

FFAWUZ POSITION ON CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic posed a great challenge to the traditional operations of the organisation given its nature of assisting workers who visit the office on a daily basis, general meetings with members, collective bargaining meetings of affiliates and the general nature of possible contact with membership. The situation warranted a prompt decision to avert or minimise the possible danger to its staff and membership.

The Government of Zimbabwe having pronounced a 21 days lockdown effective 30th March 2020, and

Having realised the seemingly unreliable Covid-19 statistics announced by government officials and the questionable state of preparedness by the government, and

Having realised that the Food production and processing industry has been classified as an essential service, which would require our members to continuously report for duty, and

Having realised the need to maintain communication and assistance to our members, FFAWUZ took the following measures to protect its staff and membership, that

1. All staff members to work from home with effect from the 26th of March 2020 until further notice
2. Staff member to use phones and other digital platforms to communicate and assist members
3. All training activities have been put on hold
4. FFAWUZ to continue disseminating information through whats app groups and national radio. The General Secretary has been on radio since the start of the pandemic encouraging members to stay safe, National FM enjoys the biggest listenership in Zimbabwe and FFAWUZ has used the platform to reach a lot of its members across the country. The messages are announced between 6 am to 9am which period we believe most of our members will be travelling to work.
5. Membership encouraged to exercise high levels of hygiene and follow health guidelines as published by the Ministry of Health
6. Membership encouraged to invoke Section 104 (4) of the Labour Act Chapter 28:01 which provides for immediate withdrawal of service

without notice should there be any threat of possible harm to their health and safety due to the employer not providing necessary PPE.

7. In compliance with the National lockdown for 21 days, the Unions and Employers Associations have agreed to hold in abeyance collective bargaining meetings until the end of the Lockdown.
8. Membership encouraged to report any partial or total plant closures