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***A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS***

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The rapidly evolving situation of the virus seems to have made the entire world pause for a moment. The virus is believed to have emerged from Wuhan , china on December 31, 2019. The symptoms experienced within an acute span of fourteen days include: diarrhea, cough, cardiovascular problems, fever and loss of smell. It spreads by mere contact with an infected person or with droplets of an infected person. As of now, the cure is proper education on the virus then protect yourself and others by washing your hands more frequently.

***COVID-19 IN NIGERIA***

From the first signs that coronavirus was turning into an epidemic and was officially declared a world-wide emergency, the federal government started planning preventive measures in the event the disease hits Nigeria. Nigeria, unfortunately, confirmed its first case on 27th February 2020 and since then the numbers have only risen.

Indeed, the director general pf the Nigeria Centre for disease control (NCDC) was one of the ten global health leaders invited by the world health organization (WHO) to visit china and understudy their response approach. Since his return, the NCDC has been implementing numerous strategies to ensure that the adverse impact of this virus on our country is minimized. Till date the Nigerian government have introduced healthcare measures, border security, fiscal and monetary policies in our response.

***EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA***

Based on the advice of the federal ministry of health and the NCDC, president Muhammadu Buhari directed the cessation of all movements in Lagos and the FCT for two weeks. The restriction also applied to Ogun state due to its proximity with Lagos. However, due to the endless spread of the virus nationwide some states have been forced to do so as well. The lockdown has had its effects both positively and negatively.

While the positives include: family bonding, reduced spread of the virus itself, relaxation and even spending more time with God, the negative effects are overlooked by the federal government.

Firstly, many Nigerians live below the poverty line. This people survive due to daily laboring or handwork. The continuous lockdown only makes them poorer and reduces their chances of surviving. This major reason will lead to increased crime rate in the country.

Secondly, the academic activities in the country would pause for a moment. Students would be on an indefinite strike. This messes with their academic calendars. As a labor-intensive economy this could prove drastic. No school only promotes idleness.

Lastly, the lockdown has an overall effect on the Nigerian economy. There is a lot of spending on the health sector leading to shortages in other sectors. Also limited goods will only in increase in their prices (foodstuffs). Therefore, the lockdown has a poor effect on a country with concentrated economic issues already.

In conclusion, all citizens can do is to strictly comply with the guidelines issued and also do their bit to support the government