

Date :17th July 2017

Preamble

There is a general consensus amongst the trade union formations and organisations in the Gambia that the country after its popular “Gambia Has Decided” outcomes that a new chapter has opened in the political arena that can engender the protection, preservation and furtherance of civil liberties, better life and shared prosperity for all Gambians.

The consensus also alluded to the opportunities that this new dawn represent for working men and women of the Gambia. And that to take full and effective advantage of this new dawn, Gambian workers and unions must be strategically and formidably positioned to engage and to advance the rights of workers, peoples and communities of the Gambia.

Similarly, the consensus affirmed that the Gambian trade unions as they stand need to urgently work on building bigger and stronger and united organisations. As a forward looking and practical steps to reposition the trade unions for greater influence, visibility and effectiveness, it was therefore agreed by Trade Union Leaders on Wednesday, 19 July 2017 at a forum held at the Kairaba Beach Hotel in Kololi to set up a taskforce towards a new and progressive vision and movement for the Gambian trade union movement.

Core of the consensus

It was overwhelmingly affirmed and supported by the trade union leaders from the Gambia Labour Congress (GLC); Gambia National Trade Union Congress (GNTUC); Gambia Teachers Union (GTU), and the Gambia Press Union (GPU) to without further delay create an Interim Committee of 9 persons to be charged with the mandate to work towards the formation of one national trade union center to further the rights, interests, privileges and benefits of ALL Gambian workers, their families and communities.

The members of the Interim Committee as nominated and mandated by the four unions are:

1. Alh. Kebba Ceesay - GLC
2. Mamadou Lamin Suso - GLC
3. Martin Gomez – GTU
4. Marie Antoinette Corr - GTU
5. Essa Sowe - GTU
6. Emile Touray - GPU
7. Modou Kanteh - GPU
8. Ebrima Garba Cham - GNTUC
9. Alh. Abubacarr Sillah - GNTUC

It was also agreed from the meeting that the Interim Committee will be presented by two nominees from GLC; GNTUC and GPU. The GTU will nominate three persons to the committee. The GTU volunteered to host the Secretariat of the Interim Committee, and this was overwhelmingly accepted and appreciated.

It was also agreed that the Interim Committee will help drive a lot of processes on behalf of the four trade union organisations such as helping to develop and coordinate the interface and engagement of the unions to the on-going labour law review process and other similar processes.

All parties as signatories to this resolution commit to genuinely and faithfully support all the processes that will lead to the successful gestation of a new, virile and progress national trade union center. The Interim Committee is also charged with the task of drawing out a pragmatic and efficient timeframe and programme for the formation of this new Gambian trade union formation.

The Gambian unions appreciate the efforts of the international trade union organisations notably the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa); Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA); Public Services International (PSI); Building and Wood Workers International (BWI); International Union of Foods (IUF) and Education International (EI) at helping to bring the Gambian trade unions together to chart this path and cause.

SIGNED BY:

1. Alh. Kebba Ceesay ----- Secretary General Gambia Labour Congress
2. Martin Gomez ----- President, The Gambia Teachers Union
3. Emil Touray ----- President, Gambia Press Union
4. Ebrima Garba Cham ---- Secretary General, Gambia National Trade Union Congress

This day 19th July 2017 to the benefits of workers, to the service of country and to the glory of God.