

Covid-19 pandemic and the increasing level of uncertainty.

By Suru Ojo David

It is inevitable for countries to experience downturns as a regular part of their economies' ebb and flow.

But, the novel Corona virus, or Covid-19, has put the global economy into chaos and many global citizens at a high level of uncertainty. It has led to the closure of nonessential businesses and a rapidly growing unemployment rate that is not the result of the natural economic order.

Doctors and scientists are racing to develop a vaccine for Covid-19 or SARS-coV -2 treatment or both. In America, human trial is slated to begin in middle of May, but widespread use might take another year or even longer. And governments all over the world have embarked on different measures to mitigate the pandemic's impacts, but they are also short on solutions.

Increasing death tolls and lockdown extensions exist amidst a high level of fear and uncertainty as to when the economy will reopen. .

Recession and depressions are unavoidable even in developed countries that have put palliative measures in place to bolster their economies.

So, what then is the fate of African nations?

In Nigeria, the government recently announced the extension of its lockdown by another two weeks, leaving the majority of her citizens in limbo without any concrete economic relief package for a country of over 200 million people.

Listening to President Buhari's speech yesterday, 13th of April 2020, I realized that we need to do more in terms of governance as a nation if we want to win the war against inequality, poverty, unemployment and improved standard of living. Especially now.

Nigeria has recorded over 300 COVID-19 cases and 10 deaths and there's no assurance that the curve will be flattened anytime soon.

The President stated that the intervention program rolled out by the Government is to cater for 3.6 million households- just 1.8% of over 200 million people.

This leads to questions.

Where are the various donations made by well-meaning Nigerians and borrowings from international organizations (which has led to increased debt)?

How has the Government expended billions of naira donations to feed 3.6 million households for the extended 14 days, having fed 2.6 million during the first two weeks of lockdown?

Where are the blueprints of how they intend to proffer medical/scientific solutions to the increasing number of cases experienced daily?

Besides lockdown and social distancing, what measures have the government taken to combat the virus?

What is the credibility and integrity of Government officials when it comes to their accountability to their citizens? Nigerians have been the sole providers of basic amenities.

Are they testing?

Do we have the needed equipment?

These questions remain unanswered as Nigerians continue to endure a lockdown in hunger and poor security for their lives and properties.

However, we must uphold our high spirits and be hopeful that we can look forward to the government investing more in public health and services so we can embrace a new normal that is more secure for all.