**THE PANDEMIC : CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19).**

Based on initial laboratory findings, the disease named Coronavirus disease (abbreviated as COVID-19), was described as an infectious disease that is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus.

While there are ongoing efforts to curtail the spread of infection which is almost entirely driven by human-to-human transmission, it has accounted for over 400,000 confirmed cases with over 100,000 deaths.

Indeed, the COVID-19 outbreak has since spread to about 196 countries and territories in every continent and one international conveyance across the globe.

Beyond the tragic health hazards and human consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic uncertainties, and disruptions that have resulted come at a significant cost to the global economy.

Nigeria, unfortunately, confirmed its first case on 27th February 2020. Since then, we have seen the number of confirmed cases rise slowly. By the morning of March 29th, 2020, the total confirmed cases within Nigeria had risen to ninety-seven.

Initial 14-day lockdowns in the three areas, which include Lagos, Abuja and Ogun began on March 30.The announcement triggered panic among many in Lagos, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak in the country which has so far infected 111 people and caused one death.

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Across the world, the outbreak of the new coronavirus has strained healthcare systems and hit economies hard, with few countries expected to emerge unscathed by the pandemic's financial effect.

Nigeria is already feeling the pinch with oil prices plunging. The country is the world's eighth-largest oil exporter, and almost 90 percent of its export earnings are tied to oil.

Shutting down the country's financial capital, Lagos, is expected to further add to an impending economic crisis.

"There will be a slowdown in the country's GDP for the first quarter of the year," Olaseinde said. "You have five key states in the country essentially grounded. That will lead to a loss of revenue for companies and individuals. You could also see supply shocks."

The decision to close educational institutions and schools around the globe in an attempt to contain the pandemic has also led to a soaring number of children, youth and adults not attending schools. According to UNESCO Monitoring report on [**COVID-19 educational disruption and response**](https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-emergencies/coronavirus-school-closures), the impact of school closures in the over 100 countries that have implemented the decisions around the world has impacted over half of the global students’ population. These educational disruptions are being escalated particularly for the most vulnerable members of society.

On the 13th of April, 2020, the lockdown was extended to two weeks.Nigeria which is the most populous country on the continent with an estimated population of 200 million (15% of Africa’s 1.3billion people) has 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (2.5% of Africa’s) and 10 deaths as of 12 April 2020. These numbers are, however, far from the true reflection of the situation in Nigeria, based on the fact that testing is not being carried out on a large scale. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) stated earlier in the month that the present testing volume is 500 tests per day and hoped to increase this capacity to 1000 or more tests per day in the coming weeks. Thus far, less than 5000 tests have been carried out in a population of 200million.

Furthermore, it should be stressed that what confronts us is not either lockdown for health security as a prime feature of social distancing to prevent deadly spread of coronavirus or end lockdown for people to get food and end hunger with the potential to spread the virus. Our concrete demand is: there should be adequate food, appropriate housings and other essentials for all while we keep safe at home to keep the virus at bay. The concrete reality is that the resources available in society are enough to cater for food and the essential needs of everybody if equitably distributed.