



COVID 19 pandemic and intergovernmental relations in Nigeria: An overview

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Abstract

The emergence of COVID-19 has significantly affected the socio-economic performance of virtually all countries worldwide, entire educational, commercial, sports and spiritual institutions are closed. High rate of inflation and unemployment has become order of the day as a result of lack of productivity and excessive expenditure for the treatment and rehabilitation of the COVID-19 victims and their families. In most federal systems, there is a usually juridical relation between levels or units of government. In such arrangement it is the constitution that majorly defines the relations. The study used observation of events among major actors and stakeholders as well as the secondary sources of data as methodology. The study revealed that despite many controversies over the existence or other wise of the virus its evident that the virus is real and present in Nigeria with the death of many people and recovery of others. The study also revealed that a lot of disagreement occurred between the officials of federal government and their states counterpart especially at the identification and release of infected persons. The existence of the disease in some states like Kogi and Cross rivers also depicted high level of rancor between the two levels of government. The study concluded that the disease is real and caused serious disharmony in relationships among levels of government in Nigeria. It further recommends that government should imbibe the culture of exposing the real victims so that people are cleared out of doubt and government at all levels should learn to be sincere and committed to their responsibilities among others.

Keyword: Covid-19, Intergovernmental relation, Public Perception, Nigeria.

Introduction

The emanation of COVID-19 in China at the end of 2019 has caused a large global outbreak and is a leading public health issue. This virus is highly infectious and can be transmitted through droplets and close contact. The human to the human spreading of the virus occurs due to close contact with an infected person exposed to coughing, sneezing, respiratory droplets or aerosols. According to the World Health Organization report (2020) there are hundreds of coronaviruses, most of which circulate among such animals as pigs, camels, bats and

cats. Sometimes those viruses jump to humans—called a spillover event—and can

cause disease. The novel coronavirus to emerge in this century is called SARS-CoV-2. It causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which emerged from China in December 2019 and was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 (Sauer, 2020).

WHO (2020) Reports that the first confirmed case of covid-19 in Africa was in Egypt, and the first confirmed case in sub-Saharan Africa was in Nigeria. Most of the identified imported cases have arrived from Europe and the United States rather than from China.



Most of the reported cases are from four countries: South Africa, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria, but it is believed that there is widespread under-reporting in other African countries with less developed healthcare systems. A viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 64,000 people globally (WHO, 2020). The World Health Organization has named the illness COVID-19, referring to its origin late last year and the coronavirus that causes it. Experts are worried about COVID-19 spreading to Africa, because many of the healthcare systems in the continent are inadequate, having problems such as lack of equipment, lack of funding, insufficient training of healthcare workers, and inefficient data transmission. It was feared that the pandemic could be difficult to keep under control in Africa, and could cause huge economic problems if it spread widely (WHO, 2020)

“COVID-19 has the potential not only to cause thousands of deaths, but to also unleash economic and social devastation. Its spread beyond major cities means the opening of a new front in our fight against this virus,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa. “This requires a decentralized response, which is tailored to the local context. Communities need to be empowered, and provincial and district levels of government need to ensure they have the resources and expertise to respond to outbreaks locally.” (World Health Organization, 2020). WHO is working with governments across Africa to scale up their capacities in critical response areas such as coordination, surveillance, testing, isolation, case management, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, and laboratory capacity. It is also crucial that people are provided with accurate information which promotes healthy behaviors. Protection of

health workers constitutes a vital component of the response and physical distancing measures. On February 27, 2020, an Italian citizen became the index case for COVID-19 in Nigeria and as at July 4th, 2020, there were 148,188 samples tested, 27,546 laboratory-confirmed cases, 15,867 active cases of COVID-19 in Nigeria with 11,069 discharges and 628 deaths (Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, 2020).

In order to curtail spread of the virus, the federal government of Nigeria resuscitated its relation with lower levels or units of government. In such arrangement it is the constitution that majorly defines the relations. Similarly, the Federal government, on March 30, 2020 introduced various containment strategies such as closing of the national borders and airspace, schools, worship centers and other public places, canceling of mass gathering events and placing the Federal Capital Territory, Lagos and Ogun states on lock down for an initial period of fourteen days (Radio Nigeria, 2020). Covid-19 testing laboratories were set up in Lagos, Abuja and Irrua in Edo State while State governments opened isolation centers and imposed dawn to dusk curfews in their territories.

Although Covid-19 is affirmed by the Nigeria government, but, with the nature of how the government responded to the pandemic and the impression of Nigerians over their leaders, left many in doubts of its existence in Nigeria (Sahara reporters, 2020). Secondly, in an effort to fight against the virus, the federal government exhibit some Intergovernmental relation and this has attracted a lot of scholarly writings within the ambit of intergovernmental relations (IGR). It was against this background; that this study intended to address two major questions. First, how true is the existence of COVID-19 in Nigeria. Second, how does the federal and state governments (Local Government



inclusive) face cooperation, competition, and rancor in terms of handling Covid-19 in Nigeria.

Literature Review And Theoretical Framework

This section entails an overview of the main concept used to explain the content of the study, such explanations are sourced from different scholarly background in order to have a clear understanding.

Pandemic

The word "pandemic" comes from the Greek "pan-", which means ("all") + "demos," which means ("people or population") = "pandemos" = "all the people." A pandemic affects all (nearly all) of the people. By contrast, "epi-" means "upon." An epidemic is visited upon the people. And "en-" means "in." An endemic is in the people. (William, 2018). Most areas of the world see seasonal increases in the number of cases of influenza. Some year's outbreaks are much more severe than others. When the influenza season is particularly severe it is considered a pandemic. For example, the "Spanish flu" outbreak of 1918-20 is estimated to have killed about 50 million people worldwide (University of California Davies (UCDavies), 2018).

It is so easy for people to confuse the word 'epidemic' and 'pandemic'. Well, both words contain 'demic' and are used for disease outbreaks, but they're not exactly the same. This similarity leads many people to use the two words interchangeably or incorrectly altogether. The key difference, however, is about scale.

An epidemic disease is one "affecting many persons at the same time, and spreading from person to person in a locality where the disease is not permanently prevalent." The World Health Organization (WHO) further specifies epidemic as occurring at the level of a region or community. Epidemic is

commonly used all on its own as a noun, meaning "a temporary prevalence of a disease." For example: The city was able to stop the flu epidemic before it spread across the state. Metaphorically, epidemic is "a rapid spread or increase in the occurrence of something," usually with a negative or humorous connotation (thesaurus Dictionary, 2020). Compared to an epidemic disease, a pandemic disease is an epidemic that has spread over a large area, that is, it's "prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world." Pandemic is also used as a noun, meaning "a pandemic disease." The WHO more specifically defines a pandemic as "a worldwide spread of a new disease." On March 11, the WHO officially declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic due to the global spread and severity of the disease.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease and '19' was the year of discovery also referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). (Wikipedia, 2020). However, WHO (World Health Organization, 2020) says coronaviruses are a group of viruses belonging to the family of coronaviridae, which infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). A new coronavirus that previously has not been identified in humans emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019 (World Health Organization, 2020). The infection has no immediate treatment and vaccine, and it has

according to World Health Organization became a global pandemic.

In line with the above definitions, words of (Sauer, 2020), explained that covid-19, is from the family of Coronavirus (others include SARS, H5N1, H1N1 and MERS), is a contagious respiratory illness transmitted through the eyes, nose, and mouth, via droplets from coughs and sneezes, close contact with infected person and contaminated surfaces. It has an incubation period of approximately one to fourteen days. The symptoms include cough, fever and shortness of breath, and it is diagnosed through a laboratory test. The contagion could lead to severe respiratory problems or death, particularly among the elderly and persons with underlying chronic illnesses. Some infected persons however, are carriers for the virus with no symptoms while others may experience only a mild illness and recover easily.

Intergovernmental Relation

The concept of intergovernmental relations (IGR) can be understood by considering the three dimensions or schools of thought. The first school of thought believes that intergovernmental relations occur in a federal system, the second school of thought believes that it can only exist in both federal and unitary systems of government while the third stresses that it can take place at the international level. The above is an indication that intergovernmental relations exist in both the federal and unitary systems. Therefore, intergovernmental relation is not associated with any system of government. Adamolekun (1983) and Olopade (1984) defined intergovernmental relations as interactions that take place among the different levels of government within a state. It is federalism in action.

Cameroon, (2001) describes inter-governmental relations as the work horse of any federal system. I.G.R. therefore is the

privileged instrument by which the job whatever the job gets done. The fact for the increasing need to interface among federating units makes Inter-governmental relations as indispensable unit of federalism. In a federal system, constitution is the major document that dictates the nature of Inter-governmental relations in day today operation of governmental affairs. Anderson (cited in Aiyede 2004) refers to IGR as an important body of activities or interactions occurring between or among governmental units of all types and levels within the United States' federal system. To him therefore, IGR exists only within federal systems alone.

Okoli (2005) argues that IGR is dominated by the relationship between the central government and the major sub-national governments with the main features spelt out in the constitution. Okoli added that IGR involves patterns of cooperative relationship between various levels of government in a federal governmental structure. IGR encourages a focus on the vertical and horizontal governmental and non-governmental policy-making structures at different levels and in different sectors of the overall intergovernmental process. It also places greater emphasis on cooperative as opposed to conflictual aspects of intergovernmental relations.

Under the distribution of powers in the 1999 constitution, Nigeria is a centralized federation with strong unitary elements. Currently, there are complaints about the overconcentration of power in the federal government (the product of long period of military rule), This school of thought has argued that, if Nigeria wants to practice "true federalism," then it should go back to its 1963 constitution. Yet there are centrists who continue to support, a very strong federal government in order to counter Nigeria 's history of political instability (Adamolekun, 1983, Olopade, 1984). Commenting on the

cooperation, competition, tension, and conflict, among the three levels of government, Jinadu (1998) pointed out that: The dynamics of federal-state relations within the federalist constitutional framework is one of a see-saw between interdependence and cooperation on one hand and conflict on the other hand, between the centre and the units and between the units themselves.

Theoretical Framework

Systems theory was proposed in the 1940's by the biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy and furthered by Ross Ashby (1964). He is considered to be the founder and principal author of general systems theory. Von Bertalanffy was reacting against both reductionism and attempting to revive the unity of science. As a modeling device, systems theory, accommodates the interrelationships and overlap between separate disciplines. The Systems Theory introduced by von Bertalanffy reminds us of the value of integration of parts of a problem. The work of Ludwing Von Bertalanffy (1973) recognized the need of any organization to interact with its external environment, unlike what was proposed by classical school theorists like Max Weber, F. Taylor and Fayol who viewed organization as closed system. To him, for survival of an organization like the way living organism survives, should operate in open system and not closed system. This is what made his work to make system concepts become recognized worldwide as approach to be adapted by organization for their efficiency and effectiveness in the dynamic and changing environments. It was against this background, systems theory used in showcasing the relationship that exists between and among the levels of government. as shown in the basic input-output model below.

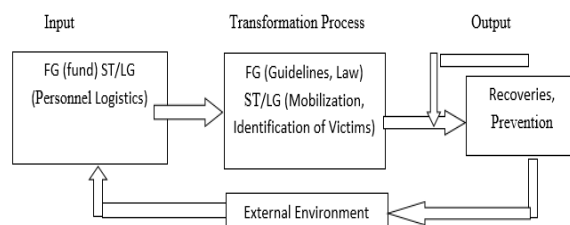


Fig.1.0 Input – Output Model

Source: Weihrich, et al (2008).

- i. **Inputs-** The composition of inputs from the external environment may include funding which is relatively from the federal government while states and local government provides logistics in terms of personnel, infrastructure for tracing victims as well as isolation and quarantining carriers. Information are also provided by the local communities which also constitute input to the relationship in fight against the virus.
- ii. **Transformation Process-** This consist of decisions, laws, rules and regulations, that the government can made in other to meet the demands and mandates of the system (citizens or societies). For instance, there can be a new laws, rules and regulations that can be made in times of emergency. Hence, such are seen as transformation process.
- iii. **Outputs** – The output in this case involves recoveries and prevention measures introduced by the government concurrently through restriction of movement provision of coping palliatives as well as curtailing the spread of the virus across the states.
- iv. **Environment/Feedback-** The environment constitutes the immediate or outside places of business and residence of the people whom are stakeholders in the Nigeria

states. The manner at which the government handles outbreak would be justified by the members of the environment and such justifications are known via the feedback mechanism within the system. The health personnel as well as the victims and the nearby people can relate to unveil that. As a component of the systems model, the external environment plays a key role in the transformation of inputs into outputs. While it is true that organizations have little or no power to change the external environment, they have no alternative but to respond to it. External variable in these aspects can be the civil society group, pressure groups, and international bodies (such as NGOs and INGOs). Such groups influence the transformation process (decisions and laws) of government to some wider extend, as such the government at times do not have much alternative than to succumb to their aspirations.

Lastly system theory departs from the political system which takes inputs from society (usually consisting of mandates, demands, etc.) and processes them, the outcome of which could be policies. These are then fed back to the community, through policy related activities and then, a series of new wants and needs triggers the system again.

Materials and Methods

The study is strictly built on observation of events in order to observe and describe the behavior of primary actors and stakeholders on the subject matter. Secondary data were also used to understand more incidence as it occurs. Unstructured observation method was conducted in free and open manner without using any predetermined schedule.

The event sampling observation was used to also determined beforehand which one is observed. The secondary source was basically derived from reports and findings of other researchers relevant to the study.

Discussion of Results

Public perception on the existence of Covid-19 in Nigeria

As the Coronavirus outbreak spreads further, ravaging communities and causing economies to halt around the world, there are many, who have described the existence of the virus as a conspiracy. In Nigeria, there has been no shortage of COVID-19 deniers despite its glaring effects and danger it continues to pose for the entire populace. At the moment, the country has 1532 confirmed cases of Coronavirus and 44 recorded deaths. In March, a video surfaced online with hundreds of Nigerians chanting, "Mallam ya ce babu Corona". Which means, "Our cleric said no Coronavirus, it is a hoax". (Sahara reporters.com, 2020). In one of the videos, leader of Izala Muslim sect in Kaduna, Sheikh Sani Yahaya Jingir, could be seen describing COVID-19 as an international deceit and Western conspiracy against Muslims. He said, "Is the virus as effective as fire that could not burn Prophet Ibrahim (AS)? Then the virus is a lie. This opinion is in line with the conspiracy theory that is attributed to the western world against the Islamic religion in one hand as well as Christianity on the other hand as revealed by (Scicomnigeria.org 2020)

Apart from Muslim clerics, some Christian clerics have also come up with their own theories on the subject matter and added to the culture of ignorance currently prevailing among the people as to what Coronavirus is and how to respond to it. To recall that in April, founder and President of Love World Incorporated widely known as Christ Embassy, Chris Oyakhilome, claimed that



the creation of 5G technology and its deployment to parts of the world was responsible for the outbreak of Coronavirus. According to him, the new technology was part of the new world order by the anti-Christ, who was bent on establishing a single religion, economy and government for the entire universe. Oyakhilome went on to say that the Nigerian Government ordered the lockdown of Lagos and Abuja so that 5G can be deployed while people were trapped in their houses. But his claims rather than to create a better understanding of the virus and how people can eliminate it only went on to add to their ignorance of the matter and raised the risk of the pandemic reaching more people (BBC, 2020).

In Nigeria today, many of the populace thinks that the pandemic is not real in Nigeria, that its real in the other countries but when it comes to Nigeria is just a mere politicking and some sort of myths. Many still believed that there is no covid-19 in Nigeria, but some elites are just maneuvering their means to satisfy their interest. However, from what we saw so far in the country and how fast the virus has grown, we can conclude that, Covid-19 is a reality in Nigeria. On 29 March 2020, the Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, addressed the nation on the Federal Government's efforts to curtail the spread of COVID-19 within the country. In his address, he directed a cessation of all movements in Lagos State, Ogun State and the Federal Capital Territory for an initial period of fourteen (14) days. Although, the cessation of movement in Ogun State was postponed until Friday, 3 April 2020, lockdown in Lagos and Abuja was ordered to commence on Monday, 30 March 2020. This lockdown is to enable the government to track the spread of COVID-19 within these areas. Citizens in these states have been directed to stay at home during the lockdown. Inter-state travel within these states are restricted and all

businesses and offices within these states are fully closed during the lockdown period.

On Monday, 30th March 2020, the President signed the Federal Government's COVID-19 Regulations of 2020 which declared COVID-19 a dangerous infectious disease and granted a legal basis to the directives stated in the President's address. The Regulations further institute a moratorium on loans implemented through Bank of Industry, Bank of Agriculture and the Nigeria Export Import Bank. Many states have restricted airport and inter-state travel to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Open markets in many states are being closed or allowed to open at specific hours in order for state agencies to disinfect those spaces for COVID-19. Some state governments such as Lagos State have undertaken more stringent measures such as instituting curfews. Lagos State Governor also issued the Lagos State Infectious Diseases (Emergency Prevention) Regulations 2020 via his powers under the State's Public Health Law and the Federal Quarantine Act, Q2 LFN 2004 (Brooks and Knights, 2020).

The situation in Kano provides an example of some of the challenges that might be faced elsewhere in Nigeria and the world. Kano, the country's second-largest city, registered its first case on April 11, 2020. Since then, grave diggers had reported what appeared to be an abnormally high number of deaths, which, after investigation, were linked to a variety of preexisting conditions, and coronavirus seemed to have been ruled out. President Buhari nevertheless ordered that the city be locked down for an additional two weeks. Whether or not those people died of COVID-19, the pandemic may still have led to their death. The health care system in Kano has reoriented itself to deal with the coronavirus at the expense of other essential medical services, leaving some without health care. Also, the BBC reports that "no official death



records are kept,” making it difficult to attribute a death to COVID-19, (CFR, 2020). Another undeniable evidence that covid-19 is real in Nigeria was the death of the Chief of staff to Mr. President, late Abba Kyari. Another evidence also is that, the Nigerian government launched a social distancing campaign, restricting movements in certain parts of the country. The government also encouraged self-isolation for Nigerians returning from high-risk countries. A major aspect of Nigeria’s approach to the COVID-19 pandemic has been the prohibition of gatherings that exceed 50 people, including worship places and all forms of social events. (The republic, 2020).

Lastly, it’s evident now, that in Nigeria almost every sector has been shut down, with the exception of few. Both the formal and informal sector has been closed, tertiary institutions has been suspended, all the international airports has been closed also.

Intergovernmental Relations and the Administration of Covid-19 in Nigeria

As discussed earlier, intergovernmental relations (IGR) is a relationship that exists between two levels of governments, that willingly agreed to come together to achieve a particular goal. It usually occurs in a federal system of government, where a constitution has been provided to lay down every aspect of the relationship to be done. On 29 march, the federal government has ordered a cessation of movements in Lagos, Ogun, and the FCT for an initial of 14 days in an effort to curtail the spread of the virus, the lockdown is said to have started on 30th march, while in Ogun state it started on 3 April. The act of total compliances portrayed by these state governments shows that there has been a cooperative relationship in terms of handling covid-19 in Nigeria. The later action by some of the state governments to ordered both partial and total lockdown in their states without even waiting for the

Federal Government's order has also shown cooperation on the parts of the governments, because those states have their jurisdiction also but rather agreed with the federal government's order to declared lockdown in their various states. However, this was seen as a cooperation and synergy between the state’s government across the nation and the federal government to help curtail the possible further spread of the deadly virus. More so, in a newspaper statement, the secretary to the government of the federation (SGF) Boss Mustapha stated that “anyone without a face mask in public will be prosecuted”. (The Punch newspaper.com, 2020).

In another way of relationship, the Federal Government had released new guidelines for the new phase of containment of COVID-19. The guidelines were also specific about information to the general public, guidance to states and security agencies and description of activities allowed under the new phase. The Federal Government also eased the lockdown in Lagos, Ogun and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) following the improvements on the multisectoral response to Covid-19 pandemic. The ease of the Lockdown also has been attached by some set of guidelines that will help to curtail the further spread of the virus. (The Punch newspaper, 2020). Here, there was a synergy and cooperation between the two levels of government also, because the states willingly agreed to the rule without opposing it and this make it to be a synergy.

More so, in another way in which the federal government relates was the dispatching of special medical team in Kano state. A 14-man team comprising of experts in different fields of health has been dispatched to Kano State by the federal government to complement efforts of the state’s government aimed at curbing the rampaging Coronavirus in the state. On the same day, 238 new cases



of Coronavirus were recorded in Nigeria, with Kano State alone accounting for 92 cases. The new figures take the total number of confirmed cases in Nigeria to 2170. 351 people have recovered, while 68 others have died from the disease. However, these act by the federal government was seen as a cooperation between itself and kano state (Thisdaylive, 2020).

Another undeniable fact about the cooperation that was said to have existed in the phase of handling Covid-19 was the support given by the traditional institution in Nigeria. This assertion was evident when the traditional leader in Ondo State distributed relief materials to his subjects, this was as a result of the lockdown earlier declared by some States of the federation. Ondo state was indeed not an exception when it comes to lockdown that occurred in almost all of the states of the federation. Hence the need for the distribution of relief materials to the people, and it was as a result of this that, he (Ondo state traditional leader) had distributed relief material to his subjects to help curb with the lockdown. However, this act was seen to be a cooperation to have existed between the traditional institutions and that of the federal government in handling Covid-19 in Nigeria.

In addition, the Federal Government has directed the release of about 17,500 metric tons of assorted grains from Yola National Food Reserve site for distribution as palliatives to Nigerians. In a statement made by Haruna Sulaiman, Director, National Food and Strategic Reserve, said this while speaking with News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Yola on Saturday. Mr Sulaiman said the gesture was part of federal government's palliatives to cushion the effect of COVID-19 lockdown in the country. Mr Sulaiman, represented by Amusa Sulaiman, Manager, Yola Food Reserve site, said the department has many food reserve sites

across the country. "Due to the COVID -19 lockdown, there is a Presidential Order for us to start releasing food from national food reserves". (The Premium times newspaper.com, 2020).

With cooperation as a point of view, and the above aforementioned ways, one can conclude at this juncture that indeed there has been a cooperation between the federal government and the state governments in terms of handling covid-19 in Nigeria. However, the question now remains which among the perspectives (cooperation, competition, and rancor), can be based upon to be the relationship that existed in the phase of the covid-19 in Nigeria. The answer to the question can be concluded when we look at competition and rancor as a point of view with regards to intergovernmental relations between the federal government and the state governments.

On March 29, the President has declared Lagos, Osun and the FCT to go on lockdown, then subsequently, many other States of the federation has declared total lockdown in their States. There has been a restriction of movement both interstate and in some extend intrastate movement. Therefore, those increasingly restrictions of movement by the States government authorities has been seen as a competitive relationship that has existed between those states' government and the federal government. Although it was all an effort geared towards curtailing the possible further spread of the virus across the country. Many states government has declared total lockdown in their states and also, some of them even went to the extent of extending the lockdown even while the federal government is relaxing its own. For instance, the cases with the Kaduna State and Borno State Governments respectively then.

The last perspective in which federal government relates with other levels of government in terms of handling Covid-19 in



Nigeria is rancor. There has been many efforts, decisions, actions, and compromise that has been made by the federal government and other level of government which was seen as a rancor by scholars of IGR, these includes; Distribution of relief materials by the Federal Government, rejection of 19 new cases of Covid-19 by the Borno State government as declared by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the “unilateral” withdrawal of N11Billion from the Federation Accounts for the Nigerian Police by the Federal Government, redeployment of security chiefs in Rivers state by the federal government, Faceoff between the Kogi state government and NCDC, faceoff between the Nigerian soldiers and the covid-19 committee in Borno State, NCDC officials disrupts school resumption in Cross Rivers and the released of Allison Maduweke's property to be a quarantine centre in Lagos state by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC);

Coronavirus has brought a lot of hardship to humanity, especially the act of making people to stay at home has been part of it. This has resulted to the shortage or lack of adequate food to a lot of people around the globe. The federal of government of Nigeria responded to this issue by distributing relief materials to its people in such a time to help assist them with their conditions. But, such distribution of relief materials has become rancor because of these reasons; the federal government, declared total lockdown in three states (i.e. Lagos, Ogun and the FCT). But, it was later understood that, the distribution once only done in Lagos and some part of the FCT excluding Ogun State which they were declared a total lockdown on the same day, set aside other states of the federation. It has become a rancor because the federal government has shown interest only in Lagos state simply because it is the highest income

generating state, without prioritizing such interest in the other states of the federation especially Ogun State which has been declared total lockdown at the same time.

Another place of rancor was clearly seen when, the Borno State government rejected 19 new cases of corona virus in the state capital. These happened when the federal government through its agency (NCDC), has given an update on the confirmed cases of Covid-19 across the country. A statement was released by The NCDC that, 19 new cases of the virus has been confirmed from Maiduguri the capital of Borno State while the state government authority has rejected such claim, this indeed has been a sour relationship between the two levels of governments. Another rancor occurred when there was a “unilateral” withdrawal of N11Billion from the Federation Accounts for the Nigerian Police by the Federal Government as alleged by the Rivers State Government. Again, the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) has ordered the redeployment of security chiefs in Rivers state The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, on Friday evening ordered the immediate redeployment of Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Dandaura Mustapha. “The deployment of Mr Dandaura came amidst a row between the Rivers state governor, Nyesom Wike, and oil companies in the state. There was also a faceoff between the federal government through the NCDC and Kogi state government as NCDC officials flee Kogi State to avoid been tested for Covid-19 The official of the National Centre for Disease Control NCDC, Dr Andrew Noah ordered to be isolated by the Kogi State Governor Alhaji Yahaya Bello have fled the state to avoid being subjected to COVID-19 test. Governor Bello had ordered the leader of the NCDC delegation to proceed on isolation for shaking hands with the Director of Protocol, Sunday Ayenibe after taking the



microphone from him. The governor had also explained that Dr Andrew had contravened the rules and regulations of NCDC and so should be tested for COVID-19 since he was coming from the epicenter of the disease (the guardian newspaper.com, 2020).

Similarly, Nigerian army attacked the Borno state Covid-19 committee, to the extent of labeling the Nigerian democracy as 'useless democracy'. The attacked happened when the soldiers, disregarded the ongoing interstate travel ban, forced their way through the entrance gate to Borno and allowed hundreds of illegal travelers into the town. Also, in a newspaper statement "The armed personnel, who arrived in three-gun trucks, allegedly threatened to open fire on the COVID-19 Committee members. Speaking with a journalist, Lawal alleged that the soldiers forced their way by pulling down the barricade preventing non-essential travelers into the state by the committee (Saharareporters.com, 2020).

Lastly, another place of rancor that said to occurred was the drama that happened in Cross Rivers, where the state governor proposed for resumption of schools in some senatorial zones, this was as a result of non-case of the virus that has prompted the governor to resume schools. But, these has became a rancor when the officials of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) disrupted the process. The state has not officially recorded any Covid-19 case, prompting the state governor, Ben Ayade, to declared ban lift on three schools in the state. Governor Ayade announced that the three schools should open in the three senatorial districts of the state on a trial basis. The governor gave 300,000 Personal Protection Equipment to students as part of protective measures to help control the outbreak and spread of Covid-19 in the state.

Despite the effort made by the state governor, in providing personal protection equipment to the students as part of protective measures, yet the NCDC officials disrupted the resumption. However, a newspaper outlet known as Legit.ng published that the schools include West African People's Institute (WAPI), Government Secondary School Egor in Ogoja LGA and Government Secondary School Ikom. The decision was vehemently rejected as NCDC official disrupted the resumption process in a show that courted fear and confusion.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Even with the global menace caused by the corona virus; like a roaring lion looking for more to devour, despite its effects on more than a million individuals in diverse ramification for sustaining livelihood, it is very sad to hear enormity of our population object the fact that corona virus is real. Just like Borno State Chairman for Covid-19 task force lamented how citizens doubt the existence of Covid-19, in the same manner Book Haram was ignored and today, Nigeria suffers the injury of insurgency which northeastern is suffering the most.

Despite the negative impact of the lockdown and other measures on the world economy, it is yet one of the standard measures in mitigating the spread of corona virus globally. This time we agree with the unprecedented damage this virus may have caused and quest for a way forward not disputing fact of existence. Despite man's pace for development in such a technocratic era to the extent of visiting the outer world and going forth to digging deep the ground only for knowledge sake, it is obvious much about corona virus is not well known even when killing man.

Indeed, it is fabulous that corona virus has proven what humanity is. If we agree with the indisputable fact of Covid-19, measures in curtailing spread will be adhered and

transmission can be minimized thereby, achieving a horizontal graph for corona virus transmission. Covid-19 is real, it is a serious disease and a global health crisis of our time. Solidarity is the key to defeating corona virus.

However, Nigerian Government should give more attention in fighting this virus and it should be done uniformly across the country and not a sour relationship as it has proven to be so far. It is therefore, recommended that the federal government should adapt the European way of tackling the virus by showing some live videos etc. These will at least clear the fog surrounding the minds of most of Nigerians and attest the fact that the virus is real in Nigeria.

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