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REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

Recently at the end of December 2019, Wuhan an emerging business hub of china experienced an outbreak of a novel coronavirus that killed more than eighteen hundred and infected over seventy thousand Individuals within the first fifty days of the epidemic. International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) named the virus as SARS-CoV-2 and the disease as COVID-19. The outbreak was initiated from the Hunan seafood market in Wuhan city of china and rapidly infected many people where live animals such as marmots, birds, bats, frogs, snakes and rabbits. The human to human spreading capability of this virus occurs due to close contact with infected person, exposed to coughing, sneezing, respiratory droplets which can penetrate the human body via inhalation through the nose or mouth. Presently there are 2,545,768 coronavirus cases, 176,860 deaths, 687,083 recovered in the world, and 665 coronavirus cases, 22 deaths, 188 recovered cases in Nigeria.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari had announced a two weeks lockdown in Lagos, Abuja, Ogun states to combat the coronavirus pandemic that began on March 30, at the end of the lockdown, there a need to extend the lockdown for two more weeks, this took effect on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. This means that for the next two weeks, they are going to stay at home with no work and no chance of getting money.

Poor people in congested neighbourhoods are worried about how they will cope. Millions of Nigerians observing the COVID-19 lockdown lack food and incomes that their families need to survive. The government needs to combine public health

measures with efforts to prevent the pandemic from destroying the lives and livelihoods of the society's poorest and most vulnerable people.

The lockdown does not apply to those providing essential services, such as food distributors and retailers, including market stalls selling food and groceries, which the government has said can operate for four hours every 48 hours. The lockdown, however, prevents many Nigerians working in informal sectors from traveling to work or conducting their business. Local food vendors and traders have expressed fears over their ability to feed their families during the lockdown, with their daily earnings their only source of sustenance. An increase in food price as a result of the lockdown also means that many cannot stock up on necessities. The vast majority of the people outside the formal system are hit devastatingly by the lockdown.

With over 80 active cases, the Lagos state governor Babajide Sanwoolu has been commended for his great job as he had put up world-class facilities in the management of those infected with the virus, trying as much as possible to track people who have come in contact with the infected people and opening more isolation centers. He has also ordered a house to house testing which has been effective. He has also made sure that the distribution of the stimulus package to the vulnerable has began to keep people at home, other celebrities and individuals has also helped by distributing food items to ease the pain. He urges everyone to stay calm and safe during this period.