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Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

The corona virus is a kind of common virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. It is a disease that can cause what doctors call a respiratory tract infection. It can affect your upper respiratory tract (sinuses, nose, and throat) or lower respiratory tract (windpipe and lungs). It's caused by a coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2 which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome. It was discovered in 2019 after an outbreak in china and since has caused great harm to people globally with the amount of cases rising each day.

As at April 17th by 2: 27pm the number of cases globally rose to 2,173,432 with about 146,291 deaths and 554,786 recoveries. The corona virus was first discovered in Nigeria on 27th February, 2020 when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive to the virus and since then the statistics has risen to about 442 confirmed cases, 13 deaths and 152 recoveries. The virus has been declared by the WHO as a pandemic and it is said to spread through close contact with someone who has the virus. It leads to chest pain, difficulty in breathing, persistent cough, fever, lack of appetite and tiredness.

Due to the fast spread of the virus most countries have been on lockdown. This has led to the closure of businesses, stores, markets, airports, bans on social, political, religious and family gatherings of more than twenty people and maintenance of social distance. The federal government of Nigeria has also instituted a lock down to prevent the spread of the virus since it can easily be transmitted through contacts and this has led to difficulties for the citizens especially those that rely on the little they make per day for their sustenance thereby causing hardship to the people at the same time leading to the deterioration of the country’s economy.

Nigeria as we know has a poor economy as our main source of revenue is the oil industry but since there has been a global lockdown and most industries aside from the food processing and banking industries have been on lock down the state of the economy has deteriorated likewise the global economy. Oil price hovered around $27 per barrel, way below Nigeria’s 2020 budget benchmark of $57 per barrel. All of Nigeria’s 2020 budget indicators: an oil production volume of 2.18 million barrel per day, oil benchmark of $57, N305 exchange rate to the US dollar, GDP growth rate of 2.93 per cent, and inflation rate of 10.81 per cent now are out of reach. This has led to the borrowing of loans in other to help the people of the nation, to improve the health sector by providing facilities to treat the virus and also to improve the state of the economy.

The health sector is also suffering from this pandemic as the hospitals are overloaded with patients arriving at the hospitals all at the same time. Nigeria did not really have the facilities to cater for the pandemic patients when the numbers started to increase and this had a negative impact on the healthcare systems, which weren’t used to such kind of disease. Healthcare practitioners are needed as general practitioners and family doctors had roles to play. More Covid -19 centers are also needed to be built across all states because of the fast spread of the virus and training of medical personnel on infection control procedures is also essential although this isn’t possible without appropriate funds.

Nigeria had been designated as the poverty headquarters of the world, with some 87 million Nigerians, or around half of the country’s population, thought to be living on less than $1.90 a day. With current measures put in place by the federal government to curb the pandemic, the figure is set to spike and poor conditions set to exacerbate. For example international flights are being restricted into Nigeria, except emergencies, according to Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority. This will, in no small measure, affect the businesses of airport taxi operators. Social gatherings and religious gatherings of more than 20 and 50 have been banned in Lagos and Abuja, respectively. Small businesses, which rely heavily on foreign imports to augment their value chains, will suffer from supply shortages while looming job cuts will intensify. The aviation sector is already suffering, as businesses will cut down on travel plans. The struggling service sector will feel most of the heat, as the manufacturers will cut back budget to survive.

The corona virus is spreading fast globally thereby making things worse for the Nigeria’s economy as well as the global economy. Apart from the tragic human consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic uncertainty it has sparked will likely cost the global economy $1 trillion in 2020, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, says” The global economy may be slipping into recession and Nigeria is set to receive the hit harder than ever”. It is only hoped that serious lessons would be learnt when the world eventually recovers from this devastation.