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THE CORONA VIRUS EPIDEMIC

Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the 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 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).

Due to the rapid spread of the virus, the best way to slow down the transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protects yourself and others from infection by washing your hands with warm water and soap or using an alcohol based sanitizer frequently, not touching your face and also staying indoors. These are part of the steps taken to battle this pandemic, the government of Nigeria tends to forget that Nigerian is a third world country and majority of her citizens belong to the class division and this has various effects on the citizens. The effects which lockdown and restriction of movement has caused in Nigeria are countless but some of them include; high criminal activities, high Cost of living and increased violence.

*High rates in criminal activities: Some Nigerians generate their income from menial jobs like selling of goods by the road side, working on construction sites, hawking goods in the traffic, carrying loads for people in the market, road cleaners and so on. But due to the effect of the total lockdown, some of these people have been forced to stop work and since they can't work to get money neither is the government assisting them, because of this, they result in armed robbery. There is increased rate of robbery particularly in Lagos and Ogun state (mowe). The people living in this areas have turned to vigilante and they burn tyres and all sort of things every night so as to keep the robbers away. This has also resulted into environmental pollution because the smoke has settled in the clouds and on every surface.

*High Cost of living : The lockdown has resulted in an increase in the cost of living. People go to the market and find things they have been buying for a cheaper price being sold at a higher price. The traders and market women also use opportunities to exploit others, although it cannot be helped because these are difficult times for everyone. It's also because of the restriction of movement and it is to their advantage because people have little or no choice on where to purchase their essential needs from.

*Increase in the rate of violence: There has been an increase in the number of security personals found on the streets. Some of the officers abuse their power and beat up citizens while some citizens on the other hand have taken the laws into their hands and retaliate. The rate of violence has risen to a great extent in Warri, Delta state.

The points listed above and many more are the effects of lockdown and restriction of movements on Nigerians. The government has urged every citizen to stay indoor and practice good and safe hygiene.

We pray this ends soon so that everyone can continue with their regular activities.