

## **ORGANIZED LABOUR**

### **PETITION**

**FROM: ORGANIZED LABOUR**  
**THROUGH: MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR**  
**RELATIONS**  
**TO: THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**DATE: 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014**  
**SUBJECT: PROTEST PETITION: HIGH AND RISING COST OF**  
**LIVING IN GHANA**

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The leadership and members of Organized Labour, today, July 24 2014, embarked on nationwide Demonstration to express the frustrations of working people and Ghanaians on the prevailing high and rising cost of living. The protestations have become necessary in order to draw your attention, your Excellency President John Dramani Mahama and your government, to the dire economic and social conditions facing majority of Ghanaians and the need for urgent measures to ameliorate the hardships and suffering of Ghanaians.

Since the beginning of this year, Organized Labour has used different fora and avenues to call on you, your Excellency, and your government to fix the declining Ghanaian economy. This year, workers throughout the country commemorated May Day under the theme *“Ghana’s Economy: A concern for All”* to demonstrate that we care about the nation’s economy. At the National May Day Parade which was attended by your Excellency, President John Dramani Mahama and other senior government officials, Organized Labour stated that *“Ghana’s economy has been seriously weakened and failing; and that the economy is not working for the majority of Ghanaians”*. We called on

your Excellency *to lead us away from poverty to prosperity* with the assurance that workers of Ghana will do our part to support your efforts.

While acknowledging your efforts, your Excellency, and that of your government, including conveying a National Economic Forum, to address the declining economy, the working people of Ghana continue to face increasing economic and social hardships. The economic situation is deteriorating by the day. Significant number of Ghanaian households has been compelled by the prevailing economic hardships to cut both welfare and necessity consumption while businesses and industry are suffocating. Times are really hard for working people and indeed majority of Ghanaians. There is a limit to which working people and Ghanaians can endure.

Your Excellency, you have a Constitutional duty, to implement urgent and appropriate measures to arrest the economic decline and ameliorate the hardships and sufferings of majority of Ghanaians. Organized labour and the working people of Ghana therefore demand the following in that regard::

1. immediate action to halt the depreciation of the cedi and rising cost of living.
2. immediate policy initiatives and measures to ensure the provision of requisite and critical infrastructure, including putting on stream the gas pipeline, and efficiency in the production and distribution of electricity and water, and to assure citizens against price hikes in these essential services due to inefficiency, lack of infrastructure and the headlong depreciation of the cedi.
3. immediate downward review of prices of petroleum products and a halt to the lazy and facile reflex of simply increasing the prices of these products as the cedi depreciates due to the mismanagement of the economy and poor fiscal policies.

4. immediate and effective policy measures to ensure that Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) operates at full capacity.
5. immediate and concrete measures to ensure that the railway sector is revamped and the plight of the workers addressed.
6. immediate action by government and the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) to address the challenges in the implementation of the new pensions scheme.
7. an immediate stop to the attempts by government to impose a pensions trust on public sector workers.
8. immediate action and effective measures to address the widespread perception of corruption in high office which has reached unprecedented level and prosecute all persons against whom there is evidence of such gross anti-social acts, irrespective of the social or political status.

Organized labour and the working people of Ghana are ready to support you, your Excellency, and your government, to lead us out of these prevailing economic and social hardships towards that prosperity and economic and social dignity that our people deserve.

Kofi Asamoah

For Organized Labour

Accra, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2014