



## Nigeria's Online Popular Culture as Satire: A Postmodern Evaluation of Social Consciousness in Selected Youtube Videos

**ADEBAYO, Abidemi Olufemi**

femishakespeare@yahoo.com

adebayofemi@run.edu.ng

&

**BUKOLA Olubunmi Iyabo,**

M.A.omotosoolu@run.edu.ng

Department of English, Redeemer's University, Nigeria

### Abstract

*Nigeria's deplorable social conditions, particularly insecurity, portends negative economic implications for its citizens and neighboring countries such as Niger, Benin, Chad, Togo, and Ghana, often generating uncensored controversial online debates. This makes the search for a solution imperative. This paper, therefore, examines online perspectives on Nigeria's social dysfunction, the solutions offered, and the perceived obstacles to their implementation. Guided by postmodern consciousness, the study interrogated YouTube dialogues on broad based issues across West African countries. These include politics, oil theft, tourism, insecurity, and the economy. Data was purposively sampled and qualitatively analyzed. Findings revealed that discussants demanded decentralization of the Nigerian Police in favour of state policing to curb insecurity, stoppage of massive loans from China, and an end to the 'Visa-on-Arrival' policy, and curbing medical brain drain by banning medical tourism of government officials.*

**Keywords:** YouTube dialogues, Nigerian society, Medical tourism, Brain drain, Motion picture press.

### Introduction

Many concerned stakeholders in Nigerian affairs have been responding to the despicable condition of the country in order to find a lasting solution to the meltdown and stagnation in the country. One prominent sector of Nigerian society that has responded to these realities in Nigeria is the Motion Picture Press. It is a body constituted by the practice of information dissemination practitioners who use social media as a platform for reaching the target audience. Some of them have extended their conventional broadcast to various social media platforms, especially YouTube, for a wider reach. Many of them operate privately. Central to the YouTube broadcast of these press practitioners are Nigerian harsh social, economic, and political ills. The impacts of these ills have necessitated ample satirization of the Nigerian social system for a change.

This forms the crux and basis of the broadcast practice of these virtual social reformers. The satirization is carried out with the goal of achieving Nigeria's national recovery. Many of the Nigerian problems have been featured on the YouTube channels of the press organizations and individuals in heated conversations. A good number of recommendations have emanated from the conversations. This study aims to assess such recommendations based on local knowledge, the dynamic social changes in the country, against global best practices. Some methodological approaches are employed in achieving this aim in the study. First, social media platforms are considered appropriate because of their global reach, especially as this is the major feature of YouTube. Additionally, the research is qualitative in nature. The scope of the study is hinged on platform ownership, location of operation, generational orientation, and the gender of the practitioners.

#### **Criteria for Adopted Methodology**

The methodology looks at the positions of the YouTubers and their guests in proffering solutions to the social upheavals in Nigeria through multiple perspectives as a reflection of postmodern criticism using the purposive sampling techniques of data collection. The essence of this is to localize the study in the humanities and ensure that the YouTubers selected for analysis represent the different ramifications of Nigerian society.

#### **Goals and Multimedia Nature of Satire**

Satirization is a scathing device in literature that a writer employs to lampoon, through wit, certain ills in society. The ruthless extent of this satirical ridicule is aimed at challenging those responsible for the identified ills or societal anomalies. This is in order to bring about the desired change in society. To this extent, satirization is a constructive social criticism tool. A satire induces laughter since readers have knowledge of the human and societal ills being ridiculed, and this serves as a therapeutic tool for readers of satiric texts. Corroborating this, LeBoeuf (2007) posits that satire is a powerful tool employed by nonconformists as a weapon to combat oppressive political administrators and social institutions. Also, he asserts that satirization may be the most powerful tool that critics have in gaining a global voice (4). Additionally, Lichtenstein and Nitsch (2022) opine that the essence of satire has moved beyond the limitations of the pages of printed books but has found relevance in scholarship, such as effects studies, communication studies, and analyses. Hence, satire in the modern world can be described as a cross-media phenomenon that enhances expressions not only for correction but also for entertainment and scholarship.

#### **Imperatives of Nigeria's Recovery for Regional and Global Diplomacy**

Nigeria has been playing regional roles since it gained independence in 1960. For example, Nigeria contributed immensely to the formation of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), a military formation intended to prevent and douse conflicts in the sub-region, hence keeping the peace in West Africa (Ogele,

2021). The ECOMOG was the manifestation of the ECOWAS Standing Mediation Committee proposed by President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria in 1990. The Nigerian government at the time estimated that the country's participation in peace-keeping operations in Liberia cost taxpayers' money in excess of \$4 billion (Pitts, 1999). This can only be sustained if Nigeria overcomes the current economic hardship. Nevertheless, economic interaction with Nigeria's neighbors is crucial, as can be seen in the free trade movement across the West African sub-region. To this end, the economic prosperity of Nigeria is beneficial to her neighboring countries such as Benin Republic, Ghana, Togo, and Chad. This could be noted in the negative impact of Nigeria's border-closure policy on the economic activities in the region. The closure of the border, which Nigeria is currently practicing (Adaku, 2022), is capable of damaging economic agreements in the region. This, for example, could be seen in the observation that "For some experts, the border closures of Nigeria were a slap in the face for the continent's integration efforts" (Emmanuel, Mamman, & Anderibom, 2020: 27).

The above is the reason for the fervent campaign by the regional integration stakeholders in the West African sub-region geared towards Nigeria's reversal of the closure policy (Golub, Mbaye & Golubski, 2019). The implications of the arguments thus far are that Nigeria is significant in African and global diplomatic, political, and economic interactions. This makes the country's societal rebirth an imperative. To this extent, opinion molders, social campaigners, as well as advocates for human rights and good governance in Nigeria, have been giving opinions on how to achieve Nigeria's social, economic, and political rebirth. One of the avenues that the stakeholders in the nation-building agenda have adopted for expressing their views is social media. Practitioners of the motion picture press have adopted the power of YouTube to advance the cause of Nigeria's development roadmap.

#### **Discussion: The Issues Addressed in the Virtual Videos**

Some of the critical issues addressed by the practitioners of the motion picture press and the opinions they have offered intended to revive the Nigerian State are discussed at this juncture of the study. These include state policing, massive China loans, the Visa on Arrival Immigration Policy, Medical Tourism, Administrative Incompetence as well as Oil Theft. These are discussed one after the other.

#### **Campaign for State Policing Security System in Nigeria**

The first of the motion picture press organization to be evaluated in this study is TV Continental (TVC), which has also adopted online (YouTube) broadcast as a veritable avenue for reaching the world. And the major concern of this motion picture press practitioner on August 12, 2021 @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFx05CodJaU> was the question of state police in the Nigerian security architecture. TVC titles the broadcast "[TVC Insight] The Clamour For Creation Of State Police in Nigeria - Part 1". In Nigeria, policing is on the exclusive list implying that it is only the Central Government

that can establish a police force. The Nigerian Police Force is, therefore, run by the Federal Government. However, pundits in Nigerian social affairs, as well as sages in the country, have opined that Nigeria is too large to have a centrally controlled police force. The consequence of this is inefficiencies. In line with this observation, Obaro (2014) opines that the "Nigeria police performance is unsatisfactory; the police are ineffective and inefficient in their job of crime prevention, criminal investigation, and response to distress calls by citizens" (427).

One major antisocial situation in Nigeria today is the total collapse of the security of lives and property. This takes the form of banditry, kidnapping, Cattle rustling, terrorism, robbery, arson, electoral violence, assassination as well as rape. These markers of insecurity have worsened by the day, and they pervert lawful activities and deter foreign investors from coming into the country. TVC, in a bid to proffer a solution to this menace, published a documentary which was a survey of the opinions of security experts and citizens on the need for the establishment of State Police in the 36 states that make up Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Many state governors are favorably disposed to the establishment of state police in their states. However, the Federal Government of Nigeria is opposed to the idea, and controversies are attending the clamor, especially because of fear of abuse (Adefi & Achioor, 2013). The governors are so committed to actualizing this goal, as seen in the establishment of regional security outfits such as the Western Nigerian Security Network. The TVC documentary could be seen as adding a voice to the clamor for State Police in Nigeria. The assertions of the participants on the subject and the parting shot of the documentarian point to the TVC's favorable disposition to the establishment of the State Police as a panacea to the meltdown in the different ramifications of Nigerian society. The comments are examined as follows. One of the participants in the analytical documentary is a security consultant, Retired Colonel Hassan Stan-Labo, who submitted that "State Policing ... avails the states the power of control over the policing of its entity. Comments such as, 'I am the Chief Security Officer of the state, but I don't have control over the commissioner of police' will no longer show up..."

In Nigeria, there is constant friction between state governors and the commissioner of police posted to the states by the Inspector General of Police from the center. The governor often complains that the commissioner of police does the bidding of the government at the center, which downplays security. But such is characterized by muscle-flexing, oppression, and vendetta. A case in study was the disobedience of a federal police officer to the governor of Lagos. The argument that ensued between the two reinforces the debate that state governors are indeed not in control of security architecture in their respective states. The police officer refused to vacate the Magodo Estate operations or call his superiors in Abuja at the order of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State. In the heated exchange captured in a short viral video, the governor was seen giving orders to the unidentified police officer who refused to disengage from the assignment, which he (the governor) said was an illegal operation since the governor was not informed of the operation being the Chief Security

Officer of Lagos State (Onyekwere, 2022). This is an instance of a messy situation that will be eliminated. Stan-Labo believes that if state police are created, the governor will be able to respond swiftly to security breaches in their respective states.

Other expert participants in the TVC's documentary broadcast look at other areas of Nigeria's current social misfortune and proffer solutions. For example, Olusola Jegede, a lawyer, agrees and asserts that the current police force is too large for efficiency. Sergius Ogun, a member of the Federal House of Representatives, looks at the constitutional and financial dimensions of the police debacle. He believes that the Federal lawmakers and lawmakers at the state level have to work in sync, suggesting that the governors have to lobby the lawmakers in their respective states so as to guard against a possible unfavorable disposition to the demand by the Federal House of Representatives. Segius Ogun, however, notes that the states may run into financial difficulties if they establish their own police forces. To Ogun, the Federal Government takes the lion's share of national income. This position is corroborated by the words of Udoh (2019) that under the sharing formula, the federal government of Nigeria gets the lion's share of 52.68 percent of the federal earnings. Both Ogun and Udoh are arguing that the financial allocations from the Federation account are not enough for the states, as the Federal Government has taken the lion's share of the earnings. The fiscal situation is made worse by the current economic downturn in Nigeria, especially since the country is saddled with an external debt burden.

#### **Nigeria's Massive Loans from China**

Another social ill satirized in the virtual videos is the consequences of the massive loans Nigeria obtains from China. In recent times, Nigeria has turned to China for loans, purportedly to execute long-term infrastructural projects. However, many Nigerians are worried about this development, especially on account of the allegation of China's intention to grab the Mombasa port in Kenya and an alleged possible takeover of the Entebbe Airport in Uganda over a 207 million dollars loan as a result of these African countries' inability to keep to the terms of the loans granted them by China. It is in the bid to do away with this worry among Nigerian citizens that Channel Television @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owqZ7d1TIZA&t=368s> published an interview titled "Amaechi Defends The Decision To Borrow From China" with Nigeria's Minister of Transport, Rotimi Amaechi, to clarify a loan of 5.3 billion USD for the construction of the Ibadan-Kano rail lines. The clarification becomes important as the anchor of the interview, Seun Okinbaloye, opines that such loans and the controversies surrounding them are "a source of major concern for Nigerians". This is because of the fear of China's takeover of Nigeria's national assets listed as collateral. He cited the examples of Djibouti, Sri Lanka, Zambia, and Ethiopia as countries that have seen the hard side of China's Loans. The anchor discloses that the country spends a whopping sum of 2 trillion naira for debt servicing and opines that this is not sustainable. Minister Amaechi, however, asserts that there is no alternative to the loans from China. This public concern may be justified in view of the evasive

explanation of Debt Management Office (2021) and Waka about Africa (2021) on the question of lender's takeover thus, "Firstly, Nigeria explicitly provides for Debt Service on its External and Domestic Debt in its Annual Budgets. In effect, this means that Debt Service is recognized and payment is planned for."

In this response, no specific statement to the contrary that China can take over a national asset that has been listed as collateral in the event of default. This is a reflection of Falola's (2009) revelation that lenders are often cunning in granting loans while potential debtors are left with the option of taking loans under harsh conditions. Many Nigerians do not agree with the Minister of Transport on the submission that there are no alternatives to loans, especially Chinese Loans. Alfred (2018) reports the disagreement of a former vice-president of the World Bank's African divisions, Oby Ezekwesili. Alfred refers to Ezekwesili as saying that Nigeria's overall public indebtedness profile at the end of the first quarter of 2017 fiscal year stood at N19.16 trillion, which was equivalent to US\$62.9 billion, representing roughly 18 percent of the nominal Gross Domestic Product. Alfred further discloses that Ezekwesili, by virtue of serving in the capacity as the vice-president of the World Bank's African division between 2007 and 2012, had viable reasons to condemn the resolve of the Nigerian government to borrow from China. He states that Ezekwesili has asserted that the Chinese attitude to indebted nations is the most draconian and hardest in the entire world. Ezekwesili sees the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as China's strategy to enslave Africa through the USD 62.9 B loan facility for African countries as rue. Alfred reports that African countries have the potential to finance their budgets by exploring their local endowments. This could be seen as one of the alternatives to borrowing, especially from China, which Minister Amaechi believes does not exist as above. Ezekwesili is not the only Nigerian who believes there are alternatives to loans, particularly from China.

The Director-General of the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association (NECA), Timothy Olawale, expresses an alternative to borrowing from China on TV360 Nigeria @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7TiZFA2h6Q>. According to Olawale, the cost of governance in Nigeria is extremely high and unsustainable. The government must summon the political will to drastically reduce the cost of governance so that the current expenditure will drastically go down, giving room for capital expenditure and progressive spending. In Nigeria, public officeholders spend astronomically on a retinue of aides, allowances, cars, hidden benefits, and massive luxuries. Peter Obi's position on cutting the cost of governance on Arise TV @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGSzYSOrfEU&t=761s> is such that it is the only way Nigeria can be out of recession especially, the COVID-induced recession. This is because in Nigeria, there is a discordant tone between fiscal policy and monetary policy, and the Small and Medium Enterprises were the most affected.

### **Dialogues on the “Visa-on-Arrival” Policy of Nigerian Immigration**

In addition to the ills discussed so far in the study, another ill is the negative impact of the Visa on Arrival Policy. The Nigerian government has been implementing an immigration policy known as the Visa on Arrival immigration policy since the year 2020. This policy is such that foreigners are allowed into the country before the regularization of their travel for the legitimacy of their stay in Nigeria. A number of justifications have been adduced for this immigration policy. Rathod (2022), explains that there are conditions for eligibility for accessing this policy. Such conditions include being in a hurry or having to travel at short notice; Visa on Arrival policy could be the most appropriate option in these situations. It also saves time and money on travel expenses and processes. The government says it attracts innovation, specialized technical or vocational skills, and knowledge from overseas in order to complement local capabilities (Nwachukwu, 2020).

However, the spate of insecurity in the country, the high inflation regime, continued power supply crises, as well as worsening business climate, tend to make social pundits maintain that the Visa on Arrival policy portends more dangers. This pessimism is expressed in the Arise TV YouTube broadcast titled “Aisha Buhari on Garuba Shehu, Visa on Arrival and more – This DayLive Panel” @ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4CC\\_MKDRp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4CC_MKDRp4). The panel of discussants opines that the Visa on Arrival policy is controversial because of a number of critical concerns. The first is that the government did not consult Nigerians, especially the stakeholders. Also, the policy is an irony as it contradicts the lamentation of the same government about the porous nature of Nigerian borders, as the policy allows the influx of African nationals into the country. Such a situation worsens the terrorist insecurity that Nigeria is grappling with currently, though the anchor, Dr Reuben Abati, has quoted the Comptroller General of Immigration Services (CGIS) as assuring that the policy will accelerate Africa’s integration. A member of the panel, Prof Bola Akintennrinwa, opined that the current administration should have noted why the same idea was eventually jettisoned by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration (1999-2007) when it was first mooted. Rave TV Channel @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTNuPBdMzaE> with the title “FG Visa On arrival Policy: Implications?”, a discussant, Kehinde Adeleke, asserts that there is nothing to show that Nigeria is prepared for a free movement regime. In the same vein, Channels Television in a YouTube dialogue titled “The Pros And Cons of Visa on Arrival” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjXWpL43-9w&t=1130s> analyses this immigration policy. One of the discussants, Prof. Garba Sheka, of the Bayero University, Kano, states that the Visa on Arrival Policy is laden with problems, one of which is unpreparedness to check fundamentalists. This is especially so because there is not enough time to check the background of the traveler, through which they can be detected. The policy, therefore, is contributing to the palpable insecurity in Nigeria perpetrated through antisocial acts such as banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, and territorial insurgency, to mention a few.

The non-preparation factor, which both Adeleke and Sheka allude to above, can also be considered from the non-availability of infrastructure, which foreign investors can optimize in doing business in Nigeria. This could be seen in the fact that in Nigeria today as has been, electricity supply is woeful. Onyekwana et al. (2017: 4) asserted that “in Nigeria, reliable electricity provision remains a challenge, despite heavy public investment over the years.” There is, therefore, no basis for granting visa waivers for the purpose of business and investment.

### **Medical Tourism and Brain Drain Phenomena as a Bane of Development in Nigeria**

Furthermore, the virtual satirists lampooned the brain-drain phenomenon in Nigeria. One significant cause of friction between the Nigerian masses and government officials is medical tourism. This is a term in local parlance that designates the preference of Nigerian public officeholders to receive medical services abroad when they are sick. A case study is the former president, President Muhammadu Buhari, who is known for frequent medical trips abroad, especially to the United Kingdom. In fact, Shehu (2022) asserts that foreign medical trips have become customary for President Buhari since his election as president of Nigeria in 2015. The frequency of such medical travels and the high number of public office holders accessing the services abroad have given rise to friction between the two categories of Nigerian society. The people are displeased because of the implications of the unethical practice. The first implication is that the medical bills incurred in the course of the medical trips are on the taxpayers' incomes. Also, the health sector in Nigeria can never be state-of-the-art because the political elite do not use the local hospitals. This administrative malady has resulted in doctors' disillusionment and consequent massive migration overseas. This has led to a persistent brain drain in the health sector in Nigeria. In order to curb this social impropriety, attention has been given to the emigration of Nigerian doctors in online (YouTube) broadcasts on the subject. This is the social concern of Arise TV @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVYsmup7nP0&t=23s> in a broadcast titled “One way traffic: Nigeria's medical brain drain.” The broadcast reveals the outflow of medical professionals in Nigeria. It is asserted in the broadcast that “since Muhammadu Buhari became the president in 2015, more than 4,500 Nigerian doctors have left the country to practice in the UK and, most definitely, the United States.”

The backlash of such massive depletion in the available medical personnel is the focus of CGTN Africa @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ozZFB66Mao&t=58s> under the title “Brain drain results in massive shortage of medical doctors in Nigeria” where it is disclosed that many healthcare centers in Nigeria are short-staffed and patients have to wait for long hours to consult few doctors available. Ibrahim Musa, a medical consultant featured in Al Jazeera English's broadcast titled “Nigeria's medical brain drain: Healthcare woes as doctors flee” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bft6ysPLGmU> opines that the Nigerian government needs to motivate the healthcare providers financially in addition to making the system work in government hospitals. Making the system work here is interpreted as the provision of state-of-the-art equipment

as against the obsolete ones available at the moment. Dr Ola Brown recommends 5 steps as pillars, which include the expansion of primary health care, the centralization of tertiary healthcare, focus on maternal and child health, task shifting among healthcare practitioners, and conscious financing of sustainable healthcare in the country. According to her, this initiative and cause have come to being as a result of the death of her relative in the process of taking her to Johannesburg, South Africa, due to the non-availability of the services needed for her sister in Lagos at the particular time.

### **Diplomatic Implications of Political and Administrative Incompetence in Nigeria (Africa)**

Similarly, Dr Damages, a Nigerian Diaspora YouTube broadcaster, made a presentation on the Nigerian social, economic, and political decay with a view to rebuilding the country. This could be seen as the goal of the analysis of the Nigerian situation titled "Dr. Damages Show 516: Campaign 2023 is on; Tinubu visits Kalu's Mother, Buhari's final UN speech" @[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb4\\_AbTycgs&t=959s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb4_AbTycgs&t=959s) Dr Damages expresses concern about the dystopian state of Nigeria's nationhood. Referring to the incident at the funeral rites of Queen Elizabeth II, seen in how African/Nigerian leaders were conveyed to the venue of the burial ceremony of the Queen, Buckingham Palace, Dr Damages satirizes African/ Nigerian leaders. This could be seen in Dr Damages' narrative monologue thus:

So, Queen Elizabeth is dead and buried but... the politics of who went by bus into Buckingham Palace and who used motorcade plays out. Here is President Joe Biden driving into Buckingham Palace with his eight Limousines. Here is how African leaders, the original tourists of the world were busing into Buckingham Palace!

Dr Damages feels that such apartheid was right for African/Nigerian leaders. This is because the rating and regard accorded to a political office holder, such as the President, is based on administrative integrity. There is a deficit of infrastructure in Nigeria, for example. Olatunji et al. (2018) note that the electricity supply in Nigeria is poor and mired in the extortion of customers. He consequently calls for renewable energy substitutes because the outage has serious economic implications for the country (Airoboman et al., 2016; Aremu, 2019; Okibe & Mokuye, 2018; Okoro & Chikuni, 2007). Also, Sadik (2015) has identified nanotechnology as a sustainable option for the energy deficit in Nigeria. In the same vein, clean water supply is irregular and indeed unavailable to many Nigerians in many locations, indicating that access to clean water for use in Nigerian homes is not guaranteed. (Okon&Njoku, 2017). This is definitely a reflection of the government's ineptitude and failure. As the despicable situations are for electricity and pipe-borne water, so also are they for cooking gas as the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, the government department in charge of gas supply in the country can only meet about half the local consumption of the commodity (Mojeed, 2022). These situations are the sad realities that Dr Damages alludes to above.

### **Oil Theft as Economic Sabotage in Nigeria**

The phenomenon of oil theft is one of the critical subjects in socio-economic debates in Nigeria today. A number of factors make this **subject worth noting**. The first is that its discovery by the current administration is shocking to the nation as a result of the enormity of the crime, the system of perpetrating it, and the dire economic consequences of the anti-social undertakings. Through the security surveillance put in place by the government, it was discovered that oil pipelines in the Niger Delta had been tampered with, and massive oil quantities had been stolen. Channels TV @ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Mw\\_Xviea9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Mw_Xviea9I) published a report on this subject matter titled "Crude Oil Theft: 'It Is A Rogue-Cop Situation', Expert Alleges Compromise.

Nigeria is worst hit by economic sabotage because oil is the mainstay of Nigeria's earnings (Igberaese, 2013; Lawrence & Oriavwote, 2016), and the country is enormously indebted to foreign lenders, especially China. This ugly economic situation has already had a reverse implication on Nigeria because, according to Anyio (2015), oil-producing companies are beginning to suffer losses in their operations, and it has led to reduced national revenue and served as an impediment to social development (Soremi, 2020). In its bid to proffer a solution to the illicit act, Channels TV hosts Martin Onovo, an oil expert and former presidential candidate of NCP, for solutions. Onovo urges the authorities to investigate the Nigerian Navy because the magnitude of the oil theft involves MT Heroic Idun, which is in the category of a Very Large Cargo Carrier (VLCC), and by standard, such a vessel cannot enter the territorial waters of a country without the navy knowing for security reason. This is why the same vessel that "escapes" Nigeria was eventually arrested in Equatorial Guinea. Onovo further advises the authorities to investigate and monitor engineers and operators at oil drilling platforms. According to Onovo, there are many checks in the line of operation to prevent compromise and theft. The crux of Onovo's assertions above is that the syndicates that have been stealing Nigeria's oil are from within the oil companies themselves, aided by security operatives.

### **Nigeria's Ills and Online Solutions: A Skeptical Analysis**

In conclusion, the argument so far favours the creation of a state police structure. However, the impediment to this laudable initiative is the high propensity towards corruption and vendetta. Funds for the police may be diverted, and the governors can make use of the police structure under their control for personal political interest as well as tribal vendetta. Politics and tribal affiliation are two volatile issues in Nigeria today. Also, spending 2 trillion naira on debt servicing per annum is unsustainable. This is especially so because that is almost the entire Nigeria's annual budget. Also, the allegation of China's takeover of critical infrastructures in the event of the indebted country not being able to fulfill the terms of the loan should be critically looked into by the government. The government needs to reevaluate the seeming contradictions between its two policies, the Visa on Arrival Policy and the

Border-closure policy. The former grants entry access while the latter restricts it in order that the local companies and enterprises are protected.

On the problems in the health sector in Nigeria, the paper holds the pessimistic position that it will take a very long time to revive the public sector for sound healthcare services in Nigeria. This pessimism is hinged on a number of factors. The first is that government officials and the elite class in general, whose prerogative it is to revive the sector, feel too "big" to access anything local, their campaign for local consumption notwithstanding. For example, the president encourages the masses to grow what Nigerians eat and eat what they grow (this is a good idea, though). But the president constantly goes to London for medical services. The president could have brought the equipment to Nigerian hospitals, specifically to the Aso Rock Clinic in the State House. Apart from this, accessing foreign services and products is considered a mark of power, high social class, and social superiority in Nigeria. This may cause the brain drain phenomenon among medical professionals to persist in the country. "Dr Damages" assertion that African leaders should be treated differently at the global level is intended to make them realize that service to the electorate is the primary reason for being voted into office. The feasibility of this hypothesis is substantial, but its practicality in Nigeria is minimal. This is a result of cultural orientation and sleaze-sharing. Most leaders in Nigeria give higher priority to personal enrichment rather than the public good. This is the culture, and until this culture changes, public good cannot override private benefits as an ideal practice. Perhaps the United Nations should begin to protect the interests of the masses in African countries, especially in Nigeria, through closer monitoring. It could be concluded that the oil companies in Nigeria themselves are stealing the oil, according to Onovo's pressure-drop theoretical analysis. This inference of the indictment of the oil companies in the oil theft syndicate is corroborated by Onovo's assertion that there certainly would be disparities in the source and sink metering. The indictment of the oil companies themselves may not be an official involvement. It may be an act of sabotage from within the oil companies, just as the alleged involvement of the Nigerian Navy too may not be official. The concerns raised above need to be addressed in order to guarantee Nigeria's growth and development.

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