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***CORONA VIRUS: THE PANDEMIC***

The corona virus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. The virus affects the respiratory organs on the person infected and can be easily transmitted through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when a person coughs or sneezes. Although there is no cure yet, the rapid spread can be curbed by washing your hands with soap and water, using alcohol based hand sanitizers and as well as social distancing.

Due to the rapid spread of the virus, various countries including Nigeria has ordered her citizens to stay indoors. Although this is considered taking the right steps to battle this pandemic, the government of Nigeria tends to forget that Nigeria is a third world country and majority of her citizens belong to the lower class division and this has various effects on the citizens. This has led some of the citizens to take drastic steps in providing their basic needs such as stealing, increasing the cost of basic goods and so on.

Some people make money to feed on daily basis from blue collar jobs like moulding of blocks, selling of goods, carrying of building blocks. During the cause of the lockdown there has been unavailability of jobs. Hence these persons without jobs do not have what to eat. In order to provide for themselves they have resulted to crime. There has been a steady increase of crime in Lagos and Ogun state particularly.

Due to the lockdown there has been an increase in the cost of living. People who are able to go to the market find it difficult to purchase what they need with the money they have in hand. Some people no longer work and hence do not earn money hence they find it difficult to make purchases with the little that they have. Some sellers have increased the cost of their goods in order to extort people under the pretence that the pandemic is affecting the prices if goods, which is most times not so.

Those who sell also use this opportunity to exploit others, although it cannot be helped because these are difficult times for everybody. It is also because of the restriction of movement and it is to their advantage because people have little or no choice on where to purchase their essential needs from. Some decide to use this opportunity to horde essential goods and this leads to inflation of the price of these items.

Another effect of the lockdown is the increase in violence. There has been an increase in the numbers of security personals found on the streets. Some of these officers abuse their power and beat up citizens who have been disobeying the lockdown rules. Citizens on the other hand often take laws into their own hands and retaliate. The rate of violence has risen to a great extent in Warri, Delta State. There has also been reported sightings of jungle justice since the lockdown. People who are caught stealing are being beaten mercilessly by fellow citizens. Although things are hard, this is the time to display love and affection towards one another, this is not the case.

The lockdown due to the pandemic has greatly affected most people by taking away their source of livelihood and survival. It’s most adverse effect lies on those in the lower class division of society. The government is trying its hardest to reduce these effects through the provision of palliative and other incentives for people who are in need. Some people who are charitable enough, are even taking out of their own personal income to feed others.

In conclusion, the end of this lockdown is coming soon as possible and everything goes back to normal. This can only happen if the people adhere to the instructions of the government and stay.