



Research Paper

Glocalisation of Social Media Contents from the South: Any Advantage on the Information Flow Dichotomy?

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ABSTRACT : Among media scholars from the South, the imbalance in information flow had formed a long-lasting argument. Different views support the belief that the Western media are infiltrating their culture on the South as well as report Africa in bad light simply because they control the information superhighways around the globe. With the advent of the internet enabled-media, which has spread the globe, it is expected that the information flow will change with the South supplying the world their own local contents to save their image. Given the fact that the internet had provided an enabling environment for the South to report themselves, in their way, it becomes imperative to examine whether they have used the opportunity to repair the damages allegedly done by the Western media on their image. Using a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of available literature, this study investigates social media contents and how such posts from Nigerians had helped in improving the image of the nation in the global community paying special attention to the reasons why such contents flourish in Nigeria. The study questions whether the advent of the internet had given the South any advantage in the information flow around the world. The study concluded that society gets the kinds of media contents that it wants while blaming poor leadership for bad social media contents which fill everywhere in the social media space.

Key words: Glocalisation, Social media, Information flow, National image

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I. INTRODUCTION

Among the trending issues in the present day global community is term glocalisation which is an offshoot of the concept of globalization. Having made the world a global village through the development of different technologies that can enable communication flow from one side to the other, without prejudice, there arouse the need to bring in certain element of local issues and ways of doing things in the global environment. Suddenly, the world began to see the influence of the global ideologies as being manipulated and controlled by the then western world usually Americans

(Dumitescu & Vinerean, 2010). This brought about the concept of Americanisation of the international media space because they have access to the information superhighways and using same to expand their business, their cultures, political lifestyle, religion, economy, development strategies and activities of their government among other things. In doing this, companies in the west especially the film industry infiltrated the larger society with their contents. Think of Disney, Dreamworks Production, Pixar and others who began to sell their films to other countries through the media space. Through this way, the companies brought into the market place, what was known to them that the other part of the world did not know about them for others to know. This action according to Kotler (2009) cited in Dumitescu and Vinerean (2010) was taken by those companies in order to market their product and brand successfully in the market. For a successful marketing in the global environment, there is the need for a proper understanding of the local customer as the marketing differs from one country to another (Erkan & Ismail, 2012; Hise and Tae-Choi, 2012). This brought in the concept of glocalisation to beer given that the world is more concerned with how the local breeds would come into the space. According to Foglio and Stanevicius (2007), glocalization is a method which revolves round the concepts of globalization and localization. In this study, the researchers considered glocalisation as the combination of

local and global contents, issues, news, events, and brands for there to be a fair share of the information flow, especially in the era of social media where virtually everyone is a producer of media contents.

Over the years, there have been this burning debate on the information flow dichotomy between the West and the North with the Northern part of the world condemning the action of foreign cultural influx in the media space as a result of their development pace which gave them the power over information superhighways (Agbanu, 2011; Udeze, Nwodu and Nwodu, 2015; Nwodu and Ukozor, 2018). According to Udeze, 2005, cited in Nwainana, (2018), the developed countries push unimaginable amount of information to the developing countries and the contents of such of information are normally such that the citizens of the developing countries read, eat and drink exactly the ways these transnational corporations want them to eat and drink. As the information channels controller, the west infiltrated the entire media landscape with their cultures, political development and businesses, hence making the west to adopt their own way of life and see theirs as inferior. In so doing determine what comes in and what goes out of the media, hence, leaving the Northerners with no means of marketing their cultural lifestyle.

With the advent of social media which had given voice to the powerless (Bilic, 2010), differences in the information exchange rate and marketing of the people's culture was expected to change for the better. This is because; exchange of information at the social media era is no longer bounded by physical or geographical space (Jain, Khalil, Le and Cheng, 2012). Everyone therefore, is expected to focus on bringing into the media space all that their cultural heritage, economy, political culture and religion were like for the world to see. Has there been a change in the way the north is being presented in the media as a result of supposed infiltration of local news contents in the social media landscape? The concept of Glocalisation does not only cover brands and services, it also involves the spread of local news contents in the media space for others in the western world to also see and react on. What is the basic argument of the New World Information Order concerning the imbalance in the information flow in this era of social media? What local contents move into the media landscape from the North and how had those contents been able to save the image of the northern part of the world from the supposed misrepresentation of their culture by the controllers of the information superhighways believed to have done a great harm to them?

No one manufactures a story. All reporters and social media handlers seek for events and activities in the societies where they operate and report same in the information space. No one shares what he/she do not have. Could it be that social media have not provided the northern part of the world the needed media strength to tell their own stories by themselves using their own cultural perspectives and exposing their political developments for others to learn from? Are there no local brands in the north that can be marketed in the media space through social media? It was against this background that this study examined the advantage of social media in handling the information flow in the world paying particular attention to glocalisation of their contents as a means of leveraging the western cultural infiltration.

Statement of Problem

The chicken ate corn and swallow pebbles, yet, complain of having no teeth. Other animals that have teeth only eat grass. One serious question to it is, if it has teeth, would she eat gold? If glocalisation is the answer, what will the North still offer to the world? Which of the contents of the news items that take place in the north is worth telling and which of the cultures is worth marketing? Earlier media scholars have acknowledged the relationship between the media and the society to lie in the ability of the media to mirror the society. If actually the media mirrors the society, what should be the information in the northern part of the world where what forms the majority of events are insecurity, religious crisis, political chaos, electoral malpractices and all other social ills including all kinds of unaccountability in governance? Every now and then, Snake and Gorilla will be going from office to office busy swallowing billions of money in an office manned by human beings. These are the local contents that Nigeria has that were expected to be uploaded using the social media as a means of reporting our activities by ourselves. On this condition, of what value can the glocalisation of social media contents from Africa be on the already made image allegedly painted by the foreign media? It was against this background that this paper is set to examine through critical discourse analysis, if there is any advantage on the use of social media for uploading African local news since we have gotten access to means of dissemination of information which we have long be clamoring for.

Significance of the study

This study is a review of the challenging problem that hinders good reputation on the public perception of the southern part of the world especially Nigeria, which is the most populated black nation of the world. The study provides another angle to the views expressed by earlier media scholars on the information flow dichotomy paying attention to what the south can show even the have the highest technology to control the media landscape. Rather than blame the west for their poor global image, this study maintained that no one become inferior without one's consent. If the west wanted to give a negative impression about the south without

the consent of the southerners, such efforts will be wasted. This study therefore, considers the available events in Nigeria that are trending online and the possible national image such local contents from the south can create for the Nigerian nation and Africa in general. This study has opened another perspective of considering the information flow argument rather than seeing it from the angle that the west report the south in bad light or underreport them which have been the previous views of African media scholars. In addition to all these, this study will increase the literature in the field of the information flow dichotomy which has been a matter of debate since the beginning of the 21st century. The study will also instill in the leadership of Nigeria the view that governance is the basic source of information in every nation and every piece of information that emanates from the government of a nation or its agencies defines the integrity of such nation. This study also opens the eye of the social media and all other user generated media users on the dangers and harms of publishing every negative development on air through their social and user generated media handles. To all government agencies, this study is a piece of advice to them warning them against all actions and reactions that can bring to the mud the image of the government parastatal that they represent knowing full well that such actions and inactions must definitely move into the social media space.

The scope of the study

This study is limited to few issues that were making wave in the internet in recent times in Nigeria. The issues selected for this study are the presidential rat fumigation fund of ₦2 Million that happened in 2017 which forced President Buhari out of office for months. With this incidence, the president was operating from his house after his return from his London health check up in August, 2017. Another incidence under study here is the strange snake that swallowed ₦36 million from JAMB office in 2018; the recent Gorilla attack on Kano Zoo which swallowed another ₦6.8 million from public fund and electoral violence that characterize the just concluded 2019 general election which has forced INEC to unleash more insult and do more damage to the image of the nation the more in the media space. All these issues were published on social media and were followed up through comments and re-tweets, sharing and tagging till they spread into the mainstream media landscape and like wild fire, possibly entered the western media space. The choice of these incidences were discretion motivated as it gives the researchers the opportunity to expose the possible reports that are coming out from the southern part of the world who after ruining their image themselves, move out there to complain that the west is manipulating the mass media space. The above kinds of reports are what Nigerians have and that is what they use their social media opportunity to air to the world. The reason is because there are little or no development landmarks in the country to report and make the world feel good about the country. Secondly, the entire system is marred by corruption and unaccountability in governance.

II. LITERATURE

Theoretical Framework

While considering the importance of theory in social science research, the researchers anchored this study on the World Systems and Development media theories to provide a base for the understanding of the scenario under study.

The Development Media Theory

This theory was propounded by McQuail in 1987. This theory seeks to explain the normative behaviors of the press in countries that are conventionally classified together as developing countries (Asemah, 2011). This theory is completely against dependency and disregards any view on foreign domination and to arbitrary authoritarianism but accepts economic development and nation building as overriding objectives of the mass media (Ogah, 2007). It advocates for restrictions of press freedom in order to conform to economic priorities and the development needs of the society with the state as the ultimate controller of what goes in and comes out of the media (Ndolo, 2005; Adeyemi, 2008).

The theory holds that the media have a strong role to play in facilitating the process of development in the developing countries. According to the proponents of the theory, the media are to be used to serve the general good of the nation (Nwabueze, 2014, p. 211). The media are seen as agents of development and instrument of social change in any community thus, the theory says that the media should be used to complement government's efforts by carrying out programmes that will lead to positive behavioral change among the people (Anaeto Onabajo, and Osifeso, 2012).

Here is the problem. The media should not develop the state but complement government's effort. What efforts can the media complement in this regards- swallowing of money by animals or compromising electoral irregularities? The development media theory according to Okunna (1999), accepts that economic development and nation building should take precedence over some freedom of the press and of individuals but that is not when there is none.

The development media theory is relevant to the study in that it places emphasis on using the complementary roles of the mass media in national development with the government as the major source of development for the state. The media alone cannot handle development issues in a state without the state carrying out its duty towards ensuring good image for the nation.

III. THE WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY

Understanding the concept of Glocalisation

As earlier stated in this paper, glocalisation is an offshoot of the concept of globalization which is to make the world more like a village in which all can link to one another through internet enabled communication means. The technological development that ushered in the globalization era was forecasted by McLuhan in 1964. With the advent of this technology, web 2.0, the world became what earlier media scholars termed the global village (). This global village tends to give every user equal right in the communication process but very unfortunate for the Africans, what they cried for have come but they cannot utilize it well. The developed nations used their medium to acculturate the world and influence Africans into living a borrowed life through glocalising their contents into the media space.

According to Wordspy (2005), glocalisation is “the creation of products or services intended for the global market, but customized to suit the local cultures of the buyers”. Before frequent use of the concept of glocalisation, social scientists have been conversant with several related other terms such as “localisation” “indigenization” which simply means producing and marketing indigenous products and services. Doing things from the indigenous way, local and original which is peculiar to a particular set of people. It therefore, holds that news items, country’s political culture, religious beliefs, economic stand and many more can be manufactured from the indigenous source and marketed in the media for investors to come in. Glocalisation is not same with hybridization. As hybridization is a combination of two which must not be local, Glocalisation involves blending, mixing and adapting of two or more processes one of which must be local (Khondker, 2005). Drawing from this definition, it can be pertinent here to argue that one does not offer what he has not. At this point, what will the Africans inject into the media as their local news contents for the world to read and know about them?

Information flow from the West to the South: A Critical Overview

The new world information and communication order debate garnered more attention and support in the mid 80s (Nwodu and Ukozor, 2003, p. 73). The basic opinion of the argument is that the West should start marking time for the South to meet them in the information development space/environment. This was because of the requests from emerging communication scholars from the South that the Western information superhighway should be subjected to check on the contents that they dish out to Africans. To the western world, especially Americans, this is an infringement to the freedom of the press which had been in the first amendment of the constitution. The attention then was basically on the impact of the communication content from the Western world on the developing nations in the South. Drawing from Nwodu and Nwodu, (2015) one of the major contending factor is the fact that there is underreporting of positive developments taking place in the southern part of the world by the information superhighways which in turn give them negative images as if there is nothing positive happening in the south. Some other complaints of the scholars from the south include that events in the south are given over bloated coverage or blown out of proportion for the sake of achieving negative image. When it was established by the MacBride commission that the southern part of the world suffer from both under-reporting and negative reports from the west-controlled information highways, a recommendation to change the order of information flow was made but was rejected by America, Britain, France, Germany and Canada for eroding the principle of press freedom (Agbanu, 2011; Nwodu and Nwodu, 2015; Nwodu and Ukozor, 2018; Agbanu and Ezekwelu, 2018). It can be recalled that the essence of this recommendation was to encourage the southerners tell their stories their own ways. The implications of this is that stations were established to send out information on different issues taking place in different countries of the world from the positive perspective with a view to sell their culture and economic development to the outer world. In a move to engage the glocalisation of southern cultures, the developing nations established international cable enabled stations to pass their own information back to the west. In the mission, Nigeria engaged in establishing satellite television stations such as the Channels and TV continental based in Lagos, Arise and NTAi in Abuja and AIT to sell the African cultures in both local and international issues (Agbanu and Ezekwelu, 2018). Having secured access to the information space, what have the south to offer to the global community where there is persistence unaccountability in governance dominated by family lineage and relatives who are self centered and corrupt minded?

Social Media Local News Contents: Any Advantage for Africa in the Information Environment?

Having metamorphosed from analogue to digital era, the existence of the social media have given the third world countries a space and an opportunity to right the wrongs of the western world by telling their own stories their own ways to the world through their social media handles such as twitter, facebook WhatsApp and others.

Method

This study adopted the critical qualitative research method in reviewing and drawing deductions from trending social media news contents from developing nations using explicit internet and social network data generated by prominent research bodies. The researchers examined some of the news contents from Nigeria making wave in the media considering the image of such contents to the global information flow while paying attention to the allegation that the western media controlled stations are both under-reporting the third world and given them negative image. The data from the social networking sites studied in the paper were drawn from International Communication Unions (ITU) and United Nations development program reports.

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Presidential rats and Nigeria's greatness

KINDLY SHARE THIS STORY

Greg Odogwu

Greg Odogwu

When the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, disclosed, last week, that rodents had wrought plenty damage in President Muhammadu Buhari's Aso Rock office, he was just unconsciously reflecting the inbuilt culture of "beggarism" among the Nigerian ruling class; a syndrome not easily discerned, unless it comes out in a "slip of the tongue" like in the case of Garba's gaffe.

Ours is a country so blessed that we lack virtually nothing. Nigeria is rich in natural, human and spiritual resources. Our only problem is the calibre of people that mount the nation's leadership platforms, across board. Most of our leaders, instead of thinking, researching and galvanising the masses into productive usage of our abundant raw materials in creating wealth, go about the globe begging for alms.

When they make presentations in international conferences and forums, a perceptive attention to the content of their submissions would reveal a self-denigration designed to appeal to the sympathy of "white men" in order to make them dole out more "support to the poor Nigerian government". These presenters so couch their syntax and style in such a manner to arouse the philanthropic spirit of donor agencies, foreign partners, former-colonisers, and, more recently, the Asian Tigers.

This strategy is forgivable in times past. But in a modern competitive world, when Nigeria beats its chest as the Giant of Africa, Big Brother to other smaller regional nations, it is reprehensible and hypocritical. This is shameful, and we cannot allow others to point out this "psychic glitch" in our national DNA. This is why we have to face the truth about Shehu's faux pas, put it in perspective, and properly interrogate it, with a view to exorcising the ambient root with the required alacrity.

For, no one can convince me that there would ever be any justification to announce to the world that Aso Rock, the nation's symbol of national power, is crawling with rats!

The presidential spokesman had said that President Buhari would be working from home because the rodents had eaten up the furniture, and sawed up the vital parts of the air conditioning units in his office. There was then a follow-up report quoting the words of another "top presidential aide", which explained that it was

necessary for Shehu to say the truth as it was, so that Nigerians would not start having delusions about other reasons for the President to work from home.

Now, the average sceptic would ask, is it at this time that they want to tell Nigerians the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Do they really care what Nigerians are assuming, and not assuming, as a result of the serial mis-communication coming from the Presidency?

And, I ask, which one is more traumatic to the national psyche: Another presidential sophistry or a new sordid revelation that even the Presidency is not free from squalour and vermin-infestation that besiege most poor families? Do they not realise that even in times of hunger, the leader of a people hides his own hunger in order not to create an atmosphere of hopelessness?

For, if the number one citizen has lurking in his backyards, the vectors of Lassa fever, what chance does the common Nigerian have in escaping the emerging epidemic? Incidentally, Nigeria is still grappling with this viral disease; so why scare the masses?

Lassa fever, also known as Lassa Haemorrhagic Fever, is a type of viral haemorrhagic fever, caused by the Lassa virus. Many of those infected by the virus do not develop symptoms. When symptoms occur, they typically include fever, weakness, headaches, vomiting and muscle pains. Less commonly, there may be bleeding from the mouth or gastrointestinal tract. The disease is usually initially spread to people via contact with the urine or faeces of an infected multimammate rat.

The way I see it, Shehu was instinctively telling the developed world, donor agencies and global philanthropists, that we desperately need intervention in the environmental health sector. I can bet that this is how the global community did read the “presidential rat” press release. And they will laugh at us. That was actually the height of national farce. With all the money budgeted for environmental sanitation and waste management services at the Presidency, our leaders are still “begging” for empathy?

Yet again, this should help Nigerians to properly appraise the yet-to-be-resolved opacity in our national budget structure. Budget experts, like my eco-budget comrade, Eze Onyekpere, have always pointed out that there should be transparency in the budget system in such a manner that donor agencies’ funds should be properly reflected in budget heads in order to avoid double-budgeting and the inherent corruption it actually represents.

This is why it is interesting to note that recently, the European Union declared that it would not increase its financial assistance to Nigeria. It was reported that the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Michel Arrion, while speaking in Abuja on the theme, “40 years of European Union in Nigeria: Lessons learned and the way forward”, said that Nigeria could not be said to be poor as it has enough resources to meet its developmental needs.

While expressing concern over the economic level of the country, Arrion called for a more equitable distribution of the nation’s wealth to ensure growth and stability and unleash the country’s enormous economic potential. What a timely advice!

It is high time we eschewed poverty mentality as a people. Our leaders should take responsibility, and stop pushing politics to the realms of absurdity. We are so rich and blessed in all ramifications. A wealthy mentality has many facets. It starts with the leaders saying things as they are without selfishness and entrenched ethnic and religious bias.

It also means not stealing from the national till. Amassing of wealth from the public coffers, which is now a paranoid monster fed and nurtured by indigenous economic vampires, needs to be consciously rejected by all of us, before the government can succeed in defeating it. Going by the true meaning of democracy which we claim to practice, we, the people, are actually the government.

Our bureaucrats too, should realise that every nation is in dire straits and everybody seems to need a bailout. The world will not stand still because Nigeria has hydra-headed problems. Just the way many Nigerians are crying for restructuring, cutting off from the feeding bottle of centralised “Abuja power”; is the same way the global community is also crying for another type of restructuring – cutting off from the feeding bottle of the “Western powers”. This is the dynamic of President Donald Trump’s “America first” mantra.

No one should be deceived about looking East-ward, either. Nations like China are not Father Christmas; they are also looking for their own lebensraum (living space). There is no free lunch anywhere. We must look inwards, intellectually and spiritually. China did it before they became a global giant. We, too, can do it!

Meanwhile, the Presidency must first educate its spokespeople on national pride before they take the pen or the microphone again. They may think that when they speak, they are just representing only Buhari before Nigerians. No. The reality is, when these men utter any word, they are speaking for the whole populace of this great country before the entirety of the globe, visible and invisible.

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Figure 1The financial Gorilla

The palava for Nigeria on top say rat "chase" President Muhammadu Buhari from office don enter another level, on Tuesday.

BudgIT, wey bi one NGO wey dey put eye for budget and government money matter for Nigeria, don go on top social media to ask wetin happen to di N2m (\$5,500) wey government budget for cleaning and fumigation of di office of di President this year if na true say "rodents" don damage furniture and air conditioning units for inside di office.

Trouble begin wen Garba Shehu wey bi Senior Special Assistant on Media matter to President Buhari talk say rodents don damage di President office and dis na why im dey work from home.

"After im no dey for office for about three months, rodents don cause plenty damage for di furniture and air conditioning units wey dey for im office and dis na why e dey work from home for now," Shehu tell BBC.

Nigeria: How rat chase President Buhari from office after N2m fumigation

Snake allegedly swallows N36 million from JAMB office vault, Nigerians react ON FEBRUARY 17, 2018:03 AMIN POLITICS BY NWAFOR43 COMMENTS By Juliet Ebirim & Adetutu Adesoji This is a huge slap on the faces of Nigerians – Caleb Onyenso, Social Media Analyst It is such a shame that in a country where the present administration keeps talking about fighting corruption, the same corruption keeps coming in different forms. About N36 million was allegedly swallowed by a mysterious snake which no one saw. My question is how could they leave such an amount of money in the office in this age of banking?

Read more at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/02/snake-allegedly-swallows-n36-million-jamb-office-vault-nigerians-react/> Last year before the present JAMB administration, it was reported that the board had never remitted more than three million naira to the nation's consolidated revenue coffers but then a new administration came in and remitted 8 billion naira, so who is fooling who? The reasons they give for looting are always a joke and a big slap on the faces of Nigerians. Today, it's a snake swallowing money and if the issue is swept under the carpet, who knows another animal that will swallow money in the future? We are being taken for fools – Tolulope Akinrinde, Student It is hilarious that a snake would swallow N36 million. How big could the snake be for it to swallow such a huge amount of money? In my opinion it is impossible for a snake to swallow that amount of money except it is a human in the guise of a snake (with the use of sorcery or something, this is Nigeria and anything is possible with metaphysical powers). I would say Nigerians are being taken for fools. The masses are regarded as people who can be given any news to swallow hook, line and sinker. Snake could be figurative – Raphael Onwe, Banker Obviously there's something she's concealing. That's why

she had to use the figurative expression (snake). She should be thoroughly questioned by professionals who can make her spill the beans. But it's a sorry case we might not have such capable hands in Nigeria and if she insist on not talking, then she should be prosecuted. If rats can chase the President from the villa, then it's possible – Ufuoma Echor, Economist Nothing seems impossible in Nigeria anymore. If rats can chase President Buhari from the villa then a snake swallowing N36 million is possible. But it's all a smoke screen and a lie. The official should be sacked and jailed – Olumide Shokoya, Music Producer This is an insult to Nigerians. What kind of snake would swallow such a huge amount of money and crawl out easily, a python or an anaconda? How would a snake crawl into where N36 million is kept without anyone noticing? This matter should not be handled lightly because it is a big disgrace for an educated person from an educational body like JAMB to say that a snake swallowed N36 million. The woman should be sacked and jailed and EFCC should be invited to investigate the matter.

Read more at: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/02/snake-allegedly-swallows-n36-million-jamb-office-vault-nigerians-react/>

INEC in Ebonyi reviews 2019 general elections

2 hours ago

Gbajabiamila inaugurates three adhoc committees for take off of proceedings

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Jos: Hospital hands over stolen baby to biological parents

1 hour ago

A gorilla

A finance officer at Kano Zoological Gardens has claimed that a gorilla swallowed N6.8 million that went missing under their watch.

The finance officer, according to radio station in the state, Freedom Radio, said the gorilla “sneaked into their office” and carted away the money before swallowing it.

The money was generated from tourists who visited the zoo during the Eid celebrations.

The managing director of the zoo, Umar Kobo, confirmed that the money is missing and that the issue is being investigated.

“The issue is under investigations for now and I don't want to say anything on the matter, many journalists have come to meet me but I don't want to talk anything. What I can confirm is that money is missing,” he told the BBC Pidgin.

BBC reported that 10 persons, including those on duty when the money went missing, have been arrested.

“Yes, it is true that money from five days of Sallah festivities is missing from the Kano zoo,” Abdullahi Haruna, police spokesman in Kano told BBC pidgin adding: “As at now, we have arrested 10 members of staff of the zoo including the security man and those working in the finance unit.

In February 2018, Philomina Chieshe, a sales clerk in the office of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) in Benue state, alleged that a snake swallowed N36 million, being proceeds from sale of scratch cards.

Nigeria's president will spend three months working from home after his office was damaged by rats.

Muhammadu Buhari has just returned from three months in the UK, amid widespread concerns over his health.

But government spokesman Garba Shehu said the office required renovation after damage was done to the furniture and air conditioning in his absence.

He told the BBC the president had a "well-equipped" office at home that he could work "perfectly" from.

- [**Africa Live: Updates on this and other stories**](#)
- [**President Buhari: Profile**](#)
- [**BBC Launches Pidgin service for West Africa**](#)

Mr Buhari returned to Nigeria on Saturday, but did not reference his health in his first speech.

Some Nigerians had called for him to resign during his prolonged absence, saying he was unfit to run the country.

Others were angered by officials' refusal to disclose what Mr Buhari was being treated for.

He first travelled to London in June 2016 for what his office said was a persistent ear infection. He returned in January and May this year for an undisclosed illness.

Opposition politicians have claimed he was actually receiving treatment for prostate cancer - an accusation Mr Buhari denied.

"There's nothing at all to worry about as to the condition of his own health. From everything we have seen from the president - we have a new Buhari: energetic, well focused and it is clear he is enjoying excellent health," Mr Shehu told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

"He has recovered, so there is nothing to talk about in any speech."

Many users of Nigerian social media have cast doubt on the reason given for Mr Buhari working from home.



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