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**REPORT ON CORONAVIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

Coronavirus has become a pandemic in the world today. Coronavirus is an RNA virus which causes a severe respiratory disease man. The symptoms of the disease in man are difficulties in breathing, fever, tiredness, dry cough and sometimes diarrhoea. Coronavirus disease is also called COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization, and it is spread from an infected person to another primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. As at the moment, there are no specific vaccines or treatments, however, many ongoing clinical traits are evaluating potential treatments. It is suspected to be a zoonotic disease although the zoonotic origin is not yet known.

The disease was first discovered in Wuhan, China on the 30th of December, 2019 in three people that came down with respiratory tract infection of initially unknown cause. It was later diagnosed as COVID 19 and isolation of the virus using molecular methods. The virus is highly contagious and has spread widely across the world with over 2,481,287 cases all over the world. The first case in Nigeria was announced on the 27th of February, 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive. Since then, it has spread across the country to over 25 states out of the 36 states of Nigeria. As at today a total of 665 cases have been confirmed, while 188 have been discharged and sadly 22 deaths recorded. Among the people who have tested positive some influential people, such as the governor of Bauchi state, the governor of Kaduna state, the governor of Oyo state and the former chief of staff of Nigeria, Abba Kyari who later died of the virus have been reported.

The outbreak of COVID 19 has forced the government of some countries, including Nigeria, to take certain measures such as ordering a total lockdown and restriction of movement of the citizens, sensitization campaign, social distancing, strict hygiene measures and the use of sanitizers to contain and control the outbreak. Some measures taken especially, the lockdown, though, helping to curb the spread but also have negative impacts on the country and its citizens.

In Nigeria, all schools, industries, worship places, shops which sell non-essential items and all forms of social gathering have been closed down. This means that everyone is at home, except health professionals and some essential service providers. In Nigeria especially in the northern part of the country, there is a high population of poor people who feed daily by daily earnings and begging for alms. This lockdown is a catastrophe to them as they will not be able to feed or move around to get money for daily activities. Also, the majority of Nigerian citizens are in the private sector or self-employed, and this lockdown will cause a major impact on them. With the implementation of the lockdown, it will be hard for them as they will find it difficult to provide households with food. The lockdown has led to poverty and hunger in the country. The government is trying to handle the situation by providing palliative through the sharing of foodstuffs and other essential materials to the poor, however, the things being shared are insufficient to meet up with people’s needs resulting to suffering from the total lockdown.

 The lockdown is also gradually leading the country to an economic meltdown and a possible recession. The price of crude oil which is the major source of income for Nigeria has drastically dropped down with few buyers since the outbreak and lockdown across the world. The reduction in the price of crude oil and low revenue generation has led a major cut in the 2020 proposed budget. The lockdown has affected most school academic calendar as they remain shut. Many schools were supposed to have finished their second term but due to the lockdown, it has been kept on halt. Also, the West African secondary school certificate exams written by secondary school final year students were supposed to have started but has been postponed until further notice because of the pandemic and total lockdown. The tertiary intuitions too, have been affected in the same manner.

During the lockdown, there has been a reduction in the use of cars, and factories have been shut down, and this has reduced environmental pollution in Nigeria, however, the use of generators has increased, leading to the increase in noise and air pollution. Nigeria is home to 23 million small gasoline which have a capacity that’s eight times larger than the national power grid, according to conservative estimates. There are also thousands of wealthier households with much larger diesel-based generators which are even worse to the society and the environment. Even though the lockdown and other measures have positive effects on the control of COVID-19, it also hurts the country and its citizens.

The COVID-19 virus has taken a huge toll on the entire world and Nigeria as a country, affecting lives, economy, people’s daily routines, and plans. However to ensure our safety from the outbreak, we must abide by all the safety measures, control guidelines, obey the laws and trust our government. We should all try to stay at homes, practice safety and hygienic measures to be safe. The coronavirus has put the world in a devastating state because of its effects and something urgent has to be done to contain and control its spread. Developing countries need to take drastic action to contain and control this disease to stop its devastating effects, especially with our poor health facilities. COVID-19 will not come to our houses and infect us, we have to go out to get infected. Therefore, Stay at home and be Safe.