## Report on the covid-19 pandemic and the effects of lockdown and restrictions of movements on Nigerians

Coronavirus disease (COVID–19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

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

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. On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self–isolate. Although there is no cure yet, the rapid spread can be curbed by washing your hands with soap and water, using alcohol based hand sanitizers and as well as social distancing.

Due to the rapid spread of coronavirus all over the world, Nigeria ordered its citizens to maintain restrictions on movement but what the government of Nigeria does not understand is that the lockdown has a lot of effects on the citizens because most people need to work outside to know their next meal for themselves and their family. The virus is now spreading rapidly with over 627 cases in Nigeria today, 170 discharged and 21 deaths. Some of the effects on the lockdown and restrictions on movements Nigerians are;

LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH - This has affected a lot of Nigerians and the economy the high rate of mortality affects the country's economy cause of lack of personnel, a lot of people have lost their lives therefore the economy will crumble because citizens of a country contribute to how an economy is shaped, as long as people are sitting in their houses nothing is contributing to the economy which makes the economy growth poor .the world economy is now declared to be in recession by the World Bank/IMF, and could eventually lead to the deepest depression. 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 centres 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. **UNEMPLOYMENT-** many people are being layed off in their place of work because of this lockdown which has affected them and their families, An

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 coronavirus which led to a revenue loss of \$760 million. Many airlines have announced various measures, from outright lay-offs to stoppage of workers' salaries to cuts in in wages. 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. Labour must agitate for full pay for workers, whether private or government employed, for as long as the lockdown lasts.

Lastly, another effect is **HUNGER STRIKE** amongst Nigerians, many people due to this lockdown have nothing to eat and they are still being forced to stay at home, 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.

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 lumpen 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 labour movement to be visible on issues that concern the workers and poor masses cannot be over-emphasized at this moment. Labour must organize and harness these pockets of protests and demand adequate food distribution to all households in need.

Another two weeks was added to the lockdown in which no one has a say in, All we hope now to do is to pray and government officials should distribute more food items to the poor masses