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

The Corona virus disease otherwise known as covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered Corona virus. Covid-19 appeared first in Wuhan, in the province of Huwei, a city in China in December 2019. Although health officials are still tracing the exact source of this virus, early hypothesis thought that it may be linked to a seafood market in Wuhan. Investigations are ongoing as to how this virus originated and spread as speculations have also been made as to whether the virus came from animals or from the new 5G network. This pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since world war II. Since its emergence, the virus has spread to every continent except Antarctica with cases rising daily in Europe, America and Africa. As of April 20th 2020, 2.4 million cases have been attributed to covid-19 worldwide with 166,094 deaths and 636,562 recoveries. However Nigeria has recorded 627 cases; 170 recoveries with 21 deaths. This virus has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crisis that will leave deep scars.

Most people infected with the covid-19 virus are said to experience mild to moderate respiratory illnesses and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer will likely develop serious illness. The virus can be easily spread through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when a person sneezes. Signs and symptoms may appear within 2-14 days after exposure and can include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, aches, sore throat, headache, vomiting, etc. Health care professionals are at high risks as they are exposed unduly to the covid-19 patients.

Moreso, there is no vaccine available to prevent this infection and no known cure for those already infected but WHO has recommended that we avoid large events and mass gatherings, avoid close contact by practicing social distancing, wash our hands frequently with soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, wear masks in public places, avoid touching our eyes, nose and mouth, etc. to prevent the spread of this virus. Countries are racing to slow the spread of this virus by quarantining their citizens. The Nigerian government has put a restraining order on all its citizens in all states to stay home from work, school and public areas. There is a nationwide lockdown with restriction of movement so as to contain the spread of the virus.

The effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians cannot be over emphasized. Among the numerous effects includes:

- **Increased violence:** Due to the lockdown, there has been an increase in the number of security personnel found on the streets. Most of these security officials abuse their power and beat up citizens found on the streets. A couple of people have died either during shootouts or from the beating or punishments given to them. Citizens on their own part take laws into their hands and try to retaliate often leading to their arrest. The officers

are not even prosecuted for the murder of these citizens and this has made Nigerians very unhappy.

- **Lack of food and income:** People with blue collar jobs like moulding of blocks, selling of goods, carpenters, etc depend on daily income to feed and cater for their families. Since the lockdown, there has been unavailability of jobs and this people no longer earn money to sustain their families and are left with little or nothing to eat. This even makes it difficult for these people to stay at home. The government should provide foodstuffs to these people as they are the most vulnerable in this trying times.
- **Decline in Nigeria's economy:** There is disruption in supply chain and limited market for exports due to the fall in global demand. Nigeria has an economy as well as a large informal sector which contributes 65% of its economic input. Movement restrictions have not only reduced the consumption of non-essential commodities in general. but have affected the income-generating capacity of these groups, thus reducing their consumption expenditure. Indeed, this crisis has led to a massive decrease in stock prices therefore impeding investments by firms.
- **Inflation of prices:** The recent lockdown has led to unprecedented rise in prices of drugs and staple foods across the country. There are even fears that supermarkets and pharmaceutical shops may soon run out of stock if nothing is done urgently to enable them replenish their stocks. This situation may lead to scarcity of these items and even higher prices in the coming weeks. These traders also use this opportunity to exploit others as people do not have any option but to buy so as to survive the hunger.
- **High criminal activities:** Criminal activities have been on the increase since the lockdown as people are left with little or no option but to survive through dubious means. Some people have been kidnapped for ransom while some traders' goods have been reported stolen.
- **Disruption of social events:** All burials and marriage ceremonies have been postponed due to the lockdown in order to avoid large gatherings. Hotels and catering services are also affected by this as they no longer have a source of income. Families who have loved ones in the mortuary will continue to incur debts until the pandemic is finally over.

In conclusion, the daily paid earners face grave danger with hunger and starvation of their families. Armed robbery and social crimes will continue to increase. Our country Nigeria may experience another recession because the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the end of the year will be negative. Many will lose their jobs as industries and factories would not operate at optimum level. My fear is that Nigeria which is one of the most corrupt countries will sink deeper than speculated. My prayer is that God will save humanity from this scourge.

