**COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS ON NIGERIANS**

On 27 February, Nigeria confirmed its first case in Lagos State, an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria had returned on 25 February from Milan, Italy through the Murtala Mohammed Airport Abuja, fell ill on 26 February and was transferred to Lagos State biosecurity facilities for isolation and testing.Since then till 16th of April 2020 Nigeria a total number of 373 confirmed cases which is getting on the high side even though it isn’t yet out of control.

Due to the global pandemic, the World Health Organization has given out some safety measures which will help contain the spread of the corona virus some of which include;

1. Washing your hands regularly with soap and running water
2. Use of hand sanitizers
3. Avoid touching your face with your hands as the virus can get into your body and make you sick
4. **Lockdown and restriction of movement** as the virus cannot move except through people (This has shown to be more effective)

The Government Federal Republic of Nigeria Implemented the lockdown and restriction of movement In Abuja, Lagos, and Ogun states. The lockdown was to last for 14 days and many of Nigerians were not happy about it. The positive effects of the lockdown in Nigeria only points towards minimizing the spread of the corona virus disease, but sadly the negative effect have more grave consequences to many Nigerians.

As the lockdown started on 29th of March 2020 many Nigerians weren’t happy about this and shared their thought to the media. As I was watching the Arise news at 8pm I noticed a trend in what the citizens where saying. They all pointed to the fact that if the stay at home fore 2weeks, they will die of hunger. Many stated that the rely on daily bread to eat and feed their respective families. One danfo bus driver in Lagos said that he needed to drive his bus every day to carry passengers so that him and his family can have something to eat but he prays that he will survive through this 14days Lockdown.

Another man in Lagos who happened to be a brick layer told the Media that he needed to work at the construction site every day to get at least 2000niara daily with which he can eat and take care of his needs. He was found protesting with his colleagues that the government should give them food to eat this period. He also stated that he has no home and he use to sleep at the construction site where he works. I also noted that the 2000niara he earned was only given after he has carried 200 cement blocks from the ground floor to the top floor; so sad. Well he said that he cannot engage in stealing since he is a Christian; God bless such person.

Another effect I noted down was; due to the hardship Nigerians face, the tend to break the lockdown rule in various states, which has resulted in law enforcers to have killed or maybe in the process of enforcing law killed 18 Nigerians which is more than the number of fatalities cause by the corona virus disease. The police officers need to be taught well in order for such not to be experienced again; My condolences to the families of the lost ones.

In Lagos, some group of boys that call themselves the *1million gang boys* have been terrorizing residents in their homes during the lockdown. One of the residents stated that the boys will come at night riding motorcycles and making away with any available food stuffs. They even injured anyone that tried to resist them. As we can see this is another effect of the lockdown as it has put peoples lives and properties at risks. The people of the community pleaded with the government of Lagos state to come to their aid. The also said that if the lazy government wouldn’t do anything, that they will fight off these boys themselves. The hunger caused by the lockdown has resulted in increased stealing and robbery.

Overall, the Lockdown has a very negative influence on the people of Nigeria, and will be far worse for our economy. The Nigeria Government should at least provide enough food for all the citizens. This will help in preserving Nigerians till the virus is contained.

You can more help via the world health organization’s website <https://www.who.int/>