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EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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TO   : ALL MEMBERS

CORONA VIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

You are aware that the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic as the virus continued to spread across the world. There is no officially reported case in Papua New Guinea according to the Prime Minister's Address to the Nation on 13 March 2020.
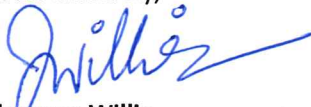
The Government of Papua New Guinea has also developed the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 which outlines key actions that the country needs to take at various phases and scenarios. However, the message on prevention should be passed to all employers and their workforce. We advise employers to inform their employees on good hygiene practices at the workplace to prevent the spread of the virus. Some of the steps that are recommended by WHO include:

- **Wash your hands frequently**. Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

- **Maintain social distancing**. Maintain at least one meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. When someone coughs or sneezes, they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth**. Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

- **Practice respiratory hygiene**. Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

- **If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.** Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority. National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

-   **Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider.** Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

This message should be shared with your family at home too. The Federation endeavors to gather as much information as possible and keep its members informed.

Yours Sincerely,

Florence Willie
Executive Director