

EFFECT OF RISING COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS ON PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN BARIGA LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

Building materials played an important role in the Property development. It includes those materials put together in erecting or constructing structures, development is not conceivable without their use. The cost of building materials poses a significant threat to both the construction industry and people aspiring to own houses and that many projects were not completed on time due to the cost of materials, which have been on the increase. This study examined the effect of rising in the cost of building material on real property development inBariga area of Lagos state, Nigeria. A field survey research design was adopted for collection of primary data on the subject of study. The target population comprises of forty (40) property developers, forty (40) contractors and 40 building materials dealers operating in Bariga area of Lagos state. The sample size of this project is 120; this comprises property developers, contractors and building materials dealers operating within Bariga area of Lagos state which were targeted for administration of questionnaire. Random sampling technique was used as appropriate sampling technique. The questionnaires were complimented by oral interview. Descriptive statistics was used in analyzing the collected data such as cross tabulation, frequency table The paper revealed that cost of land acquisition, cost of building materials, professional charges and lack of capital are militating against property development in the study area. It is indeed unfortunate that the alarming increase

in cost of building materials and labour does not only affect the rent passing on prospective tenant nor the market value of such property but also on the individual dream to build and owned a home in the study area. Besides timely completion, high prices of building materials form a crucial constraint to improving housing conditions in the low-income earning countries like Nigeria. Over dependent on imported materials and lack of instability in government policies and programme among other factors has a drastic effect on cost of building materials. Inhibited innovations in construction methods, quality of workmanship is affected, quality of workmanship is affected, project abandonment, volume of construction output is affected. The study recommends that incessant rising in cost of building materials be remediable through the development/use of alternative building materials, among others.

Keywords: Cost, Building Material, Property Development, Lagos, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The increasing commercial and industrial activities have a substantial potential to attract many people (jobseekers, businessmen and others) into the community with the attendant consequences of increasing the problem of shelter access for all (Ihuah, 2015). This is important asmore residential accommodation are demanded by relocating people. Hence, the government rationale to urgently and adequately improve residential property supply so that the envisage demand can be met (Ihuah, 2015). However, the current incessantrising costs of building materials in this specific context facilitates the quest of investigating its effectson property development (Residential housing estate project). The exceptionally high increases in costs of building materials has affected theefforts to progress the number of residential units' provision to an extent that the current demand may not be or reduced to a minimum (Magutu, 2015).

In Nigeria as a whole, the construction industry still facing thechallenges of low levels of working capital, high rates of inflation and increasing costs ofdevelopment/construction (Umar, 2017). Most of these situations are currently not properly attended to; subsequently, it leads to some development projects being abandoned,uncompleted and vandalized (Ihuah, 2015). The repercussions of not tackling these issues, especially the increasing costs of developments as a result of the increasing costs of building/construction

materials means that current demand outweighs the available supply (Kolo, Rahimian, &Goulding, 2014).

The building industry in Nigeria is encapsulated with shortage of affordable and sustainable building materials; people have difficulties building houses of their own because the cost of building materials is astronomically high. It was for this reason that the Nigerian building and road research institute (NBRRI) was established in 1978 to mapped out strategies for alternative building materials that will be affordable and sustainable, (Saba, 2018). The NBRRI laid emphasis on development of suitable local building materials from minerals deposits and agro industrial waste that are abundantly available at little or no cost.

The cost of building materials are increasing in leaps and bounds leading to abandoned project by some landlords as they are not sure of what will be the value of their property on completion. Obviously, it is indeed unfortunate that the alarming increase in cost of building materials and labour does not only affect the rent passed on prospective tenant or the market value of such property or the individual dream to build and owned a home in Bariga area of Lagos state but also the construction industry to a large extent, such that the cost of construction, cost of materials is said to have increase by 133.33% within the last two and a half decades. Most literature had concentrated on identifying the causes with little emphasis on the effect; hence, this research seeks to provide information on effect of the rising cost of building materials on property development in Bariga area of Lagos state with special emphasizes on residential real estate development. This study, therefore, examines and assesses how incessantincrease in building material costcan affect the sustainability of residential real estate development. It will also bring to the knowledge of the various investors issues that may together cause the incessant increase in building materials costs. This study will also provide the strategies and recommendations that may be employed to optimize property development by developers; owners; institutions; and other relevant investors engaged in residential property developments in the study area. The study attempts to contribute towards providing and improving sustainable residential housing estates development.

1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to critically examine the effect of rising cost of building materials on property development with special focus on residential property development, to achieve the above aim; the following objectives were setup;

- 1. To ascertain the factors responsible for the increasing cost of building materials in the Bariga area of Lagos State.
- 2. To examine factors militating against property development in the study area.
- 3. To examine the effect of rising cost of building materials on property development in the study area

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the factors responsible for the increasing cost of building materials in Bariga, Lagos State?
- 2. What are the factors militating against property development in the study area?
- 3. What are the effects of rising cost of building materials on property development in the study area.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research is confined to a careful examination of the effects of cost of building materials on property development with special emphasis on residential real estate development in Bariga area of Lagos state. The study also put into consideration the various factors that are responsible for the incessant increase in the cost of building materials in the study area.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study shall be an avenue of revealing the effect of rising cost of building materials on property development. It will reveal whether the effect is positive or negative. Infract, the study shall give an insight to factors responsible for the incessant cost of building materials and also factors militating against property development in the study areaand the country in general. It shall go a long way in aiding prospective investor who may wish to exploit the development potential of the fast growing state in determining the viability of their investment within the study area. The study shall provide a comprehensive picture and update information that prevails situation in the study area. Finally, the study will be of immense benefit to construction industry, private developers, government organization and corporate bodies. It shall also serve

as a guide and reference material for other students who may undertake research work on similar subject.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW 2.1 CONCEPT OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Shyllon (2004), Observed that building materials can be classified into three (3) main groups. Traditional, modern or conventional and innovative building materials. The traditional building materials include laterite, bamboo thatch, which are produced with rudimentary technology in small scale and are characterized by low quality performance. The low quality performance may have led to the development of conventional building materials which include cement, blocks, rod, steel, glass and corrugated roofing sheets, which are characterized by expensiveness, scarcity, and high import inputs. The third category which he refers to as innovative, represent the combine effort to improve on both traditional and conventional building material through research development aimed at improving alternatives to import based materials.

Aliyu, Kasim, and Martin, (2011) acknowledged that development of local building materials could resolve most of Nigeria's shelter problems Brian (2015), maintained that the cost is rather too high compared to the united nation approved 25%. This problem according to Opara (2003), ranges from spiraling cost of building materials and stated that it is quite clear that the building construction sector is reset by serious difficulties as a result of the deregulation in the economy. The most among it are import dependency and inadequate product of local building materials. This increases the cost of construction because of high exchange rate, transportation cost, among other problems. This consequently led to inadequate and unaffordable housing unit in Nigeria, as conventional building materials are beyond the reach of an average Nigerian. Arayela (2002), Opined that it is imperative to seek ways in which to bring down the cost of construction and make it attractive. He further added that, currently in Nigeria, stabilized laterite bricks are being used to reduce the cost of construction. Opara (2003) further asserted that, intensification of research and development of locally sourced buildingmaterials will go a long way in solving this problem of spiraling cost of building materials. Furthermore, building materials has been undergoing a lot of transformation in the past two decades, The Nigerian economy has been tendering further towards capitalism.

With the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmed (SAP) and subsequent privatization and commercialization. The effect of this problem cannot be negative or positive. Most of our building materials even construction technology have high foreign compound (Olowo 1988).

Presently less, developed nation is growing very fast three times as industrialize nation. In the future we can expect that some of the poorest nations in production of building materials will grow row at even faster rate, as far there is availability of raw materials to the benefit of a common Man. Hussein (1998) observed that at all stages of construction, over 80% Of the construction materials used in the country are imported as finished product when the foreign exchange is scarce consequently material shortage occur since their demand outstrip restricted supply. Fos (1997) further describes the rise in building material cost as uncontrolled- hyper- inflation; However, according to Abiola (2000), cost is a common phenomenon in the construction industry, besides the rising costs, inflation is not peculiar to Nigeria.

Olatunji (2010), agreed that, there is indication of a surging wave of increase in contract prices of construction projects executed or being executed all over the world, what may have been identified as being responsible for the upward trends in the cost of construction. Abiola (2000), acknowledged that it can be attributed to government policy, inflation and designed variable. The united nation global report on human settlement suggested that in the next two to four years there will be availability of building materials in Nigeria. Currently, a lot of raw materials for construction is found in Nigeria (Hussein, 1998), some states where building materials are produced are listed in the table 1.

Table:1 STATE THAT PRODUCE BUILDING MATERIALS

STATE	BUILDING	TONE/YEAR
Gombe	Cement	1,600
Kaduna	Zinc	10,000
Bauchi	Gravel	10,000
Lagos	Zinc	8,000
	Timber	5,000

Source: Matalkah, Alomari, & Soroushian, (2020).

In the future, we can expect that some of materials for building can be found in other state for easy benefit of common man. The factors that increases cost of building materials is characterized into four (4) groups demand and supply, geographical and socio-political region (Cao, Dai, & Liu, 2016). Demand is subjected to considerable fluctuation which can have serious repercussion on the utilisation of resources. Secondly, road and geographical settlement will reduced the supply which will increase the cost of materials, if the demand of building materials is very high. Nearness to the building materials manufacturing industry.

COMPONENTS OF PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING MATERIALS: This is defined by the penguin dictionary of building as materials of which building elements are made for example cement, sand timber. Building materials are the single largest input in the construction industry which account for over 50% of the total value of construction output (Grmela, 2020). The industry uses a range of building materials including cement, timber, roofing sheet, gravels, and steel rods amongst others. The worldwide demand for materials such as cement, steel and roofing sheet etc, have increase substantially during the past several years. Even before the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, cost of construction had been significantly outpacing the overall rate of inflation. In recent time, the following building materials increased as noted: copper pipe and wire +125% structural steel +66%, Dry wall +26%, Reedy mix +10%, concrete block +8% **Labour:** Labour is often a separate item in a bill, although one item may contain several labours. It constitute the second largest single component of resources, input required by the construction industry (Jarkas, 2015). The industry required and utilizes a mix of labour. The different level of labour use in construction include unskilled workers example labourers, Masons, Plumbers and Carpenters; Professional example Architects, Builders, Quantity Surveyors, Civil engineers and managers example contractors.

CONSTRUCTION COST: This refers to the overall cost of the project from the inception to the completion of such project. It includes cost of labour; this refers to the expenditure on the workmen either skilled or unskilled for carrying out the work (Munano, 2014). Cost of labour has drastically increased; a workman who earns N900/day in 1998, N1200/day in 2005 and N2000/day in 2010 is currently earning N3000/day. This sector of the economy employs foreign firms to a greater extend and sector account for the major revenue of the

nation. For instance, in Lagos state, foreign company take 95% of the market, leaving a pathetic 5% to indigenous companies.

FACTORS AFFECTING COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Building materials had been playing an important role in the construction industry. They were all naturally occurring in the ancient times, for example, stone, wood, straws, clay,lime, and brick (Lucas, & Harris, 2012). As the building techniques were improving, simple composite materials, combined by means of mixing and/or heat treatment, were developed. A typical example is concrete, which was developed by the Roman Empire (Lucas, & Harris, 2012). Due to advances in science and technology at the beginning of the 20th century, materials with better performance and durability were introduced, for example, reinforced concrete, steel, plastics, and metal (Lucas, & Harris, 2012). Akanni, OkeandOmotilewa((2014),found that building materials remain the most significant input in project development and play a very important role in the delivery of construction projects. Buttressing this view, Allen, and Iano, (2019), found out that building materials alone account for 50% to 60% of project cost and control about 80% of its schedule.

One of the major constraints in the Nigerian construction industry today has been the rapid inflation in the cost of the building materials. Windapo, and Iyagba (2004) observed that the situations arising from the rapid increase in the cost of building materials may degenerate to acute shortages of housing with the millions of middle- and low-income families being priced out of the market for home ownership all across Nigeria.

Akanni, Oke, and Omotilewa (2014), identified government fiscal policies as one of the factors affecting the cost of building materials in the Nigerian construction industry. However, findings of other researchers: Stanley, Ogbuagu, and Okechukwu (2014). concluded that factors such as the change in government policies legislations; scarcity and of building materials; Overdependence on imported building materials; Inadequate and inefficient infrastructural facilities (roads and rail system, etc.); Shortage of locally manufactured building materials; Lack of knowledgeable technical expertise; fluctuation in the cost of fuel and power supply; corruption; fluctuation in the cost of plant and labour; seasonal changes; fluctuation in the cost of transportation and distribution; political interference; local taxes and charges; fluctuation on cost of raw materials; Lack of finance for new building material production factories; Increases in the labour costs of production of building materials; Over pricing of the contracts for the production of the building materials; fluctuation in the interest rates and the cost of finance; inflationand fluctuation in the exchange rate of Naira, were many of therecipes for the rising cost of building materials in Nigeria.

EFFECTS OF RISING IN THE COST OF BUILDING MATERIAL ON PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

The general direction at which prices of building materials are increasing in Nigeria was as the result of the combined effects of high interest rates, devaluation of the Naira, inflation, and non-effective distribution network of the materials(Oladipo & Oni, 2012). Accordingto Akanni, Omotilewa(2014), the Nigerian Government curtailed activities in cement business when it banned the importation of Portland cement in the country between 2003 and 2007. However, Ibrahim (2014) noticed that increase in the prices of buildingmaterials has multiplier effects on the industry as it leads tofluctuation in construction costs and the eventual abandonment of projects. Other effects of rising cost of materials are completion at the expense of other projects, delay in progress of projectworks, other valuable projects not being commissioned, rateof employment of construction workers, workmanshipas a result of the use of low-quality local materials, andinhibited innovations in construction methods were identified by Hwang, and Tan (2012), as the possible effects of the rising cost.

Inhibited Innovations in Construction Methods and MaterialResearch

Curtis and Low (2016), report found that the very low andunreliable rate of profitability within construction which is an obstacle to sustainable healthy development. The report was of the opinion that increasing financial pressure are bound tobe on contractors when initial budget figures become completely unrealistic and concluded that the situation will damage the industry and jeopardize its existence. Harris, McCaffer, Baldwin, and Edum-Fotwe (2021), also argued that construction companies have a social responsibility to provide staff training, maintain a high level of health and safety of its workers, and development invest research and facilitate in to

continuous improvement in technology and management. However,Inflation in the cost of building materials had resulted in lowand unreliable rate of profitability, and this has affected the performance of the industry in the area of innovations in construction methods and material research.

Fluctuation in Construction Costs

Maintaining steady cost projectionon construction projects had been an issue of seriousconcern both to the client and project contractors. Azhar, Farooqui, and Ahmed (2008) noticed that the basic reason ofcost overruns is that most contractors quote prices based ontheir projected estimates; unfortunately, the prices change soquickly that the initial budget figures become completelyunrealistic. On the Nigerian scene, Awoyemi, Aje, and Olanipekun, (2014) found that one of the most serious problems in the Nigeria construction industry is the project cost overrun, with attendant consequences of completing projects at sumshigher than the initial sum and concluded that it resulted toproject abandonment issues in most cases.

Quality of Workmanship is affected

According to Alabi, andFapohunda(2021), one of the hallmarks of a developed construction industry is in the output of quality buildings and structures. The quality of workmanship inconstruction work is assessed according to the requirement of the relevant standard, and marks are awarded if the workmanship complies with the standard. The study of Ashworth, and Perera (2015), which reported the trend in the cost of building materials, has envisaged great danger for the construction industry and the nation's economy in that there were instances of conflicts between buildings contractors and their clients over upward review incontract sums, and in an attempt to avert such conflicts and remain in the business, some contractors resorted to the use of substandard or insufficient materials for construction projects, which had contributed to cases of building collapse in the nation.

Risk of Project Abandonment

Abandonment of projects hasbecome a national menace in Nigeria's infrastructural developmentas most clients are not adequately advised about thefinancial implications of the project to be embarked on (Gbahabo, & Samuel,

2017). According to these authors, the predominance of many uncompleted and substandard buildings was connected to the inflation and high cost of building materials. Their studies also affirmed that the situation may have a multiplier effect on the industry and may lead to fluctuation in the construction cost.

Volume of construction output is affected

According to Odediran, Adeyinka, Opatunji, andMorakinyo (2012), the output of the constructionindustry in Nigeria is quite low when compared with construction industry of many developed countries. Congruent to this assertion, Ibem, Aduwo, and Onyemaechi, (2017) observed that situations arising from the rapid increase in the cost of building materials may degenerate to acute shortages of housing with millions of middle- and low-income families being priced out of the market for home ownership all across Nigeria.

Rate of employment is affected

The construction industry's workforce is extremely diverse and includes different typesof individuals working within construction such unskilledworkers, skilled workers, craft, managerial roles. and administrativeWorkers. Employing the right people within the construction industry isa priority due to the scarcity of both skilled people and experiencedmanagers. Alabi, (2017) found that inflation in the costs of building material is killing the constructionindustry as many contractors are unable to forecast accuratelythe expected profit on the project, and the situation hadcontributed to laying-off of the workers and closure of firms in some extreme cases.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this work, study method was used for this research. This method facilitates the effective gathering of data through sampling of a small size of the population and generalizing the findings on the entire population. This method is considered appropriate for this study because it will help the researcher to discover relative incidence and distribution on the population. However, for this research work the study population comprises of forty (40)property developers, forty (40)Contractors and 40 building materials

dealers operating in Bariga area of Lagos state. The sample size of this project is 120; this comprises property developers, Contractors and Building materials dealers operating within Bariga area of Lagos state which were targeted for administration of questionnaire. Random sampling technique was used as appropriate sampling technique because it is more objective in the selection of sample. Self- administered questionnaire was the main instrumentused for the study.

STUDY AREA

Bariga is Located in Lagos state Nigeria. It is a local council development area under Shomolu L GA of Lagos state with its headquarter/ secretariat at No19 Bawala street, Pedro Gbagada, Lagos State. It shares a boundary with Somolu Local Government at Ikorodu road through Pedro down to Bajulaiye. It is a small but highly populated area, It is located geographically within Latitude: 6,535/6⁰ 32' 6.0" N, and longitude: 3, 3947222/3⁰ 23'40.9986" E.According to the year 2006 national population census, the area hasan estimated population of about 1.2millionpeople living in the area. It has a land mass area of about 3,412sqkm. Its terrain is rather plainland and it usually experience serious drainage problems especially during the rainy season.

DATA ANALYSIS DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The data obtained from the respondents through field survey, interview, and administration of questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive survey method. Raw scores were converted to simplepercentages, tables and diagrams form and consolidated with bar chart table for clarity and ease of description.

QUESTIONNAIRES ADMINISTRATION AND RETRIEVAL

A total of 120 questionnaires were designed for this work. A total of 60 were administered to real property developers and 48 retrieved whereas 12 questionnaires were unretrieved which represent 55% 0f the total administered questionnaires for the study. Similarly, a total of 60 questionnaires were administered to building materials dealers and retrieved 35 but 25 were unretrieved which also represent 45% of the total questionnaires administered for this work.

Table 1 Analysis of questionnaires administered to real property developers and Building materials dealers in the area

Responde	Total no of	No. of	No of non	Percentage
nt	questionnair	retrieved	retrieved	of
	es	questionnair	questionnair	questionnair
	administered	es	es	es retrieved
Real	60	48	12	55%
Property				
Developer				
s/				
Investors				
Building	60	35	25	45%
Materials				
dealers				
Total	120	83	37	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The above table shows that two set of questionnaires were administered for real estate investors/developers, and for Building materials dealers in the study area.

Table 2: Opinions of respondents on trend in selected building materials cost in the area.

Item	Frequency	Percentage
Fair	5	7
High	78	93
Total	83	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

A look at the table 2 revealed that 78 (93%) of the total respondents, are of the opinion that the trend in cost of building materials observed in table 2 is astronomically high. As these cost keeps fluctuating over the years this scenario has affected the ability of individual developers to increase the unit of residential accommodation to met the demand of people for home ownership and better shelter.

Research Objective 1: Factors responsible for the increasing cost of building materials in the Bariga, Lagos State.

Table 3 Respondents Opinions on the factors responsible for the incessant cost of building materials

Item	Frequency	Percen
		tage
Over dependent on	27	30
imported materials		
Government policy	25	28
Inflation/Fluctuation in	15	20
the exchange rate of naira		
Cost of Transportation	10	
and distribution		
Local tax and charges	6	7.5
Total	83	100

Source: Field survey, 2020.

Judging from the above table 3, 27 respondents representing 30% of the total respondents agree that over dependent on imported materials is one of the major factor responsible for the incessant cost of building materials. Similarly, 25 representing (28%) of the total population are of the opinion that instability in government policy and program me among other factors has a drastic effect on cost of building material.

Research Objective 2: Factors militating against property development in the study area.

TABLE 4: SHOWING RESPONDENTS' OPINION ON THE FACTORS AFFECTING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN BARIGA AREA OF LAGOS STATE AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO CURTAILS THE SPIRALING COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS

NO.OF TABLE	ITEMS	SA	A	UD	D	SD
12.	Does increase in the cost of building materials affect property development in the area		25	5	3	0
13.	Do you agree that factors such as cost of land acquisition cost of building	40	25	5	6	7

	materials, professional charges and lack of capital are militating against property development in the area					
14.	Do you think that using locally produced building materials together with government subsidy on imported material can reduced the spiraling cost of building materials	40	30	5	5	3
Total		130	80	15	14	10

Source: Field survey, 2020

TABLE 5: Does increase in the cost of building materials affect property development in the area?

Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
50	25	5	3	0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 5 indicates that 50 respondents representing 70% were strongly agreed that increase in cost of building materials affect property development in the area.

TABLE 6: Do you agree that factors such as cost of land acquisition cost of building materials, professional charges and lack of capital are militating against property development in the area?

Strongly	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
Agreed				
40	25	5	6	7

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 6 shows that 40 which represent (50%) strongly agreed that the above mentioned factors among other things are militating against property development in Bariga area of Lagos state while (7%) strongly disagreed.

Research Objective 3: Examine the need for local sourcing and development/use of alternative building materials to solve the problems of incessant cost of building materials in the study area.

TABLE 7: Do you think that using locally produced building materials together with government subsidy on imported material can reduced the spiraling cost of building materials?

Strongly	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
Agreed				
40	30	5	5	3

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 7 shows that 40 respondents which represent 50% strongly agreed that with development, encouragement and use of locally made building material with sustainable quality alongside with government subsidy of some percentage on imported materials, the issue of spiraling cost of building materials will be a thing of the past. While (3%) Strongly disagree.

TABLE 8: Which of these do you regarded as the effect of rising cost of building materials on property development in the study area

Statement	Very	High	Average	Low	No Extent
	High	Extent	Extent	Extent	
	Extent				
Inhibited	30 %	10 %	10 %	25	8 %
Innovations in				%	
Construction					
Methods					
Fluctuation in	40	15	15	10	3
Construction					
Costs					
Quality of	50	10	15	5	3
Workmanship					
is affected					

Project Abandonment	50	8	8	10	7
Volume of construction output is affected	35	15	10	15	3
Rate of employment is affected	50	10	5	5	3

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 8 shows that 50 respondents which represent 50% strongly agreed that the major effects of rising cost of building materials on property development in the study area are that quality of workmanship, Project abandonment and escalating rate of unemployment. However other effects are volume of construction output is affected, fluctuation in construction, and Inhibited Innovations in construction methods.

CONCLUSIONAND RECOMMENDATION

From the foregoing analysis, it is evident to conclude that building materials prices being the single largest element in the total cost of building project has drastically affected the volumeof property development in Bariga area of Lagos state in particular and indeed the whole country. Numerous factors are responsible for incessant increase in building materials such asprice. This price movement has affected the standard of living, the expectation and people's aspiration to own a home and the livelihood of individual occupant in the area. The cost of building materials can be reduced by government through lifting of ban and established new industries to enhance the importation and manufacture of the building materials like cement, roofing sheet and paint. Government should liaise with professionals in the building industry to organize seminar/workshop that will aim at encouraging research effort on the development /use of more local manufactured industries for building materials

using the local contents. Government should serve as a model for local building materials utilization in housing development through building of more accommodation using such materials.

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