

IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

ON THE

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

DETERMINATION OF THE URGENCY OR OTHERWISE OF THE  
COVID-19 NATIONAL TRUST FUND BILL, 2020

1ST APRIL, 2020

Acc No: 1958 C2

CLASS No: BR/NTF/20



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE  
URGENCY OR OTHERWISE OF THE COVID-19 NATIONAL TRUST  
FUND BILL, 2020**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Covid-19 National Trust Fund Bill, 2020 was laid in Parliament under certificate of urgency by the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Ms. Gloria Afua Akuffo on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020 in accordance with Article 106 of the 1992 Constitution.
- 1.2 Consequently, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report pursuant to Order 179 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.
- 1.3 The Committee was therefore required to determine the urgency or otherwise of the Bill in accordance with Article 106(13) of the Constitution and Order 119 of the Standing Orders of the House.

**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met with the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Ms. Gloria Afua Akuffo to consider the urgency or otherwise of the Bill.

**3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations:

- i. The Constitution, 1992;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament; and
- iii. The Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012).

**4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared

COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to over one hundred and eighteen thousand cases in over one hundred and ten countries around the world and the risk of further global spread.

- 4.2 In recognition of the threat of COVID-19 to life and its high potential to escalate in this country, His Excellency, the President introduced certain measures in response to the pandemic. This included the passage of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012), which gave H.E. the President the power to impose certain restrictions and other measures by an Executive Instrument intended to stop the importation of the virus, contain its spread, provide adequate care for the affected and limit the impact of the virus on social and economic life.
- 4.3 In specific terms, the measures include the declaration of COVID-19 as a public health emergency, the closure of our borders, mandatory quarantine for fourteen days, testing of persons who entered the country from 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, treatment of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 and other restrictions of movement of persons, including a partial lockdown.
- 4.4 In his address on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 the President mentioned the establishment of a COVID-19 Trust Fund to galvanise support and resources from Individuals, International and National Organisations. Since the proclamation by the President, Organisations and Individuals have been making donations to government to support the fight against the pandemic.
- 4.5 This Bill is therefore purposed to establish the Fund to properly receive and regulate the donations for the intended objectives.

## **5.0 OBSERVATIONS**

- 5.1 The Committee found it laudable that individuals and organisations are generously responding to the clarion call by the President in contributing towards the effort at combating the pandemic.
- 5.2 The Committee is cognisant of the cost being borne by the government in the fight to contain and reduce the spread, provide adequate care for the affected and to limit the effect on the socio-economic life of the Ghanaian.

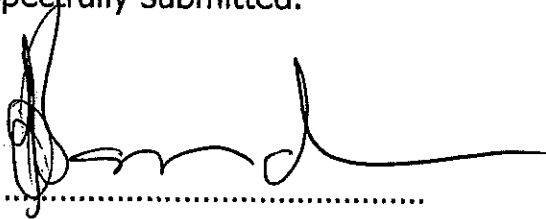
- 5.3 Considering the irrevocable factuality of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the economic exigencies of the country, the Committee appreciates the fact that the Bill seeks to establish a Fund to properly receive and manage contributions and donations for its intended purpose.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

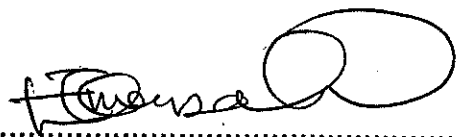
The Committee by a unanimous decision agrees that COVID-19 National Trust Fund Bill, 2020 is urgent in the light of the threats posed by the pandemic and the urgent need to pass the Bill to give effect to the establishment and management of the Fund.

The Committee, accordingly recommends to the House to adopt its report and to pass the COVID-19 National Trust Fund Bill, 2020 in accordance with the provisions of Article 106(13) of the Constitution.

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. BEN ABDALLAH BANDA**  
**(CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE)**



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**ERIC OWUSU MENSAH**  
**(HEAD, LEGAL COMMITTEES)**

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