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## **REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (Adapted from www.emro.who.int>corona-virus).The first coronavirus was discovered in chickens in the 1930s but it was a few decades until the first human coronaviruses were identified which four are regularly found among particular people or in a certain area and usually cause mild disease, and the remaining three can cause much more serious and even fatal disease. Covid-19 belong to the Coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales order caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2(SARS-CoV-2) which was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic. This infectious disease infected over seventy thousand individuals and killed more than eighteen hundred within fifty days of pandemic.

The virus can be easily spread when an infected person have a close contact of less than three metres or six feet apart with a non-infected person. The common symptoms are: fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some people may experience: aches and pain, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, and diarrhoea. It is transmitted when an infected person sneezes, or coughs, or talks, droplets with the virus fly into the air from their nose or mouth and will be transmitted to anyone who is within six feet of that person can breathe those droplets from their lungs and the transmission is easier in crowded places. The virus can live up to three hours in the air after it is released by an infected person and for two to three days on a surface. there is no vaccine nor cure for the virus since it is new and it can take a number of years for a vaccine to be developed but for now preventive measures is by washing one’s hands regularly thoroughly for at least twenty seconds, maintain physical and social distance as much as possible, avoid touching your face before washing one’s hands etc.

The first case of coronavirus in Nigeria was identified on the 27th of February 2020 since the beginning of the outbreak in china. The multi-sectorial Coronavirus preparedness group led by the NCDC (Nigeria Centre for Disease Control) has immediately activated its national emergency operations centre to respond to this case and implement firm control measures to control the spread of the virus. NCDC is located in many states across the federation such as Lagos, Oyo, Sokoto, Abuja etc.

Lockdown is an emergency protocol that usually prevent people or information from leaving an area. The Nigeria government has ordered an ultimate lockdown in Nigeria to control the spread of the virus although some Nigerians are violating this order because they never believed in the existence of the virus while some violated it because of the fear of dying of hunger. The lockdown has its own effects on Nigerians but its negative side is greater than its positive side. Many people are dying of hunger, the county’s economy is getting worse day-by-day, academic calendars are affected, and vices are increasing with the lockdown just to mention but a few.

In conclusion, coronavirus have caused a lot of damage in Nigeria and in the world. The federal government and the federal ministry of health have been trying their best to ensure that the disease is controlled and stopped as soon as possible.