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1. Firstly, public expenditure can be defined as the spending made by the government of a country on collective needs and wants such as pensions, provision, infrastructure, etc. Population growth is the increase in the number of individuals in a population. Many nations with rapid population growth have low standards of living, whereas many nations with low rates of population growth have high standards of living.

As the population increases, the government will have change and update their national budget because the more people that are in a region state or country, the more resources are being used. Whether we like it or not, there will be need to build more facilities, infrastructures and provide more basic necessities to increase and improve their standards of living and thus leading to the increase in public expenditure.

We see an expansion of geographical area of almost all countries. Even in non-man’s land one finds the activities of the modern government. Assuming a fixed sixe of a country, developing world has seen an enormous increase in population growth. This also followed Wagner’s Law, as the national income rises, the demand of the people will also rise including public goods will rise, which as a consequence pushes the public expenditure up. With rise in per capita income, public provision of consumer goods also rises. Consequently, in Nigeria, the expansion in administration activities of the government ( like defence , police and judiciary) has resulted in a growth of public expenditures in the areas.

While on the other hand, the government has been undertaking various development projects such as irrigation, iron and steel, heavy machinery, power, telecommunications, etc. the development programmes require a lot of capital and revenue expenditure. Industrialization and setting up key and basic industries requires a lot of capital and profit may arise only in the LONG RUN. It is the government that will start such industries in a planned economy. Nigeria needs a strong network of infrastructure including transportation, communication, power, fuel, etc. The public sector has created that strong infrastructure as a support base for our industrial sector by investing huge capital. The government with this has improved the railway, air and sea transport but has also expanded them manifold.

Nigeria has constantly been having deficit spending over the years without equivalent rate of economic growth and development. It has been fluctuating for some years, the sources of these shocks may not be clear:

In the 2010, expenditure of general government increased by 15.3% from the level of 2009. As a proportion of GDP, it represented 28.45 as compared with 28.8% in 2009, while the growth rate of GDP was 7.9% which exceeded the 7.0% recorded in 2009and average annual growth of 6.7% but lower than the target growth rate of 10%for the year.(CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA 2010)

In 2014, Edame studied and found out that urbanization, government, revenue, population density, external reserves, and type of government jointly or individually influence public expenditure on infrastructure in Nigeria. ( ADEBAYO ADEBUSUYI AND ISHOLA 2014).

Therefore I will conclude that public expenditure increase as population increases and public expenditure increases as the country develops applies in Nigeria.

**b. CORRUPTION.**

Before I start my discussion, I want to define the term CORRUPTION. Corruption can be defined as a dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery. It can also be the process by which a word or expression is changed from its original state to one regarded as erroneous or debased.

Corruption is now a plague affecting Nigeria, it increases in accordance to the growth of the nation. There have been so many fight and demonstration to eradicate corruption in Nigeria but it looks as if the more protest Nigeria makes the more the level of corruption in Nigeria continues to increase in Nigeria. The major causes of corruption in Nigeria could be as a result of low standard of living in Nigeria, level of greed among the people of Nigeria also have a significant effect on the level of corruption in Nigeria.

Corruption could be the major cause of crises in Nigeria such crisis include terrorist attacks (Boko Haram), most of these terrorist are from a very poor background, you imagine a poor man being offered a huge amount of money to drop a bomb in a particular area in Nigeria, such a man will willingly accept the offer because he doesn’t have anything and the government are not trying to help at all. The destruction of properties and infrastructures by terrorists increases the level of poverty in Nigeria. For instance,take the attack on churches and other business areas in Kaduna in the month of June 2012, properties were destroyed, families were homeless , it became difficult for them to afford one square meal a day. Another major cause is greed, there is so much greed among Nigerians. Everyone wishes to live a good and healthy life and enjoy the luxury of what life has to offer. But this has a negative impact on the mindset of the people especially those in the federal government parastatals of Nigeria. The fight against corruption seems to be endless because the more force that is used to eradicate corruption, it grows stronger. Up till now, Nigeria is still trying to recover the money looted by the former president of Nigeria, General Sani Abacha. The former governor of Benue state was caught by the EFCC of Nigeria with a huge amount of money which he claimed to be the money set aside for the purchase of foreign pigs for the agricultural development of Benue state. When the leaders are corrupt, how can the people looking up to them be accountable? The fight and protest for the eradication of corruption should start from the leaders of Nigeria. Due to corruption, it has led to so many challenges.

Corruption perpetuates economic, social and political inequality and thus aggravates mass poverty as poor people on the average pay higher proportion of their incomes in bribes. This in economic parlance, retards economic growth. The misappropriation and mismanagement of public resources by successive regimes, has rendered millions of Nigerians poor, unemployed and uneducated. This can be described as oil the worsen factors related to overall human development. In the words of Osoba (1996), it is an anti-social behavior conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermines the authorities to improve the living conditions of the people.

It has also diverted public expenditure from sectors that benefit the poor the most, away to the sectors and project where kick-backs can readily be obtained by public officials. In effect, distorted priorities of public policies and diversion of public resources which could have been productively employed to increase productivity bring about effectiveness and efficiency of government performance become the order of the day. Corruption also bring about reduction in quality of goods and services available to the public some companies could cut corners by permitting the least efficient contractor or most costly supplier with the highest ability to bribe those who award government contracts or awarding contracts to cronies or companies where they have interest. Corruption has brought about a negative impact on efficient mobilization and management of humans and material resources.

Even with all this challenges that Nigeria is facing, there are solutions.

There can be the introduction or the launching national reorientation programmes to educate people on the negative impacts and the need to eradicate corruption in all facets of Nigerian’s public life. MAMSER National Orientation Agency, War Against Indiscipline. These are some of the steps or programmes or agencies that are used to tackle corruption. There can also be the use of moral regeneration which involves value re-orientation that de-emphasizes the use of money or wealth for recognition and relevance and political contest. It must be curtailed and discouraged. Also with the use of equitable wages and a well suitable system and improve other conditions of work so that the level of poverty could be reduced and the quality of life improved. Lastly, government should go beyond the mere pronouncement of anti-corruption policies. It should provide good governance and an enabling environment for democratic ideals to thrive.

**2.**

**GOVERNMENT FAILURE**

Government intervention to resolve market failures, and to manage the macroeconomy, can fail to achieve a socially efficient allocation of resources. Government failure is commonly defined as a situation where government intervention in the economy creates inefficiency and leads to a misallocation scarce resources. It does not occur when government action creates winners and losers, making some people better off and others worse off than they would be without governmental regulation. It occurs only when governmental action creates an inefficient outcome, where efficiency would otherwise exist. There are so many scenarios that government failure has occurred, they include:

##### **Distortion of the price mechanism**

Intervention through taxation, through subsidisation, or via other interventions can result in a distortion of markets and a weakening of the operation of the price mechanism. Taxes and subsidies on goods and services can artificially raise or lower prices and distort how markets work to allocate scarce resources.

[**Direct taxation**](https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Managing_the_economy/The_public_sector.html) can create a disincentive effect for households and firms. We have seen that taxes on harmful [**demerit goods**](https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Market_failures/Demerit_goods.html), where demand is inelastic, may simply mean that more income is allocated to expenditure on harmful goods, and hence less income is available for spending on beneficial goods.

The same is possible with the imposition of a minimum price, such as the one on alcohol, where spending is distorted with the consumer allocating more income to alcohol rather than less.

##### 2. **Costs of administration**

Excessive bureaucracy is also a potential government failure. This is caused by the public sector when it tries to solve the principal-agent problem. Government must appoint bureaucrats to ensure that its objectives are pursued by the managers of public sector organizations, such as the NHS.

Intervention through the imposition of taxes or through legislation incurs various administration costs. Taxes must be collected through government departments, including [**Her Majesty’s Customs and Excise**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs) (HMRC) and laws must be enforced through the legal system. Both of these incur considerable costs.

##### 3. **Imperfect knowledge**

Information failure is also an issue for governments, given that government and policy makers do not necessarily ‘know’ enough to enable them to make effective decisions about the best way to allocate scarce resources.

Government intervention requires decisions to be made about the degree of intervention and its timing. In order to prevent or reduce market failures, tax rates need to be set and level of subsidies and minimum prices must be decided. However, governments and agencies do not have access to all the knowledge that it required to set the necessary rate or level to achieve the desired outcome. For example, if the government wishes to get 3 million students to attend university each year it may decide to subsidize tuition fees, but it is highly unlikely that it could achieve such a target with precision.

Many economists believe in the efficient market hypothesis, which assumes that the market will always contain more information than any individual or government. The implication is that market prices and market movements should be free from interference because markets cannot be improved upon by individuals or governments.

##### 4. **Law of unintended consequences**

Finally, and related to the idea of information gaps, is idea that intervention can result in outcomes which were entirely unplanned and unpredicted. Traffic calming measures may encourage drivers to speed up in areas or stretches of roads between speed bumps, cameras or warning signs – with a result that ‘average’ speeds increase. This resulted in new systems which track average speeds. However, in an average speed area drivers may drive a below the speed limit so that they can speed up along other parts of the journey.

When assessing any intervention in the micro or macro economy government failures are a common source of evaluation points.

**b.** As a social crusader and a scientist, I support the gesture. Let me begin by saying that HEALTH IS WEALTH. We must first take care of our well being and also care for the well being of others. The Nigerian economy and all other economies around the world will also see the negative effects of the action but it is better to be health and fix the problem when the virus has being exterminated than to be sick and infect others and the problem will not be solved either ways. Once the virus infects someone a host it takes some time for the virus to make enough copies of itself that the host begins to shed the virus, through coughs or sneezes, for instance. (That's the way the host helps the virus spread to other people who are then new hosts.) This is the virus' incubation period. For us hosts, it's generally the time between when we're first infected and when we start shedding the virus, which may be a little before we start experiencing symptoms. For the virus that causes COVID-19 — its official name is SARS-CoV-2 — [researchers have found](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/32150748) that the typical incubation period is about five days. About 97% of the people who get infected and develop symptoms will do so within 11 to 12 days, and about 99% will within 14 days. So that 14-day quarantine is being considered the outside "safety" margin, to be certain you haven't developed an infection that you could spread to others.

With two similar viruses, SARS and MERS, the incubation periods are a little shorter, with most people developing symptoms within 10 days. Those viruses also had a higher proportion of people experiencing more severe symptoms, which made it easier to define the end of the "safety" window.

There's a big open question with the corona virus that makes these quarantine recommendations trickier than usual: It's not yet clear how common it is for people who are infected but not showing symptoms — at least not yet — to shed the virus. That answer has been particularly tough to nail down in the U.S. because testing for COVID-19 is not yet widespread. So imagine if the Nigerian government allows people to be living their houses and to be going to work on a daily basis, the virus will spread and countless number of people will die. This is why the government has taken the safest route and if we all comply, we will by the grace of God, survive this period. The government during this time is supposed to provide the people with basic necessities like food, water, shelter, electricity and so on in other to take of themselves and their loved ones and also hand sanitizers and face masks for safety precautions. The national budget will receive a massive blow, but if it is for the safety of the people, I think it’s worth it.