NAME: WARIBO AWAJIGBANAM ANTHONY

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A REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS ON LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

Coronavirus Pandemic:

Corona virus is a global disease affecting thousands of people worldwide. It was emerged in Wuhan China on the 31st of December 2019. The business hub experienced an outbreak which infected over seventy thousand people and killed over eighteen hundred people in fifty days of the pandemic. Coronavirus belongs to the Coronaviridae family and Nidovirales order. It can easily spread when an infected person sneezes or coughs when in close contact with an uninfected person. Some of the symptoms are coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, shortness of breath, sore throat, fever and loss of smell. Currently there is no vaccine known for the disease yet, but as we all say “prevention is better than cure” so we are advice to practice the preventive measure which are; frequent washing of hands for not less than 20seconds, avoid overcrowding, stay at least 1metre away from people, practice personal hygiene and stay healthy, stay home, etc.

Coronavirus in Nigeria:

The first case of corona virus in Nigeria was the case of an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 27th of February 2020. Presently in Nigeria, there are 665 confirmed cases, 188 recovered and 22 deaths.

Effect of lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians:

Negative effects; It would be really bad if covid19 breaks out in Nigeria on the scale being witnessed in Europe, china, us and some other countries .excluding the poor state of health care system,69 million Nigeria have no access to clean water, social distancing is almost impossible in most place in Nigeria, especially in Lagos where there are over 100slum areas.

Covid19 has really affected Nigeria economy; The price of crude oil which is like the mainstay of the Nigerian economy tumbles like never before in the past twenty years. It has never been this bad in the last two decades and this has made a mess of the Nigerian federal government budget estimates for 2020; making salaries payment uncertain.

The corona virus outbreak really affect low income earners or the Nigeria working in informal sector from travelling to work or conducting their business local food vendors and trader have expressed fear over the ability to feed their families during this lockdown, it is also affecting those that earn in wages, due to this lockdown they cannot leave there house to make money for their family. For example, here in port Harcourt many markets have been shut down and those who sell in the market as their source of sustenance will no longer sell and that means they would starve. It is also affecting those that also buy from market, in this kind of situation where market has been shut down, people staying at home may have little or nothing to eat when they have to buy food items from the market and other things to meet their basic needs. An increase in food prices as a result of limited supply also means that many cannot stock up to necessities.

Many people live with fear, stress and anxiety due to this lockdown. It is also ruining relationships with others, where we can no longer go close to our fellow people or even shake them at least. The school academic calendar has also been extended, also affecting students who are meant to graduate.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the NCDC (Nigeria Center for Disease Control) has supported so many states for improved coordination of outbreak preparedness and response. The Nigerian federal government are also working hard but they should urgently develop a plan to deliver social and economic assistance to the tens of millions of people who lose income due to covid19, particularly informal workers who lack an adequate social safety. Then we individuals should also try to practice the preventive measures and stay home.