

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

NATURE OF REPORT

I will look at this from the angle of my experience and from what I have read or watched from the news. Here are the key points I will attempt to elaborate on in the report;

- 1) How it is perceived by the general public
- 2) Its effect on the economy and economic situation of the citizens.
- 3) Its effect on the health and welfare of the citizens

FINDINGS.

- 1) How it is perceived by the general public

Nigerians are well aware of the happenings all over the world. The internet has achieved the feat of making the world a “global village” as it is referred to. This has allowed Nigerians to understand the measures that other nations have enforced to combat the spread of the disease. In a very peculiar way, Nigerians were able to rally to condemn the act of a popular actress for throwing a birthday party for her husband which violated the order that was put in place to ban large social gatherings.

Also, the citizens demanded an apology from the federal government when some of its ministers and aides attended the funeral of the just deceased chief of staff to the president. The apology was made by the federal government and has been largely accepted.

So far, the government through the National center for disease control has been truly transparent and that has prompted a lot of compliance from the members of the public.

- 2) Its effect on the economy and economic situation of the citizens.

The world has felt the shivering impact of this pandemic, this is true for all the corners of the world. Directly or indirectly, the pandemic has its claws on everyone. Nigerian business in Lagos and Abuja had to contend with the reality by sending staff home and curtailing their services. Those that have the technology to work from home are doing so and the rest are awaiting some form of hope to the return of normalcy so they can resume their business.

Some of the biggest losers in this calamity are no doubt going to be the small enterprises. These people have to open business every day to make a living. By staying at home, they are going to face a challenge they have not anticipated. The federal government have already

begun the distribution of aid that will counter the suffering of the vulnerable. If these initiatives are duly implemented. We hope the worst will be avoided.

3) Its effect on the health and welfare of the citizens

So far there is no indication that people are suffering health wise due to the lockdown, if there is such a situation, it has not been given a good covering by the media. The government has not shut down hospitals and pharmacies. These health facilities are allowed to operate so that undue strain is not avoided on the citizens.

In the case of welfare of citizens, it was quite clear to those that looked at the situation that unfolded in other nations that preceded us with this pandemic that we are going to have to give up some things. Any activity that involves large gatherings has been suspended. Airplanes and the luxury they provided were dropped so as not to fuel the fire that is already looking to consume. There are some people that are of the believe that staying home itself cuts into their rights to enjoy themselves. What ever the sacrifice, we have to buckle up and be ready to offer it to save ourselves.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I have highlighted that the public perception of this lockdown has been a positive and engaging one. The people mostly stayed home when asked to and demanded accountability for those that transgressed the system. I also discussed the economic situation of small and big businesses and how different the implications are going to be for each. I also discussed the health situation and concluded that there is no big negative impact that has been attributed to the lockdown. Lastly, Citizens have had to give up one or two leisure but commented that no sacrifice of welfare or leisure is to big for our survival.

REPORT WAS COMPILED BY

ZAINAB GARBA BAKO

Matric No: 19/MHS11/065,

Department: PHARMACY,

College: MHS.

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