

**CORONA VIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC: MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DR. OSAHON  
ENABULELE**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

Our caring Physicians, other health workers, and all citizens of the Commonwealth,

I am Dr. Osahon Enabulele, the President of the Commonwealth Medical Association, the umbrella organization for all National Medical Associations and Physicians in the 54 countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

I and my team bring you warm fraternal greetings on behalf of the Association on this first day of April, 2020, and the beginning of the fourth month of the global challenge of Covid-19.

Like many times in history, humanity is again being challenged by a fast-spreading and evolving disease. In recent history, the world was confronted and it defeated several epidemics, including Swine Flu, Bird Flu, SARS, MERS, Marburg, and Ebola. It is about to tally eliminate others like Polio and Zika.

That Coronavirus disease is coming in this second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, poses a great challenge to global 'interconnectedness', and the surge of human industry, scientific and technical endeavours. It challenges our way of life, health, well-being and prosperity. The strict divide between advocates of 'Big' or 'Small' Government that has polarized the world for centuries has disappeared as governments are compelled to assemble palliatives to save their population from permanent health, social and economic ruin.

As at the end of March, 2020, over 40 Commonwealth member nations have had confirmed cases of Covid-19. It is our earnest prayers that more countries are not affected. Tragically, many of our citizens have died (**CMA wishes that their souls rest in perfect peace**) and many lie stricken (**CMA wishes them excellent and speedy recovery**). Yet, it may get worse, before it gets better, particularly if we do nothing to strengthen and amplify all inclusive strategic interventions, in accordance with scientific and professional advice.

Esteemed colleagues, other health workers and citizens of the Commonwealth, how are you coping at this time of the great global challenge caused by Covid-19 Pandemic?

I assure you that the Commonwealth Medical Association deeply appreciates your sacrifices, sustained commitment to duty, and provision of quality care, despite some resource challenges and inadequacies, including inadequate/lack of personal protection and incentives.

The CMA has conducted site visitations to some hot spots, and is truly proud to have found that our members, in teams with other health workers, from village clinics to district hospitals and tertiary hospitals, are demonstrating exemplary commitment to fighting this health war.

We appreciate the efforts of National Medical Associations in the Commonwealth, The WHO, The Commonwealth Secretariat, and the governments of the various countries, in strongly confronting this crippling global health challenge.

The daunting challenges notwithstanding, the progress so far made, particularly in China, demonstrates that Covid-19 can be defeated if there is sustained strong political will and commitment, backed with strong health institutional frameworks, citizen participation, and strict adherence to defined promotive, preventive and clinical care protocols.

We therefore call on National Medical Associations in the Commonwealth to adopt proactive and pragmatic strategic approaches and sustain their efforts and partnerships with governments, the private sector, and all other stakeholders, to bring an end to this pandemic.

We call on Governments to urgently improve on their political will and commitments, and deploy adequate and appropriate resources, including protective equipment (PPEs) and incentives for Physicians and other health workers in the frontline.

Everybody is called upon to see this as a patriotic duty; with heightening of positive orientation, level of awareness and participation in the efforts to defeat COVID-19.

The CMA is convinced that this global commitment must remain a **‘one for all, and all for one’** fight against Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

The CMA reaffirms its commitment to fight along with WHO, governments, the private sector and the global community, to check the escalation of the virus and bring back those on the brink, through effective treatment, care, and support, as well as the deployment of our resources, including the CMA e-Varsity.

**Ensure you strictly adhere to the public health preventive measures issued by WHO and your country’s health authorities.**

Let’s remain globally connected and united in this historic struggle to conquer Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Thank you and God bless.



**Dr. Osahon Enabulele**, M.B.B.S, MHPM, FWACP.

**President, Commonwealth Medical Association.**

Whatsapp: +2348023349423. Email: osahoncmavp@gmail.com