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

The 2019–20 pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020, and recognized it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 27 April 2020, more than 2.99 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 185 countries and territories, resulting in more than 207,000 deaths. Fortunately, more than 881,000 people have recovered.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, or talking. The droplets usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than remaining in the air over long distances. People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their face. In experimental settings, the virus may survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread may be possible before symptoms appear and in later stages of the disease.

Early symptoms commonly include a high temperature, someone would feel the heat if they were to touch your chest or back, a continuous cough that you didn't have before this , coughing a great deal over a period greater than sixty minutes, or three or more coughing fits in a period of twenty-four hours and other flu-like ailments. Further symptoms may include fatigue, shortness of breath and loss of smell. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days, but may range from two to fourteen days. There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy.

Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one's mouth when coughing, maintaining distance from other people, monitoring and self-isolation for people who suspect they are infected. Authorities worldwide have responded by implementing travel restrictions, quarantines, curfews and stay-at-home orders, workplace hazard controls, and facility closures. Many places have also worked to increase testing capacity and trace contacts of infected persons.

The pandemic has caused severe global socioeconomic disruption, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression. It has led to the postponement or cancellation of sporting, religious, political and cultural events, widespread supply shortages exacerbated by panic buying, and decreased emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases. Schools, universities and colleges have closed either on a nationwide or local basis in 194 countries, affecting approximately 98.4 per cent of the world's student population. Misinformation about the virus has spread online, and there have been incidents of xenophobia and discrimination against Chinese people and against those perceived as being Chinese, or as being from areas with high infection rates.

The effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement of Nigerians include:

1. **Food price hike**

The three affected states are some of the most populated states in Nigeria hence demand for food will be high. The president assured Nigerians that food processing, distribution and retail companies would be exempted from the lockdown. Buhari also promised that relief materials will be provided for residents of satellite and commuter towns and communities around the affected states.

1. **Security Concerns**

The lockdown may spike security concerns as security agents would be tasked with the double duty of enforcing the restrictions while protecting lives and properties. A few security challenges have been reported in other African countries that have imposed similar restrictions.

1. **Overwhelmed Healthcare**

Indeed all lives matter, but it is safe to say that priority will be given to coronavirus cases. The healthcare sector will be overwhelmed as doctors, nurses and other healthcare practitioners fight to save the lives of coronavirus patients as well as those with other health issues. It is not all gloomy as these measures have been proven to be effective.

1. **Workers’ salaries threatened**

Nigeria operates a largely mono product economy solely dependent on crude oil. Past and even the present government had on many occasions mouthed the need to take the economy out of dependence on oil. Now the chicken has come home to roost. With the present economic reality, workers’ salaries may be in jeopardy. “What that means is that we are going to have the impact of this low crude oil price for some time. The oil market is highly unpredictable. Nobody knows what is going to happen tomorrow.