

NAME: MAOR Rachael Hembafan

MATRIC NO.: 19/LAW01/140

COLLEGE: LAW

COURSE: GST112

REPORT: THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE SHUTDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS.

“The corona virus disease (COVID19) is an infectious disease that was recently discovered by a newly corona virus” (WHO). Most people who are infected with this virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Those that are more at risk are the elderly people and those that have underlying health issues and as such, they hardly survive the disease. The history of the virus can be traced as far back as 1965, and in recent times the outbreak as experienced now can be traced to Wuhan, China, where a lot of people had died from the virus. But in Nigeria, the index case was discovered on the 27th of February, 2020. The case was that of an Italian man who works in Nigeria and had returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos. The case was confirmed by the virology Laboratory of the University of Lagos. After the index case, most of the subsequent cases were either from contact with an infected person or those who had come into the country from countries where cases had been confirmed.

With the current issue not just particular to Nigeria but to the whole world, is the on-going corona virus pandemic which has put the world to a stop. The recent COVID19 virus lockdown would have an adverse effect on Nigerians and its economy in so many ways. This report would be throwing more lights on the ravaging effects of the shutdown in Nigeria, the reason behind the shutdown in the first place, and giving recommendations on how Nigerians could get through this. The main issue to be addressed here is the ravaging effects of the shutdown on Nigerians.

Without being told, the effects of the shutdown on Nigeria and its economy are already evident in a number of ways. The shutdown as earlier stated is as a result of the ravaging corona virus pandemic that has brought the whole world to a halt. There is no doubt that the standard of living in Nigeria has dropped. A good percentage of people in Nigeria depend on their daily earnings from doing menial jobs to feed but with the introduction of the shutdown, such people would find it difficult to afford even a meal a day.

Also, the shutdown has affected the economy of the country such that the economy is declining as no trade activity is going on. Recovering from this downturn of the economy would be very difficult and even slow at that because generating revenue to recover from the shutdown would be taxing. Lagos the centre for commercial activities is the most affected because a lot of businesses that most people depend on as their income are under a halt. To further worsen the case, the naira was devalued although this is also a plus, the effects still remain that when this whole pandemic and shutdown is over, importing goods would be much difficult because of their

cost and presently, there are no industries that produces some of the sophisticated goods and machines as seen abroad. The downturn of the economy further leads to a decrease in the standard of living meaning that people would get poorer and poorer.

Also, as it is right now the government expenditure has far superseded its earnings as they make more arrangements to enable everyone cope despite the lockdown and also, expenditure on the treatments and the equipments required during this period as per safety measure. The government as at now is already indebted and would need even more money in order to make up for those who are in need i.e those who can no longer afford a meal per day. the income gotten for this year is in no way proportional to the amount the government has spent within the last two months.

The crime rate among the youths has also been on an increase as everyone is advised to stay at home, and apparently, they have nothing to feed on. These youths take to the streets, breaking into shops, and making away with items of others just so they could keep themselves as the government makes little or no provision for their feeding. This can be seen in Lagos were aside the lockdown, they are currently facing insecurity issues. Properties and lives are no longer safe.

From my findings, I discovered that, some people are ignorant and are stubborn to complying to the guidelines as provided by the NCDC. Social distancing, regularly washing of hands, avoiding gatherings of more than 50 persons are mostly ignored. Also, an average Nigerian believes that the virus is only for the rich that go abroad. I also found out that people with the symptoms of the virus are refusing to be tested or isolated. It is also discovered that there is still inter-state and inter-community movement leading to the increase in the number of cases.

I would recommend through my findings, that borders should be closed not only the international borders but also local borders as well. This would stop the transmission of the virus. Also, the NCDC should introduce a door-to-door testing activity especially for states where cases were discovered and even make available more testing laboratory so that distance could be covered and less time could be taken to make do the tests. The agencies involved with ensuring the compliance of the social distancing and the stay-at-home policy should intensify their efforts.

In conclusion, the shutdown in as much as it has its negative effects, it is also for the benefit of everyone around as the earlier the cases are discovered, treatments are administered and the rate of its spread would also be curtailed. The lockdown is a good measure taken to avoid an explosion of the virus or letting it get out of the hand. People should adhere to the guidelines as it regards the lockdown. The government should increase their efforts in providing for those who cannot afford a meal in a day.

