

Name: John Blessing Likita

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From late December 2019 to January 2020, the world was struck unawares by the new corona virus with rapid spread and devastating consequences. The Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. Most people that are infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and can recover without a special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The virus spreads through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, it is important to cough into a flexed elbow, wash your hands with soap sanitize using an alcohol based sanitizer frequently and avoid touching your face (World Health Organization, 2020).

The Chinese government responded to the initial outbreak by placing Wuhan and nearby cities under a de-facto quarantine encompassing roughly 50 million people in Hubei province. This quarantine is now slowly being lifted, as authorities watch to see whether cases will rise again. China is the epicenter of the virus outbreak but now, the US is now the new epicenter of the Covid-19 outbreak, becoming the first country to surpass China's total confirmed cases.

The disease appears to have originated from a Wuhan seafood market where wild animals, including marmots, birds, rabbits, bats and snakes, are traded illegally. Coronaviruses are known

to jump from animals to humans, so it's thought that the first people infected with the disease are a group primarily made up of stallholders from the seafood market contracted it from contact with animals.

The hunt for the animal source of Covid-19 is still unknown, although there are some strong contenders. A team of virologists at the Wuhan Institute for Virology released a detailed paper showing that the new coronavirus genetic makeup is 96 per cent identical to that of a coronavirus found in bats, while a study published on March 26 argues that genetic sequences of coronavirus in pangolins are between 88.5 and 92.4 per cent similar to the human virus.

The Wuhan market was shut down for inspection and cleaning on January 1, but by then it appears that Covid-19 was already starting to spread beyond the market itself. On January 21, the WHO Western Pacific office said the disease was also being transmitted between humans evidence of which is apparent after medical staff became infected with the virus.

Conspiracy theorists have suggested that the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is manmade, leaked from the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory that is in the area where the pandemic originated.

There are conspiracy theories on the corona virus and they include:

1. The outbreak was linked to bioweapons research

As China placed Hubei province under lockdown in January, the Washington Times, a conservative U.S. newspaper, cited research by former Israeli military intelligence officer Dany Shoham to argue that "Coronavirus may have originated in lab linked to China's bio warfare program" in Wuhan Hubei but there is no evidence of this.

2. The novel coronavirus leaked from a lab accidentally

As the bioweapon theory subsided in February, it was replaced by a more plausible alternative: That a virus from a natural source could have leaked accidentally from one of Wuhan's laboratories.

3. The Chinese government misled the world about the coronavirus.

With no direct evidence of a leak from a laboratory, Cotton and others have noted that China has blocked the release of information about the early days of the outbreak. This is true: The Post reported on China's obfuscation of information about the outbreak as early as February 1.

Beijing was slow to share data with outsiders, including experts from the World Health Organization. An investigation by the Associated Press published Wednesday found that Chinese officials withheld information for six key days, allowing the virus to spread without restriction at a crucial moment.

Impacts of corona virus on global health and global economy

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic has had far-reaching consequences beyond the spread of the disease and efforts to quarantine it. The economic implications are thus detrimental not only to public health systems but to trade and travel, food and agriculture industries, various market types and retail chains, among others. The underlying cause of the economic slowdown is a global pandemic, the pandemic also hurts almost all industries, turning the health care challenge into an economic one. People can no longer travel and go out, warehouse workers are becoming ill and increasingly worried about getting ill. Health care workers on the front lines of the virus could become infected and need to self quarantine. The health and safety of the population remain the highest policy priority. Congress and the administration need to make sure that sufficient diagnostic, protective and therapeutic equipment are available. Policymakers also need to make

sure that economically vulnerable health care workers and health aides in particular, do not have to choose between work while sick and staying home. They will need paid sick leave as well as paid medical and family leave. This will mean expanding already enacted protections, so that the self-employed also receive benefits.

How Great Powers have handled the pandemic using the United States as an example

In a sign of the staggering toll the virus was taking on the U.S. economy, some 17 million Americans have filed for unemployment since mid March. Before this crisis, the highest number of filings in a single week was 695,000 in 1982. Some analysts suggest that the U.S. unemployment rate could reach as high as 40 percent in the second quarter of the year, significantly higher than its peak of 25 percent during the Great Depression. While Washington has been criticized for mismanaging the public health response to the pandemic, it's also been credited with moving decisively to stabilize financial markets. In March, the Federal Reserve indicated that it will do anything within its power to support the economy. Trumps attacked the World Health Organization in a tweet saying Why did the W.H.O. Ignore an email from Taiwanese health officials in late December alerting them to the possibility that Coronavirus could be transmitted between humans? Why did the W.H.O. make several claims about the Coronavirus that ere either inaccurate or misleading....

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) April 17, 2020

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