

The Covid 19 Pandemic Management and the "Follow the Money Theory of Security"

There are two reasons people steal. They are NEED and/or GREED. They steal to secure their lives. This is borne out of need. They steal because the opportunities to steal exist and/or because everyone with the opportunity is stealing. This is borne out of greed.

People steal because governance and government is insensitive, inadequate or failing to provide and create opportunity for them through growing the economy.

Governance is not working effectively and efficiently to meet the growing needs of most Nigerians for wellbeing or security. So, people steal money for their wellbeing or security. They steal to access food, shelter, health, infrastructures etc. These are the items that SECURE or constitute SECURITY. With money in your pocket, one can have access to most if not all of these items.

Please look no further for the reason those who can steal. They steal money for their security or wellbeing. Examine every act of stealing in the public sector of Nigeria and the conclusion is that those that steal money do so to SECURE their lives and those of their families. They steal because there is no today and no tomorrow for them.

Therefore any proposed security policy legislation that overlooks this Nigerian and indeed universal fact or that which I conceptualised as Nigeria's History, Experience and Reality (HER) in its making is doomed to fail. Security is wellbeing and wellbeing or security is guaranteed with the possession of money - plenty money in the pocket.

In the last twenty years of representative rule enabling environment, the significance of security or wellbeing and the need to change the authoritarian enabling environment perspective of security as guns and boots has upped the scale. Nigeria's legislatures have not woken up to the urgent reality of setting the legislative direction of what should be security, whose security, what should be a security issue and how should security be achieved or the policy and strategy of security within the context of the renewable mandate enabling environment.

In the last twenty years, the scale of deprivation has been increasing. In the last five years, deprivation heightened exponentially consolidating the country's designation as the poverty capital of the world. Correspondingly, the quest for wellbeing or security amongst all and sundry particularly the elite with the means has taken on the character of warfare with different battle fields.

The current battle ground is the management of Covid 19 pandemic at the federal and states levels. The money trail is with the managers of Covid 19 and the enabling environments of the pandemic at the federal and states levels. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, the Presidential Task Force on Covid 19, the palliatives running into trillions of naira purportedly spent, the fire at Accountant General's office, the over N13 billion school feeding programme with schools closed, the affairs of the ministry of humanitarian affairs, foreign and private sector donations etc. at the federal level; and at the states are various money guzzling measures instituted by the executives including fumigation of towns etc. This is the latest battle ground for security or the pursuit of wellbeing for those opportune to be in this sector.

Even the so-called de-facto "security" or the Military, Intelligence and Law Enforcement (MILE) are in hot pursuit of money, money that guaranteed wellbeing or security, the *raison de'tre* for the men and women that enlisted into the services. The latest example where the MILE set up shop, in the pursuit of wellbeing or security, is the border of Nasarawa state and the Federal Capital Territory. This is the town of Nyanya.

Most if not every "security", representing the military, the intelligence and the law enforcement wings, is represented, involved and present in this border town. The strategy of operation targets the 8 pm curfew when movement is restricted. A deliberate gridlock is orchestrated and begins to build up every 6pm in the evening to climax at 8pm when the payment of money or security to these officials in order to buy passage begins. This is making money at its best.

This money is the ultimate security that the MILE elite know and understand even as they have been pushing the failed and failing guns and boots down the throats of most Nigerians as security.

Money is the ONLY guarantee to accessing most if not all the good things that makes life and living enjoyable. Ask the farmer and the herders, the hired groups turned bandits that were sponsored and abandoned by the political class, the kidnappers etc.

Security is Money. Money is Security. Most Nigerians know and understand this language. This is the language their elite know, understand, keep close to their heart and are in serial denial to admit publicly.

Still searching for a Nigerian philosophy of security? Follow the stolen/missing/illegal/false accounting Money Trail in the public sector.

For this moment, follow the management of Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria's public sector.

