

A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS BY Bala Abdulkarim Salisu

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Introduction.

The coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. The COVID-19 virus is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, mouth or nose. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough, tiredness and fever. Some people may develop more severe forms of the disease, such as pneumonia.

From the evidence so far, the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather. Regardless of climate, adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to an area reporting COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. By doing this you eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) has had a crippling effect on the global economy. In Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, the two largest economies (Lagos and Abuja), have been placed on a two-week lockdown to curtail the spread of the virus to other sections of the country.

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN NIGERIA: ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES.

Measuring the overall economic impact of COVID-19 will be difficult. However, we believe the pandemic's effects on economic activities and businesses in Nigeria will be dire and reflect in two significant ways. Firstly, the virus has led to the crash in global commodity prices particularly crude oil, due to a slump in demand and a spike in supply. Secondly, the pandemic has led to lockdowns which has crippled economic activities in the largest commercial nerve centers of the country. We will examine the effects of these challenges on businesses in Nigeria.

- **Slump in Crude Oil Prices.**

With governments of some of the world's major economies enforcing a lock down and the slump in international travels and local commute, the consumption of energy has shrunk materially which has led to a supply glut in the crude oil market. Crude oil represents about 95% of Nigeria's export revenues and a downturn in the market for the commodity always has a ripple effect on the economy.

- **Effects of lockdown and restriction of movements.**

Nigeria, with 200 million people, is Africa's most populous nation. Over 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, warning that the country's unprepared and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed. The extension of the lockdown is expected to add to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day.

The Federal government is fully aware of the great difficulties experienced especially by those who earn a daily wage.

But despite these realities, we must not change the restrictions," – FG says.

The government has pledged a series of support measures to ease the financial pain for the most vulnerable, but there have been widespread complaints that not enough is being done for those facing hunger. The vast majority of Nigerians depend on daily wages, they have to go out to get money and buy food to put it on the table for their families. For the next two weeks, they are going to stay at home with no work and no chance of getting money. An extension of the lockdown, could raise the risk of a social unrest while stoking political risks.

Conclusion.

In a nutshell, the corona virus is a viral transmittable infection which is mainly spread through respiratory droplets from the mouth or nose(coughing and sneezing) of an infected person. The severe symptoms include dry cough, tiredness or fatigue and high fever. It is generally advisable to wash hands frequently as this kills the virus instantly.

The economic implications of the covid-19 virus are inevitable as this has led to slump in oil prices as well as developing hard ships due to the lockdown and restrictions in country. There are intense difficulties especially to those who make their living on a daily basis.

Recommendations.

You may like to read the following articles:

- WHO covid-19 emerging pandemic advice for the general public
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>
- Global overview and economic setbacks on the corona virus_
<https://www.agusto.com/publications/covid-19-in-nigeria-economic-perspectives-and-mitigating-the-risks/>

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