

ARTICLES

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IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM: THE NIGERIA CONTEXT

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Abstract. *The coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic shocked the world, overwhelming the health systems of even high-income countries. Many health experts believe that the new strain of coronavirus likely originated in bats or pangolins. The novel coronavirus epidemic first broke out in Wuhan and has been spreading in whole China and the world. The incidence of COVID-19 grew steadily in Nigeria, moving from an imported case and elitist pattern to community transmission. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel human coronavirus disease outbreak, which began in Wuhan, China, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The rising rates of infections in a number of European countries, the high number of COVID-19 cases in China (the epicenter of the virus at the time), and international flights still operating, made Nigeria particularly vulnerable. The global outbreak of coronavirus disease in 2019 is affecting every part of human lives, including the physical world. The measures taken to control the spread of the virus and the slowdown of economic activities have significant effects on the environment. Older people along with others with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of mortality. This article examines what Covid-19 is all about, its origin, effects and impact on the environment, particularly the Nigeria society. It considered the effects of COVID-19 on the administration of justice system in Nigeria. It also examined the various efforts by Nigerian government in ensuring environmental sustainability. It was observed that most of the laws governing environmental protection were not obeyed during and after the pandemic, going further, to make necessary recommendations.*

Keywords: *Environmental sustainability, Government, Judiciary, Nigeria Environment Palliative.*

Introduction

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause disease in both animals and humans. The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus strain known as SARS-CoV is an example of a coronavirus¹. SARS spread rapidly in 2002–2003. However, the new strain of coronavirus is called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus causes coronavirus disease 19 which is popularly called COVID-19.

In December 2019, a new type of coronavirus called novel coronavirus, which is globally referred to as COVID-19, was identified in Wuhan, China. China was the first country to experience an outbreak of the disease, the first to impose drastic measures in response, including lockdowns and face mask mandates, and one of the first countries to bring the outbreak under control². The outbreak was first manifested as a cluster of mysterious pneumonia cases, mostly related to the Human Seafood Market, in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province³.

The Covid-19 is associated with symptoms such as fever, difficulty in breathing, cough, and invasive lesions on both lungs of the patients. It can spread to the lower respiratory tract and cause viral pneumonia. In severe cases, patients suffer from dyspnea and respiratory distress syndrome, which are usually developed after an incubation time lasting as long as 2 weeks⁴. The pandemic has a big number of infected patients that far exceeded the equivalents of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndromes (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), though with a lower fatality rate. After recognizing it is an emergency epidemic, strong measures were adopted immediately by Wuhan local authorities to characterize and control the epidemic, including isolation of suspected cases for treatment, close monitoring of contacts, epidemiological and clinical data collection from patients, and development of diagnostic and treatment procedures⁵.

¹ Aaron Kandola. Coronavirus Cause: Origin and how it spreads. Updated on June 30, 2020. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/41256-020-00135-6>. Accessed 21 October 2021.

² Zhu H., Wei L. & Niu P. The novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China. *glob health res policy* 5, 6 (2020). <https://ghrp.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41256-020-00135-6>. Accessed 28 September 2021.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

This pandemic however had national impacts on the China society. The national impact ranges from the social impact to economic impacts. Different Provinces made their own policies about holiday extension and so on. For instance, the Miss Universe China 2020 which was originally scheduled to take place on 8 March 2020 was postponed to a later date due to the epidemic. Also, the Wuhan Culture and Tourism Bureau postponed a tourism promotion activity as all qualified citizens were assured of their participation in the Bureau's next activity. The Bureau also announced the temporary closure of museums, memorials, public libraries and cultural centers in Wuhan, resulting into the cancelation of all tour groups to and from Wuhan.

Major sports events were also canceled due to the outbreak, as the State General Administration of Sports announced a suspension of all sporting events, while the educational institutions also postponed resumption of schools. The National Education Examinations Authorities canceled all exams including but not limited to IELTS, TOEFL, and GRE exams. Students that were meant to travel abroad were also advised to delay their travels. The civil life was also not left out, as the Civil Affairs Authorities in Shanghai, Hangzhou, and others announced the cancelation of the special arrangement of marriage registration to avoid the spread of the epidemic and cross-infection caused by the gathering of people¹.

The outbreak also had an impact on religion and politics. The economy was not left out as the outbreak had a negative impact on the economy. Millions of workers were stranded, sales of new cars in China were also affected by the outbreak, therefore resulting into the fall of economic activity. During the height of the epidemic in Wuhan, millions of people lost their jobs and this led to the high rate of unemployment in the city².

The pandemic led to the use of facemasks and hand sanitizers widely by the public and was required in many locations but as the epidemic accelerated, the mainland market saw a shortage of facemasks due to the increased demand by the public. This pandemic resulted in the slowdown of manufacturing, construction, transportation, and overall economic activity in China.

The government of China, in response to the pandemic, severely restricted international travels, limiting the number of flights to the country while denying entry of foreigners with previously issued visas and residence permits. The government also took steps to discourage Chinese people from returning from overseas. It also responded to the pandemic by implementing a lockdown, when it was discovered that some people tested positive for the coronavirus, despite showing

¹ Transmission dynamics and control measures of COVID-19 outbreak in China. <https://www.nature.com>. Accessed 8 October 2021.

² Ibid.

no symptoms. Other mandatory actions taken by the municipal and provincial governments supported by the central government include; case detection and contact tracing, quarantine guidance and information to the public, detection kit development, etc.

It is worthy of note that the international community recognized that China made remarkable progress in responding effectively to the outbreak. What made China address the epidemic faster is its ability to finance and mobilize resources combined with its strong governance structure, efficient execution, and solidarity of the whole society.

Methodology

The article relies on the doctrinal research methodology. Doctrinal research is concerned with legal propositions, the sources of data are legal and appellate courts decisions. It is library research; it includes primary and secondary sources. The primary sources are Statutes, Constitution, Acts, and Laws while secondary sources are books, articles etc.

Some primary sources explored here are: the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria¹ (as amended) and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act². The secondary sources include books, articles, and journals related to the subject of this research. The internet has turned the whole world not only into a global village, but also a global room. It helps a lot in various researches of various natures. There is no information needed that cannot be obtained from the internet. Thus, the internet is of tremendous help in putting this article together.

How Covid-19 Got To Nigeria

Following the developments of COVID-19 pandemic in mainland China and other countries worldwide, the federal government of Nigeria set up a Coronavirus Preparedness Group to mitigate the impact of the virus if it eventually spreads to the country³.

The Federal Ministry of Health confirmed the first coronavirus disease case in Lagos State, Nigeria. The case, which was confirmed on the 27th of February 2020, is the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the outbreak in China in January 2020. The case was that of an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 24th of February 2020. He was confirmed

¹ The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap C23, LFN 2004.

² Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

³ Ibid.

positive by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. Even though the index case came to Nigeria through the Murtala Muhammad International Airport Lagos, the fact that he was first suspected to have had the virus in Ogun State meant that all the people who had contact with him had to be quarantined by the Ogun State Government, and contact tracing of the people on the same flight with him was initiated by the Lagos State Government and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)¹.

On the 9th day of March 2020, the second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, it was a case of a Nigerian who had contact with the index case. After the first and second confirmation of the virus, the number of cases in Nigeria began to grow, initially with Lagos being the epicenter of the pandemic in Nigeria.

In March 2020, borders were shut, lockdowns imposed, interstate travel banned, offices, clubs, and services considered to be non-essential were completely shut. The public sector has also been affected and the low economic activities especially in the oil and gas industry, trade and manufacturing as well as services have significantly impacted government's revenue, leading the Federal Government to revise the 2020 budget down by more than N71 billion. COVID-19 has undoubtedly affected every aspect of our lives in Nigeria².

Efforts of Nigerian Government to curb the menace, including the lockdown

Nigeria mounted a swift and aggressive response to COVID-19. The country's initial response included early activation of the national EOC at the NCDC, establishment of the multi-sectoral COVID-19 PTF, and decisive actions to stop international travel and impose a time-limited lockdown in highly affected areas. National and international authorities and experts suggest the use of non-pharmaceutical measures like wearing face masks and gloves, washing hands with soap, frequent use of antiseptic solution and maintain social distance. The lockdown containment measures were aimed at slowing the spread of the outbreak to new states, delaying the progression to community transmission, and increasing health system capacity at the initial phase of the outbreak.

On January 23, 2020, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee advised that countries should be

¹ *Alagboso C., Abubakar B.* "The First 90 days: How has Nigeria responded to the COVID-19 outbreak?" published June 2020. <https://www.panafrican-med-journal.com>. Accessed 8 October 2021.

² *Ibid.*

prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, prevention of onward spread of Covid-19 infection and share full data with World Health Organization¹. From the moment the first case was reported in Nigeria, the Nigerian government and its different agencies initiated some health, economic, security and social responses to contain the disease and its impact on society.

The Nigerian government, in her efforts to curb the menace, responded to the pandemic by putting in place some key measures stipulated below²:

1. Establishment of the body call Presidential Task Force by the Federal Government.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, the full machinery of the presidency was deployed in response to the outbreak. The first step taken by the president was to ban flights from countries with high rates of COVID-19 cases. On March 18, 2020, the government announced a total closure of the nation's airspace and land borders. Federal government grants were also given to fight COVID-19 in various states, while the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) was not left out. The body has been responsible for supporting states in the COVID-19 response, coordinating surveillance of the disease and the public health response nationwide. The NCDC also developed guidelines and protocols, and supporting the accreditation of more laboratories across states in Nigeria.

2. Palliative Measures.

The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was tasked with implementing palliative measures across the country. Some measures included disbursement of grants to the poorest households in various states, donation of food items to state governments for onward distribution to citizens and continuation of the school feeding program.

3. Technical and Material Support.

The Presidential Task Force (PTF) provided technical and material support to states for the management of the outbreak. The PTF coordinates material support from the private sector to the government. Private sectors like Sahara Energy Group and ThisDay Media donated a 300-bed capacity isolation center to assist in

¹ Siddharth Dixit, Yewande Kofoworola, and Obinna Onwujekwe. How well has Nigeria responded to COVID-19? Published July 2 2020. <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/07/02/how-well-has-nigeria-responded-to-covid-19/amp/> Accessed 28 September 2021.

² Alagboso C., Abubakar B. "The First 90 days: How has Nigeria responded to the COVID-19 outbreak?" published June 2020. <https://www.panafrican-med-journal.com>. Accessed 8 October 2021.

the management of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and many more donations were received from well to do Nigerians across the globe.

4. Lockdown.

The lockdown strategy was a drastic and temporary measure implemented with two objectives. The first objective is to slow the spread of the virus across the country, while the second is to buy time for the health system to increase its preparedness¹. As of March 22, 2020, the initial 30 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nigeria were travelers from abroad or their immediate contacts. It was this that informed the initial international travel ban for passengers coming from countries with ongoing high transmission (initially China, Italy and Germany) to minimize rising imported cases. Land borders were closed, all international flights were banned, and mandatory institutional quarantine and testing for international returnees to Nigeria was instituted to reduce further importation of the disease from high-risk countries.

On 30th of March 2020, the President of Nigeria issued series of stringent non-pharmaceutical interventions, which include the stay-at-home orders and cessation of non-essential movements and activities (commonly referred to as a “lockdown strategy”) in Lagos and Ogun States and FCT for an initial period of 14 days, extended for an additional 21 days in the same three states and adding Kano State². The states were selected based on a combination of the burden of disease and their risk. Lagos State was the initial epicenter of disease and had the highest number of cases; Ogun State, which shares borders with Lagos State, was the source of the index case, and has a highly urban population with a high rate of movement into Lagos State.

The lockdown included closure of schools and workplaces, bans on religious and social gatherings, cancellation of public events, curfews, restrictions on movement, cessation of interstate and international travel, reduction of market days to a few days in a week, reduction in public transportation carrying capacity to a maximum of 70% and reduction in weekly working hours in the public service. Alongside the federal lockdown in Lagos, and Ogun States and the FCT, many states adopted the same measures as well, including school closure, movement restrictions, and curfews.

5. Mandatory institutional quarantine and testing of international returnees to Nigeria was instituted in order to reduce further importation of the disease from high-risk countries.

¹ Dan-Nwafor C., Ochu C.L. and Ihekweazu C. Nigeria's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic: January to May 2020. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. Accessed 8 October 2021.

² Ibid.

Effects Of The Lockdown On Nigerians And Inadequate Provision On The Part Of The Government That Imposed The Lockdown

Though the lockdown slowed down COVID-19 transmission, it had undesired collateral effects on social protection, security, economic and daily subsistence for many. It is safe to assume that these negative consequences of the pandemic disproportionately affected women, people living in poverty, petty traders and those dependent on income from small and medium enterprises.

Crime and domestic violence reportedly increased during the lockdown period, as many people were unable to exercise their usual income-generating activities, with effects most pronounced on vulnerable populations and those living in poverty¹. The adverse effects of the lockdown exacerbated already difficult situations for many, rendering prolonged enforcement of preventive interventions such as lockdown and physical distancing unsustainable².

The lockdown policy impacted negatively on majority of people in Nigeria who feed and survive only by what they earn daily³. The situation worsened, owing to little or no social welfare packages or palliative assistance provided by the government for the most vulnerable people in society. More so, lack of payment of salaries by state governments, increase in the price of commodities/foods and tariffs on inadequately supplied utilities like electricity are some factors that made the lockdown unbearable.

The Nigerian government has weak institutions, which could potentially spark violence and tension between citizens and political parties. The inadequacy on the part of government was revealed as a result of their inability to respond to the lockdown swiftly. The Nigerian government could not respond to the lockdown swiftly, by supplying money, food, drugs and material reliefs to the vulnerable groups. It is important to state that funds, foods, and materials provided as a palliative in an emergency should not be given as loans to vulnerable people, and bureaucratic bottlenecks should be removed to enable these people to have easy access to services⁴.

¹ Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics and The World Bank. May 2020. Nigeria COVID-19 COVID-19 National Longitudinal Phone Survey.

² *Dan-Nwafor C., Ochu C.L. and Ihekweazu C.* Nigeria's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic: January to May 2020. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. Accessed 8 October 2021

³ *Anyanwu M.U., Festus I.J., Nwobi O. C., Jaja C. I. and Oguttu J. W.* A Perspective on Nigeria's Preparedness, Response and Challenges to Mitigating the spread of COVID-19. <https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/11/2/22/htm>. Accessed 11 October 2021

⁴ Ibid.

The lockdown also had effects on market goods, most especially perishable goods. Due to the lockdown policy in most states, and the policy of markets opening every three days and five days, perishable goods got spoilt thereby causing loss on the part of the traders. Farmers were unable to go to farm to monitor their plants, few of the produce they are able to transport to the market were on high side with respect to price thus most people were unable to afford the commodities. Farmers were making reduced profits by selling in local markets, while urban consumers paid higher prices because of low supplies in the regional markets¹.

Negative Impact of COVID-19 on Judicial System in Nigeria

The impact of Covid-19 on the Nigeria Judicial System cannot be overemphasized. During the lockdown imposed by the Nigerian government, the judicial system was also on the complete shutdown, thereby leading to accumulation of cases unattended to in our courts. Generally speaking, the judicial system in Nigeria is congested and so many cases are in different courts suffering one delay or the other. With the advent of Covid-19 and the lockdown, the situation worsened. The lockdown did not stop criminal activities and criminals were arrested virtually on daily basis by the police without the opportunity for the accused persons to be arraigned within the reasonable time as provided for under Fundamental Human Rights as contained in Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria² (as amended) and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act³ and Administration of Criminal Justice Law of different States across the country. The correctional centers across the country were filled to the brim with people arrested for one offence or the other; so also various police cells. This indeed affected the entire judicial system. In the same vein, civil matters were not left behind, cases that were to be handled by courts especially urgent matters requiring an order of injunction could not be attended to. This led some people to resort to self-help in handling their matters, which also had adverse effects on the society at large.

Negative Impact of Covid-19 On The Environment

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the impact on the environment cannot be overemphasized. It was observed that medical waste generation increased globally,

¹ Aromolaran A.B., Issa F.O. and Muyanga Milu. The unintended consequences of COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria. <https://www.future-agricultures.org/blog/the-unintended-consequences-of-covid19-lockdown-in-nigeria/>. Accessed 28 September 2021.

² The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap C23, LFN 2004.

³ Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

which is a major threat to public health and environment. For instance, collection of the suspected Covid-19 patients, diagnosis, treatment of huge number of patients and disinfection of various isolation centers gave rise to the increase of biomedical wastes generated across the country; such a sudden rise of hazardous waste, and their proper management became a significant challenge to the local waste management authorities¹. Waste generated, from the hospitals (e.g., needles, syringes, bandage, mask, gloves, used tissue, and discarded medicines etc.) should be properly managed in order to reduce further infection and environmental pollution, but it became a matter of concern in Nigeria at a stage.

Worldwide, there have been increase in the production and use of plastic based PPE. To ensure protection against the viral infection, presently people are using face mask, hand gloves and other safety equipment, which increased the quantity of healthcare wastes. However, due to lack of knowledge about infectious waste management, most people dump these items (e.g., face mask, hand gloves etc.) in open places and in some cases with household wastes. Such haphazard dumping of these trashes creates clogging in waterways and worsens environmental pollution².

Major economic activities have been crippled worldwide, Nigeria inclusive, since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. Owing to the lockdown in major economies of the world, the implication is that the circular flow of income has been significantly constrained since a reasonable proportion of the productive factors are currently lying idle³. Most firms are currently shut, thus constraining their capacity to pay tax to the government. There is also a significant reduction in international trade following the closure of seaports and airports to curtail the spread of the pandemic. Ironically, the government's transfers payments have increased considerably, owing to the expenditure on palliatives by various governments across the globe to cushion the effect of the lockdown on citizens⁴.

The movement of productive resources, goods and money, constitutes the key to the circular flow. These movements, flow of people, the flow of information, flow of goods and flow of money have met a brick wall since the global lockdown that was induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, thus constraining the circular flow of income across the nations of the world whether developing, less developed, or

¹ Zambrano-Monserrate M.A. *et al.* Indirect effects of COVID-19 on the environment. <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. Accessed 7 October 2021.

² Rahman M.M. *et al.* The Lancet Global Health; 2020. Biomedical waste amid COVID-19: Perspectives from Bangladesh. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjw8Z111bQ>. Accessed 26 September 2021.

³ Henry Inegbedion. Impact of COVID-19 on economic growth in Nigeria: opinions and attitudes. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S240584402101046X>. Accessed 28 September 2021.

⁴ Ibid.

developed¹. This is because the lockdown has constrained human and vehicular movement and thus economic activities.

Following the curtailment of household spending and the attendant economic uncertainty, there is a fall in economic transactions, which precipitates loss in firm's revenues². Within a short time after the lockdown, individuals and firms ran out of cash needed to make the required transactions. The situation is further compounded by the curtailment of transport services, which could constrain farming activities and thus jeopardize economic growth, since green revolution is a prerequisite for industrial revolution³.

While economic growth is crucial to welfare and development, not all economies experience a growth at all times; even economies that experience economic growth sometimes witness economic stagnation and recession⁴. One known major cause of stagnation is deficiency in demand. Nigeria's heavy dependence on crude oil, which is an exhaustible asset, for its foreign exchange earnings has been largely responsible for its inability to make optimistic financial plans that can stimulate economic growth⁵. This has become obvious in the period of the lockdown as a fall in oil prices has constrained government earnings and made her resort to external borrowing.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Coronavirus causes a range of illnesses. It typically affects the respiratory tract, but the effects can extend well beyond the respiratory system. Most cases of Covid-19 are not serious. However, it becomes severe if not urgently attended to, leading to death in some cases. The outbreak of Covid-19 was sudden; this makes it difficult to estimate how often the disease becomes severe or the exact rate of mortality. Finding effective ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus remains a global challenge. However, below are the few suggestions to effectively prevent the spread of this virus, including the duties of the Nigerian government in relation to the welfare of citizens of the country.

¹ Feng E. How COVID-19 Is Impacting the Flow of People, Information, Goods, and Money (2020) (Online). <https://medium.com/@efeng/how-COVID-19-is-impacting-the-flow-of-people-information-goods-and-money-9719f80e9f63>. Accessed 28 September 2021.

² Ibid.

³ Henry Inegbedion et al. Cassava attractiveness in Nigeria: a policy improvement approach. <http://ideas.repec.org>. accessed 8 October 2021.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

1. Nigeria government should increase preventive measures against future occurrence. The preventive measures include sensitization of citizens as to the dos and don'ts of the epidemic, provision of hand sanitizers and face masks (these should be distributed to all citizens without any cost attached), establishment of more health care especially in rural areas. More so, the social distancing policy should also still be maintained.
2. Public health laws should be enacted, and adequate enforcement mechanism should be ensured. In essence, when the public health laws are enacted, there must be compliance to the laws enacted and thus, once a law is created, a body, commission or law enforcement agency should be created alongside. For instance, we have the Environmental Health Officers (commonly known as wole) in Nigeria. This body can be authorized to enforce the laws that have been enacted.
3. The welfare of the citizenry should be the priority of every government. In a bid to increase preventive measures against future occurrence of the pandemic, the citizens' welfare should be of interest to the government. For instance, during the COVID-19 lockdown, the distribution of the palliatives was not even. It is safe to say that the palliatives didn't get to the less privileged, whom the government claimed to be the ones in dire need of the palliatives. The palliative distribution was politicized. Going further, the government before imposing the lockdown policy should have alternatives as to how market produce will be transported to the market, in such a way that prices of food stuffs would not be on the high side. More so, alternative source of income as a result of the stay at home order should have been provided as most of the citizens are employees of private sector. Private school teachers, for instance, could not provide for their daily needs, thereby leading to increase in hunger among the citizens.
4. Funding of hospitals should be prioritized, in terms of equipment and other facilities needed for the well-being of citizens. Government must ensure importation of standard health care facilities and maintenance of such equipment and facilities. For instance, isolation centers of different states must be well-equipped; it's a different thing to have a building for the isolation of those who tested positive to coronavirus, it's another thing to have facilities and equipment necessary for the treatment and care of the patients therein. In the same vein, hospital pharmacies should be well stocked with drugs for different ailments.
5. The most important, when it comes to the health system, is the remuneration of medical practitioners. Medical practitioners should be well remunerated, and their salaries be paid as and when due. If the medical practitioners are well remunerated, they will have a positive attitude towards their

jobs. Patients would be given maximum attention and care. Lack of good remuneration of the medical practitioners is what usually necessitates their going on strike, thereby leaving patients in hospitals unattended to and sometimes lead to the patient's death.

In conclusion, as the government adapts to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is equally important for Nigerians to take responsibility by conforming to these new realities in order to contribute to the effectiveness of the response. This paper has been able to examine the history of coronavirus, having its origin in Wuhan, China. It has also been able to examine how COVID-19 got to Nigeria, the efforts of Nigerian government towards battling the pandemic, the impact of coronavirus on the environment and the judicial system with reference to the lockdown imposed by the government.

Abbreviations:

EOC: Emergency Operations Center

GHG: Green House Gas

NARD: Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors

NCDC: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control

PHEIC: Public Health Emergency of International Concern

PTF: Presidential Task Force

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