**CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS**

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On the 15th of April 2020, **34 new** confirmed cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Nigeria. Till date, 407 cases have been confirmed, 128 cases have been discharged and twelve deaths have been recorded in Nigeria. The **34** new cases are reported from five states- Lagos (18), Kano (12), Katsina(2), Niger(1), Delta(1). Multi-sectoral national emergency operations centre (EOC), activated at level 3, continue to coordinate the national response activities. What is this corona virus? It is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory, illness, and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease, its causes and how it spreads. The COVID-19 spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it is important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow). At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for the virus. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. This has led to the serious lockdown and restriction of movement to Nigerian. The effect of this lockdown has brought about economic hardship. Nigeria with 200 million people is Africa’s most populous nation. Some 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major corona virus outbreak, warning that the country’s unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed. The lockdown adds hardship to millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day. The vast majority of Nigerians depend on daily wages, they have to go out to get money and buy food to put it on the table of their families. Another effect of the lockdown is already starting to show across Nigeria with uber announcing that it has suspended all its operations in Nigeria until the end of the lockdown and this will affect people’s movement to get essential services. This really has big impact on citizens without cars. Also, the lockdown prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from travelling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their ability to feed their families. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities. The vast majority of people outside of the formal system are hit devastatingly because any disruption to their daily livelihood has a huge and significant impact on their ability to meet their most basic needs. The government has pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been widespread complaints that not enough is being done for those facing hunger. Presently, Nigeria has extended the lockdown to key cities in order to reduce the spread of the pandemic.