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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 disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. It is a disease of unknown cause that was found in Wuhan, China. It was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) county office in China on the 31st of December 2019. The SARS-like virus is spreading or has spread into neighbouring Asian countries, and as far afield as Australia, the US and Europe. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of international Concern on 30th January 2020. On the 11th Feburary 2020, WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease:- COVID-19.

 Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The first place the virus was found in Africa was said to be Egypt before it moved to other Africa Countries, leaving only two African countries yet to report a case of the virus:- Comoros and Lesotho. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based sanitizer frequently and not touching your face.

 The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it’s important that you also practice respiratory etiquette( for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow). At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatment for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. Using available preliminary data, the median time from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately 2 weeks and 3-6 weeks for patients with severe or critical disease.

THE EFFECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS

 A lot of Nigerians are low income or no income earners. The sell things to in other to provide for themselves and their family, most of them carry sand or hawk or wash cloths for people in other to feed. This lockdown period has been the most difficult for them because they do not have food to eat or clean water or little money to assist themselves and their family. Most them are probably sick and would have a high tendency of contacting this virus without realizing it and then spread to people around. Due to their inability to work and fend for themselves, the youth go into the act of armed robbery. While interviewing, most people said they are scared of “hunger virus” than the deadly corona virus. The government said they were going to share food and money to every citizen but the way they do will make people contact the virus more because it is always done in large crowds and they don’t bother to check if the food items get to everyone.

 As of today, 20th of April , 2020 there is a total of 627 confirmed cases in Nigeria, 170 discharged patients and 21 deaths in total, this shows that things are not getting any better even after the increase of the lockdown for two extra weeks. The Nigerian economy has been great affect by this lock down as the economy is on a standstill and there might be recession at any time. Global and local economies stand at their worst in decades. It is said that the world economy is now declared to be in recession by the World Bank/IMF. The price of crude oil (the mainstay of the Nigerian 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 projects uncertain.

 Due to the lockdown, a lot of people have been hurt by those who are meant to protect us. Most market women we harassed by police men why they were trying to making a living for themselves and their family. There goods were thrown away and they were forcefully sent out of the market. A lot of citizens were abused physically and have some of their properties damaged by the police during this period and they did not deserve what they got and were being treated like criminals without committing any crime. Also, during this period, some citizen has used this opportunity to rub and do all sorts of terrible things to innocent people. No security was made available to prevent such a thing from repeating itself again. This made citizens become vigilantes, sacrificing their lives to protect themselves and their families.

 The effect of this lockdown has affected the lives of basically everyone in the county and the economy too. In other for everything to go back to normal, we must all remain in our house and only leave the house when it is absolutely necessary so we can reduce the spread of the virus. Like many other countries suffering from the pandemic, we should remain calm and do everything possible to prevent the virus. All this can only be possible if the citizen are well taken care of by the government and are assured of satisfaction of their needs by the government.