1. 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. .

#  CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC – by Courage Ojo-Iyobosa

The information gotten from The Vanguard Newspaper, and some interviews organized by other reporters, is enough for me to be able to adequately give an efficient report on the corona virus pandemic and the effect of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

On the 31st of December, 2019, WHO says mysterious pneumonia sickening dozens in China Health authorities in China confirm that dozens of people in Wuhan, China, are being treated for pneumonia from an unknown source. Many of those sickened had visited a live animal market in Wuhan, but authorities say there is no evidence of the virus spreading from person to person. Then on the 11th of January, 2020, China reports 1st novel coronavirus death Chinese state media reports the first death from novel coronavirus, a 61-year-old man who had visited the live animal market in Wuhan.

On the 21st of January, 2020, 1st confirmed case in the United States. Then on the 30th of January,2020, WHO declares global health emergency For the sixth time in history, the World Health Organization declares a "public health emergency of international concern," a designation reserved for extraordinary events that threaten to spread internationally, and it was declared from an epidemic to a pandemic disease. The WHO announces that novel coronavirus' formal new name is COVID-19. "Co" stands for coronavirus, "Vi" is for virus and "D" is for disease. Health officials purposely avoid naming COVID-19 after a geographical location, animal or group of people, so as not to stigmatize people or places.

The first confirmed case of the pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 in Nigeria was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus, caused by SARS-CoV-2. On 9th of March, 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen.

The World Health Organization, WHO, recommended one doctor to 600 patients. Though the country was the first to defeat Ebola outbreak in 2014, its readiness for an epidemic had long been ranked low by relevant health platforms. From The Vanguard news, it is observed that among preparedness areas country needs to establish to find, stop and prevent health threats, it scored the nation high on immunization, but identified gaps on biosafety, national legislation, policy and financing.

With a legal framework already enacted by the state House of Assembly to aid the battle, only a firm lockdown of Nigeria’s airspace could prevent an escalation. That should happen simultaneously with provisions of medical equipment like surgical masks, ventilators, hospital beds, hazmat suits, N95 respirators, gloves, eye protection equipment among others. Meanwhile, the lockdown bill, titled; ‘A Law to Combat and Stop the Spread of Coronavirus Pandemic in Lagos State and for Connected Purposes’ empowered security agencies to arrest residents, who flout directives aimed at stopping the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. Countries are now on lockdown, including Nigeria. Before Sunday, march 29th,2020, news has confirmed the following; Lagos dumps curfew, fumigates streets Benue gets index case Imo, Bayelsa, Enugu under lockdown Osun: 150 returnees quarantined Oyo partial shutdown: Makinde working on palliatives Kano disinfects streets, hospitals Anambra shuts market Delta: London returnees forced into self-isolation And with all these stated, let’s see the effect of the lockdown.

The pro-activeness and efforts of the Nigeria Government in tackling the spread of the virus is deeply appreciated, but some of these measures taking including the inter-state movement of vehicles by various state governments, would worsen the food and protein supply situation to ordinary Nigerians, specifically food, which are very essential for human health and survival. The total lockdown of Nigerians, especially the poor masses as a result of the spread of corona virus by Government is uncalled for and has infringed on human rights. Because of the lockdown, people are out of their jobs and there are also problems with the economy as it affects aviation, shipping, transportation and others.

To conclude on all this, countries like United States of America shall be giving about $1,000 to her about 330 million citizens per month in addition to bail outs to manufactures and SMEs. Hong Kong has been quoted to be giving 10,000 Hong Kong dollars ($1,287) to her citizens. Other nations are either doing the same or are releasing bailout packages that would give people spending power to help the economy. So I advise Nigeria to not just follow the method of these other countries, but to also try and give food to other people and still be practicing social distancing. So I suggest they give foods and foodstuff to churches and mosques to share around their area or location to help provide for those in need, rather than just giving at one particular place so avoid the spread of coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria.