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**500LEVEL**

**TOPIC: 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 **COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria** is part of the [worldwide pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic) of [coronavirus disease 2019](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronavirus_disease_2019" \o "Coronavirus disease 2019) (COVID-19) caused by [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome_coronavirus_2) (SARS-CoV-2). The first confirmed case in [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) was announced on 27 February 2020, when an Italian citizen in [Lagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) tested positive for the virus. On 9 March 2020, a second case of the virus was reported in [Ewekoro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewekoro" \o "Ewekoro), [Ogun State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogun_State" \o "Ogun State), a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen.

On 28 January, the [Federal government of Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_Nigeria) assured citizens of the country of its readiness to strengthen surveillance at [five international airports](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_airports_in_Nigeria) in the country to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The government announced the airports as [Enugu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enugu_State), [Lagos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos_State), [Rivers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivers_State), [Kano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_State) and the [FCT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Capital_Territory,_Nigeria). The [Nigeria Centre for Disease Control](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria_Centre_for_Disease_Control) also announced same day that they had already set up coronavirus group and was ready to activate its incident system if any case emerged in Nigeria.

On 31 January, following the [developments of COVID-19 pandemic in mainland China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_mainland_China) and other countries worldwide, the federal government of Nigeria set up a Coronavirus Preparedness Group to mitigate the impact of the virus if it eventually spreads to the country. On the same day, the [World Health Organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization) listed Nigeria among other 13 African countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus.

On 26 February, a [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_people) citizen presented himself to the [Lagos State government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Lagos_State) on suspicion of being infected with coronavirus. He was admitted at [Reddington Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reddington_Hospital" \o "Reddington Hospital) and was released the following day after testing negative.

**In Nigeria, some businesses have reopened on the first working day after the easing of a lockdown imposed on key urban areas in a bid to restart Africa's largest economy.**

But the main doctors' association described the move as "very premature".

In the commercial hub, Lagos, traffic jams were absent, indicating that many were remaining indoors.

Last week, President Muhammadu Buhari said the measures had imposed "a very heavy economic cost".

The lockdown began five weeks ago to contain the spread of coronavirus.

As many in the big cities live a hand-to-mouth existence, the restrictions led to fears that it could leave people hungry as it cut off their means to earn money.

Nigeria is one of several African countries beginning to loosen restrictions. Egypt, Rwanda, South Africa and Tunisia have also relaxed their coronavirus lockdowns.

**What could happen to the economy?**

The country's economy is also predicted to suffer because of a collapse in the oil price. Standard Chartered Bank has forecast that in light of the impact of coronavirus Nigeria's economy will only grow by 0.2% this year, it previously forecasted 2.5% growth.

In Lagos, as well as the absence of the city's notorious traffic jams, there are also fewer of the city's famous yellow public buses plying their routes.

The bus stops, which are normally bustling with commuters, had a few stranded passengers, who then tried to cram on to any vehicles that stopped.

The lockdown, imposed on 30 March in Lagos, neighbouring Ogun state and the capital, Abuja, meant that many businesses were closed as people were required to stay indoors, except for essential journeys. Markets were allowed to stay open for limited hours.

Restrictions, which were imposed later, have also been eased in Kano state in the north, where [**an investigation is under way into reports of mass deaths.**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-52454259)

Supermarkets and some fruit and vegetable markets are allowed to open from 10:00 to 16:00 on Mondays and Thursdays to allow people to buy food and other basic necessities, according to a government statement.