Struggling with Economic Recession: Youth Unemployment and Crisis of Legitimation in Africa

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Abstract
There is growing citizens' expectations for responsive government that will proffer solutions to developmental challenges such as poverty, deteriorating infrastructure and unemployment among others. In most African countries, government are performing below expectations in some of the aforementioned priority areas, thus, underscoring the basis for growing legitimation crisis. The paper is conceptual in nature and relied extensively on literature review. The paper argued that government inability to develop progressive ideas, responsive jurisdiction, technical capability and effective planning to address the basic expectations of the citizen particularly rising youth unemployment, breeds systems of political deception that further encourage thuggery, hooliganism, criminality and insurgency among other which are natural consequence of legitimation crisis in Africa. The paper concluded that legitimacy is vital for social, economic and political development in Africa. The paper recommended that government should develop proactive policy measure to curtail economic recession in Africa through the promotion of fiscal and monetary policies that will encourage employment opportunity to the teeming unemployed youth.

Keywords: Youth, Economic recession, Unemployment, Crisis of legitimation, Africa, Developing nations.

Introduction

The economy of every nation is susceptible to business or economic cycles. Business cycles describe fluctuation of economic activities in medium-to-long-term. The instabilities of economic activities, if not well managed create economic contraction or recession. From economic perspective, a recession is a contraction in business cycle which upshots into overall slowdown in economic activities. Some of the major indicators that a country is experiencing economic recession include declining Gross Domestic Product-GDP, contraction of investment, declining capacity utilization, declining household disposable income, shrinking business profits, galloping inflation, bankruptcies and growing rate of unemployment among others (Maswana, 2009; Brahmi & Zouari, 2014; Adebayo, 2016; Inokotong & Salami, 2016). Since late 2008, countries across the world have been affected by the global economic slowdown or meltdown (Dooley, 2000; Hong & Tornell, 2005; Clever, 2017; Afolabi, 2017). For almost four decades, barely would a year pass without some form of reports of dire economic crisis in many nations of the world (Claessens & Rose, 2009). As the recession bites in most countries, poverty level increases, unemployment rises, the middle classes worldwide are destabilized, and there is growing risk of social and political tensions (Kodila-Tedika & Nguena, 2017).

Africa's comparatively weak global links indicated worst impacts of the global economic crisis compare to many developed and emerging economies (Bakrania & Lucas, 2017). Africa region as a whole has been exposed to slump and declining growth estimates lowered from 5 percent in 2008 to 1.7 percent as at April 2009 (International Monetary Fund-IMF, 2009). The Food and Agricultural Organization-FAO's statistical report on low- and middle-income nations in the period 1995–2017 shows that a huge impact of economic slowdowns and temporary recessions is expected (Food and Agricultural Organization of United State, 2020). Occasioned by economic recession, economic growth in Africa continues to lose momentum (Clever, 2017). According to Pells and David (2008), the global financial crisis of 2008 is a foremost financial crisis and the worst of its kind since the great depression of 1930. Ever before and after the two

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remarkable global financial disaster, the Great Depression (1929-1933) and Great Recession (2007-2009), a number of scholars have focused on what triggered economic fluctuations and recessions (Clever, 2017). According to Central Bank of Nigeria-CBN (2012), two major factors that can lead to recession are internal (endogenous) and external (exogenous). The internal factor on one hand, are the consequences of conflict of thoughts, corruption, misapplication of economic policy, regulatory negligence and policy distortions. The external factors on the other hand, are exogenous in nature and deal with issues occasioned by loss of government control on issued such as natural tragedy, climate change, insurgency and wars.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) observed that in Africa the ratio of vulnerable employees had increased by 5 percentage points between 2007 and 2009 forcing the figure up to beyond imagination (ILO, 2011). With the declaration of COVID-19 by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020, as a global pandemic, the International Monetary Fund-IMF has proclaimed that the world is set to experience the worst economic catastrophe since the Great Depression (World Bank, 2020a). The World Bank-World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April 2020, projected that there will be a global shrinkage of 3 percent in 2020 (World Bank, 2020a). For advanced nations, GDP will decline by 6.1 percent, and for emerging and developing economies, a decline of 1 percent is forecasted. Based on the scenario simulations of the IMF, global economic growth could decline by 0.5 for the year 2020 (African Union, 2020). According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for each month of lockdown, there will be a loss of 2 percentage points (p.p.) in annual GDP growth which will propelled funding requests from IMF by low-income and middle-income nations to cope with the looming economic challenges (OECD, 2020).

Technically, when a country recorded two consecutive quarters of negative or adverse growth in real GDP; within a given period, usually one year, it can be assumed that the country is experiencing recession. The economic crisis in some Africa countries is comprehended to have intensified many of the structural difficulties confronting Africa, particularly poverty and unemployment (Obadan & Odusola, 2010). According to Niall (2015), the incidence of long-term unemployment amongst the youth in most African countries increased by more than one third during economic recession and the circumstances of youth whose labour market prospects were weak prior to the economic crisis triggered beyond control. One of the daunting challenges to young people in every country is growing unemployment leading to high risk of long-term inactivity and exclusion (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2009). Africa’s relatively fragile global linkages also suggested that the continent would experience the worst impacts during economic crisis. In other words, the weak competiveness of most Africa’s nations will create impacts that are more devastating during economic recession.

Of all the consequences of economic recession, youth unemployment exerts the most devastating effects. One of the general descriptions of unemployment cover persons (aged 15–64) who during the period under consideration were currently available for work, vigorously seeking for work but were without work (Werner, 2011). Many nations both developed or developing countries have experienced some degree of unemployment in a particular period of their respective economic trajectories. Economic literature offers numerous reasons for growing unemployment complications (Solow, 1980). According to Cappelli (2012), unemployment can be attributed to poor economic systems, and the unemployed workers for lack requisite education and skills. Kristina, Mindaugas, and Akvile (2017) transferred the problem of unemployment to external influences and tremors, or volatile events, while Otekhile and Zeleny (2016) contended that technology and labour market organizations are the bases of unemployment complications. From another perspective, Okafor (2011) argued that deficit in aggregate spending and lack of innovations are the critical factors for explaining unemployment challenges.

Opportunity to be gainfully employed is vital to all aspect of human lives, thus, being gainfully employed is not just a structure that permits people to get along in the society, but how an individual view and defines him or herself and how human being develop sense of self-worth (Burkhard, 2010). On the contrary, being unemployed, hurts and it is devastating particularly to the youth. Unfortunately, this is the situation several million young people in Africa find themselves. Youth unemployment is growing geometrically in Africa and the percentage of youth unemployment is becoming uncontrollable (Okafor, 2011; Jennifer, Trish, Andrew, & Melissa, 2015). The associated costs of youth unemployment for individual and the nations are enormous. For instance, youth unemployment turns into greater spending on social benefits, aggravates inequalities and suppresses social mobility, lost income to the public purse through tax income forgone and complex spending on criminal justice system (Richard & David, 1982). Unemployment is connected with chains of undesirable health consequences, both physical and psychological (unhappiness, deviance behaviors, criminality etc.) are inclined to nurture disproportionately within the duration of unemployment.

Global youth unemployment rate is 12.7% in 2012, and the ILO estimated that it is likely to increase to 12.9% by 2017. Precisely, there are 1.2 billion youth in the world aged between 15 and 24, accounting for 17% of the world's population. Sub-Saharan Africa’s population is anticipated to increase from 800 million to 1.5 billion by 2025, which is likely to compound existing labour market deficiency in Africa (The Brenthurst Foundation, 2011). Statistics’ released by ILO also indicates that no less than 40% of all unemployed people are young and youth unemployment rates are generally four to five times more than the adult rates in every country in the world (ILO, 2016). There are numerous reasons for youth unemployment besides the general situation of the country and the labour market. Some of the notable reasons are low level of education and training systems, labour market and employment policies, lack of requisite hard and soft skills, the stratification and distribution of opportunities in society among others. Irrespective, of the reasons causing unemployment in Africa, Bell and Blanchflower (2010) maintained that a policy measures aiming at solving youth unemployment is one of the most pressing challenges confronting governments across Africa continent. Relying on the aforementioned position, legitimization crisis has direct influence on the growing unemployment without any foreseeable solution in Africa.

Legitimation crisis denotes a general decline in the confidence of administrative functions, institutions and leadership. Jurgen Habermas, a German sociologist and philosopher (Habermas, 1976) first presented the notion of ‘legitimation’ in 1973. With a legitimation crisis, an institution, organization, or government lack the administrative competences to establish or preserve structures that is effective in implementing instrument of public policy to accomplish desired goals in the interest/ benefits of the society (Habermas, 1976). The sheer magnitude of youth employment has progressively penetrated the public’s awareness over the past decades and there seems to be no hope in sight. Increasingly, there is a realization that intensities of youth unemployment are not merely a mirror of the business cycle, but tenacious structural challenges that have diverse implications (Godfrey, 2003). Africa’s leaders’ mono-causal explanation on growing unemployment is now under serious scrutiny given the multi-dimensional and entangled challenges confronting the large majority of the citizenry (Ogundiya, 2010). Because of growing unemployment and poverty, youth has become instrument of public disorder and criminality. Regrettably, the pace of democratic stability in most Africa’s nations, which is anticipated to neutralize the storm of these challenges, has failed woefully. Rather, democratic dispensation in most Africa’s countries has brought with it rising stream of challenges that further aggravate legitimation crisis in Africa (Rainer & Rainer, 2011). Given the prevalent of the aforementioned challenges, the teeming population most especially the youth engage in several form of illegitimate acts such as stealing, Yahoo boys, kidnapping and political thugs among others to pursue legitimacy for themselves.

Against the aforementioned research background, this paper seeks to review economic recession, youth unemployment and crisis of legitimation in Africa

Economic Recession: Causes, Effects and Management

The historical origin of economic recession dates back to the 3rd Century (AD 235-284) during the era of military anarchy also known as imperial crisis, which propelled several form of economic hardship, public crisis, assault and diseases (David, 2017). Other notable economic crises took place in the 14th Century during economic predicament in England and the 17th Century Dutch era of economic collapse. To date, there is no formal description of economic recession, but there is general acknowledgment that the word 'recession' denotes a period of deterioration in economic activities. Most analysts refer to recession as a two consecutive quarters of degeneration in nation's real (inflation adjusted) GDP (Moswana, 2009; Brahmi & Zouari, 2014; Adebayo, 2016). According to Kodila-Tedika and Nguena (2017), most scholars and policy analyst often restrict the definition of economic recession to the declining GDP, but this measure does not adequately define the situation as a whole. The above definition was first promoted by Julius Shisken (1974) and has two inherent flaws. Firstly, the "two-quarter" principle is defective. Secondly, the predominant focus on GDP alone is constricted due to occasional revision (The Economist, 2008). On this note, Claessens and Rose (2009) remarked that it is more satisfactory to contemplate a broader set of measures of economic activities to determine whether a nation is actually experiencing a recession.

The National Bureau of Economic Research-NBER, offers an expansive definition of economic recession. According to NBER, recession is a substantial deterioration in economic activity, which spread across the economy, enduring more than a few months, usually visible in production, employment, real income and other economic indicators (Scott, Nicholas, & Steven, 2015). Recessions usually occur when there is an extensive fall in spending (an adverse demand shock) and may be caused by different issues, such as financial predicament, external trade shock, adverse shock or the bursting of economic activities. The NBER framework advocates four sequences to define recessions: (i) level of employment, (ii) industrial output, (iii) actual personal income less transfer payments, and (iv) the size of transactions of the manufacturing and trade sectors (Edward, 2008). The word recession, no doubt, is well known, and the public characteristically understands its undesirable consequences on the economy. However, Edward (2008) claimed that the concrete meaning of a recession is not very clear. In particular, at what level is the economy in recession? In addition, how can this be determined? In other words, what really makes a recession a recession? Even though an economy may show signs of dwindling economic activities prior to plugging into recession, the procedure of determining whether a nation has slumped into recession (or not) often takes time (Edward, 2008). Besides, diverse measures of economic activities may display contradictory behaviour, making it problematic to ascertain whether a particular nation is undoubtedly in distress based on deepening deterioration in economic activities (Edward, 2008).

According to CBN (2012) report, the above positions are explicable, because, the assessment and pronouncement processes include instituting a comprehensive decline in economic activity over a prolonged period and scrutinizing economic trend through many variables, which are often reviewed after their initial pronouncement. A thorough understanding of the sources of recession has become one of the most enduring domains of research in economics. A number of issues can propel recession. Some of these issues are connected with severe changes in the prices of industrial inputs, which push up the general price level and resulting to decline in aggregate demand. A recession can also offshoot when government of a country attempt to reduce inflation by adopting contractionary monetary or fiscal policy measures. Recession may also be rooted in financial and stock market complications (strident assets prices, credit expansion, debt accumulation, and shares price manipulation etc.). Recession can also occur when there is sharp decline in external demand, especially in nations with strong export based sectors. Other issues that can lead to recession are high interest rates, declining consumer confidence and reduced real wages. Gabbi, Kalbaska, and Vercelli (2014) attempts to clarify series of financial meltdown and economic crises from the perspective of incentives that change because of securitization and contagion procedures. Thus, for financial crisis to meet the requirements of a cyclical downturn in the financial system, it imply, the moment that ends a period of growth and unlocks a recession or even depression (Kodila-Tedika & Nguena, 2017).

The experience of most African nations as regard financial meltdown and economic recession crisis most often than not spread into Africa via business cycle and contracted trade relations rather than financial links (Maswana, 2009). According to Padayachee (2010), analysis of the global recession in developing nation's vis-à-vis African countries trails a simple logic linked to exportation and commodity prices. Zulu (2011) stated that macro and micro level factors are mostly adopted to examine the complications of recession on Africa. Macro level influences consist of level of unemployment, declined commodity prices, contracted trade; lessen foreign aid inflow, etc. While the micro level influences are connected to how the macro level issues impact the household and individual (Padayachee, 2010). According to Keynes (1936) and Damachi (2001), there are a number of approaches to combat economic recession. These include:

i. Countercyclical expenditure and investment
ii. Lesser taxes and incentives
iii. Accommodative monetary policy to propel lower reserve desires
iv. Huge borrowing to finance infrastructural development
v. Recognition and acceptance of normal inflation rate
vi. Bail outs option

Defining Unemployment

Unemployment has long been identified as one of the most persistence and problematic issues to manage. The notion of "unemployment" is a multidimensional phenomenon. However, it comprises economic, political and social elements. Unemployment is also challenging to operationalize because its definition and measurement is contingent on the economy of the nation's, socio-cultural settings, and education system among others. According to the National Bureau of Statistics-NBS (2016), labour force of a nation refers to category of people or citizens who are enthusiastic and are able to utilize their skills at any given period for gainful employment. While the unemployed are the individuals who have no work, but are seeking for work. Karl and Allan (1978) viewed unemployment as a measure of distance between short- and long-run equilibrium situations of the labour market, not a consequence of the incapability of people to find employment. Jeffrey (2010) contended that unemployment is because of incongruity between the distribution of labour, industries and the distribution of demand among productive entities. ILO stated that unemployment refers to those people who have not worked more than one hour during reference period but who are available for and aggressively searching for work (O'Higgins, 1997). In the opinion of Fajana (2000), unemployment refers to circumstances where people who are enthusiastic and skilful, and are unable to find suitable paid employment.

According to Adebayo (1999), unemployment occurs when members of the labour force who are willing to work find it difficult to get jobs. Martin (2000) maintained that the present-day configuration of unemployment is not well suited within the customary interpretation of unemployed who are unable to find paid job. In the opinion of Okafor (2011) there seems to be no agreement on the meaning of unemployment. However, in a simple term, unemployment refers to the circumstances of people who are without jobs. According to Ajufo (2013), changes in the labour market, structure from local and global creates some form of discrepancies between employment and unemployment, which make the notion of unemployment to lose much of its comprehensive description. However, the above narrative is mostly correct in developing countries, where few people have consistent employment on a contractual basis and where the deficiency of benefits makes unemployment somewhat a pointless concept. According to Richard and David (1982), the cyclical comprehension of unemployment is the consideration of two rather dissimilar occurrences. From this perspective, unemployment can upsurge either because fewer jobs are available or because more workforces choose to seek available jobs. The aforementioned two causes of unemployment evidently have quite diverse economic impacts; while the former is undoubtedly suggestive of a deteriorating labour market condition, the latter mirror an enlargement in labour market situations (Richard & David, 1982).

A review of economics literature reveals that scholars have identified numerous forms of unemployment. These include structural unemployment, frictional unemployment, cyclical or Keynesian unemployment, and residual unemployment (Ademola, 1999; William & Bill, 2011; Capelli, 2012; Uddin & Uddin, 2013). Structural unemployment arises when there is an alteration in the structure of an industry or the economic activities of the nation. This may arise from technological revolutions, paucity of capital resources in relation to their demand. Frictional unemployment is triggered by industrial resistance in which jobs may exist, yet the workforces may be unable to fill them either because they do not have the necessary skill, or because they are not aware of the presence of such jobs. Seasonal unemployment arises from seasonal differences in the activities of particular businesses instigated by climatic changes, changes in customers' preferences or innate nature of such industries. Cyclical or Keynesian unemployment is attributed to changes in operation or business cycle of an industry that arises when the aggregate demand falls below full employment level (Keynes, 1936). Residual unemployment is initiated by personal factors such as old age, physical or mental incapacity, poor job attitudes, insufficient skills and training to secure paid employment work.

An Overview of Youth Unemployment in Africa

Unemployment is a global phenomenon but it occurs commonly in developing countries of the world. The growing occurrence of unemployment has created huge social, economic, political and psychological consequences in most Africa countries. Youth is among the greatest formidable force and resources that a nation can have in order to enhance its socio-economic development. Likewise, availability of large number of youth constitutes energetic, courageous and adaptable force of change to nation's social economic development, if they are well integrated and groomed towards productive economic activities. Therefore, huge youth's unemployment in any nation is a sign of far more multifaceted problems. According to ILO report, the percentage of youth unemployment is progressively growing and the figure of those without jobs persisted at an all-time higher rate across the globe but more pervasive in developing countries (ILO, 2016). Unemployment has consequence that is more devastating on youth that portends immense vulnerabilities when understood from the point of view that young people are the next generation of potentially productive economic and social actors. The impact of youth unemployment generates a direct loss of income to the unemployed and devastating influence on the government in terms of enlarged social benefit expenditures and forfeiture of tax revenues income. It also has associated cost implication to the economy in terms of lost output.

In Africa, youth's unemployment constitutes huge problems, which propelled other criminal tendencies in the youths.

According to Woolfolk (1998), youthful ages mark the fundamental period of human development, because at this stage, they are easily responsive to vocational or entrepreneurship training as opposed to self-destructive behaviours. Within the OECD countries, formal measure of youth unemployment is defined by the ILO as unemployed young person (aged between 16 and 24) that are without work, available for work and enthusiastically looking for work. Issues such as lack of requisite experiences and abilities, talents incongruity and age factors have been said to contribute to the high youth unemployment compared to the adult cluster (Godfrey, 2003). Growing rates of unemployment among teeming youth have been described from two perspectives, namely, traditional and structural views. The traditional interpretation holds that the challenge to youth unemployment is due to lack of job availability. The second perspective accommodates huge flow into unemployment trap rather than the lengthy period of unemployment. Contemporary viewpoint perceives employment instability as the root causes of youth unemployment. Scholars such as Okojie (2009) and Ojeifo (2013) have documented a number of issues that propel unemployment of graduates in Nigeria. These include explosive population growth, poor school curricula, unguided expansion of the educational system, corruption, declining capacity of the manufacturing sector, high rate of rural-urban migration, poor access to information, destructive linkages and influences among youth, lack of talents applicable to the workplace and lack of cognate experience among others.

The Notion of Legitimation Crisis: African Perspective

The concept of legitimacy is use in a wide variety of social contexts. For instance, it is legitimate for a manufacturer to charge a fair price for its products or service, and it is also legitimate for a government to provide basic amenities for citizens. In these circumstances, the notion of legitimacy is adopted to label not just the capability to act, but the right or prerogative to act. In general, the idea of legitimation crisis infiltrates the work of Jurgen Habermas in his book "*Managing Legitimacy: Strategic and Institutional Approaches*". Suchman described legitimacy as a widespread discernment or supposition that the activities of an entity are needed, suitable, and proper within some socially built system of customs, values, beliefs and descriptions (Suchman, 1995). According to Dogan (2004) and Fergusson and Yeates (2014), if citizen have the conviction that existing institution are suitable or morally right, then those institutions are legitimate. The original connotation of legitimacy lies in the political domain, originating from the classic political-legal word "legislate" where legitimacy is largely viewed to denote the right to rule or the right to govern (Coicaud, 2002). Legitimacy is generally comprehended as prerogative to control, which commonly means right to issue influential commands that necessitate obedience from those subject to the leader. Legitimacy is a social notion in a strict sense – it defines an occurrence that is inherently social and because of its intrinsically social nature, politicians, journalists and academics with other social concepts such as sagacity, fairness, legality and ethics often equate legitimacy. As expressed by Rainer and Rainer (2011), in the politics of legitimation, legitimacy is not a substitute.

One of the concepts that have attained much ill repute in political and social sciences is the term "crisis. Too many variants of it for a single study to accommodate, for instance, there is crisis of welfare state, crisis of political parties, crisis of legislature, crisis of despotisms and crisis of democracy to mention a few (Herbamas, 1976). Jurgen Habermas' offers four dimensions of crises, the first one relating to the economy is known as (Type 1: economic crisis), the second political-administrative system (Type 2: rationality crisis), the third is institutions of democracy (Type 3: legitimation crisis), and finally, the individuals and their work ethics (Type 4: motivational crisis). Legitimation crisis, according to Habermas (1976) is an input predicament that transpires when the legitimation system failed in maintaining the requisite level of mass loyalty. Perceived legitimation crisis can be viewed as a crisis of change, that is, a change from conventional approach to modernity (Lipset, 1959). Likewise, loss of legitimacy typically ensues when a political institution no longer has the capability to offer satisfactory access to the political process or expectations of its citizen (Lipset, 1959). In simple words, legitimation crisis is a challenge that stems from hindrance, unfulfilled need, loss of hope and frustration of the expectation of those governed in a society.

The success or failure of government is contingent on the degree of its reasonableness, capability to meet and exceed the needs and aspirations of her citizens and by extension general acceptance by the people – i.e. its legitimacy (Coicaud, 2002). Legitimacy is undeniably a central notion in contemporary governance because of the growing expectations of citizens. From practical viewpoint, legitimacy is what makes citizen willingly comply with instructions from constituted authority. For decades, government in most African countries have put their knees on the neck of developmental agenda and good governance. The result has been the strangulation and asphyxiation of subnational entities by the ruling class, leading to inequity, injustice, absence of fair play in the distribution of resources, retardation of economic growth, debt conundrum, low quality of life, and more importantly, the neglect of the welfare of the youths who constitute the vast majority of the population in most African countries.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

This paper discusses economic recession and how it breads youth unemployment and crisis of legitimation in Africa. From the review of literature, it is clear that the challenges generated by economic recession are more of structural than of monetary or fiscal. For the bulk of African countries, the level of economic activities during economic meltdown and recession has been substantially worse and devastating. Economic recession is not a new phenomenon in most African countries because countless nations such as Ghana, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, Nigeria to mention a few, have faced serious economic complications. The state of the economy in most Africa countries portrays a very fragile situation that aggravates developmental challenges such as unemployment, fraud, youth restiveness among others. Youth unemployment in particular persists as a pressing issue in most African countries and it upsurge more during economic recession. The level of unemployment is a reflection of the state of a country's economy. To some degree, youth unemployment is greatly contingent on the overall state of the economy. Therefore, wider access and opportunity to engage in meaningful work that enhances self-esteem, comfort and social inclusion is a right in an ideal society, irrespective of gender, age, social, class and ethnicity among others. Scholars and policy analysts for the most part have pronounced unemployment as unanticipated burden on the current generation of youth. High levels of youth unemployment also symbolize a misused resource on the part of Africa nations because it limits opportunities.

Unemployed youth has been described has "a lost generation", not only because of output loss but also because of enduring direct and indirect consequences (poverty, criminality, social costs, social exclusion, and obstruction of personal development opportunity etc.) The consequences of unemployment on young people, their families and society at large are huge and very complicated (Sulaiman, Rahim, Akintunde, & Ajiroba, 2016). The trouble in securing employment and to live a meaningful livelihood desired by youth create intense sense of frustration when jobs are not available, leading to inability to meet basic needs (such as food, shelter, clothing, education and access to health care service among others). Two prominent consequences of economic recession are rising degrees of unemployment and poverty that breed legitimacy crisis. Crisis of legitimation create severe consequences on the quality that society ascribes to constituted authority or government. When citizen ordains positive perception or quality of governance, both citizen and government are said to enjoy or command legitimacy, which is essential to the cultivation and maintenance of not only law and order, peace and stability among others but institute legitimacy on the part of the government to govern and to be respected.

Economic recession has created serious difficulty for youth in securing work, which, if left unaddressed, will create a constraint on Africa economic growth and more profoundly create crisis of legitimation. The above conclusion is based on a simple analogy that an idle mind is not only a devil workshop but also tools through which several other detrimental evils can be perpetuated. The above scenario succinctly captured the present circumstance of most countries in Africa continent that is characterized with terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping, civil unrest and lack of respect and order for constituted authority. The youth are particularly important to the prosperity of Africa nations because it has been projected that 25% of the global population is between the ages of 15-24 years of age and that in Africa; by 2025, two-thirds of Africa population will be under 25 years of age (The Brenthurst Foundation, 2011). The above demographic statistics presents remarkable opportunities for Africa as a whole, but also pose significant challenges, if the issue of rising youth unemployment is not proactively curtailed. In the absence of jobs and meaningful living opportunities, young people in Africa will naturally seek other approaches to discharge their energies. The immediate consequence is rising violence, growing brain drain, and revolt against constituted authority which is nothing but a huge misfortune on Africa's growth and competitiveness.

The dramatic decline in the labour markets occasioned by economic recession badly reshapes the informal economy, and contrary to conventional economic understanding, the informal economy is failing to serve as a cushion to the formal economy during economic recession. In the end, this has enlarged poverty, aggravates unemployment situation, decline in the states' capabilities to offer social services and absence of social security safety nets in almost all Sub-Saharan African states (Clever, 2017). Over 820 million people in the world were hungry in 2018, which accentuates the enormous complications of accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Zero Hunger by 2030 (United Nations Children's Fund-UNICEF, 2019). Currently, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is complicating global economic prospects in ways no one could have anticipated and the consequences has been projected to be severe in most African countries. Economic stimulus and foreign aid is urgently needed and is being currently deployed throughout the world. However, most countries in Sub-Saharan African states lack the capabilities and abilities to use the bail out packages and stimulus at the level that is necessary to curb the magnitude of the COVID-19 challenges (Food and Agricultural Organization of United State, 2020; World Bank, 2020b).

In conclusion, the socio-economic impact of legitimation crisis is real. It is therefore, crucial for policy-makers to make concerted effort to lessen the adverse associated challenges posed by legitimation crisis. Job creation on a massive scale is crucial for guaranteeing that young people have access to economic prospects. Public policy can also exert powerful influence on the rate of unemployment in most African countries. For instance, on the supply side of the labour market, a number of public policies such tax holiday, promotion of spirit of entrepreneurship and public-private sector collaboration are some of the measures that can ameliorate the challenges connected to unemployment in Sub-Sahara Africa. The paper offers the following policy recommendations to address the menace of economic recession, youth unemployment and crisis of legitimation in Africa.

1. In fashioning out the case or policy measure to come out of economic recession in Africa, it is imperative to articulate aggressive fiscal and monetary policies to propel and support the inherently weak economy; therefore, government need to offer more support and extension of unemployment benefits to the teeming unemployed youth.
2. Responsive leadership is the hallmark of good governance as the behaviour of the citizens not only youth is directed and shaped by the type and quality of leadership. No doubt, leadership legitimacy is not commanded but earned. Therefore, for the needed reform and development to thrive in Africa; a reasonable level of generally acceptable and legitimacy must subsist by doing the needful in all critical areas that impacts negatively on youth employment and other developmental challenges.
3. No doubt, young people are more readily integrated into the domain of work when formal education systems are flexible and

responsive to the needs and expectations of the labour market. On this note, it is important to ensure that school curricula and quality of teaching matches the expectation of labour market to enhance youth employability.

4. There is need to create a favourable regulatory environment for private sector investment to thrive in Africa. To accomplish this goal, there is need to create an enabling environment for industries and private sector participation in economic activities.

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