Launching of C-Circle Research: Sensitization programme on Coronavirus Disease, Lassa Fever and Poor Sanitation in Awka, Anambra State

C-Circle Research is an organization that stems from a response to the health challenges faced in Nigeria as a result of the environment. We specialize in environmental health researches, environmental advocacy & awareness, partnership and helping businesses embed sustainability approaches into their daily operations. Our motto is ‘Raising Environmental Consciousness’ in Nigeria. We are committed to putting in the work, going the distance and bending backwards to deliver excellent service. We work in all the states in Nigeria; our head office is located in Abuja.

It is with great delight that C-Circle Research was launched on 11 March 2020 by carrying out a much needed public awareness city match on the trending environment-related diseases. The theme of the public sensitization event was “Stop Coronavirus (COVID-19), Lassa Fever and poor hygiene”. This event was in Collaboration with Anambra State Ministry of Health, Kosher Wheels Gospel and Citizens Initiative. We also receive a tremendous support from the State National Youth Service Corp (NYSC). The event was funded by the Anambra State Ministry of Health. We are particularly grateful to the Commissioner for Health, Dr Vin Ogochukwu Okpala.

The public sensitization programme was in combination with a sensitization programme on mitigating the trending global pandemic -Coronavirus disease for Hotel owners, Transport owners and Park owners organised by 3 state ministries:- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Diaspora. The state commissioners of the 3 ministries, the principal consultant of C-Circle, and the state consultant of migration data made presentations and questions from the participants were addressed. The lecture was held at Prof Dora Akunyili Women Development Centre Awka. The state instructed Hotel owners, Transport owners and Park owners to document every customer and passenger, and to provide handwashing equipment and hand sanitizers at the entrance of the hotel and at motor parks. The purpose of the two events was to raise the consciousness, create awareness on prevention steps for the people of Anambra state on the trending diseases.

Nigeria is doing everything possible to effectively prevent the pandemic Coronavirus from spreading, and Anambra state is one of the state taking this seriously. As I write this report, the pandemic -Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which was first reported from Wuhan China, on 31 December 2019 has spread to over 100 countries, affected every continent, over 142 000 confirmed cases (people), caused over 5000 deaths globally according to World Health Organization (WHO) situation report 54. The Coronavirus outbreak is no longer a threat for Africa, it is now a reality as more and more countries on the continent have recorded the case. There are
now more than 100 cases recorded in 11 countries in Africa including Nigeria with 2 confirmed cases, according to the latest figures from the World Health Organization.

Nigeria is listed among the high risk countries, therefore Nigeria Centre for Disease control (NCDC) is doing everything possible to ensure that the pandemic Coronavirus disease is curtailed in Nigeria and the commissioner for Health, Anambra State is not taking issues of public health importance lightly.

Our Campaign (sensitization match) was aimed at raising awareness on the importance of our environment on our health. The 2 trending Coronavirus disease and Lassa fever provided a good example of an environment-related diseases for the campaign. In the Campaign we educated people on the prevention steps especially proper regular hand washing and improved sanitation. We are very happy to say that it was a rousing success. With the help of 92 volunteers (consisting of 60 Corps members, about 10 students from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, and other volunteers) and 5000 copies of 3 different flyers/handbills from Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and WHO on proper Hand washing, Lassa Fever and Coronavirus were shared. The event was a huge success which the people of Awka will remember for a long time. We were in a white branded C-Circle t-shirts; and with the help of a local public address system and a DJ playing fun music, we had fun during the 2 hour sensitization city match. The event was aired on local TV stations (Anambra Broadcasting Station (ABS) and published on other local newspapers and magazines such as telegraph, NYSC magazine known as Anambra Kopa Magazine etc. We reached way more people than we hoped we would. A lot of the Corps (NYSC) members appreciated the opportunity to participate in community service. Below are some of the photos from the event.

This campaign is not meant to be a one time event. Our people need to be educated, everyone is important in preventing the spread of preventable diseases.

Our doors are always open, and we look forward to collaborating with you to get the message to the target audience.

For information on C-Circle activities, visit our website c-circle.org and social media handles.

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