



# **APACSUN**

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## **COMMUNIQUE BY THE AFRICA PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICE UNION NETWORK (APACSUN) AT ITS 2<sup>ND</sup> STRATEGIC MEETING HELD AT PEMPAMSIE IN CAPE COAST, GHANA FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020**

Whereas social protection is a basic right to all workers anywhere in the world so as to provide minimum social protection to enable workers cope with life risks such as lost or reduced income due to illness, old age, unemployment, invalidity and loss of the breadwinner in the family;

A large proportion of workers in Africa are not covered under the social security systems especially in the informal sector;

Taking cognizance of the comparatively reasonable numbers in the public and civil services, low participation, poor and limited benefits resulting from bad investments and poor management of funds by Pension administrators have left most workers in a very sorry state at retirement;

Whilst there are some attempts at ensuring reforms for successful pension, these measures do not make adequate provisions for cross cutting issues such as housing, elderly care, maternity protection and health care for workers during active service and upon retirement;

Noting that the UN Agenda 2030 on "Sustainable Development" and the Africa Union Agenda 2063 on "the

Africa We Want" all underscore the absolute centrality of access to public services to all peoples;

Deploring the rigged economic model of Corporate-driven globalisation which has pursued a rapid privatisation agenda that is making Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) take over the provisioning of public services;

Notwithstanding the glaring failure of the privatisation experiment over the last three decades, governments in Africa continue to succumb to the various variants of privatisation especially PPP arrangements which involves contracts that are complicated, legalistic and rigid; higher cost of borrowing; higher level of risk taking by governments; many hidden costs; a quasi-monopoly situation that creates conditions to exploit the system to increase profits and has high potential for corruption;

Noting that Public and Civil servants constitute a substantial proportion of the formal workforce in most countries on the African continent; and

Recognizing that most Public and Civil Servants spend their entire working life in the service and the impact of privatization as well as the importance of retirement income;

APACSUN resolves to;

1. Support member unions to study and adopt best practices that enables the improvement of pension administration and enhances pension benefits of members across the African continent.
2. Embark on campaigns that will ensure greater representation of workers on boards that administer and manage pensions and support review of Pension legislations for prudent management of pension funds.
3. Build coalitions with other social forces to condemn and resist the privatization agenda at the national and regional levels that have so-far failed to deliver on the public services that the people want as a matter of right.
4. Provide graphic evidence of the failure of the privatization experiment and the PPP variant.
5. Showcase alternative policies that are delivering on public services and increasing citizens' access to quality public service.

Signed for and on behalf of the Network:



Isaac Bampoe Addo

(Executive Secretary, CLOGSAG)

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**GHANA:** Civil and Local Government Staff Association Ghana (CLOGSAG); Public Services Workers' Union (PSWU) of TUC Ghana; Senior Staff Association of Judicial Service of Ghana (SSAJUG).

**KENYA:** Union of Kenya Civil Servants (UKCS); Kenya Union of Commercial, Food and Allied Workers (KUCFAW)

**NIGERIA:** Amalg. Union Pub. Corp., Civil Serv., Tech. and Recr. Employees (AUPCTRE); Nigeria Civil Service Union (NCSU).

**TANZANIA:** Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE).