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### Coronavirus, Lockdown, and their Effects on the People of Nigeria

There is a one-hundred per cent chance that you are reading this report from the comfort of your home. Not necessarily by choice, but because of the lockdown and restrictions on movement placed on the people in key cities in Nigeria. As of writing this report, the government had recently doubled the initial duration of the lockdown from two weeks to four weeks. Every news outlet, website and social media service has been flooded with Coronavirus “coverage” (even though three-quarters of it is made up of half-baked conspiracy theories). It seems as though it’s the only topic that has been able to dethrone Donald Trump as the 24/7 news king. So, in this report, I will tell you about some of the less obvious effects of the lockdown.

I won’t waste your time telling you what you already know in that case - those NCDC text messages have taken care of that aspect. I also won’t tell you that people are dying and people are extremely sick because it is impossible to not see what’s already happening around us. Every person is affected by this lockdown - some negatively, some positively, and others, a little bit of both. The negative effects of the lockdown are more obvious than the latter. So many people in the workforce (especially people who earn low salaries or day-to-day wages) are having an extremely tough time. Market workers no longer have customers to buy their products, “roadside chefs” no longer have people stuck in traffic to sell to, and worst of all, the people who

were already suffering from extreme poverty on the streets no longer have **any** If you look away from the TV for a second, you will start to notice all the good things income, nor safe accommodation, nor any healthcare. Due to desperation, hunger, and anger, some people resort to crime. There has been a rising number of armed robberies. For people who aren't having money issues per se, the lockdown still causes lots of inconveniences. One can no longer simply go to the market to buy some apples when they run out, or go meet up with friends to hang out. Working from home has also been a huge shift which most Nigerian businesses were not ready for. Some absorbed the impact well and maintained efficiency, while others simply did not have the infrastructure in place to make that smooth transition. Most, if not all schools have also shut down too, and the regular flow of the semesters have been interrupted. Depressing, isn't it? Well, to every sad story, there's a positive. Personally, staying at home has brought out so much creativity in me! When you feel bored for a long time, your brain will take initiative and come up with silly or even genius connections in your head which could lead to some funny or brilliant ideas. The lockdown also gives us enough time to take care of all the little things we've been putting aside or claiming we don't have time to do. Like rearranging your room, learning a new skill or learning to cook. The fact that the entire earth is affected by this virus also brings us together in an odd way. When you can relate with a person, it becomes way easier to understand them and form stronger bonds.

In conclusion, there are a lot of terrible things that are still happening around us. In the midst of all the death, suffering, crime, and uncertainty, there is still something to look forward to every morning. Let us make the most out of the situation we're in. Pick up a book, look at the sunset, learn a new recipe and just be present.

