CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS

In December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia cases from coronavirus surfaced in wuhan, china since then it started spreading worldwide. On the 27th of february 2020, the first case of coronavirus which is also called covid-19 was confirmed in Nigeria, which started when an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the virology laboratory of the Lagos university teaching hospital and he is clinically stable and managed at the infectious disease hospital in Yaba, Lagos. This virus is known to be worldwide but in Nigeria we currently have 493 confirmed, 159 discharged and 17 deaths on 17th of April 2020, since it was first confirmed everyone in the country was restricted to go out of their homes in order to reduce the spread and schools were closed down immediately for the safety of Nigerians but the diseases still spreads but at a slow rate compared to if people were allowed to go out. The restriction and lockdown of Nigeria has a big impact on nigerians because Nigeria is an underdeveloped country in order for one to survive one has to work to feed the family.

It affects the economical aspect of the country because in Nigeria people mostly deal with international businesses which are all under suspensions currently due to this Nigerians are unable to do businesses and this might lead to recession after the pandemic which is a significant decline in economic activity, lasting more than a few months, this will make things expensive like clothes especially exchange rates because Nigeria is still sluggishly grappling with recovery from the 2016 economic recession which was a fall out of global oil price crash and insufficient foreign exchange earnings to meet imports and the pandemic is going to favor any family because everyone could not work during this period so lack of money will affect many family. Nigeria depends solemly on oil for survival,90% of Nigeria budget depends on oil and gas and this is affecting the economy of the country because the oil price is currently below US$30 which isn’t good for the economy of Nigeria.

Unemployment rate in Nigeria is drastically increasing due to this pandemic. Unemployment can lead to depression, low esteem, anxiety and other mental issues, especially when an individual truly wants a job but can’t find employment. Tension can occur, causing stress and strain on the body. When one is unemployed there is no income which is referred to as poverty and this can make one desperate for money. This pandemic due to unemployment has led to increase in the rate of arm robbery and hooliganism because people are hungry and angry so they have to look for ways to survive, this is then leading to increase in crime rate in Nigeria like kidnapping, killing rate of people which will install fear in the citizens of Nigeria. Apart from this those that depend on daily pays are not being able to work, this pandemic has deeply affected the less privileged and the poor because of the increase in the high cost of living.

This pandemic has affecting Nigeria in so many ways economically, mentally but in order to get through this the country has to work hand in hand in order to go back to the less difficult days.