensional force needs to exist. The strength of a propulsive industry will depend on the use of growth inducement from primary to tertiary sectors and laterally by inter-acting with other lateral industries within and out of its sphere. The presence of the three linkages provides channels through which direct and indirect influences of the propulsive industry are transmitted. It is however, not all the influence transmitted that generate development. Considering the state of regional integration and development in Africa, all the growth poles have not been able to lay stress on proportional development but have instead absorbed growth potentials and use of rural resources for their growth. Many urban centers in Africa are parasitic. Generative ones are few, that is those which give and take in terms of development impulses.

*ii. Trickle down and polarization effects by Hirschman*

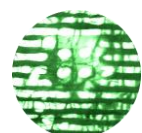
***Trickle down effect:***

Growth is unbalanced in geographical space because of the occurrence of earth's resources. It is through the development of favoured areas that the unfavoured tends to benefit. It is the benefits from the favoured to unfavoured that Hirschman refers to as "trickle down" which can take the form of trade interaction between the growth point (urban) and surrounding rural areas. Ruralites selling to urbanites generate some income for investment and further production. Similarly, urban industries absorb the disguise unemployment of the periphery. This raises the latter's marginal productivity of labour.

***Polarisation effect:***

Polarisation is the process by which there is the development of poles of growth, surrounded by smaller growth points like villages. They are all mutually interdependent in the development process which begins from the favoured pole and spreads out. The pole acts as a converging and disseminating point in terms of production and distribution of good/services and the spatial development process through regional integration.

In considering the state of regional development in Africa and Kumba in particular, the favoured growth poles tend to grow independently without spreading the impulse of development to its surrounding unfavoured areas. This further widens the gap between the haves and the have nots. However, the concept strives for trickle down and polarization of development impulses through integration of activities and spread of development indicators throughout the region in order to bridge the gap between the rural and urban settlements.





## 5. Results

### 5.1 State of Rural-Urban Interaction in Meme Division

The state of rural-urban interaction in the Meme division can be viewed from two main indicators. First the Kumba Main Market and secondly, the Regional Hospital Annex of Kumba. Data collected revealed the extent to which Kumba interacts with its surrounding rural settlements based on origin of patients to the hospital.

#### 5.1.1 The Kumba Main Market

The Kumba urban market seeks to harbor traders from different areas amongst which are shop owners dealing mostly with manufactured goods and makeshift owners who are dealers of mainly foodstuffs produced directly from the farms. The traders come from different areas to sell and buy products for either retail sales or consumption in destination areas. The major areas served by this market and type of goods bought by these traders can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Origin and destination of products from the Kumba urban market

Origin	Products from Kumba market	Vegetables (in bundles)	Plantains (in bunches)	Yams (in tubers)	Cocoyams (in bags)	Potatoes (in bags)	Total/destination	Percentage (%) / destination
Environ of Kumba	Destination							
	Douala	3500	800	6000	800	800	11900	57.94
	Limbe	1500	25	300	380	100	2305	11.2
	Muyuka	600	20	400	30	40	1090	5.31
	Kumba	2000	1000	1500	200	400	5100	24.83
	Others	30	20	55	20	20	145	0.71
	Total	7630	1865	8255	1430	2700	20540	100

Source: Field work (2014)

Table 1 illustrates that the highest destination area of products from the Kumba market is Douala (57.94%) followed by Kumba (24.83%), Limbe (11.2%), Muyuka (5.31%) and others (0.71%) like Ediki, Kake which are other smaller settlements around Kumba and produces most of the food crops needed. This relationship can be seen in Figure 2.

Based on the relationship between origin of farm produce and destination zones, the sphere of influence can be depicted. This shows the extent to which goods from the surrounding rural areas of Kumba can go thus, the need to strengthen rural-urban interactions for posterity.



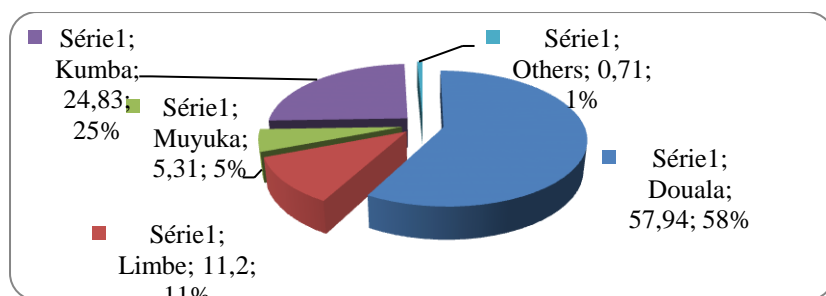


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of products from the Kumba Market

Source: Field work (2014)

Another major agricultural product from the surrounding rural areas is cocoa. All the rural areas surrounding Kumba are cocoa producing areas and sell their produce to major cocoa buyers in Kumba. These main cocoa buyers have been able to control the cocoa economy for the past decades within the region and they have been able to assist in the rehabilitation process of roads to ease accessibility between Kumba and its surrounding rural settlements.

### 5.1.2 The Kumba Regional Hospital

Data obtained for inpatients reveal movement of patients from different destinations to the Kumba Hospital through a centripetal flow pattern as seen in Table 2.

Table 2: Average movement of inpatients/day for a period of Two months

Place of Origin	Total inpatients/day	Percentage (%) Flow of total inpatient/day	Point of destination
Ikiliwindi	17	9.83	Kumba General Hospital
Etam	20	11.56	
Bekondo	15	8.67	
Marimba	14	8.09	
Mbalangi	8	4.62	
Mukonje	21	12.14	
Barombi Kang	4	2.31	
Kumba	74	42.77	
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Inpatient Department, Regional Hospital, Kumba (June to July, 2014)

From Table 2, it is deduced that the Kumba urban space has the highest number of inpatient while Barombi Kang has the least. This limited number of inpatients from Barombi can be accounted for by the existence of health units in the village. However, out of the four patients averagely, 2 or 3 are mainly referred from these clinics to the Regional Hospital in Kumba.



Irrespective of the number of patients going to the hospital daily, the sphere of influence produced by the hospital calls for better linkages and regional integration within the region. On the other hand, the outpatient directory shows a centrifugal pattern of movement as patients after consultation and/or treatment move back to their various origins. Some of them are referred to other hospitals as illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Direction of Outpatients from Kumba General Hospital

Point of origin	Destination	Frequency of outpatient/day	% of outpatients/day
Kumba General Hospital	Douala	2	1.16
	Manyemen	8	4.62
	Limbe	3	1.73
	Ikiliwindi	16	9.25
	Etam	17	9.83
	Bekondo	13	7.51
	Marimba	12	6.94
	Mbalangi	7	4.05
	Mukonje	20	11.56
	Barombi Kang	4	2.31
	Kumba	71	41.04
	<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Inpatient Department, Regional Hospital, Kumba (June to July, 2014)

Table 3 reveals that, some of the patients are referred to specialists' hospitals in Manyemen, Douala and Limbe for further treatment. The other patients are either sent back home or admitted depending on the severity of the case. These movements show the extent of coverage of the hospital and thus the need to strengthen the links between the urban and rural areas of Kumba and Meme division as a whole.

## 5.2 The Missing Link between the Rural-Urban divide

### 5.2.1 Nature of Roads

Most roads linking the different neighbourhoods of Kumba are tarred. This eases the movement and circulation of goods and services within the town. However, none of the roads linking Kumba to its surrounding rural settlements are tarred. All of them are earth roads and seasonal in nature as seen in Plate 1. Based on field data, 98% of the respondents confirmed the stress attached to transporting goods and people during the rainy season. Some of them



use two or more days for a distance of about 70 to 105km. This highly reduces the rate of interaction and integration between the urban and rural settlements of the region. Also, most of the cars adapted to transport goods and services along the roads include cars with poor state and are always overloaded with goods and passengers. This inhibits movements between Kumba and its surrounding rural areas.



Plate 1: Poor nature of roads during the rainy season connecting Kumba and Ikiliwindi  
Source: Agbortoko (August, 2014)

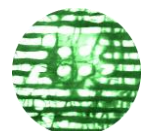
It should be noted here that, within the selected rura areas of study, Ikiliwindi is the highest producer of cocoa and cocoyams about 95% of which is destined for Kumba market.

### *5.2.2 Electricity Supply*

Besides Barombi Kang and Marumba, all the other rural settlements have no electricity supply. The problem of electricity supply can be linked to problems of storage facilities. Data collected revealed that, storage problems have led to the sale of agricultural products like vegetables amongst other perishables at lower prices to urban retailers who in turn sell it at higher prices in the urban market. A bundle of vegetable sold at 75 Frs CFA in a village settlement like Ikiliwindi, Bekondo and Etam sells at 300 Frs CFA within the Kumba urban market. Since the rural farmers lack the means to preserve their farm produce, they are forced to sell at lower prices for fear of them getting rot.

### *5.2.3 Unbalanced Trade Relationship*

Unbalanced trade relationship between urban buyers and rural farmers has continuously been on a sore state. Most of the rural farmers are unable to purchase basic materials for agricultural production like pesticides and fertilizers. In such situations, the urban buyers move in to supply these farmers. According to field data, pesticides sold for 350 Frs CFA per pack in Kumba is given to these farmers for 700 Frs CFA in a business relationship termed “10 born 10”. This relationship continuously impoverish the rural farmers who engage



themselves in farming activities throughout the year only to receive half of what is being produced in his farm. This is a common exercise with the cocoa trade within the Meme Division. It must be noted that, Kumba in its self as an urban centre do not cultivate cocoa but the major cocoa exporters are based in Kumba. This means they depend solely on the surrounding rural communities for cocoa.

Added to this, the price per kilogram of cocoa bought from these rural farmers is being determined by the urban buyers. Most often, the urban buyers complain of transportation cost and so always turn to deduct from the buying price which is still way below the actual price of cocoa per kilogram. Field survey indicates that actual cocoa price per kg ranges from 1200 Frs CFA to 1800 Frs CFA but rural farmers often sell their cocoa at 800 to 1100 Frs CFA. This unbalanced trade continuously impoverishes the rural farmers while the urban buyers become richer and richer.

#### *5.2.4 Administrative Functions*

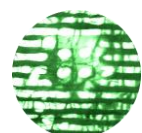
The division is headed by a Senior Divisional Officer while other development activities are controlled largely by the Government Delegate of the City Council. Most infrastructural developments like road construction, pipe born water among others are being controlled by the Government Delegate. The Lord Mayors of the different councils are all under the Government Delegate and so will implement any development activity through his instruction. Based on field data, roads for example have been developed within the neighbourhoods of Kumba while the roads linking the rural areas have been left seasonal.

Also, the seat of the Government Delegate remains within the urban environment and so will turn to carryout development activities only within the urban milieu. This reduces the rate of interaction between the urban areas and their rural counterparts.

## **6. Discussion**

In the background of rural-urban integration, the Meme division is highly lacking as the link seems to be distorted due to poor roads, lack of social services and the concentration of activities within the urban environment. Against this backdrop, there is therefore the need to strengthen the rural-urban link to enhance sustainability.

The International Development Agenda is increasingly recognizing the potency of the rural-urban linkage development approach to sustainable development. UN-HABITAT for example considers this as having potentials both for promoting rural-urban development benefits and for generating substantial employment and therefore contributing to poverty eradication as well as bridging the divide between the haves and have nots. Also, the Habitat Agenda (paragraphs 10, 99,141 and 147) clearly makes the case for economic, social and





environmental interdependence and for the need for balanced and mutually supportive development between rural and urban areas.

According to Okpala (2003), the old orthodoxy of a discrete and dichotomous approach to urban development as distinct from rural development no longer accords with reality, considering the complementary functions and flow of people, capital, goods and services, employment, information and technology between the two areas. Urban integrated development, rural areas' territorial development and the organisation of basic services in more remote rural areas are important elements to boost regional integration within different regions. This is seriously lacking in the study area as the poor trade relationship, poor roads among others have not been identified as important elements to enhance regional integration and sustainable development.

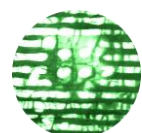
Public services and sustainable development have been recognized as the crucial functions to be considered in this action, highlighting the importance of public services upgrading in order to support regional growth (Barca 2009). Public services, accessibility and quality are crucial for territorial cohesion.

It can be drawn from the analysis that there is an increasing need to integrate rural and urban activities in order to enhance sustainable development. This rural-urban relationship can best be seen in the aspects of agricultural linkages. As pointed out by Naquo (1980), Ougneau (1981), Haji (1980), Minamino (1996), Jefferson (1985) all emphasized that no one urban centre has all the resources it needs to survive. They further added that, the markets for agricultural products that can be found in most cities represent one example of such mutually beneficial relationships. However, the development of some roads like those linking Kumba - Mbalangi, Kumba - Barombi Kang as well as Kumba-Ikiliwindi indicates a way forward towards regional integration for the Meme region as a whole.

## **7. Conclusion**

Regional integration in Africa has not yet been realized, be it at local, national or international levels. Most of the urban areas have grown to primate city state thereby absorbing growth potentials to themselves at the detriment of their surrounding rural counterparts. This study has been able to identify the different rural-urban linkages using the Kumba urban market and the Kumba Regional Hospital to illustrate the origin of people and their various destinations. It also brings out the missing link in their relationship and the need to enhance regional integration for sustainable development.

The concept of rural-urban linkage and regional integration stands as a way forward towards the reduction of urban poverty and regional development. In bridging the gap between the haves and have nots, trade relationships, road links among others must be towards a win-win situation for both parties. This does not however exist in African cities. Most of them like Lagos in Nigeria, Douala in Cameroon among others have absorbed growth potentials like



the attraction of rural youths, agricultural raw materials, as well as distorting the rural lifestyle through the suburbanization process in situations of urban expansion. Rather than bringing regional development, these cities have increased the poverty gap between rural and urban areas. Thus, there is a need to curb such negative relationships by changing development strategies from urban-based or rural-based to regional development. Through this, the redistribution of resources and the general growth of regions can be envisaged. This falls in line with the UN-HABITAT Agenda towards bridging the development gap between urban and rural poverty.

## **8. Recommendations**

In order to bring about regional integration and development, there is definitely the need to strengthen rural-urban linkages between the said regions. This will inevitably lead to the merging of development ideas towards regional growth. To ensure this, the following recommendations have been posited;

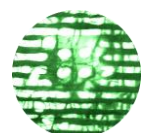
Firstly, there is the need to change development patterns from rural-based or urban-based approach towards regional-based development. This can be achieved through the redistribution of resources as well as the decongestion of industrial concentration from urban to rural areas.

Secondly, agricultural intensification through subsidies from the state, the regularization of agricultural products as was the case with the defunct National Produce Marketing Board in Cameroon will go a long way to reduce poor market relationships between urban buyers and rural farmers.

Also, the need for infrastructural development in rural areas like roads, electricity provision, and health care facilities among other basic social facilities will help reduce rural exodus and a consequent reduction of the urban poor.

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