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# **A REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF THE LOCK DOWN ON NIGERIANS**

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The coronavirus pandemic is one that has affected grossly the regular lifestyle of so many people and even brought about the death of several people. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It is a respiratory disease. Most infected people develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without requiring special treatment.

In Nigeria, the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) is labored with the responsibility of monitoring the incidences and prevalence of the pandemic. Following the index case in Nigeria which that was confirmed on the 27th of February 2020; an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, NCDC has tested over 7000 samples and reported 627 cases as at 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

As the coronavirus disease is said to be spread by the aerosols of infected person, the Federal Government of Nigeria has taken several measures since it's index case to prevent the spread of the virus. These measures include but are not limited to establishment of a presidential task force for the control of the virus, closure of tertiary, secondary and primary educational institution, postponement of political gatherings, closure of all the nation's international airports and seaports, public servants on Grade Level 12 and below on non-essential roles to work from home, suspension of religious gatherings, closure of markets etc.

On Sunday, 29th March 2020, President Muhammad Buhari in his address to the nation, asked the residents of Lagos and Ogun States as well as the Federal Capital Territory to stay at home for an initial period of fourteen days starting from Monday, 30th March 2020, thereby implementing a lockdown in this states, as these states turned out to be with the highest confirmed cases, Lagos being the epicenter. As at Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, this lock down was extended by another period of 14 days to curb the spread of the virus as social distancing was implemented.

However, the implementation of this lockdown in these states in a bid to save lives, has come along with some downsides. Statistics show that a majority of Nigeria's population are daily wage earners, so with the implementation of this lockdown, a lot of people have been put out of jobs resulting in a rising poverty and hunger level. In response to this, several NGO's, commercial institutions, philanthropists and even the federal government have resort to distribution of relief materials such as food, household materials, funds and subsidy in the price of fuel to cushion the effect. But, the degree to the effectiveness of this response is yet to be known, as people, through various social platforms, still cry out. Complain arising from some Lagos residents say that, due to the recent activities of hoodlums and street urchins in the border communities, they are now short of sleep and are at a major state of unrest. These hoodlums have now taken advantage of the lockdown to lunch their attack on their victims, causing terror and insecurity in the affected areas.

Several religious, academic and even social gatherings have been put to a halt, causing the citizens to seek other means to achieve their aim, especially through online platforms. For some, this is cost effective as in the case of marriage ceremonies where it is held with less people to cater for, while for others like the students, it is taking an increasing cost to keep up with their academics through this various platforms. For people that must work from home, they need to keep up with a constant supply of electricity and battle to balance their responsibilities at home with their working hours.

It is no news that that this pandemic would have some major economics hits on the nation's market, but while we battle to survive this critical period, we can only hope for a more proactive government, pray constantly for the front liners and desire that the pandemic will be successfully contained.

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