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A REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS BY OFFIONG, PRECIOUS TONI, A STUDENT OF AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI, ON 20TH APRIL, 2020.

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27th February 2020,when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. On 9th March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen, who had contact with the Italian citizen. Today as at 20th of April, 2020, there is a total of 627 cases in the county, 170 recovered and 21 deaths so far.

This outbreak has affected several Nigerians in so many ways possible. The extension of the lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day. This has left many millions of Nigerians observing the Covid-19 lockdown lack of food and income that their families need to survive. The vast majority of people outside de formal system are hit devastatingly by the lockdown and any disruption to their daily livelihood has a huge and significant impact on their ability to meet with their most basic needs. The informal sector, in which more than 80% of Nigerians work, includes a wide range of occupations, from street traders, taxi drivers, tradesmen, food vendors etc. They have low incomes and often do not have savings too.

Prices of foodstuffs and other essential goods have gone up with residents of lockdown states, particularly the FCT and Lagos state reeling under the effects of the one-week old total restriction to curb the spread of Covid-19. A survey carried out in different parts of Lagos state shows that the prices of staple items such as rice, yam and garri rose by between 80 and 120 percent. It has greatly affected goods such that a tuber of yam which costs 400 naira now costs 1,200 naira.

The 2019- 20 coronavirus pandemic has affected educational system in Nigeria leading to the near-total closures of all schools, universities and colleges. The educational sector has been affected because the planned activities for the first and second quarter for 2020 has not been completed which has caused serious distortions and absolute delay affecting both the students and the teachers as well.

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