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A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS

The incidence of Corona virus (COVID 19) that clearly started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and has 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. This Virus has no cure presently and has continued to ravage the world.

It would be hell if the Covid 19 escalates on the scale presently being witnessed in Europe and the USA in Nigeria. As at 10:40pm ,18th April 2020,49 new cases has been confirmed in Nigeria ,leading to total confirmed 542 ,Discharged cases 166 and Deaths 19. Lockdown policies have been implied to curb the further spread of the disease across the country by ensuring social distancing . In Nigeria lockdown and restriction of movements started on the 30th of March 2020 and was extended by 2 weeks on Monday ,13th April 2020. This lockdown and restriction of movements is a very bold step taken by the Government because the health care system in the country is underprepared and underfunded for a major corona virus outbreak. The Main question here is that Are Nigerians ready for the effects of the lockdown? Well, apparently it doesn’t seem like Nigerians are ready for this drastic change because it has come with a lot of effects on the Nigerian population.

Firstly, due to the lockdown, Educational activities have been put on hold. Universities , Polythecnics ,Colleges of Education ,Secondary and Primary Schools have all been closed. This is bound to affect the students as the Academic calendar has been disrupted . Also, Students are more prone to studying better in schools than at home because of a lot of distractions ranging from house chores to TV to Games e.t.c. Thereby leaving students lazing around at home without doing productive things.

Secondly, Religious gatherings and any other Mass gatherings have also been affected badly. Churches, Mosques are also forced to shut down in order to effect the restriction of movement and also observe the social distancing safety measures. This has caused the break in fellowshipping with brethren of the same belief and faith. People are forced to listen to Sermons on their phones with the aid of the internet and on TVs and also praying and worshipping at home. Also Weddings, Burials, Birthdays have also been affected and also been put on hold due to the lockdown ,thereby disrupting the plans of several Nigerians.

Thirdly , the economy of Nigerians have also been affected badly. People have been forced to stay at home and in the process some have become Unemployed while some have to close down their private businesses . Shopping malls, Markets and Private place of worked have all been forced to shut down. This is a very unfavourable condition for the millions of Nigerians living hand to mouth and also those self employed thereby Increasing hardship in the country. The Government, are not also putting into place any action to help the citizens from this ravaging hunger rather corruption has taken over. So therefore, People are shunning these restriction order and going out to work in order to be able to fend for themselves and for their families .This is a very sad situation because the risk of the infection spreading widely is increased and this is very alarming because the social distancing preventive measures cannot be observed and the Virus spreads very easily. Nigerians are, at risk of imminent danger .

Fourthly, crime rate has increased around the country due to the unemployment and hunger. Also evil minded citizens have decided to use this opportunity to commit crimes and obtain money and other personal belongings of their fellow citizens. Cases of robberies have been reported especially in parts of Lagos State where a gang named ONE MILLION BOYS have continued to cause terror and fear to the habitants of Lagos State. This wicked act has lead to destruction of lives and properties and further hunger in the country.

In conclusion, for the lockdown and Restriction of movements to be fully Observed the Government should provide Financial support to Nigerians, as well as Relief materials such as foodstuffs and toiletries to motivate the citizens to Stay at Home till a long lasting solution is found to this Virus. Also, the Health sector should be adequately funded and prepared for the worst.

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