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THE PANDEMIC OF INSECURITY

2020 is really a year of doubles with a ravaging worldwide health pandemic and a simultaneous insecurity pandemic. One wonders whether it holds double blessings like its double trouble for the half of its year so far. A basic definition of insecurity is the state of being open to danger or threat; lack of protection. At the moment there are numerous pandemics that go beyond covid-19. This could be summed up as “the pandemic of insecurity”. From the ongoing violent protests in the United Kingdom and the United States to the impending threat of food supply in Asia and the United Kingdom. Although covid-19 is the greatest problem at hand there is a shortfall in other sectors that would be affected after it and existed before it. To further state and give an insight I would use a country in five out of the seven continents as examples. For one to understand that like a virus insecurity evolves from petty theft to breaking and entering or social media protests to boycotting.

Yemen which is located in Asia as referred to by the United Nation as the country with the most need of humanitarian aid. With 85% of its population (24 million people) in need pre-covid-19 and most of the funds regularly generated drying up there is little to no room for transformation. A state that is unable to cater for itself and has a capital controlled by terrorist becomes a breeding ground for all forms of vices and illegal ways of getting food and water. The state overburdened with a non-existent health sector experiencing deaths due to covid-19 and malnutrition will eventually collapse. It would later go on to become a “ghost town” with survivors being terrorists living a cut throat life (jungle justice) if humanitarian aid is not provided towards it. It could barely profit off the yearly aid but every country is currently focusing on their own citizens.

Also, like Yemen the United Kingdom which is located in Europe is losing a particular aid. Amidst its ongoing protest mostly tearing down statues of people affiliated with racism or other discrimination there is food insecurity. The UK with the highest currency has an able system to buy 40% of its food from other countries. At the moment it has been researched than 1 out of 4 adults don’t have food. With food banks and other organisations assisting in basic amenities there is still a food insecurity. There is barely enough to feed their own supplier countries so the buyers (the United Kingdom) are a great loss because of factors they can’t control. One of which is global warming affecting their climate and the limited amount of produce that can be grown or reared on their soil. This makes them dependent on other countries for a large amount of food since treaties were made.

Furthermore, Australia a country in Oceania has its international students gravely affected because of its financial insecurity. Most scholarship grants have limitations. Some students work part time to cover some costs of living. These students are currently unemployed having barely any resources or family within the country. This lack of companionship can be depressing compared to other countries where most people are at home with their families. Their plans for 2020 have changed academically, psychologically and emotionally which takes a toll on a person. Some of these students are aggravated at the Australian government for bringing them there with barely enough resources. Staring to sink into its international debt and recession Australia bit more than it could chew on after its huge bush fires in January, it’s first recession in decades.

In addition to the earlier mentioned United Kingdom protests it was triggered by protest in the United States of America which is located in North America. It started from peaceful protests then spiralled to looting and oppressive use of the military. Some neighbourhoods going up in flames, loosing property, cleared out shops or spray-painted walls. It’s been a country known for cases of police brutality since the 1990’s and racial discrimination for centuries. This is the same story Martin Luther King and other activists were trying to avoid the only difference is there are new names and faces. The black lives matter hashtag a form of social media protest and awareness started over seven years ago but is more in use now even though it has been the same story time after time. The protests are now physical ad more violent with people of different races coming together to stand as one. Their president Donald Trump gave an order for the military to intervene in controlling the protests. This has resulted in civilian and security agent injuries. Although those protests don’t cause internal harm, they do leave their boarders more open at the cost of self-inflicted pain. These protests go beyond their borders and are supported in many countries.

However, Nigeria my place of origin is located in Africa and it’s the most rampant form of insecurity is the rising cases of rape. In places such as Anambra it is mostly the father raping the daughter or Kaduna with serial rapists like Kaduna. Nigeria and poverty ago hand in hand and poverty and unemployment being the highest causes of insecurity there is room for such evil. Over the past six months the numbers of rape cases are more than ever seen before because people are at home with their abusers. Asides that people of both genders don’t have an outlet like brothels and clubs to handle their sexual urges therefore bringing out the beast within. This is bad year on the Nigerian values taught from parents and schools. It highlights the lack of education of consent and forms of abuse even the faulty judicial system towards rape victims and rapists. There is no system put in place to curb such issues asides telling most girls not to behave in certain manners. Which has been proven false with rape cases in churches even hiring people to rape women in their houses.

In conclusion, the world was collapsing before covid-19 but now at a faster rate. The rise of insecurity was bound to happen and 2020 just had corona to help it. The vices of this world are greater and broader but we are stronger together. Insecurity is a very broad word but it’s not the same everywhere.