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ASSIGNMENT: 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.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and its effect on Nigerians

It is a well known and undisputed fact that the recent global pandemic, known as the Corona virus, or COVID- 19 since its inception on the 2nd of January,2020 has injected a lot of economy-paralysing and negative factors into many economies worldwide and Nigeria is not an exemption.

The corona virus pandemic is a deadly disease that takes just two weeks to kill a human being after its incubation in the throat for 2-3 days after it has been detected. It can be transmitted through droplets that come from the mouth of an infected person, by touching an infected area or person and being in close contact with an infected person. Due to the failure of people to adhere to social distancing, the number of the infected persons in the world generally is about 2,406,745 confirmed cases, 625,001 recovered cases, and 165,257 deaths. In Nigeria alone there are 627 confirmed cases, 170 recovered cases and 21 deaths cases as of 1:55pm on the 20th of April, 2020. Within a span of 50 days the spread that was thought to be meager enough to be contained has sky-rocketed to a global harm.

The Nigerian government, seeing the gravity of the pandemic to the nation enforced serious sanitary measures on Nigerians to curtail the spread of the disease. With the news of more infected people and deaths passing around government was forced to do their number one duty towards citizens which is to protect human lives. A total lockdown was set on the whole nation with the closure of boarders and the strict regulation that all schools should be closed down and all children and wards should return to their residences. The use of sanitizers, gloves and face masks when leaving to buy provisions for our various families and the washing of our hands with soap and under running water before and after leaving our houses was also adviced by the government. Clothing and materials that were used outside our homes are also adviced to be sanitized before taken into our households. The government has also placed a fine of seventy thousand naira per person to whoever does not abide to these rules and is found on the road or outside their homes without a valid reason. With the enforcement of the lockdown, the media continues to enlighten the mass public on the symptoms of the COVID-19 virus and the need to take sanitary measures seriously.

Although all these were done to ensure the safety of us all, there are a lot of consequences we face as a result to it. Economically, the situation of Nigerian economy is deteriorating as people’s means of income is going to waste. Crude oil that is Nigeria’s number one source of income is just lying stagnant as no country is willing to engage in international trade with other countries and this is a very big setback. This also affects Nigerians socially, spiritually and politically. Socially in the sense that our movement is restricted and the will to visit friends, family and colleagues is not a strong lever to uplift the order placed upon us. We are forced to maintain social distancing for the fear of the spread of the virus. Spiritually, citizens are not given the liberty to go to their various worship centres and are forced to pray in their houses. Politically, in the sense that our leaders have to put themselves in the fore front to ensure the right choices are made in respect to the situation at hand. It also affects Nigerians mentally as people are now restless and idle thoughts that were suppressed with work are erupting now in the minds of many now more than ever.

However, with the rate of increased number of infections and deaths, these measures, in as much as they are detrimental, are the best we can do to speed the termination of this virus and the removal of the lockdown so that we can go back to our normal lifestyles.

In conclusion, I believe it’s to the benefit of everyone that we all observe the preventive measures of this virus. We can also try to be optimistic and see this lockdown as an opportunity to tune into our thoughts, learn a few things and reconnect with our families. I know that this is just a phase and with the help and the grace of God, it will all be over soon. We shall overcome it.

References: (i) African Independent television (AIT), (ii) Channels Television