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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.**

**DATE: 19th April, 2020**

**THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is also referred to as “Corona Virus”. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. While it may seem like the coronavirus is a new thing, it’s actually a common strain of viruses. The World Health Organization's China office says it began receiving reports in late December of a mysterious virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in eastern China with a population of roughly 11 million people. The first case of the coronavirus in sub-Saharan Africa was confirmed in Nigeria.

The patient is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and had flown into the commercial city of Lagos from Milan on 25 February 2020.

There are many types of the virus, some which are very deadly and some which are not. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19, but there are ongoing trials being performed by professionals to come about a cure.

If you begin to notice some symptoms of the virus like fever, tiredness and dry cough report to the nearest hospital or clinic immediately. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate and contact their medical provider or a COVID-19 information line for advice on testing. In order to prevent ourselves from contacting this deadly virus, we need to wash our hands regularly for a MINIMUM of 20 SECONDS. We also need to acquire the habit of social distancing i.e. keeping our distance from other people in public places e.g. supermarkets, markets etc. It is very important that we keep our environment as clean as possible and avoid touching public surfaces. As I said before, **COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs.** Therefore we need to abstain from smoking so as to not weaken the lungs. Ensure to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. As at February 1st the number of cases in china had reached 6000 accompanied by 132 deaths. As at march 30th Nigeria only had 3 cases. And as at 19th of April 19 2020 there are 627 confirmed cases in Nigeria with 21 deaths. Globally there are 2,502,731 cases and 171,161 deaths. Because of the ongoing pandemic the

Federal government in Nigeria and other countries have enforced a mandatory “Lockdown” in some states of the federation.

Lockdowns have placed in various countries, states and cities all over the world. This is solely aimed at stopping the spread of the virus so it can be eliminated completely as soon as possible. Therefore all shopping complexes, market squares, restaurants, schools, generally all meeting places have been closed till further announcements by the Federal Government. This lockdown affects the economy both negatively and positively. Even though the purpose of this action is for the safety and wellbeing of all citizens, it also affects us in a negative way. In some countries the lockdown has been enforced for duration of about 2 months some even more. This creates problems like not being able to go to work and being able to provide food and social amenities like electricity for his/her family. With the present economic reality, workers’ salaries may be in jeopardy.

For example international flights would be restricted into Nigeria, except emergencies, according to Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority. This will, in no small measure, affect the businesses of airport taxi operators. Social gatherings and religious gatherings of more than 20 and 50 have been banned in Lagos and Abuja, respectively.

Small businesses, which rely heavily on foreign imports to augment their value chains, will suffer from supply shortages while looming job cuts will intensify. The aviation sector is already suffering, as businesses will cut down on travel plans. The struggling service sector will feel most of the heat, as the manufacturers will cut back budget to survive. Apart from the tragic human consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic uncertainty it has sparked will likely cost the global economy $1 trillion in 2020.

The global economy may be slipping into recession and Nigeria is set to receive the hit harder than ever. It is only hoped that serious lessons would be learnt when the world eventually recovers from this devastation. Nigerian security forces have killed 22 people while enforcing coronavirus rules - when the disease itself has killed only 21. To me it’s a sheer display of impunity and reckless disregard for human life in law enforcement by security personnel.

The virus itself has claimed 12 lives out of 407 confirmed cases, in an outbreak which has sent the capital Abuja and megacity of Lagos into lockdown.

In conclusion, the corona virus pandemic has had a very negative impact on the economy and we can only hope for a pleasant outcome.