

MRA/IofC Nigeria COVID-19 Palliatives

The Pandemic, the Call to Action.

The corona virus (COVID 19) has come to test the true **sense of responsibility** of societies, governments, organizations, communities and individuals towards humanity. Like many other organizations, Moral Re-Armament/Initiative of Change, Nigeria was faced with the challenges of cancelling planned programs and events following the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaration of COVID 19 as a global pandemic. This was followed by the announcement of a total lockdown order on human and business activities by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Foreseeing the huge impact of such lockdown, the Council of Management of MRA/IofC Nigeria actioned strategies (palliatives) to help reach out to members and non-members to ameliorate the burdens of fending for themselves and their families while staying at home, giving our country's economic peculiarity.

MRA Covid-19 Palliatives – Phase I

The Council of Management of MRA/IofC Nigeria in the phase 1 proactively approved reward palliatives to active and consistent members before the lockdown. This gesture started on 23rd March, 2020 on the members platform with funds transfer to members, covering about 43 households carefully selected after assessing their attendance at programs. The gesture was happily received by members and here are a few testimonies from the numerous appreciations sent in by members.

Good afternoon house, God bless MRA Council of Mgmt/Admin. for this humane gesture. May things of joy not depart from each and everyone of you In Jesus Name Amen. Thanks. – Mrs M. Nwosu

Ok, I am speechless. So I got this anonymous alert and I know One Family that like to do things like that. Frankly, the gesture alone is one in a million. Imagine if MRA was Nigeria! I'm sure you get the picture. Thank you family for this generous support in these times. God bless MRA. – Stephen Eruoto Patrick.

Delighted is my feeling right now. Also got a credit alert from a sender I couldn't identify. I must say that MRA is doing really well. To have remembered to help in these trying times is proof that as an organization it's not just about talking the talk but doing the talk. I am really grateful to the management and I pray God will keep us all and see us through these times. None of us and our families will be missing at the end of it all.. God bless IOFC NIGERIA..Nwose uchechukwu Moses

MRA Covid-19 Palliatives – Phase II

In the 4th week of the lockdown, news of rampaging robbery gang terrorizing people and operating in the border areas of Ogun (a neighboring state to Lagos) and Lagos States worsened the fear and panic resulting from the poor state of insecurity to move in on residents. Some other areas were equally threatened by an army of thieving teenagers spreading around to steal and loot at gun points making away with money, food stuff and other valuable items.



Such unpalatable news and the cry of hunger from various quarters made the council members of MRA/IofC Nigeria to further think of a way to bring help to cushion the effect of the lock down on Nigerians. Hence the idea of

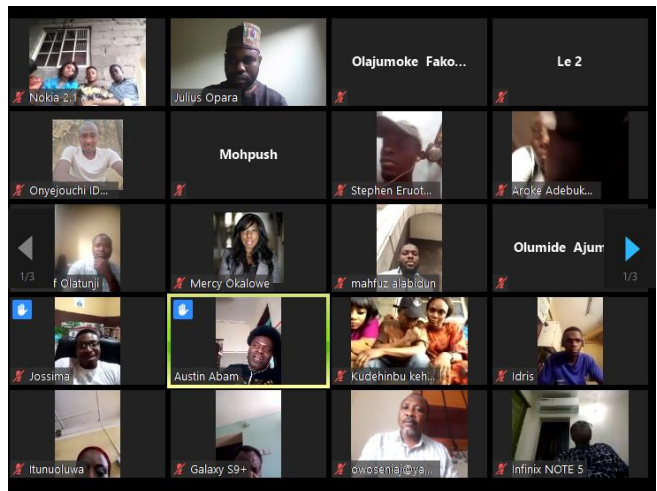
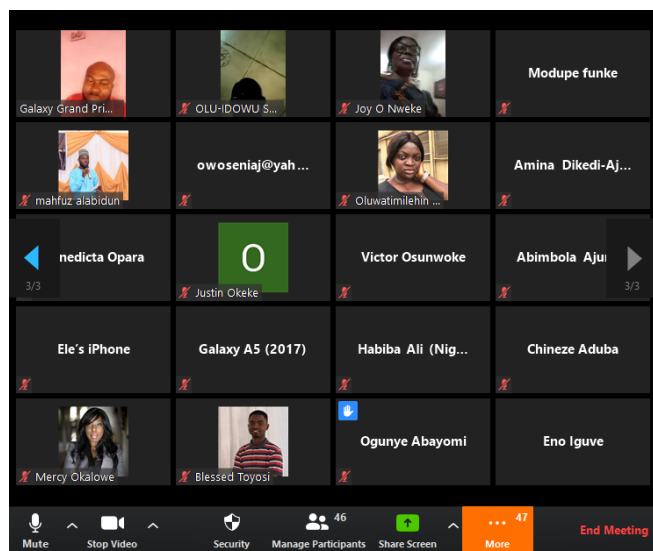


the second and third phase of the MRA Covid-19 Palliatives.

This time around, 450 Nigerian households covering MRA members and associates across the entire country benefited from the conditional funds transfer ranging between N5000 to N10,000 each.

Living Differently Forum – Lock Down Edition

Living Differently has always been our monthly activity held every third Saturday at the MRA Centre in Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria with an average attendance of about 40 people coming together to deepen their knowledge of IofC, her values and tools which in turn will help them to live differently within their society to be the change they want to see and to positively impact their circle of influence. Due to the pandemic, the meeting for the month of March was cancelled despite preparations. In the month of April, the first virtual Living Differently edition was held via ZOOM with about 47 members joining the meeting from across the country and diaspora.



At the virtual L.D, we treated the topic; **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF COVID-19**. During the session, members were asked to share one important lesson learnt from the Covid-19 Lock down and how it's affecting them and their loved ones. Among many suggestions, comments, contributions, was the call for MRA/IofC Nigeria to reach out to the poorest of our people living in the villages whose livelihood have been affected by this pandemic. On the list also was the frontline officers who are on the road enforcing the lockdown come rain come shine not minding the risk of contracting the virus.

Distribution of palliatives at Alapoti/Idolehin Village in Ogun State

With the understanding that not everyone has a bank account most especially in the villages, the Council made provision for raw food stuff like rice, beans and noodles to be distributed to widows, Elderly ones and the less privileged.



Arrival at the Village Head's house

The village head (Baale) who was delighted to see our team arrive at his compound greeted us warmly while maintaining social distancing as it is the order of the day had already compiled a list of the elderly and widows in his community as requested by our team. In his welcome address to our team, the Baale thanked God for using an organization such as MRA/IofC Nigeria to restore hope to the common man and to put smiles on the faces of his people at this trying times.



- Picture showing Baale ticking the list while Mr Abayomi Ogunye – vice President MRA/IofC gives the palliative to beneficiaries.

Our teams members went on with the distribution of Palliatives, this time going from door to door at Idolehin village to give out palliatives to households.



Door to door distribution of palliatives

To be sure that we reached a sizeable number of households, the team made her way to the village square where we were met with a large number of people who are in need of the palliatives. There we started another round of distribution until we exhausted all the packed palliatives we went with.



2 Command PCRC.

Visit to Zone 2 Police Command Lagos.

Still in the spirit of appreciating the frontline officers who through thick and thin are carrying out the enforcement of the lockdown order, Initiative of Change (IofC) a.k.a MORAL RE - ARMAMENT (MRA) stormed Zone 2 Police Command on Wednesday 29th April, 2020 with palliative materials to support the Police Community Relations Committee FEEDING SCHEME of Zone 2 Command Lagos and Ogun State. The visit was led by the Vice President; Mr. ABAYOMI OGUNYE and the General Secretary Barrister ABIODUN OWOSENI. The team were promptly welcomed by the Zonal Chairman Alhaji Bashiru R.O Balogun accompanied by the Zonal Deputy General Secretary, Rev. Dr Francis Osibowale and was led to the Zonal Police Public Relations Officer (ZPPRO) DSP HAUWA IDRIS ADAMU who appreciated the INITIATIVE and the good gesture towards the police at this lockdown period.

The ZPPRO in company of Zonal Chairman led the team to the AIG office.



BARRISTER ABIODUN OWOSENI who spoke on behalf of the team noted that we are in Zone 2 Command to give palliative to Police as part of our Organization's resolution to collaborate with Zone



The highly elated Assistant Inspector General in Charge of Zone 2 Command, AIG AHMED ILIYASU psc (+) welcomed IofC/MRA and the team to his office. AIG praised IofC for her initiative and called for more collaboration especially on community policing. He said further that the palliatives will be distributed amongst the inspectorates and junior officers.



The palliatives materials were received on behalf of the AIG by the ZPPRO DSP HAUWA IDRIS ADAMU.

Appreciation

On behalf of the entire team, I want to in a special way thank the Council of management of IofC/MRA Nigeria for their visionary and exemplary leadership at the time like this.

Compiled by: Opara Julius