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REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS AND ITS EFFECT - LOCKDOWN AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS - ON NIGERIANS

The coronavirus is a pandemic that majorly attacks the respiratory system of its host. Corona viruses were first discovered in domestic fowls, in the 1930s; however, the first cases of the virus in human hosts was the 1960s. The SARS-CoV-1 was first discovered in 2003, on the sixteenth of April, and this strain is the closest comparable virus to COVID-19.

Corona Virus, also known as COVID-19, is caused by a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The first case of this ^{viral} disease is traced back to Wuhan, China, ^{in December 2019 and} the source of the virus is majorly bats, alongside pangolins (at a low rate). The World Health Organisation declared its outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January, 2020 ^{while} the outbreak was recognised as a pandemic on 11 March, 2020.

Within the space of four months, on April 20, 2020, the disease had already spread to 185 countries and territories, Nigeria inclusive; the first case in Nigeria, recorded on the 25th of February, 2020. Since then, Nigeria has recorded a total of 627 cases, 21 deaths, with the hardest hit state being Lagos (214 cases) and the lowest number of cases in Benue state (1 case).

In response to the entrance of the pandemic into Nigeria, many states have implemented lockdowns, dusk-to-dawn curfews and other movement restrictions. In addition, the country closed its borders on the 23rd of March, 2020. The movement restrictions have led to the shutdown of schools, markets, large scale business etc. The movement restrictions have also led to the reduced flow of customers in establishments that thrive on large crowds, including clubs, pubs,

among others. The movement restrictions are attributed to the fact that coronavirus is spread by close contact. Often times, an infected person would show symptoms including coughing, sneezing, fevers, body aches and pains and sometime diarrhea. At close ranges, when such a person coughs, sneezes or even speaks and yawns, droplets of mucus membrane from the nose and/or mouth escape and gets to an uninfected individual's body. When the individual touches their eyes, nose or mouth, they ^{become} infected. Large distances are better suited as the droplets are too heavy to travel over distances above one meter.

The numerous movement restrictions are taking their toll on the country's citizenry. People who survive on the income they get from daily street trading and hawking are most affected, as these "businesses" have been greatly reduced / prohibited. No income means no food on the table for individuals, as well as families. People starve or depend on meagre earnings to survive. These strains have caused a chain reaction, resulting in protests, rise in crime, violation of movement restrictions etc.

On the 15th of April and 1st of April, the residents of Sapele and Lagos, respectively, held a protest against the lockdown and its extensions. Their complaint was that they had no means to help provide them with food and that the government did attend to these needs. There has also been an increase in crime, as reported by PUNCH journalists and informants. There have been more robberies in the country, with an emergence of a group, "One Million Boys". According to "The Circular", in the past week, over 180 arrests were made in response to these criminal activities, and other steps have been employed.

In view of all these things and factors, coronavirus continues to take its toll on the world. As Nigerians, no matter how difficult, we must work together with healthcare experts and the government to combat the pandemic.