CHUKWULOZIE SOMTO FELIX

C.O

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

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The Corona virus disease also known as covid 19 is a highly transmitted and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS CO-V-2). It first emerged in Wuhan, China and spread like wild fire across the world. Genomic analysis revealed that SARS-CO-V-2 is phylogenetically related to severe acute respiratory syndrome like SARS (Bat virus), it is possible to say that the primary reservoir is from bats.

There is no clinically proven antiviral drug or vaccine available to be used against Covid- 19. However, few broad spectrum antiviral drugs have been evaluated against Covid- 19 in clinical trials resulted in clinical recovery. But still the recoveries are still critically low against the number of cases that have been recorded. Statistically the world has a total of 2,494,915 confirmed cases, 658,609 recovered, 171,249 deaths. The virus is like no other that the world has seen before. It has eaten deep into the economic, social, educational and political heart of countries around the world. Even the most powerful states have been bullied by this global pandemic.

The corona virus Covid-19 is affecting 210 countries and territories around the world and 2 international conveyances. Some countries would be listed below;

COUNTRIES TOTAL CASES TOTAL DEATHS TOTAL RECOVERIES

U.S.A 194,297 42,564 72,410

SPAIN 204,178 21,282 82,514

ITALY 181,228 24,114 48,877

FRANCE 153,383 20,265 37,409

GERMANY 147,593 19,546 24,000

UNITED KINGDOM 124,743 16,509 NIL

NIGERIA 665 22 188

And the list goes on.

On this report we emphasize on Nigeria and the effects of the covid -19 and lockdown on Nigerians. Covid –19 was first detected in Nigeria on the 27th, February 2020 when an Italian citizen (male) visited Lagos and tested positive for the virus, due to ignorance and delay in accessing test kits and testing incoming visitors from high risked states, he entered the country and made contact with citizens. Another case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun state where a Nigerian citizen came in contact with the Italian citizen. On the 31st march, 2020 Nigeria confirmed that the case no longer had the virus in the system after quarantine was observed and tests came out negative. But several citizens entered the country from different high risked countries like the United Kingdom, united states, Italy etc. without Nigeria accessing their travel history. These mistakes created a spread of infected person that had no idea they were infected, there was a rapid spread of the virus around the country especially busy states like Lagos, Ogun, Abuja etc. This resulted to the president Mohammed buhari to impose a lockdown and an adaptation of social distancing system to control the spread on Nigeria’s commercial and political capitals (Abuja, Lagos & Ogun state). Lagos is recorded as the state with the highest number of cases in Nigeria because it is a small state populated and crowded by different ethnic groups around the world, it is a center for business as Nigerians call it a “place for greener pastures”. Abuja is the capital Nigeria and there are a lot of entering and exiting in the country which risks the spread of the virus. The president announced the lockdown on the 23rd March 2020, it was a 14 days lockdown, but due to the continuous spread during the lockdown the risk of returning the nation to its normal state was dangerous, an additional 14days extension was announced on April 13, 2020.

These lockdown and social distancing motive was to control the spread but with facts it is causing more harm than good. Some of the effects of the lockdown are;

* **ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.** The lockdown has crippled the nation’s economy, instead of producing and generating income for development, the country instead is spending billions in building isolation centers for infected citizens, and making available test kits and medical appliances to conduct tests for infected citizens.
* **POVERTY** Nigerian citizens are made to live in a payless poverty state. Nigeria has a very high rate of people living below 1 dollar per day before the emergence of the pandemic, now with the implementation of the lockdown these less privileged citizens are starving and cannot go out to work and provide for their families.
* **CLOSURE OF BUSINESSES;**

Many Nigerians have been living a boring and idle lifestyle because of the lockdown. Workers cannot work and cannot get payed to fend for their needs and the needs of their families, some business owners use capital to buy or produce products to sell have no choice but to use their capital to take care of their needs during this period.

* **SUSPENSION OF SCHOOLS:**

Students of universities have been sent home due to the pandemic and this has disabled the curriculum that the school projected. Final year student would be held back and delayed due to the pandemic. Lecturers and teachers will be affected by this because salaries are payed due to performances and their scheme will be interrupted

* **CRIMES AND VICES**

Joblessness and poverty directs the mind various thoughts as a popular saying goes that an idle man is the devil’s workshop. Since the beginning of the pandemic reports have been made of a notorious gang called the ‘one million gang’, they are a ruthless gang that go around Lagos State robbing and harassing neighborhoods. Also news of police officers oppressing and abusing their power by collecting money from citizens at check points.