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

The definition and origin of corona virus (covid-19)

 ‘Corona virus’ is derived from the Latin word “corona” meaning crown or halo. Normally under an electron microscope, the virus looks like it is surrounded by a solar corona. According to WHO, corona viruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more and the middle-east respiratory scheme (MERS). These viruses was originally transmitted from animals to humans an MERS from a type of camel. It is said to have originated from china. But china authorities are still got to determine the actual source. But it is likely, to have originated from the seafood market of Wuhan where wildlife was also traded illegally. The number of fatalities from the new coronavirus have overwhelmingly surpassed the toll of the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak also originated from China.

 As of April 14, more than 120,000 people worldwide have died of covid-19. The number of people who have tested positive for covid-19 has exceeded 1.9 million, according to data compiled by John Hopkins University. On March 11, WHO declared the crisis a pandemic. The international health alert is a call to countries around the world to coordinate their response to coordinate their responses under the guidance of the WHO. There have been five global health emergencies since 2005, swine flu (2009), polio (2014), Ebola (2014), Zika (2016) and Ebola again (2019).

Effects of the lockdown on Nigerians

 Due to the pandemic outbreak and the need for social distancing to avoid the spread, the Nigerian government have declared a lockdown which have lasted for almost a month. These have adverse effects on Nigerians as all businesses, banks, workplaces and even schools. Some of these effects are:

* Adverse effect on daily earners:

 As the rate of the 627 total confirmed, 170 discharged, and 21 confirmed dead, people are advised to remain indoors. Those that will be affected the most will be households that rely on the day to day activities of self-employed individuals for consumption. Lagos is the country’s major economic center as well as its financial capital. Ogun state borders Lagos state to the south and is notable for having a high concentration of industrial estates being a major manufacturing hub. Abuja is the seat of government. Loss of income will be the immediate concern for individuals who has been contributing to household consumption through their entrepreneurial activities and engaged in hand to mouth self-employment.

* Loss of jobs

 This has also led to loss of jobs. The international Air Transport Association (IATA) on 3 April stated that 91,380 jobs were at risk in Nigeria’s aviation industry due to the travel restrictions imposed by several countries to control the spread of the virus which led to a revenue loss of $ 760 million.

* Killings by security personnel

In order to enforce the lockdown the Nigeria police have been recruited to see to this. The national human rights commission says that the security forces in Nigeria have killed more people than covid-19 since the West African nation imposed a lockdown in parts of the country to deal with the pandemic.

* Crime increase

 They have also be increased in the crime rate in the country ranging from cybercrime to day light robbery. They are many other effects on the economy, oil price, investments and also decline in export.

* Idleness of youths

 This is another effect of the lockdown as schools have been closed. Many youths are idle due to this situation .While some plunge into creative activities others waste away their time on social media.

 In conclusion, this pandemic is a disaster for countries like Nigeria and the consequences of the lockdown are rather grievous. The amount of families who lack food and also basic needs for their survival. The spread of this virus have seen to be increasing on daily basis as the future looks gloomy for every Nigerian.