**Coronavirus pandemic and the effects of lockdown on Nigerians.**

It is no news that the deadly Coronavirus has taken a toll on Nigerians since its outbreak in March, 2019. Ignorance and misinformation have only gone as far as to increase irrational panic amongst the already irrational people of Nigeria. Truly, there is need to panic as the virus is highly transmittable and as of April already has over two million active cases worldwide. Though, in the case of a country like Nigeria, it seems civilians are more worried about the effects of the mandatory lockdown policy that comes with the virus rather than the virus itself.

 The average Nigerian citizen has to work every day to earn a living and therefore, the extension of the lockdown is expected to add to their hardships. It is a well-known fact that millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive. This has led to lack of cooperation of citizens and hence, the police have been handed the responsibility of keeping people -especially non-essential workers- off the streets during this period in order to observe the highly recommended social distancing. Unfortunately, even in these trying times, the incompetence of the Nigerian police force manages to shine through and they have resorted to unconventional and aggressive methods of punishing the lawbreakers, even going as far as to shoot someone. This kind of behavior has led to the public forming a kind of resistance against the same people who should be protecting them.

The whole country is in disarray. The virus has put the average Nigerian citizen in a position whereby he has to struggle and fight to not only avoid contracting the virus but also to avoid; starvation of him and his family; insensitive trigger-happy police officers; and armed robbery caused by the country’s economic situation. There have been several similar attacks of looting in areas of Lagos and Ogun state possibly provoked by the extension of the total lockdown in both states and the desperation of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth who have been restricted from earning their daily bread. To defend their homes, people have started joining vigilante groups as they have reported that the government isn’t doing their job of protecting them. The effect of the lockdown is hardest on non-essential workers and, most especially: entrepreneurs who are employers and therefore are faced with quite a dilemma whereby they have to pay the income of their employees at a time when the customers have been asked to stay at home.

It can be concluded from this report that the virus outbreak has done a lot to dishevel the minds of Nigerians including; taking away their rights to earn their income; causing resistance from the law enforcers’ harsh rule; outbreak of many vigilante groups; and an increase in crime rate. The best and only way to recover from this is to exercise patience and stay at home.