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REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Corona virus also known as COVID-19 is, according to research a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. This source of the virus is unknown at the moment. This virus spreads rapidly through human to human contact. The lack of vaccine and cure for the virus has allowed the world to procced in a lockdown to restrict the movements of people.

Not only was the lockdown enforced, citizens are to follow the advices of the health organizations in order to ensure that citizens are staying safe. Citizens were asked to wash their hands, make use of their hand sanitizers, prevent frequent face touching and to observe social distancing. This led to offices being closed, schools on shut down and even boarders of countries closed.

Nigeria, without exemption, is on a lockdown. The federal government has put a restriction on the movement of its citizens. It is true that the lockdown has its advantages, like having break from the office, from school, having family bonding time and lots more but the disadvantages have a greater effect. Only the elites and middle class citizens can enjoy the benefits of the lockdown.

Nigeria, despite being the largest economy in Africa, has more than 112 million hungry citizens. While some people are enjoying the lockdown, a greater population is going through tough times. Firstly, the prices of items in the markets have increased drastically. The poor can hardly afford food to feed their immediate family for a day. The prices of the essential items like hand sanitizers, hand wash, gloves and face masks, that health workers have advised the citizens to have for protection against the virus, cannot even be afforded by the masses. The donations given to the federal government to help in the lockdown has not been effected but the federal government claims to have distributed money to the poor.

While the crime rate in other countries is decreasing, the reverse seems to be the case in Nigeria. Using Lagos State as a case study, the rural areas in Lagos have be attacked by armed robbers, collecting their phones, food items and generally disturbing the peace of the citizens by breaking bottles on the road and throwing a tantrum. Due to the lack of the lackadaisical attitude of the police force, the people have resulted to jungle justice.

The Lagos state government permitted the people of Lagos to be able to buy food items and essentials needed in the home from around ten in the morning (10am) till two in the afternoon (2pm). The police force seems to have another directive. The police have been collecting money from innocent people and also detaining them in the police station for the entire day. It has gotten to the extent that if the person does not have money, the police would escort the person to the automated teller machine to withdraw money.

The lockdown has also caused some business to crash or be on a break. The lockdown has allowed the stock market to crash. Business people are losing capital because there is more spending than they are earning during this period. Due to the lack of movements, airlines businesses and other transportation services are running at a loss because of the restriction placed on the citizens of the country.

The lockdown has caused more harm than good and citizens are already becoming restless. Health workers have advised that people should stay at home so everyone would remain safe to prevent the spread of the virus.