REPORT ON THE

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

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A brief report on the effects of the COVID-19 lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

INTRODUCTION

With the ongoing and completely rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus new to humanity, drastic measures have been put in place globally to curb the deadly pandemic. By orders of the Nigerian government, most states have now been issued a lockdown for a period of two weeks given some possible extensions to decrease and prevent further spread of the virus as it can be contacted easily. However, due to the issuance of the lockdown without prior notice or palliative plan to support the people, lockdown against movement and social gathering has proven to affect the daily lives of Nigerians and how they will cope during these crucial times.

THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN

Across the world, the outbreak of the new Corona virus has strained health care systems and hit economies hard with few countries expected to emerge unscathed by the pandemic’s financial effect. Shutting down Lagos: the country’s financial capital, Lagos is expected to further add to an impending economic crisis. With no access to markets and distribution of agricultural produce and temporary closure of businesses, financial income will decrease. But the lockdown means additional financial pain for millions of informal labourers who rely heavily on their daily earnings to survive.

Citizens who lack shelter and food are worried about how they will survive during the lockdown. However, the Nigerian government has issued a distribution of food to people who cannot provide food for themselves and depend on what they earn on a daily basis. There have also been donations by various non-governmental organizations, philanthropists and other associations to curb the hunger of those in impoverished communities and residencies. This is all to prevent them for rioting against the lockdown and comply. Despite the possible challenges to Nigeria’s food systems due to the lockdown such as price spikes, labour shortages, logistic challenges, shortage of fertilizers and some other inputs and limited access to markets, provision to those in need will be taken care of.

Another effect would be the increase of pollution. Electricity remains a major challenge in the country. Most people rely on diesel-powered generators to power their homes and keep businesses afloat. “I hope they have factored steady power supply into the lockdown plan so that some of us can keep up with work at home,” a citizen told Aljazeera. Given the unreliable electricity supply, having citizens staying at home amidst a lockdown likely means that millions of electricity generators will be working overtime to power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas. But in other countries with fewer people, commuting in cities, fewer factories pumping out waste, there has been a positive effect on emissions. In China, carbon emissions dropped by an estimated 25% as a result of their lockdown. If there is no stable electricity, people will not be able to store food for longer periods of time during this pandemic.

HOW NIGERIANS ARE FARING DURING THE LOCKDOWN

All citizens have been urged to stay indoors as much as they can to practice social distancing and prevent the spread of the virus. Civilians who reside in Lagos, Ogun and Abuja have been placed on a two-week lockdown ( which was extended by fourteen more days) and have halted all social activities and gatherings relating to their daily lives. If they must go out, it is advised to be fully equipped with face mask and endeavored to maintain a certain distance with each other. People have also been urged to wash their hands regularly with soap and practice good hygiene.

During this pandemic, most Nigerians have obediently complied with the instructions of the government and are finding means to keep themselves preoccupied at home. Some have been able to finally take a break from their various workplaces and businesses to rest and focus more on their families. There has also been various sprouts of productivity and creativity.

Nigerians will continue to endure and comply with the lockdown and do everything they can to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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