

STATEMENT BY DR. BERNARD OKOE BOYE,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE
LEDZOKUKU CONSTITUENCY ON MAY DAY-
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY.

Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker for the opportunity to make a statement in honour of all workers of this country on May Day, which comes off tomorrow 1st May.

Mr. Speaker, May Day alternatively called International Workers day originated in the US in 1886 when massive labour strikes were orchestrated as a means for demanding an eight-hour work day and safe working conditions in the factories. The wishes of workers in 1886 for a safer workplace and worker rights remain very relevant today.

Mr. Speaker May Day has become the day that brings to the table matters affecting workers as well as workers' effect on government with reference to their **productivity levels**.

In the beginning when May Day celebrations started, **strikes, violence** and sometimes **death** characterized the celebrations. That was in the 19th and 20th centuries. The 21st century May Day event is preoccupied more with welfare of workers rather than basic rights such as the right to demonstrate.

The health of workers and the structure of the workplace in support of healthy living are the kind of matters that manifest prominently amongst others such as stress at the workplace and the provision of **therapeutic support** to workers in need of coping mechanisms.

Successive governments in Ghana have contributed their quota in the pursuit of a progressive work environment for Ghanaians.

This Akufo-Addo government after years of protests by workers against the non-release of Tier 2 Pension funds, has finally paid over **GHC 3.1 billion of tier two pension funds** to fund managers to control on behalf of workers.

Military officers belonging to the other ranks have had their service period amended from **25 years to 30 years**.

Most of our farmers are beneficiaries of subsidized **fertilizers, free improved seedlings and mass spraying programs**. All these improve farm yields,

provide better profits and improve the quality of life of the farmer.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has been done towards sustainable worker living conditions in the past, a lot more is being done under the leadership of H.E President Akufo -Addo to create the kind of atmosphere at the work place that elicits the optimum output from workers at the most desired efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank all workers of this country for their **professionalism and patriotism**. Let those who deny this country their best contribution reform their approach and thinking and reorient towards the **Ghana First tangent**.

What we are as a country is largely a product of what we do as workers. So let's live and work in a way reflective of the **Ghana Beyond Aid** we desire.

Thank you for the opportunity Rt. Hon Speaker.