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CORNA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS

Corona virus Disease(COVID-19) that started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, china in December 2019 and ended up as a pandemic(affecting the whole world) has thrown the whole world into a war-like situation. Scores of thousands of deaths have been recorded cumulatively for all countries across the world. Health systems in most countries are overwhelmed by the seriously sick patients in hospitals, many of whom are on ventilators and nursed in intensive care units (ICU). Global and local economies stand at their worst in decades; the world economy is now declared to be in recession by the World Bank/IMF, and could eventually lead to the deepest depression since 1929.The price of crude oil(the main stay of the Nigerian economy) tumbled like never before and this has made a mess of the Nigerian government’s budget estimates for 2020; making Salaries Payment, debt obligations and other projections uncertain. This clearly so because the price of crude oil, which contributes over 90% of Nigeria’s externally generated revenue, now hovers around $30per barrel, which is far less than the budget’s benchmark of $57 per barrel, and this signifies tough times ahead. It is a pertinent to note that Nigeria’s prevailing situation is a case of infectious pandemic overriding existing recurring and ongoing epidemics.

It is now very evident that there was really no preparation to arrest the earliest cases of importation of COVID-19into the country which could have been done at the points of entry into the country, especially at the International airport. The first case of COVID-19Was confirmed on the 27 February 2020, the index case arrived from Milan, Italy. More cases were thereafter discovered, a number of them being high ranking politicians and senior government officials. The impact on Nigeria of the corona virus pandemic has caused industrial activity to shut down and cancelled flights, and facing hunger

Effects Of The Lockdown And Restriction Of The Movement OF The Nigerians

 The federal Government and state government banned all public and social gatherings in the state, including weddings ,seminars, conferences ,burials ,football matches closure of public and public schools ,and directed the restrictions of religious activities ,parties and closure of stores and markets except only allowing sellers of food items, medicines and other essential commodities. suspending the closure of air,sea and land borders ,the activities of commercial transportation. later Nigeria placed a travel ban on 13 countries with high cases of the virus ,the countries are ;United States, United kingdom, South korea , Switzerland,Germany France, Italy,China,Spain, Netherlands, Norway,Japan, and Iran.

The government announced that the restrictions doesn’t apply to providers of essential services like; Security healthcare, directing pharmacies to remain open , water services, fire services, power services,essential departments of media houses and telecommunications companies.

Economic hardship:Nigeria, with 200 million people, is Africa’s most populous nation.Some 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major corona outbreak, warning that the country’s unprepared and underfunded health care could quickly become overwhelmed. The extension of the lockdown is expected to add the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day. The government has pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been widespread complaints that not enough is being done for those facing hunger.

The Nigerian government ordered all citizens in the areas to stay in their homes. Travel to or from other states should be postponed. Due to the lockdown the have been social distancing wearing face masks.Restrictions to movement can also expose people with precarious migration.Naira is a typical petrocurrency whose survival is instrinscially tied to global oil price.Apart from the tragic human consequences of COVID-19 pandemic, the economic uncertainty it has sparked will likely cost the global economy$1trillion in2020the global economymay be slippling g into recession and Nigeria is set to receive the hit harder than ever.