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## **REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND THE RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

Globally, the newly discovered disease termed corona virus has shaken the strength of countries and continents as a whole. It has been discovered that five of the six continents in the world had been knocked down by the deadly virus. The unaffected continent is Antarctica. The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, on November 17, 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30<sup>th</sup> January, and a pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March. As of 25<sup>th</sup> April, more than 3 million cases of COVID-19 was reported in about 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 200,000 deaths and more than 900,000 recoveries. The United States of America was however recorded the country with the largest case of the pandemic.

Corona virus disease, also known as COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It affects people in different ways. It is a respiratory disease and most infected people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without requiring special treatment. Corona virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Its symptoms include; fever, dry cough, tiredness, shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea and runny nose. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time for exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days but may range from two to fourteen days. Although COVID-19 is not a sexually transmitted disease, it is known to be transmitted through kissing and faecal oral routes.

Sadly, it was reported that there are no specific vaccines or treatments for the deadly virus, although there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatment. However, the primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy. While some people are being discharged, some are being moved to the mortuary and out of the people who died as a result of corona virus complications was the Chief of Staff to the President: Mallam Abba Kyari, who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. Furthermore, the continent: Europe is really suffering from this virus as the recorded death cases in Italy rises day by day. This is also the same in USA.

Although there is no cure for this virus, it can be prevented from spreading across the country. In order to reduce the rate of contacting this virus, the preventive measures recommended by the health organizations must be considered strictly. Some of these measures are; washing of hands or using an alcohol based hand rub frequently, maintaining social distance, avoiding touching of faces etc.

The pandemic is a wake-up call to policymakers as the unusual and unprecedented nature of the crisis has made it possible for citizens to rely on foreign health care services and

more difficult to solicit for international support given the competing demand for medical supplies and equipment. A more integrated response spanning several sectors- including the health, finance, and trade sectors – is required to address structural issues that make the country less resilient to shocks and limits its range of policy responses.

In the long term, tougher decisions needed to be made, which was the lockdown of everywhere in the country. After the government announced the lockdown in Nigeria, households that rely on the day to day activities of self-employed individuals for consumption had been affected seriously that they could not feed themselves and their relative. Loss of income had been the immediate concern for these people. In the president's speech to the nation, he acknowledged that the lockdown may make it hard for people to feed themselves and so "relief materials" would be distributed to communities around the states affected. However, despite the crying of hunger by citizens, discrimination still has its place.

Nigerian entrepreneurs like Mike Adenuga and Tony Elumelu donated large sum of money to catalyze a comprehensive pan- African response to fight the pandemic, but a sizable chunk of those donations has gone to the Lagos state government. Why?, because corruption has blinded our leaders's eyes. It would have been useful if some of this went to self-employed individuals who are the life blood of cities like Lagos. However, as a result of the insufficient money released to the economy, robbery rate had increased. It is so pitiful that young children who are yet to start the journey of life are the ones who are mostly involved in this act.

In terms of education, schools closure in response to COVID-19, had shed light on various social and economic issues; including student debt, digital learning, food insecurity and homelessness. Also, access to childcare, healthcare, housing, internet and disability services. However, the impact was more severe for disadvantaged children and their families in that the school closure caused interrupted learning, compromised nutrition, childcare problems and consequent economic cost to families who could not work. In response to school closure, UNESCO recommended the use of distance learning programs and open educational applications and platforms that schools and teachers can use to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education.

Also the restriction of movement in Nigeria is really causing problem for the citizens that the bread winner of a particular family who does motorcycle, taxi or uber riding as a job is not able to make money for their family anymore. Even though movement was restricted in order to reduce the spread of the pandemic, another common disease which is hunger is taking rapid actions on the people especially the self-employed ones. Moreover, as a result of this restriction of movement, some parents are parted from their children.