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CORONA VIRUS THE DREADFUL “PANDEMIC”

“The Covid dark angel spreads her wings over the green planet like a pregnant cloud, making it rain an agonizing downpour on fragile clay beings”.

Corona- Virus disease that started out as epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and ended up as a pandemic (affecting the whole world) has thrown the universe into a topsy-turvy situation. Corona virus unlike other virus happens to be one of the most dreadful pandemic which has befallen mankind. This Virus has led to high rate in mortality, the rate at which souls are been yield up each day to the cold blooded viral diseases tends to be alarming, countries such as Europe, US, Italy and China loses its citizens daily to this serial maniac. However countries have imposed a global lock-down as a measure to curtail the further spread of the pandemic.

A deep dive into the mirror is Nigeria, which happens to be among the most populous black and poorest country in the African continent, with an estimated population of 200millon people unfortunately happens to also be among countries that are been affected by the viral infection. A lock-down and restriction of movement measure is also been adopted by the country to avoid further escalation of the pandemic. Nevertheless the lock-down comes with some effect which are discussed below;

Firstly, the lock down has enhanced hunger. More than 60 percent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. Many private employers have maintained a” no salary lockdown” stance, or at best a 50 percent pay cut. Some have even completely laid the workers off. Labour must agitate for full pay for workers, whether private or government employed, for as long as the lock down lasts.

Second, it has lead to economic instability. In 2018 Nigeria climbed out of the recession which had been triggered the sharp drop in crude oil earnings in 2015-2017, but low economic growth rates were recorded subsequently, 1.9 percent in 2018 and 2.3 percent in 2019 and was projected to rise to rise to 2.9 percent in 2020 and 3.3 percent in 2021. The estimated growth rate for 2020 has however, now been shattered by the ongoing meltdown in the world economy which is presently in recession, a development accelerated by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Third, it has led to loss of jobs. Take for example the aviation industry which has witnessed an unprecedented suspension of its activities and led to loss of millions of jobs around the world. The international Air Transport Association (IATA) on 3 April stated that 91,380 jobs were at risk in Nigeria’s aviation industry due to the travel restrictions imposed by several countries to control the spread of the coronavirus which led to a revenue loss of 760 million dollars .

Lastly, poor power supply. Nigeria is faced with the issue of inadequate electricity, people find it difficult to stay indoors especially those who don’t have any power alternative during the lock down. This fact alone constitute a major hindrance to the attempt at containment of the pandemic.

In conclusion government should look into some of the effect of the the lockdown and find possible solutions to address the issues discussed above.