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**Coronavirus and its Lockdown Implications**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illnesses like respiratory infections. The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 and traced to a seafood market in Wuhan, China where live animals were sold. The disease spreads mainly through person-to-person contact (direct contact with the respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes). Common symptoms include mild to severe cough, fever and difficulty in breathing.  Older people and those with underlying medical problems are more likely to develop severe symptoms. There is currently no official treatment or vaccine available. Treatment is administered via supportive care and the best form of prevention is through maintaining proper hygiene methods.

Since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020, the Coronavirus quickly made its way around the world. On the 27th of February, Nigeria confirmed its first positive case from an Italian man. Since then the number of cases has increased rapidly, more so than the number of recovered. In less than two months, the number of confirmed cases skyrocketed from just one to 493 with 159 recoveries and 17 deaths. In a bid to curb the spread of the virus, and based on the advice of experts, the Federal government and various state governments ordered a lockdown restricting the movement of citizens around the country. However, after the initial two weeks lockdown, rather than reduce, the number of confirmed cases increased significantly, forcing the government to increase the lockdown by another two weeks and so did the length of the lockdown period.

The lockdown has had very serious implications for businesses, individuals, and even the children, so much that it is believed that the pandemic will shape people’s behaviour, the way businesses are conducted amongst other things. During the beginning of the lockdown, people were compliant. However, they started leaving their houses after four days or thereabout. This led to a drastic increase in crime rate. This is because a significant part of the population make their money on a daily basis rather than monthly. Therefore, they could not afford to stay home lest they get hungry.

Those that stayed at home had stocked based on the original duration, which was two weeks. However, as they kept extending the lockdown, the tension grew. Due to lockdown, most businesses had to shut down temporarily. This means that several people, aside those who can work from home, ended up becoming temporarily “unemployed”. Without any source of income, the money supply will just keep reducing, as Nigerians have to keep buying provisions to sustain them for the duration of the lockdown.

This lockdown does not only affect employees but also their employers. Without any customers to keep the profits going, employers will lack the sufficient funds to pay those who are still working from home. To make their situation worse, they still have a ton of taxes such as Pay as You Earn and the recently increased VAT Tax, to keep paying the government, which will result in an absolute loss for the company.

Although the lockdown has indeed had several nasty repercussions, the Nigerian citizens themselves are also partial to the blame in the sense that they refuse to adhere to the lockdown instructions. People are still going out to places, driving cars and going out to exercise. Some even went as far as throwing parties.

In conclusion, though the lockdown is considered a necessary step to take, it will not prove effective if people are still leaving their houses. Nigerians need to understand the fact that if they do not strictly adhere to the lockdown instructions, the coronavirus will kill them faster than hunger will.

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