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*‘REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION ON NIGERIANS’.*

 The coronavirus pandemic, according to research originated from animals and in one way or the other infected human beings. *‘Scientists say it is highly likely that the virus came from bats but first passed through an intermediary animal in the same way that another coronavirus- the 2002 Sars outbreak- moved from horseshoe bats to cat-like civets before infecting humans’- source: the guardian.* The virus has no exact or scientifically proven origin, cure or mode of transmission but it has spread more danger and fear around the world than expected.

 The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27th February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On a 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. The speed at which the Covid 19’ is spreading pushed the government to declare lockdown in the states where the virus is dominant.

 The lockdown was meant to take place for two weeks, but Nigerians refused to comply with the lockdown instruction passed by the government and the virus spread even more and it was for this reason the Nigerian government declared another two weeks. The addition of these two weeks on the side of the government is understandable because they are only trying protect the citizens and manage the damage but they are unaware of the damage this lockdown is causing; for people living from day to day, reliant on earning cash in the market to buy food, a few days lockdown id difference between poverty and starvation; for people already suffering hardship because of unemployment, drought or a swarm of locusts, social welfare is provided by relatives. If a lockdown cuts these social ties, adversity becomes destitution; lockdowns also threaten to interrupt supply chains of essential drugs to treat TB, HIV and other diseases. Some countries, for example Uganda and Rwanda, are distributing free food, Ghana has announced free electricity, water and a tax holiday, but the Nigerian government are not making it easy in any way for citizens.

 Nigerians are unhappy about the lockdown particularly because the chances of getting jobs, paying bills, having a family are low and that is only going to lead to an increase in crime rate. There are already robbery cases reported in Ikorodu, Lagos state. People are being robbed and killed because of this lockdown, and it is only going to get worse. With the way things are being handled. ‘Economic recession and deteriorating livelihoods mean impoverishment, malnutrition, worsened access to routine health services, and that in turn al means lives lost as well’, says Dr Francesco Checci, a professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

 In order to encourage citizens, it is advisable for the government to relief and rehabilitate of stranded passengers; the patrol team on the road need to find and rescue migrant labourers and other stranded passengers from cities and towns headed for their hometowns and try as much as possible to assure them that everything will be okay.

**References**

* BBC NEWS
* THE GUARDIAN
* CNNNEWS
* And others