To,

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A REPORT ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

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 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic which has caused great negative effect on the whole world, shaken the world’s economy and has claimed millions of lives. It is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus, it is a disease that attacks the respiratory organs, and it spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes so it’s very important to practice respiratory etiquette, like coughing into your elbow. Since the virus can spread through contact, it is advisable to keep a distance of at least 3 feet, that is social distancing and avoiding any social event, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. The virus last for a while on surfaces so wash your hands often with soap and water and use an alcohol hand rub. At this point, there is no known treatment or vaccine for the virus.

 Due to widespread of the disease, the WHO has advised that countries with cases of COVID-19 should observe a lockdown to reduce the spread of the virus. Nigeria with over 600 cases with over 300 in Lagos and close to 100 in the F.C.T has restricted the movement of citizens in most states in order to contain the spread of the disease. The lockdown has both positive and negative effects on the citizens. We can look at the impact of the corona virus with PESTEL analysis. A PESTEL analysis is simply an acronym for describing the strategic management tool used for scanning the operating environment in order to identify key macro factors that influence an organisation or a country. Each letter in the PESTEL analytical framework stands for Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental and Legal factors.

 The political impact of the lockdown include weakened governance capacity due to the focus of the government on handling and curtailing the pandemic, this can lead to a decrease in development and growth. It also prevents governments and agencies from discharging their duties because of the fear of death and infection. The lockdown also has economic effects which are shutdown of businesses, inflation and hike in prices of goods due to the difficulty of transportation of goods causing scarcity, many people have also lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Socially, there has been shutdown of places of worship, recreation centres and postponement of weddings, concerts, sports, conferences and other social events. On the bright side, it has led to an increase in technology development. There is now widespread of E-activities like E-commerce, E-banking and so much more, schools are now having lessons and classes online, improving E-learning, there is now an increased relevance of ICT softwares and applications and increased online social interaction.

 On the environment, it is leading to a great deal of pollution with toxic materials, pollutants and life- threatening biological weapons, increased environmental awareness of people and personal hygiene. Finally, the legal impacts include curtailed fundamental human rights, this can be illustrated with the policemen and army with the use of force on individuals and neglecting human rights. It has also led to the closed down of courts leading to delayed dispensation of justice. As we can see there are both positive and negative effects of the lockdown and restriction of movements but taking a look at the very poor people who make a living by hawking or doing menial job, whose income comes daily at this time they have no food to eat. Poverty is a big issue in Nigeria and cannot blame all the people who are not observing the lockdown just to earn money to put food on the table who keep on withdrawing their savings for food and basic things of life. This has also led to an increase in crime rate, there have recent cases of armed robberies and stealing. The government can be of assistant by providing relief packages to the less privileged, provision of protective gear, 24/7 electricity and provision of goods at subsidised prices

 Corona Virus is real and it kills so it is essential to observe self isolation and social distancing. The lockdown is very important to curtail the spread of the virus. We should all be careful because symptoms of the virus doesn’t appear till 2-14 days, one person can affect a hundred. Wash your hands regularly and sanitize. We all believe this shall soon pass so it’s important for us to take necessary precautionary measures. Stay safe!

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