

**REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF GHANA TRADES UNION
CONGRESS (TUC), BROTHER KOFI ASAMOAH, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE MEDIA
STUDY REPORT BY THE LABOUR RESEARCH AND POLICY INSTITUTE OF THE
TUC**

AT THE COCONUT GROVE REGENCY HOTEL

THURSDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Brother Chairman,

**Our distinguished invited Guests of Honour- *Professor Kwame Karikari and Ambassador
Kabral Blay Amihere,***

Colleague Members of the Executive Board of TUC,

Distinguished members of the media, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the leadership of the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC) and on my own behalf I wish to warmly welcome all of you to the launch of this latest research report of a study on Wages and Working Conditions of Media Workers in Ghana which was carried out by the Labour Research and Policy Institute of the TUC.

I will like to begin by stating that this research report was motivated by the core mandate of the TUC which is to seek improvement in the working and living conditions of Ghanaian workers and their families. We believe that in this period of renewed interest in employment conditions worldwide, it is only fair that as a labour movement we devote a lot more attention to the working and living conditions of workers in every sector of Ghana's economy. It is against this background that the TUC decided to empirically investigate the working conditions of workers in the media sector. The interest in the media sector is heightened by its role in the growth of Ghana's democracy and the national development process.

We appreciate the good works from the media regulatory bodies such as the National Media Commission and the Ghana Journalist Association for their contributions to the growth process of the media in Ghana. Currently the use of local languages and the emergence of community FM stations have greatly enhanced grassroots participation in national development.

Even though the media plays an important role in Ghana, it has enormous challenges and this research report presents some interesting revelations which must be considered by the regulatory bodies and the media houses as a whole. Already we must acknowledge the importance the media has attached to this report in the past week. Most of you may recall that on the 1st February edition of the Daily Graphic; it was reported on its front page some key findings from this research work which attracted a lot of debate in the media.

The report clearly distinguishes between the working conditions of workers who belong to a trade union and those who do not. For instance media workers who belong to a trade union at workplaces earn about 80 percent more than their counterparts who do not. There are also clear indications that employment relations in most media houses are not covered by the dictates of the labour laws of the country, a situation which is deplorable.

Let me quickly add that the ongoing process by the Ghana Journalist Association (GJA) to transform into a trade union is welcoming news since it would help place the GJA at a good position not only in achieving high professional standards among Ghanaian journalists in promoting and defending press freedom in Ghana but to secure improved working and living conditions and the wellbeing of journalist. I believe that this research report is timely and would be of maximum help to the players involved.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Labour Research and policy Institute of the Ghana Trades Union Congress as well as the Authors of this report. Let me also thank the Danish Trade Union Council for International Co-operation for sponsoring this survey.

Is my hope that your expectations would be met at today's event.

Once again I welcome you all.

Thank You.