NAME: OLADIJI MERCY OLAMIPOSI

COURSE: GST122

MATRIC NO: 19/SMS04/034

ASSIGNMENT

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

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus.

Most people who fall sick with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and recover without special treatment.

The global community is racing to slow down and eventually halt the spread of COVID-19, a pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives and sickened tens of thousands of others. In Africa, the virus has spread to dozens of countries within weeks. Governments and health authorities across the continent are striving to limit widespread infections.

HOW IT SPREADS

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, and quickly fall on floors or surfaces.

You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eyes, nose or mouth.

Protect yourself and others around you by knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions. Follow advice provided by your local public health agency.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.

2.Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

3. Don’t touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

4. Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

5. Stay home if you feel unwell.

6. If you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.

7. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

8.Avoiding unneeded visits to medical facilities allows healthcare systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.

CORNA VIRUS IN NIGERIA

Nigeria which is the most populated country on the continent with an estimated population of 200 million (15% of Africa’s 1.3billion people) has 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (2.5% of Africa’s) and 10 deaths as of 12 April 2020. These numbers are, however, far from the true reflection of the situation in Nigeria, based on the fact that testing is not being carried out on a large scale. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) stated earlier in the month that the present testing volume is 500 tests per day and hoped to increase this capacity to 1000 or more tests per day in the coming weeks. Thus far, less than 5000 tests have been carried out in a population of 200million.

It is now very evident that there was really no preparation to arrest the earliest cases of importation of COVID-19 into the country which could have been done at the points of entry into the country, especially at the international airports. Effective quarantine of travelers coming into the country, since the Chinese outbreak became news in January could have been done. It was not until much later, by 18 March 2020, that Nigeria eventually placed a travel ban on 13 countries with high incidence of the disease namely the United States, United Kingdom, South Korea, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, China, Spain, Netherlands, Norway, Japan and Iran. The regime later banned all international flights into and out of Nigeria effective 23 March 2020. This knee jerk, uncoordinated approach came rather late. By then, many returnees had already melted into the communities.

**THE PRESIDENT BUHARI MOHAMMED** announced that there should be a lock down , which led to drops of jobs and closing of schools and universities, boarder where also closed within the country. there was a reason for this and it was to prevent the increase of the virus. Lagos state is with the highest cases (931) from 30th April 2020,Abuja (174). this measures where made just for the sake of the citizens lives, which must be obeyed or there would serious consequence for his/her actions.

The lock down affected a lot of people economically, Even long before the announcement of lockdowns across countries, immediate job and income loss was on the order of the day for Nigerian small business owners occasioned by the pandemic in the earliest days, showing the inter-dependence of the world economy at all levels even in backwater town and villages. A typical example here is the effect of the pandemic on the sporting world and the spiraling effect on the owners of the ubiquitous soccer leagues viewing centers across Nigerian cities, towns and even villages where sport fans pay to watch these matches. With the suspension of the various leagues, it has been zero income for this sector.

Another example is 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 corona virus which led to a revenue loss of $760 million. The body further projected that airlines across Africa and the Middle East have lost about $23 billion to the pandemic. Many airlines have announced various measures, from outright lay-offs to stoppage of workers’ salaries to cuts in wages.

It is in this vein that the leadership of labor must come out in defense of the workers on the issue of lockdown. As parts of the efforts to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government ordered a lockdown on Lagos, Ogun and the FCT Abuja, for an initial period of two weeks starting 11:59pm, 30 March 2020, now extended by another 2 weeks from 13 April 2020. Many other states are already applying one stay-at-home rule or the other up to state boundaries closure.

However, locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is like asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown. More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been locked down. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a ‘no salary during lockdown’ stance, or at best a 50 per cent pay cut. Some have even completely laid the workers off. Labor must agitate for full pay for workers, whether private or government employed, for as long as the lockdown lasts. Government must also distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the poor masses to cushion the effect of the lockdown.

Pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger. Protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities. People are protesting against a lockdown without palliatives, against the high-handedness of law enforcement agents, and even rejecting all manner of palliatives that smack of insult to their intelligence, such as packs of food that are not enough to feed a family of six in 2 weeks being distributed to be shared among 60-80 families in a cluster. This protest mood that is brewing has the potential to transform into a movement that would pose a serious challenge to the lockdown if the hunger question is not resolved. It could also get a lot worse, as we are beginning to see in some places in Lagos and Ogun States where a layer of lumping youth, pushed to extreme hunger by the lockdown, go on mass looting of shops and houses, carting away ordinary people’s food and belongings.

The necessity for the labor movement to be visible on issues that concern the workers and poor masses cannot be over-emphasized at this moment. Labor must organize and harness these pockets of protests and demand adequate food distribution to all households in need. In the same vein, labor must also expose the hypocrisy of the politicians in government and their deceitful billionaire cronies. Their donations of billions to the COVID-19 containment fund should be noted as deceitful; it is borne not so much out of altruism but as a way of paying back little from the multibillion naira milked off government in the past by way of inflated contracts, heavy tax holidays and other huge concessions that they have received in the past.

We demand:

* No to lockdown enhanced hunger – lockdown must come with adequate provision of food and essential household requirements for all in need.
* For Community Mass-defense Committees to coordinate the Communities Security from rampaging looters.
* Liberalize mass testing for COVID-19 in the communities to ascertain the prevalence and prompt containment of the disease. No to privileged testing.
* Safety measures must not be compromised – adequate and appropriate personal protective kits for all health workers.
* Workplace worker-formed safety committees to coordinate all safety measures and insist on the best procedure before work commences, including special risk allowances for all workers.
* Health workers unions and the NMA must build intra-sector solidarity among doctors and other health workers, form cohesive safety committees at all health facilities to coordinate and insist on best safety measures.
* Guaranteed salary for all workers in the period of lockdown; No Job losses.
* Building working class solidarity, for a mass trade union-based working masses’ political party with a socialist programme – full employment, free and universal healthcare, free education at all levels, food for all, stop privatization, for a nationalized and democratically planned centralized economy
* For a workers and poor masses government that would carry out the outlined socialist programme.