PHILOSOPHY AND THE ATTITUDE OF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract
This research investigates government's attitude in relation to Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria. It also accesses the policy and how the presidency that enacted Covid-19 laws was the one that bused it. The same government that made provisions for palliative to alleviate hunger and for empowerment in the heat of the ravaging pandemic were the one that hijacked it and converted the aforesaid palliative for their private us. A Hermeneutical Approach will be employed in accessing and interpreting how the attitude and policy of the presidency has so far encouraged despotism, corruption, self-centeredness, mistrust, agitations for self-determination, militias, banditry, kidnapping and so on. This vicious element has hindered Nigeria from making any reasonable progress having the amalgamation of 1914 as its primary cause. This paper establishes that government attitude in relation to Covid-19 pandemic has both positive and negative effect on the economy and Health Sector in Nigeria. This study exposes the porosity and dilapidation of Nigeria's Health sector (the urgent need for Nigerian government to fund and equip health sector which is presently synonymous with mortuary), it also suggests that the government of the Federation should make haste to reviving Nigeria's economy which is at the verge of collapsing; the government should be transparent in their dealings and should treat any case of corruption without sentiment or bias; government should make plans to solving the problem of high rate of unemployment in Nigeria; every insecurity challenge should be addressed

Key Words: Attitude, Covid-19, Economy, Nigeria.

Introduction
Philosophy has been described as not so much a subject area itself, but rather as a set of tools for thinking clearly about difficult or obscure problems. Life in the time of corona virus begs for those

tools. Covid-19 appearance was an experience that took the world by surprise and at the same time exposed the fragility of the medical field and its inability to have control over the pandemic which later caused the death of Four million, four hundred and eighty thousand, four hundred and eight-six (4, 480,486) globally (Wikipedia.org, 27th Aug, 2021). The method of hermeneutics was employed in this research to enable bring out the contextual meaning of this paper. The attitude and interventions deployed by the presidency in the heat of the Pandemic in their attempt to stop the spreading of the virus and how it affected the country positively and negatively will be outlined and discussed hermeneutically under the subheadings below.

It was clearly ubiquitous that Nigeria was at a critical juncture in the second quarter of 2020. The appearance of Covid-19 put the country on its toes as the economy was seriously affected due to crude oil price drop and government lousy attitude to squarely address the problem. There was sharp decline in the price of oil which dropped from nearly $60 per barrel to as low as $30 per barrel in March (Olapegba et al, 2020). During the pandemic, people were no longer traveling and this led to a sustained fall in the demand for aviation fuel and automobile fuel which affected Nigeria's net oil revenue, and eventually Nigeria's foreign reserve (Olapegba et al, 2020). Nobody can say categorically when this era of Pandemic will end after the second phase of Covid-19 was declared globally around December 2020 and this has become a worrisome situation to the government and good citizens of Nigeria.

Covid-19 pandemic era has been a challenging time for Nigerians due to government's neglect to funding and equipping the health sector. However, the appearance of the aforementioned is a wake-up call for government of Nigeria to revitalize Nigeria's health sector to stop it from collapsing completely. This work shall also discuss the negative and positive impact the pandemic has already had on Nigeria's health system and the economy. Because you cannot discuss health sector without considering first the state of the country's economy. How strong the economy of a nation is, will determine the quality of its services and how equip the hospitals should be. But most at times the opposite is always the case in

Nigeria. To determine the factors that led to Nigerian government unexplainable abandonment of Nigeria's Health System, Achebe (1983) summarized that the problem with the country is simply a failure of leadership. But despite that Achebe located the root cause of Nigeria's problem to failure of leadership, yet we cannot discuss Nigeria's problems without talking about the forceful amalgamation of 1914. Amalgamation of 1914, bad governance, neo-colonialism and post-colonialism, corruption, tribalism, nepotism and so forth have contributed and vastly influenced the attitude of the presidency and health directors in various hospitals in Nigeria. The amalgamation fusion was a forceful one, shaped by colonial master's egoism to enable them have access and control of Nigeria's economy. So therefore, the Whiteman's intention for the so-called amalgamation was not for Nigeria's own benefit but instead for her own benefit. Bringing the northern and southern protectorates together enabled them achieve their selfish end faster. The colonial master's self-centeredness and her quest for dominance did not allow her put into consideration the differences in geographical locations, cultural and religious disparities and differences in vision pursuit before the amalgamation was carried out. Yet it is unfortunate that after decades of Achebe's warnings against failure of leadership, bad governance has increased its volume and has persisted even in Buhari's administration that confused Nigerians and made them believe "chain" for "change". However, no period in the epoch of Nigeria's history has leadership failure been more brazen than in the phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The inability of the government and NCDC to be transparent and adopt a systematic approach to addressing the pandemic has generated mix-feelings and immense concerns amongst some international bodies, Nigerians in Diaspora and citizens whose angst arises from the deliberate abandonment of the country's health sector. Fundamentally, these setbacks are with regard to Nigerian leader's preference and patronization of foreign medical outfits which of course had become detrimental to health institutions in the country (Adebayo, 2020). The menace of the Covid-19 pandemic has further accentuated this reality and has exposed the aftermath arising due to the disdainful neglect of the country's health sector by poor leadership whose action have affected the impoverished and

wealthy alike. The poor leadership style of Nigerian leaders since independence has affected the political, social, economic, moral and health sector. The dilapidation of health sector has led to an increased mortality rate in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2020).The elite group produced by the country's colonial rulers, having no proper revolutionary vision for the country, replicated the same colonial violence style.

As a result of this replication, citizens have become disenchanted especially considering the country's health sector which has not received adequate attention despite the numerous budgets channeled to it (Njoku, 2014). It is important to note that at the exit of the British colonialists, the economy, social and political and health sectors of the country were drastically affected by decades of Europeans imperialism. Nationalists who eventually assume the position of leadership at the exit of the British colonialists promised a brighter future for Nigerians but have failed to keep these promises. Consequent to this, Patterson (2016), opines that leadership failure occurs as a result of selfishness, errors, mistakes, ignorance, lack of expertise, flawed communication, and a deliberate neglect. This sums up the challenges confronting Nigeria as a nation today.

The aphorism that health is wealth is germane. The nations of Africa are replete with tyrannical rulers even in the pretentious camouflage democratic dispensation. Some of these leaders came to power from humble background having in mind to liberate their people from tyranny. But with time they changed from humble lamb into a wolf and begin to devour their subjects. At the end of their second tenure in office, they changed the constitution. Twenty, thirty years later, they are still on the throne rescuing their people while silencing all oppositions. And to Derek Kidner, the tyrant in God's eyes is subhuman. This tyrannical nature of leadership has forced many 'best brains' go into hiding or run away from the country and this has led to massive brain drain in Africa as a whole. Eagerness to get rich has pushed many into various types of crime such as drug pushing, kidnapping, armed robbery, embezzlement of public and private funds, migration across borders for greener pasture and so on. Albeit, a nation that neglects its health sector is bound to face huge challenges as a healthy citizenry most often approximate to a

dedicated workforce. This accounts for the reason why many countries pay special attention to training, retention, and remuneration of their healthcare personnel. Nonetheless, irrespective of the obvious decay in the health sector in Nigeria, the situation has not improved especially with respect to effective implementation and funding. What this shows is that the federal character expenditure as regards health sector has dwindled over the years. There is urgent need for federal character to seize this opportunity with which Covid-19 pandemic has created to fund health sector properly and make sure that modern medical gadgets, facilities, equipment are installed in government hospitals. Conducive environment must be set up and there should be regular supervision and accreditation in all public hospital on quarterly basis. Every kobo budgeted by federal government to rehabilitate health sector should be channeled proportionately. With that Nigeria's health system can improve.

The said Covid-19 Pandemic spreads into almost every country of the world and changed the direction of events. It also slowed down economic growth and deterred development. To curtail its effect, Covid-19 orders and its enforcement was propagated. Social distancing, washing of hand with soap in a running water, application of alcohol based hand sanitizer, using of nose mask, lockdown, quarantine, stay at home, border and international travel ban etc. were Covid-19 pandemic laws as provided to enable curtail the effect of the virus. Adherence to Covid-19 laws and its enforcement ushered Nigeria into the second phase of recession in 2020 during the lockdown less than 7 years of APC government. The rate in which the virus was spreading compelled the Nigerian government with the Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) to declare total lockdown. In keeping to Covid-19 measures the economy of the nation was grossly affected to the point that Nigerian government kept on borrowing and printing new naira so that there will be more money to loot and also to enable them settle some pressing national debts.

Personally as an individual I don't believe that Covid-19 is evil in itself as some do. My reason is because if Covid-19 hadn't interfered at the first place, the inference some Nigerians are making today in respect to dilapidation, condition and porosity of Nigerian

hospitals and the corruption going on in Nigerian health sector wouldn't have been exposed. Therefore, if the government and the citizens did not learn their lesson after what the appearance of Covid-19 pandemic brought and what the neglect of the health sector over the years has cost Nigeria, then it means that the hope of a better tomorrow is neither here nor there. In this research it was discovered that no philosopher before now has written directly on epidemics or pandemic except Albert Camus who wrote "The Plaque" (Camus, 1947), although some such as Fichte, Hegel, William of Ockham, and very likely St Augustine as well died during one of the plaques period (Bioethics update, 2020). Perhaps the reality of Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on man and his environment supposed to remind everything with breath that philosophy cannot be reduced to professional category alone. One may ask, what contribution can philosophers offer in the Covid-19 pandemic era? For those philosophers who specialize in ethics and bioethics should be aware that the appearance of corona virus stimulates various reflections and probably opens up new fields of work for exploration. One observation which is worthy of noting remains that philosophy and the pandemic teach us that we are passing through in this life, but also that the crises leads to two possible outcomes: relapse or recovery. Hence there is not so much distance between learning to die and learning to live.

Nigeria Government response to Covid-19 Related Cases: Past and Present

Karl Marx once pointed out, that "philosophers have hitherto interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it." One may ask what impact can the contribution of philosophers make to reduce the tension and fear caused by Covid-19 Pandemic? Or what value can philosopher's contribution add to enable salvage the situation generated by Covid-19 since no philosopher ever wrote on the subject matter? These questions will be a benchmark to our reflection on why both the past and present leadership of Nigeria has been nonchalant to equip, fund, modernize Nigerian healthcare system and have refused to properly without sentiment address health related cases including Covid-19 Pandemic. It is worthy of noting that the problem confronting Nigeria since its inception are

legion. A generation is of age without having seen good governance. In history we burrow into the past to draw there from wisdom and folly which could serve as necessary existential guide for the present (Oyewole…).

Historically, from 1970 up till now, the country has made three attempts to sustain healthcare system in Nigeria through various outlets amongst which include:

(a) Basic Health Services Scheme (BHSS) from 1975 to 1983,
(b) District Health System (DHS) from 1986 to 1992 and,
(c) National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) from 1992 till date. (Abosede & Sholeye, 2014)

Despite these structures and policies, none of these transitions have achieved a remarkable success at implementation; and this owes largely to lack of political commitment, leading to inadequate and inefficient financing, weak and dilapidated infrastructures, sub-standard drugs and equipment among other highlights. With regard to Nigeria's health sector, in 1984, the first HIV case was recorded but was not taken seriously until it affected a horde of Nigerians. Likewise, in 2012, the Ebola virus was reported but was also taken lightly not until eight deaths were recorded (Adelakun, et al, 2017). This apathetic attitude was also displayed with the outbreak of Lassa fever which ravaged hundreds. Abubakar et al., (2018), states that in 2013, Nigerians spent $1 million on foreign medical trip with majority being politicians. In 2012 according to Nigerian Health Sector Market Study Report (2015, 15) Nigerians spent an estimated $260 million on medical bills in India alone and the 40% of all visas to India were for medical reasons. On 7th June, 2016 BBC reported how Nigerian president Mohammadu Buhari traveled abroad to treat ordinary ear infection (BBC Report, 2016). It is suggested that the huge medical bills incurred by Nigeria for its political leaders abroad could be utilized in addressing its health infrastructure deficit. The leadership appears indifferent to the medical condition of Nigeria's health sector because of the ease with which they travel abroad for treatment and medical checkup for themselves and members of their immediate families. The corona virus pandemic appearance sounds a warning and serves as a wakeup call on Nigerian leaders. It is required that the government

give urgent attention to health sector and make sure that the bad state of country's health system be addressed. If they fail to ameliorate the situation now, then they should get ready to face the consequence, because it may not be long another virus that may be more deadly than Covid-19 will emerge and other countries where they used to fly to may decide to close their borders. Then they may not have the opportunity to fly abroad for medical checkup and treatment due to global pandemic crisis. Then the law of karma will hunt them because they refused to build to the standard, fund and equip a sector that supposed to have revived them back to life due to their greediness.

Quarantine

The interconnected nature of the world is increasingly obvious for both the positive and negative. The mobility of man is faster today than in previous known history of mankind. Thus, the outbreak of epidemic in one part of the world might be disseminated to the rest of the world in a matter of days. This makes it necessary for nations to take proactive measures to guard against being convulsed by the upheavals. In 2014, the world was gripped by Ebola epidemic which originated in DR Congo but quickly spread to many parts of the world before being controlled. Invariably, there was no lesson learnt from the Ebola epidemic. It was not until the index case of an Italian visiting Lagos tested positive on 28th February, 2020 that a general outcry by citizens that government should restrict flights or quarantine anybody in corona virus pandemic ravaged countries of Europe should be enforced (Obi-Ani et al, 2020). Eventually on March 29, 2020, president Buhari led administration banned international flights into the country and lockdown, Abuja, Lagos and Ogun states for a period of one month. His action was like bolting the stable after the horse has passed. It has been alleged that part of the delay in closing Nigerian border was to await the return of president Buhari's daughter from London. This allegation is plausible since the president's daughter shortly after her return and self-isolation (Ogundipe et al, 2020), the Nigerian border were closed. Laws in Nigeria are for the weak and powerless.

Palliative Alleviation

The Covid-19 response in Nigeria started with the establishment of the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 by president Buhari, headed by Mustapha, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. The Task Force was mandated alongside other government agencies to coordinate and oversees Nigeria's multi-sectoral intergovernmental efforts to contain the spreading of corona virus. At the domestic scene, the shutdown in the era of Covid-19 has two repercussions: economic hardship such as hunger and business closure, with its attendant frustration marked by rises in suicide and rape cases and cessation of notable social events such as religious events due to social distancing. Palliative alleviation was a programme initiative by the federal government to empower, provide succor and feed the poorest of the poor in various localities at the heat of the pandemic. But the original plan for this palliative initiative was quickly compromised and corruption set in, so the primary aim was not achieved. But the question is; did this initiative achieve its maximum goal? Probably the answer is no. The same government who initiated this programme was the one that hijacked it and converted the funds and items to their own personal use. The fund and food items were stored in their various warehouses waiting for election and campaign time so that they can bring them out and used it for campaigns and begin to share them to people who survived the pandemic.

Budgit claimed that Covid-19 palliatives were hijacked and distributed among the party loyalists. In some areas, the said palliatives were kidnapped and diverted by politicians and shared among party members. During the #ENDSARS# protest, hoodlums attacked a government owned warehouse where the food meant to be distributed was stored in Lagos state. Same was reported in other parts of the country as politicians took ownership of distribution exercise. In some parts of Kano the selection process of the beneficiaries was strictly based on political party loyalists and the vulnerable groups in the community could not benefit from the palliative. Party leaders were strictly instructed to share to only party members upon presentation of party card or identification of being a member of the ruling party. Mismanagement of palliative items and funds earmarked for Covid-19 response has created a wider gap

between the rich and poor where the vulnerable and marginalized are denied access to the palliative items that rightfully belong to them (Premiumtimesng.com).

NCDC ATTITUDE IN RELATION TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) act was established in 2018 and was signed into law by president Buhari (Obi-Ani et al, 2020, 6). The major reason for the establishment of Nigeria Center for Disease Control was to tackle rising health challenges. Up till 2016 government's funding of the health sector still lagged behind. More so, from 2016 till date, the trend remained static and in some instances deteriorated. Similarly, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, only a meager amount was released to NCDC despite donations made by individuals, international organizations and other world governments to Nigeria (Obi-Ani et al, 2020, 6). Consequent upon this, Covid-19 testing laboratories and centers were sparsely distributed. In a country with a population of over 200 million, as of 17 April, 2020, the country had only 169 ventilators serving an estimate of 1, 266, 440 persons per ventilator (Maclean & Mark, 2020). Gabriel Okeowo, Budgit's Chief Executive Officer retaliates that:

> Health emergencies are inevitable, and a country must never be caught unawares. An effective response must begin with adequate preparation and resource allocation to the health sector, after which a proper process for monitoring, transparency and accountability should be established [Premium Times)

There were suggestions that Nigeria was not prepared to respond to the current covid-19 pandemic. This is most obviously evident from the low testing rate for Covid-19 in the country. Nigeria currently has the capacity of testing only 2,500 samples a day and just half of these are critically administered each day because of shortage of human resources in the midst of plenty,

testing kits, laboratories, and case definition for testing that patronizes symptomatic cases and their contacts (Siddhart Dixit et al). As of 30th June, 2020, only 138, 462 samples were conducted in Nigeria for a population of 200 million; in contrast, South Africa, a country of 58 million people had already conducted 1, 630, 008 test. Nigerian government in corroboration with NCDC has taken several health; social and economic measures to stop the spread and impact of Covid-19 pandemic. But the irony is that some of the measures and policy responses have weaknesses and taken together are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem.

Conspiracy Theories on Covid-19

Covid-19 pandemic as it was said started in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Residents who lived in Wuhan had some link to a large sea food and live animal market, which suggests that the mode of transmission of corona virus was from animal to person. The virus has been named 'SARS-CoV-2' and the disease it causes has been named "Corona Virus disease-2019 abbreviated Covid-19. The first know patient of Corona Virus started experiencing symptoms in Wuhan, China on 1st December, 2019 (Ozili, 2020). Covid-19 entered Nigeria through an infected Italian citizen who came subsequently infected with the Virus. Some unfortunate citizens who came in contact with the Italian were infected with the Virus in Lagos and from there corona virus spread to other parts of the country starting from March, 2020. Some group of people among the conspiracy theorists upheld that Bill Gates created Corona Virus in a secret laboratory, while some other claimed that he is leading a class of global elites who out of their quest for wealth created the virus so as to make money out of the vaccines they may have produced and stored as antidote. Others believe that Gates is at the forefront of the effort to depopulate the world (BusinessToday.In, 2021).

There has always been a contention of who knows better amongst researchers, doctors and the citizens. Many people still doubt the existence of the Covid-19 virus, to some it is just a game of polities. Many forms of conspiracies have been ongoing in several countries owing to how the Covid-19 as a tool to get funds from other nations. In Nigeria, for instance, there are reports that some patients who visited the hospital gave information of how a mere

malaria case was recorded as a Covid-19 case. In Nigeria, the citizens are still puzzled on how the NCDC treats the Covid-19 patients since WHO has canceled the use of hydroxychroroquine. Majority of Nigerians are apoplectic noting that even at such a higher number of Covid-19 cases, none of them have ever seen a victim of the disease, the only one they have seen in a video is just a group of NCDC officials engaging in mortal combat with their accused victims. The 5G conspiracy has also become a narrative of its own primed in Europe and beyond. Popular claims are that SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted through 5G antennas and that the 5G technology has negative health impact and thus make individuals vulnerable to the virus. Others have argued that corona disease was caused by SARS-CoV2-a, new single-stranded RNA virus with respiratory system proclivity and epithelial cell which its mode of transmission is from human-to-human via droplets (PAMJ SUPP, 2020). There is also claim that China created the virus to solve the overpopulation problem, whereas in Europe the virus was to eliminate the elderly (Wikipedia.org).

Researchers in medical field has conducted experiment and come out with their findings on the status of corona virus whether vaccinated persons can still be infected with the virus or not. The new Covid-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna seem to be remarkably good, but it is unclear how well they can stop the spread of Corona Virus. This claim supports the motion that some vaccinated persons can still get infected without developing symptoms, and could silently transmit the virus to people who are corona virus free. It was based on this ground that Michal Tal, an immunologist at Stanford University argue that a lot of people are thinking that once they get vaccinated, they're not going to have to wear masks anymore. It's really going to be critical for them to know that they have to keep wearing masks, because they could still be contagious (Irishtimes.com). Such claim from Michal Tal would be enough to confirm the postulate that Corona virus had become an ideology and may not be completely wiped out because there could still be situation whereby a vaccinated person can still be infected if they come in contact with the infected persons unprotected. If that is the case, then there is this fear that the said virus may go on and on

disrupting social activities that may have encouraged empowerment and promote communal living.

The Condition of Nigeria Health Sector

The Nigeria health system has been evolving over the years through health care reforms aiming to address the public health challenges confronting it (Scott-Emuakpor, 2010). The inability to effectively address the countries various public health challenges has contributed to the persistent and high level of poverty and the weakness of the health sector. National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), National Immunization Coverage Scheme (NICS) and Midwives Services Scheme (Welcome M.O (2011), are the three health system reforms in Nigeria over the years aiming to address the public health challenges confronting the nation. The NHIS was expected to provide social and financial risk protection by reducing the cost of health care and providing equitable access to basic health services. The most vulnerable populations in Nigeria include children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, elderly, displaced, unemployed, retirees and the sick. Notwithstanding these vulnerable groups benefit from free health care services and exemption mechanisms, they largely have to pay for health care services. Free health care services and exemption mechanisms are often politically motivated. It is poorly implemented and do not become fully operational and sometimes last for few years. (Abdulraheem et al, 2012).

The state of Nigeria's health system is a menace to the fight against Corona virus. If the state of Nigeria's health sector is dilapidated and porous it becomes mission impossible for government and NCDC to control and minimize the rate of Covid-19 pandemic spreading in the country. The reality is that any kingdom that is divided or is against itself will surely fall (Matthew 12:25). There is urgent need for Nigerian government, Health Ministers (at states and Federal level) and Medical directors to put Nigeria's health system in order. When this is done, then the treatment and control of the virus can now be possible.

Political instability, corruption, limited institutional capacity and unstable economy are major factors responsible for the poor development of health services in Nigeria. According to M. Chris

Alli, it is the long term consequence of colonialism, imperialism and military rule in Nigeria that factored the way Nigerians rationalize failure and weakness (Alli, 2001:94). Dukor states that some of the problems facing Nigeria today came because the minority and oil producing regions were maltreated and exploited for many years until they resorted to militancy and violent-resistant as means of stopping state's inequality, injustice and culpable underdevelopment of the regions that produced the national wealth (Dukor, 2018). The health sector is not an exception. It has also been perverted and hijacked. The persistent rate of avoidable deaths in Nigeria is deeply alarming. One may ask; is this problem tie to endemic corruption in the country, lack of accountability and transparency or lack of health personnel? For lack of space and to answer this question without shifting from the scope of this work; I would like to concentrate on whether lack of medical personnel is one of the causes of poor health delivery in Nigeria today. It is important we bring to the attention of the concerned Nigerians that an average of 20, 000 Nigerians travels to India each year for medical assistance due to absence of a functional health system in Nigeria. Now the question is; what is in India that gravitates the consciousness of some sick persons in Nigeria (those that can afford the medical and transportation bills) to travel to India for medical treatment and check-up? How much can it cost Nigerian government to establish at least six functional hospitals in Nigeria, one hospital in each of the six geopolitical zones?

By calculation and for record purposes if we decide to do exegeses on the cost of medical bills Nigerians have spent abroad for the past two years and beyond; it will surprise you that it will be enough to build and furnished to the world standard six hospitals to attend to every medical case in Nigeria. If this information is true, then what has happened within the space of two years was that the president who always travel to abroad for medical check-up with its financial implication, the politicians, the governors, ministers, high class citizens and those who can afford the bill, was that they have ended up enriching these countries and have impoverished Nigeria. If this trend has lasted for five years, do you know how much Nigeria as a country has contributed to the development of those nations they travel to for medical check-up and how much they have

contributed to the underdevelopment of Nigeria? These are some of the things our leaders do without considering its implication.

The truth is that Nigeria as a nation is not in short of medical personnel. Frustration, insecurity, poor wages and allowances are the reasons most of Nigerian health workers travel abroad. To them, Nigeria health system does not have good structure that guarantees their security, good salary and allowances, good environment, advanced and upgraded equipment, stable power supply and modern technology. It was said that 77 percent of black doctors in USA are Nigerians. Nigerians have achieved tremendous feat in American medicine. Oluyinka Olutoye who based in Houston made history for bringing out a fetus from a mother's womb to remove a tumor, and successfully restoring the unborn baby back to the womb. There is rarely any top medical institution in the US or Europe where you don't find Nigerians managing at the top level (Simon Tumba). Definitely, if Nigerian health worker that works in United States decides to withdraw their services from US health sector, it will really feel the heat before they can get replacements. If Nigerians can contribute this large to the development of US, then the question is, why is Nigeria's health services in such a precarious condition? Who is to be blamed? Nigerian leaders should honestly look inward, spot the problems out that mitigate to the health workers running away from their own country to another for greener pasture and do something different.

The fact is that government performance in the health sector has been abysmal. Investment in infrastructure has been poor, and meager remuneration for health workers has created a massive "brain drain". Hardly a year passes without a major national strike by doctors, nurses, or health consultants. The major reasons for these strikes are poor salaries and lack of government investment in the health sector. Unlike other sectors in the country, Nigeria's health sector has also failed woefully due to bad governance. It is such a disgrace that irrespective of the huge best talents of Nigerians, which are on display in the health sectors all over the world, our own health system is failing. If the condition of Nigeria's health system remains this way, winning the fight against covid-19 pandemic would rather be a suicide mission than being possible.

Negative Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Nigeria Society

Covid-19 Pandemic affected global economy, social activities, religious activities and international relations in so many ways. The spread of the virus pragmatically attracted Covid-19 laws and its enforcement. Social distancing, a product of Covid-19 measures conditionally led to the shutdown of financial markets, corporate offices, businesses and events. At pace which corona virus spreads and the heightened uncertainty about how bad the situation could get to was what led to the flight to safety in consumption and investment among consumers and investors. And this fear of the unknown as generated by Covid-19 pandemic affected global economy badly.

On the domestic scene, the shutdown has two repercussions; economic difficulties such as hunger, and business closure, with attendant frustration marked by the rise in suicide cases, rape cases, divorce cases and cessation and self-determination protests of notable social events and religious events due to lockdown enforcement and social distancing order. The cause of the present economic state of the country has become a matter of economic and political debate. But it does appear that the political aspect of the debate has been more in the front burners more than the economic, administrative and even the legal aspects of the problem (Okonjo-Iweala). Covid-19 Pandemic and government's declaration of total lockdown and its enforcement affected Nigeria as a nation both in negative and positive ways. But I would be concentrating on the negative effect of Covid-19 pandemic on Nigerian society here.

The entrance of Covid-19 pandemic into Nigeria and the fear it generated in 2020 forced the government of the federation to declare total lockdown and shutdown of social activities and businesses so as to curtail the spread of the virus. But it was observed that this policy and decision brought endemic hardship to so many businesses, families, people and so on. Those who were depending on daily hustle to feed themselves and their family were in serious pain because business premises for business transactions i.e. market square was in total lockdown. The rate of rape cases and sexual assaults was high. Idleness has a way of psychologically work on the mind and emotions of people and reconfigure it in such a manner that they may not have control over their emotion again until they finish committing such evil. Some of these rape cases and

sexual assaults during the lockdown period wouldn't have occurred if people were engaged in any meaningful thing i.e. to school, work or to their shop for business transactions. Also, divorce cases recorded in the heat of Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown were high. During the lockdown businesses, offices, and academic activities, social activities and so on were suspended. And couples had time to spend with their family and spouses. But this period couples supposed to build lasting relationships was the period Nigeria recorded the greatest number of domestic violence and divorces. With closure of schools, increase in unemployment and disruptions of food chain due to closure of borders and interstate travels, there was downturn on even the security architecture of Nigeria (African Union (AU) Report (2020). Not minding that the living conditions of Nigerians were already affected before the appearance of Covid-19, there was also high risk of insecurity manufacturing inform of robbery and banditry due to hunger and poverty.

According to Anna Hoban, the Pandemic has affected Nigeria's economy and citizens to a grave extent with oil exports reported at 18-year low and job losses mounting. Covid-19 has destroyed whatever sense of progress Nigeria has experienced since its last recession (Anna Hoban, 2020). The performance of oil sector has a direct effect on the economic activity, jobs, government revenues, investment, and a credit growth all of which have been affected by the pandemic. Increase risk aversion among global investors has led to a decline in foreign portfolio investments, which until recently was the main financial sources for Nigeria's balance of payments. Also some investors withdrew some of their funds from Nigeria in searched of safer investment options and this has mounted pressure on Nigeria's external reserves and exchange rates. In addition, the prices of goods have skyrocketed. Many essential consumables such as drinking water and food stuff prices doubled due to lockdown order and herdsmen farm destructive activities. As a result of this, the pump price of fuel, cooking gas and so on increased and in government effort to enforce social distancing and lockdown order the cost of transportation went high.

It hurts when a country is endowed with natural and human resources yet the leaders allow that country and its citizens to suffer abject poverty even in such precarious period as Covid-19 pandemic

at the detriment of their own selfish-interest. If the government of APC can release fund for palliative and empowerment and at the same time embezzle it; then we ask what has they not done to impoverish this nation. There is need for leaders in every sector in Nigeria to show strong desire and willingness for transparency, impartial, competence, efficiency and must abide by the rule of law; showing accountability and justice and be effective with regards to service delivery. Why the rich still travel abroad today for medical treatments and check-up is because the hospitals in Nigeria are glorified mortuaries and dilapidated. The price to pay is that the government and wealthy Nigerians should invest in Nigeria's health sector and must ensure that it is put in order. If this is not done, then Nigeria and its health system cannot be salvaged.

Conclusion

Covid-19 appearance was an experience that took the world by surprise and exposed the limitation of science and helplessness of man. It is important we note that Covid-19 measures like social distancing and the fear it generated is anti-communism. Which means man and his family may find it difficult to live "communally" again because the compulsory physical distancing and protocols must be adhered to or else cases of Covid-19 pandemic would continue to rise and more lives would be lost. The appearance of Covid-19 has made man to become more conscious the way he interacts with his fellow man and the way he transacts with others within the society. It has also made him to become suspicious of his brothers, family members or friends with the fear that they could be agents that spreads Corona virus around. Therefore, it can be said that life in the era of Covid-19 aggravated the reawakening of man's consciousness so as to reflect over his life and on those things that threatens his life, the life of his love ones, his environment, spirituality, and to find the meaning of existence.

The fundamentals that have contributed to the poor health system in Nigeria and the lousy attitude of the government even up till now in addressing these problems can be traceable to the amalgamation of 1914, corruption, tribalism, bad governance, lack of discipline and so on. The naked truth is that the government and politicians wants the situation to remain this way so that they can

have continuous access to loot more billions from the treasury of the country. Without bold reforms of strong fiscal and monetary policy actions, Covid-19 effect on Nigerian and economy would be more severe in the year 2021 and that is what we have begun to experience. The effect of Covid-19 pandemic and the attitude of the government in addressing it have multiplied hardship and poverty in Nigeria. If the "best brains" does not with matter of urgency allowed to take over the leadership of Nigeria, the situation and result we shall be getting will always be the same. The fight against tribalism, post-colonialism is open-ended and Nigerians must continue to demand for more freedom in other to cut the excesses of bad governance in Nigeria.

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