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**EFFECTS OF THE CORONA VIRUS LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIAN CITIZENS**

The COVID-19 pandemic is gaining ground in Nigeria. For the first time ever, millions of Nigerians are having an encounter of the first kind with a pandemic.

Saturday Vanguard findings reveal that the single digit number of cases recorded in the country may not be a true reflection of the situation. Available projections and modelings indicate that there could possibly be hundreds if not thousands of cases undetected in the country.

Projections by the WHO is that there are hundreds of cases in Nigeria currently based on prediction models and analyses that take into consideration the population, trends of other infectious diseases among other parameters.

People are beginning to refrain from gatherings, weddings, birthday parties, and other ceremonies are being shunned. All non-essential forms of travel are being shelved. Many Nigerians are fully aware that there is no medication to treat corona virus, and are taking no chances as a result.

Health watchers opine that Nigeria has shown remarkable level of preparedness since the onset of the Corona virus pandemic even with just 12 cases confirmed to date.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, is relying strongly on experience of the 2014 Ebola outbreak to continuously respond to health threats. There are 23 Public Health Emergency Operations Centers, PHEOCs nationwide, They serve as an epidemic intelligent hub for effective communication and efficient resource management during outbreaks.

But majorly, **The fall in household consumption** in Nigeria will stem from:

1. Partial (or full) restrictions on movement, thus causing consumers to spend primarily on essential goods and services;
2. Low expectations of future income, particularly by workers in the gig economy that are engaged on a short-term/contract basis, as well as the working poor in the informal economy; and
3. The erosion of wealth and expected wealth as a result of the decline in assets such as stocks and home equity.

The federal government has imposed a lockdown in Lagos and Ogun states as well as Abuja (which have the highest number of corona virus cases combined). Sub-national governments have quickly followed suit by imposing lockdowns in their states. Nigeria has a burgeoning gig economy as well as a large informal sector, which contributes [65 percent of its economic output](https://www.imf.org/~/media/Files/Publications/WP/2017/wp17156.ashx). Movement restrictions have not only reduced the consumption of nonessential commodities in general, but have affected the income-generating capacity of these groups, thus reducing their consumption expenditure.