

HEIRS INSURANCE ESSAY CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

NAME: ZEMIRAH ONOSELUMEN IBHAWOH

SCHOOL: HOLY CHILD COLLEGE, SOUTH-WEST IKOYI, LAGOS

CLASS: J.S.S. 3C

TOPIC: IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW.

If I could invent something new, I would invent something that would have a tremendous impact on our healthcare in Nigeria. I would like to invent a cure for the dreaded malaria disease. Malaria is a common disease in tropical countries like Nigeria where children and pregnant women are the main victims. It is a parasitic infection caused by plasmodium which is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. It can be deadly to the populace especially children under five years of age. Children with malaria are at a higher risk of anaemia, which can be fatal if untreated. There were over 68 million cases and 194,000 deaths in 2021 due to malaria. Nigeria has the highest burden of malaria globally accounting for nearly 27% of the global malaria burden. Records show that 40% of school children in Nigeria miss out on school days due to malaria.

I would like my malaria vaccine invention to impact the lives and productivity of Nigerians and end infant and maternal mortality. I would like to expand it to the entire health sector in Nigeria and Africa at large. I will ensure that my invention is clinically safe for human consumption and will ensure a safer Nigeria to avoid cases of over 1.5 million deaths each year because of malaria.

I hope to partner with international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), the Tony Elumelu Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gate's Foundation to make it cheap and affordable for low-income earners. I will also partner with the Federal Government of Nigeria to make it compulsory for pregnant mother and new born children to reduce the risk of infant mortality. Just like the government tackled the corona virus pandemic, I would like them to use the same approach to tackle malaria. It is important that enough funds are committed to my anti-malaria vaccine for it to be a success. I will make sure that my invention will reduce malaria scourge and eliminate any future outbreak by making it free and accessible to all irrespective of their tribe, location, age and religion. To make life easier I will make my invention in form of vaccine and tablets for ease of digestion. I will furthermore expand my product to various companies to make my invention accessible to people all over Nigeria and Africa.

In conclusion, I hope my invention will be a game changer in the fight against malaria in Africa. I also hope that my invention will be able to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates. I want my invention to help children stay alive and grant them more access to education by reducing the number of school days they miss out on in a school year. It is my sincere hope that my invention will put an end to the malaria scourge in Nigeria and increase life expectancy in Nigeria.