

## **STATE AND OTHER EMPLOYEES FEDERATION**

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16 March 2020

Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth  
Prime Minister  
Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications  
Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity  
Port Louis

Honourable Prime Minister,

In the wake of the outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic the trade union movement is urging the Government to take appropriate measures to protect workers and their families with a view to prevent its propagation in the Republic of Mauritius.

In the first instance appropriate awareness programmes should be mounted and necessary protective equipment provided to workers in the health, hospitality, transport sectors as well as to those posted at the ports of entry.

Workers in general are uncertain on labour rights and safety and health legislation if they were to contract the virus.

In view of challenges which workers both in the public and private sectors are faced with it is vital that cooperation be sought in terms of enhancing awareness through various means before it is too late.

In order to stop the spread steps should be taken to enable social partners to meet and discuss together the socio-economic impact that COVID 19 virus so that intervention be made to mitigate its effects.

Some of these measures could be considered by Government:

1. The provision of safety nets like paid leave to workers who are put on isolation or are forced to be absent from work.
2. The launching of an aggressive campaign inviting the population to avoid going to events, gatherings etc. where it is not necessary.
3. To avoid going to health services except in real need.
4. To ensure the provision of personal protective equipment including respirators, and sanitizers to workers.

5. To create awareness on precautions to be taken in schools, as well as in the community.
6. Staying home and seeking medical care from home where possible will help to reduce the spread of the virus.
7. The setting up of a Special Disaster Fund to provide living costs support to help the affected workers.
8. To come forward with a guideline on quarantine and preventive measures to ensure a safe working environment.
9. To carry out an investigation regarding the state of preparedness and the actions taken to date by both the public and the private sector to prevent infections
10. Avoid travelling either locally or overseas for those who have fever or a cough.
11. Restricting the entry in the country of foreign nationals in countries where cases have been confirmed.
12. To avoid social contact as far as possible for the time being.
13. That the Electronic Attendance System operational in workplaces be freezed for the time being.

A very important tool to sensitize public opinion on precautions to be taken is the distribution of a flyer to the population at large. A sample pamphlet is herewith annexed for your consideration.

We hope that this letter will meet your kind consideration.

With anticipated thanks.

Sincerely yours

Radhakrisna SADIEN MSK  
President