NAME: LOLOMARI IBITEIN DEBORAH

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**REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND THE RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS**

The current pandemic which has caused a state of unrest around the world is due to the COVID-19 disease which is caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2) from the class of viruses known as coronavirus. There are other viruses from this class known to be transmittable to humans from animals but this particular virus has not been previously identified to be one of them. As thus scientists are not very sure of the exact source of this virus. There have been speculations about it being manufactured by humans to reduce the human population; however, as such claims have not been proven no one can say for certain its source.

The first case of the COVID-19 disease was identified first in China in late 2019. It has since then spread quickly across the globe with over 2.5 million confirmed cases, over six hundred thousand and counting people have recovered and a hundred and there are over a hundred thousand and counting deaths worldwide. Worldwide, at least 185 countries have already been affected by the virus with the United States of America being hit the worst having almost a million confirmed cases. In Nigeria the number of confirmed cases have just reached over six hundred(600) people, over a hundred recovered and the deaths still being in tens.

From the above statistics, it is clear that the virus is very infectious. This is due to its ability to travel short distances in droplets of water like sweat or saliva. It is from this finding that the Nigerian government and other governments have declared a national lockdown. This includes schools, church gatherings and other non-essential businesses. In addition to this, social distancing, washing one’s hands regularly with warm water or using an alcohol-based hand-sanitizer and avoiding touching one’s eyes, nose and mouth have been advised. Although the government did this to optimize the safety of its citizens as there is not yet a cure for the disease, the lockdown is sudden and most people weren’t ready for it.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS

The lockdown which calls for everyone to retire to their homes and not leave until instructed or to get essential services has not been imposed in all states of the country, but in places where it has been implemented it has effects that are not all positive.

1. Effects on small-scale businesses

Although school classes, church gatherings and office meetings can still take place with people being at home due to modern day technology, it doesn’t stop the fact that economies are crashing. Especially the small-scale businesses like the marketplaces, carpenters, mechanics, street hawkers, etc. These are businesses that make profit only from their daily sales and not being able to out to work has a large effect on them and of course their business. Also large-scale businesses are being affected as well. Having states like Lagos, Ogun and Abuja which are the major industrial positions on complete is definitely going to tell on the economy of the nation.

1. Increased noise pollution

The increased noise pollution is due to the increased use of generators this period of quarantine. The nation is currently incapable of providing an all-day electricity supply and as such, with us having to stay in our homes all-day people have resorted to generators for electricity supply.

1. Masses are on hunger strike

The masses in Nigeria are not so well-to-do and they often live and feed off of what they make from their daily sales. As such one can only imagine how tough it is for them in this period of quarantine, they are restricted from going out to make sales and thus unable to make money to buy food and even with the little money they might have, shops and markets are being asked to shut down too. This hunger can also lead to domestic violence in homes affected. The government in response to this, promised to send relief materials to these homes but the evidence of this happening is not there as there are reported cases of raids in government offices by hungry individuals looking for food to eat.

In conclusion, it is clear that cooperation between the government and its citizens is needed to combat this virus from spreading. Nigerians are advised to stay home to reduce the spread of the virus. The government also, seeing as majority of its citizens indulge in small-scale businesses and live on what they make daily, should stay true to its promise and provide relief materials to those in need. Various foundations and individuals have donated money for this purpose and the government should be diligent to make good use of the money.

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