

June 1, 2020

**Debola Williams**  
CO-Founder / CEO  
**RED Africa**  
35, Adelabu Street  
Lagos

Dear Mr. Williams,

**BUSINESSDAY DIGITAL DIALOGUES: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS A PANELIST**

It gives me great pleasure to invite you participate as a panelist at one of the upcoming sessions of the BusinessDay Digital Dialogues series titled: **A National Conversation: Mapping Nigerian's Response to COVID-19.**

Over a two day period, 16 – 17 June 2020, BusinessDay will gather senior global and Nigeria policy decision makers, thought leaders, and leading minds in business and industries to share their deep knowledge of how the current global economic crisis is evolving, how the disruption is shaking every foundation of economic prosperity laid over the last century, and make a sense of what the future holds.

This online conversation, spanning 10 sessions, is set to be the most expansive dialogue of the impact of COVID-19, the global economic crisis and Nigeria's response yet.

Please see below details of the panel session on which we request your participation:

**Topic:** Investing in Nigeria's Future

**Date:** June 17, 2020

**Time:** 14:05 – 14:55

Upon acceptance of our invitation, please forward to us your portrait photograph and your preferred short bio for our publications. We will respond, at least two weeks before the webinar, by providing you with a comprehensive and detailed brief on your participation, including further details of the event, a more comprehensive description of your expected areas of discussion, and some relevant questions that you may be asked.

**THE BROOK**

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## Panel Synopsis:

Nigeria has a large youth population which signals vast potential for the future of the nation. However, optimising this potential requires deliberate human capital investment. This session will look at the skills and investments that must be made in the Nigerian youth to ensure a bright future for tomorrow's generation of leaders.

This panel will also bring together young people who have gone on to excel in various sectors and are portraying Nigeria in a positive light on the global scene. These individuals represent a beacon of hope for the nation's large youth demography. Despite all the shortcomings of Nigeria as a nation, we can indeed begin to change the narrative by deliberately investing in our youth and projecting the right role models.

Discussants will speak about their individual successes in the light of new challenges and opportunities posed by COVID-19, with discussions cutting across education and skills migration, citizenship, governance, and civil society etc.

## A National Conversation: Mapping Nigerian's Response to COVID-19.

### Overview:

The advent of the corona virus (COVID-19) has significantly affected all aspects of human activities and economies around the world. Lessons are being learnt as businesses and states are continually reviewing and implementing strategies to help deliver the appropriate response to this pandemic.

BusinessDay has been in the forefront of creating awareness on the ramifications of this pandemic and its economic impact. At the same time, BusinessDay has launched its Digital Dialogue Series as a quick response, knowledge sharing platform for policy-makers and business leaders to share and learn lessons on how to efficiently respond in these unfamiliar times.

Early data releases have shown that the global economy will experience a recession this year. Coupled with the morbidity rates, this will have a lasting effect on nations, including Nigeria.

This makes it pertinent to bring decision-makers together to share in-depth knowledge on:

- How the crisis has evolved
- How the disruption is shaking the foundations of economic prosperity laid over the last century
- What the future holds

An assessment of the future must investigate two very critical questions:

- How deep will the recession be?
- How protracted will it be?

### Objectives:

There are 3 main motivations for these Digital Dialogues, which will permeate through every session, some more than others, depending on the topic:

1. **How the crisis has evolved** – Medical status / Public Health position: To discuss and provide an understanding of where we are in relation to the management of COVID-19 pandemic, in Nigeria and Africa from a medical/healthcare perspective.

2. **How the disruption is shaking the foundations of economic prosperity laid over the last century** – Spectrum of choices facing policy-makers and business leaders: Following a review of the different likely scenarios from the decision-makers’ standpoint, the next goal will be to appraise how the Nigerian government, and businesses are responding and should respond to COVID-19:
  - What are the policy (political, economic) choices available?
  - What are the strategic choices we can and should take?
  
3. **What the future holds** – Scenario scoping: To provide some understanding of what the future will look like. Indeed, the future is uncertain and volatile. However, given the choices we make now, the policies we adopt now, what should we expect the future to be? The discussions will start by a review of the socio-political landscape, thereafter address the macro-economic issues and finally assess the impact of the pandemic on critical sectors of the economy.

*Please see appendix for detailed agenda.*

**Inquiries:**

The following members of our Conferences team have been assigned to assist your office with any further information you might require:

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We look forward to your acceptance of this invitation and confirmation of your participation.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



**Frank Aigbogun**

**Publisher**

## Agenda

Time	Duration	Activity
Day 1		
11: 00 -11: 05		Welcome Address
11: 05 – 11:55	5	Panel 1 COVID-19: How is Nigeria and Africa’s trajectory different from the rest of the world?
12:00 – 12:45	45	Fireside chat with His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, VP, Federal Republic of Nigeria
12: 55 – 13:45	50	Panel 2 Governance and optimising Nigeria's response to COVID-19
13:55 – 14: 45	50	Panel 3 COVID-19: Mapping Nigeria’s fiscal strategy and response.
14:55 – 15: 45	50	Panel 4 Global economic crisis: How deep and protracted will the recession be?
15: 45	5	Closing Remarks

Time	Duration	Activity
Day 2		
11:00 – 11:05	5	Welcome Address
11:05 – 11:55	50	Panel 1: Fuelling economic diversification, reigniting Nigeria’s energy sector
12.05: 12:55	50	Panel 2: Education, Skills and Learning - How does Nigeria catch up after COVID-19?
13:05 – 13:55	50	Panel 3: Agricultural credit and national food security in an economic downturn
14:05 – 14:50	50	Investing in Nigeria’s Future
15: 05 – 15: 55	50	Success Stories in Nigeria: Creating a Conducive Environment for the Prosperity of the Next Generation
15:55	5	Closing Remarks