**THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECT ON THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA.**

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Throughout mankind’s existence, there has always been a life-threatening crisis/event that has made man to rethink his ways of living. From the Cholera pandemic in 1852 to the Influenza pandemic in 1918 that tore across the globe, mankind has always been struck by some sort of global tragedy that has rocked us to our bones. Even in Africa, we too have experienced such events like the HIV/AIDS, that afflicted mostly those in the Sub-Saharan Africa and the most recent Ebola Virus outbreak, in 2014. Though mankind has endured numerous forms of what seems like biological warfare, unfortunately it would seem again that nature itself is on a waging war against mankind through the introduction of the vicious COVID-19 which is also known as- The Coronavirus disease.

Beginning in December 2019, in the region of Wuhan, China, the new coronavirus began appearing in human beings. It had been given the name COVID-19. This new virus spreads incredibly quickly between people. Due to its new arrival no one on earth has been identified to have an immunity to it. The virus spread worldwide within months of its arrival. It was declared a pandemic in March and by the end of the month half a million people were infected and nearly 30,000 people had died. Dozens of companies an many more independent researchers have begun working on tests, treatments and vaccines to combat this pandemic. The push for the survival of the human race is the primary concern of the world.

In the present state that Nigeria is in, it would be complete chaos if the coronavirus outbreak reaches the scale presently in Europe, US or China. Many Nigerians may not have the sufficient financial gains to survive this outbreak, plus Social Distancing and Isolation entails that we Nigerians have enough space to begin with. Though because of the cultural nature of our living style, it would be difficult for Nigerians to adapt to social distancing and isolation. In Lagos for example, where there are over 100 slum areas, about 80 people can be found sharing a 10-room building with only two toilets and a bathroom. Yes, very disappointing but so is the status of the current Nigeria. By the early hours of 18 April 2020, the confirmed cases of coronavirus in Nigeria had been totaled to 542, with a total of 166 discharged and 19 deaths and counting. But this was just Saturday alone. It has been confirmed from a number of sources that the numbers have risen by a hundred in the last few days. Unfortunately, even news like this can still not shake the hearts of our “model” Nigerian citizens. In many sections of the country many people do not believe the reality of the pandemic and believe it to be political conspiracy. Though it is understandable that many Nigerians may not have a bed to rest their head or a home to call their own, but still many of us refuse to do what is expected of us during this crisis. When citizens refuse to obey the rules set up by our country, we all should be ready to bear the consequences that will eventually manifest. It is understandable that human beings are free spirits that do not like being caged but what else can be done to isolate this virus. This is why the government deployed the Army. Yes, the Nigerian Army is famous for its strict policies and its crude methods but in the end, they’re essentially doing their job to maintain order in the society. Thanks to them the streets are clear of cars and people to avoid more spreading of the virus. Yes, it may be hard to survive but the government, due to the isolation, decided that they would make days where citizens would be allowed to leave their houses in order to get supplies for their survival. The government even made available some palliative that would be shared out to citizens that need it. It’s important that we Nigerians cooperate with each other to ensure peace and our continuity.