



# GENERAL TRANSPORT, PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL WORKERS' UNION OF TUC (GHANA)

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## PRESS STATEMENT BY GENERAL TRANSPORT PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION (GTPCWU OF GHANA TUC) ON COVID-19 ISSUED ON SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

In view of the growing cases of the deadly global Coronavirus(COVID-19) pandemic and the directives given by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, particularly on Social Distancing Protocols and the other recommended health and safety measures issued by the World Health Organisation (W.H.O) and the Ghana Health Service (G.H.S), the leadership of the General Transport Petroleum and Chemical Workers Union (GTPCWU) of Ghana TUC, wishes to inform all our union members to adhere strictly to the directives of the President in other to better our conditions.

GTPCWU is seriously concerned with the health and safety of our very vulnerable members who are rendering critical services to the nation on daily basis at this critical moment. These are people in the transport sector, especially, Metro Mass Transit Limited, Intercity STC Limited, Petroleum Tanker Drivers, Petrol Filling Station Workers, Petroleum Product Depot Workers and others who in the course of serving the nation become highly vulnerable to the virus.

In the light of the above, GTPCWU closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the country and the world at large, will work with the authorities to protect the safety and welfare of the union's membership. However, GTPCWU would like to plead with government to continue to provide the above workers with the necessary Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) and other logistics to facilitate their work and to prevent the spread within their ranks.

Whiles waiting for government's subsidy to aid the transport sector in this time of the crisis, we are also urging the government to focus and revive the dwindled

'Ayalolo' buses which were supposed to operate BRT system in Ghana. We believe that this is the time such buses are needed on our roads to ease pressure on our passengers who panic over the virus.

Regarding the additional measures to curb the spread of the virus, the President on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, outlined various measures directed at individuals and institutions that fall under the Imposition of Restrictive Act, 2020 (Act 1012). The union, GTPCWU of Ghana TUC has observed with much concern that in the oil and gas sector only staff of fuel filling stations have been exempted from the lockdown imposed by the President. Our worry as a union is that other essential petroleum sectors which collaborate to enable fuel to reach the filling stations have been left out from the exemptions. For example Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), Bulk Oil Storage and Transport company limited (BOST), Tanker Drivers, Petroleum Product Depot Workers, to mention a few. These stakeholders are all part of the Petroleum Distribution Downstream Sector. We want to use this opportunity to call on the President to ensure that this category of Petroleum Sector Workers are accordingly catered for.

Meanwhile, GTPCWU is using this opportunity to encourage all our members across the country to observe the **Two Weeks Partial Lockdown** as announced by the President and continue to be law-abiding whiles remaining calm at this period of our existence and livelihood.

The leadership of the union would also like to assure the entire union members and all Ghanaians that in this precarious moment, we shall remain steadfast and resolute in our commitment to fight the virus. We also urge all members to pray for the nation, the front line workers who are assisting those diagnosed with the virus and other health workers who are also working assiduously to find solution and cure to the pandemic.

Thank You and God bless you all.

Our solidarity remains constant, **for the union makes us strong.**

Signed;

**BERNARD OWUSU**

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