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English Assignment

Write a report of not more than two pages, on the corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movements on Nigerians.

Corona virus and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians

Corona virus disease (COVID 19) is an infectious disease and it is easily transmutable. It is a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections raging from the common cold to more sever diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered corona virus causes coronavirus disease COVID- 19.

The most common symptoms of COVID- 19 are fever, breathing difficulties, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea, in severe cases, it can cause pneumonia, multiple organ failure and death. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems are more likely to develop serious illness. The COVID- 19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

The first case was confirmed on the 27 February, 2020 in Lagos, Nigeria’s commercial capital with a population of 21 million. There are 2,319,066 confirmed cases in the world, 157,970 deaths and 213 countries, areas or territories with reported cases. As of April 20, the global death toll surpassed 168, 500 amid more than 643,000 people have recorded from the disease worldwide, according to the data collected by the John Hopkins University in the United in the United States. While in Nigeria there are 627 cases confirmed, 170 recovered and 21 deaths.

Contrary to the many spurious unscientific explanations and conspiracy theories on the origin of the disease being peddled on social media and by some religious personalities – including the notion that the new non-ionization radio wave 5G technology is linked to the origin of Coronavirus – the truth is that coronaviruses are not strange to the medical world and they have being studied in the past. The name Corona has to do with its appearance under the electron microscope, it has a fat layer envelope which is shaped like a crown (‘coronam’ in Latin means ‘crown’). It should be noted that one of the germs that cause the common cold (catarrh) is a type of Coronavirus which affects many people but soon resolves on its own.

On March 24, to the declaration that came after authorities suspended 92 journalists’ access to Buhari’s presidential villa is prior to those suspensions, which went into effect on March 25, a total of 16 journalist both private and government owned media outlets retained access, according to the memo. Nigeria’s new restrictions on assembly and movement impose unnecessary burdens on journalists.

Meanwhile, the lawyers are of the view that the State of emergency ought to have been activated according to the law because such actions violate section 41 of the 1999 constitution, which guarantees freedom of movement. Retired professor of law, University of Lagos, Akin Oyebode, described it as an overreaction. He said: “There seems to be outright overreaction occasioned by the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. The attempt to establish barriers to constitutionally guaranteed freedom of movement of citizens is gregariously untoward and utterly ridiculous.

The effect of the lockdown on Nigerians has caused some challenges as some say that ‘Hunger will kill them before the virus does’ because some people don’t get to carry out their normal businesses which might have been their only source of money to feed themselves and their family, in addition to that, President Buhari in his speech addressing Nigerians relating to the Coronavirus, he said that ‘relief material’ will be distributed to communities around the country. Agbakoba said: “Our lawmakers must, as a matter of urgency, pass a Corona virus Act 2020 to deal with the multiple challenges Nigerians face. The law will deal with safety first and foremost, welfare second and generally to promote peace and orderliness to confront this monstrosity.