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

The corona virus originated from China. Many experts still don’t know the cause of the outbreak, but many have brought forth many myths to the natural and somewhat artificial cause of the outbreak. Some say that it is caused from the consumption of raw meat. Others say it is a biological weapon produced by the USA (United State of America) targeted towards China while some believe it the other way round (vice versa). Some say it is caused from the mutation of cells on the body by the radioactive waves form the 5G network. No one really knows the origin but research is still on-going. The outbreak started in Wuhan, China and from there it started spreading around the world. On 30th January, 2020, WHO declared the corona virus epidemic and on the 27th of February, 2020, the first case of corona virus was noticed in Lago state, Nigeria.

The nationwide lockdown in Nigeria has proven to have less pros than cons. The disadvantages of the lockdown has dis-stabilized the nation’s economy on a large scale. Since Nigeria operates on a mono economic scheme i.e. most of the foreign revenue gotten is from the exportation of crude oil, the lockdown has made it very hard to export this crude oil to other countries, as other countries are likely to also be in the lockdown stages. The lockdown has brought about a large scale rate of unemployment in the country. The lockdown prevents non-essential personnel that don’t play a role in the running of the economy and country from going to work. Such occupations being affected include; market owners in some markets of some states where the lockdown is severe, the cobblers, the teachers, and the rest. In relation to this, majority of workers in the private sector have been unemployed due to the lockdown. This is a major problem as it leads to hunger and starvation of many families and individuals as some individuals depend on daily income to get themselves and their families fed. There is also an increase in crime rate in the country due to the lockdown. Thieves, armed robbers, kidnappers and the rest find this period as a time to rob people and to rob closed stores and shops.

The lockdown also has a major effect on the educational sector of the country as all schools in the country were told to stop all education activities and close till the end of the lockdown. This has disrupted the scheme of work and schedule of many educational institutions. Some educational institutions were in the midst of their exams and now they have been postponed due to the lockdown. All nationwide exams, like the WAEC has been cancelled living the lives of many high school students in a state of suspense and jeopardy. Due to the lockdown, many family members have been separated from each other and many others stranded without a means of getting shelter. Many international immigrants have been taken away by their individual countries so as to protect them leading to a fall in the tourism sector.

Most of the churches, mosques and other religious gatherings have been prohibited from being held unless they follow the procedures on social gathering passed on by WHO (World Health Organization) and carried out by the NCDC (Nigeria Centre for Disease Control). Some of these rules don’t favor some religious gatherings that usually take place in some buildings.

So far most of the states in the country have gone into lockdown. the original lockdown which was supposed to be for only two weeks has been extended to another additional two weeks thereby restricting the Nigerians even more.

Although the lockdown seems to be curbing the spread, there is still the exponential increase in the number of new cases every day, with most coming from Lagos followed by the FCT (Federal Capital Territory). The citizens can only say at home and keep hoping for a better tomorrow for themselves and the future generation.