

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

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INTRODUCTION

This is a two (2) page report on the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic and the effect of the lockdown and restrictions of movements on Nigerians. This report majorly relied on my own experiences, as well as what I read in newspapers and saw on the news.

I have highlighted the following observations;

- 1) The feasibility of the restrictions of movements.
- 2) The economic Implications.
- 3) The security implications.
- 4) The clash of ideas between state and faith.

OBSERVATIONS/FINDINGS.

1) THE FEASIBILITY OF THE RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENTS.

The implementation of lockdown has had different reactions from different groups in the Nigerian society. As expected in every setting in a society, there are law abiding citizens and there are inevitable dissidents. Nigeria has not escaped this characterization. In Abuja where I live, the lockdown was largely respected from the day it was implemented until the day it was eased. Subsequently, people began to respect the rules less. This prompted the authorities to commission mobile courts that have since announced stipulated fines against dissidents. This is enough motivation to keep people out of the streets for now. Based on the media reporting, I would say that the lockdown is largely successful in FCT as well as in Kano, Lagos, Ogun and other parts of the country.

2) THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS.

The lockdown and restrictions have a negative impact on global and local economy. When enterprises big and small are not operating, that will definitely hit hard on everyone. Prices of produce are already rising exponentially, with some products already going out of stock because of hoarding by those who can afford to. Looking at the local economy, most of the local traders in the FCT have locked their shops and travelled back to their states of origin. These traders are some of the most vulnerable members of the society, if the situation does not improve, they will have to contend with hunger and deteriorating welfare. If the situation persists, the authorities in this situation may have to look at providing food, medicine and other support if they intend to keep people at home.

3) THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

In the FCT, the security situation of the citizens is quite good. There is also a very good understanding between the security operatives and the communities. However, newspapers are reporting robberies in Lagos and Ogun. There was also a case of a clash between the military and some citizens in delta. The Inspector General of police and The Military had already addressed these fears and have promised better reactions going forward.

4) THE CLASH OF IDEAS BETWEEN STATE AND FAITH

There was a lot of friction between the state and the religious institution in the beginning of this pandemic. This clash is to be expected as their understanding and way of operating is quite different. Some of the religious leaders defied government orders of staying at home and poured in their numbers to their places of their worship. The government had to enforce the lockdown by tracking these places and locking them up themselves. The Supreme council of Islamic Affairs and Christian Association of Nigeria on their own part have already encouraged co-operation with the authorities. This message has resonated with many Nigerians and has helped in diffusing the tension that would have ensued had Nigerians opted to visit their places of worship.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the state has been largely successful in enforcing the lockdown with the help of co-operating Nigerians. The Religious Institutions helped the people understand an alternative way of worshipping their God from the conventional way of congregating they were used to; this was also a huge help in maintaining order. The economy of the Nation is suffering from lack of activity, and if the situation persists, the state may have to intervene with food and medication in the interest of the vulnerable members of the society. There is a security threats in some part of the country posed by break-ins by robbers which the security operatives have promised to tackle.

RECOMMENDATION

By staying home and continued law abidance, Nigerians and their Government have worked hand in hand to keep the numbers of patients affected by this pandemic at its best possible numbers, this relationship must be maintained if we are to win this war. We also have to pay special attention to the most vulnerable members of the society. Employers cannot afford to pay idle workers; this is a business decision. So, our altruistic energy must be found in giving whatever we can to alleviate the hunger and pain.

- Report by
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