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

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and the World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and recognized it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 21 April 2020, more than 2.47 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 170,000 deaths. More than 651,000 people have recovered, although there may be a possibility of relapse or reinfection.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, or talking. While these droplets are produced when breathing out, they usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than remain in the air over long distances. People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and in later stages of the disease.Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome.The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days, but may range from two to fourteen days.There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy.

Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one's mouth when coughing, maintaining distance from other people, and monitoring and self-isolation for people who suspect they are infected.Authorities worldwide have responded by implementing travel restrictions, quarantines, curfews and stay-at-home orders, workplace hazard controls, and facility closures. Many places have also worked to increase testing capacity and trace contacts of infected persons.

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

**The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War Two. Since its emergence in Asia late last year, the virus has spread to every continent except Antarctica. Cases are rising daily in Africa, America, and Europe. Countries are racing to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and cancelling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, religious gatherings, and schools. Some major effects of the lockdown and restrictions of movement on Nigerians include:**

**• It has caused survival of the fittest between people: The lockdown has made living difficult due to restriction of movement especially people living from hand to mouth**

**• It has encouraged social vices like stealing, fighting etc.**

**• It has helped families get close to one another and to God.**

**• It has led to inflation of available goods.**

**• It has caused all schools (primary, secondary and tertiary) to shut-down and has disrupted all schools academic calendar for the year.**

**• Depression: This lockdown has major effects on extroverts (people who prefer outdoors to indoors, people who prefer going out and can’t stay in for too long). It has led some people into deep depressions.**

**The pandemic is moving like a wave-one that may yet crash on those least able to cope. But COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis. By stressing every one of the countries it touches, it has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars. We are in uncharted territory. Many of our communities are now unrecognizable. Dozens of the world’s greatest cities are deserted as people stay indoors, either by choice or by government order. Across Nigeria, shops, theaters, restaurants and bars are closing.**

**Every day, people are losing jobs and income, with no way of knowing when normality will return. Small island nations, heavily dependent on tourism, have empty hotels and deserted beaches. The International Labour Organization estimates that 195 million jobs could be lost.**