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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.

Of recent times, a new biologically engineered virus has come into the world. This virus is called corona virus but it is popularly known as COVID-19 by many. The first outbreak of the virus was on Dec. 31, the government in Wuhan, China confirmed that health authorities were treating dozens of cases. Days later, researchers in China identified a new virus that had infected dozens of people in Asia. At the time, there was no evidence that the virus was readily spread by humans. Health officials in China said they were monitoring it to prevent the outbreak from developing into something more severe. Clearly the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and ended up as a pandemic (affecting the whole world) has thrown the whole world into a war-like situation. Scores of thousands of deaths have been recorded cumulatively for all countries across the world. Health systems in most countries are overwhelmed by the seriously sick patients in hospitals, many of whom are on ventilators and nursed in intensive care units (ICU). The novel virus then came into Nigeria on the on the 27th of February 2020, this was the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020.

The case is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on the 25th of February 2020. He was confirmed by the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. The patient is clinically stable, with no serious symptoms, and is being managed at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Yaba, Lagos. Numerous health organizations has been working tirelessly to ensure that they come up with a vaccine for this deadly virus. It has come to our knowledge that the virus cannot reproduce in heat so as at now the virus cannot survive in a hot environment. This has enabled reduce the vast spread in Nigeria due to the country’s climate. Many precautionary measures have been established in order to curb the spread of this novel which are; drinking a lot of water, eating fruits that contain vitamin C, regular washing of hands, using of hand sanitizer, and avoiding public gatherings which has brought about the lockdown the government implemented the lockdown of some states in Nigeria namely; Lagos, Osun, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The lockdown started on March 30th, 2020 with was to last for two weeks but it was later extended to last for another two weeks on the 13th of April, 2020. The lockdown has had many adverse effects as follows:

Firstly, the extension of the lockdown in the key cities of Nigeria-Lagos, FCT, and Osun- does not sit well with the inhabitants of those places. Soldiers are on the roads driving people to their homes with jungle justice. Most people do not have homes to go to the streets are their homes. The lockdown is especially hard on them because they make ends meet for themselves by trying to sell few things to bystanders on the roads, in the market and wherever they find people. Now people are all in their homes they have no food to eat and the relief materials have not been shared to anybody in Abuja. Rather relief materials were taken to Ikoyi, Lekki to go and be shared. These people have more than enough to eat in their homes hence their locations. The money is not reaching the people who need it the most and it’s a very sad story. In Lagos and Ogun state, people’s houses are being infiltrated by petty criminals at night looking for a place to cart away with foodstuffs to go and help their hungry selves. Other than the COVID-19 in which we are currently battling, HUNGER virus is something greater. If corona does not kill most people hunger will because a lot of people in their homes do not have what to eat.

Secondly, With Nigeria’s struggling national grid lacking in capacity to power the entire country, generators—especially small, low cost models with tank capacities of just four liters—have become an ubiquitous alternative for power despite a ban on mass importation. Given unreliable electricity supply, having citizens staying home amid a lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus likely means millions of electricity generators will be working overtime to power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas. This is also adding to the depletion of the ozone layer which will in turn lead to an adverse effect on the planet.

Thirdly, the suspension of schooling activities, office work and other businesses is another big problem. People will tend to become lazy due to the constant sitting around doing nothing. As the popular saying goes, “An idle mind is the Devil’s workshop”. The rate at which cyber-crimes will grow during this lockdown will be grave. The youths have nothing on their hands doing which makes them susceptible to being lead to these nefarious activities. The government said that people should continue working from home but not every job can be done from home. Some jobs need people to be at their place of work e.g. Engineers, Contractors etc. more money will be spent and none will be made. It’s not like as if salaries will be paid during these period of lockdown. . People are now sick and tired of staying at home without knowing what to do or engage themselves with. Most people have resorted to trying out new things to keep themselves busy, exploring new talents but for how long will this last? It does not take time for the human mind to get tired of doing an activity.

In conclusion, the lockdown should not be extended anymore because it is causing greater harm than good. The lockdown has numerous adverse effects on the socio-economic sector of the country. In my honest opinion, if this lockdown continues the citizens will revolt against it which will bring about more chaos than the virus has already brought about.