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QUESTION: THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIA.

World Health Organization’s (WHO) China office had cases of a previously unknown virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China with a population of over 11 million. What started as an epidemic mainly limited to China has now become a truly global pandemic? There have now been over 2,165,500 confirmed cases and 14r5, 705 and counting deaths. The disease appears to have originated from Wuhan seafood market where wild animals, including marmots, birds, rabbits, bats and snakes, are traded illegally.

Coronaviruses are large group of viruses that are known to infect both humans and animals, and humans. The most well- known case of a coronavirus epidemic was Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. China felt the initial burnt of the covid-19 epidemic. At the peak of its outbreak in mid- February, the country saw more than 5,000 cases in a single day. On a day in April, the Chinese health authorities had acknowledged over 83, 7546 cases and 4,636 deaths, since March the country as seen a remarkable slow down, but while things were slowing down in China, the outbreak started picking up on the rest of the world. There are now confirmed cases in at least 200 countries and territories.

Nigeria had the first case of corona virus in the sub-Saharan Africa. The Health authorities are advising people to regularly and thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water, and use alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Nigeria was highly praised for its effort of being able to arrest the Ebola outbreak of 2014 which killed a lot of individuals.

The Nigeria government placed a total lockdown, in all the parts of the country. Many Nigerians have expressed mixed reactions over the decision of President Buhari on the lock down. The majority of the respondent agree that the extension is a good idea to manage the corona virus pandemic.

The Nigerian government gave a warning to close private healthcare centers and hospitals caught secretly treating coronavirus patients.

To enforce the stay-at-home order of the various governments following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic security agents from relevant government agencies with the police as the lead agency have been deployed for this purpose.

The lock down activity has led to a lot of Nigerians complaining about the issue and being blinded to the fact that the government is embarking on the lock down for the good of the country at large. But looking at it from both views that of the common man and that of the government, the common man in Nigeria leave in abstract poverty and this lock down isn’t helping at all, the government isn’t providing food for its citizens as the citizens keep complaining and taken up various un meaningful challenges on the social media to acquire money.

Some policemen were seen in a video that went viral, destroying goods in some parts of the country. The security agents are also taking it too far in their way of enforcing the lockdown, a rumor is said that the masses killed are more than the total number of the masses killed by the virus.

A respected clerics in Kano told the BBC, that he is against the closures of Mosque by the government because in his opinion that won’t help solve the coronavirus problem.

A lot of Nigerians don’t agree to the lock down and feel it is not enough, and even want to include the presence of the richest man in Africa Aliko Dangote who hails from Kano state to step in and help. Many citizens complain about the lock down as they say they have families to feed.

Finally, it has brought confusion to the, government has made a move to manage the virus but fail in the provision of citizens. As complains are placed on the social media every day, students are not left out, as they all await the government words.