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Assignment: Forms of Writing

Question: Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lock down and restriction of movement on Nigerians

**CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCK DOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS**.

On the 17th of November, 2019 the first case of COVID-19 was recorded in Wuhan, China, not knowing it would be the first of many that would cause global pandemic, worldwide panic, economic breakdowns and month-long quarantines. The Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a novel Corona virus now called *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2* (SARS-CoV-2), formerly called *2019-nCov*. It was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan city, Hunbei Province, China. It was initially reported to the World Health organization on December 13, 2019. On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, its first such designation since HN1 influenza pandemic in 2009.

Furthermore, the Coronavirus is highly infectious. Transmission is believed to occur via respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing, hence the high emphasis placed on the usage of medically effective face masks. The virus released can infect other individuals via direct contact with mucus membranes once inside the body. The virus can persist on the surface to varying duration thus increasing its degree of infection. It takes about 20 days from infection for symptoms of the Coranavirus disease to become pronounced. Symptoms of which include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and other breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. In order to contain the spread of the virus standard recommendations include; regular thorough hand washing practices, covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, use of effective face masks, thoroughly cooking food items, social distancing and avoidance of contact with infected persons and anyone showing signs such as coughing or sneezing.

Just as any dreadful global pandemic the COVID-19 outbreak has caused global distress and economic instability. In Nigeria, the federal government has ordered a lock down on Lagos state, Ogun State and the FCT Abuja, for a period of 2 weeks starting March 30, 2020, now extended by another 2 weeks from April 13, 2020. Many other states are already applying a stay-at-home method or the other up-to state boundaries closure. However, locking people at home in Nigeria is like asking them to go hungry for the duration of the lock down. A large majority of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lock down means their means of daily livelihood are cut off. The plight of the private sector employees is not any better as many private employers have maintained a “no salary during lock down” stance, or at best a 50 percent cut. Some have even completely laid the workers off. Government should distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the poor masses to cushion the effect of the lock down as well as a push for the full pay of workers, whether private or public as long as the lock down lasts.

As it is, pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger. Protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities. This protest mood that is brewing has the potential to transform into a movement that would pose a serious challenge to the lock down if the hunger question is not resolved. It could also get a lot worse, as we are beginning to see in some places in Lagos and Ogun States where a number of youths, pushed to extreme hunger by the lock down, go on mass looting of shops and houses, carting away ordinary people’s food and belongings. The lock down might have even played a major role in the formation and success of the armed robbery gang who go by the name “100 Million Gang”, who have become a serious threat during these troubling times.

Despite the lock down, a number of workers are compelled to go to work at the moment. Some, like the health workers on the front line and rearguards at the hospitals, through a sense of duty and the importance of their job. Among the non-health workers that are still working are those in the oil and gas sector, media, banking and finance sector, electricity generating and distributing companies, as well as other workers in similar industries. The government is trying to ease the pressure of the lock down with periods of time outs and unrestricted movement, to enable citizens to fetch food items and other necessities.

In Conclusion, the Coronavirus pandemic is undoubtedly a tragic moment in human history and its adverse effects globally and on the lives of many around the world, cannot be overemphasized. Despite all these, just as all other trails in the past times it will be dealt with and ‘the calm after the storm’ is yet to be seen as better times are yet to come.