**NAME: ONIWAIYE GRACE OLUWASEUN**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH (GST 122)**

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**LEVEL: 100**

**QUESTION: WRITE A REPORT, OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PAGES ONT THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS ON NIGERIANS**

The coronavirus disease also known as COVID-19 is caused by -severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2(SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. There have been 2,435,876 confirmed cases.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contacts. People may also become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, nose, or mouth. Common symptoms also include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health confirmed the first coronavirus disease case in Lagos state on the 27th of February 2020 and the case was an Italian citizen who worked in Nigeria. From that time till now, there has been a total of 627 confirmed cases, 426 active cases, 170 recovered patients and 21 deaths with Lagos having the highest number of cases with 376 cases.

The government have decided to call a lockdown to curtail the COVID-19 preventing and restricting the movements of Nigerians in certain states like Lagos, Ogun and Abuja. The lockdown means that businesses would have to shut down and people will have to remain in their houses and this would definitely have its effects on the people.

Hunger is one of the effects that the lockdown would have on Nigerians. Statistics show that more than 60 percent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown would mean that their means of daily livelihood have been stopped. For the employees who work in the private sector, many private employers have maintained a ‘no salary’ or a 50 percent pay cut and some have completely cut workers off. Government should also distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the poor masses to cushion the effects of the lockdown.

If the hunger isn’t pacified, it would lead to widespread anger. Small forms of protests are already seen in communities where people are protesting against a lockdown without alternatives, the high-handedness also known as ***oversabi*** of law enforcement agents and sometimes, they reject the alternatives as some think of them as insult to their intelligence as the packs of food shared are not enough to feed a family of four in a week but it’s distributed to be shared among 50 to 70 families.

In the issue of safety, there have been series of robberies happening in the communities of Lagos, where different homes and communities have fallen victim to theft due to the fact that there aren’t enough alternatives.

The lockdown also means more money spent for Nigerians as there is lack of electricity, more Nigerians are spending more money to fuel their generators to ward off the heat that is normal in this season as more people are at home. The effect of the unreliable electricity supply will have citizens staying at home during the lockdown to curb the spread of corona virus likely means millions of generators will be working overtime to power homes, worsening pollution in residential areas.

The coronavirus can be prevented through washing of hands with soap and water, using an alcohol based sanitizer, maintaining a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing, avoidance of touching nose, eyes, or mouth, etc.