

CHAPTER TEN

Absurdism to Pandemism: A Discourse of COVID-19 in the Nigerian State**Frank Ifeanyichukwu Amiriheobu**

Department of Theatre Arts Education
School of Arts and Social Sciences
Federal College of Education (Tech.)
Omoku, Onelga, Rivers State, Nigeria.

&

Gloria Ernest-Samuel (PhD)

Department of Theatre Arts
Faculty of Humanities
Imo State University,
Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

Abstract

Until recent time, the world is pensively besieged with COVID-19 pandemic that has crippled its fronts - economically, politically, religiously, socially, and otherwise. Its coercive nature has abused all efforts aimed at curbing it, thus; it has been considered as the greatest menace after First and Second World War. The virus, believed to have sprung from Wuhan, China and spread to other nations of the world, has succeeded in infecting over hundreds of thousands of people globally, and more than 45,000 people have died; while hundreds of thousand people are still recuperating. Yet, infected cases and death rate keep rising by the day. The situation becomes more tensed in the Nigeria society with issues of ill-equipped and dilapidated medical facilities and inexperienced medical personnel's, coupled with poverty, unemployment, hunger, suffering, and pain, caused by corruption, nepotism, favoritism, and divide and rule system. This paper examines Nigeria society under the current administration and mechanisms put in place to control the effect of the pandemic. We argue that the pandemic has distinctively increased public suffering, pain, fear, and hunger due to lousy measures positioned by the Nigerian government towards curbing the virus. With analytical methodology, this study therefore aims at interrogating the economic effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the Nigerian state. Amongst the major recommendations, the paper suggests that health sectors in the Nigerian state should be fully rehabilitated and supported with equipment, test kits, contact tracing logistics, and sustainable fighting palliatives that would curtail like issues in time coming.

Keywords: Absurdism, Pandemism, Critical Discourse, COVID-19, Theatrical State

Introduction

In an imaginative perspective, the nation, Nigeria, known as the 'Giant of Africa' may be considered as a theatre, an absurdist theatre in the frame of Albert Camus, which emphasize elusion as a fundamental in existence. As one of Africa's largest economy, one expects certain basic necessities to be functional in the nation to a large extent; unfortunately, this is hardly fathomed as it is painfully overwhelmed with economic pauperization, political kleptocracy,

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rapid underdevelopment, poverty, suffering, pain, hunger, and the clandestine death. These are as a result of rapid rate of corruption, nepotism, tribalism, and divide and rule system prevalent in governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The absurdist nature has pragmatically turned the society into complex state where everything works. For instance, the state it is comprised of various ethnic and linguistic groups whose agenda seem to be diametrically opposed to each other, having more than two hundred and fifty different languages and so many tribes, clichés with diversity in tradition, culture, norms, values, religion, occupation, interest, conditions, artifacts, history, and nomenclature. These infractions have led to many clashes, ethnic rivalries, political and religious tensions and threats of violence championed by youths at slight provocations, right from the first republic (Mark, 2015). Presently, the country is witnessed with tension as splinter groups in all the regions are agitating for fundamental changes in issues that heinously affect them. For instance, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the South-east are agitating for national and international identification because the issues of marginalization, favoritism, nepotism, tribalism and divide and rule system which their fathers died for in course of the civil war is still ongoing. The IPOB group is today declared terrorist group by the Federal Government for the continued activism of self-Determination (Ihua & innocent, 2013).

Another dicey issue according to (Amiriheobu, 2019) is the oil-rich but exploited Niger Delta region. Militants in different splinter-groups according to (Mark, 2015) in the area are waging war with the Federal Government and the multinational oil companies to control their resources and better their impoverished lives due to the persistent effects of crude oil exploration and exploitation activities that has maliciously affected the fauna and flora, thereby destroying the ecological system and soil texture. The region according to Mark is said to be badly treated despite the fact that oil produced in the region is the major source of Nigerian foreign exchange. The oil companies exacerbate their agony by not giving them due attention as host communities even when their exploration results in spilling crude on their farmlands and waters, flaring gas and setting economic terrains on fire by bunkering which their compradors covertly arranged (Stella, 2010).

In the northern region, Amiriheobu and John, (2018) avers that “the issues of youth restiveness are always visible as youths are continually agitating as a result of religious coalition of interest”. A good example according to them is the violence between the Christians and the Muslims that led to the loss of lives and properties which began in the year 1953. It was also visible in the year 1999, 2000 and 2001. The most severe was that of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-eastern part of Nigeria which was believed to have been founded in the year 2002 by Muhammad Yusuf. In a statement issued by Boko Haram group on April 24, 2011, Adetoro (2012) quoting Suleiman (2011) reported that “their objectives were to abolish democracy and institute Sharia law as they claimed to be fighting for justice and islamization of the Nigerian state”. Extensively, this Boko Haram sect made up of youth has of recent created so many tensions and has contributed to the suffering in the Northern region of the country (Sani, 2015). In their course to establish their purposed Islamic

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state, they have according to Afolabi and Adeyele (2019) employed suicide bombings, assassinations, kidnapping, murdering the civilian population, and targeting security forces and educational institutions. According to Adetoro (2012), quoting Suleiman (2011), one of the group spokesmen Alzawahiri stated that “the group was contented with preaching islamization of Nigeria until 2009 when it took arms against the state because some unnamed Muslim clerics and ward heads in the North were conniving with the government to attack them following the Maiduguri crisis in July, 2009.

A similar narrative to the tenet of incessant killings, maiming and destruction of multi-million properties according to Frank, George, and Amgbadugba, (2019) is the Herdsmen/farmers clashes in Katsina, Gombe, Zamfara, Kogi, Benue, Edo, Delta and some other states in Nigeria over land ownership and cattle ranging. Generally, the means of agitation and demonstration by these splinter groups in the different Nigerian regions seem synonymous as it is manifested through acts of terrorism which include youth restiveness, lethal car bombing, politically motivated assassination, suicide bombing, vandalism of pipeline installation, incessant killings, and other forms of social vices.

In a nutshell, Ewelina and Kelsey (2016) summed the absurdist nature of the Nigerian state when he avers that “the speeds with which evil is growing in Nigeria and the merciless ways that lives of innocent ones are being wasted are worrisome”. People are burdened on a daily basis with psychological and emotional trauma resulting from gory sights of lifeless and mutilated bodies of loved family members, close associates and colleagues littered on the streets, public squares, and everywhere. These are caused due to corruption, manifesting through looting, money laundering, and embezzlement of funds meant for capital projects for the general public; nepotism, tribalism and divide and rule system. These have maliciously depredated all sectors – educational, medical, and administrative.

More so, the absurdist nature is made manifest as the Nigerian state is described as an “unfinished state” and a “truculent African tragedy” even in the midst of abundant human and material resources (Chigbo, 2018). This statement highlights that despite the abundant mineral and human resources in the state, Nigeria is ironically referred to as poverty capital of the world where hunger, pain, unemployment, and suffering, is apex. Due to this intricate exposition, arguments are that the Nigerian motto: peace, unity and progress, is a mere propaganda because ethnic bias is rapidly eating deep into the polity and even causing political divide because of the increase in tribal and regional hatred, that defines its complexity (Ifeanyi, 2005). Others argue that the oneness of Nigeria is borne with pain as some sections are treated as second class citizens in their own country. This thinking has caused series of unrest which sets off grounds for criminality, lawlessness and wanton destruction of men and resources (Mark, 2015).

This issue becomes tensed and aggravating in the Nigerian state with the emergence of novel COVID-19, an acute respiratory syndrome that has rumbled world economy and created death, pain, suffering and hunger in the countries of the world. The first confirmed case of the pandemic of in Nigeria was announced on 27th February, 2020 when an Italian citizen

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in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9th March, 2020, a second case of the virus was reported. At present, the total issue of confirmed cases of the pandemic in Nigeria has risen to 1098, while total number of 208 patients has been discharged with 32 casualties as released on the 25th April, 2020 by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). As a result of this, the federal and states governments have issued modalities that aims at curtailing the menace. For example, the federal government of Nigeria has established a presidential tasks force for the COVID-19 pandemic. The task force made up of all the Nigerian ministers and few governmental officials, headed by the secretary general of the federation.

The presidential task force oversees the issue of the pandemic in the country and reports same to the presidency. The federal government as a matter of urgency also declared that all schools and other governmental and non-governmental organizations are shut down. The federal government also went further to shutdown down Lagos, Abuja, and Ogun state due to high rate at which people are daily contracting the virus. Airport, seaports, and borders are also shut down by the presidency. While state governors have on their own restricted people from gathering in worship centre's, market places, bars, hotels, and other activities such as marriages, burials, parties, and other social gathering are put to a halt. These lock downs in all these strata by the Federal and state government have pragmatically affected the people who for long are faced with system failure. COVID-19 pandemic which replaces the absurdist nature of the Nigerian state further unravels the copious and inherent nature of the Nigerian political state in a theatrical stage, thus has increased suffering, pain, hunger and death of the people and underdevelopment to the country. It is to this that the study aims at identifying the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on an absurdist Nigerian state.

Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis, which is a hybrid field of enquiry, provides the mould with which this paper is shaped. When encapsulated, this theory outlines how to discourse the economic effects of COVID-19 in absurdist Nigerian state in the 21st century. When mastered and applied, the theory of Discourse Analysis becomes a kind of psychological communication mechanism in the form of discourse required to change the mentality of people, thus position them to be well equipped to be able to face any issue that may affect their society (Wodak, 2006). By definition, discourse Analysis theory is the study of the way in which any object or idea is taken up by various institutions and epistemological positions, and of the way in which those institutions and positions treat it (Finlay, 1987). Discourse analysis studies the way in which objects or ideas are spoken about. It then paves way for an adequate interrogation of the COVID-19 pandemic which has increased the suffering, pain, death, sickness, and hunger that are prevalent in the Nigerian state in the 21st century.

On the aspect of information science yearning for a theory on which disciplines are deteriorating due to lack of proper information, is clearly expressed in seven papers by Brooke, who is cited by Belkin (1990) as one of the first proponents of the cognitive view in information science discourse. Most importantly, discourse analysis as an approach has gained increasing legitimacy over the last decade or so and has produced a body of works that challenges more long-standing approaches particularly to policy analysis but also to understanding how societies are governed to withstand circumstances that may take them unaware (Hajer & Wagenaar, 2003; Wodak, 2006). To exemplify this notion,

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social science, discovery, planning, medicine, institutions, cultural, traditional and religious practices and other fields of enquiry are products of discourse (Laclau & Mouffe, 1985). This notion explains that it would be very easy to slip into pessimistic and deterministic conception of reality based upon discourse analysis that at one that understands the product of discourse as an iron cage in which individuals and institutions have no options other than to act in a particular way (Clegg, 1989). This would unequivocally, articulate an approach to policy analysis rooted in a move from a classical-modernist society to a network society (Hajer, 2003). This entails a much wider analysis of changes in the nature of policy and politics.

Method of Data Collection

Method of data collection here describes the plans employed in carrying out this study. The nature of a subject matter often determines the kind of approach adopted for researching relevant materials, thus, this research work employs the narrative survey study. The methodological approach utilizes primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the researchers' personal experiences and observations in the course of carrying out this research regarding the economic effect of COVID-19 pandemic in the absurdist Nigerian state in the 21st century, while the secondary sources include written materials relevant to the topic from internet, researched projects, articles, text books, scholarly journals, conversations, interviews etc.

Emergence and Nature of COVID-19

In January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new corona virus disease, an acute respiratory syndrome, also called COVID-19. It is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. WHO observed that there is a high risk of COVID-19 which originated from Wuhan, an industrial city in China, spreading to other countries around the world. The African Development Bank group articulates this in a report that:

‘The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a pandemic on 11 March 2020. The disease’s sudden onset was in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province in China in December 2019. It was categorized as a global emergency on 30 January, 2020. Subsequently, due to its speed and scale of global transmission it became a pandemic.’

On the number of the affected people, death and cured, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDPC) reports that “as of 11 March 2020, 118, 598 cases of COVID-19 were reported worldwide by more than 100 countries. Since late February, the majority of cases reported are from outside China, with an increasing majority of these reported from EU/EEA countries and the UK”.

On rapid effect of the pandemic in the EU/EEA and the UK countries, ECDPC report avers that:

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All EU/EEA countries and the UK are affected, reporting a total of 170,413 cases as of 11 March. Seven hundred and eleven cases reported by EU/EEA countries and the UK have died. Italy represents 58% of the cases (n=10 149) and 88% of the fatalities (n=631). The current pace of the increase in cases in the EU/EEA and the UK mirrors trends seen in China, in January-early February and trends seen in Italy in mid-February

Accordingly, ECDPC avers that the rate at which COVID-19 can cause nationally incapacitating epidemics once transmission within the community is established, indicates that in a couple of days the likelihood of similar situations seen in China and Italy being replicated in other EU/EEA countries or the UK and worst still, in Africans' rather high. Regrettably, ECDPC confirms that so far, there are no vaccines available and there is little evidence on the effectiveness of potential therapeutic agents. Given the nature of this disease, nations of the world need immediate targeted action, particularly given that there seem to be no pre-existing immunity in the population against the new coronavirus and everyone in the population is assumed to be susceptible," as reported by the ECDPC. Expertise reports show that presentations of COVID-19 range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia; severe disease can lead to death. Guan et al (2020) opined that the most common symptoms were fever, cough and in rare cases diarrhea, however, the first few months of COVID-19 spread in China caused varying degrees of illness. In Europe, majority of cases (80%) are milder respiratory infections and pneumonias, severe illness and death is more common among the elderly with other chronic underlying conditions, with these risk groups accounting for the majority of severe disease and fatalities to date The Response Team of United State Centre for Disease Control reports that "clinical severity of COVID-19 is higher among adults aged ≥ 65 than in younger age groups." The risk of severe diseases associated with COVID-19 infection for people in the EU/EEA and UK. According to ECDPC is currently considered moderate for the general population and high for older adults and individuals with chronic underlying conditions, based on the probability of community transmission and the impact of the disease.

Next, it is imperative to note that since the emergence of COVID-19 we have seen instances of public stigmatization among specific populations, and the rise of harmful stereotypes. Stigmatization could potentially contribute to more severe health problems, ongoing transmission, and difficulties controlling infectious diseases during an epidemic (WHO, 2020). Alonzo and Reynolds (1995) define stigma as "a powerful discrediting and tainting social label that radically changes the way individuals view themselves and are viewed as people". Stigma occurs when people negatively associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a specific population. In the case of COVID-19, there are an increasing number of reports of public stigmatization against people from areas affected by the epidemic. Unfortunately, this means that people are being labeled, stereotyped, separated, and/or experience loss of status and discrimination because of a potential negative affiliation with the disease.

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Since the COVID-19 outbreak was first diagnosed, it has spread to over 150 countries and all U.S. states. The pandemic is having a noticeable impact on global economic growth. Estimates so far indicate the virus could trim global economic growth by at least 0.5% to 1.5%, but the full impact will not be known until the effects peak (Congregational Research Service, 2020). The economic situation of the COVID-19 pandemic according to CRS remains highly fluid. Generally, uncertainty about the length and depth of the health crisis-related economic effects are fuelling perceptions of risk and volatility in financial markets and corporate decision-making. Consequently, as CRS observes, “uncertainties concerning the global pandemic and the effectiveness of public policies intended to curtail its spread are adding to market volatility.” The global economy according to CRS was struggling to regain a broad-based recovery as a result of the lingering impact of growing trade protectionism, trade disputes among major trading partners, falling commodity and energy prices, and economic uncertainties in Europe over the impact of the UK withdrawal from the European Union. Individually, each of these issues presented a solvable challenge for the global economy. In the prediction of CRS, “the issues weakened the global economy and reduced the available policy flexibility of many national Global Economic Effects of COVID-19”.

In this environment, COVID-19 could have an outsized impact. While the level of economic effects will eventually become clearer, the response to the pandemic could have a significant and enduring impact on the way businesses organize their work forces, global supply chains, and how governments respond to a global health crisis. The OECD according to CRS estimates that increased direct and indirect economic costs through global supply chains reduced demand for goods and services, and declines in tourism and business travel. Global trade, measured by trade volumes, slowed in the last quarter of 2019 and was expected to decline further in 2020, as a result of weaker global economic activity associated with the pandemic, which is negatively affecting economic activity in various sectors, including airlines, hospitality, ports, and the shipping industry. In addition, the OECD argues that China’s emergence as a global economic actor marks a significant departure from previous global health episodes.

China’s growth, in combination with globalization and the interconnected nature of economies through capital flows, supply chains, and foreign investment, magnify the cost of containing the spread of the virus through quarantines and restrictions on labor mobility and travel. China’s global economic role and globalization mean that trade is playing a role in spreading the economic effects of COVID-19. More broadly, the economic effects of the pandemic are affecting the global economy through three trade channels: (1) directly through supply chains as reduced economic activity is spread from intermediate goods producers to finished goods producers; (2) as a result of a drop overall in economic activity, which reduces demand for goods in general, including imports; and (3) through reduced trade with commodity exporters that supply producers, which, in turn, reduces their imports and negatively affects trade and economic activity of exporters (CRS, 2020)

Closely, the first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused

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by SARS-CoV-2. On 9th March, 2020, a second case of the virus was reported. At present, the total issue of confirmed cases of the pandemic in Nigeria has risen to 225, while total number of 45 patients has been discharged with 5 casualties as released on the 7th April, 2020 by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

Proposed Causes of COVID-19 Pandemic

It is imperative to deduce that there is no generally acceptable cause of COVID-19 pandemic in the world but a scientific manipulation. Though, most religious fanatics are of the opinion that the pandemic is to the completion of the pensive prophecy of Armageddon, that is, the fulfillment of the signs of the end time as written in the Holy book of the Bible. Apart from this, most theorists believe that it is a natural phenomenon which often visits mankind like earthquake, volcano, flood, and every other forms of natural disaster. Notwithstanding, some scientists believes that finding the solution of the vaccine is more palatable at the crucial time rather than canvassing or blaming any country for the cause. Even at this, most critics, tracing the origin of how the virus was spread, avers that the virus must have been originated or created by the Chinese government for economic benefit and political power. Lucidly, Boyle (2020), the creator of Bio-Weapon Act, in an exclusive interview given to Geopolitics and Empire, expressed that “the 2019 Wuhan Corona Virus is an offensive Biological Warfare Weapon and that the World Health Organization (who) already knows about it”. To further buttress this claim, Francis claimed that the infectious Corona virus outbreak in Wuhan escaped from the Bio-safety level 4 laboratory (BSL-4), believes the virus is potentially lethal and an offensive biological warfare weapon or dual-use bio-warfare weapons agent genetically modified with gain of function properties, which is why the Chinese government originally tried to cover it up and is now taking drastic measures to contain it. The Wuhan BSL-4 Lab according to Boyle is also a specially designated World Health Organization (WHO) research lab which explains why he contends that the WHO knows full well about the dreaded virus.

Boyle unveils Great Game India’s exclusive report on Corona virus as a Bio-weapon where it was reported in detail how Chinese Bio-warfare agents working at the Canadian lab in Winnipeg were involved in the smuggling of Corona virus to Wuhan’s lab from where it is believed to have been leaked. Most critics mostly in the United States of America distinctly believes that COVID-19 is a China Virus, thus noted that China is never a friend of the world. To buttress this fact, Brigitte Gabriela (2020) in a live broadcast highlighted that “every American needs to know that China is not our friend”. On a narrative, she avers that Americans should “think back to November, when Americans were preparing for the Christmas season filled with black Friday sales and Chinese produced goods. While we were celebrating our record-breaking economy, and the incredible success of Donald J. Trump, by spending big on spreading holiday joy, the communist government in china was covering up a future pandemic”.

“That’s right”, she noted, reports show that “china knew about the virus as early as November 17th, 2019 and they chose to cover it up rather than warn the world of another potential Chinese born pandemic”. She notes that “this is not the first time that China is putting the whole world at risk, observing that the Asian flu in 1956 killed between one (1) and four (4) million people worldwide, SARS in 2002 infected 8,098 people and killed 774 in seventeen countries”. About eleven years

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later, the H7N9 or bird flu emerged, infecting at least 1,223 people, and four (4) out of every ten (10) infected persons were killed.” These deadly diseases, according to Brigitte originated from China.

COVID-19 Pandemic and its Economic Effects in the Nigerian State

COVID-19, an acute respiratory syndrome, considered as global pandemic, has ironically affected the Nigerian state in the recent time. It has unequivocally affected the economic front so much that all strata both governmental and non-governmental organizations are shut down, movements are restricted, worship centres and social gatherings are banned, and airports, seaports, borders, and railways are equally shutdown. The major source of revenue (crude oil) which serves as the country’s GDP has been brought to the barest minimum.

The existence of the pandemic into the shore of the state has maliciously increased the issues of corruption, nepotism, tribalism, favouritism, and divides and rule system that has distinctively ridiculed culpable efforts, aimed at curbing it over the years. This is so because most Nigerian politicians prefer to dupe the nation of her treasures through embezzlement, looting, fraud, money laundering, and other forms of theft which cripples the economy of the state, thus creates unemployment, poverty, and hunger in the society. To this, it is pertinent to deduce that the aforementioned dichotomies, which includes likes of kidnapping, armed robbery, politically motivated assassination, suicide bombing, lethal car bombing, prostitution, incessant killings, and other heinous acts, were rapidly prevalent in the Nigerian space in the 21st century, insomuch that pain, fear, suffering, hunger, and poverty was pervasive. It becomes tensed as some identified groups with different ideology are agitating for fundamental issues that affect their region. For instance, the North-east is besieged with Boko Haram insurgency; the South-east is also overwhelmed with issue of self-determination by the Movement for the Actualization for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB); the South-south is equally overtaking by militia and militant groups for resource control, while some states such as Katsina, Kogi, Nasarawa, Benue, Kaduna, Edo, Delta, Ebonyi, and Enugu have been witnessing clashes between farmers and herders over land ownership, though all are put to halt due to the pandemic. All these are caused by corruption, nepotism, tribalism, divide and rule, and favouritism, envisaged by corrupt politicians who daily oppress and repress the mandate of their people (Mark, 2015).

Extensively, the issue of corruption has affected the fronts of the state that the educational institutions are abruptly dilapidated and poorly attended to. Interest in the yearly national budgets is targeted at equipping the military and paramilitary in the fight against terrorism that which is ironically created by government failures. The products from the higher institutions are haphazardly baked because of the incessant strike actions by teaching and non-teaching staff of tertiary institutions as a result of nonpayment of due salaries, peculiars, arrears, and underdevelopment of the tertiary institution (Frank & Ogbonnaya, 2019). More so, the medical spheres are also dilapidated and health workers are often neglected as the corrupt politicians seek medical attention from European and Asian hospitals and their children are attending top universities in the world (Frank & Ogbonnaya, 2019).

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In a nutshell, the outbreak of the pandemic and the multifarious governmental and multi-sectoral responses to its contagion, further aggravated the suffering, pain, poverty, hunger, and death of the people as palliatives from the federal and state government were politicized, sectionalized, regionalized, and regrettably minimal. Those whose livelihood depends on their daily hawking are gravely affected as a result of lack of palliative measures after being deprived of their daily hassled. On the same plain, the shutting down of borders, seaports, railways, and airports also decreased in the importation of food materials and other home accessories that would have helped in solving the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This further explains that the suffering as a result of the meticulous steps positioned by the federal and state government became more pandemic than the Corona virus itself. It became tensed as aggrieved men and women decides to engage in shop breaking, bag snatching and other activities that affect the people due to the fact that the palliative measure were politicized.

It is also plausible to aver that COVID-19 pandemic has unequivocally increased in the level of corruption, money laundering, looting, and bribery in the Nigerian state. For instance, the announcement by Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, the Finance minister of the nation, that a whole 900 billion naira fund for palliatives for citizens of the Nigerian state was engulfed by fire in the office of the Accountant General of the federation, nine (9) hours after the Nigerian National Assembly ordered for clarification of the disbursement of more than 2trillion naira palliative funds to vulnerable Nigerians. It unequivocally rendered most Nigerians handicapped, thus, suffering and death was hovering in the Nigerian society, during the time of the pandemic. This therefore explains that while leaders' in most affected countries are busy fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and providing bountiful palliative for their citizens in order to curtail high rate of suffering and death using their reserves and free will donations, most Nigerian leaders see it as an avenue of defrauding the nation at such a critical time.

This also unravels the cruel nature of most Nigerian leaders even when they profess to fighting corruption, whereas they are corrupt themselves. The national total shutdown deprived the people of freedom of movement and association. Incidentally, there was inadequate palliatives to cushion the effect of the shutdown on the suffering and hungry citizens. The few palliative materials and funds that were released were pragmatically distributed to states whose leaders are praise singers to elite power, therefore, included in the elites club in authority. Nigerians are therefore faced with two issues: COVID-19 pandemic (outside) and hunger pandemic (inside).

Conclusion

It is pertinent to deduce categorically that the inherent traumatic condition imposed by confinement, occasioned by the COVID-19 containment measures, amidst the debilitating effect of deprivation proffered by the federal and state government of Nigeria have increased in the issues that were prevalent in the Nigerian state in the 21st century. These issues include likes of poverty, pain, suffering, hunger, and death of the people and underdevelopment to the Nigerian state. These ambiguous and unprecedented issues have instead metamorphosed or diffused, overtime, exerting a pervasive, albeit, negative influence on all facets of the Nigerian society, ranging from politics,

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economy, religion, and social. The resultant effects, distinctly aggravates, copiously, even when the virus is ironically far from the society. Hunger virus overtly supersedes COVID-19 pandemic in the Nigerian state. In a nutshell, the inability of the federal government to pay much attention to the educational and medical sector of the country also poses as a major menace plaguing the Nigerian state before the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic as leaders in all social level and well meaning Nigerians; prefer to seek medical attention abroad and their children, attending best universities in most European countries while the institutions in the country are dilapidated, and the medical institutions in the country are poorly attended to. The politicians pay deaf ear to the countless strike actions by academic and none academic staff members of higher learning's due to some fundamental issues that affects them. These issues include dilapidated infrastructures, outdated learning materials, none payment of arrears and peculiars, under-payment per work load etc.

Luckily, the pandemic has distinctively instinct in Nigerian leaders as a matter of urgency, equip most of the medical centre's that were abandoned and multimillion isolation centers' built nationwide after being victim of the circumstance mostly when they were unable to seek medical attention in the European countries where they usually go for their routine checkups, tour, leave, and relaxation as these European countries are equally seeking assistance as the pandemic overwhelmed them. The pandemic created equity in all ramifications.

Suggestions

From the foregoing, it has been positioned that the precautionary measures by the federal and state government towards curtailing the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic as a way of correcting this menace, the following suggestions were established:

1. The maximum attention be made by federal government on the upgrading of the Nigerian educational system as that would help equip the Nigerian state on the fight against COVID-19 and other viruses that may spring up in later time.
2. The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and other crime related agencies in the country should as a matter of urgency, investigate the spending of over 2 trillion-naira fund meant for palliative for most vulnerable Nigerians. They should also investigate the burning of 900 billion naira in the office of the accountant general of the federation as proclaimed by the minister of finance.
3. All financial spending in course of the pandemic either from the federal, state, or the local strata should be investigated by EFCC and if anyone is found guilty of mismanagement of fund, embezzlement, and money laundering, adequate measure should be taken against him/her as that would help create transparency and accountability in the discharge of national duties.
4. Health sectors in the Nigerian state should be fully rehabilitated and supported with equipment, test kits, contact tracing logistics, and sustainable fighting palliatives that would curtail like issues in time coming.

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