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**CORONA VIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

Corona virus is a pandemic virus also announced by the ICTV as ‘severe acute respiratory syndrome’. It is a zoonotic disease which could be transmitted between both animals and people. This virus can be said to be more severe than flu. This is because with time many people globally have been able to build immunity to seasonal flu but COVID-19 is a new virus to which no one has immunity. Thus, people of all ages could get infected with this virus and also old people and people with severe medical conditions are more prone to this disease. This virus was first recorded as a case in Nigeria on the 27th of February 2020 in Lagos State. As at 10:40pm 18th of April, there are 542 confirmed cases of this virus; 166 discharged and 19 deaths. Today, the cessation of movement, physical distancing measures and the prohibition of mass gatherings remain the most efficient and effective way of reducing the transmission of the virus. This has led to the pronouncements of lockdown and restriction of movement in almost all states in Nigeria. This lockdown has had adverse effects on the nation regardless of the fact that it has been helpful. The rate of crime is gradually increasing and also people are facing financial or rather economic hardship.

Firstly, due to these restrictions rate of crime has gradually increased by the day. A report on theft and rape cases is becoming alarming. There is no doubt that these restrictions have made individuals idle and as the saying goes ‘an idle mind is the devil’s workshop’. These individuals have resorted to various means of earning a living at the peril of other’s risk.

Furthermore, people are facing financial and economic hardship because of these pronouncements. Regardless of the fact that this lockdown is aimed at controlling the spread of this virus, the lockdown should have a human face; enabling people to have access to vital needs and relief for those who can no longer earn a living since the majority of Nigerians are daily earners and live below poverty line. This pandemic and restrictions have forcibly stopped individuals from working to earn a living and so are experiencing hard financially. OsaiOjigho says ‘as the nation observes the 14-day lockdown, the rights of citizens must be respected and protected, including the right to health care, security and access to sufficient food and water.

It is of no doubt that the restriction of movements and social gatherings have gone a long way in controlling the spread of the COVID-19 but it should also be noted that as a result of these restriction individuals are also on the receiving sides of its effects. And the nation itself suffers. This is due to the increased crime rate and economic hardship caused.