Corona-Virus; A report from the inside

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As of the date of writing, which being April-20-2020. It has been 53 days since the deadly virus known as Coronavirus or COVID-19 Started its spread in Nigeria. Learning from the mistakes and actions of the various other countries which the epidemic has hit, the virus is spreading slowly, but surely.

No news has been said about the actual cause of this pandemic, all we know about this virus is what has been found out from treating and studying it and we have learned that COVID-19 symptoms include; cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, unexplained and sudden loss of taste or smell, diarrhea and headache. COVID-19 has been known to attack the immune system so it does lead to severe respiratory system, immune system failure, kidney failure and in extreme cases death. But do not fear, for although there is no cure or vaccine yet, there are ways to prevent it and in most cases, prevention is better than cure. These ways include but are not limited to; staying at home, keeping a distance of 2 meters or 5 feet between any and everybody when outside, avoiding physical contact with people which includes shaking of hands and anything of the sort, washing of hands often with soap and water and the use of a hand sanitizer. Now, if you are coughing and sneezing, its adamant that you limit your exposure to people and you contact the relevant authorities to get tested and receive help.

Older people and people with previous underlying medical problems must be especially careful because not only are they easily susceptible to the virus, but they are also more likely to die from it too, as evident in the death toll among the population in Italy because of the high percentage of older citizens among their population.

Now, the question begets, “how did we reach this stage” and the answer points us to China. For the virus begin in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and because of it racism and discrimination towards the Chinese and Asian population has reached a new high. Now the virus went from being an epidemic to being a pandemic, rampaging in more than 100 countries around the world and confirmed in every continent except Antarctica it has now become a global problem as declared by the World Health Organization on the 11th of March 2020.

As of today, there are 627 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nigeria, with a total of 170 discharged and 21 deaths. And although lockdown has been activated and effective for a while now, the number of cases are still increasing on the daily, although admittedly much slower than most other countries, it is still increasing. Lockdown has been effective for over 14 days now, and another 14 days lockdown has been implemented in places like Lagos, which has the highest number of infected, Ekiti, Akwa Ibom, Kano and many others. But unfortunately, Lockdown is a third-world country solution not a Nigerian one and thus, many Nigerian are suffering from it and the effects of an incompetent government rather than the viral disease.

The effects of lockdown include;

1. The rapid increase in crime rate, as seen in many places where soldiers, bandits and civilians go rouge.
2. Decline of wealth due to being unable to work and having to eat, and feed a family.
3. It impedes jobs as they were all forced to close unless it deals with the selling of essential services, such as food distributors and retailers.
4. Death from hunger and crime
5. Economy has gone to hell, oil prices have become less than one tenth of the original price.

Nigeria is a country in which most people are self-employed, there’s a lack of job opportunities and government jobs sometimes refuse to pay for months on end. Now in this kind of country where most people are living from hand to mouth on a daily basis a lockdown has been announced which ruins any possible way for the majority to make any sort of money, and the worst part is because of the pandemic, food prices have gone up and the average citizen is unable to provide for themselves, talk less of provide for their family. Not only is the government not giving out money to those who actually need it but they’re also embezzling it in this delicate situation. The government has created a situation where the situation has now become Death by COVID-19 or Death by Hunger. The only way this situation can be helped is if the government helps out for once, or if a cure is found soon.