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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.

The Corona virus, categorized as a form of MERS viruses. Since its outbreak it has been considered a global pandemic putting the world at a standstill as normal activities of life are forced to come to a halt. Due its outbreak it has affected so many economies worldwide such as that of Nigeria.

The impact of corona in Africa is devastating especially its affects the economy of many African states such as Nigeria, which deals with oil price crash. With lockdown in China, which consumes about 14 per cent of the global crude oil daily, and reduction in major economic activities globally, the price of the commodity went southwards. This has also contributed to conflict between two leading oil distributing countries and reduction of the Nigerian budget benchmark. On March 9, 2020, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were down 22 per cent, last trading at $35.45 per barrel. The crash has been attributed to two major factors – the Coronavirus pandemic and the oil war between Saudi Arabia and Russia. As of the time of filing this report, oil price hovered around $27 per barrel, way below Nigeria’s 2020 budget benchmark of $57 per barrel. All of Nigeria’s 2020 budget indicators: an oil production volume of 2.18 million barrel per day, oil benchmark of $57, N305 exchange rate to the US dollar, GDP growth rate of 2.93 per cent, and inflation rate of 10.81 per cent now are out of reach. The negative economic impacts made by the outbreak of the coronavirus is one that cannot be overemphasized looking as Zambia has accumulated $11.2 billion of foreign debt as its finance ministry contacted banks on March 31 to ask for advice on restructuring. A similar turn out of the in the oil price crash in Nigeria occurred in Angola.

The novel coronavirus is one that has everyone on edge, due to its global spread many African countries have taken vital measures prevent the spread of the virus. Such as lock down of schools, work suspensions; which has led to the indefinite postponement of the WAEC (West African Examination Council) examination, which is to be taken by all credited students in West Africa. Some other measures include: the travel ban of South Africa and Eritrea, Visa ban and border shutdown by South Africa, the declaration of social shutdown by Ghana.

Another prominent impact concerns Africans in diaspora, as Africans in Guangzhou, China are forced to evicted their homes and are not allowed in various public spaces over claims they were importing coronavirus into the city. This has caused a large number of Africans to begin wondering on the street, this immediately caught the attention of the Nigerian government as The Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement saying the country would “provide necessary airlift assistance to stranded Nigerian Nationals abroad who require emergency evacuation.” This has been seen as form of racism which has only sought to damage the relationship between African states and China, which is not much needed in this trailing times.

The virus has also drastically reduced travel between Africa and China with African airlines cancellation of flights. Despite WHO requests to keep flights and borders open, many African countries have joined others around the world in restricting travel from China. These developments and anticipated Chinese economic losses will affect commerce between China and Africa, as well as burgeoning tourism. As Mauritius alone attracts 5,000 Chinese travellers a month.

The consequences of the pandemic stretch far from the economic disruption with numerous nations implementing major political and societal responses. Several local and national elections considering that of Ethiopia, Gambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria have been either postponed or cancelled with a to be determined status regarding future rescheduling.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus SAA (South African Airways) and other airlines have been left vulnerable. The coronavirus pandemic has brought the global aviation industry to its knees, and African carriers are particularly vulnerable as they seek assistance from governments already facing constrained finances. Ethiopian Airlines Group, South African Airways and Kenya Airways are among national airlines staring at mounting losses and the destruction of growth plans put in place before the Covid-19 outbreak. At this point the airlines have no other choice but to have conversations with their various governments about bailouts.

Considering the impacts of the virus on Africans in diaspora mainly the rapid cases of African Americans and Black Americans. As the novel coronavirus sweeps across the United States, it appears to be infecting and killing black Americans at a disproportionately high rate, according to a Washington Post analysis of early data from jurisdictions across the country. A Post analysis of available data and census demographics shows that counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority. This shows that the virus attacks more blacks than whites outside Africa.

Basically the major impact of the coronavirus in Africa is more economical than epidemiological, as it deals with more of containment and prevention of the virus as it is requiring adequate fiscal effort. Considering its economical restraint due to price crash of major resources such as oil as the international market is unstable. Due to African relations with China, with China’s economic growth predicted to stop at least from 6.1 to 5.6 percent as a result of the coronavirus, African economies will also be affected. African countries thus must consider their economic responses as well as their health safeguards.

Reference

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