

# THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS

## **Introduction.**

The coronavirus disease, also known as COVID-19, is a pathogenic viral infection caused by SARS-CoV-2, that is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus , which emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. The COVID-19 virus is spread through respiratory droplets (mucus, saliva etc.) having contact with an uninfected individual. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching open areas on their body, for example the eyes, mouth or nose. Some symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough, breathing issues, tiredness and fever. However, there are some diseases with similar symptoms, the only difference is the simultaneous occurrence of the symptoms.

Initially, it was said that the virus could not live or withstand hot temperatures, that is to say it cannot survive in hot areas, but from the evidence so far, the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by wearing a face mask, wearing hand gloves, using objects, like your car keys, to press buttons like that of an ATM and then sanitizing it, frequently washing your hands under running water for at least 40 seconds, sanitizing your hands since alcohol is present and avoid contact with face, nose or eyes. By doing this you eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoiding infection.

## **EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN NIGERIA: ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES.**

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) has had a crippling effect on the global economy. In Nigeria, Lagos and Abuja, which are centers for business and economic activities and also with the highest cases of the virus, have been placed on a four-week lockdown to curtail the spread of the virus to other sections of the country. Measuring the overall economic impact of COVID-19 will be difficult. However, we believe the pandemic's effects on economic activities and businesses in Nigeria will be dire and reflect in two significant ways. Firstly, the virus has led to the crash in global commodity prices particularly crude oil, due to a slump in demand and a spike in supply. Secondly, the pandemic has led to lockdowns which has crippled economic activities in the largest commercial nerve centers of the country. We will examine the effects of these challenges on businesses in Nigeria.

- **Deflation in Crude Oil Prices.**

With governments of some of the world's major economies enforcing a lock down and the slump in international travels and local commute, the consumption of energy has shrunk materially which has led to a supply glut in the crude oil market. Crude oil represents about

95% of Nigeria's export revenues and a downturn in the market for the commodity always has a ripple effect on the economy.

- **Effects of lockdown and restriction of movements.**

Nigeria, with 200 million people, is Africa's most populous nation. Over 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, warning that the country's unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed. 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.

The Federal government is fully aware of the great difficulties experienced especially by those who earn a daily wage.

But despite these realities, we must not change the restrictions," – FG says.

The government has pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been widespread complaints that not enough is being done for those facing hunger. The vast majority of Nigerians depend on daily wages, they have to go out to get money and buy food to put it on the table for their families. For the next two weeks, they are going to stay at home with no work and no chance of getting money. An extension of the lockdown, could raise the risk of a social unrest while stoking political risks.

## **Conclusion.**

**In a nutshell**, the corona virus is a viral transmittable infection which is mainly spread through respiratory droplets from the mouth or nose(coughing and sneezing) of an infected person. The severe symptoms include dry cough, tiredness or fatigue and high fever. It is generally advisable to wash hands frequently as this kills the virus instantly.

The economic implications of the covid-19 virus are inevitable as this has led to slump in oil prices as well as developing hard ships due to the lockdown and restrictions in country. There are intense difficulties especially to those who make their living on a daily basis.

**OLULEYE OLUMUYIWA OLUSOLA**

**MBBS-**

**19/MHS01/339**