**REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN IN NIGERIA**

It would be hell if the COVID-19 break out in Nigeria on the scale presently being witnessed in Europe and U.S. Clearly the Corona Virus disease (COVID-19) that stated out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and ended upas a pandemic (affecting the whole world) has thrown the whole world into a war-like situation.

Nigeria which is the most populous country on the continent with an estimated population of 200 million has 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10 deaths as of 12th of April, 2020 and with this population only 0.025% of the Nigerian population have been tested on the virus.

It is in this vein that the leadership of labor must come out in defense of the workers on the issue of lockdown. Due to this pandemic there have been total lockdown in most states in Nigeria and it is affecting the citizens especially the less privileged negatively because locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown. More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been locked down. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a ‘no salary during lockdown’ stance, or at best a 50 per cent distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the poor masses to cushion the effects of the lockdown.

Pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger. Protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities with banners stating that ‘’One day the poor will have nothing left to eat but the rich’’. People are protesting against a lockdown without palliatives, against the high-handedness of law enforcement agents, and even rejecting all manner of palliatives that smack of insult to their intelligence, such as packs of food that are not enough to feed a family of six in 2 weeks being distributed to be shared among 60-80 families in a cluster. This protest mood that is brewing has the potential to transform into a movement that will cause a serious challenge to the lockdown if the hunger question is not resolved. It could also get a lot worse, as we are beginning to see in some places in Lagos and Ondo states where a layer of lumpen youth, pushed to extreme poverty by the lockdown, go on mass looting of shops and houses, carting away ordinary people’s food and belongings.

In Conclusion, if government does not have to decide between lockdown for health security as a prime feature of social distancing to prevent deadly spread of corona virus or end lockdown for people to get food and end hunger with the potential to spread the virus, there should be adequate food, appropriate housings and other essentials for all while we keep safe at home to keep the virus at bay. The concrete reality is that the resources available in society are enough to cater for food and the essential needs of everybody if equitably distributed.