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REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. 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 virus is now known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease it causes is called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

It's unclear exactly how contagious the new coronavirus is. Data has shown that it spreads from person to person among those in close contact (within about 6 feet, or 2 meters). The virus spreads by respiratory droplets released when someone with the virus coughs, sneezes or talks. It can also spread if a person touches a surface with the virus on it and then touches his or her mouth, nose or eyes. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Tiredness, Aches, Runny nose, Sore throat, Headache, Diarrhoea, Vomiting etc

Due to the outbreak of the corona virus. The government imposed a lockdown which has been extended in some cities in Nigeria for two more weeks. This lockdown has had some major effects on Nigerians and its economy. Given unreliable electricity supply, having citizens staying home amid a lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus likely means millions of electricity generators will be working overtime to power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas. Which means that there would be an increase in air pollution.

Oil production volume of 2.18 million barrel per day, oil benchmark of \$57, N305 exchange rate to the US dollar, GDP growth rate of 2.93 per cent, and inflation rate of 10.81 per cent now are out of reach. With the present economic reality, workers' salaries may be in jeopardy. On Wednesday last week, members of the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) could not agree on the amount presented for sharing. Also, then the national minimum wage was N18000 but its now N30000. The question on many lips is, many states could not pay the former minimum wage even when oil price was above \$30 per barrel, will they be able to pay the

later now that oil price is about \$27 and projected to slump further to \$10 per barrel?

Millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive. The lockdown prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from traveling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their ability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings their only source of sustenance. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities.

Because Nigerians are not able to source for income or be able to provide the essential things, there has been an increase in crime rate. People have gone into stealing to be able to provide for themselves and families. Not only stealing of money but also stealing of foodstuffs. This has left Nigerians feeling unsafe in their homes. This can also lead to the spread of the virus, as the robbers would have been to other homes not caring if any other them have the virus or not

The lockdown has also affects students especially those that are in classes like ss3, jss3, primary six as their examinations would be postponed at an indefinite date. Schools would be closed and because of the distractions at home, students may not be able to focus and read which may affect their examinations in the long run.