

PANELIST REMARKS AT THE COREN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES 2020

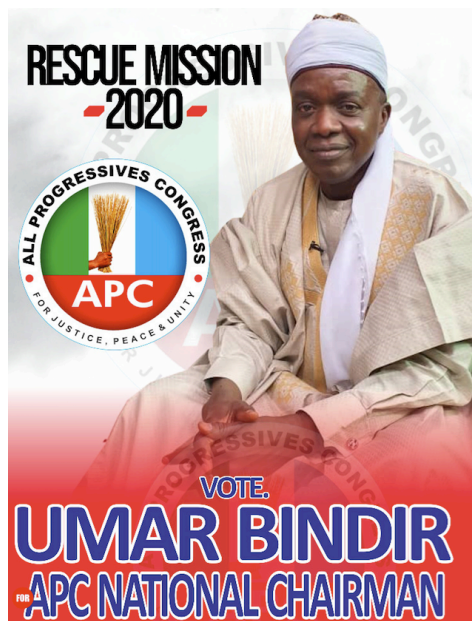
MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020

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# INTRO

- **AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (1+2)**
- **ACADEMIC (TEACH & RESEARCH)**
- **FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANT**
- **PUBLIC SERVANT**
- **POLITICAL APPOINTEE**  
– *REALITIES FOR ENGINEERS*



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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE - COREN

- **ACADEMIA** – Teaching and Research
- **MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY** – Producing things
- **CONSULTANCY SERVICES** – Professional services
- **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** - Construction
- **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD** – Farms and Foods
- **etc**

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**FOR MOST NIGERIANS > 70% RURAL**  
**(PRE-COVID ENGINEERING PRACTICE)**

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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

- **Wide housing Gap**
- Weak Social Amenities
- Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity
- Unemployment
- Weak Physical Infrastructure
- Insecurity and Unsafety
- High Absolute Poverty
- etc

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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

- Wide housing Gap
- **Weak Social Solutions**
- Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity
- Unemployment
- Weak Physical Infrastructure
- Insecurity and Unsafety
- High Absolute Poverty
- etc

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## BASIC EDUCATION



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## WATER SUPPLY



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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

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- Wide housing Gap
- Weak Social Amenities
- **Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity**
- Unemployment
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- etc

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## TOOLS OF TRADE



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## AGRIC PRODUCTION



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## STAPLE FOOD



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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

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- **Unemployment**
- Weak Physical Infrastructure
- Insecurity and Unsafety
- High Absolute Poverty
- etc

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**CHALLENGES OF YOUTH UNDER EMPLOYMENT**

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**ENTREPRENEURSHIP EFFORTS**



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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

- Wide housing Gap
- Weak Social Amenities
- Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity
- Unemployment
- **Weak Physical Infrastructure**
- Insecurity and Unsafety
- High Absolute Poverty
- etc

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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

- Wide housing Gap
- Weak Social Amenities
- Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity
- Unemployment
- Weak Physical Infrastructure
- **Insecurity and Unsafety**
- High Absolute Poverty
- etc

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## BEFORE CORONA & COVID - 19

### ENGINEERING PRACTICE & VISIBILITY

- Wide housing Gap
- Weak Social Amenities
- Weak Agriculture and Food Insecurity
- Unemployment
- Weak Physical Infrastructure
- Insecurity and Unsafety
- **High Absolute Poverty (over 60% in abject)**
- etc

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**SO IT IS LIKE NIGERIANS ARE USED TO PANDEMICS INCLUDING THEIR ENGINEERS**

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## THE HISTORY OF THE PANDEMICS

- Antonine Plague of 165 AD, 5m died
- Plague Of Justinian of 541 to 542 AD, 25m died
- The Flu Pandemic of 1918 to 1920 AD, 17 – 50m died
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Plague of 1855 of Killed 10m Indians
- The Black Death of 1346 to 1353 killed 75 – 200m
- HIV AIDS of 2005 – 2012 killed 36m (in 7 years)
- Corona of 2019 – 2020
  - Outbreak first identified in December 2019
  - Novel!
  - Declared Pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020
  - On going, already killed many and disrupted “normalcy”

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## THE LOCK DOWN

- NO LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
- NO LOCAL MOVEMENTS
- NO OFFICE, SHOP, MARKET OR SCHOOL
- NO MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES
- NO MOSQUES AND CHURCHES
- STAY AT HOME

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## ADVENT OF CORONA & COVID - 19

### COVID - 19 IN NIGERIA

- “Exciting” but Scary Basic Information
- Initial Directives (Many, Daily)
- Initial Shockers and Impacts
- Initial Preparations on the Essentials
- Gradual System Slow Down
- The Lock Down

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## DIRECTIVES AND INITIAL RESPONES

- FOLLOW AND OBEY GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES
  - We are not really good at this
- AVOID CROWDS AND CROWDING
  - Our whole culture is to crowd up and make noise
- WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER
  - Regularly? Just like that? Give me Soap and Water!
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, RUBBING YOUR EYES OR NOSE OR MOUTH
  - How?

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## DIRECTIVES...

- **KEEP A DISTANCE OF OVER ONE METER**
  - In this rush and culture of survival of the fittest?
- **COUGH AND SNEEZE INTO A TISSUE OR HANDKERCHIEF OR INTO YOUR BENT ELBOW**
  - Give us tissue and Handkerchief...
- **DEFIANCE EVERY WHERE!!!**

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## ENGINEERING PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

- **ACADEMIA**
  - SCHOOLS ARE “CLOSED”
- **MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**
  - FACTORIES ARE “CLOSED”
- **CONSULTANCY SERVICES**
  - OFFICES ARE “CLOSED”
- **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - CONSTRUCTION “STOPPED”
- **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
  - FARMS ARE “CLOSED”

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## DIRECTIVES...

- **IF YOU HAVE:**
  - SYMPTOMS OR KNOW SOMEONE EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS, REPORT TO THE NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITY
  - RECENTLY BEING IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS HAVING COVID-19, REPORT TO THE NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
  - RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN ENDEMIC COUNTRY OR PLACE, SELF-ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS
- **REMAIN POSITIVE AND UPBEAT**

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## COVID – 19 NIGERIA (AS AT TODAY MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020)

- **POPULATION – OVER 200 MILLION**
- **SAMPLES TESTED – 181,248**
- **CONFIRMED CASES – 32,558**
- **ACTIVE CASES - 18,371**
- **DISCHARGED CASES – 13,447**
- **DEATHS – 740**
- **THESE MAY LOOK ENCOURAGING BUT...**
  - **SAMPLES TESTED – 181,248 (0.09%) – SCARY!!!**

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**SCARY RATES!!!**

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## THE NEW REALITY

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ES 2020

## HEALTH, SAFETY & THE ECONOMY

- **HEALTH AND SAFETY**
  - FOLLOW DIRECTIVES RELIGIOUSLY
  - MASSIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION
- **THE ECONOMY**
  - SOCIAL HEAT UP
  - GRADUAL OPENING
  - COMMUNITY, LOCAL, INTERSTATE
  - LOCAL AIR TRAVEL
  - INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (**SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS**)

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### TECHNICAL INITIATIVES

(TO MINIMISE IMPACTS – **HEALTH FIRST**)

- **ACADEMIA**
  - VIRTUAL (ICT, NEW METHODS)
- **MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**
  - ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS
- **CONSULTANCY SERVICES**
  - NO TRAVEL, NO MEETINGS, VIRTUAL
- **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS
- **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
  - ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGINEERING PRACTICE (YES CORONA IS BAD, BUT...)

### WOKEN US UP FROM OUR PROFESSIONAL SLUMBER

- COPY, CUT AND PASTE – NOT SUSTAINABLE
- SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST – GLOBALLY
- INNOVATIVE ACADEMIA AT ALL LEVELS
  - NASRDA, NIGCOMMSAT, GALAXY BACKBONE, M-ONE, GLO, MTN etc
- MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
  - REGULAR TRAINING, HEALTHY WORKERS, COMPUTING & AI etc
- CONSULTANCY SERVICES
  - ZOOM, VIRTUAL MEETINGS, DATA MANAGEMENT, IT etc

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGINEERING PRACTICE (YES CORONA IS BAD, BUT...)

### WOKEN US UP FROM OUR PROFESSIONAL SLUMBER...

- PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
  - REGULAR TRAINING, DELIBERATE SAFETY, ICT, AI, JIT etc
- AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
  - INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE, MECHANISATION, IMPROVED INPUTS, VALUE CHAIN ADOPTION, INNOVATIVE MARKETING etc
- **AND COREN HAS TO REFORM AND ADJUST**

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## POST CORONA & COVID - 19

- I THINK WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD UP OUR PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE TO PRACTICE IN REAL TIME
- BUT STILL STAY SAFE
- ONLY GOD KNOWS WHEN ....
- THIS COVID – 19 WILL BE OVER

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