

Mitigating Actions for Businesses from Covid-19

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy is far reaching regardless of business size. SMEs which contribute to the GDP the most receive the predominant hit.

Business owners should therefore rise up to the new and emerging challenges attendant with the outbreak of Covid-19. The containment strategies have led to loss of jobs, income, livelihood and a great reduction in economic activity.

Some economists and school of thought have predicted a likely global recession in the days ahead. Nigeria, with its dependency on one major source of income (oil) is likely to be affected.

In the wake of this pandemic countries are developing and designing policies targeted at reducing the impact of the Pandemic on individuals, businesses and corporations.

The Nigerian Government and some regulatory agencies particularly the CBN and FIRS have come up with cushioning measures as highlighted;



1. The FIRS has extended the due date of filing of Value Added Tax and withholding tax to the last working day of the month, following the month of deduction from the 21st day to the last working day of the month
2. Extended the due date of filing of Companies Income Tax by one month
3. Taxpayers can use electronic platforms to pay taxes, submit tax returns, and processing tax clearance certificate
4. Taxpayers filing their tax returns without audited accounts must submit the audited accounts within 2 months of the due date of filing
5. The state internal revenue service in Abuja also extended the due date of March 2020 for filing of annual returns of individuals and enterprises by 2 months
6. Tax relief to corporations and entities making donations to the federal government COVID-19 Pandemic Relief fund

7. N100 billion as intervention fund in the healthcare sector as credit support to pharmaceutical companies and healthcare practitioners intending to expand/build capacity
8. N50 billion targeted credit facility for affected households and small and medium enterprises
9. Reduction of interest rate on intervention facilities from 9% to 5%
10. Extension of moratorium of 1 year on CBN intervention loans
11. Permitting regulatory forbearance to banks to restructure terms of facilities in affected sectors
12. Improving FX supply to the CBN by directing oil companies and oil servicing companies to sell FX to the CBN rather than NNPC

