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## A Fight Against Hunger and Starvation in Africa

It is often said that food is the bedrock of an individual or societal growth, development and health. A hungry society is one where mediocrity and unhealthy living, their negative effects such as ineffectuality, poor standard of living, etc.; thrive. A hungry nation is an angry nation, for when the people are hungry, they are ineffectual, hence, angry in their work.

Hunger is a Satan which causes a lot of detrimental effect among the people of a country. It is a situation whereby one lacks food, especially for a long period of time, which can cause illness or death. The definition above which according to Longman Dictionary, not only tells us that food is very essential to an individual but also that its lack is disastrous because when one has no food to eat, one becomes hungry and can die off.

Africa, which is a continent and as one of the most populated continents in the world, is suffering this problem because, they showed no interest in agriculture which is the main source of food to a nation. A wise saying goes that, "health is wealth". There is no adage that is truer than this because a healthy country is indeed a wealthy country. Hunger doesn't come alone. When it strikes an individual like a thunder, it brings sickness, weakness, inability to think which reduces the development of a country and is crowned by death.

Furthermore, hunger is a major prerequisite to the fall of a nation and death. A hungry person worries much on what to eat to satisfy his appetite which makes him die young because worry kills more than a disease. Just as some individuals are addicted to drugs, so also we need food because it is one of the three basic needs of man. If a nation desires to acquire wealth and she has no health due to hunger, she is incapacitated because food is part and parcel of an individual which determines the health of that individual.

Moreover, a French wise man called Moliere said that, "je vis de bon soupe et non de bon language", which means, "it is good food and not fine words that keeps me alive". This is true because a hungry person needs no advice or fine words to sustain him. But when you give them a well nourished food, they can now pay rapt attention to your advice. Hunger is in existence in Africa due to government's negligence to agriculture and wrong use of our different natural resources. The populace are therefore, striving with the energy they have to survive so as not to starve to death. It is also caused due to government's low remuneration to workers and civil servants. Because of everyone's desire to get money, no one wants to work, instead, they desire to be worked for. Also, due to the high rate of corruption in the country, people desire to acquire wealth by any means, thus, snatching forcefully, what others have without knowing that they in object poverty. But it is said that, "wealth gotten by vanity shall diminish but he that gathered by labor increases."

Obviously speaking, there is no poverty that overtakes diligence for when one is determined to get something, one follows it through. Nevertheless, this ugly situation can be reversed. It can be possibly controlled before it becomes insidious because a stitch in time saves nine. If we want to eradicate hunger and unhealthy living in our society, all hands must be on deck. The government should consider it a priority to make sure that our country's wealth be generously managed through their hard work. In order to achieve this aim, they should empower agencies such as

National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Fighters Against Poverty, Hunger and Starvation Eradication. There should be an agency that ensures that agriculture is being well practiced and salaries paid and as when due. The society can change for the better if our public officials in government can be disciplined and upright.

Finally, there should be quality food for those in rural areas because they are the people who suffer the most. This should be done by some NGO's that is Non-Governmental Organizations. The government should try all their possible best to provide machinery and basic amenities for local areas. This machinery should be provided for both commercial and subsistence agriculturists so as to improve and boost agricultural products and economy. Hunger is not inevitable, therefore, it can be eradicated if both governmental politicians and masses work hard for the growth and development and also, improvement of Africa. If the changes start from the top, the level of hunger and starvation will be erased. We should also bear it in mind that it is only a healthy and strong nation that can be wealthy because health is wealth.

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## Hunger Control in Africa

Africa being one of the biggest continents in the world, has faced tremendous changes over the centuries. Such dynamism has brought into focus the emergent scandals and chaos in the continent. Being one of the biggest and nearly largest but less to Asia, could we say that racism of other nations to this great continent has brought them into this mess. In my opinion, I would say NO; because the world has gone into global networking and international business tycoon have made it easy to communicate for easy exchange of goods, ideas and services.

I would suggest to this extent below, the way Africa can combat hunger for its effective growth and development of its youths and general factors. Over centuries, Africa has been battling with what to produce to satisfy its growing population especially in agriculture. Africa has experienced a lot of set backs in agriculture and this seems as if she is not moving in line with other continents like Asia, America and Australia. They fail to utilize the natural resources that was given to them by God. Some few countries in Africa like South Africa, Egypt and others have improved a little in terms of providing adequate basic amenities to ensure a better living of her citizens like Nigeria where corruption is a talk for the day.

Hunger in Africa especially in Nigeria the giant of Africa contributing 3% out of 5% of the world population and economy has been very alarming. Corruption around the three arms of government has created a hole which only by God's grace can be filled. These arms of government has left the country with only but sadness, most especially hunger in the states and local government area. With this, only by fighting this corruption we can boast of this nation as a giant of Africa.

Illiteracy, poverty and ignorance which are the three enemies of men have eaten deeply the minds and thoughts of men and have created a big wound which would be so difficult to heal. It is said every controversial human being is an intelligent person. Due to people's laziness, they have allowed selfishness to eat up their minds and they have forgotten that the solutions to your problems lies in the questions and answers you are going to give to yourself. Academic provocation leads to academic upliftment. When the members of the society are education, with what they have grabbed they can save themselves from this poisonous killer "hunger". They say, knowing your purpose is the key to your potential and the poorest man is not he who is without cent, but he who is without purpose. When people don't know their purpose in life, they fall victim of this poisonous trap "poverty" and the next result is hunger. But if the members of the society are educated, their standard of living will be improved and the problem of hunger will be a history.

Humility is the soul of life. Humility is what the society needs in order to have peace and progress, while those who make promises are always obliged to keep them. Africa should assure itself that she cannot do without agriculture. Mechanized agriculture should be adopted to enable or enhance provision of fuel. Extension agencies and different policies should be welcomed to facilitate agricultural development. A wise government is always engaged in practical measures that will enhance and improve the conditions of its citizens, rather than on hegemony. What makes a government just and good is its concern for citizens welfare in general. What am I

saying? Instead of Africa living their continent for search of well paid jobs, they should build many industries that will absorb its youths. Through this, hunger will be drastically reduced because greatness is not a function of where you are, but who you are and we know that little drops of water make an ocean. What am I saying? When we have industries in Africa, it creates employment opportunities for the youths and with this, hunger will be reduced and so also all sorts of immoral acts that decline the image of our nations.

Rivers in Africa should be maintained by damming and reacclimatized to suit international transport system as it can be a source of exchange and source of income. With this, hunger will be reduced and there will be decrease in death rate.

Truly, the three basic needs of man are food, clothing, and shelter, before other needs will follow it. Since it is clear, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should look further into what its members has for their nation. They should assist in providing medical care, food, housing and clothing and this will go a long way reducing fear and stress of its citizens.

In conclusion, what is good for the geese is also good for the gander. If we can change our attitude concerning corruption, materialism, malice and others, what we have here in Africa, that is our natural resources will be more than enough to its citizens and greater impact in the world as a whole

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## The Confinement of Hunger to the Dustbin of History in Africa

Between noon and tomorrow morning, 40,000 individuals will starve to death. The day after tomorrow, 40,000 more will die and in subsequent days, the precious lives of individuals would be snatched away by hunger and starvation. While the quest to eradicate hunger in Africa may seem to be as negligible as the forces of attraction of the molecules of gases, these are things that could be adopted as remedies to the plight of hunger. Africa has remained the only continent immensely subdued by the chaos of hunger because more than half of its population is dying of hunger yet we still emerge as the second largest continent in the world without any tangible achievement with regard to conquering hunger in Africa.

It has been discovered that as poverty increases, fertility rates increase because when people are economically poor they tend to have much need for children but do not plan for the future of these children. This is the fact behind the colossal nature of Africa.

Hunger can be said to be the absence of food to eat which usually brings about sickness or even death. It is a malignant tumor in the brains of the disadvantaged citizens of the society. Hunger is a dreary spirit that peters out one's life if retained for a long period of time and could start from malnutrition or starvation to the final stage of effect—death.

Hunger occurs when the population of Africa continues to overwhelm the amount of food that farmers are able to produce. Economically, this could be interpreted as when there is persistent increase in the birth rate and net migration of the population of Africa that could no longer commensurate with the amount of food production. When this happens, the dreary spirit (hunger) takes dominion over Africa. Even as the day old child knows that there is no smoke without fire, you can testify with me that hunger did not just erupt on its own. There must have been some causes behind its eruption precisely in Africa.

There are a million causes that precipitate hunger but we have to deduce only a few that affect our continent like: poor infrastructural agricultural implements, the nonchalant attitude of our governments, scarcity of land, the rapid population growth, poor climatic conditions, laziness and most of all poverty

We cannot control hunger initially by ourselves before putting the blame on someone else. A writer once said, “it is not what happens to us that matters but our attitude to whatever the problem it is”. This is to say that behind the darkest clouds the sun radiates its ultra-violet rays. In the sense that the growth in population is very rampant in Africa. According to research, the most populous countries in Africa are mostly faced with deadliest conditions due to the fact that the populous ones have at least their basic needs for survival, fertility rate therefore declines since there is not much need to bear children anymore as they are economically sound.

To be concise, the population growth of these less developed countries is quite appalling and this calls for the need to control it. Individuals in the society should be able to limit the number of children they give birth to. In this case, family planning is an essential ingredient. People should be able to scrutinize their economic standard of living in order to know the amount of children they can train and not expose their lives to the harsh climate of hunger by so doing, destroying their ambitious futures.

My mathematics teacher has a maxim that there are many ways to kill a rat. This exposes the fact that there are many formulae to tackle the problem of rapid population growth. Although this is against the belief of some religious groups, sources suggest that billions of condoms be distributed to hunger stricken countries of Africa to prevent indiscriminate unprotected sex to avoid over procreation of children leading to an increase in the birth rate of the populace of Africa.

Scientists have also discovered that the planet Mars has fertile land and a good climate which could sustain human life. Therefore, people should be conveyed from Africa to Mars so as to reduce the teeming population of Africa. An English economist and priest, Thomas Malthus propounded his theory of population which states that the population increases geometrically while the food supply to the population increases arithmetically. This implies that they are parallel to each other and cannot meet as at now. He also gave some possible solutions to the problem of rapid population growth such as: moral restraints, late marriage and birth control. These can be adopted as remedies since he is a renowned economist of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

I do not blame those who always go by the slogan “laziness is a disease” because after an in depth ponder, I came to the conclusion that laziness is not merely a disease but a communicable infection. Laziness is one of the major

causes of hunger particularly in Africa. People are lazy that is why they are always tormented by hunger. Even with the infection of hunger, people become lazier. A rather useful solution to this problem is to send all those who are lazy to an island and see how fast they will look for food and not die. Even as this remedy remains impossible these are still possible answers to the equation posed to us by laziness. Trust as a man is not complete without his missing rib, so is laziness not complete without poverty. Definitely, you will agree with me that laziness begets poverty and so if we should start treating laziness, we should begin from poverty. Poverty is not the absence of riches but the presence of ignorance on how to make life flourish. This ignorance must be arrested by knowledge before one can boast of three-square-meals a day

Furthermore, conferences should be conducted to educate people on how to fight poverty in Africa. Charity organizations should be established instead of money-grasping world organizations like the UN, We cannot keep relying on the United Nations because it is true they help the poverty-stricken countries like Somalia to fight poverty but they take about one-quarter of the funds given to them by other rich countries for the development of hunger-stricken African countries. It has been estimated that the United States of America sends billions of dollars every year to the United Nations for the eradication of world hunger but this is vain, 70% of Africa's population live in abject poverty and 40% of this population live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Their life expectancy is just 50 years. You can imagine! Therefore, these so-called world organizations should be substituted with charity organizations which would morally be sound to help out in the problem of poverty.

There is not plan, firm, state or country without a leader. The question is: are these leaders really showing the spirit of true leadership? It is because of the nonchalant attitude of leaders towards their followers that people are suffering from the trauma of hunger. It is not that these countries do not have the resources God has blessed each and every country profusely with resources but these ambassadors of poverty keep the revenues to themselves thereby radiating the scorching rays of poverty and hunger to the nations. Biologically, "symbiosis" is a terminology which shows the mutual relationship between two organisms where the two of them benefit from each other. This should be the expected relationship between the government and the governed. But the reverse is the case in the governments of Africa. Our leaders are nonchalant because they only stash enough moneys for themselves and forget about the poor masses. Take for instance, my fatherland Nigeria, where a politician earns three times the salary of the United States President. These flamboyant leaders

of ours refuse to provide agricultural infrastructure through out the nations in order to fast forward the development of agriculture in Africa. Countries like Somalia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sychelles and so on suffer the wrath of their leaders in position which has encouraged the reign of hunger in these countries. I therefore advice leaders and the governments at large to put off their garments of greed and selfishness to eradicate hunger in Africa. Governements of countries in Africa should put a stop to the rural-urban drift by developing remote areas in the society in terms of food production. The governments should also see to the distribution of food nation-wide and the delivery of surplus food from countries of surplus concentration to famine-stricken countries of Africa. The distribution of surplus frood is very necessary because countries that have surplus production have discovered that the transportation of surplus food to countries of need would not be profitable therefore, susplus is wasted. Imperatively, rich nations have a moral obligation to aid poorer ones. Financial trade barriers should be plummeted for the sake of hunger. If it is within our powers to prevent hunger even by sacrificing our most valuable asset, what then are we waiting for?

In the old days of our fore-fathers, agriculture was the only profitable job to earn a living. Then, our fore-fathers tilled and cultivated from morning till nightfall to see that ends meet. Nowadays, it is no longer like that. People see agriculture as a stressful profession. This is because they think it demands high labor and so they change their life careers to better ones so to speak. This is one of the generations of hunger but we do not take much cognizance of it. Agriculture should be made a core subject in schools so as to lure students to the profession. Students in higher institutions should be educated on the importance of agriculture as regards the dissolution of hunger in Africa. Agricultural extensions should be conducted in order to educate old peasant farmers on the new and improved know-how of farming. Production and distribution of better seeds and resistant varieties of crops to the primitive farmers should also be encouraged. Also to be encouraged is the establishment of hydroponic farms which will enable farmers to farm in sand or water instead of soils for rapid cultivation. Personally, I encourage people to cultivate potatoes which has been discovered to be the “mother of plenty” because it produces surplus harvest and it is very nutritious. Governments of various countries of Africa should subsidize farming to attain surplus production of food. If students cannot condone agriculture as a profession, they can make it a sub-career. After all, a politician like Sir Olusegun Obasamjo, the ex-president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a very rich farmer. In fact, he has the largest farm in West Africa. What can be done without agriculture? Agriculture provides us with our primary needs of life. Even our ancestors Adam and Eve

in the Bible were agriculturists. Agriculture can also be said to be one of the major tactics to tackle and complete the quadratic equation of hunger.

Every country in Africa has been richly blessed with good resources that could sustain them. But one thing I know is that there are some awful conditions in some countries in Africa because all fingers are not equal. These countries are fairly disadvantaged either by weather, climate, natural hazards or war. Countries like Somalia and Ethiopia have been drawn to the edge of precipice by factors such as war, drought, famine, flood and so on. Other countries of Africa have also been endangering themselves through the depletion of the ozone layers by the evolution of poisonous gases in the atmosphere. This is to magnify the point that both the rich and poor countries of Africa are suffering in one way or the other. This previous statement runs into the arms of the saying that in every advantage there is always a corresponding disadvantage. So there is no absolute absence of blemish in every continent not just Africa. The natural problems here remain unsolvable in human minds. One thing left therefore, is to run back to the secret place of the most high: God. We should communicate to God about these natural hazards that are unsolved because with God all things are possible. Industrialized countries should reduce the rate of industrialization so as not to turn this world into a furnace. The well-to-do countries should endeavor to help their brethren who are in the less-privileged countries especially Africa. Organizations like ECOWAS, UNICEF, AU and WHO should rise up and intervene in killing the mortal disembodied spirit of hunger. Life is the most valuable asset in the universe. Imagine if you lose all your children to the cold hands of death through hunger. Let us listen to the cries of the disadvantaged. We are all morally to help out in fighting hunger.

I believe that if we reduce the population growth of Africa; if we fight against poverty and laziness, if leaders abstain from greed, if we develop enthusiasm for agriculture and most of all, if we rely on God our savior, we can nail hunger to the cross of total eradication. A native bird of my hometown once said “Since the hunger has learnt to shoot without missing, I have also learnt to fly without perching”. This is to say that amidst problems of difficulty we can still derive icons of solution to it. Let us join hands together with the message of this article to defeat hunger and dump hunger into the dustbin of our history.  
**Yes! We can do it!**

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Topic: The Control of Hunger in Africa

A stitch in time saves nine meaning it is better to deal with a problem in its early stages; because if you don't it will get worse. But never was it written in history that a problem was solved without knowing its causes. Therefore, the causes of hunger must be known in order to have a solution for it.

There are several causes of hunger in Africa as a continent such as neglecting public opinion, lack of good administration or leadership, lack of investment or persistent investment in foreign countries, lack of vision and increase in population, irregular decision making, laziness and illiteracy of farmers.

In terms of neglecting public opinion, the leaders of Africa neglect public opinion without knowing that "public opinion is a second conscience". A problem shared is a problem solved. But when a problem is shared and the solutions are neglected, how do you think it will be solved? Therefore, this is one of the causes of hunger in Africa because the problem of hunger in the midst of the people is shared; but the solutions to be given to problems are neglected. The need for something causes people to find a way of obtaining it. Many ideas they say make work light, sharing work; make work easier. When public opinions are offered, the leaders shouldn't neglect it instead cherish it. A wise proverb says "Don't be too self-confident or proud; something may happen to make you look foolish. The leaders should have this at heart always. It is only a mother who know the pain of child bearing, likewise its joy. The people know the pain they are going through in terms of hunger. Their opinions should not be neglected.

Coming to good leadership and administration, the leaders of occupants of political position are meant to discover or know the deep desires of the people before going into it. This will help them to accomplish the desires of the people. The leaders are meant to understand that leadership is not all about being served but serving others. Food as one of the major needs of man is supposed to be given priority of good leadership. "One of these days is none of these days". This is meant to inform the leaders in terms of good leadership concerning the risk of making false promises to the people. During their campaign, they made several promises only to pave way for their victory. Selfishness as it is always said is a disease. When a leader is selfish it affects the life of people around him. The leaders are meant to fulfill their promises and perform their obligations in order to prevent the people from starving themselves to death.

Lack of investment or persistent investment in foreign countries. Some countries in "Africa" invest in foreign countries rather than theirs. Tell me, in a situation whereby the resources of Africa are being invested in other countries, how would you expect the needs of the teeming population which mainly is food to be solved. When investments are made in other countries, the economic standard of those countries will improve while those African countries will continue. People should be enlightened on the importance of investing in their country. This means managing to produce something good from poor materials. If the citizens or people of Africa can't manage to produce or make out something good from their developing countries, is it that they grow? Can they put a stop to hunger? They should know that if you don't make good use of the little you have, you cannot expect to gain something bigger.

Lack of vision and increase in population. Vision many would tell you in human planning of any kind, it is most successful when a vision is in place first. A vision must focus on the future and stand as a concrete foundation for the people. Lack of vision causes hunger because with the increase in population and decrease of supply of demand, the leaders are meant to focus on vision. They should make plans for the future of the unborn. IN a situation whereby the population increases every day and plans are not made to satisfy their nutritional wants, the problem of hunger will continue. Vision as a solution helps to consider possible consequences before taking action. Vision doesn't fluctuate but serve as an enduring promise. Vision helps a continent win value to their personality. It helps the future planners not to focus only in making fame and embezzling funds. Instead, it helps them to consider their responsibilities to their people in order to meet up with their nutritional needs. Africa even if wealthy but unhealthy are still failures. Vision is one of the solutions to hunger in Africa if it is consistently considered.

Faint heart they say never wins a fair lady. This means that to succeed in life, one must have the courage to pursue what he wants. This must be done by making regular decisions to keep a regular chase at fulfillment. Some Africans are talented farmers and agriculturists but have little courage to do it. They feel it is not beneficial, encouraging or reputable to the personality. Need teaches a plan; necessity will help you find a solution. Regular decision making keeps a regular chase of fulfillment. The people and leaders of Africa must know that "if we recognize our talents, use them appropriately and choose a field that uses those talents; we will rise to the top of our field. Regular decision making helps in making favorable policies for the good of the people and their leaders. If this is introduced as a method of controlling hunger, "Africa will be a better place of hope". The control of hunger is based on the platform of decision making; otherwise African countries will become dependent on food and agricultural products from other countries. Irregular decision making leads to lack of solution.

Laziness, as it is most said is a disease. A hard working nation is a healthy nation. The people of Africa don't understand the proverb which says "nothing good comes easy". Laziness has now become a stumbling block to the growth of agriculture in Africa. People are now eager to adapt the western way of life, which is luxurious and comfortable without stress or difficulty. This menace has eaten deep into the marrow of many Africans who now see farming as a curse or sign of poverty. Laziness, doesn't just affect the control of hunger physically but also psychologically. Education "negatively" has kept so many minds "idle" in terms of thinking or being realistic. People no longer think beyond what they see in literal language. People feel reluctant to distinguish themselves from others by doing that which they can accomplish comfortably. This is why today, you see many students going into a particular field of study and coming out unemployed. In such a situation, the demand for food is high but the laborers are few. This leads to inflation through which the problems of the unemployed youths are increased as it leads to increment in hunger and starvation. The solution to laziness is a "tiny voice" crying in the wilderness but isn't heard. It is high time we started listening to this voice. Laziness is now the Achilles heel of Africa. Leaders of Africa should build industries and create job opportunities in order to scare laziness out of the people of Africa. With these, the people might realize themselves. These will help control the effect of hunger in Africa.

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. Education is something you keep forever. Most African farmers are illiterates because they are mostly the aged people in the continent. The citizens are many in number therefore need a corresponding supply to their demand. There is a wise saying that if we make attempt to increase our knowledge in order to be used for human good, it will make a difference in us and in our world. But the farmers don't have the knowledge of education, how is this possible? As a result of this, the use of machines in agriculture is strange to hem and therefore neglected. This illiteracy also affects them mentally.

Today, you see a particular person buying almost everything from the market because farmers are uneducated and have no regard for other things rather than food, clothing, and shelter, they fix prices on goods with regard to their wants. Education is necessary for the control of hunger for when we make attempt to increase our knowledge in order to use for it for human good, it will make a difference in us and in our world. Enlightenment programs of various kinds should be organized in order to enlighten Africa on the need of education in farming.

Again, the problem of hunger is sometimes not caused by insufficient supply of food or any of the above mentioned causes. The fact is that after this is produced, the richer personalities in Africa, because of greed and excess availability of money purchases almost everything to them and leave the poor to their fate. Therefore, the printing and minting of money should be controlled. Because, some richer ones purchase these items in large quantities and leave the poorer ones to their fate. The printing and minting of money should be controlled because this prompts some greedy elites to purchase goods in large quantities or in bulk and sell to the poor citizens of "Africa" at a higher rate. This leads to inflation which leads to hunger and starvation.

In terms of tax payment, the government should consider the low income earners before declaring the amount of tax to be paid by the people. If an individual earns little and pays more than he earns, how do you think the problem of hunger will be solved? The leaders should be determined to solve this problem because "determination leads to success".