

AN EVALUATION OF POST- PANDEMICS AND POLITICS IN NIGERIA: GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AND ARISING CONTRADICTIONS

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Abstract

This paper attempts to evaluate the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics and the politics that is playing out as a result of government efforts and arising issues such as corruption and poor condition of government health facilities. This paper is to meaningfully evaluate the Covid 19 pandemics and politics in Nigeria and its arising contradictions as it affects Nigeria in particular and the world at large. The Covid 19 pandemic reveals a contemporary call for the quest for environmental sustainability and ecological management. The problem of poor conditions of infrastructures in government general hospitals or primary health care system in Nigeria has become a perennial problem. A pandemic is a disease that can usually spread all over a country or the whole world. The whole world is battling over a pandemic that is ravaging our humanity. Pandemic as a widespread disease is usually endemic. Our humanity is at cross roads. The pandemic has led to myriad of implications. These implications include political, economic, historical, religious, biological, global, psychological, environmental, anthropological and social implications. Apart from these myriad of implications, there are arising contradictions that are emanating from weak government efforts or interventions in tackling the emergence of the pandemics in Nigeria. This paper adopts the method of analysis in navigating through the murky waters of the politics that is playing out by the Nigerian government as a result of the emergence of the Corona virus disease (Covid 19). This paper concludes that government ought to strengthen its efforts in order to avoid these arising contradictions. These include equipping our health facilities in Nigeria such as general hospitals and primary health care system; there ought to be provision for social welfare for the masses in Nigeria. There ought to be adequate and accurate information in order to sensitize and not to mislead or misinform the Nigerian peoples. The pandemic in Nigeria and in other parts of the world ought not to be characterized by corruption, fears, confusion, internal contradictions and politics.

Keywords: Pandemics, Politics, Government, Covid 19, Corruption

Introduction

A pandemic is a disease that can usually spread all over a country or the whole world. The whole world is battling over a pandemic that is ravaging our humanity. Pandemic as a widespread disease is usually endemic. Our humanity is at cross roads. The pandemic has led to myriad of implications. These implications include political, economic, historical, religious, global, psychological, biological, environmental, anthropological and social implications. Apart from these myriad of implications, there are arising contradictions that are emanating from weak government efforts or interventions in tackling the emergence of the pandemics. The *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary, 6th Edition*, defines pandemic as “a disease that spreads over a whole country or the whole world”.¹ Politics, on the other hand, involves a process. Politics is a process that is synonymous with the common good of the people. Politics is characterized by “the activities involved getting and using power in public life, and being able to influence decisions that affect a country or a society; it involves matters concerned with getting or using power within a particular group or organization; it means a system of political beliefs; a state of political affairs”.² Politics is not a thing but a process that assumes the relation to government. Politics involves human events, human priorities and human actions.

In addition, politics reflects on the struggle for power, ideas and the fundamentals of force. Politics is not just a process, a struggle for power or force but it has to do with human affairs and values. The major theme of politics is always the allocation of resources, values, things, actions and privileges. The utmost importance and fundamental principle of the very concept of politics is the determination of values, privileges, allocation of resources, human actions, events and human privileges. Politics is not simply a struggle of power or the use of force but an aggression of human affairs, actions, process and events. Politics is concerned with good society. Politics is aimed at achieving the good and the happiness of the people in society; it ensures the attainment of good society. The whole process of politics assumes a normative dimension of any contemporary society. What is central to the concept of politics is the conceptual analysis of the smooth operation of the existence of government; it guarantees the normative possibilities of human actions, laws, and constitution, its formative process, origin, nature, growth as well as its interpretation, execution, protection and enforcement of laws. Politics refers to a normative assumption and a critical reflection of human society.

Pandemics And Politics In Nigeria

The prevalence of pandemics in Nigeria in particular and the whole world in general has been characterized by serious political and economic issues. The pandemic in Nigeria has exposed the country to a lot of ridicule. The Corona virus disease (Covid 19) has killed thousands of people all over the world and millions of people have been infected. Many Nigerians did not believe that the Corona virus disease is real because the political affairs of the country make the Corona virus disease look unreal. The pandemic in Nigeria has become problematic and it is stirring us in the face because of the dilapidated state of government hospitals in Nigeria. There is the assumption that private health facilities in Nigeria are more functional and more effective than government hospitals. One fundamental problem associated with the poor condition of government hospitals is as a result of endemic corruption affecting every facets of the contemporary Nigerian society. Corruption has become endemic and destructive to the Nigerian government. Corruption is as old as our humanity. According to Chris Okoli, “corruption is as old as human history and has affected and decimated society down the line to some degree, not sparing its institutions. The extent of decimation reached an all- time high by the dawn of the modern era and particularly at the turn of the 20th century”.³ We have clearly neglected the serious implication of corruption to the public sector in Nigeria. As Chris Okoli rightly observed:

*We so often fail, neglect or refuse to admit that corruption in the public sector would be impossible to sustain without the active involvement, cooperation or connivance of persons not employed by any government or public institution. The preponderance of corruption and corrupt practices outside government must receive due attention and be viciously attacked along with other incidences of same in government in order to achieve that holistic result which everyone must sincerely desires. The foregoing will act as a panacea for underdevelopment, poverty, clear abuse, and violation of human rights and an unacceptable public/national image.*⁴

Furthermore, the Corona virus disease has exposed the corrupt system of government in Nigeria as a result of fraud and mismanagement of government hospitals. There is lack of political will by the Nigerian government to address the poor conditions of infrastructures in government hospitals. It has been observed that “mismanagement, fraud, white elephant projects, payment of huge sums of money to ghost workers, endless mobilization fees....and outright stealing of public funds and government property culminate in the neglect of the primary health care and general hospitals in Nigeria”.⁵ The pandemic in Nigeria should be a wake-up call or a clarion call for the Nigerian government to have the political will in addressing the poor states of infrastructures in our government hospitals. The Nigerian health

care system should be strengthened in order to guarantee high life expectancy. Health care system in Nigeria ought to be highly subsidized by the Nigerian government. Chris Okoli rightly observed that, “regrettably, corruption in Nigeria is all pervading, endemic and systemic. The tendency here is to look at corruption from the economic perspective only but a look at the endemic, from that perspective alone can only be lopsided and cursory. If we agree that corruption is systemic, it will be obvious that any attempt at stemming corruption must be multidisciplinary in approach”.⁶

Nevertheless, the nature and character of the Nigerian masses to the emergence of the pandemic is not an encouraging one. The Nigerian masses are of the view that the Nigerian government is paying lip service to the issues of health care system. Many Nigerians are adamant to the danger of the emergence of the Corona virus disease in the country. They believe that they have suffered enough and the Covid 19 pandemic is no longer a threat to their lives. The Nigerian government ought to deem it necessary to attend to the characters of the Nigerian peoples. The characters of the Nigerian peoples have not been attended to by the government. As Thomas Paine rightly observed, “to understand the nature and quantity of government proper for man, it is necessary to attend to his character”.⁷ However, their rights to good health care system should be one of the ultimate priorities of the Nigerian government. For Thomas Paine, “the rights of men in government are their advantages; and these are often in balance between differences of good; and in compromises sometimes between good and evil, and sometimes between evil and evil. Political reason is a computing principle; adding-subtracting-multiplying-and dividing, morally and not metaphysically or mathematically, but true moral demonstrations”.⁸ The rights of the people is the ultimate priority of any legitimate government. According to Thomas Paine “any legitimate government must see the rights of the people as its ultimate priority. Legitimacy is a matter of people’s rights”.⁹ It is germane to note that “government is meant for the living and not for the dead. The circumstances of the world are continually changing, and the opinions of men change also; and as government is for the living, and not for the dead, it is the living only that has any right in it”.¹⁰

Implications Of Pandemic In Nigeria

Political Implication

The Corona virus pandemic in Nigeria has taken the attention of the Nigerian government. What is now trailing the Nigerian political affairs is the health challenge of the Nigerian

peoples caused by the emergence of the Convid 19 pandemics. The Nigerian government is now faced with the challenge of not allowing the country to plunge into an economic recession. This will be very disastrous to the Nigerian political system. The political and economic stability of any country are quite fundamental elements of any particular country.

Social Implication

The tendency for social interaction is gradually fading away. This is as a result of social distancing as one of the measures put in place to combat the Convid 19 pandemics. Handshake and hugging of fellow human beings such as friends and relatives have reduced drastically. Visits to friends and relatives have drastically reduced. The rampant visitations to Church weddings, clubs, sports viewing centres, stadiums, recreation parks have seriously reduced. The issue of social interaction is one of the fundamental elements of human existence or human association. Joan Ferrante in her book “*Sociology: A Global Perspective*” defines social interaction as “everyday events in which at least two people communicate and respond to affect one another’s behaviour and thinking. In the process, the parties involved define, interpret, and attach meaning to the encounter”.¹¹ Social interaction is a very fundamental element of the progress of any contemporary society.

Economic Implication

The emergence of the Convid 19 pandemics has brought a lot of economic hardship to the people of Nigeria and to the entire world. Unfortunately, unemployment rates have been on the increase due to the loss of jobs and means of livelihood. Many people all over the world have job losses due to the emergence of the Convid 19 pandemics; and this is causing serious economic crises to so many people all over the world. The fundamental problem of the harsh economic reality facing Nigeria as a result of the emergence of the Convid 19 pandemics has led to the increase in crimes and insecurity. The security of any country is quite a paramount task of every country. Security, is however, the protection of lives and property of the citizenry of a country from internal and external aggression. Insecurity, on the other hand, is the inability of any particular country to protect the lives and property of its citizenry. Insecurity is always characterized by violence, war, terrorism and terror, ethnic crises, rape, ritual killings, and armed robbery. The emergence of the Convid 19 pandemics in the whole world has caused a lot of economic hardships to millions of people all over the world. Many people in Nigeria can hardly feed. Inflation has been the order of the day. Many goods and services in the Nigerian markets have been inflated. Many Nigerians called for relief

packages to cushion the effects of the Covid 19 pandemics, but unfortunately, the Nigerian government only did little to cushion the plight of few Nigerians. The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics in Nigeria led to increase in crime rates in Nigeria due to economic hardship experienced by many Nigerians.

Religious Implication

Many people in Nigeria have attributed the emergence of the Corona virus pandemics to satanic manipulations. There is the general assumption that it is a battle or a fight or a struggle between good and evil. Some religious leaders claimed that the Covid 19 pandemic is a satanic manipulation that tends to undermine the power of the Almighty God. The use of the face mask is assumed to be a mockery of God's efficacy, supremacy or power to human beings on the planet. Furthermore, some religious leaders have asserted that the use of face mask or face shield goes beyond just medical reasons. We have disrupted our world but we must agree that whether we agree or not God is still the Almighty God no matter the demonic agenda of the devil. The whole world is battling with the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics and researchers all over the world are working hard to find a cure for the Covid 19 pandemics. Some religious leaders claimed that the year 2020 is closely related to the number 10. This assertion is traceable to the Bible in Revelation Chapter 12.

Environmental Implication

The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics as it is ravaging the whole world may be as a result of the reckless activities of men to the world habitat. Human beings have resorted to weapons of mass destructions. We have polluted our world with myriad of chemicals and other weapons of mass destructions. There is production of atomic bombs that have caused catastrophe or havoc to human existence. Human beings on the planet are all running for safety. We have indeed poisoned our world. According to an Internet Air Encyclopedia cited by Chigbo Joseph," we have poisoned the air, water, and soil with pollutants and have upset natural communities in ways that are affecting our place in the complex system that has come to be known as the great chain of life. We may soon be tipping the balance of the natural forces in the land, atmosphere, and oceans in the ways that could be disastrous for mankind. In fact, we have reached a point where we must protect the environment in order to protect ourselves".¹² As Chigbo Joseph rightly observed, "man's inter-personal relationships and his interaction with the environment are always based on philosophy, a worldview and ideology".¹³ Indeed, man is not the only creature in the planet. Eco-centrism should be one of

the platforms for the holistic approach for addressing our environmental challenges. For Chigbo,” the implication of this position being that the environment exists for man’s sole needs, wants, pleasures and recreations. An alternative approach, eco-centrism argues for holistic approach/relationships for all creations and creatures by positing that all are tenants”.¹⁴ Moreover, today, environmental problems have become a perennial problem since human existence. For Chigbo:

*Environmental problems have been with man from the time he came into existence and in the contemporary times, it has assumed alarming proportions which forced world leaders to converge and device options of having a safe haven for existence and living. These challenges range from the mis-interpreted natural disasters like erosion, hurricane, desertification, earthquakes, to the common ones today like pollutions, noise, urban planlessness, depletion of the ozone layer, and dumping of refuse. The origins of these environmental problems stem from man’s attitude to his environment which he interpreted as inanimate, inert physical things made for his recreation and needs.*¹⁵

Nevertheless, man is only interested in exploring and exploiting his environment at the detriment of his fellow human beings, plants, animals and other inanimate things. Man is interested in the instrumentalization and dehumanization of his immediate environment. Man and his environment should be given a new consciousness. This new consciousness is galvanized by humanist philosophy. As Chigbo rightly observed:

*According to critical humanists, the exploitation of the environment translated on a human level to the instrumentalization and dehumanization of man by fellow man. Thus, the capitalists in order to aggregate maximum gains do not care whether the life of a fellow being is expended. In the krshna, consciousness movement’s philosophy, violence, wars and atavistic cruelty are in human society because human beings engaged in killings and eating fellow living and inanimate things like animals and fishes. Such cruelty, for them, promotes a culture and emotion of a lower scale which does not in a greater proportion augur well for a being like man.*¹⁶

Furthermore, man ought to have a deeper understanding of the concept, “environment” as a creative vessel in which human possibilities are actualized. In other words, environment is a dynamic basis for man to develop himself. It provides him with enabling opportunities for self-discovery, development and mastery. For Chigbo, “the implication of this definition is that the environment should be understood as a spiritually active base that must be preserved and harnessed”.¹⁷ A conceptual analysis of the critical understanding of origin and nature of the environment has anthropological, religious, psychological, economic and philosophical dimensions. Our environment ought to be re-defined because of the dehumanization of our humanity. The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics may be as result of our dehumanized

humanity. Our environment has been depleted, balkanized and bastardized. According to Chigbo “humanity consequently became dehumanized, instrumentalized, marginalized and alienated from the other bringing with it a whole lot of societal chaos, criminalism and violence. The contemporary society has thrust upon itself a world that can no more be predicted with anything near accuracy, whose effects are so deadly and frightening that man has no other option than to embrace sustainable environmental measures”.¹⁸

The issues of environmental problems are quite fundamental and devastating. A conceptual analysis of environment presupposes the fact that it is part of our being. As Chigbo rightly observed, “we have seen that environmental problems are devastating for it is in environment that we live and have our being”.¹⁹ Finally, as a matter of urgency man should deem it necessary to reduce to its barest minimum the two broad causes of environmental pollution which include the industrially-caused environmental pollution and the wasteful private consumption. Chigbo, however, concludes that the two broad causes of environmental pollution are the industrially-caused environmental pollution and the wasteful private consumption by whole population living under modern urban conditions.²⁰

Global Implication

The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics has caused economic damage to the global community. The emergence of Covid 19 pandemic has become a global challenge. The Covid 19 pandemic is ravaging both many countries of the world. There have been restrictions on international flights and human movement all over the world. The implications of these restrictions on international flights and human movement could lead to global economic recession. No country of the world is an island. It is germane to note that international cooperation in the areas of political, economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific and technological skills remains paramount for international economy or economic growth. It is, however, worthwhile to note that international economic growth can only thrive in comparative advantages of various countries of the world. The world is said to be global village. The politics of globalization has come to stay. George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky, define globalization as “the spread of worldwide practices, relations, consciousness, and organization of social life. Nearly every nation and the lives of billions of people throughout the world are being transformed, often quite dramatically by globalization”.²¹ Globalization presupposes social change and even development in order to guarantee the political, cultural,

and economic liberalization of countries of the world. As Maduabuchi Dukor rightly observed:

Globalization is skeptically viewed as another phase of political and economic neo-colonialism. Enculturation and acculturation are out of the question because they are supposedly tentacles of imperialism. But globalization ideally is the philosophy of a cosmopolitan city that benefits all races; no centre and periphery nations, where every race match up and down without fear or favour in the global express ways and village; where multiculturalism, plurality and diversity diffuse the problems of racism, ethnicity and gender. Globalization in the sense of real and even development is predicated on intercultural philosophy. As mankind look up to the social change called globalization to embrace, there are, however, many years of apprehensions, some of the foremost which are ethnic and race identities, self-preservation, racial pride and survival, political and economic sovereignty, self-determination, cultural and religious freedom.²²

Furthermore, the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics calls for a concerted effort by countries all over the world to synergize and cooperate in finding lasting cure and solution to the Covid 19 pandemics ravaging the whole world. A conceptual analysis of globalization should be re-defined and should not be mis-construed as a “hegemonic ideological phenomenon. It is not correlative with what Kez Ugbor Gabriel calls global hegemonic Whiteness”.²³ Kez Ugbor Gabriel, argues that “globalization equals White oriented transnational power exertion”.²⁴ He sees “the panegyrics of globalization as Western cultural imperialism”.²⁵ Moreover, arguing further, Kez Ugbor Gabriel, however, concludes that:

Globalization presupposes myriad of forms and bases of transnational power exertion, from colonial-capitalist expansion, imperialist state-military power politics, major wars, supra-national organizations, multinational corporations, and social movements, to the old and new technologies of transportation, information and communication. A critical dynamic orchestrating the myriad modes and means of such transnational power exertion is arguably the global articulation and generalization of White racial hegemony, its fortunes and vicissitudes, possibilities and limitations.²⁶

We quite disagree with Kez Ugbor’s position but we, however, posit that globalization is defined from the point of view of holistic humanism and it is predicated on the proclivity of intercultural philosophy. We only agree with him in consonance with the fact that globalization presupposes social change and social movements. As we have earlier observed in this research that globalization embraces or expresses a sort of holistic humanism. For innocent Asouzu:

Our world appears to be caught in a new trend that seeks to enthrone a new form of humanism that bridges the differences between human beings in all spheres of life. A concept that best captures this trend and some of the ideals driving it is the idea of globalization. Fundamentally, globalization seeks to express a sort of universal humanism designed to make the world a better place for all based on equal opportunities, rights and privileges. It is an attempt at eradicating all forms of injustice and at encouraging mutual support among communities, peoples, and nations.²⁷

Finally, with the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics, countries all over the world ought to use the instrumentality of globalization to address the global challenge of the Covid 19 pandemic through mutual support and the alternative approach of holistic humanism. The Covid 19 pandemic has given the world a new form of consciousness by ensuring the coalition of mutual interests among countries of the world. Globalization as the normative basis of holistic humanism, social movement and intercultural philosophy should be used as a viable alternative or platform for addressing the global challenge of the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic, ecological challenges, fundamentalist movements or terrorism and terror and global food crises.

Historical Implication

The Covid 19 pandemics in Nigeria and its ravaging effects in the world had its historical trajectory. We may conclude or wonder that history is repeating itself. There is the general assumption that history is sequential and cyclical. In the light of the above, there have been pandemics in the past, present and even in the future. Man ought to put some measures in place to prevent or reduce to its barest minimum the effects of future pandemics. Throughout human history, nothing has killed human beings more than infectious diseases. According to a BBC reporter, Bryan Walsh, "throughout history, nothing has killed more human beings than infectious diseases. Covid 19 shows how we can avoid similar pandemics in the future".²⁸ The emergence of the Covid 19 as a global pandemic involves a new respiratory diseases; these include coughing, and sneezing. It has been predicted that more than 560, 000 people would die in America alone as a result of the Covid 19 pandemics. According to the BBC Future report, "Covid 19 marks the return of a very old-and familiar-enemy. Throughout history, nothing has killed more than human beings than the viruses, bacteria and parasites that cause diseases. Not natural disasters like earthquakes or volcanoes. Not war-not even close".²⁹ History has it that the Indian tsunami disaster that took place in 2004 was reported to be one of the deadliest in world history. The Wikipedia Encyclopedia reported that the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also known as the Boxing Day tsunami)

occurred on 26th December. It was reported that the earthquake was caused by a rupture along the fault between the Burma plate and the Indian plate. The casualties was reported to be 227, 898 dead.

Furthermore, in the course of history, we have also had in the past about the Spanish influenza and catastrophe as it were can change or upset the course of history and our humanity. Pandemics can cause an economic damage to world history. According to Bryan Walsh, it has been reported that “some 50 to 100 million people have died in the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemics. The 1918 Spanish influenza virus infected one in every three people on the planet. It has been observed that today, epidemics are rarely discussed in history classes, in the not so distant past/time, they were simply terrible fact of life”.³⁰ As Bryan Walsh rightly observed, that “the historian, Alfred Crosby was the author of *“American Forgotten Pandemics”*, one of the great books on the 1918 Spanish Influenza”.³¹ For Bryan Walsh, “what makes viruses so different to outsmart is the interacting nature of human beings in a manner that moves from handshake to sexual intercourse; in this process, human beings tend to move the microbes with them”.³² The BBC Future reporter, Bryan Walsh posits that “the number of infectious diseases like Sars, HIV and Convid 19 has increased by nearly fourfold over the past century”.³³ The novel Corona virus is assumed to be one of the greatest threats to global economy and public health. Finally, Bryan Walsh concludes that our global health care systems should have “the surge capacity to meet the next pandemics”.³⁴

Psychological Implication

It is however, germane to note that many people all over the world are very skeptical about the novel Corona virus. Some people believe that the Convid 19 pandemics is real, others do not believe that the Convid 19 pandemics is real. There should be massive or drastic enlightenment of the global pandemics. Serious sensitization of the Convid 19 pandemics should be carried out by all countries of the world. Some people in some quarters believe that the Convid 19 pandemic has a political undertone. Some people are of the opinion that it is a power exertion between American and China as to who becomes the world power. Some people believe that the Corona virus has military underpinning. Many people believe that it has become part of a military strategy to create a virus for the purpose of world war. Viruses have killed many soldiers and peoples than the power of the gun or war machines which are mainly operated by human beings. Secondly, one major implication of the Convid 19

pandemics is that many people will eventually reject or refuse any vaccine if one is finally discovered due to their religious beliefs.

Biological Implication

Human beings are biologically constrained by certain viruses. Human beings have been battling with malaria, HIV/AIDS, small pox, measles, Sars, and more recently Corona virus disease. The novel Corona virus also has a biological implication. It has been observed that the aged people all over the world are the most vulnerable to the global pandemics. It has been observed that the younger population in the world seemed not to be vulnerable like the aged ones in the global contemporary society. The reason why the aged people are the most vulnerable, it is because their immune system has eventually dropped or weakened. The aged people have been advised to isolate themselves from the vulnerability of the Covid 19 pandemics.

Government Efforts And Arising Contradictions

The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics has brought to the attention of various countries all over the world to combat the spread of the Corona virus disease. Many countries put drastic measures in place to combat the Covid 19 pandemics. Nigeria as a country is not an exception to this global challenge. The measures put in place include; keeping a safe distance from others; covering of mouth and nose with mask; washing of hands often and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home; temperature checks; restrictions on social gatherings; closing down of private and public schools, Mosques and Churches. People are advised not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth and cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow or tissue. Banking institutions are allowed to render services to the peoples with strict Covid 19 guidelines. Government efforts also include the treatment of Covid 19 patients at various isolation centres/ general hospital; international partnership/cooperation with the World Banks, African Development Banks, World Health Organizations and other international agencies; international ties with China, United States of America, and other countries of the world; closing down of motor parks, international airports, markets, shopping malls and stores. The Nigerian government also adopts the measure of ensuring inter-state lockdown or restrictions on human movements across the 36 states of the Federation including the Federal Capital Territory. The Nigerian government also guaranteed the provisions of palliatives to cushion the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, but the issue of the palliatives as organized by

the Nigerian government was quite controversial because it was argued that politicians and their cronies hijacked the whole exercise of the palliative measures.

Furthermore, one fundamental problems or arising contradictions that is heralded by the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic is lack of statistical data. The Nigerian government is faced with the inability to address the availability of statistical data to address the fundamental problems facing Nigeria as a nation. Secondly, the Nigerian peoples are not given adequate information with regard to the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemics. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) did not really live up to expectations. Another arising contradiction during the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic is the poor conditions of general hospitals across the country. Many Nigerian government hospitals and other primary health care centres lack modern equipment to match up with global best practices. Many people believe that the Covid 19 pandemic is characterized by certain corrupt practices. One fundamental problem that is associated with the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic is lack of adequate social welfare for the Nigerian peoples. What characterizes the fate of many Nigerians is the poor condition of their standard of living. Many Nigerian families are currently facing abject poverty or economic depravity. What characterizes the Nigerian situation is that, the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer.

Evaluation

Having critically examined the conceptual analysis of the Covid 19 pandemics and politics in Nigeria vis a vis government efforts and its arising contradictions, we have strongly observed that the Nigerian government should strengthen its health care system. There ought to be the political will to tackle the pandemic ravaging the country and the whole world. The rights of the Nigerian peoples to good health care facilities should be respected. Government is meant for the living and not the dead. The Nigerian nation-state should embark on a massive enlightenment or sensitization of the Nigerian peoples with regard to their health. The hydra headed nature of corruption in every facet of the Nigerian institutions should be addressed holistically. Corruption is all pervading, endemic and systemic in Nigeria. Government hospitals should be adequately equipped with modern equipment. There should be adequate funding of government hospitals. The problems of fraud, mismanagement, incessant doctors' strikes, ghost workers, abandoned projects should be eradicated by the Nigerian government. For Thomas Paine, the whole essence of government is "to render government more conducive to the general happiness of mankind".³⁵ For Thomas Paine,

“government is nothing more than a national association; and the object of this association is the good of all, as well individually as collectively. Every man wishes to pursue his occupation, and to enjoy the fruits of his labours and the produce of his property in peace and safety, and with the least possible expense. When these things are accomplished, all the objects for which government ought to be established are answered”.³⁶ According to Thomas Paine, “government is not a trade which any man, or any body of men, has a right to set up and exercise for his own emolument, but is altogether a trust in right of those by whom the trust is delegated, and by whom it is always resumable. It has of itself no rights, they are altogether duties”.³⁷ The issue of corruption in Nigeria is a fundamental problem. As Ike Odimegwu rightly observed in his book, *“Philosophic Foundations of Politics”*, “fundamental problem requires fundamental solutions”.³⁸ In addition, the pandemics, however, ought not to create unnecessary panic among the populace in Nigeria. This unnecessary panic or arising contradictions can be avoided or mitigated by the Nigerian government if there is accountability and transparency among government officials. Government refers to a group of people who are responsible for controlling a country or a state.³⁹ The principle of government reflects the normative possibility of justice, law and order.

Consequently, human and environmental relationship should be approached from a progressive, holistic and humanistic perspective. Man has a role to play in the whole drama of the sustainability of the ecological system. As Phillip Isanbor and Anthony Bature rightly observed, “one does not talk about environmental development without recourse to the activities of man himself on whom the whole systems depend upon”.⁴⁰ The discourse on pandemics cannot be distant from environmental sustainability and the integrated management of the world’s ecological system. We have poisoned the world and we have intentionally upset our natural communities in a way that is affecting mankind. We have destabilized the balance of the ecosystem and the natural forces of the earth-air, land, water, plants and animals. Man’s inter-personal relationship and his interaction with the world have become very complicated or complex and unstable. The principle that shapes his universe and society has been in a disorganized state. A decisive step ought to be taken to address these fundamental challenges facing man and his world. Man has produced nuclear weapon to destroy himself. The production of nuclear weapon has become a threat to our humanity. For Ekiyor Welson and David Boro, a nuclear weapon is a lot of free energy but in the wrong

hands it is a threat to humanity.⁴¹ Man should see the environment and the planet as his common home.

Concluding Remarks

This paper is aimed at meaningfully evaluating the Covid 19 pandemics and politics in Nigeria and its arising contradictions as it affects Nigeria in particular and the world at large. The Covid 19 pandemic reveals a contemporary call for the quest for environmental sustainability and ecological management. Having critically examined the conceptual frameworks of pandemic and politics along the line of the Nigerian milieu, we observed that a pandemic is a disease that can usually spread across the length and breadth of the globe. Pandemics are usually endemic, catastrophic and viral. A conceptual analysis of pandemic and politics in Nigeria has some serious political, economic, social, environmental, religious and global implications. However, apart from these implications, there are arising contradictions that emanate from weak government efforts in combating the Covid 19 pandemics. These include the nature of systemic corruption in Nigeria, lack of statistical data, poor health facilities, weak government institutions, and inaccurate information. This research paper observed that the pandemics has caused myriad of implications. There is economic hardship currently experienced by many people all over the world. This paper has been able to navigate through the murky waters of the politics that is playing out by the Nigerian government as a result of the emergence of the Corona virus disease (Covid 19). Government ought to strengthen its efforts in order to avoid these arising contradictions. These include equipping our health facilities in Nigeria such as general hospitals and primary health care; there ought to be provisions for social welfare for the masses in Nigeria. There ought to be adequate and accurate information in order to sensitize and not to mislead or misinform the Nigerian peoples.

Furthermore, the pandemic in Nigeria and in other parts of the world ought not to be characterized by corruption, internal contradictions, fear, confusion and politics. The pandemics ought not to create unnecessary panic among the populace in Nigeria. This unnecessary panic or arising contradictions can be avoided or mitigated by the Nigerian government if there is the political will, accountability and transparency among government officials.

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ENDNOTES

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