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 QUESTION

WRITE A REPORT OF, NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES, ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT OF NIGERIANS.

 **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

 The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus 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 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). On 9 march 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen. The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 210 countries and territories around the world and 2 international conveyances. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow). However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.

 SYMPTOMS

The COVID-19 virus affects different people in different ways. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and most infected people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without requiring special treatment. People who have underlying medical conditions and those over 60 years old have a higher risk of developing severe disease and death.

Common symptoms include:

* Fever
* Tiredness
* Dry cough
* Shortness of breath
* Aches and pains
* Sore throat
* And very few people will report diarrhea, nausea or runny nose.

People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate and contact their medical provider or a COVID-19 information line for advice on testing and referral. People with fever, cough or difficulty breathing should call their doctor and seek medical attention.

PREVENTION

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

* Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub
* Maintain at least 1 metre distance between you and people coughing or sneezing.
* Avoid touching your face and cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
* Stay home if you feel unwell
* Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs
* Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

 The COVID-19 crisis is a complex problem requiring a multi- prolonged, long-term, systems-based approach instead of discrete tactical moves. The mathematical forecasting models cannot capture the devastating consequences as lockdown will have on the lives of Nigerians. With over two million coronavirus cases and over 150 000 deaths globally, the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria currently has over 542 cases and has recorded 19 deaths as of this writing. The COVID-19 has drastically changed our daily lives. With travels stopped and industries slowed, all factories, markets, shops, and places of worship are now closed, most public transport suspended and construction work halted, as Nigeria asked her citizens to stay home and practice social distancing, what does this mean to our lives as Nigerians. Below are some effects of lockdown on Nigerians.

SOCIAL UNREST: The monetary policy has little remaining room to provide stimulus, particularly during this lockdown where there is unrest in the economy as people are restricted from moving from one place to another for the prevention of the deadly COVID-19. The travel ban was also placed.

POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS: No election can be held now as no individuals can take to the streets to express their views which has even led to pressure on the political status quo in many countries.

INSTITUTIONAL PARALYSIS: A cyclical downturn also hit the students as all schools and institutions were closed because of this deadly disease. The Federal Government announced the closure of Tertiary institutions, Secondary and Primary schools. The suspension of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were not also left out.

RELIGIOUS LOCKDOWN: The government also extended an earlier ban to religious centres as the places of worships and religious places were not excluded as the government banned any form of social congregations, crowds and gatherings of more than 20 persons.