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DEPARTMENT: METEOROLOGICAL.

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Assignment

Write a report of not more than 200 pages on the corona virus pandemic and effects of lockdown and the restriction of movement on Nigerians.

Solution.

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND THE RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

Clearly the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) that has started as an epidemic in Wuhan, China in December 2019 has ended up as a pandemic (affecting the whole world) which has thrown the whole world into a war-like situation. Health systems in most countries are overwhelmed by the seriously ill patients in hospitals, many of whom are on ventilators and need in intensive care units (ICU). Global and local economies stand at their worst in decades.

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 salary payment, debt obligations and other projections uncertain.

Two Millions Infections and over a Hundred Thousand Deaths

By the early hours of 12 April 2020, the overall statistics of COVID-19 (coronavirus infections) and associated deaths remain alarming and fearful. The viral infection continued to gain it is now over the 1.8 million mark for all cases in 202 countries and territories across all continents of the world - Asia, North and South America, Europe, Australasia and Africa. The number of deaths related to coronavirus is now [at the time of writing] well over 120,000.

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Overall deaths counts for the COVID-19 pandemic, which it remains unprecedented in modern times. As of 12 April 2020 the United States had become the country with the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases with an incidence of 500,000 cases and more than 22,000 deaths. Italy with about 20,000 deaths from 160,000 cases, Spain with 17,000 deaths from 170,000 cases, France almost 12,000 deaths from 115,000 cases while China had 3,329 deaths from 82,853 cases.

Multiple and different epidemics began simultaneously and in parallel in Africa

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in 32 countries in Africa as of 9 April 2020 is put at 17,266, a very small fraction (0.4%) of the total global total of the virus and second wave occurred in parts of North African countries, Algeria (1666), Egypt (1677), Morocco (1717) and Tunisia (1643). Nigeria on the other hand has a population of 200 million with 222 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10 deaths as of 12 April 2020.

It is pertinent to note that Nigeria's prevailing situation is a case of an infectious pandemic overriding existing recurring and ongoing epidemics especially cholera, danga fever and yellow fever.

EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

1. Decrease in population [increase in death].
2. Hunger strike
3. Poor growth and development.
4. Disruption of academic calendar/programme.
5. Poor economy.

All of these should be considered before the government takes into action when passing the law on lockdown.

In conclusion to the corona virus pandemic (COVID-19), am we opinion about some few things:

A country of the young may just be lucky.

Nigeria has been described as a country of the young with 50 per cent of its population currently under the age of 45 (low). It is ironic to note that the mortality rate numbers of old people, the 70-80-year olds, at the apex of the Nigerian population pyramid, which contrasts with the wide youthful population (0-40 years) at the base could turn out to be a disadvantage in this situation.

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EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENTS

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In conclusion to the corona virus pandemic (COVID 19), am of the opinion about some few things:

• A country of the young may just be lucky

Nigeria has been described as a country of the young with 80 per cent of its population currently under the age of 25 (IOM). It is naive to note that the relatively 100 numbers of old people especially the 70-80 year olds at the apex of the Nigerian population pyramid contrasts with the more youthful population (0-40 years) at the base could turn out to be an advantage in this situation.

About the lockdown, it is in this vein that the leadership of labour must stand out in defence of the workers on the issue of lockdown. However, locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is like asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown. More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been locked down.

A number of workers are compelled to go to work at the moment in spite of the lockdown, some like the health workers on the front line and caregivers at the hospitals although a sense of duty and the imperative nature of their job.

This is the time for unbridled working people's solidarity. Workers in the health sectors must shed the bitterness of the past and build a united front of all workers.