



# JOINT FUE / NOTU COMMUNIQUE ON Covid-19 response in the world of work in Uganda

## Preamble:

An outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was declared by the People's Republic of China on 31st January, 2020. This outbreak has now spread to all continents and over 46 countries are currently affected. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include, Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Difficulty in breathing, and other flu-like symptoms like running nose, sneezing and body weakness.



On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda addressed the nation on the direct measures of dealing with COVID-19. The workplaces (non-agricultural work places): such as factories, hotels, large plantations, markets, commuter taxi-parks were assured to continue functioning but need to adopt Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as guided by the Ministry of Health.

As Employers and Workers Representatives in Uganda, observe as follows to re-invigorate efforts and commitment of employers and workers in the prevention and control of COVID-19 and ensure that the response is comprehensive, ensuring that no one is left behind, particularly people living with HIV, persons with disability, migrants and peoples in other vulnerable situations:

1. We recognize the potential impact of COVID-19 on enterprises and business operations. As a matter of urgency all workplaces should fully observed SOPs in order to mitigate the potential impact and enable continuity of our businesses. We, therefore, would like employees to observe the SOP for COVID virus as follows-
  - *Practice compulsory hand-washing for all persons who enter or exit places of work*
  - *Ensure availability of soap and water and hand rubs and make sure that these are well distributed for employees to use frequently.*
  - *Ensure that adequate supplies of soap, water and handrubs are maintained.*
  - *Avoid shaking hands, hugging and touching each other – the CODIV virus is known to be transmitted faster through touching others*

- *Persons experiencing flu-like symptoms should be advised not to access the workplace premises and should be encourage to seek health care immediately*
- *Companies should empower Occupation Safety and Health committees to ensure proper housekeeping, regular cleaning of surfaces, surveillance and health promotion, installing temperature monitors, raise awareness and display information on COVID-19.*

2. If we observe these safety measures at the workplace, we will be able to minimize the effects of the COVID virus on our business, which will mean that our businesses will continue to operate and progress. These measure – will guarantee protection of jobs for all our people, including people living with HIV and /or those having a disability. Their jobs should be protected and they should have access to health services, including continued access to Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) that people living with HIV need to stay healthy and productive.



3. Lastly, we encourage employers and employees of Uganda to remain calm, observe the recommended standards of operations by the Ministry of Health and WHO in dealing with this unfortunate situation. We should all follow the guidance given by HE YK Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.

4. We encourage all to adhere to these and report any suspected cases to the nearest health facility or call our toll-free lines on 0800-of -033 and 0800-100-066 or the following officers Mr. Atek Kagirita 0782 909 153, Dr. Allan Muruta- 0772 460 297.

**Douglas Opio**  
**Executive Director**  
 Federation of Uganda Employers

**Bro Peter C. Werikhe**  
**Secretary General**  
 National Organization of Trade Unions

*supported in partnership with International Labour Organization*

