

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AFRICAN MIGRATION: A PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT

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ABSTRACT

Migration has been and is still a major issue or challenge facing African nations. It has been on the increase as majority of the African youths migrate to Europe, Asia, America and the likes in search of greener pasture. This is owing to increasing rate of poverty in African continent, which is caused by bad leadership, corruption and among others. A memorable experience of Corona virus pandemic, with the code name, COVID 19 and its impacts was the greatest menace encountered by man in the last days of the year 2019, through 2020 and 2021, and this paralyzed so many sectors in the worlds' economy. Migration is one of the sectors affected badly as not only were there total lockdown in aviation sector, thereby creating no room for local or international flights and there was interstate lockdown preventing interstate travels. And with the restriction of movement and total lockdown within the states, migration was not possible. Now, with the employment of analytic method of philosophical inquiry towards the two concepts, we discovered that the dangers of migration notwithstanding, it has really contributed much to the development of African nations. Again, apart from the woes of COVID 19 pandemic which was stated daily in our media within the above period in question, the pandemic has really prevented our youths from unnecessary migration and from dangers of human trafficking, racial discrimination, exploitation, dehumanization and brain drain.

Key words: Corona virus (COVID 19), Africa and African Migration.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, no one hears of the ravages of Corona virus, or crown virus in Africa but one still hears during winter that a strand of the virus is still alive and still cause ill health in some part of Europe and America. This pandemic, Corona virus, known with the code, COVID 19 spread like a wild fire; in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and its impacts on so many sectors of African life were enormous. The dangers and hardships brought to the world and particularly to Africans cannot be forgotten within a short period, the impacts of this crown virus are still a memorable experience for Africans. Africans were less equipped than the Westerners as regards to fight against this pandemic owing to African poverty but Africans were really lucky that its waves weren't devastating and lasting as that experienced by the Europeans, Americans, and Indians and by some Orientals. Migration has been old as humanity and is necessitated by insatiability of human wants and needs as well. Man in order to accomplish his or her bodily, psychological and even spiritual needs has to move from one place to the other. Man among many other definitions has been defined as homo socialis and culturalis and as a social being; he needs interaction of other human beings, both ad intra well as ad extra. Thus migration is an issue beyond Africa; it cuts across other continents, America, North and South, Asia, Europe. Africans travel across these other continents in search of greener pastures, but with the advent of this crown virus in 2019, migration was really affected. Many sectors of the worlds' economy went into lockdown, likewise so many nations or countries in Africa. And with the introduction of COVID 19 sanitary rules or precautionary measures that were aimed at defeating the virus, like social distancing, staying at home, staying alone to stay safe, one instantly sees a serious problem or challenge to not only to African way of life, but to migration also. Incessant migration among Africans is caused by poverty rate in Africa and African countries have not met up with the expected millennium developmental goals. Describing the real *sitz im leben* (situation or settings in life) of Africa people without reservation and which we knew too well has not changed at the moment, the fathers African Synod of 1994 holds that Africa is well known for its poverty. Thus, they write:

All over towns and villages are faces of malnourished people, squalid living conditions, diseased with scanty medical facilities, roadside beggars, street children, etc...One common situation without any doubt is that Africa is full of problems. In all the nations, there is abject, tragic mismanagement of available scarce resources, political instability and social disorientation. The result stare us in the face: misery, wars, despair. In the world controlled by rich and powerful nations, Africa has practically become an irrelevant appendix, often forgotten and neglected ¹

Quality education and building a better informal sector of business economy in Africa will be a better option to African poverty, thus providing a veritable terrain for sustainable development in African continent. African migration in its

positive impacts surely helps to develop the continents state of living, but COVID 19 pandemic has disrupted African migration to a greater extent and have as well prevented certain woes encountered by the African youths as far as migration to European countries is concerned. We now do explication of terminologies and plunge into deep philosophical analysis, critical reflection, critical enterprise, quest and search with a spirit of evaluative enquiry into COVID 19, its impacts together with African migration. Finally, through philosophical insight or assessment, we apply the tools of critique and objective scrutiny in philosophy's subject matter and the focus here are COVID 19 and migration.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS:

AFRICA, PHILOSOPHY, COVID 19 AND MIGRATION

Philosophy/Philosophical Assessment - The word philosophy is a household word in the mouth of most people who employ it in one way or the other to express an attitude, worldview or even principles chosen to govern life. It's in this sense then, one often hears another say "my philosophy of life", "the philosophy guiding my actions" and so on. Philosophy of life by definition is a personal framework for understanding the world and one's place in it, encompassing beliefs about existence, values, purpose, and how to live² Philosophy of life is a set of core ideas that guides a person's thoughts, feelings and actions, often developing in response to life's big questions. In a nutshell, a life philosophy is a group of core ideas that governs everything a person thinks, feels and does.³ These core ideas develop as our responses to the big questions of life or existential riddles life asks each of us. A life philosophy is like a car engine or computer operating system, these are somehow hidden and invisible, but, whether we interact with them or not, they are always there and making everything to work. Life philosophy pilots one's affairs in life. Philosophers are not in agreement on the meaning of philosophy; however, there are common grounds among philosophers pertaining to the etymology of the word 'philosophy' as one may see in many philosophical texts. Martin Heidegger says that "philosophy speaks Greek"⁴. Etymologically, the word "philosophy" comes from two Greek words joined together: "philos" and "Sophia". philein- to love, philos- loving, philia- love, sophos-wise, Sophia-wisdom. Hence, we can say, "philosophia esti philia tes Sophias"- "philosophy is love of wisdom. A philosopher is a lover of wisdom, a person strongly desirous of wisdom. Wisdom here begins with wonder that is, astonishment. This kind of wonder is not ordinary wonder but of deep curiosity. An embracing wonder, that is, wonder about things in totality and not in bits by bits. Plato says, "It is through wonder that those who began philosophy started off" Also," The sense of wonder is the mark of a philosopher"⁵ Philosophers wonder about things through reflective thinking. They wonder about things through their ultimate causes or from their fundamental point of view. Hence, the scholastics define philosophy as "Scientia rerum per ultimas causas" which means "Science of everything through their ultimate causes."⁶ based on the light of reason.

Philosophy is a critical reflection on the realities in the universe; this includes the human person himself or herself. For C. B. Okolo, philosophy is a "critical enterprise, something dynamic, a quest, a search ..., a spirit of evaluative inquiry into all area of human experience, of the world in which we live, of man himself and his place in the universe."⁷ He further contends that it is the duty of philosophy to give a "coherent and systematic account of the multifaceted universe of being and knowledge of what is, and how man knows it."⁸ This implies that philosophy covers every aspect of human endeavors. In other words, it studies the whole of reality. Thus, it is most ambitious.

Philosophical assessment is to apply the tools of critique and objective scrutiny in its assessment of its subject matter. The focus here is on COVID 19 and its impacts as a major challenge to migration.

Africa: Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent after Asia. It's about 30.3 million Km² including adjacent islands. It covers 6% of earth's total surface area and 20% of its land area. With 1.547 billion people as of 2025, it accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. Despite the wide range of natural resources, the continent is the least wealthy per capital in large part due to the legacies of Europeans colonization in Africa. Despite this low (but enough) concentration of wealth, recent economic expansion and the large and young population make Africa an important economic market in the border global context.

With the above facts and looking at the indices of development as stated by United Nations, one sees that Africans can meet up with the sustainable goals if they resolutely pursue it. It's really an undying hope as African nations are really blessed with human and natural and mineral resources. Under mineral resources, it holds 30% of the world's

mineral reserves, 40% of gold, the largest reserves of diamonds in the world are in Africa. Africa holds up to 90% of the world's chromium and platinum and it's the home to the largest reserves of cobalt and uranium in the world. It's very rich in other minerals like oil, natural gas, copper, iron ore and various precious and non precious metals. South Africa is the major mineral producer with significant reserve of gold, coal, diamonds, iron ore, chromium, and manganese and platinum group of metals. While Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda are the world's largest producer of tantalum. Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and 16th largest in the world and holds the largest gas reserve in Africa. Other African countries are also largely blessed with mineral resources. In natural resources, Africa is blessed with arable land, water resources, wild life, forests and wood lands⁹. The challenge facing Africa is to ensure sustainable and equitable benefit for all. Quality education and building a better informal sector of business economy in Africa will be a better option to African poverty, thus providing a veritable terrain for sustainable development in African continent, so as to improve the well being of its population and this calls for careful exploitation and management of the resources and accountability should always be demanded from African leaders. And here comes the problem of governance and power and resource control, as the Western and French colonialists still control these African natural and mineral resources, use them to develop their countries and leave African citizens to wallow in abject poverty.

Africa/African Nations - When we talk of African nations we are talking of 54 countries in Africa: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, DR Congo, Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Algeria, Sudan, Morocco, Angola, Mozambique, Ghana, Madagascar, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Malawi, Zambia, Senegal, Chad, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Rwanda, Benin, Burundi, Tunisia, South Sudan, Togo, Sierra Leone, Libya, Congo, Liberia, Central African Republic, Mauritania, Eritrea, Namibia, Gambia, Botswana, Gabon, Lesotho, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Eswatini, Djibouti, Comoros, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles. Included are four dependent territories: Reunion, Western Sahara, Mayotte and Saint Helena.

COVID 19: A Memorable Experience

Corona Virus - COVID 19 is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2. (SARS-coV-2). Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and required medical attention. Possible symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue and muscle or body aches. The first known case was identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and the disease since spread worldwide, leading to pandemic. And this pandemic came into Africa and Nigeria in February and March, 2020. The role of social media is not forgotten and as the world is becoming a global village and global sitting room, thanks to technological advancement. Social media are indeed helpful to humanity, Africans and to Nigerians in particular, as without such thing like Facebook, WHATSAPP, Twitter and others, the dangerous All Progressive Congress (APC) government in power would have mercilessly eliminated many citizens through many means, terrorism and terrorist herdsmen attack inclusive. During COVID 19 pandemic, Nigerians witnessed the unprofessional handling of the social media as well and this is self-inflicted harm as many never knew that fake and unverified news may even kill before the virus strikes. In European countries, the corpses of victims of Corona virus were treated with dignity and solemnly laid to rest, In Nigeria, not only misinformation and mal-information were seen regarding to the number of deaths recorded, the individual, families, towns and villages. And these indeed were malicious stigmatization that carries heavy economic and Psychological consequences as they are cordoned off from and are inaccessible to others. Information and counter-information become the order of the day as voice messages from unverified sources continue to fly on the air, some traceable to senders with an admixture of prejudice and acrimony.

Many Nigerian corrupt leaders and their workers never help matters even in ravages of the pandemic. Some of Nigerian politicians' hearts are hardened that they use every opportunity, even life threaten situations for self enrichment as some palliatives given out during the COVID 19 pandemic were ceased and stored in the ware houses for future political campaigns. Also some governors falsely acclaimed instances of COVID 19 in their states just to benefit from United Nations' and World Banks' aids or money mapped out for fighting the pandemic. However, no matter how noble such decisions may be, the obvious regret is these Nigerian corrupt governors may never use such fund to equip their health care institutions as they have already seen it as an opportunity for self enrichment, business and nepotism. Some treats the issue of such virus with levity and light-headedness, but it's really a fatal one in view of what is happening at Europe and in the Oriental countries. Africans were lucky as they registered low mortality and

Africans themselves are mainly less prepared than the Europeans, Americans and oriental countries that suffered more casualties.

In Nigeria for instance, the attitudes of NCDC and some state governors' reactions never allow the citizens to know the truth. Also and the inharmonious voices of health commissioners of some states and those of their health workers over the existence of COVID-19 in their states cannot be forgotten in a hurry. Some were insistent in selling the notion to Nigerians that their state is COVID-19 free while at the same time, their frontline health workers continued giving contrary information with evidences of infected persons in the same state. Others, on the other hand insisted that the staff of Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) must go for 14-day quarantine before carrying out any national assignment in their state. As this battle continued, a few deaths in the same state were being associated with the pandemic related complications. Boldness in error is really an underlying feature of this country, Nigeria, as these dissonant voices strengthened the random and vastly unverified arguments. However, the lesson learnt is in matters like this obedience to the civil authorities prevails as prevention is better than cure and as far as COVID-19 is concerned prevention is the best option.

Migration/Emmigration/Immigration - Migration as movement of people from one place in the world to another and this is human migration. And under this, we have: Internal migration (movement within a state, country or continent). External migration is (movement to a different state, country or continent). Emigration is (leaving one's country to move to another). Immigration is (moving into a new country). Return Migration (moving back to where one comes from). Seasonal migration is (moving with each season or in respond to labour climate conditions).¹⁰ Migrants are people who move from one place to another in search of work or shelter. Migration has been defined as "a movement of population within or between countries".¹¹ By implication, migration has two main dimensions. While 'migration' within a country can be seen in the influx of people from the rural and less attractive areas to the urban centers with its variety of attraction; international migration (emigration) spells out movement from one country to another and could be "a response to other factors, such as threats against minority groups or warfare".¹² In Africa, migration both within and between countries have their specific causes. But generally reasons range from desires and passion to attain greener pasture by the migrant, or due to forceful ejection from homelands due to wars, conflicts and natural disasters such as flood, storms etc

Positive impacts of migration - It ranges from reduction of unemployment, as people gets better job opportunities, to improvement on the quality of life of people. Improvement of social life of people as they learn new culture, customs and languages needed for peaceful coexistence; Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region; Children get better opportunities for higher education. Population density is reduced and birth rate decreases.¹³

Negative impacts of migration, include: Loss of persons from rural areas has impact on level of output and development of rural areas. The influx of workers in urban areas increases competition for jobs, homes, school facilities, etc. Very large population in these urban centers put too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services. Migration changes the population of a place, and so the population distribution becomes uneven among places in the same country, many migrants are completely illiterate and uneducated; therefore they are not only unfit for most jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills. Migration increases the slum areas in cities which increase many problems such as unhygienic conditions, crime, population, etc. Sometimes migrants are exploited; and Migration is one of the main causes of increasing unclear family where children grow up without a wider family circle.¹⁴

In summary one can reasonably argue that while migration is a trend that has come to have relevance in international and local economy, its impact on the development of home countries remains an issue for debate. When some protagonists stress the positive effects more, some others see more of negative implications for home countries of the migrants.

And so, while, "migrant countries are more concerned about the brain drain effect and the loss of their talented and young workforce", studies on the economic impact on sending countries "have shown that increasing emigration may be used to develop diasporas, thus giving the countries of origin inter alia the opportunity to foster economic development through difference channels".¹⁵

COVID19 IMPACTS AS A MEGA CHALLENGE TO AFRICAN MIGRATION

Looking at the lockdown effect, we noted that 54 African countries implemented travel restrictions and these border closures immobilized many migrants especially in the international level. In Nigeria, many politicians that wanted to travel to Europe, America and other places were frustrated and likewise Nigerian at abroad, about to return home. The national and international lockdown had humanitarian consequences as the migrants affected by border closure joined refugee camps with limited access to health care; Niger and Libya were practical example.

Remittances and economic impacts in migration is one reason why migration is booming much in Africa. Every year the migrants remit a good amount to their home country for development, but during the period of COVID 19, the remittance was very low as the pandemic reached everywhere. There was loss of jobs by the millions of people migrants inclusive and resulted to decline in the income and thus remittances was affected, even remittances to the migrants' families.

The pandemic was a real deserter as far as migration is concerned, as one noticed Internal displacement and Urban – rural migration. Increase in rural – urban migration took place during the COVID 19 lockdown, such that jobs were scarce even in the urban city. Example can be seen in the mega city of Lagos, in Nigeria, many entrepreneurs were affected during the period that they closed and even till today, Lagos is no more what it used to be before the pandemic as job vacancies are as it used to be.

Not only that the pandemic and lockdown induced urban population, there is also increase in thw internal displaced population (IDPs). In Nigeria, this is seen mostly in the northern part of the country, particularly in the Hausa – Fulani block. These IDPs even during lockdown were seen packed in Dangote trailers and were driven to Lagos, Onitsha where they thought life will be easier, as the pandemic and president Buhari poor leadership have non to compare with.

Discrimination and Xenophobia against migrants were another impacts witnessed, a good example is South African citizens against Nigerian migrants in South Africa, such they attacked them and looted their shops for nothing other than hatred, and this is really bad. Finally, impacts on female migrants and to some other poor migrants can't be forgotten as some domestic migrant workers faced increased abused, lack of legal protection and heightened exposure to the virus. Many were forcibly confined to their workplaces without pay or health care access. Finally, is sexual and gender violence and this was rampant as were cases worldwide owing to pandemic lockdown which created conducive environment for such. Elucidating on government responses to the problem of migrants during the pandemic, we noticed that some migrants that were undocumented were deported back to their countries while in some countries, Ghana and Ethiopia for example, government enacted some emergency welfare program that catered for them. We examine vividly, how Nigerians handled their own lockdown which was still a mega challenge to African migration.

Lockdown in Nigeria - The challenges of COVID 19, especially in Africa can never easily be forgotten. Africa is still undeveloped and the burden and challenges of underdevelopment added to that of COVID 19 is really enormous and almost unbearable. What comes to mind always is when will this menace be over and is now over. For instance, in Nigeria one of the public actions taken to curtail the spread after the sanitary observance is lockdown.

Lockdown enforcement in conflict with Communal Values - Lockdown and Social Isolation encountered during COVID 19 pandemic is serious attack to the foundation or root of Igwebuike Philosophy and African communalism. This seems to be the highest among the challenges encountered throughout the duration of the pandemic. By definition African communalism is a life that is other oriented, a communal and community life as against individualistic or isolated life and even Igwebuike has its translation as “there is strength in number.” Here, we are talking numbers and not just an individual person. When one works in isolation, he or she may not achieve much; but together the virus would have been defeated faster and easily.

Disruptions in Businesses/markets – In Nigeria, markets were closed for more than four months and the results were food scarcity, acute hunger, recession and inflation came in a bigger way and when it's clear many were about to die of hunger because the long awaited palliative and cash transfer were not meant for all the regions in practice, people forced the government to re-open markets and businesses, thus there came partial closure and later came full businesses.

Food Scarcity and Hunger – Africa is known for poverty, hunger and no clean water. African leaders were also known for corruption and bad leadership and this is the reason for African poverty. Africa leaders have not even satisfied any goal among the 17 sustainable millennium goals mapped out by the United Nations to be achieved in the year 2030.

Sustainable Development Goals of 2015 is a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all¹⁶ by the year 2030.

In Nigeria for instance, many households depend on daily hustle for their daily bread, so, before lockdown could be effected, there suppose to be palliative from the government, and this was not done and when later it was done, it never reached up to a quarter of those that needed it most owing to corruption from the governors and other agencies entrusted with the distribution, even some governors went and stored the food stocks and prepare to use them in their forth coming political campaigns. People have in the past stayed indoors for one or two days owing to curfew for peace and never for two weeks or one month. One thing observed during the period especially in Nigeria is that hunger kills more than COVID 19. *Bann of social events* is another big challenge to African communalism as man is a being for other and not just a being unto himself. The social events banned include:

Burial / Funeral – Here, we mean the physical act of placing of deceased one in the ground (burial) and the ceremony to remember the deceased (funeral). All are African communal acts that involve not only the immediate family, but the extended families, kindreds, in-laws and friends and relatives are all involved. By observing COVID 19 social distancing and partial and total lockdown, one sees that burials and funerals could not hold. And as people continue to pile dead bodies in the morgue, another challenge erupted as it's difficult know a victim of COVID 19, and this made some governors to force families to bury their deceased ones before one month of his or her death. Thus, people buried some their loved ones in isolation and this is in serious conflict with African communalism and Igwebuiké Philosophy.

Wedding – Here, we have African traditional wedding which is a vibrant communal celebration as both families and community are involved. It includes some elements like bride price, negotiations, elaborate attire and symbolic rituals, food, money spraying among others¹⁷ Again church wedding which is a communal event and it's always conducted in the church as it's with religious significance and follows a specific religious tradition. All these were disrupted by COVID 19 and the result is not encouraging because some went into secret marriages for their brides are already heavy with pregnancy owing to comfortable terrain for love affairs provided by COVID 19 lockdown. However, some couples went into smaller and virtual weddings with zooms and some other platforms and an elaborate occasion was reduced to small one, just with their immediate family members and it's a big challenge to African way of life. One observed *Change in traditions and Rituals* as social distancing disrupted traditional rituals, shared meals, dancing, and communal blessing were either skipped or radically altered.

Postponements and cancellations of weddings - This has a big financial implication as some have booked halls and have already paid the caterers, planners, photographers, decorators and among others. Owing to lockdown, many couples cancelled their wedding and there are some that missed such opportunity that have not wedded till today as they may not have recovered financially and otherwise. This is owing to lockdowns, travel bans and restriction of social events and gatherings.

Closure of Schools and Remote Teachings – Almost the whole academic year was closed owing to the spread of COVID 19. At last, some institutions thought it wise to start online classes as the impact of the crown virus were much, but as African society is still undeveloped, lack of electricity to charge one's phone becomes a big problem. Most of the schools later did marathon classes as to meet up with the normal academic year calendar and with this how can the students and children meet up or cope with the lessons skipped, certainly, only serious students can go back on their own and study the ones skipped. COVID 19 pandemic increased the number of student school dropout as well as lack of interest in digital education as this has not been normal in Africa.

AFRICAN ETHICS OF CARE AND AFRICAN COMMUNALISM STILL THE WAY FORWARD FOR COVID 19 CHALLENGES.

Seeing the challenges posed by COVID 19, the researcher portrays the African Ethics of care as the way forward and for future pandemic (if any). It is an ethics that emphasizes relationships, empathy and responsiveness to the need of others.¹⁸ And this African Ethics of care is greatly rooted firmly on African communalistic principles of living and on Igwebuiké Philosophy. Not only that the most vulnerable must be catered or cared for, however, African communalism is always in voyage with its solidarity palliatives and assistance from the governments, groups, and well to do Africans and it must reach to the less privileged ones and even to middle class among the privileged ones so as to gain enormous strength to defeat the pandemic and other challenges together.

Igwebuiké philosophy has been exhibited in so many instances in the past like in the areas of community service, for example, during COVID 19 pandemic, there was lockdown in so many countries, Africa and Nigeria inclusive. Africans practiced Igwebuiké philosophy exemplified in helping each other to survive. This they did in helping their

neighbors in observing the pandemic's code of conduct and observing necessary hygiene needed. There was distribution of palliatives by both the governments, philanthropists, churches, and especially by individuals and generous neighbors. This is Igwebuike philosophy in action as left for government and its palliative alone, many Africans and Nigerians supposed to have died of the pandemic, as hunger kills speedily more than COVID 19. Thanks to generous individual and neighbors who pulled their resources together and help others. Igwebuike communal philosophy has long been in existence and has been in praxis or in action before COVID 19 pandemic, for instance one still recalls that such practice of helping one another to observe pandemic hygiene and distribution of palliative to the needy and vulnerable ones was done during Ebola outbreak and pandemic in July, 2014 and the spread was curtailed instantly. In like manner, in the midst of present insecurity and insurgency in the Nigerian communities, the youths have a lot to do. They have to rally round and provide security through Igwebuike philosophy which is deep-rooted in African communalism. Through Igwebuike philosophy, the youths have to secure their communities through formation of vigilante groups and work in synergy with their neighboring towns and villages and never to wait for Nigerian corrupt government to come and secure them.¹⁹ Igwebuike philosophy has not only helped out in COVID 19 pandemic, it is also a catalyst and remedy towards solution of some societal and national problem.

PHILOSOPHICAL EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

In this research, through critical reasoning, we have attempted to give rational response to some fundamental issues pertaining to corona virus and African migration. Focusing on philosophical insight, we recall that the ultimate goal of any philosophical enterprise is search for truth in its fundamental level. Hence, Aristotle holds that it is right to call philosophers seekers of truth for the end of philosophical knowledge is truth. Aristotle continued by saying *amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas*- Plato is my friend but truth is a better friend²⁰

In line with the above, we have x-rayed the truth about African migration, by portraying that COVID 19 is not just a health crises, it is migration crises as well as it revealed many things as far as African migration is concerned. Social inequality, structural vulnerabilities in migration, posed moral question about border control and human rights. Migration is a serious problem as far as African countries are concerned. And corona virus is real and was mostly prevalent in Europe and Asian nations from 2019 through 2021 and within the period the rate of migration to these countries and even internal migration and interstate travels were reduced. There were lockdown in so many places and that lockdown was a mega challenge to African youths incessant migration and simultaneously saving African youths not only from the woes of COVID 19 pandemic which were stated daily in media, but also prevented them from unnecessary migration and from dangers of human trafficking, racial discrimination, exploitation, dehumanization and brain drain. However, migration has not stopped, it's even on the increase nowadays, for instance in Nigeria owing to the rate of poverty caused by food scarcity and high cost of living, inflation, poor leadership and high rate of foreign exchange and insecurity, the migration of Nigerian youths to European counties and Asian countries has greatly increased. We conclude that migration is part of man and as man is still a *homo erectus* (man that can stand and move around), *homo sapiens et intellectus* (man with wisdom and intellect), *homo scientificus* (scientific man), *homo economicus* (economic man), *homo politicus* (political man), *homo socialis* (social man), *homo terrestiae* (man that lives on the earth), *homo communitas* (communal man), *homo individulitas* (individual Man), *homo dialogcus* (a man that communicates), *homo culturalis* (cultural man), *homo mathematicus* (mathematical man), *homo faber* (man that can work), *homo vivens* (man that lives), *homo spiritualis* (spiritual man), *homo religiosus* (religious or pious man), migration is inevitable and it's for necessity and for man's self worth. Finally, African leaders have improve African migration and improve migrants conditions themselves through improve migrant studies in the universities among others.

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