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**TOPIC; EFFECTS OF LOCKDOWN IN NIGERIA AND THE RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS.**

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As we all know, the recent corona virus pandemic has caused numerous states all around the world to go into a state of panic and government orders have been passed in a lot of states for every citizen to remain quarantined. Basically, no citizen is allowed to be in large gatherings, attend or hold events and not allowed to leave their respective houses unless it is completely necessary.

In Nigeria, this has inevitably caused a good amount of problems in the country. Nigeria is one of the many countries to shut down economic activities to prevent the rapid spread of the corona virus. Lagos State went on an immediate lockdown after the government noticed the rapid increase of the cases there. Being the country’s major economic centre as well as its financial capital, a lot of breadwinners of numerous families have lost access to their source of income. Although the extended quarantine in Nigeria is strictly for preventive reasons, the economic impact on the millions of Nigerians who rely on daily wages, particularly in Lagos, has hit residents hard. The shutdown only exempts critical workers including those selling food, water and medicine, but has left many without money to buy food and other essentials. This has led to armed robberies, residents starting fires and riots in numerous neighbourhoods.

The restriction of movement has also caused restlessness and panic amongst citizens. Business owners are worried about the state of their businesses after the pandemic, employees are concerned about their salaries and how they will make money, students are worried about their final exams and chaos levels are rising. Also, some governments are not keeping their residents updated with the current and actual happenings of COVID-19. Leading the people to be ignorant about the usefulness and benefits of the quarantine. Some citizens are even still throwing parties and hosting events, knowing fully well that large gatherings are highly prohibited and a safety hazard.

As chaotic as this all may seem, we can control most of the uprising issues. Earlier in the week, police officers announced that they will be deploying additional units to Lagos and Ogun to tackle the unrest and crime stemming directly from the lockdowns. Also Nigerian entrepreneurs such as Mike Adenuga and Tony Elumelu have donated large sums of money to assist a comprehensive pan-African response to fight the pandemic. Governments should also push to provide a stipend to self-employed citizens whose daily incomes would be interrupted. Business owners should also push to pay their employees their monthly salary while the government should strive to keep their residents well informed on the severity of the pandemic and the benefits of complying with the rules of the quarantine.