

24 March 2020

CIRCULAR NO.11/2020

TO : ALL MEMBERS

JOINT COMMUNIQUE FROM DLIR, EFPNG & PNGTUC ON COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY AND 14 DAY LOCK DOWN.

We inform that the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations (DLIR), Employers' Federation of Papua New Guinea (EFPNG) and PNG Trade Union Congress (PNGTUC) have signed a "Joint Statement" regarding the COVID-19 State of Emergency and 14-day Lock Down.

The same statement will be published in the daily newspapers tomorrow onwards. Attached for your information is an advanced copy of the signed statement.

The Federation will continue to keep the membership informed of essential information as it becomes available.

Yours Sincerely,



Florence Willie
Executive Director



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND PNG TRADE UNION CONGRESS

'Impact of the Corona Virus on the world of work'

The NEC in an emergency meeting on Sunday 22 March 2020 has declared that the COVID-19 is no longer a health issue but a national security issue that will affect the economy, law and order, and education; hence has taken the following steps by declaring a State of Emergency, effective as of Tuesday 24th March 2020 for the next 14 days until 08 April 2020.

In light of this State of Emergency and the Lock-down, the national workplaces will be impacted over this period. The Department of Labour and Industrial Relations, the Employers' Federation of Papua New Guinea and the Papua New Guinea Trade Union Congress have joined hands in issuing out this joint communique for the benefit and purpose of all the employers and the working population of Papua New Guinea:

1. The State of Emergency now takes precedence over everything else. All employers and workers will have to comply with all the measures that have been issued by the Government.
2. As this situation is not brought about by neither the employers nor the workers, neither party should be disadvantaged during this 14-days State of Emergency period.
3. All workers are encouraged to remain home or where ever they are, with employers, encouraged to embrace safe work practices. Employers are further encouraged to make arrangements to maintain essential services.

4. All employers are encouraged to maintain the salaries, wages and employment contracts of all their staff.
5. The employers are encouraged to exercise flexible work practices during this period.
6. The Government is working closely with relevant financial institutions to come up with economic rescue packages during this down-time.
7. At the conclusion of the 14 days, these measures will be reviewed, as outlined:
 - a) Workers who are kept in a quarantine or medical observation, or other quarantine measures adopted by the government due to the novel coronavirus infection, suspected infection, or being deemed as close contacts thereof and cannot provide services during this period, in accordance with existing legislations, should not be disadvantaged.
 - b) Employers and workers are encouraged to look at various options available during the period.
 - c) Employers should not encourage redundancy exercises during the period.
 - d) As workers are the front-liners and their exposure to the corona-virus will be deemed high, it is important that safety measures, either temporary or permanent are built into the workplaces to arrest or minimize the spread to their clients.
 - e) Employers are encouraged to implement their basic OHS policies, as first up measures to mitigate the spread of the corona virus in the workplaces.

"Declaration of Agreement"

A decent, productive, safe and healthy workplace remains the fundamental goal of the Government, and the peak councils of the employers, being the Employers' Federation of Papua New Guinea (EFPNG) and the workers, being the Papua New Guinea Trade Union Congress (PNGTUC).

It is therefore, in the best interest of these three (3) parties and all those that we represent; that we forge our support to safeguard and protect Papua New Guinea from the Corona Virus.

This Understanding forms part of the Government's Official Statement from the Office of the Prime Minister, dated Sunday 22nd March 2020.

All employers and workers are to observe the above measures for the next 14 days with effect as of Tuesday 24th March 2020.

For any urgent request of information, the following numbers can be reached:

Department of Labour & Industrial Relations

Hotline:

1. Industrial Relations: 325 8865 (Level 3, Gaukara Rumana Building)
2. Foreign Employment: 301 1607
3. Labour Administration: 3250348

Call Forwarding to Mobiles:

1. Mr. Francis Hau: 712 81069
E: francohau6091@gmail.com
2. Mr. Remi Yariyari: 724 52047
E: davegiwaya@gmail.com
3. Mr. Wala Iga: 713 49669
E: walaiga@hotmail.com
4. Mr. Silas Bokowi: 722 36048
5. Moses Maki: 70585582

Employers' Federation of Papua New Guinea (EFPNG)

Hotline:

1. 325 8266
2. 325 8249

Call Forward:

Ms. Florence Willie: 7312 3415 / 7658 2022
E: florence2368@gmail.com

PNG Trade Union Congress (PNGTUC)

Hotline:

1. 323 3583 (Chinsurah Street, Korobosea)
2. 325 7642

Call Forward:

Clemence Kanau: 73774834
E: ckanau@gmail.com


Anton Sekum: 722 47140
E: sekum2012@gmail.com

National Department of Health – Covid-19 National Center:


Digicel: 71960813
B-Mobile: 019
Toll Free: 1800 200.



Mr. Ravu Vagi
Secretary
DLIR



Ms. Florence Willie
Executive Director
EFPNG



Mr. Clemence Kanau
General Secretary
PNGTUC

Date: 24th / MARCH / 2020