

## **CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS.**

The effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement here in Nigeria has its positive and negative aspect. The positive aspect is that so we all can practice social distance and avoid the spread of the virus. It has brought about awareness to the public about the disease COVID-19 and how it's been transmitted from one person or place to another. It has limited the spread of the virus. It has enabled families to bond. It has helped to practice personal hygiene.

Whereas the negative aspect of it that poor people are not able to survive because they are facing hard times not being able to provide for their families due to the restriction of movement, they are not able to work to provide.

Although, such sacrifices are needed to limit the spread of the virus in our country. They were necessary to save lives. The objective was, and still remains to contain the spread of the virus and to provide space, time and resources for an aggressive and collective action.

The lockdown, however, prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from travelling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors, traders and other menial workers have expressed fears over their ability or inability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings being their only source of sustenance. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on their necessities.

Those who are sick cannot reach out to the hospital. It has caused economic impact on the state. It has caused the closing of the various borders in and out of the country whereas, people cannot travel in and out of the country.

A very serious implication the lockdown from this pandemic could have on Nigeria is the effect of the current low demand on crude oil which has now led to the prices of crude oil reaching below \$0 for the first time in our lifetime. The implication for the country's economy could be far reaching as crude oil is our main source of economic sustenance.

Stay safe always!

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