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## Poverty And The Role Of The Government In Its Alleviation

Everyone yearns for happiness and all the good things life has to offer but unfortunately, that isn't always achievable. Everyone cannot be satisfied. Nigeria is a rich country blessed with natural resources and the absence of many natural disasters yet our people suffer to make ends meet. Where are all the resources going to? At this point, people have lost all hope and resort to other usually shady means to acquire money. Can our people ever be alleviated from this disease that is poverty?

I hope it is safe to assume that we are all familiar with the saying, "not all fingers are equal." In our world today, we see the rich get richer and lavish in their affluence while the poor get poorer with no impending escape in sight. It is clear, just as this saying implies that not all men are born equal. Religion fills us with the hope of an omniscient grand design, but we see people who are born into poverty and die in poverty. The question now is was God's intention for them to suffer? It is really depressing but this is the world we find ourselves in. In Nigeria, there is poverty all around me. Everywhere I go I see people who struggle to make ends meet. The government instead of working on solutions resorts to blaming its youths and branding them as "lazy". When in actual fact there is a serious deficiency of opportunity in this country. Graduates from university can go years without being able to find jobs. It seems to me as though our government is unaware that it is their job to provide jobs for the youths. We see the unemployment rate spirally alongside crime rates and it is as if the government has shut its ears from the cries of their people. The government should focus on creating more jobs. This may not be the first step to alleviating poverty but it is very necessary if we are to escape from the grasp of poverty.

We have addressed the fact that there are not enough jobs for the educated fraction of Nigeria but we haven't considered the percentage of the country that is actually educated. Illiteracy is a very common thing in our country. Nigerians are unable to get their hands on good, affordable education for their children. Children are then left to work menial jobs to help sustain their families. In other advanced

countries we see them give away free basic and secondary education to their citizens as well as subsidized tertiary educations and student loans. These things are not available in Nigeria. Nigerians in need are unable to get their hands on free education for their children and hence, subject their children to a life of poverty and illiteracy. A solution to this countries illiteracy problem would be for the government to provide the much needed free education to its citizens along with free meals to aid them in their learning process.

The growing amount of people living under the poverty line has giving rise to a lot of things in our country. Amongst these issues, the rapid increase in crime rate is the most pressing of them. We hear it all the time. Crimes are being committed every day. I see no end in sight to all these crimes except the government sits up and takes the bull by the horn. The government must tackle the increase in poverty rate if this country is to move forward.

The imposed lockdown some weeks back due to the corona virus pandemic greatly affected the country as people were no longer allowed to go about their normal businesses. This affected the country's economy as well as exposed the country's weaknesses as it was discovered that a vast majority of the population relies on menial jobs to provide for themselves and their families. There was a lot of protest against the imposed lockdown as many Nigerians had to go the majority of the period hungry due to lack of disposable income. In other countries, palliatives were put in place and stimulus packages were given to citizens to cushion the blow of the sudden lockdown. In Nigeria, our government was incapable of providing adequate palliative to the citizens. There was a sudden outbreak of crime as hungry citizens began to act out. The government should provide more jobs and put the idle workforce to good use. This will not just reduce poverty but will also help increase the country's GDP. Hence, if something of this sorts is to occur again sometime in the future the country will have the adequate financial resources to support the needy citizens.

Poverty is a very real issue that has plagued the country Nigeria for a very long time. I apologize if I made it seem like we the citizens have no role to play in the alleviation of poverty. We as citizens can make an effort within ourselves to reduce the rapidly growing poverty rate. Big businesses should employ as many Nigerians as possible rather than importing foreign aid. The more affluent

population could help provide food to less fortunate children to aid their education process. I believe that if we all put our hands together anything is possible.