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**THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

The Corona Virus disease (COVID-19) found on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China is a disease caused by a new strain of virus which has not been identified in humans before. The viruses are pathogens with a serious impact on human health. They mostly cause enteric or respiratory diseases which can be severe and life threatening. COVID-19 can be worse in elderly people above 70 years of age and those with underlying health conditions. This disease is highly contagious and has hit almost all parts of the world and cut across a wide geographical area affecting a large number of people, hence regarded as a pandemic. Globally, the number of confirmed cases is over 2 million.

The disease hit Africa on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020. The first confirmed case was in Egypt. This disease entered Nigeria on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. The disease was brought in by an Italian man and since then the disease had spread like wildfire. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has recorded the number of confirmed cases in Nigeria to be 493 with 159 being discharged and 17 deaths. However, it has been noted that the virus does not spread on its own. We spread it by having direct contact with people who has it and touching infected surfaces. This is why we must take necessary precautions like regular washing of hands with soap and water, using of alcohol based sanitizer when soap and water is not available, avoid touching of nose, eyes, mouth and ears, practicing social distancing, use of face masks and contacting the appropriate authorities if you have any symptoms like sore throat, fever, dry cough and difficult breathing.

Since the cure to this disease is still farfetched, Countries all over the world has imposed a compulsory lockdown to help curb the spread of this disease. In Nigeria, the Federal government has instructed institutions to shut down for 30 days as a lockdown measure and bans to limit the spread of the disease; they've also urged people who came from some of the high-risked states to self-isolate for 14 days. Public gatherings have also been banned. Several schools in Nigeria has shutdown following the directives of the federal government at Abuja.

There is much tension in every city in Nigeria as students return to their various homes for fear of contracting the disease.

While the federal government has restricted movements and urges Nigerians to stay at home, some have been rebellious as they insist that without going out, they can't get what to eat and cater for their family. There has been a lot of disarray in some part of the country as many people violate the stay at home order. While the military bodies in the country are making sure that nobody goes out, there have been a lot of casualties and even death. Some people have been killed in some states simply because they violated the stay at home order.

The lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians has affected us greatly in that businesses are being closed down; poverty is aggravating instead of alleviating. Hunger has increased greatly, people are dying of starvation. Suicidal attempt has increased as many people whose safe place is outside of their homes can't go out anymore. Amidst of this, the federal government has promised to do something about this issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a great threat to all as it is no respecter of any person and while our health workers are doing all they can to combat this disease, we must also co-operate and use this momentum to enact positive change.