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ANSWERS:

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS.

On 31 January 2020, following the developments of COVID-19 pandemic in mainland China and other countries worldwide, the federal government of Nigeria set up a Coronavirus Preparedness Group to mitigate the impact of the virus if it eventually spreads to the country. On the same day, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed Nigeria among other 13 African countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus

On 26 February 2020, a Chinese citizen presented himself to the Lagos State government on suspicion of being infected with coronavirus. He was admitted at Redding ton Hospital and was released the following day after testing negative

EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE NIGERIANS

The lockdown in Nigeria commenced on the 30th of March and it also included the closure of all school in the country. It was enforced in three major states, Lagos, Ogun and Abuja. Although most states later joined in with the measures later on, the restrictions which was placed aren’t as stringent as the three states mentioned above.

The effects of this lockdown can be addressed as such. Nigeria being a developing country comprises of majority of its citizens as lower working class, meaning they highly rely on what they make for the day to live on. As such, their jobs require constant and daily activeness. Workers such as bus drivers, market traders, vulcanises are drastically hit by the lockdown period as they have no other means on which to feed. Due to this reason has the government set up palliatives in order to take care of people with such issues. These palliatives include the provision of food items and money.

As a result of the reason above, another effect of this virus is on the Nigerian Economy. Due to the inactivity of the labour force which contributes largely to about 6% of the GDP there is most likely to be a drop in the productivity of the country during this time. In a country that is struggling to get out of recession, the toll with which this lockdown measures take is something worth worrying about.

Another main problem in which the lockdown has caused is the rise in social unrest. As a result of the fact that people can’t normally participate in their jobs there is there6a shortage of cash cleaning people are getting poorer. As it is essential for man to eat and probably provide for his family, some people take matters into their own hands rather than wait for government palliatives and decide to rob the innocent. Various cases of the rise in robbery in Lagos and other states are on a rise and this is as a result of the lockdown.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the facts above it is fair to say that the effects of the lockdown placed on certain parts of the country due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus have adversely affected the usual way of life in the country and in the same vein, the economy of the country. However, it is possible for such issues to be stemmed so as not to get out of hand.

First and foremost it is highly recommended that the Government should find better ways in which to distribute these lifesaving materials such as food stuffs and cash. Most areas of the country complain of these materials never getting to them. I believe this is the time to get the local government involved more than ever before as they are the only ones who will be able to provide to families and individuals house to house services. This solution is like killing two birds with one stone as it provides for the labour force and also reduces the rate of acts of violence due to insufficient provision.

Secondly, it is advisable that the work of the security agencies should be heightened so as to reduce the risk of a larger scale of social unrest in the country. Roadblocks are heavily recommended and the availability of a police force in every local government is essential.

The effect of the lockdown on the economy can’t be something that can be curbed easily as it (the economy) requires regular activities for it to function, the main thing that can be recommended is the relaxation of the stringent lockdown measures on citizens of the country especially the labour force.

The government should also encourage people to remain at home by providing stable electricity and water supply. Such should be easier at this point since factories which are said to consume a lot of electricity are inactive.