**REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS AND ITS EFFECTS ON NIGERIANS**

The Federal Ministry of Health confirmed a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) case in Lagos State, Nigeria. The case, which was confirmed on the 27th of February 2020, was the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020.

The case was an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. The patient was clinically stable, with no serious symptoms, and was being managed at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Yaba, Lagos.

The Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Health had been strengthening measures to ensure an outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained quickly.

Since then, the virus moved rapidly through Lagos, Nigeria. No lockdown or travel ban from heavily affected countries was enforced in its first week of presence in the country and that aided the spread of the virus through Lagos, Abuja and majority of the northern states in the country. As of today, 24th of April, 2020, the confirmed number of cases in Nigeria stand at 981. 197 of which have recovered and remain in self-isolation. Sadly, though, 31 of these 981 people passed away.

It has remained the top priority of the federal and state governments to continue to prevent the widespread chaos around the world from affecting Nigeria as a nation during these times. Public and private schools which include nursery, primary and secondary schools along with all Federal, State, Private Universities and Polytechnics have all shut down indefinitely due to the widespread of the virus nationwide.

The virus continues to be relentless as it points out it “does not discriminate”. A decent number of highly ranked government officials have tested positive to the virus probably due to their ignorance and underestimation of the virus in its early stages in February of this year. The Chief of Staff of the President, Mallam Abba Kyari, was a confirmed victim of the virus. On the 18th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari confirmed the death of his Chief of Staff on the 17th of April after a moth long struggle with COVID-19. Credible speculation suggests he contracted the virus during a trip to Germany. He is just one of the numerous officials in the Buhari Administration be it Governor, Senator or Minister who have contacted the virus. Although out of those cases, the Federal Ministry of Health was glad to announce the recovery of Kaduna and Bauchi State Governors from the virus.

The lockdown although, has been very difficult to handle as individuals, families and even as states. Financially and emotionally citizens remain tense as to when the lockdown will end allowing them to pay visits to loved ones affected and when secular work will resume as some wages have been halved or even totally denied by private and federal institutions.

An interesting development in the country is the manner in which some schools and institutions have remained open digitally and continue to carry out their day-to-day activities. It has kept them on their toes during this lockdown period also eliminating the very common idle nature. Less privileged Nigerians are those we are worried about the most as their minimum wages are not available to them, neither do they have the resources to fend for themselves this period of time. In fact, one might say that there is ‘desperation’ in the markets as the food shortage continues to increase.

However, maintaining the peace and security in the country is very important, it remains very difficult to do so considering the stubborn nature of some Nigerians who find it difficult to submit to government officials. That is why self-isolation and quarantine are the only practical steps to take to prevent the spread of the virus and maintain health and safety!

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