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REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

CORONA IN THE WORLD

The 2019 – 2020 corona virus pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID – 19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30th January, and a pandemic on 11th of March. As of May 1, 2020, more than 3.25 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in 187 countries and territories, resulting in more than 233,000 deaths. More than 1.01 million people have recovered.

The virus is primarily spread between people in 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. Common symptoms include fever, cough, 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, wearing a face mask in public settings, and 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 emigration.

CORONA IN NIGERIA

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of corona virus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ekwokoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. On 28 January, 2020, the

Federal government of Nigeria assured citizens of the country of its readiness to strengthen surveillance at five international airports in the country to prevent the spread of corona virus. The government announced the airports closed by 18 March, 2020 and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) also announced that they had set up corona virus groups and was ready to activate its incident system if any case emerged in Nigeria. The corona virus has been increasing drastically since the first case and the Government is making efforts through the NCDC to curb the spread of the virus. The President has declared lockdown on some states which have had the highest cases of the virus and the Governors of other states have decided to also enforce this lockdown also in their states. As of 28 April, 2020 the total confirmed cases are 1337, recovered victims are 64 and total recorded deaths are 40. The cases keep increasing everyday because many people refuse to respect the lockdown that has been declared.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS

The lockdown was an emergency protocol taken by the Government to prevent Nigerian's from leaving an area. There have been both positive and negative effects of the lockdown and restriction of movements in Nigeria. Some of the positive effects are:

- Families have been able to bond together since their parents now have time to be at home and get to know their kids and carry out activities together.
- Reduction of the spread of the from other countries to our own and even within our own country
- Increasing our spiritual life with God
- It has made people more technologically enhanced as schools and workplaces now make use of the internet to communicate.
- It has brought rest and relaxation to those who did not have time to before
- People are now learning that there are a lot of things they can survive without and how to manage resources.

Meanwhile, some of the negative effects which are more are:

- People are struggling to survive as the lockdown has inconvenienced them up to the point where they do not even have food to eat in their houses and this is a major issue in which many people are ready to risk their lives to the corona virus than to die of hunger.
- It leads to the increase in price of limited goods in the market to people who do not eve have money to purchase them because of the lack of work.
- It has had a poor effect on the economy as the price of fuel has reduced as drastically as \$20 from above \$60
- Lack of school has changed the academic calendar of students who do not even know when they will be able to resume.

- The poor are suffering and at a higher risk of infection especially the homeless

These are just a few effects, there are many more. The corona virus has caused a lot of problems in Nigeria even though the Federal Government in collaboration with the NCDC are working hard to ensure that the continuous increase of cases stop. Medical personnel worldwide are also working hard to treat these people and also find a cure for the virus and we Nigerians should also try to obey the instructions given to us. The Government should also provide food for people to ensure that the lockdown is obeyed.