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**CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) PANDMIC IN NIGERIA**

The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 that began in Wuhan, China, has constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, with cases confirmed in multiple countries. Currently, patients are the primary source of infection. Since December 2019, SARS-CoV-2 *(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2; previously known as 2019-nCoV)* has generated about 2,500,000 cases of COVID-19 *(Corona Virus Disease 2019, formerly known as Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia, NCP)* on earth, including 658,009 deaths, as of 21th April 2020. The epidemic has been spreading to other countries in Africa, with 23,517 confirmed cases and 1,160 deaths, reported by World Health Organization (WHO) on 20th of April *(World Health Organization, 2020).*

While the origin of the virus is still unknown, Respiratory droplets and contact are considered the main routes of transmission. Currently, COVID-19 patients remain the primary source of infection.

As of 11 April 2020, 167 countries, territories and areas have implemented additional health measures that has significantly interfered with the international traffic and spread as defined under the International Health Regulations.

In Nigeria, 25 of the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory have confirmed cases. 665 cases have been confirmed, 188 cases have been discharged and 22 deaths have been recorded in Nigeria. The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen.

**GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TOWARDS THE PANDEMIC**

The Government of Nigeria has initiated a Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 to provide high-level strategic national response to the disease in Nigeria. The Federal Ministry of Health has activated an NCDC-led national COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to coordinate the public health response activities. At State-level, preparedness and response activities are being coordinated through Public Health EOCs in each State.

The Federal Government of Nigeria had also issued a ban on all international flights effective from the 23rd of March 2020 with the exception of emergency and essential flights for an initial period of time.

As at 30th march 2020, Nigeria implemented a sweeping quarantine for three major states that are home to almost 30 million people in a bid to slow the spread of the new coronavirus in Africa's most populous country. The lockdown in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun kicks in at 1st April 2020 and will stay in place for at least two weeks, President Muhammadu Buhari announced, a little over a month after Nigeria confirmed its first case. Then as at 13th of April, Nigeria has announced a two-week extension of containment measures aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19 in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun states.

**EFFECT OF THE LOCKDOWN**

Evidence of the killings have come from members of the public who rang their hotline or sent videos. It says law enforcers have killed 18 people in Nigeria since lockdowns began on 30 March. Coronavirus has killed 12 people, according to health ministry data.

The lockdown will also affect both the self-employed individuals especially traders as self-employment is the highest source of employment in the country and the economy itself due to the continuously reducing oil price and closing of borders for exportation.

Even with the lockdown in place, there is a constant increase of about 30-80 cases every day in the country.

**CONCLUSION**

Scientists are still working tirelessly to find a cure to the pandemic and the government and people are mostly cooperating and pushing their limits to stop the pandemic.