

ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU)

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PRESS RELEASE


RE: GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEAL DECISIVELY WITH CORONA VIRUS

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) calls upon the government to take decisive measures to combat the threat of the Corona Virus in the wake of the pandemic that has affected thousands of people globally.

While there are no confirmed cases in Zimbabwe, we view the pandemic as a real threat to Zimbabweans given the state of our health delivery system. Our already ailing economy would suffer irreparable damage if the pandemic strikes while the country is ill prepared and millions of citizens would suffer from being grounded.

We call upon the government, the corporate world and the general citizenry to take all the necessary precautions and measures to combat the virus. The state needs to provide substantial resources towards this crisis and involve multiple stakeholders in the fight against this pandemic.

While we appreciate that the President acting on advice from the Tripartite Negotiating Forum has declared the pandemic a national disaster and has taken the first steps towards a coordinated response to this crisis, we believe more still needs to be done. The government also needs to respond urgently towards reducing the cost of items necessary for fighting the scourge such as soaps and detergents. This should include suspension of duty and VAT where necessary as well as quick distribution of resources to the vulnerable.


Japhet Moyo
SECRETARY GENERAL
19 March 2020