**SMALL TALK, LARGE MMN DEVIATION**

Let's briefly discuss a subject that Africans and Nigerians would likely avoid and leave to those who live in **“*higher realms (clerics)”***. In this discussion on mental illness, let's concentrate on schizophrenia (SZ).

So, what is SZ? It is a kind of mental disorder that is characterized by a (moderate or severe) breakdown in reality perception brought on by an unbalanced interaction between cognition, emotion, and conduct, which results in delusional behavior. If the person is deluded, is that not madness? Take a deep breath, I know what you're thinking. Any mental illness in this part of the world is the result of ***“unknown forces”***. Grab some popcorn because I'm about to start a lesson with you.

Therefore, let's look into why SZ isn't caused by ***"these powers".*** First off, SZ behavior evolves over time and can be hereditary; it does not happen overnight. It is asymptomatic or subclinical for the general public (having few or no symptoms), but paucisymptomatic for medical professionals like psychiatrists (having modest, recognizable signs). Asymptomatic or paucisymptomatic SZ patients are typically in the pre-psychotic stage with their regular daily activities being unaffected. Patients with SZ who exhibit symptoms are either in psychosis (altered reality) already or are about to enter it. You can understand why it is so simple to blame ***"the extra-ordinary"*** for SZ and other mental illness. ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”.***

Early detection of pre-psychotic stages can stop the emergence of psychotic SZ. Because acting based on ignorance might be dangerous, it's important to routinely have a psychologist or psychiatrist assess your mental health. To describe SZ's detection in the pre-psychotic phase, let’s talk about my project.

In this project, I want to develop EEG techniques for identifying SZ-vulnerable populations. But what exactly is EEG? Using EEG equipment, brain impulses can be captured. Both groups of SZ patients exhibit abnormal EEG signal classes (MMN, P300, etc.), and functional connectivity analysis of EEG data obtained during cognitive activities produces distinct outcomes in each community, according to prior studies. The outcomes of these methods demonstrate overlap between the general population and the SZ-at-risk group. I therefore want to investigate and establish a method that lessens or eliminates that overlap.

Attached to this post are image/video content of an identified pre-psychotic SZ patient from which EEG data is being generated to answer the question. Do pardon the picture quality. Anticipate for more content from this project.