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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.

The Impact of Corona Virus Pandemic On Nigerians

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV), which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It was initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019. On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. 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-ionisation 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 been 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 ('corona' 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.

People who have underlying medical conditions and those over 60 years old have a higher risk of developing severe disease and death. The Symptoms include: fever, tiredness, dry cough, shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat and very few people with diarrhea, nausea or a runny nose. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

LOCKDOWN

As parts of the efforts to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government ordered a lockdown on Lagos, Ogun and the FCT Abuja, for an initial period of two weeks starting 11:59pm, 30 March 2020, now extended by another 2 weeks from 13 April 2020. Many other states are already applying one stay-at-home rule or the other up to state boundaries closure. 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. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a 'no salary during lockdown' stance, or at best a 50 per cent pay cut. Some have even completely laid the workers off. Labour must agitate for full pay for workers, whether private or government employed, for as long as the lockdown lasts.

Nigerian security agents have killed 18 people in their enforcement of measures to curb coronavirus, a figure higher than the documented toll inflicted by the disease, the country's human rights body said. According to Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering, there have been 442 confirmed coronavirus cases and 13 deaths in Nigeria, while 152 people in

the country have recovered after contracting Covid-19. 35 new cases of #COVID19 have been reported as follows: 19 in Lagos, 9 in FCT, 5 in Kano, 2 in Oyo.

On March 23, 2020, security forces fired live ammunition and teargas to disperse members of the Shia Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), who took to the streets in Abuja to protest the detention of their leader Sheik El Zakzaky, who has been detained since 2015. One of the protesters told Human Rights Watch that police officers began shooting live ammunition without any warning as soon as they arrived at the scene and later shot at least three teargas canisters at the crowd. Two people sustained gun injuries, one on the leg and another on the arm, the protester said. A leader of the IMN in Abuja said at least 10 protesters were arrested and are currently in police custody. In his statement this week, the Inspector General of Police rightly warned police officers not to conduct unnecessary arrests and detention of suspects as they work to enforce social distancing. He should also affirm the commitment of the police force to respect human rights by cautioning officers against the use of excessive force and sending a clear message that there will be accountability for any such violation.

The Nigerian government has threatened to close private healthcare centers and hospitals caught secretly treating coronavirus patients. Some wealthy people are ignoring protocol by seeking private care instead of contacting the Centre for Disease Control, it says. Nigeria's health minister said that private facilities must be accredited to treat highly infectious disease. Officials have said the virus has spread in some states because of practitioners who continue to ignore those rules. They also say that secretly treating positive coronavirus cases could be dangerous for health staff and other patients. This is an issue that has been raised a few times during the daily presidential task-force briefings.

PREVENTION

You can protect yourself and help prevent spreading the virus if you:

Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze

Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing

Stay home and self-isolate from others in the household if you feel unwell

Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are unclean

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