

**SOLIDARITY MESSAGE DELIVERED BY MR. DAN ACHEAMPONG,
PRESIDENT OF THE GHANA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION, AT
THE MAY CELEBRATION IN GHANA, ON MAY 1, 2021**

Salutations

On behalf of the Ghana Employers' Association (GEA), I wish to thank the leadership of Organized Labour for inviting me to deliver a solidarity message on the occasion of the May Day celebration in Ghana. GEA recognizes the monumental role played by Organized Labour and all Ghanaian workers over the years and accordingly salute you on this special day.

We specifically acknowledge the profound sacrifices made by workers in ensuring the survival and socio-economic development of Ghana despite the ravaging effect of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020 and would therefore like to say "Ayekoo" to all Ghanaian workers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ghana has made significant strides in limiting and containing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic to the admiration of most developed countries. The Employers community would therefore like to seize this opportunity to commend His Excellency the President for the quality leadership displayed in putting together proactive measures to control the pandemic since its outbreak in the country.

Specifically, we appreciate the well thought through health and social policies, protocols and infrastructure as well as the fiscal and monetary policies implemented to enable the country reach this far in its fight against the pandemic.

The hard work and collaborative role displayed by Organized Labour in supporting the Government and Employers in the heat of the pandemic in Ghana is also worthy of commendation. Indeed, the Social Dialogue mechanism has been very useful to

Ghana in these challenging times, and we need to strengthen and sustain it going forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having scored high marks in dealing with the initial phase of the pandemic, now is the time for Government, Employers and Workers to collectively work together to ensure that the economy recovers from the vagaries occasioned by the pandemic on our economic and social lives.

It is against this backdrop that GEA believes the theme for this year's celebration "*Economic Recovery in an era of COVID-19: the role of Social partners*" is timely and could not have been chosen at a better time. But for COVID-19, available information indicates that the implementation of the various economic and social policies, and solid foundation laid by Government would have put the economy on the path of sustained growth for the realization of the "Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda" in the near foreseeable future.

The Social Partners therefore have a great collaborative role to play to drive the country back to its pre-COVID-19 trajectory for the realization of its vision and aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One key policy direction that stands to facilitate Ghana's recovery process is the design and implementation of the GH¢100 Billion Ghana CARES Programme. Typically, employers' are confident that this flagship programme will restore and sustain Ghana's macroeconomic stability to incentivise and make employers and businesses to be more enterprising.

We commend Government for this comprehensive programme and wish to assure that GEA will continue to work with Government and Organized Labour to ensure that the Ghana CARES Programme achieves its objectives in the short to medium term.

GEA believes that vaccination against the COVID-19 pandemic is the surest, effective, efficient and sustainable way of eradicating the pandemic from the country whilst boosting the confidence of employers and workers for rapid business and economic recovery. As Government is working assiduously to ensure that enough vaccines are procured for the vaccination of Ghanaians, we entreat, Organized Labour, all workers and their families to avail themselves to vaccinate against the COVID-19 pandemic when the vaccines become available.

Additionally, the leadership of Organized Labour and Workers have a critical role to play in this economic recovery efforts. Although Ghana has made significant strides in its fight against the pandemic, the uncertainties surrounding the dynamics of the virus globally still inform that there is the need to continue to adhere to all the required protocols to collectively assure ourselves of sustained safety and business continuity.

Employers therefore need the cooperation of all workers and unions to ensure that the COVID-19 protocols are strictly observed by all Ghanaian workers and their families. Local Unions should endeavour to continue to educate and sensitize workers on the shared responsibility of promoting personal safety to avoid another wave of COVID-19 in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another key ingredient required for Ghana's rapid economic recovery is a peaceful and harmonious industrial relations climate. By working together, we can reduce industrial disputes in the country. Industrial disputes affect productivity and workers' incomes. It also threatens the sustainability of enterprises, job creation and investment attraction.

It may be difficult for the economy and businesses to recover rapidly in an environment of antagonism, hostilities, mistrust and adversity. GEA therefore urges employers, workers and their unions to deepen the culture of dialogue, consultations and

negotiations to resolve their differences, so as to ensure the sustainability of businesses in the country.

We need to remind ourselves that the promotion of workplace cooperation and harmony are the cardinal prerequisites for sustainable enterprises and national productivity growth, that engender wealth creation and higher living standards.

Once again, on behalf of the GEA and all employers in Ghana, we congratulate the leadership of Organized Labour and all workers in Ghana for their continuous role in advancing the wheels of progress and socioeconomic development in Ghana.

Long live Organized Labour

Long live GEA

Long live Ghana.