



THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF NIGERIA

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FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK



COVID-19: A POTPOURRI OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Esteemed Members and Stakeholders,

It gives me a great pleasure to reach out to you as I have been thinking about you. I do sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are well and keeping safe.

No doubt the COVID-19 pandemic which began as a health crisis has degenerated into an existential crisis, as the pandemic has taken its toll on our socio-economic life. My heart goes out to all the affected families and businesses that have been impacted by what is currently going on in the world.

As we all know, the pandemic has compelled many governments across the nations of the earth, to lock down their populations to a degree unimaginable, halting socio-economic activities as a means of stemming the spread of the killer virus. Whilst the lock down strategy seems to be working, slowing number of new infections and deaths, it will probably cause the most brutal recession in living memory, worse than the great depression of 1929-1930.

I am however persuaded by the fact that *"though times never last but tough people do"*. We are in a fight of our life; we are in it together and we will surely come out stronger.

Let us recognise that Corona Virus is a public enemy that does not respect borders, race, colour, religion or social class. Evidence abound that this virus cannot move by itself, it is human behaviour that helps spread the virus. Therefore, let us observe all the health and safety protocols put out there by the health authorities. Let's be mindful of the social distancing guidelines and wear our face masks. The new order is *I protect you; you protect me*. Remember, none of us is safe until all of us are safe.

May I encourage that we explore this crisis to our advantage. The word crisis when written in Chinese Language is composed of two characters; one represents danger and the other represents opportunity. We are currently faced with a potpourri of challenges and opportunities. Rather than focus on the danger or challenges, let us focus on the opportunities. In management parlance, it is often said that it is abnormal for everything to be normal. This is the time for us to rethink our lives, it is the time to rethink our business models.

Change is the only permanent thing in life. Rather than being afraid or fearful, change should be our mindset. In the words of Myles Munroe, *"refusing to change is the energy of fools and those who refuse to change remain in chains"*. The quicker we align with our current realities and adjust to the new normal, the better for us. Let us take a cue from the eagles. Eagles love the storm. They get excited when storm clouds gather, knowing fully well that the storm winds will lift them above the clouds. Above the clouds, they can rest their wings and become stronger. So, let's get excited about the COVID-19 storms. Challenges bring opportunities. We could see the opportunities, wrapped in our challenges if we aren't so busy, complaining and trying to avoid them.

As I conclude, 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 be a beacon of light and positivity to others around us at this challenging time.

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 time, as they unfold.

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, AAIOB

