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REPORT TITLE: Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians

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The corona virus is an infectious disease that has just been newly discovered according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The corona virus also known as COVID-19 is one that affects the respiratory system of the host and can cause illnesses such as common cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory syndrome (MERS). In December 2019, corona virus was identified as a cause of a disease outbreak in Wuhan, China. As of April 13th 2020, over 210 countries and territories of the world have reported cases of the COVID-19, with over 2 million confirmed cases and at least 142,000 deaths according to WHO. No vaccine or cure has been made yet.

Due to this pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has emphasized the importance of hygiene, social distancing, self-isolation and most importantly staying at home in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Most countries of the world have adapted these rules and have declared total lockdown of states where the virus has affected many people. Businesses, organizations, educational institutions and religious gatherings have been ordered by WHO to put a halt to their activities to curb spread of the virus.

Nigeria as our case study, discovered its first case in Lagos on the 27th of January 2020 from an Italian man according to WHO.As of then, the virus has not

spread as it is now because the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)s immediately took actions to trace contact of infected person and treat them accordingly. A month later, the virus began to spread more rapidly because the government refused to close borders to severely infected countries (USA, UK and the likes) so people coming from those countries brought in the virus and began to spread to other states. The Federal government of Nigeria ordered total lockdown of states with the virus (Lagos, Abuja and Ogun) on the 29th of March 2020 for 14 days after 131 confirmed cases across Nigeria and extended the lockdown for another 14 days on the 13th of April when the confirmed case doubled and spread across 20 states out of 36 states according to Channels News.

The lockdown which started on the 29th of March for 28 days has caused commotion among Nigerians as schools, organizations, markets, companies, religious homes, businesses have been ordered to stop their activities indefinitely. Students are frustrated as online school has been an alternative to learning which is difficult for so many to concentrate. I interviewed a student in University about his view on online lectures and he said, "online school is preventing me from really concentrating and I can't even understand some concept well if I can't see the lecturer one on one. Final year students of all levels of education are depressed as they do not know when they would take their final examination. People now work from home and according to reports online, is more frustrating that working in the office. Retailers and Hawkers are complaining bitterly of how they have nothing to eat because on a normal day they sell to get money to eat that day. Stealing and robbing of food items and houses respectively are now very rampant. In Lagos, mainland residents are finding it difficult to sleep because they want to protect themselves from thieves. Nigerians are scared of recession after the lockdown due to the fact people are not working and spending the little, they have on buying food items." The thought of the economy seriously being affected is scaring businesses and organizations, "said the owner of Jetlink company, Lagos. The cost of basic food commodities has increased drastically during these few weeks due to transportation of the goods. Some Nigerians still do not believe that there is corona virus in Nigeria and still move around freely. Some people who have the virus have refused to call the NCDC for help because they are scared of stigmatization and infect other people. Some Nigerians find this as an

opportunity for them to rest and explore themselves, talent, spend time more with their family as the good side of the lockdown due to corona virus pandemic.

The good of this pandemic apart from the social aspect is on pollution. On the 28th of March, CNN news reported the decrease on the amount of harmful gases in the atmosphere. Researchers in New York told BBC news about how carbon monoxide has decreased by 50% compared to the previous year. People staying at home, factories closed and schools not running at the moment has really helped the earth to recover. All the countries of the world are enjoying this benefit including Nigeria.

In conclusion, the earlier people adhere strictly to the laid down rules of WHO and NCDC, the earlier we get over this pandemic and move on with our normal life and the effect of this pandemic may change a lot of things when it is all over.