



FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK



COVID-19: THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Dear Esteemed Member,

It is my pleasure to reach out to you once again at this point in time. I do sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are in high spirits and keeping safe. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our world, health wise, socially and economically. According to reports from the World Health Organisation (WHO), as at Tuesday, July 7, 2020, a total of **11,748,985** individuals have been infected with **540,860** fatalities recorded across the globe. In Nigeria, a total of **29,286** individuals have been infected while **654** deaths have been recorded according to information released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). These figures indicate that the virus is real and that the pandemic is not over yet.

As we enter the second phase of ease of lock-down, where interstate travels are permitted, more businesses opening and others such as airlines, graduating classes of schools, etc. are preparing to open, there is a need for us to exercise utmost restraint and caution as we go about our daily activities. It is essential that we continue to take preventive measures as prescribed by relevant authorities in order to stay safe and curtail the spread of the virus. As Professionals, it behooves on us to educate the people around us about the reality of the pandemic and the need for our people to take precautionary measures, bearing in mind that the virus is an invisible enemy, deadly and unaware of borders, tribe or status.

This pandemic has completely changed the way we live and work. As such, it is imperative for us as individuals and organisations to make structural adjustments. This is the time to act and we must act fast, lest we are left behind. We just must align with the new normal.

The new normal has triggered an increased adoption of the digital platforms for e-commerce, entertainment, education, socials and even religious activities. Unfortunately, it has been observed that cybercrime and internet fraud has increased exponentially at this period for obvious reasons. To this end, I admonish us all to be extra vigilant and careful as we go about our business on the digital landscape. Please be mindful of the sites that you visit, links that you click, messages that you respond to, offers that you subscribe to as well as your Social Media footprints. Our watch word at this time should be **"Think before you click"**.

Esteemed Members, permit me to mention that your Institute has been advancing through adversity, taking on new uncharted territories and scaling new heights, even during this pandemic. You will recall that we had our 2020 Elections and AGM virtually during the total lockdown. We also had the Presidential Valedictory Address of the 20th President/Chairman of Council, Uche Messiah Olowu, Ph.D, FCIB as well as the Investiture of the 21st President/Chairman of Council, Mr. Bayo Olugbemi, FCIB in the month of May 2020 on a virtual platform. Interestingly, the CIBN Advocacy Dialogue Series debuted during this period and we have witnessed two Webinar Sessions in a row. The 2020-2022 Governing Council was inaugurated virtually, while the Council had its inaugural meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020 again via the digital platform. The joint inauguration of the 2020-2022 Council Committees is set to hold on Thursday, July 23, 2020 also virtually.

The Branches of the Institute both local and international are not left out of the movement as Canada, Lagos, APWB, Ogun and Kano branches have organized various high impact programmes pulling the lever of technology. I'm aware that other branches are also bracing up to host similar impactful programmes.

I must not fail to mention that the Institute is currently running a 50% discount on Membership Registration and Exemptions, this offer will be available till August 31, 2020. Furthermore, the 2020 CIBN Graduates Induction and Prize Awards Day has been scheduled to hold Virtually on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 11:00am, while the Banking Professional Examinations will hold in the month of October tentatively October 6-8, 2020. The city of Abuja will host the 13th Annual Banking and Finance Conference from September 15-16, 2020. I look forward to meeting you at these programmes.

As I conclude, my heart reaches out to all the families and businesses that have been adversely affected by COVID-19, please be assured that our thoughts and prayers from the Institute are constantly with you at this challenging time. Let us keep hope alive and remember that **"This too shall pass"**

I encourage you to stay connected with us through our website and social media handles so you can take maximum advantage of the packages we have for you at this period.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regards.

God bless and please stay safe.

Yours sincerely

'Seye Awojobi, FCIB
Registrar/Chief Executive CIBN and
Chairman, AAIQB

