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THE CORONA VIRUS.

**What is corona virus?**

Corona virus are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new corona virus outbreak, which originated in Wuhan, China, a pandemic. As of April 20, the global death toll surpassed 168,500 amid more than 2.4 million cases. More than 643,000 people have recovered from the disease worldwide, according to the data collected by the Johns Hopkins University in the United States. The virus circulates in animals and some can be transmitted between animals and humans.

**The symptoms.**

Thecommon signs of infection include fever, coughing and breathing difficulties. In severe cases it can cause pneumonia, multiple organ failure and death. The incubation period of COVID-19 is thought to be between 1 and 14 days. It is contagious before symptoms appear which is why so many people get infected. Infected patients can be also asymptomatic, meaning they don’t display any symptoms despite having the virus in their systems.

Although there is no cure yet, the spread can be curbed by washing hands regularly with soap and water, covering your mouth with your elbow while sneezing or coughing, maintain social distancing, avoid unnecessary, unprotected contact with animals and be sure to wash hands after contact.

Due to the rapid spread of the virus, various countries including Nigeria has ordered her citizens to stay indoors. This is the best way to reduce the spread but the government is also forgetting that Nigeria is a third world country and majority of its citizens belong to the low class. This has a great effect on the citizens. Some of which are;

1. Increase in crime rates: Not all Nigerian citizens generate income from white collar jobs. More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been locked down. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a ‘no salary during lockdown’ stance, or at best a 50 per cent pay cut. The government on the other hand does not care for the needs of these people; hence the people find a means by engaging in criminal activities like stealing, robbing etc.
2. High cost of living: due to the lockdown there has been an increase in the cost of living. Marketers have now increased the cost of goods and services to make money and feed with during this hard period. They use the opportunity to exploit others. People find it difficult to make purchases with the little money they have.
3. Lack of facilities: Very closely related to this is the issue of lack of pipe-borne water, sanitation facilities and decent accommodation for most people in Nigeria. This fact alone constitutes a major hindrance to the attempts at containment of the pandemic.
4. Increased violence: most officers (security personals) abuse their power and beat up citizens. Citizens on the other hand take laws into their hands and retaliate. The rate of violence has risen to a great extent.

**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. Guaranteed salary for all workers in the period of lockdown; No Job losses.