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**MATRIC NO.:19/MHS01/213**

***CORONAVIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.***

Coronavirus(COVID-19) is a highly transmitted and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome. Coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. The intermediate source of origin and transfer to humans is not known, however, the rapid human to human transfer has been confirmed widely. There is no clinically approved antiviral drug or vaccine available to be used against COVID-19. Symptoms include weakness, headache, high temperature, dry cough, shortness of breath e.t.c.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has advocated that social distancing be observed as a way of protecting ourselves against COVID-19. Other measures put forward by the organisation (WHO) and Government at different levels are the enforcement of stay at home order, regular washing of our hands with soap in running water, wearing of nose masks and the use of hand sanitizers.

The lockdown has affected everybody in different ways but some suffer it severely more than others. The lockdown has denied those who go out everyday to fend for their daily feedings; the ability to do that as humans have been restricted and this greatly affects their day to day activities. It has lead to starvation and has driven some to a life of crime just so that they can have something to eat. The rich are also affected but in a less severe manner, they may have stocked up before the lockdown or may have another source of income that may be run by someone else like a supermarket or a restaurant e.t.c. Nevertheless, we are all affected by this pandemic.

The lockdown has also halted social gatherings like weddings, birthday celebrations, burial ceremonies e.t.c. Religious activities were not also spared as churches and mosques were shut down to curtail the spread of the dreaded disease(COVID-19). Some people have been beaten and greatly injured because of their fragrant disobedience to the stay at home order especially market women. The closure and reduction of production capacity in many establishments has resulted in massive loss of jobs especially in the production sectors where casual staff are being employed.

The Nigerian economy is greatly hit by this pandemic as it has led to the closure of so many industries, government ministries and parastalters, markets and businesses. Major institutions and banks have cut their forecasts for the economy. Meanwhile, fears of the coronavirus impact on the Nigerian economy have rocked market nationwide, with stock prices and bond yields plunging. With the negative micro economic effect on individual household; the macro economic effect which is the aggregate of the impact of the stay at home order on all households within the Nigerian economy is no better i.e the Nigerian economy cannot attain the projected growth rate anticipated in the 2020 appropriation bill.