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Course Name: Communication in English II

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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.

Answer

The Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that started out as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and ended up as a pandemic has thrown the whole world into a war-like situation. Thousands of deaths have been recorded cumulatively for all countries across the world. Health systems in most countries are overwhelmed by the seriously sick patients in hospitals, many of whom are on ventilators and nursed in intensive care units (ICU). Global and local economies stand at their worst in decades; the world economy is now declared to be in recession by the World Bank/IMF, and could eventually lead to the deepest depression since 1929.

With more than Two Million Infections and Over a Hundred Thousand Deaths recorded globally, Nigeria which is the most populous country on the continent of Africa with an estimated population of 200 million has over 600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 22 deaths as of 20th April, 2020. These numbers are, however, far from the true reflection of the situation in Nigeria, based on the fact that testing is not being carried out on a large scale. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) stated earlier in the month that the present testing volume is 500 tests per day and hoped to increase this capacity to 1000 or more tests per day in the coming weeks. Thus far, less than 20,000 tests have been carried out in a population of 200million.

However, in order to curtail the massive spread of the Virus, the Federal Government ordered the lockdown of the major cities in the country (e.g Lagos, FCT Abuja and Osun) where

cases of the virus has been reported to be escalating daily. The closure of all schools, tertiary institutions, worship centers and public areas where large crowds are normally found(e.g weddings, shows, museums, parks, funerals) has also been effected by the government. Massive sensitization has been carried out and is still ongoing all over the country to educate citizens on how to prevent themselves from contracting and also spreading the Virus. Although some States in the country are yet to impose a lockdown or close all their land and water routes leading into and out of the State, others have enforced this measure and have also given out palliatives(food items) to citizens so that they will have what to eat during the period of the lockdown.

The lockdown has had numerous effects on Nigerians. As a result of the lockdown, Nigerian citizens for example, the bricklayers, tailors, entertainers etc. who normally depend on their daily hustle in order to bring food to their tables and provide for their families, now have no means of getting money and providing for themselves. The worse scenario is that of those who even before this time had nothing to do or eat, now because of the lockdown their situation would become so bad. The price of crude oil(the major contributor to Nigeria's economy) tumbled like never before in the last 20 years. It went to as low as below \$20 per barrel from above \$60 just before the pandemic. It has never been this bad in the last two decades and this has made a mess of the Nigerian Federal government's budget estimates for 2020; making salaries payment, debt obligations and other projections uncertain. This signifies tough times ahead.