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WAKENING SECURITY DILEMMA: A POST COVID-19 EXPERIENCE OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined Nigeria's security dilemmas after the Covid-19 lockdown enforcement aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19 and highlighted the key lessons from the government's approach to security governance during the period. Data are gathered through in-depth interviews, media reports and secondary sources. The insecurity were increased with looting of shops, robbery, and killing by security forces, in Lagos, Warri, Aba, Umuahia and other cities during and after the lockdown owing to the problem limited movement. The findings revealed that, despite surveillance efforts, the security dilemmas situation was undermined by the activities of idle youths, non-state armed groups, and unprofessionalism of security forces. Recommends in terms of adequate palliatives should be provided first at high-risk areas during future lockdowns to prevent security threats and mobile police that are provided with adequate preventive uniforms should be on stand out for any security treat.

Keywords: Security Dilemma, Post COVID-19, Lockdown, Human Security, Security Governance

Introduction

The spread of corona virus (COVID-19) led to the declaration of lockdowns and restriction of human activities in many parts of the world, motivating the formation of various COVID-19 taskforce response teams to implement and ease the lockdowns. According to Peace Research Institute Oslo, 'states are responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by invoking the state of emergency – generally characterized by an expansion of the state power, allowing it to perform actions that it could not carry in times of normal politics' (Peace Research Institute Oslo 2020). The current biomedical risks

associated with the corona virus expose the main weaknesses of late capitalist economies (Manderson and Levine 2020; Van der Ploeg 2020).

Corona virus has transformed the entire world to the extent that lifestyles, working patterns and movement of people are now regulated with new protocols, with home settings, relationships, institutions and governments adjusting from old normal to new normal. Apart from the people that were already born during the Great Depression and Influenza in 1930s and 1918–1920, respectively, majority of the people in Africa and beyond did not witness the type of affliction caused by pandemics until COVID-19 emerged. The advent of an unprecedented COVID-19 crisis marked a watershed in the twenty-first century history to the extent that various people experienced the manifestation of clichés like quarantine, contact tracing, social distancing, physical distancing, isolation, panic buying, emergency flights, evacuation, stock up, lockdown, community transmission, new normal, and staying safe among others. Out of all these clichés, lockdown became more visible as a result of the associated security dilemmas and socio-economic impacts in particular. While people panicked for their safety based on health anxiety, survival became a major slogan as people had reasons to worry about the possibility of living a normal life without disruption of livelihoods.

COVID-19 has been described as an invisible enemy which does not require states to mobilise security forces for combat (Ookeditse 2020). This complicates the task of human security as fatalities are recorded without much success in urgently preventing death of the vulnerable groups. No doubt, the weakness of health care systems in many parts of Africa created panic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has catalyzed the lockdown of many parts of society (starting with restaurants and schools and then onwards from one town to another) (Ayanlade and Radeny 2020; van der Ploeg 2020; Wong 2020). The lockdowns were greeted by galloping inflation and rapidly increasing cost of living affecting mostly the urban and rural poor and majority of youths and women most of whom are migrant workers and wage laborers that expected to return to the old normal as soon as possible but shocked to witness reviews and extension of lockdown by Federal and State Governments.

With the rapid spread of the novel corona virus which hindered the operations of institutions, economic activities, recreational centers, businesses, and government programmes, the centralization of COVID-19 responses has exposed the weakness of states in an era that requires early and speedy responses to this health emergency (Wright 2020). Because of the lockdown, city dwellers had to suffer more than those in rural communities due to the inconveniences that greeted lockdown measures. Moreover, jobs have been lost, businesses have lost customers and the closure of hundreds of thousands of small and medium enterprises

(SMEs) have closed shops, thereby causing unexpected depreciation of economic buoyancy (Maritz et al. 2020). For instance, many fast foods and restaurants were affected by the restriction of movements to residential areas, and this made the businesses to report different rates of drop in profits after the phases of lockdown. This was worsened by the lack of early warning signs of the pandemic spread as they were taken unawares.

In Nigeria, the domestic impact of the pandemic remains remarkable. Since the index case was reported on 27 February 2020, not many people realized what the country was to face until the Presidential Taskforce began issuing guidelines on COVID-19 prevention. Lockdowns changed the pattern of daily life as previously established lifestyle of waking up and going out in the early hours of the day to hustle became an old normal. Suddenly, this was replaced by the new normal of working from home and observing various protocols in areas of relationship, hygiene, communication, feeding, health, recreation among others. Unfortunately, the lockdown in Nigeria not only took people out of the streets as they were only restricted to their homes and streets having little to do in public spaces. With the impact of the pandemic on socio-economic activities which also changed life on the street across the country, it became clear that people needed to protect themselves.

For men and women who had to visit barbing saloons, they could not have a proper haircut as desired unless they improvised at home themselves. Women who also needed to purchase creams and relaxers or change hairstyles, the lockdown made such needs difficult as markets, men also love to hangout as most shops remained closed. Lockdowns characterized state responses to the pandemic with different degrees of compliance and cooperation of the citizens in affected locations. Nigeria's security dilemmas manifested due to the unusual nature of events that necessitated lockdown which coincided with counterinsurgency and other stability operations caused by the activities of non-state armed groups. It is noteworthy that lockdown did not affect all parts of the country. However, the security concerns were felt at individual and government levels, with the security governance initiatives centred on the improvement of safety and enforcement of government's directives.

Statement of the Problem

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered unprecedented lockdown measures across various regions of Nigeria, aimed at containing the spread of the virus. These measures, though crucial for public health, exposed and intensified existing socio-economic and security vulnerabilities. Citizens faced disruptions in daily life; such as limited access to personal grooming services, essential markets, and social interactions, leading to improvised and often inadequate coping mechanisms. More critically, the lockdown coincided with ongoing counter-insurgency and internal security operations,

particularly in regions grappling with non-state armed group activities. While some parts of the country remained less affected, others witnessed heightened insecurity, strained law enforcement, and uneven implementation of government directives. Edokobi, Ojiako and Okoye (2021) pointed out that prior to the outbreak of the dreaded Corona Virus Pandemic which disrupted virtually all forms of human activities both in Nigeria and diasporas, security challenges is not alien to our society. This created complex security dilemmas for both the state and individuals, calling into question the resilience of Nigeria's security architecture in crisis contexts. There is a need to examine these dynamics, assess post-lockdown security implications, and identify lessons for improving future emergency response and security governance.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of this paper include to:

1. Examine Nigeria's post security dilemmas occasioned by the enforcement of lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19
2. Identify the aftermath of security resilience and threats of incidents and take away lessons for the future.

Literature Review

COVID -19 and Security

Mismanagement and corruption has weakened the capacity of Nigeria's security services to protect citizens and effectively perform the role of frontline service providers. Reports from the Nigerian Human Rights Commission document cases of extrajudicial killings carried out by security services while enforcing the lockdown. However, several state governments, particularly Lagos and Ogun, have shown that using awareness campaigns rather than deploying police on the streets can result in a better coordinated response.

Nigeria is also tackling multiple conflict and insecurity challenges, all of which threaten to make the impact of COVID-19 especially devastating. Areas in Northern Nigeria already affected by the violent conflicts are particularly vulnerable. Boko Haram had stepped up its attacks as the number of cases in Borno state grows. These attacks combined with other battles between farmers and herders and increasing banditry in the northwest have displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Today, Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced people in the world. The lockdown measures had increased the demand for food in IDP camps, and the conditions in these camps made it challenging, if not impossible for people to protect themselves from the virus.

Awaken of Peace and Security Options

Nigerian leaders can make progress towards peace by applying some of their own lessons from their early response to the corona virus. They should take proactive action at the first sign of

danger, keep the public widely informed, and build constructive, sustained, and apolitical responses with communities. This is what it takes to build peace.

Nigeria's wealthy elites have been more responsive to the corona virus because it puts them more personally at risk. However, they can also apply the same philanthropic support that they have shown to COVID-19 towards resolving some of Nigeria's deadliest conflicts, because like any epidemic, violence ultimately threatens everyone in any society.

Nigeria's response to the pandemic has renewed citizen debates over wider questions of governance and accountability. The common national desire to end the pandemic provides a shared opportunity for the government and citizens to rebuild the social contract and work together to combat the virus. Citizen trust in government is not only important for the current fight against COVID-19, but also for Nigeria's longer-term democratic progress and peaceful development.

The economic impact of the pandemic does not have the capacity for bioterrorism which clearly results from the various forms of lockdowns and inability of the government to provide the people the right kind of palliatives and are bound to become "major stress felt by those" in a fragile society like Nigeria, (Albert, IkeMuonso and Ojielo 2018) and (Albert, Omotoso and Akeredolu 2017). The impact would mostly be felt by the youth making up the majority of the society and women incidentally the most marginalized in society. Commenting on this kind of situation and related matters, the UN Secretary General said, "In some conflict settings, the uncertainty created by the pandemic may create incentives for some actors to promote further division and turmoil. These possibly devastating miscalculations could lead to an escalation of violence. The pandemic could add to the scale of rural and urban crises in Nigeria given the existing knowledge that in hard times, youths resort to crime and political violence (Albert and Lawanson 2019a and 2019b). The other existing problems that could be boosted by the pandemic is the ongoing Boko Haram crisis in the North east; Niger Delta crisis that has failed to abate despite the amnesty programme started in 2009; and the escalating banditry in the North West that the country is already managing. There is the need for the government to invest more on non-kinetic methods for dealing with the violence in the country because the use of force by the military over the years has been counterproductive.

The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)

The COVID-19 also exposed the fact that lockdown could increase violence and mental health issues. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad, popularly known as SARS, was established as a special police unit in 1992 to tackle increasing incidents of armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom by criminal elements operating across Nigeria (Vanguard, 23 December 2017).

Originally set up to operate independently in order to target criminal groups, the unit's success hinged on its anonymity and mode of operation. SARS operatives conducted covert operations in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles to support police operations responding to community distress calls on armed robberies and other serious crimes. Over the years, however, SARS officials have been implicated in widespread human rights violations and have garnered a reputation for arbitrary arrests, torture, rape, extortion, unlawful detention, and extrajudicial killings. Due to the rate at which extrajudicial killings and harassment from the men and operatives of the special anti-robbery squad increased during the lockdown period, Nigerian youth had to embark on a nationwide protest against the activities perpetrated by the security outfit. On 3 October 2020, in Nigeria, operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) allegedly shot a young man at Wetland Hotel in Ughelli, injuring him. This incident was filmed and went viral, sparking an outcry on social media against SARS using the hashtag #EndSARS. By 8 October, demonstrations associated with this hashtag had begun to increase in size and number throughout Nigeria, peaking at 26 demonstration events on 13 October. On 20 October, Nigerian military forces fired live ammunition at #EndSARS demonstrators in Lagos who had sat down in the road to peacefully protest against police brutality, reportedly killing at least 15 young Nigerians. This incident still sends shock and fears on government's heavy-handed response. Military officials have rejected claims that they killed unarmed protesters, alleging that soldiers had only fired blank bullets (BBC, 15 November 2020). The reaction has widened the distrust between young Nigerians and the government. This analysis identifies three lessons from the #EndSARS movement and highlights what the government's response means for Nigeria's fragile political stability and security.

- The Nigerian government has failed to bring perpetrators to justice despite promises of police reform. This has continued to embolden SARS officials and other security personnel to operate with impunity. The disbandment of SARS on October 11th 2020 and introduction of Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT) did not actually reform the police structure but only a change in name. However, the SARS have faced three initial disbandment in 2014, 2015and 2017
- The Nigerian government's response to the public outcry over police brutality and excessive force against protesters has unfortunately further widened the growing distrust between Nigeria's young population and the government.
- Establishment of panels into inquiry by government in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to address the complaints of police brutality and harassment during the protest, revealed that government does not have the political will to implement

sanctions of offending officers, thereby lost of trust and a wide gap is created. Many supporters of the #EndSARS movement have doubted the sincerity of investigations and the government's willingness to implement police reform recommendations

Security Governance for Human Security: The Security Dilemma

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the fore complex security dynamics in Nigeria, exposing the state's fragile capacity to maintain order amid public health emergencies. Numerous scholars have investigated the multidimensional implications of the lockdown enforcement measures, particularly as they relate to security governance, human rights, and resilience.

Aborisade and Ariyo (2022) conducted an in-depth study on the preparedness and response of the Nigerian Police during the pandemic, revealing a significant gap in institutional readiness and community trust. Their findings underscored how enforcement often escalated into excessive use of force, diminishing police legitimacy and exacerbating tensions between citizens and law enforcement agents, supported by Sanusi (2022), who explored Nigeria's federal governance structures and their effectiveness during the pandemic. He noted that fragmented administrative coordination and overlapping mandates among security agencies hindered coherent and timely responses, leading to confusion and inconsistent enforcement of lockdown directives across states. Likewise, Odion, Pedro, and Isonah (2024) critically analyzed the Nigerian state's post-colonial fragilities, arguing that the pandemic merely amplified existing governance dysfunctions. They identified how weak institutions and political contestations undermined efforts to implement security measures effectively during the lockdown.

In terms of human security, Akor et al. (2021) emphasized the consequences of misinformation and poor risk communication. Their study found that citizen non-compliance was often fueled by mistrust in state institutions and lack of culturally appropriate messaging. This created an environment where fear, complacency, and misinformed actions endangered both public health and personal safety. The socioeconomic dimensions of these security dilemmas are also well documented. Olagbaju, Awosusi, and Shaib (2020) observed how the lockdown not only disrupted economic livelihoods but also triggered a rise in social unrest and crime. They concluded that the erosion of livelihoods directly contributed to spikes in insecurity, particularly in urban slums and rural border communities.

In the context of public health infrastructure, Bello et al. (2024) provided a critical assessment of Nigeria's health system under lockdown conditions. They highlighted how systemic weaknesses in health governance impacted the government's ability to implement security-enforced health mandates such as quarantine,

contact tracing, and movement restrictions. Obi and Kabandula (2021) took a continental view but with relevance to Nigeria, analyzing the intersection of peace building and pandemic governance in Africa. Their study shows that the sudden redirection of state attention and resources toward pandemic control created vacuums in conflict-prone areas, allowing non-state armed groups to expand their influence.

Legal and institutional implications were also highlighted by Olorunfemi and Udeokechukwu (2021), who discussed the challenges of balancing rule of law with emergency powers. They found that the absence of a well-defined legal framework for pandemic response enabled arbitrary enforcement, often violating civil liberties and deepening distrust in state institutions.

Finally, Chiazor and Obindu (2021) proposed pathways for post-pandemic planning, calling for more inclusive governance mechanisms that prioritize both human security and institutional reform. Their work advocates for lessons learned during the COVID-19 lockdown to inform future emergency preparedness and national security strategy

Challenges and Impact of COVID 19 on Human Security in Nigeria

Some challenges faced in this pandemic could be stated as follows; one of the biggest dangers faced at the moment is panic. To control diseases such as COVID-19, it is critical that human behavior is controlled in a way that inhibits the spread of the disease. Therefore, the challenge with panic is that people change their behavior erratically. They might also behave in a way that leads to a further spread in the disease or pose a different risk entirely to themselves, families and their communities at large.

Misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be highly dangerous - not only because it creates widespread panic, but also because it often leads individuals to make harmful or irrational decisions. For instance, when unverified claims suggested that chloroquine might be effective against the virus, several people self-medicated, resulting in cases of chloroquine poisoning. On the opposite end, misinformation also breeds complacency. Some individuals believed that black people were immune to COVID-19, which discouraged precautionary measures in certain communities. These misinformed beliefs fueled not only health risks but also social irresponsibility.

Ultimately, misinformation amplifies three critical threats to effective pandemic response: **panic**, which disrupts social order; **political manipulation**, which undermines trust in health messaging; and **government indecision**, which delays necessary interventions. Combating misinformation, therefore, is essential to safeguarding both public health and national stability. As Zarocostas (2020) argues, the greatest threats in a pandemic are not only the virus itself but also misinformation, political

indecision, and a lack of coordinated communication.

COVID-19 is a serious disease and should be combated effectively, through remedial measures and strategic communication. Citizens need to understand that not making a decision is a decision itself. The rate at which this disease has spread has shown that citizens must be thinking and be supportive of efforts and observe all the guidelines and protocols fashioned out to contain the virus. The national response to COVID-19 must be inclusive, to ensure that; prisoners, internally displaced persons and other marginalized and vulnerable communities are not left out at of any stages of the fight against the virus. The palliative provided by government should be distributed with primordial, party line and religious considerations. Every vulnerable Nigeria deserves some measure of succor from both government and philanthropic individuals.

There are challenges of inadequate health care system and underlying security conditions in Nigeria such as insurgency, kidnapping for ransom, armed banditry and ethno-communal conflicts among others that complicate the management of COVID- 19 for improved human security in Nigeria.

The Nigerian authorities have a human rights obligation to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of the population, such as persons living with disabilities and the homeless, have sufficient access to the services needed to give them the best chance of survival. This will include access to health services and facilities and the provision of emergency shelter, especially where needed to allow homeless people, including children in street situations to be protected. Nigeria must urgently adopt a strategy for the protection of the rights of people deprived of their liberty, including through addressing overcrowding in prisons through the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience, reviewing decisions to retain people in pre-trial detention and adopting alternatives to detention, and considering the early or conditional release of people at risk such as older people and those with underlying medical conditions.

Beyond the tragic health hazards and human consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic uncertainties, and disruptions that affected the global economy is still at a recovery state. Most central banks, finance ministries and independent economic experts around the world have taken solace in the prediction that the impacts might be sharp but short-lived, and economic activities would return to normal thereafter. The Nigerian financial crisis of 2016 is nothing compared to that which the COVID-19 spread world over and in Nigeria and the consequences may linger beyond the second half of 2020. As a result, COVID-19 has also taken its toll on the global demand for oil. Nigeria's economy had never fully recovered from the oil price crash that took hold in 2014 – 2015. At the beginning of 2020, Nigeria's 2020 budget

indicators were as follows: an oil production volume of 2.18 million barrel per day, oil benchmark of $57, N305 exchange rate to the US dollar, GDP growth rate of 2.93 per cent, and inflation rate of 10.81 per cent now are currently out of reach due to this pandemic. As at August 2020, COVID 19 has negated all the above parameters. Crude Oil prices crashed by 60 percent, the exchange rate has gone up so high that 1 US$ is about 460 Naira in 2025 it 1,604.39 Thousand Naira while fuel price has high as 1,500 thousand Naira and currently less than 1,000 thousand Naira. Though and oil production has declined during the lockdown and criminality in the Niger Delta we are still experiencing challenging economy crisis in Nigeria.

This economic impact is not just in Nigeria. Other African countries are set to suffer, as well as the Middle-East, Asian and European countries. About $9 trillion was wiped off global equities in nine days as a result of the pandemic. The outbreak is estimated to be costing the shipping industry $350 million weekly in lost revenues, according to the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). The global economy may be slipping into recession and Nigeria is set to receive the hit harder than ever. Economists have argued that Nigeria may experience its worst recession in four decades and if not well managed in the face of debt overhang servicing which is taking over 90 percent of government monthly revenue.

Strategies to Mitigate the Impact of COVID 19 on Human Security

In Nigeria, federal and state governments as well as some other stakeholders are taking proactive steps to curtail the spread of corona virus throughout the country. As the country experiences a steady increase in the number of confirmed cases, movement restrictions and lockdown protocols are being instituted to adequately respond to the pandemic. These situational responses affect businesses including in their interactions with their relevant regulators. Some of the strategies to curb the impact would include institutionalization of disease early warning systems in all the 774 local government areas in Nigeria. The early warning mechanism would serve as proactive preventive measures. It is also important for government to ensure that the citizens of Nigeria buy into whatever effort is being made. Across the country, citizens have expressed their lack of faith and trust in government in the way it has managed the pandemic. The trust deficit suffered by all tiers of government in Nigeria is making it difficult for the some citizens to even believe that COVID 19 is in Nigeria. It is therefore important for the government to provide strategic communication that will win the hearts and minds of the citizens to buy into the measures and protocols. The Nigerian government needs to understand the clear distinction between prevention and mitigation of pandemic and epidemic. Undue attention has been given to mitigation and very little focus on

prevention. Pandemic prevention strategy involves provision of infrastructure, potable water, electricity, town planning, safer and less congested schools, functional hospitals and employment for the people. The drawback of this approach is that when the next pandemic arrives, the country will start running without direction and contingency plan to fall back on.

Another strategy to combat the effects of COVID 19 on human security is to truly make Nigerians the referent point of the security strategy and architecture. Oversize emphasis on physical security and law enforcement through the police and the military undercuts the importance of human security in Nigeria. COVID 19 has shamefully exposed the poor state of Nigeria's health system and research capabilities. As at August 2020, no Nigerian university or research institution has publicly or secretly announce any headway in developing a COVID 19 vaccine. This is rather unfortunate and shameful that a country with over 150 universities and a plethora of research institutions receiving statutory funding lacks credible biotechnology capability. Among the 231 vaccine candidates that were in development none came from Nigeria. It is now imperative for Nigeria to recalibrate its biotechnology resources as a way of moving forward in dealing with diseases and pandemics. All stakeholders both public and private need to come together to fund and support disease prevention and control research in Nigeria.

The FGN needs to actively engage in what is known as science diplomacy in order to enlist local and global entities to mitigate the effects of COVID 19. Science diplomacy entails collaborative efforts by local and global stakeholders to solve global problems using science, technology and innovation as a base.

Methodology

This study adopts a **qualitative research approach** to examine Nigeria's post-lockdown security challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic. Data were gathered through **document analysis**, **key informant interviews**, and **media analysis** to explore the impacts of lockdown enforcement on national and community-level security. The paper used secondary sources of data collected from published and unpublished materials. The research focused on diverse regions—including both urban areas and conflict-affected zones—to capture varying experiences across Nigeria. A **purposive sampling technique** was employed to select participants with direct knowledge or experience of security events during the lockdown. The data collected were analyzed thematically and logical deduction that were supported by Human security Theory

Results and Discussions

It was revealed that COVID 19 complicated human insecurity already in existence in Nigeria by exacerbating conflict and poverty in the country. It also worsens food insecurity in millions of homes and economic security of

Nigerians who were prevented from moving about to a living. The World Bank projected that five million Nigerians would be pushed into poverty due to COVID 19. The pandemic threatened the safety of the people from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression and there were hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life due to the measures imposed by the Federal Government of Nigeria to mitigated COVID 19 such as lockdown, isolation and quarantine. Furthermore, COVID 19 in Nigeria also exposed the poor state of infrastructure such as potable water, electricity, decent housing and markets in the country Some of the strategies to curb the impact would include institutionalization of disease early warning systems in all the 774 local government areas in Nigeria. It is also important for government to ensure that the citizens of Nigeria buy into whatever effort is being made and the urgent need to alleviate poverty through social safety nets and sound economic policy. The FGN should support and encourage local alternative medicines that could be integrated into orthodox medicine to mitigate epidemics and pandemics in the country.

Conclusion

The Corona virus disease has become a severe pandemic and poses many serious challenges at national, regional and global levels. The consequences, even if they are difficult to calculate for now, are expected to be enormous in view of the rapid spread of the Covid-19 and the drastic measures taken by countries whatever their size worldwide. Even if African countries are relatively less affected compared to other regions for now, the spillover effects from global developments or broken supply chains may still lead to faltering economic activity. Indeed, the highly dependency of African economies vis-à-vis foreign economies predicts a negative economic spinoff for the continent, evaluated at an average loss of 1.5 points on economic growth 2020.

Besides, it is practically impossible for the continent to take an economic advantage of the wide spread of Covid-19 in other parts of the world, due to its inability to transform its raw materials to respond to the potential high demand of goods and services of the domestic and international markets. They may act as an additional constraint on Africa's productive transformation, by making trade in value added more difficult. Regardless of the scenario whether optimistic or pessimistic, Covid-19 will have a harmful socioeconomic effect on Africa. It is impossible to know how long the health crisis will last and how many people will be affected. At a relatively early stage of the epidemic in Nigeria, the economic impact has been very significant. The longer that measures have to be taken to contain the virus, and the stricter those measures, the greater their impact on the global economy. Nigeria is among the frontline countries combating the Covid-19 and she has done relatively well with less than 10,000 deaths and a

little above 500,000 confirmed cases. The pandemic has impacted her economy negatively and affected human security in various ways such as curtailing their freedom of association, movement and even medical tourism abroad. Nigeria needs effective communication techniques to handle her economy as well alleviate poverty which is threatening the citizens' human security.

The socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis is real. It is therefore essential to inform the populations on the impact and advice policy-makers in order to better prepare and lessen the adverse impact of the pandemic. African countries are extremely exposed to external shocks. A paradigm shift is needed in order to change the trade patterns of African countries within themselves and with the rest of world particularly with China, Europe, USA and other emerging countries. Therefore, Nigeria should turn the current COVID-19 pandemic into an opportunity to translate the policy recommendations on productive transformation described in the Africa's Development Dynamics (AfDD) 2019: Achieving Productive Transformation into a reality in order to create economies that are resilient to external shocks and achieve sustainable development. It is therefore recommended as follows:

Recommendations

1. The Federal Government should intensify the process of economic diversification. It is one practicable way to saddle through the current economic uncertainties and instabilities. Diversification priorities to alternative sectors such as agriculture, solid minerals, manufacturing and services sectors, should be further intensified.
2. The Federal Government should engineer innovative ways of funding the health sector and boost investments that strengthen health systems to enable faster treatment and containment of diseases in the country.
3. The Federal Government should sign and ratify the African Medicine Agency (AMA) and establish regional public private partnerships to produce medical and pharmaceutical products in order to reduce Africa's imports and ensure high quality control of the production.
4. Mobilize sufficient domestic resources for health to enable health systems to meet the needs in health services including elimination of high-burden diseases, prevention and management of outbreak, on the continent.
5. Debriefing and reorientation of the security personnel. In other words, there should a platform for which security personnel can be reoriented and educated about their jobs as securities on how to tackle insecurity in the society and the country at large.
6. Boosting of the welfare of the security forces. In order for the government to increase the motivation of the security force, their welfare, salary structure should be taking into serious consideration. The incentives and allowances should be increased and paid as and when due in

order to reduce the rate of bribery and corruption.

7. Implementation of state policing. Every state should be in charge of their own security.

8. There should be more training of the security forces in the field of crime combating.

9. Nepotism, tribalism and ethnicity should be curbed in the recruitment process of the security forces. This in turn will reduce the intake of uneducated individuals into the force and increase meritocracy in the force.

10. There should be adequate provision and supply of logistics and weaponry for the security forces. Security infrastructures should be provided in order to meet the heavy demands of our security forces. These include finance for fueling their vehicles, building of state of the art infrastructures because they have been given the charge to secure lives and properties.

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