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**QUESTION**

Write a report, of no more than two pages on the corona virus pandemic and the effect of restriction of movement and lockdown on Nigerians.

**ANSWER**

The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing worldwide condition which is not showing any signs of wrapping up anytime soon. For this reason, the whole world, or let me say, Nigeria for one, is actively participating in social and physical distancing. It is for this reason that all educational institutions (primary, secondary and tertiary) have been ordered to shut down until further notice. There has also been a lockdown order placed on most states of the country as the cases of the infectious disease increases rapidly every day. Religious venues have also been banned from congregational use till there is an improvement, or better still, a cure to this virus. Of course, as a result of this lockdown, everybody is required to stay at home.

Most Nigerians, however find it difficult to remain in their houses all day, every day. Reports are confirming that despite all the measures put in place to ensure people remain at home, there are still snatches of movement here and there. You cannot blame them; at least 70% of Nigerians are able to get by everyday by their daily hustles. Market sellers and public transport driver especially might probably be the ones to feel this the most, as they cannot save much with what they earn everyday and still having to feed the family. Also, people that work in cafes, restaurants, stores, etc, might also face difficult times during this lockdown.

Furthermore, maybe because of our wandering spirits, Nigerians, especially those that live in very lively cities like Lagos, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Kano and so on are restless. Ever wanting to be on the go, people are bored and want to go back out and jump into the bustling activities of the day. Even students are quite reluctant to continue to stay at home with nothing much to do.

Lastly, and quite surprisingly, it seems like staying at home is even more expensive than not staying. For example now, since the power supply is not a good in certain areas as it should be, fuel for the generator can add extra expenses to the house costs. And now, since it looks like we’ll be at home for a while, the house has to be well stocked so as to reduce the amount of trips outside to get groceries and foodstuffs. Finally, most schools have now converted to virtual classes for the students to keep learning. Any idea how much data I going to be used? Quite a lot if you ask me.

Anyway, I guess it’s not everybody that is going through a rough spell during this ‘quarantine’ period. Mobile networks like MTN and glo must be making quite a fortune. Caterers, a well, and others who do home services like groceries delivery, also have their businesses flourishing, even more than it was before this time.

Now, some adjustments have been made to the law and a curfew of 8pm has been placed and work hours have been set from 9am-3pm. May God have mercy on us, let’s see how this goes for the next six weeks.