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**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

Coronavirus is a family of diseases that causes illnesses ranging from common cold to more severe diseases such as SARS(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS(Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and just recently COVID-19 also known as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. It is called covid-19 due to the fact that the disease broke out late in the year 2019 in China. It is a very deadly disease which can be transmitted easily from one person to another by just coughing or even talking and also touching. COVID-19 was said to have originated from Wuhan ,China in a seafood market where wildlife was sold illegally and few cases of unusual pneumonia was later reported to the World Health Organization on December 31.

There have been a large number of COVID-19 cases recorded not just in Europe, Africa or America but worldwide. World Health Organization has estimated the number of cases worldwide to be 2,416,4135, for Africa to be 22,303 America to be 899, 051, Asia to be 378, 985 and Europe to be 1, 046, 854 as at 20th of April.There has also been a large number of deaths recorded worldwide. it is said to affect both male and female, elderly and young, children and pregnant women but the elderly and those with underlying health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes e.t.c are said to be more at risk of developing severe symptoms. Symptoms attached to this virus vary in severity from having no symptoms at all (asymptomatic) to having a fever, cough, severe pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome and then death.

Many death cases have been recorded due to this virus leading to some countries issueing total lockdown, practicing social distancing and wearing of face mask as advised by world health organization. some countries however experience issues such as lack of testing kits, ventilators, health personnel, protective gears, swabs and isolation centres, Africa is known as the poorest continents in the world due to the fact that they have people suffering from poverty and hunger and also cramped living conditions and poor sanitations. So far, They have not experienced large number of cases but there is a sense of fear that it could peak due to limited testing kits, lack of equipments and funds .

Nigeria known as giant of Africa is not excluded as it has recorded a total number of cases as 672 and a number 21 deaths in total with Lagos having the most cases and deaths due to its large population. The news of the outbreak was made public as at January but it was not until 18 March that the country finally placed a travel ban on 13 countries with high incidence of the disease and later a ban on international flights was put in place. The country has limited testing and poor health facilities. The number of doctors to patient ratio is said to be very low. Nigeria is said to have the lowest healthcare compared to fellow African countries like South Africa who has 12 times the health care budget set aside by the government of Nigeria. It has been reported that if the country experiences a great surge of coronavirus cases it does have the facilities to deal with it.

As at March 30 the country placed its first lockdown for three major states which includes; Lagos, Ogun and Abuja for a period of two weeks which was later extended for another two weeks so as to maintain social distancing but was later joined my other states. Before then, the government had placed an order that only a maximum of 20 people should be seen in a gathering while in some states 50 people This lockdown has a major effect on Nigerians especially those who earn daily wages. Some Nigerians might end up unemployed and might not be able to provide food for their family. Also market women and traders will not be able to sell their goods. Small scale enterprises will have to shut down and this will have a huge impact on their workers as they won’t be able to pay them their salaries leading to hunger and poverty.

Also, due to the lockdown there has been increase of crime such as robbery especially the most recent group known as one million boys. This particular group has been causing a lot of fear since they began their operation. They have visited many streets or areas in Lagos. The have stolen lots of things and even harmed some occupants. Reports have it that about 70 of them were arrested but still they operate.

Some Nigerians might suffer from lack of electricity as they won’t be able to pay for electric bills. They will have to sleep without any form of air or light especially those staying in one room apartment and have lots of children. Also this could lead to lack of water and other amenities as electricity is needed to run most of the things we use in our household which might cause other diseases like malnutrition due to lack of feeding and cholera due to bad water.

The Federal government are seeking for funds so as to help provide the basic needs for their people so that they can survive during this period especially the underdeveloped areas.