

# PCS 208 ASSIGNMENT

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The **NMA**( Nigerian Medical Association) is responsible for the promotion of the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent and tries to carry out this mission by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities, and promotion of optimal health.

The article clearly states that the government intends to invite the Chinese doctors into the Country, to help the situation of the fast spreading pandemic in the Country.

The Nigerian Medical Association( NMA) expresses its

huge disaffection towards the government's decision. It views this as an embarrassment to the Country as we are not able to take care of our own problems ourselves. It also views "lack of Personal Productive Equipment (PPE), grossly inadequate test kits and test centers across the Country and the absolute form of any form of insurance for the workforce are primordial issues begging for attention at this time". This statement simply means that all these problems have been present in Nigeria for a very long time and is not a recent issue. (Primordialism)

The current situation of the epidemic which we have found ourselves in, is enough reason for the State to take active measures in improving this situation rather than inviting Chinese doctors ( who haven't even escaped this

pandemic completely in their Country) to help tackle the COVID- 19 issue.

The NMA claims that it has put in a lot of effort in controlling this pandemic and inviting Chinese doctors over would automatically mean all their work and efforts have been useless. It described the government's move as a thing of embarrassment to members of the NMA and other health workers who have put their best in controlling this pandemic .

At this point, it is safe to say that the NMA feels **relatively deprived**. The government is preventing the NMA from enjoying what its ordinarily entitled to. It is the right of the NMA to treat patients. It's practically their job and the NMA obviously didn't ask the government for help from Chinese doctors.

The association just wants the government to provide necessary

equipments to efficiently treats patients. The association also feel the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria should have been consulted to grant necessary approvals to foreigners to interact with Nigerian patients.

It is a prevalent fact that the government and the NMA are at conflict, though not escalated, but at the latent stage. I say this because Conflict is defined as the sort of relationship which exists between individuals or group of individuals who have or think they have incompatible goals. The NMA and the government clearly have incompatible goals: the government wants to invite Chinese doctors over to help the COVID 19 outbreak, but the NMA is strongly disapproving of the government's decision. The NMA feels the government's decision is a "misplaced priority" adding that

“ they would instead, urge the Federal government to review and approve better welfare incentives to the front line medical personnel, the opening and equipping more isolation centers and health facilities across the Country is an excellent first step”

According to the NMA president, Faduyile. He thinks that there are a lot of good medical practitioners in Nigeria who are either unemployed or underemployed who could be recruited to help tackle the situation, rather than bringing foreigners who are not familiar with the Country’s culture, terrain and peculiar challenges. The NMA is agitated and has as well mobilized its members to see reasons why they must rebel against the decision of the government and also ‘table

certain demands to address the salient issues' ( **consciousness and agitation**)

The members of the NMA also feel they have been doing quite well in treating patients and preventing the pandemic from spreading as they have managed to cure a fair number of people of COVID 19. Recently, about 11 patients were discharged from the hospital.

The main problem here is that Nigeria is facing serious disaffections right now due to primordial issues ( **primordialism**) : lack of efficient kits, equipments and tools to enable the health agencies perform their roles efficiently and these issues need to be solved first, before other things can come in place, but the government doesn't seem to see things this way.

Also, from the **functionalist theory**, it is said that the society is made up of different institutions and who have certain functions that contribute to the survival of the system as whole. The same way the organs of the body have functions which are necessary for the body's survival. It also views that the society has different parts and when one part malfunctions, the other part works twice as hard to compensate the work stability. However, this is not the case in this current situation as the NMA cannot fully work at a 100% due to the lack of necessary amenities and the government in this situation is meant to work twice as hard to support the NMA. The NMA supports donations of equipments and supplies, arguing that even developed countries receive support.