



President: Mr Ibrahim Ismail Bolaji MBBS, PGCME, FRCPI, FRCOG, MD, LLM
Email: president@mansag.org

Secretary: Dr Chris Agbo MBBS, FWACP, FHEA, MRCP, FAcadMED, MSc (Med Ed)
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Registered address

MANSAG
Kemp House
152 - 160 City Road
London
EC1V 2NX
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13TH APRIL 2020

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Email: matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Sir,

INQUIRY NEEDED TO MINIMISE FUTURE DEATHS

We are writing this letter on behalf of the members of the **Medical Association of NigerianS Across Great Britain (MANSAG)**. MANSAG is a UK-registered Charity, established in 1997 exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. It is the only body representing over 5000 Nigerian Medical Practitioners and Allied Healthcare Professionals in the British Isles, with the main aims of benefitting the public in general and in particular but not exclusively, Nigerian people living in the British Isles.

Our members and their families are committed just like other NHS staff to providing the best quality healthcare to the people of Great Britain, especially during the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic.

We would like to commiserate with the government on the loss of thousands of the British people and our hearts got out to their families who are grieving at this moment. Sadly, some of our members have died while in service, working in the fight against COVID-19, including Dr Alfa Saadu who worked in the NHS for 40 years providing clinical and leadership services to the British people.

The purpose of this letter is to appeal to your office for an independent enquiry to examine the circumstances of the death in service of all healthcare workers, especially while in the frontline fight against COVID-19 during this pandemic.



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIANS

ACROSS GREAT BRITAIN

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Our members and their families are especially concerned about the disproportionate numbers of healthcare professionals from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups due to COVID-19.

This enquiry is needed at this time (and not after the pandemic) to address the concerns of our members on the disproportionate numbers of deaths in Black healthcare workers and to minimise the psychological suffering of our members and their families every day they go into work during this pandemic.

We are requesting an effective enquiry, one which has appropriate powers to invite relevant contributions from all stakeholders directly or indirectly affected by these deaths. While this is not an exhaustive list, we are requesting a comprehensive review and factual account on the following:

1. How and why healthcare workers from the black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME) got infected with SARS-COV-2 virus while at work.
2. The provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to our members, the training on the use of PPEs and the quality of PPEs provided to BAME staff in the NHS during the pandemic
3. The assessments, screening and testing for COVID-19 offered to our members after they developed symptoms of the COVID-19 infection.
4. The communication between the NHS managers and the families of our bereaved members, as well as other BAME healthcare professionals in their organisation after the loss of their colleagues.

It is our belief that an enquiry is needed at this moment as we all work to provide care to the British people during the pandemic. This enquiry will not distract from the diligent work by all NHS staff rather, and we believe the outcome will provide salient results to minimise future death and suffering of healthcare staff from the BAME community in the NHS.



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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of this letter but in the first instance, invite your written response to our members' formal request. A request that you order an urgent independent enquiry into the death in service of our members and other BAME healthcare professionals.

Kindest regards,

Ibrahim Bolaji

On behalf of the national executive team



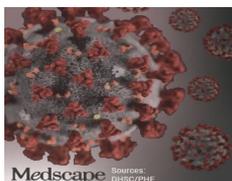
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" Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed." – Bob Riley.

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UK CONFIRMED CASES **88,621**
HOSPITAL DEATHS **11,329**
TESTS FOR COVID-19 367,667
WHO GLOBAL STATUS
Pandemic
UK CMOS'
PUBLIC RISK ASSESSMENT
High
Last updated 1445 BST 13th April 2020

**Stay at
home**

**Protect
the NHS**

**Save
lives**

UK Registered Charity No. 1077899

Chizo Agwu, Treasurer • Alexander Oboh, Financial Secretary • Tonye Wokoma, Publicity and Fund Raising Secretary
Oge Ilozue, Welfare and Social Secretary • Olusina Adeniyi, Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Representative • Mike Ehima, Trainees' Representative