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ASSIGNMENT

Increase in the National budget and increase in the rate of unemployment, poverty and hunger in Nigeria.

The terms unemployment, poverty and hunger can be treated as individual terms but are very much related to one another. Unemployment means a situation in which individuals who are employable and seeking for jobs are not able to find jobs. Poverty on the other hand is a situation where an individual can barely or cannot afford the basic amenities for living, then hunger is simply a strong desire to eat.

Now, the connection between these three terms is simply the fact that when there is no job, there is a large chance of becoming poor, and when an individual is poor there is barely any food to eat or there is no food completely, this leads to hunger. Nigeria is normally referred to as the Giant of Africa due to its large and growing population. Nigeria’s population has been estimated to approximately 200 million people and the population is still growing. Many have pin-pointed that this is due to lack of family planning, early marriages and high birth rates.

With Nigeria’s growing population, there is also an increase in unemployment, poverty and hunger. People are dying every day out of hunger especially children. The problem here is that people don’t understand that if people have jobs they could get training and be able to provide not just food but education for their families, people could learn about family planning. If people learn about family planning the population won’t be growing as alarming as it is, people would have enough income to feed and care for not only themselves but for their families also. People would be educated, more children would be sent to school instead of hawking goods on the streets or begging, they would be safer in schools getting the necessary education they need.

Nigeria having a large population needs a lot of resources to feed and care for its citizens, the national income of a country is normally used to satisfy the collective wants of the citizens. To enable a country to fully utilize its income a national budget is prepared. A National budget is a yearly document prepared by a country’s government showing its anticipated revenues and proposed spending for the coming financial year. In the national budget, we have the recurrent expenses and the non-recurrent expenses.

The recurrent expenses consists mainly of expenditure on wages, salaries, purchases of goods and services and consumption of fixed capital, while the non-recurrent expenditure consists of expenses which are not incurred on a regular basis, like building of hospitals, building of schools, construction of bridges, repairing of roads etc. Now how does the national budget relate with unemployment, poverty and hunger? Over the past few years the national budget had increased and still changes were not visible, many were still unemployed, many were still suffering from poverty and hunger, public schools were not renovated, some roads were not even fixed. One would wonder what all the money that was allocated to these things was used for.

Many a time when citizens of the country have accused its leaders of embezzling funds, no one can blame them for their opinions because sometimes we are not given full or adequate explanations as to what the money was used for because every year as the national budget, once the national budget is set, citizens get a look at it, seeing each expense and revenue to be incurred that year. One would hope that with each new year more job opportunities would come for the people, so as to not waste human resources.

The problems explained earlier can be resolved if for starters people of integrity are voted into the seats of government, also national bodies like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission should carefully watch those in seats of power to make sure that the national income, funds is used fairly and wisely. The problem of unemployment, poverty and hunger can be tackled through the help of government, non-government organizations creation of trade centers for people to learn different trades like sewing, baking, wood work, basketry and hair dressing to mention but a few. Government could also encourage agriculture, they could give loans to farmers also provide irrigation schemes and modernized farm tools and machines. Government and the people should also encourage creativity and new ideas.

Not only the government need to do something, the citizens need to encourage one another and be able to think like entrepreneurs, create businesses, people should not always want the easy way of making money, either by robbery or fraud. People should be open to ideas and possibilities of getting money the right way. People should learn how to work together in unity and harmony rather than cause conflict. People who have enough resources and organizations could help teach people in rural areas crafts and also provide food for them. Government should also build up rural areas creating job opportunities by employing people in that are to help build the community and put someone in charge to watch and help make sure the funds are used properly. Churches could also encourage its members to help feed the poor and help their communities. Think of it like this , if each person from a particular community builds the area and others help in building theirs a lot would be achieved. Together we grow.