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*CORONAVIRUS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENTS ON
NIGERIANS*

The CORONA VIRUS also known as COVID-19 is a pandemic virus also announced by the ICTV as 'severe acute respiratory syndrome'. This virus is a zoonotic disease which could be transmitted between both animals and people. People of all ages can get infected by this corona virus and people with existing health conditions and the elderly are especially prone to the disease. The index case of the COVID- 19 in Nigeria was recorded on the 27th of February 2020 in Lagos State. As at 10:30 pm on Monday 20th April, there have been 627 recorded cases, 170 recovered cases and 22 deaths from the virus. The lockdown, careful safety practices, cessation of movement, social distancing and prohibition of mass gatherings I must say are the most efficient and effective methods of controlling the spread of the COVID- 19. This of course has led to the pronouncements of a lockdown and restriction of movements in some states in Nigeria. The lockdown has had adverse effects on the nation regardless of the fact that it has been helpful. The crime rate in the country is seemingly increasing with people facing economic backlashes.

Firstly, due to the lockdown a lot of people are unable to go by their daily activities that provide money for them and their families. To illustrate this further, I'll be staging an instance of a common low class family. This family has a mother, her husband, two sons and a daughter. The father is a bike rider and gets money to pay the family bills such as rent, electricity, education for his children and so on. The mother sells cooked meals on the roadside to get money for food for her family, kerosene, to mention a few. Now this lockdown affects both parties, they are both unable to go by the daily activities that provide funds for their family, the government is also not helping as they have not yet implemented any funding actions to the citizens. We are humans and we have needs, and topping the list is the need to eat, when the mother can't get money to buy food as her business is presently on hold and same as the father. Now one of their sons hangs out with a couple of his street friends a mixture of good and bad, somehow they come up with the idea of robbing the other houses on the street and other streets to get money or maybe food, this boy thinks of the situation of things in his family with a spice of influence and decides to join them. Now this is the situation in a lot of Nigerian families, of course some decide against it there'll still be those that agree to the idea.

This has resulted in the skyrocketing crime rates and these people don't know how wrong they're going about the situation, they end up depriving, raping, killing, injuring common low class and to an extent middle class citizens like themselves. One day I was reading the news as too the many conditions the federal government is giving concerning the funds they want to

distribute and I was highly disheartened. I thought to myself and said at this rate, not to sound pessimistic or anything but a larger population will lose their lives to hunger and not even the pandemic were facing in the country and the world at large.

Furthermore, people are facing financial and economic hardship because of these restrictions. Regardless of the fact that this lockdown is aimed at controlling the spread of this virus, I think the lockdown should have a human face; enabling people to have access to vital needs and relief for people that can no longer earn a living, Nigeria is a developing country and a majority of the population is made up of daily earners living below the poverty line. I believe that as the nation observes this 14- day lockdown, the rights of the citizens should be respected and protected. It is of no doubts that the restriction of movements and social gatherings have gone a long way in controlling the spread of the virus, it should also be noted that as a result of these restrictions, individuals are also on the receiving sides of the effects.

I pray and believe that this too will pass, and that we will soon reach the end of this pandemic as a nation and as a world by the grace of God. God bless Nigeria.