

19/LAW01/244

As more than 25 million people are placed on a two weeks lockdown in parts of Nigeria in a bid to curtail the spread of corona virus, poor people in congested neighbourhoods are worried about how they will cope, writes the BBC's Nduka Orjimo from the commercial capital Lagos.

A lockdown in Lagos- the commercial hub of Nigeria, as well as the neighbouring state of Ogun and the capital Abuja came into force on Monday night, following an announcement by President Muhammadu Buhari that the fight against the virus was a matter of life and death.

In Italy, many multi-generational families also live together and this is one reason why it has seen more Corona virus deaths than any other countries.

All non-essential travel has been banned in most states, and many workers including civil servants, have been told to work from home, with a lack of reliable electricity supplies and poor internet connections, it is hard to see how most people will get any work done. There were long queues at the supermarkets after President Buhari announced the lockdown, with people rushing to stock up on essentials. But many Nigerians live hand-to-mouth, often on less than \$1 (£0 8.0) and they cannot stock up on food or other essentials.

Many workers are also yet to be paid their wages for March, so there are deep concerns about the financial implications of a lockdown.

Mr Buhari, outlined some measures to ease the hardship, including a one month advance payment of the family \$13 given to the poorest of the poor but most people feel that millions of self employed Nigerians have been left without financial aid.

There are also fears that if things get worse in the urban areas, people will ignore the ban on travel and start moving to rural areas

Lagos and some other states introduced restrictions on large gatherings, but most people are ignoring calls to adhere to social distancing.