



Speech by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited at the Launch of CACOVID Food Relief Programme in Abuja, FCT on Monday, 11 October 2020

Protocol:

- I welcome you on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of First Bank of Nigeria Limited.
- I thank the Honourable Minister and our numerous partners at CACOVID for yet another opportunity to impact the citizenry, as we forge ahead nationwide in spite of the challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I am, therefore, proud that our Bank is a frontline partner in the extensive measures that the Federal Government-led Public and Private Sector partnership has taken to treat the sick and to stop the spread of the Coronavirus menace in our nation, as well as provide the much-needed palliatives to the populace.
- As always, we cannot thank our medical practitioners enough (the very caring and untiring doctors, nurses and other health practitioners), as well as other professionals working at the frontlines in this war against the COVID-19 pandemic. You are our heroes and we are forever grateful.
- In addition to the provision of isolation and treatment centres established across the country, the CACOVID partnership has provided medical items for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, to aid the work of our health practitioners.
- Today, we are flagging off the CACOVID National Food Relief Programme in Abuja, FCT, being part of the collaborative work with the Federal and State Governments' to effectively tackle the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on all fronts - support to laboratory services and case management such as testing supplies, Laboratory systems, and Isolation Centres, and direct socio-economic support.
- Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to note that this food relief programme is a national intervention that is benefiting the poor and those most vulnerable in our communities. This has been carefully planned to reach 1,666,667 households of the Nigerian population (representing an estimated 5% of the total population or 10 million people), across all 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria with the State Governor and your Excellency, Honourable Minister as champions of this initiative in each state and the FCT respectively.

- As always, we at FirstBank will remain steadfast, showing up for all Nigerians.
- Despite the pandemic, we are working tirelessly to ensure that your banking transactions continue seamlessly on our alternative channels; COVID-19 will neither slow us down nor stop us.
- I urge all Nigerians to strictly obey the Government directives and to also observe all established safety, health and well-being protocols. Together we will stamp out the Corona virus from Nigeria.
- At FirstBank we are holding up our side; and now more than ever we will uphold our promise to you to be here for you and put You First.
- Together, we will overcome this too.
- Please keep safe and keep Nigeria safe as we flatten the curve permanently.

Thank you.

Dr Adesola Adeduntan
Chief Executive Officer
First Bank of Nigeria Limited