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THE CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

The virus called corona virus also known as (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. The virus affects the respiratory organs of the infected person and can be easily transmitted through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when a person coughs or sneezes. People who become infected may experience only mild illness and recover easily, but it can be more severe in others, particularly the elderly and the person with other underlying chronic illnesses. Although there is no cure yet, the rapid spread can be curbed by regularly washing your hands with soap and water, using alcohol based hand sanitizers, wearing of facemask and as well as social distancing.

Due to the rapid spread of the virus, various countries including Nigeria have ordered their citizens to stay indoors. Although this is considered taking the right steps to battle this pandemic, the government of Nigeria tends to forget that Nigeria is a third world country and majority of her citizens belong to the class division and this has various effects on the citizens.

Some effects which lockdown and restriction of movement has caused in Nigeria are countless but some of them include

High criminal activities: some Nigerian citizens generate income on daily basis from blue collar jobs like moulding of blocks, selling of goods, carrying of building blocks. During the cause of the lockdown there has been unavailability of jobs. The government on the other hand do not care for the needs of these people, hence these persons without jobs do not have what to eat. In response to the laxity of government they have resulted to crime. There has been a steady increase of crime in Lagos and Ogun state particularly.

Increased violence: Due to the lockdown, there has been an increase in the numbers of security personnel found on the streets. Some of these officers abuse their power and beat up citizens. Citizens on the other hand often take laws into their own hands and retaliate. The rate of violence has risen to a great extent in Warri, Delta State.

There have also been reported sightings of jungle justice since the lockdown. People who are caught stealing are being beaten mercilessly by fellow citizens. Although things are hard, this is the time to display love and affection towards one another, this is not the case.

There was declaration of a fourteen day lockdown in all the states in Nigeria, however due to the continuous rise in

the number of cases everyday there has been an extension of the lockdown in various states. All we need to do is to obey the rules and regulation by staying at home and stay safe

High cost of living: Due to the lockdown there has been an increase in the cost of living. People who are able to go to the market find it difficult to purchase what they need with the money they have in hand. Some people no longer work and hence do not earn money so they find it difficult to make purchases with the little that they have

Those who sell also use this opportunity to exploit others, although this cannot be helped because these are difficult times for everybody.

Some decide to use this opportunity to hoard essential goods and this leads to inflation of the price of these items.