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## THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

### BACKGROUND

Coronavirus was emerged in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. Coronavirus belongs to the Coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales Order. At the end of 2019, Wuhan, an emerging business hub of China experienced an outbreak of the disease Coronavirus that killed more than eight hundred and infected over seventy thousand individuals within the fifty days of epidemic.

Anybody with this virus shows symptoms within two to fourteen days. The symptoms are; diarrhoea, Cough, Shortness of breath, fever and loss of smell.

The virus can be easily spread primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

Currently, there is no vaccine or cure for the Coronavirus but there are some preventive measures that can be taken such as:

- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue while you cough
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- If you have a fever, a cough or difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.
- Follow the directions of your local health authority.

### CORONA VIRUS IN NIGERIA

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of Coronavirus in Nigeria was announced on 27th February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos 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.

NCDC [Nigerian Centre for disease Control] is the government agency with the mandate to coordinate the surveillance, detection, and response to infectious disease control outbreak. NCDC has supported states for improved coordination of outbreak preparedness and response.

### EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

Lockdown is the confinement of people in their own room or houses as a security measure after a disturbance or disease outbreak. The federal government has ordered a complete lockdown in Nigeria ~~and~~ particularly in states that have high number of active cases of the coronavirus such as Lagos, Abuja etc. This restriction of movement among the Nigerians has a lot of effects on the Nigerian citizens, both positive and negative effects.

The positive effects include:

- It strengthens family bond as they tend to see each other often
- It serves as a period of rest or relaxation
- It allows people to know that businesses can be done online
- And most importantly, it prevents further spread of the coronavirus disease.

The negative effects of the lockdown are:

- It has led to the increase in the prices of a lot of goods as transportation is now prohibited.
- It has caused a delay or extension in the educational system.
- It has increased the rate of poverty and hunger most especially amongst those who feed with their daily income
- It has also increased crime rate in Nigeria as a lot of people don't have anything to live on.