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REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND THE RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

There is no known cure/treatment of the virus but various measures can be adopted to prevent and reduce the spread of the disease such as:

* Washing your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
* Maintaining at least 1 meter distance between you and people coughing or sneezing.
* Avoid touching your face.
* Covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
* Staying home if you feel unwell.
* Refraining from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.
* Practicing physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

The spread of the virus has resulted in the enactment of lockdown restrictions in various countries and states as a whole.

The result of this lockdown has a whole lot of various negative effects alongside the beneficial effects of the prevention/reduction in the spread of the virus in the country which are;

* The estimated growth rate for 2020 has, however, now been shattered by the ongoing meltdown in the world economy which is presently in recession, a development accelerated by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.
* 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 lockdown may spike security concerns as security agents would be tasked with the double duty of enforcing the restrictions while protecting lives and properties.
* The healthcare sector will be overwhelmed as doctors, nurses and other healthcare practitioners fight to save the lives of coronavirus patients as well as those with other health issues.
* There would be a drastic spike in food prices as the movement of people will be restricted as some people will be laid of their jobs while some others will be paid 50% of their salary due to the shut down of many businesses.

Presently, Nigeria has 627 confirmed cases, 170 recovered and 21 deaths from 27th February 2020 – 19th April 2020.