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**DEPARTMENT: LAW**

**COURSE: COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH II**

**QUESTIONS**

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 CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION IN NIGERIA**

The devastating Corona virus pandemic has effectively reduced the world to a state of weakness. It is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The outbreak of COVID-19 has caused major world panic and fear. It is an asymptomatic virus which makes people live in fear of the unknown and it also facilitates quicker spread of the virus if the preventive measures are not strictly adhered too. The disease has hit the re-set buttons of global activities as it spread from one continent to another. Coronavirus has changed human life in a way that has never happened before. Since the inception of the first case in Nigeria in February 2020, the nation has been really affected and things have changed in just few weeks. Schools have closed down, higher institutions have sent their students home, places of worship have been rendered empty, public gatherings are not excluded, transportation has been halted. Even against the will of those advanced countries, most of them are on total lockdown because they cannot afford to deal with the fatalities this deadly virus will cause.

Nigeria, as a developing country, cannot afford to deal with the effect of the Corona virus so in order to contain the situation, the government resulted in total lockdown in some states and curfew in the remaining ones. One fundamental rule of the invisible dragon (COVID-19) is, it does not respect or recognize national borders or nationalities of humans, no respect for colour, political systems or cultural beliefs, nor does it spare anyone of social status. Rich or poor, it hits everyone human just as hard. Coronavirus has come to teach the world that it is time we began to appreciate all the values of things we usually take for granted in life. It has taught us that all humans are born equal and that the artificial barriers erected by humans can easily be removed. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the powerless all bow and scamper for safety on the mention of the unseen enemy called Coronavirus. Although Africa seemed to be the last continent to be hit, and the speed with which the spread of the newly unseen global enemy has been spreading in Africa has been minimal compared to the rest of the world, the prospect that it will peak very quickly is a major worry, with the view that the economic consequences on Africa could be monumental and extraordinary.

The lockdown in certain states and curfew in the others has not proven to be efficient because the number of cases and fatalities are increasing day by day. The number of recovering patients is very low compared to the number of cases and the curve of the pandemic is not flattening. With the government trying their best to take control of this critical situation, not all citizens buy this idea. Being a developing country, most people have to leave the comfort of their homes to be able to fend for themselves and family. The government is fully aware of this yet no provision is being made to cater for citizens. In states where curfew is placed, there should be a total lockdown instead. This is because the virus doesn’t have a specific time for spreading and most places people go to fend for themselves are places with crowd which aids the spread of the virus at a faster rate. The government cannot implement the lockdown because they know people will die of starvation. The citizens will not even obey because they prefer to die from an unseen foreign enemy they have never experienced than a neighborly enemy they are familiar with. The key challenge facing Nigeria in the Coronavirus environment is to lack preparedness to tackle the uncontrollable consequences of the viral storm, although this is not peculiar to Nigeria alone in the current circumstances. However, governments in Africa must show a robust approach to slowing down the spread of the pestilence that has appeared in all sectors of national life.

After identifying the key challenge of the lockdown and curfew imposed in Nigerian states, the government has to work on ways to better their efforts and make citizens more law abiding for the greater good of the people. Nigerian government must demonstrate the leadership and the preparedness to tackle corruption and be communally accountable to their citizens by releasing funds for infrastructure development that will cater to the needs of the Nigerian people. The nation must be more resilient and take advantage of COVID-19 outbreak to build a strong continental-wide economy through the encouragement of intra-African trade and see how far this relationship will go in future.