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Report of the effects of lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

COVID-19 means Coronavirus Disease 2019. The first confirmed case of the pandemic of COVID-19 in Nigeria was announced on 27 February, 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. And then, another case was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen.

The pandemic has caused lots of damages and loss of lives. This has made the government to order lockdown in affected areas like Lagos state, Ogun state, Abuja etc. This lockdown has really affected the majority of the minorities in the country and the government decided to take some steps in helping the citizens. The lockdown does not apply to those providing essential services such as doctors and retailers, including market stalls selling food and groceries, which the government has said can operate for four hours every 48 hours.

This lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day. Lots of people observing the lockdown lack the food and income that their families need to survive. An increase in food prices as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities. The government has promised to transfer cash but the failure to disclose key details of the cash transfer program has also cast doubt on how

many people it includes and who will benefit.

The lockdown has opened the door to increased generator pollution. Most people now work from home and most of them need electricity to work, because of the instability of power supply in Nigeria, the people pollute the air and the environment by using generators. The demand of generators is now really high because people can no longer go to their work place. This pollution can cause damage to the health of the people around. This pollution is also depleting the ozone layer the more which makes the earth unsafe for man.

Some areas don't obey the lockdown order and this is causing the spread of this virus. Some militants are said to have killed a lot of men because of their protest and stubbornness of obeying the order. Some men are even going about terrorizing the streets because they don't have work to do or they are looking for means to feed themselves. There are even some cases of rape not only from the men terrorizing but also from spouses. The women that are being forced into sexual intercourse have to be tolerant because they really have no place to go to seek for help at this time.

Lots of things have happened during this lockdown and things will continue to happen till the end of the year, both good and bad. Nigerians should use this lockdown as an opportunity to improve on themselves and not use the time to commit crime.

Yours faithfully,
Ikhalu Oluwatomi