THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with medical problems like cardiovascular diseases, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. This shows that Coronavirus disease is more likely to cause the death of old and/or sick people.

The best way to prevent or slow down the spread of coronavirus is to stay well informed about the COVID-19 virus, its symptoms and how it spreads. We can protect ourselves by washing our hands regularly and avoiding unnecessary physical contact such as the common ‘handshake’. It has been proven that the use of hand sanitizers is ineffective to preventing the spread of Coronavirus because the hand sanitizers are anti-bacteria in nature and only help to prevent bacteria diseases whereas Coronavirus is a viral disease.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets or discharge from the nose and that is why it is so important for people to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue paper or their elbow when they sneeze or cough, so as to prevent the spread of this globally fatal disease.

The reason COVID-19 virus is so fatal at this time is because, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 and this simply means that it has no cure yet. However, there are many clinical trials lead by the World Health Organization in order to evaluate any potential treatment or cure.

Due to the daily increase in the cases of Coronavirus in Nigeria, the government has imposed a lockdown and restriction of movement within certain states in Nigeria and these states include; Lagos, Abuja and Ogun state. These states were chosen due to the large number of Coronavirus cases there.

Everything that has an advantage also has a disadvantage, although the lockdown is meant to serve as a preventive measure against the spread of the Coronavirus disease it has also lead to the increase in crimes such as robberies. The crime rates in the three states mentioned above have greatly increased due to the imposition of the lockdown and the restriction of movement. Armed robbers and thieves have decided to use the lockdown issued as an opportunity to rob the shops and places of work of the residents.

The lockdown has greatly affected the citizens of Nigeria especially the poor people who normally couldn’t afford three square meals a day, and now with the occurrence of this lockdown they are unable to go to their places of work which provides them with the money needed to provide food and other necessities for their families.

Unlike other countries the Nigerian government have refused to distribute funds for the well-being of their citizens during this period of lockdown and restriction of movement, and this has greatly affected the poor and middle classed citizens. The government has refused to provide funds to those deeply in need of it at this period of crisis in the country, and that is why the youths have resulted to stealing and engaging in various forms of armed robbery.

It is one thing for a country to face a serious pandemic but it is another thing for a country to have such a high rate of insecurity also, for even the nation’s defense (the police) are on lockdown for no one wants to contact such a fatal disease apart from the criminals who believe that it is better for them to die of the Coronavirus disease than to die of starvation.

With the daily increase in the number of Coronavirus cases it can be foreseen that there will be a further extension of the lockdown and restriction of movement, the government should therefore allocate and distribute money or at least food supplies to the citizens especially to those who need them. This has to be done in order to reduce the rate of insecurity in the country.

The only way forward is through cooperation between the government and the people, if the government do their part by providing the necessary funds then the citizens will also do theirs by staying at home.