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**THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND**

**RESTRITION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

As of April 16, more than 141,000 people worldwide have died of COVID-19, the highly

infectious respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The number of people who have tested positive for the COVID-19 has exceeded 2.1 million,

according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. More than 540,000 people have

recovered.

**What is a coronavirus?**

Many people all over the world have tried to actually know what this virus is and some of them

have been answered with different definitions but according to the World Health Organization

(WHO), coronavirus are a family of viruses that cause illness ranging from common cold to

more severe disease such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the middle east

respiratory syndrome (MERS).

These viruses were originally transmitted from animals to people. SARS, for instance, were

transmitted from civet cats to humans while MERS moved to humans from a type of camel.

Several known to coronavirus are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

According to the World Health Organization, signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness

of breath and breathing difficulties.

In more severe cases, it can lead to pneumonia, multiple organ failure and even lead to death.

Current estimates of the incubation period the time between infection and the onset of symptoms

range from one to 14 days. Most infected people show symptoms within five to six days.

However, infected patients can also be asymptomatic, meaning they do not display any

symptoms despite having the virus in their systems.

Nigeria implemented a sweeping quarantine for three major states that are home to almost 30

million people in a bid to slow the spread of the new coronavirus in Africa’s most populous

country. The lockdown in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun kicks in at 11pm local time (22:00 GMT)

would be placed for at least two weeks, President Muhammadu Buhari announced on Sunday, a

little over a month after Nigeria confirmed its first case.

All Nigeria citizens in these areas are to stay in their homes. Travel to or from other states should

be postponed. All businesses and offices within these locations should be fully closed during this

period. The restrictions do not apply to hospitals and stores selling essential items such as

groceries and medicine.

The effect of this lockdown has caused the fear of price rises. The announcement triggered panic

among many in Lagos, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the country which has

infected 111 people and caused one death so far.

Last Monday, residents in Lagos flooded markets and stores to buy food and other items.

The lockdown is very important and has really helped everybody because we have to be isolated

from other people because when we move about the probability of majority of people contacting

it is very high and other people like their families can be at risk.

With Nigeria’s struggling national grid lacking in capacity to power the entire country,

generators especially small, low cost models with tank capacities of just four litters have become

an ubiquitous alternative for power despite a ban of mass communication.

Given unreliable electricity supply, having citizens stay at home amid a lockdown to curb the

spread of coronavirus likely means millions of electricity generators will be working overtime to

power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas.

In a reality that runs counter to happenings in other parts of the world. With fewer people

commuting in cities, fewer factories pumping out waste and fewer city centers being populated,

there has been a positive effect on emissions.