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COLLEGE: LAW

COURSE CODE: GST 122

TOPIC: WRITE A REPORT, OF NOT MORE THAN 2 PAGES, ON THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.

A Report

According to the World Health Organization, the Corona Virus Disease, also known as COVID 19 is a respiratory infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Corona virus. Although scientists have found ways of testing to see if a person has the widespread disease or not, it has been discovered that it can take up to 2 weeks for the symptoms to start showing. However, it is advised that if there is an event whereby a person accidentally comes in contact with a suspected infected person, he or she should be quarantined for at least 14 days until the symptoms start to show or otherwise.

COVID – 19 affects people in different ways. Most infected will develop mild to moderate symptoms. However, it should be made clear that not everyone who contacts the virus will die from it. There is a possibility of surviving the illness. Common symptoms of the virus are:

* Fever
* Tiredness
* Dry cough

Some people may experience:

* Aches and pains
* Nasal congestion
* Runny nose
* Sore throat
* Diarrhea

The First known case of Corona Virus can be traced back to November in China. A 55-year-old individual from Hubei province in China might have been the first person to have contracted COVID 19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus spreading across the globe. That case dates back to the South Morning China Post.

According to Wikipedia, there is a total of 2,458,150 confirmed corona virus cases. 643,918 people have recovered and about 168,906 people have died from it. In Nigeria, there is a total of 665 confirmed cases. 188 of these have recovered whilst 22 deaths have been recorded.

Due to these unfortunate developments, The President, Muhammadu Buhari has taken certain measures to reduce the effect of the pandemic on our country Nigeria by imposing a lockdown, thereby restricting the movement of all Nigerians. This action has brought about a lot of both negative and positive effects.

The major positive effect of the lockdown is the reduction of transmission of the disease from one person to another. Before the lockdown, it was almost impossible to keep the spread of the pandemic at a minimum. However, since it was imposed, people who have corona virus have been unable to transmit the disease to others due to the lack of public gatherings and transportation. Seeing as Lagos state is the center of commerce, the Lagos state government took it upon themselves to bring the necessary facilities closer to the people such as markets.

Food is an essential commodity and one that people cannot do without. This brings me to the negative effect of the lockdown on Nigerians. Nigeria is one of the poorest countries of the world and seeing as poverty is rampant, food becomes an instrument of survival. In our country, most people live on daily labor such as commercial transport workers, hawkers, market women etc.

Due to the lockdown and lack of business activities, it has become increasingly difficult for these people to fend for themselves and so they resort to criminal activities such as petty theft, robbery etc.

Another negative effect of the lockdown is the economic impact on our society. It has affected our major source of revenue which is Crude Oil sales. Money generated from the exportation and sales of crude oil is what is allocated to states and local governments as monthly income. Due to the restriction, there is a reduction in sales, thereby causing a decrease in the price of crude oil which translates that all the plans which were meant to be carried out in accordance with the budget earlier made, are no longer feasible. The earlier budget was based on a 57 dollar/barrel benchmark which has now dropped to below 20 dollars per barrel and counting.

One more negative effect is the religious impact on our society. Nigeria has always been a secular state whereby the 2 major religions are Islam and Christianity. It is quite unfortunate that it is at this time that major festive holidays are coming into play such as Easter and Ramadan.

Also, due to the lockdown, people can no longer attend their places of worship or congregate for religious activities. All activities are to be practiced and observed from the safety of their homes. The lockdown has also affected students in all academic institutions as they have had to put a hold on all academic activities that require them to participate in person. It has also affected those in their final year who were looking forward to graduation or convocation as at the time the pandemic struck.

In conclusion, both negative and positive effects have come about as a result of the pandemic. However, it is necessary to take into account the seriousness of the situation and adhere to the stipulated rules and regulations put in place for our safety. The Corona Virus is a pandemic that will surely pass as long as we continue to stay safe and pray for divine intervention.