*NAME: ONYEBASHI AWELE VICTORY*

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CORONA VIRUS, THE LOCKDOWN AND ITS EFFECTS ON NIGERIANS.

The world has experienced a lot of pandemics over the years. Some of these pandemics were; the Flu pandemic [1889-1890], Spanish flu [1918-1920], the Asian flu [1957-1958] and so on. The recent pandemic that is ravaging the world right now is the CORONAVIRUS DISEASE-19[COVID-19]. This is caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2[SARS-CoV-2]. The outbreak was identified in Wuhan and Hubei, China in the December of 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on the 30th January,2020 and recognized it as a pandemic on 11th March 2020. As of 21st April 2020, more than 2.53 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide. In Nigeria, the first case of the pandemic was announced on 27th February, 2020, where an Italian citizen in Lagos was tested positive for the virus. On 9th March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro,Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. As of 21st of April, 2020, there are about 665 cases of the COVID-19.

In the light of the pandemic, the world decided to go on a lockdown to curtail the spread of the disease. Nigeria was not left out as the President Muhammadu Buhari established a Presidential Task Force on the 9th of March 2020, for the control of the virus in the country. Many governors have placed measures to control the spread of the pandemic. Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu, on the 25th of March 2020, ordered a lockdown on Lagos. He banned social and religious gathering of people. He also banned inter-state travelling.

This is one of the examples of the effects of the Coronavirus disease in Nigeria. One of the effects of the lockdown include: restriction on the movement of the citizens. The lockdown requires Nigerian citizens to stay indoors, thereby reducing the movements of people. People cannot move freely as they used to. There are curfews. Another effect of the lockdown is, it has reduced human and social interactions. Citizens cannot visit friends and family, as they have their movements restricted. There are no social nor religious gathering. People cannot socialize anymore for the time being. Another effect of the lockdown and the restriction on the citizens is that people are now more inclined to electronic gadgets, such as: television, phones and laptops and may be addicted to them. Another effect of the lockdown is; it has reduced the income of the low salary earning populace. Market women and other menial workers who depend on their livelihood have lost their source of income. As a result of this, there has been a drastic increase in the hunger rate. There has also been a decrease in the purchasing power of the citizens. Perishable goods have increased in price, while non- essential traders have lost much, since there are no customers. As a result of the economic hardship, crime rate has increase drastically. The psychological effects are: It breeds fear and depression because of the rapid and consistent rise in the number of cases reported nationwide and globally. Even though the lockdown might be a stringent measure, it is for our own good and as such we adhere to the rules that have been put in place by the Federal government and the National Centre for Disease Control. It is on this note that I say #stay home stay safe.