

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**For Immediate release**

### **It is time to set up a Wage Relief Fund**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), is encouraged by the editorial that appeared in the newspaper reiterating the need for the Government of Kenya to put in place a Wage Relief Fund to support employers who are struggling to pay employees' wages during this difficult pandemic period. The Wage Relief Fund will not only protect the livelihoods of affected employees, but it will also support adversely affected businesses.

Undeniably, businesses continue to bear the brunt of the impact of the pandemic given the huge investments made against the low productivity being experienced right now. Although the Covid-19 cases are reducing, it must be appreciated that the negative impact will be felt for a long time to come. Many businesses risk closure and are in urgent need of support to survive. In a survey conducted in August 2020 by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with BUSSINESSAfrica, the findings indicate that 34% of SME's in Sub Saharan Africa are at risk of shutting down in less than three months.

It is deeply disheartening to read reports in the media alluding that some business people are taking advantage of the crisis to engage in fraud thus exacerbating the misery of people in this pandemic period. We would like to firmly state that the Federation of Kenya Employers has a zero tolerance to fraud and strongly condemns such unethical practises. FKE continues to encourage and build the capacity of her members to adopt responsible business conduct, policies and practices. Through the Employer of the Year Awards (EYA), the Federation fetes employers who perform exemplarily in Corporate Governance & Leadership and Responsible Business Conduct.

As businesses begin to re- open, we urge enterprises to continue seeking advice and support from FKE. We all need to work together to speed up the recovery and secure the economic prosperity of our beloved nation in the long-run. Building resilient enterprises that are able to create wealth and retain people in jobs requires that all stakeholders, government, employers and workers remain united in supporting businesses to bounce back.

**Jacqueline Mugo, EBS.**  
**Executive Director/CEO**

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