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GST 122  
20/04/2020

## THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS TO NIGERIANS

### INITIATION OF THE PANDEMIC

Corona Virus was first characterized during the 1960s and was responsible for upper respiratory tract infection in children. Since 2003, more human coronaviruses were identified.

As at December ~~31~~, 2019 a new human Coronavirus known as COVID-19 had emerged from Wuhan, China. It made its first kill on a 61 year old man and continued spreading. The virus had become a pandemic when it spread to every corner of the globe.

### CORONAVIRUS IN NIGERIA

As the Coronavirus disease had become a pandemic, it made its way into Nigeria on February 27, 2020. It was said that an Italian man who was arriving in Nigeria from Milan had stayed in Lagos and some other places for two days before he was quarantined. This led to the rapid spread of the virus in Nigeria. The Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health has been strengthening measures to ensure an outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained quickly. This was short-lived as the virus had left Lagos state and was roaming about other states such as Ado-Ekiti, Ogun state, Abuja and so on. Due to this rapid increase/spread of the disease, a lockdown was brought up to curb the virus.

### EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION TO MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA

A lockdown and restriction to movement in Nigeria was announced on the 30th of March, 2020 by the President, Muhammadu Buhari. During this period, people/citizens were expected to be indoors. As they were indoors, the Health agencies were to sanitize all

- streets, buildings and so on. This was all in planning, but in reality, people kept moving about for the two weeks. A second lockdown for two weeks was initiated again. They had taken this one serious and had brought soldiers outside to prevent movement of people. The lockdown has brought positive and negative effects. Some positive effects may include:
- It brings about relaxation and reduces stress.
  - It bonds family members together
  - It reduces the rate at which the virus is spreading
  - People tend to spend less, since they have no means of using their cash.
- As there are advantages, there are also disadvantages. Some may include:
- People struggle to survive as they can't hustle daily for their food again.
  - It has a poor effect on our economy and salesmen as goods in stock remains idle. Also food wastage, since snacks such as gala expire in a week
  - Some schools cannot provide the e-learning experience for their student since such material was never planned for. Therefore students are idle.

### CONCLUSION

The Coronavirus Pandemic may have its bad side, which is killing people, but it has brought us to notice that our health matters. People wash their hands more frequent and eat healthy. We should only pray that the pandemic would end and things can go back to the way they were.

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