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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.**

**A REPORT ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA.**

*The Coronavirus Pandemic*

Coronavirus disease also referred to as COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It was declared a pandemic by the WHO on the 11th of March, 2020. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. 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 best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub/hand sanitizer frequently and not touching your face. Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.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). Practice social and physical distancing by avoiding social events with large crowds, unnecessary travel, etc.

Also, researches made shows there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19 at the moment. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

*The Effects of Lockdown and Restriction of Movement in Nigeria*

The lockdown was first declared by the President and Commander-in-chief of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari on the 31st of March, 2020 for fourteen days, meanwhile some state governors had already declared partial lockdown days and weeks before. It is viewed by many as a rather difficult decision knowing fully well that it will ultimately disrupt sources of livelihood and bring undue hardship. But it is a sacrifice needed to limit the spread of the coronavirus in Nigeria and also save lives.

The lockdown simply described as a loaded content and context has come and it is very imperative at this time and people will have to realize that it is for the good of all mostly at containing further spread of the virus. As much as it is biting hard on the well being of Nigerians, the massive support from traditional rulers, Christian Leaders as well as from Islamic clerics is most solicited. The general appeal further is that as much as it is painful, it is a sacrifice worth giving.

Also as regards the innumerable effects of the lockdown, some of them excluding those already mentioned above are:

* The overall health of Nigerians: as a result of the lockdown and subsequent extension of the lockdown most people with serious health conditions find it difficult to make appointment with doctors due to the lockdown in place and enforcement of social distancing. The fear of getting infected with coronavirus also keeps them away.
* Education: it has also been put to a standstill as all educational sectors were ordered to be shutdown. A lot of activities have been postponed including some important qualifying exams for final year students, the WAEC(West African Exam Council) Examinations, etc.
* Economic drag: the economy has also faced a decline in it's rate of production, exportation and importation. A lot of industries have been forced to shut down also, money in circulation is also at a minimal rate.
* Poverty: its rate has also increased as the lockdown was imposed posing a difficulty to people(labourers, market women, etc.) that make earnings everyday to enable them feed and take care of their various families. It's more disheartening as some people may die of hunger rather than the virus itself under the lockdown, the government is currently working out a way to ensure these people can be provided with food provisions as soon as possible(but this question of how many genuinely poor people will be given the palliative not withstanding the country's rate of corruption remains unanswered for now)

These and many are the difficulties many Nigerians are going to face as the lockdown was extended on the 13th of April. Our prayers go to the less privileged, Nigerians in diaspora, the families of the dead as a result of the coronavirus as at now the number of confirmed cases has skyrocketed to 541 with 19 deaths and 166. God have mercy on us and on the whole world.