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

The corona virus actually began in December 2019 but was declared a pandemic by the WHO (world health organization) by March 2020 as it hit many countries in the world and became a major concern. COVID-19 (corona virus disease-19) is a deadly virus which originated from Wuhan china. In some countries it is also called the Chinese virus which makes them racist. The novel corona virus also known as SARS-COV-2(Severe acute respiratory syndrome related corona viruses 2) which causes the disease COVID-19 is from a family of viruses some of which are MERS, SARS and even common cold. The virus is spread by respiratory droplets of which coughing sneezing, even talking can transmit it. It travels up to 2m in air making it very contagious. The virus affects the lungs of a person which gives oxygen to all parts of the body and without oxygen other organs are prone to severe damages which could lead to death. The virus might not seem to have an effect on the person from two days to up to fourteen days but such person can still transmit the disease hence the outcry by international professionals and national government to “stay at home” which is best solution to the spread of disease but a thorn in the flesh especially to underdeveloped countries like Nigeria.

The virus was first confirmed in Nigeria on the 27th February 2020. It was found to be carried by an Italian who works in Nigeria in Lagos state this was a great cause for concern but still the travel bans where and lockdown( in some states) where not effected till late March spreading the virus far and wide. Churches were closed down unnecessary gatherings and places were closed down too following orders from the government. This lockdown is very effects in states in the south west and north only two states in the east has cases and they are just three thereby the lockdown isn’t very effective in the east. One thing the government didn’t consider were that people didn’t have homes people live on the meager earnings they make daily. Some people can’t afford to buy food, people who can afford are struggling to preserve them due to poor power supply in this country. People who have money to fuel generators to buy fuel end up giving up money to bribe policemen in order to buy. This has led to boys forming gangs and robbing of the rich so they can be able to eat just one square meal meanwhile donations are being made by individuals to the government in order to feed the hungry but it hasn’t been seen to be put into use.

This situation is also bad for the illiterate and ignorant in the society. Many Nigerians cannot full read or understand English. Videos have been going viral of the funny pronunciations of the virus even the president in his speech to the citizens couldn’t get the pronunciation right. New facts are being discovered on the virus daily but this set of people cannot grasp the name of the virus not to talk of the pros and cons involved in it. The government has resorted to use force on this poor illiterate masses but this has done good rather leaving people harassed beaten and being killed. Recently on the 15th of April two boys were killed by police men in Nkpor Anambra State because they were drinking in front of their house. How can people be expected to stay in unventilated rooms filled with people for days with no food and power supply.

The economy of many countries has been crippled by this virus and Nigerian cannot be exempted. With an economy that depends solely on crude oil with very little farming activities. The economy of our country is badly affected but there is still hope as some many have gone back to cultivating different kind of crops as they don’t have money to buy much.

The health sector is also affected, the virus is proven to spread more in hospitals as the early symptoms of the virus are common cold and when those infected go to the hospital it makes the hospital waiting rooms and wards good breeding and spreading grounds for the virus. People are hereby advised to avoid hospitals making those with other serious medical conditions to be at risk of not getting adequate medical care. There is limiting testing of people as the tests kits are expensive and not readily available making many hospital workers at high risk of infection. This has an advantage as many highly placed individuals in the society experience treatment in highly under equipped public hospital. Thus the public health sector receive funding and equipment that will be useful when the virus is over.

In conclusion, the lockdown has a lot of bad effects on the country but that is the best solution we have to fight this virus till it is contained or a cure is found. We should stay home, stay safe, avoid public gatherings, wash and sanitize our hands, eat healthy and also pray so that this virus won’t claim more lives.