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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 on Nigerians.

CORONA VIRUS : THE EFFECTS ON HEALTH AND ECONOMY

The coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It was discovered in Wuhan, China and soon spread around the world. The virus is said to have its origin from bats. The virus is highly transmittable and can be easily spread through droplets of infected persons.

There is no known vaccine or cures to this virus but some drugs have been clinically proven to work against the virus. They are confirmed cases on all continent except Antarctica.

On the 27th of February 2020, the first confirmed case of Corona virus was documented in Nigeria when an Italian worker upon returning from his country to Nigeria came along with the virus. Due to the fact that our government refused to take immediate precautionary measures the disease soon spread very fast and became a deadly pandemic leading to the lock-down and an abrupt stop in all economical activities.

Due to the fact that the disease is easily spread through body contact, air and droplet of infected person, self isolation and quarantine is advised. A total of 20 states have confirmed cases with a total of 541 cases and 17 deaths. All the states with confirmed cases are under partial or total lockdown.

The effects of the lockdown on the Nigerians

1. Increase in hunger and poverty: due to the lockdown, a lot of people have been put out of work leading to the stop in their income and difficulty in getting food and other comfort commodities. This makes it difficult for the citizens of Nigeria to obey the lockdown order. They leave their homes to find food in other to stay alive or the hunger will kill them before the virus gets them
2. Increase in crime wave: recently the government has given the less privileged and old citizens some money as upkeep during the lockdown. Some desperate youth has set out to steal the money from them (1 million boys). This endangers the life of others.
3. The hostility of the military and paramilitary personnel: in a bid to effectively carry out the lockdown order, the government have set forces through the paramilitary and military. This is by putting personnels on the main roads. Due to this the amount of killings of adamant citizens who refused to obey and comply are more than the people that died of the virus which they are trying to stop from killing people. The personnels are hostile and impatient and they kill anyone that is found outside their homes.
4. Agricultural sector: the time of harvest for some crops have come but due to the restriction of movement. Their workers cant show up for work and even if the crops and plants are harvested they are no available trucks and transportation means to take the goods to their various destination for distribution. This leads to the spoiling of perishable goods, a fall in the economy and food shortage
5. Electricity instability: Electricity instability has been a major problem for a long time in Nigeria. It has always been a problem for our government to provide 24/7 electricity nationwide. Electricity is an essential commodity especially for every citizen especially in this period when we have to stay at home. Many firms, school and workplace encourage everyone to work from home. But due to the absence of electricity it’s impossible to successfully carry out their work.
6. Air and noise pollution: in absence of stable electricity people in their house hold turn on their domestic generator which produces a lot of noise and disturbs the people in their homes. Fumes from the generator are very poisonous and it pollutes the air, triggers people with asthma into having an attack and other respiratory diseases.

They are solutions to the problems above such as:

* Provision of relief food packages to all the less privileged and the citizens
* The soldiers and police officers should be given a proper orientation on how to treat defaulting citizens, proper fines and punishment (Funke Akindele vs state) and personnels that kill citizens should be tracked down and proper punishments should be dished out.
* Transportation exceptions should be made for food and other essential commodities.
* The government should provide stable electricity for the citizens to avoid noise and air pollution and also enable the work at home scheme.

If all this measures are put in place the negative effects of the lockdown can be reduced.