English Assignment

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

GST 122

QUESTION: 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.

Corona virus is a deadly disease that one can easily get affected with. It can be contracted in a very crowded area, as well as by inhaling the germs that an infected person sneezes or coughs out. This virus has had terrible effects on its victims, causing many to die, and their relatives to be left with hurting hearts. The virus is all over the world and more and more cases are confirmed every day. No vaccination is available yet to prevent the disease entirely. Reports have it that there have been over a million confirmed cases and almost 80,000 deaths worldwide.

This is why it is important to curb the spread by implementing social distancing, a measure to prevent as much contact as possible. This is why the government has announced a total lockdown in cities such as Lagos, Abuja and Abeokuta. These states are highly populated, making the potential spread of the virus deadlier in those areas. The deadly virus has really had a fatal effect on countries of the world, as many, especially elderly people, who are more vulnerable to this disease than any other group, have died after contracting it.

Given the rising number of cases in Nigeria, it is evident that the government is not sufficiently equipped to successfully combat the deadly virus. This is because they did not close the borders earlier, possibly when the index case was discovered in February, and this facilitated some citizens to bring their infected selves into the country and associate carelessly with their contacts.

The lockdown has really helped to slow the spread of the virus, but it is a difficult endeavor and it cannot last forever. This is why it is important for citizens to obey the rules and stay indoors; make the sacrifices necessary to overcome this difficult time.

However, the outlook for the economy as a result of this pandemic and consequential lockdown is not a bright or good one, especially for developing countries with a high population, such as Nigeria. Before the pandemic, the economy was already weak, from the 2014 oil price shock. In terms of occupational proportion from a household perspective, research shows that 41.4% of household members reported being self-employed, 26,5% being in paid employment, 15.7% indicate that they were benefitted, while 13.6% reported that they were not active in the labour force.

In Ogun, Lagos and Abuja, where lockdown has been implemented, it is important to note that these areas are a major economic centre and financial capital. Ogun and Lagos states are renowned for having a large number of industrial estates and headquarters such as Dangote, Lafarge Cement and so on. All these have a terrible effect on the economy as well as the people, who cannot work and are hungry.

Pangs of hunger will lead to widespread anger. Protests in different forms are already being seen within the communities. People are protesting against a lockdown without palliatives, against the high-handedness of law enforcement agents, and even rejecting all manner of palliatives that smack of insult to their intelligence, such as packs of food that are not enough to feed a family of six in 2 weeks being distributed to be shared among 60-80 families in a cluster. This protest mood that is brewing has the potential to transform into a movement that would pose a serious challenge to the lockdown if the hunger question is not resolved. There is also a rise in places in Lagos and Ogun States where a layer of lumpen youth, pushed to extreme hunger by the lockdown, go on mass looting of shops and houses, carting away ordinary people’s food and belongings.