



EDITORIAL COMMENTS

THE RAMPAGING COVID-19: AN ENACTMENT OF POTENTIAL WARS BETWEEN NATURE AND MAN

Nwaopara A.O. PhD, FIIA, FISSCIR

Managing Editor, Anthonio Research Publications

INTRODUCTION

At some point, the tragedies associated with the novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) were restricted to *Wuhan* in the *Hubei* Province of China. As such, many assumed that its ravaging effect was China-bound”. The mainstream media houses buzzed with the news of the virus, amidst transparency queries on the handling of the virus by Chinese authorities, and a barrage of fake news publications on social media platforms. But the World Health Organization (WHO) threaded cautiously and in phases, provided information on the severity levels of the epidemic, until developments influenced her decision to declare it a ‘pandemic’.

The declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, triggered global lockdown with the issuance of restriction orders on all interactive human activities by government authorities. As a result, the economy of several countries went into recession. Crude oil prices crashed and countries dependent on its revenues became broke. Businesses became threatened with job losses amidst rallying efforts to provide palliatives and economic stimuli.

Shockingly, as at the time panic levels in other continents peaked, Africans were grand-standing, arguing that the viral infection is not an African problem. Some confidently asserted that the distance between Wuhan China and Africa, was comforting enough since geographically, Africa is far from China. They reasoned also that the climatic conditions of Africa, is in itself, a protective shield for Africans, particularly the intensity of the heat from the sun in most parts of Africa. These assertions were sandwiched in several prophetic proclamations and conspiracy theories about the pandemic.

As expected, the virus broke down the supposed continental boundaries; taking advantage of the

rebellious and insatiable nature of man and his quest to travel and explore. Hence the reactive but seemingly too late decision by ‘doubting Thomas’ governments to take action and curtail the spread of a virus that has shutdown human activities and caused the loss of so many lives.

As at this day, the fear of the virus is responsible for the deserted tourist destinations, sporting stadia, hotels, cinemas, markets, schools, churches and mosques. Yet, the lock down measures, though well intended, have not been able to curtail the spread of the virus, as the microbe is also taking advantage of all flawed human tendencies including lawlessness, recklessness, selfishness.

Most disheartening are the reports that die-hard corrupt politicians in several countries are viewing COVID-19 pandemic as an auspicious opportunity to loot public treasury, while pretending to be in the forefront of the fight against the virus. In fact, on socio-media platforms are several yet-to-be verified viral videos showing shameful and flawed distribution of palliatives to needy populations and the highhandedness of lawless security operatives, amidst official lies and cove-ups by constituted authorities.

Reflecting therefore on previous world pandemics, it is obvious that in the future, we will surely be confronted by another microbial attack, with its attendant exposition of man’s inadequacies such as his mortality, limited knowledge, conspiratorial tendencies, utter negligence, greed, corruption and leadership failures, amidst his survival instincts as depicted over the decades by his scientific resilience and evolutionary transformations. It is quite obvious that as long as man relentlessly continues to explore his environment without due caution, nature would relentlessly also, continue to teach him lessons for posterity sake. COVID-19 is indeed nature’s way of re-enacting potential wars between man and nature.

