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**TERM PAPER ON ENGINEERING LAW AND MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS**

**ON**

**CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOCK DOWN OF ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA**

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**LOCK DOWN OF ACTIVITES IN NIGERIA: LEGAL IMPLICATONS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**HISTORY OF LOCKDOWNS**

A lock down is an emergency protocol that usually prevents people from leaving an area. Lock downs have existed throughout history in different forms and for different reasons: either to stop a pandemic, to fight against terrorism or technological disasters. the earliest case of a pandemic resulting in lockdown was in 412 BC: an epidemic reported by Hippocrates, this is believed to be the first recorded case of influenza. Subsequently, two major pandemics- The plague of Justinian (600 AD) and The Black Death (1340). During such pandemics it was common practise to isolate the infected and or in severe cases, result to a total lock down in affected areas.

In Nigeria, there have been many disease outbreak cases over the years. The country has had to deal with cases like cholera, yellow fever, influenza, polio, Ebola, Lassa fever, yellow fever and more recently, the corona virus. The country has managed to successfully curtail the spread of most of these diseases by isolating the infected people and creating lock downs.

In recent happening, the federal government has issued a country wide lockdown to curtail the spread of the corona virus scientifically known as COVID-19. The lock down is bound to have an effect on not only the economic state of the country but the well being of the citizens of the country. This term paper aims at addressing the legal implications as well as the economic impact of lock down in Nigeria.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN IN NIGERIA**

From the definition of a lockdown stated previously, it is clear that a lock down aims to minimize movement of people within a particular area with the aim of reducing human physical interactions. This is ultimately aimed at curtailing the spread of the pandemic. The side effect is that since most economic activities rely on human interactions, most of which are physical rather than virtual, the economic activities are hindered. this affects many fields of human endeavour which are listed and explained below.

**Entertainment**

Nigeria as a country has the entertainment industry as a strong pillar in its economy. The Nollywood production and the music industry are forerunners in the entertainment world. Due to the lockdown, movie producers and actors are incapable of producing the movies and so the sales they should make from their films are disturbed and so profits are destroyed. Since cinemas and other viewing centres are closed down, the movie industry suffers significant losses. Again music labels that get revenue from organising concerts and tours are affected since all of them would be cancelled.

**Transportation**

Nigeria as well as other countries needs very good transport systems to thrive. The transport industry serves as a source of income for a good majority of the population of the country. From the okada riders to the multi-million naira transport company investors, the lockdown has an adverse effect on them all. For those that depend on day to day transport income to make ends meet, due to the lockdown, would have no means to support themselves or their families during the lockdown. The investors would be losing huge amounts of money as long as the lockdown would last. This would negatively affect the economy of the country.

**Trade**

The vast majority of Nigerians engage themselves in one form of trade or the other. the very first sights when entering a particular state in a country are the shops or malls or business complexes where one form of exchange or the other is made. Due to the lock down, people are not free to move about to buy the things they want and so this drastically reduces sales. the roadside retailers and market men and women are often the ones who feel the effect the most because for those that sell perishables, they have no choice but to watch their capital degrade before their very eyes. When the lock down is called off, they usually find it very hard to get back on their feet. For the bigger market men and women, the rents they have paid for their shops and complexes end up wasting away and the capital invested bears no returns.

**Schools**

The educational sector is also affected during the lockdown periods as students and tutors are unable to meet to enable the learning process. Valuable time is lost and great delay occurs. For industries that rely on fresh supply of graduates as workforce, they are affected. The food produce bought by secondary school(boarders) end up wasting. Some staff receive pay cuts during this periods of inactivity and those without enough reserve find it difficult to deal with the necessary expenses that need to be made during the lockdown.

**Tourism**

The tourist industry in the country would suffer a great hit during lockdown periods. Tourist’s sites like obudu cattle ranch will have no tourists visiting and the ones who have made hotel reservations would have to cancel them. The states that rely on the revenue from tourism would suffer the impact from the lock down as they would not be able to make the normal revenue expected from them and as such would not be able to effectively manage necessary expenses.

SOME POSTIVE IMPACTS

Not all aspects of the economy would be affected negatively. The lock down sometimes favours some industries such as

**Network providers**

Due to the inactivity, there is normally a rise in the amounts people spend on data bundle and airtime. The network providers and investors normally gain during lockdown periods.

**Cable tv industries and internet tv**

Due to boredom during the lock down, cable tv such as dstv,gotv get more subscribers. Youtube channels also get more subscribers, internet tv platforms such as Netflix get more subscribers and this means more revenue for the following companies.

**CONCLUSION**

Periods of lock down are always trying periods for the citizens of the country. The government should therefore prepare its citizens for the impact by providing as much cushions that they can to soften the impact of the lockdowns.

During periods of lock down every non necessity should be discarded and expenses should be made towards necessities. But most importantly, all hands should be on deck to alleviate the issue that caused the lock down in the first place.