

NAME:Omiete Ben Jack

MATRIC NUMBER:

18/SMS04/014

COURSE CODE: CMS 204

COURSE TITLE:

SPECIALIZED

REPORTING

ASSIGNMENT/TEST: AN

ARTICLE

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLIFERATION OF FAKE NEWS, DODGY HEALTH ADVISE AND FAKE CURES OF COVID 19.

Over the years, 80% of the masses has had a strong belief that every information gotten from the internet is true. Most researchers on fake news have emerged with unconfirmed information put up by individuals via social media on the internet. Thus, the spread of fake news is on the increase as 8 out of every 10 persons have access to the internet and are exposed to one social media platform or the other.

A major example of fake news can be traced to the rumour which started on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April via a tweet by Kemi Olunloyo, a pharmacist who now claimed to be an investigative journalist. She tweeted that 'a high ranking member of president Buhari's cabinet has DIED from coronavirus complications'. Her followers swallowed it

hook, line and sinker. By midnight, it was recorded over 5,600 retweets and 9,700 likes. In other words, the presidential spokesman Femi Adesina, in text, dismissed the tweet as fake news. He stated that 'It is not true that Abba Kyari, the chief of staff to Muhammadu Buhari is dead. Those that are behind that rumours are vicious and heartless. I remain opposed to the Buhari's administration but to wish or proclaim someone dead simply because you disagree with him politically is unacceptable', he tweeted.

As the US and the world hunkers down to slow the spread of the Novel virus, some virus related conspiracy theories are having a heyday. Specifically, a conspiratorial false claim that 5G technology is linked to COVID-19 gained ground, accelerating from obscurity into the rattled mainstream by way of conspiracy theorists who'd been chattering about 5G conspiracies for years. While there is scientific consensus around the basic medical realities of covid-19, researchers are still filling in the gaps on a virus that no one knew existed five months ago.

Thus, researchers are working to develop a

vaccine for the new virus but theoretical papers on unproven cures have sparked confusion among some of the public. Some of these cures are the use of Chloroquine(an anti-malaria medication which has a side effect >>ITCHING<<), Garlic (although the World Health Organization says it contains some antimicrobial properties but it hasn't been officially proven to be a cure), Heat and avoiding cold things(well, on some social media platforms, it is stated that the virus cant survive in heat. So, people are advised to drink hot water, taking hot baths and avoiding cold things like ice cream or cold water and they claim that it is UNICEF who advised the mass but apparently UNICEF debunked the news by stating that.. there hasn't been any form of evidence about the virus not surviving in heat). There are other unproven cures like; Miracle minerals, Drinkable silver, honey, lime and so many more. Although, an advisable way is just to boost our immune systems with vitamins.

In other words, there are still other false conspiracy theories in relations to the virus. Some conspiracies are seen as 'religious' in nature due to the fact that most pastors

enlighten their members about the virus being a sign of the end time, some say it is a plague from God while others say it is an anti-christ operation. Unfortunately we forget the fact that God is a mysterious being and we give a blind eye to the obvious reason for this virus which is an initiation from the Asians and we can see this as a result for power domination(some say).

Reference sources:

- >>Google.com(the main search engine)
- >>TechCrunch.com
- >>www.chanelnewsasia.com
- >>PmnewsNigeria.com