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COVID 19 Pandemic and the Effects of the Lockdown and Restriction of Movement on Nigerians?

The first case of COVID 19 was reported on December 31st 2019 in Wuhan/China, COVID 19 is an infectious disease caused by Severe acute respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The time of exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days but range from two to fourteen days; The Pneumonia symptoms include dry cough, chest pain, fever and labored breathing, the virus is contagious between close contact often small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing and people can be infected by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their nose, eyes and mouth.

Coronavirus is much more than a health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War Two. Since the emergence in Asia, the virus has spread to every other continent except Antarctica. Cases are rising daily in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

It has led to massive death tolls, damaged economics and caused disruptions to social order around the world. In Nigeria, it has affected our public health and we are experiencing the pandemic on our economy. It is undeniable that Nigeria's health system is weak, and the virus hits with consequences too devastating to manage. Recently we have 629 cases in Nigeria and 21 deaths, one that may yet crash on those least able to cope. It has created devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave scars.

However, these pandemic has effects on the Nigerians through the imposing of lockdown and restriction of movement on them, millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack food that their families needs to survive. We have formal and informal sector. The lockdown affects the informal sector in which more than 80 percent of Nigerians work, includes a wide range of occupations, from trades men, taxi drivers, traders, food vendors and hairdressers. These prevents Nigerians working in informal sector from travelling to work on

Conducting their business, they can't afford the basic necessity due to increase in food price because they survive from menial jobs.

Most Nigerians don't have enough income to sustain them, they are low income earners often lack pensions, savings and health insurance that provides a basic social safety to provide the basic needs of life. The restriction of movement is destroying lives and livelihood of society's poorest and the most vulnerable people.

It affects the economy of Nigeria, the post COVID-19 is going tough on the Nigeria economy causing recession while the pandemic lasts, and would likely enter a full blown depression thereafter because Nigeria depends on crude oil and the drastic reduction of crude oil prices due to the pandemic.

There is disruption of the supply chains and low stocks this makes it hard to maintain operations, as they cannot make future investment decisions, diversifying risk which they are obsessed with makes a strong push to reduce dependence on suppliers.

The education sector is greatly affected by the lockdown and restriction of movement not only in Nigeria but also all over the world. The learning and potential of most students have been damaged, it has consequences on the skill growth and long term consequences on their education.

Trade is affected by changes in production patterns; over the last two decades the thrust for improved efficiency and productivity has driven manufacturing, as well as many service industries towards minimizing cost; therefore the demand for food, and other essential items increases which will lead to lower demand for non-essential goods such as various services and apparel.

In conclusion, the citizens are not happy for the lockdown and restriction of movement the citizens want the government to provide for their need such as food, electricity and other important essential for keeping them safe at home to prevent violation of the lockdown.