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QUESTION;

 Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the coronavirus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

 As times have it, a retrospective look down the historic lane on the advent of diseases will make one discover that it occurs within an interval of about a century which is one hundred years. About one hundred years earlier which was 1920, the outbreak of Influenza popularly known as the” Spanish flu” heralded itself into earth and claimed lots of lives. Prior to this, was the outbreak of cholera in the 1820’s, where both the aged and young were not spared out of the fatalities recorded. Worse still, the 1720’s marked the emergence of the plague disease that left many bereaved of their loved ones.

 Currently, the present health catastrophe plaguing the globe is the novel coronavirus otherwise known as COVID-19, it is said to have emanated from Wuhan in China in December 2019 and became widespread to almost all countries and continents of the world in 2020. However, the severity of the virus in recent times has raised controversial questions in diverse places. To some people, it appears to be a technique of biological warfare deliberately masterminded by the Chinese in order to gain dominance as world power. To others, especially those of them belonging to Christianity, it signals the end of days that was spoken of by the Messiah while he was still on earth. Laughably, some people are of the opinion that the virus was transmitted from animals to humans with ridicule on how the Chinese people eat whatever they come across.

 Undoubtedly, with the ways things are going, there is urgent need for a supernatural intervention in order to cushion the effect of the virus on the entire world. In reality, the virus has ruthlessly infected its’ victims with quite a number of ailments with no regards to their race, colour, creed and nationality. Hence, this necessitated the World Health Organization to declare it a pandemic because it occurs over a wide geographical area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population. In addition, in the absence of a treatment or potent vaccine, world leaders at various levels and regions are left with no option other than enforcing a compulsory stay a home order, otherwise called lockdown.

 Nigeria, a country situated in West Africa is not exempted from the onslaught of the Coronavirus pandemic. She recorded her first index case when an Italian returnee tested positive to the virus in February 2020 at Lagos; a densely populated state in the country. Ever since then, confirmed cases of the virus increased numerically by the day and rapidly, schools at all levels were ordered to suspend their academic calendars pending on the period the virus is mitigated. Furthermore, the land, air and sea boarders of the country were shut by the Federal government and a lockdown was announced so as to forestall further spread of the virus in the country. Consequently, gathering of large crowds either in shopping or worship centers was discouraged and a presidential task force was empowered to see to that effect in collaboration with NCDC which the body in charge of disease controls in the country. In spite of the fact that there is a lockdown, people whose line of occupation are essential, are not under restriction from delivering these essential duties.

 Furthermore, the effect of the lockdown in Nigeria has lent credence to various societal worries and distress. The government of the day under the Muhammadu Buhari’s administration has taken into cognizance these underlying issues, and has come to the firm resolve that both monetary funds and food stuff in form of palliatives be sent across to the less privileged in the country in order to prevent people from dying of hunger. There is more to this lockdown than meets the eye, owing to the fact that Nigeria is still a developing country, the lockdown will has led to the official suspension of production will leave a great impact of the Nigeria’s economy post the pandemic. In addition, the lockdown has decreased the inflow of movement and most crowded places are now desolate so as to slow the spread of the disease. Speculations reveal that when this darkest hour that is just before the dawn is over, the way the world operates will change immensely.

 Moreover, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic which has its symptoms as common cold, cough, short breath, sore throat and others, has made leaders of different countries of the world most emphatically Nigeria to be up and doing when it comes to the public health sector. In previous weeks it is evident that like never before, the public health sector has been boosted and funded by the Nigerian government to match the standard it is required to in fighting the virus while it lasts. Regardless, the much heated controversial question still remains, what is coming next.