**PRESS RELEASE BY GUNA URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE NATURAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS THE CHANCE TO FIGHT COVID-19**

As the world over races for the cure for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), which is wreaking havoc in Ghana, too, the Ghana United Nations Association (GUNA) would like to urge the government to give natural medicine practitioners the chance to find a cure for the disease.

The Association has listened to legions of cogent arguments by several of these traditional herbal practitioners on the radio and television on the efficacy of some plant species as being able to cure the virus. Albeit the practitioners did not mention treating a COVID-19 patient with the plants, they strongly hold the defense that given the chance, they would prepare some of the medicines for testing by the Ministry of Health on the suspected patients for proof.

In his latest article in The Chronicle, titled 'Hibiscus Tea for immune support and antiviral agent', Ghana's Dr. Raphael Nyarkotey Obu, President of the Nyarkotey School of Natural Medicine, a renowned health article writer whose works have gone even outside the shores of Ghana, points out a simple proven scientific fact that the Hibiscus plant is an antiviral agent. Ginger, among other natural plant species, has also been mentioned by other practitioners as having the potency to fight any form of a virus.

Collecting all these arguments by our herbal/traditional/natural medicine practitioners, GUNA believes that, like Madagascar, the Government of Ghana must allow these home-grown natural doctors to bring their knowledge to the fore in the fight and race for a lasting cure for the dreaded Coronavirus.

Madagascar, according to worldometer.com, has recorded zero death with over 92 recoveries from 128 recorded cases of the novel virus, and the success is due to the country permitting its natural doctors to come out with the 'Madagascar Organic Pack'. To the extent that the government of Equatorial Guinea could send its Deputy Health Minister, Mitoha Ondo to Madagascar to buy packs of the Madagascar Organic pack to his countrymen and women, GUNA would implore the Government of Ghana not to let this opportunity and crop of tried and tested herbal practitioners we can boast of regret of being sabotaged.

This is the best opportunity for us as a country and government to believe in our own, give them the chance and GUNA can confidently say that if Madagascar has been able to do it, why can't Ghana? The cure for the Coronavirus can be found and Africa is the cure.

Just like HIV & AIDS, COVID-19 is a politically motivated disease. Consequencequently, we belie WHO will never sanction any discovered cure from Africa especially those African.

But as a country that believes and touts 'Ghana Beyond Aid', the government of Ghana, like Madagascar's President publicly announced the local cure, must be brave to assemble our herbal medicine practitioners, throw the challenge to them and GUNA is of the firm belief that they would deliver.

Ghana must not continue to fall for the communist inferior tactics, which most of our African leaders have yielded to because of some bundle of dollars they are getting from the West.

GUNA believes our respective and godly duty is to promote the locally identified and tested drugs in our own small way and collectively we will make an impact.

We, therefore, need our government to challenge our natural medicine doctors to produce a home cure for the Coronavirus.

... signed...

Rev. Christian Pardie

(Secretary-General)

0509-137-478

Bishop Nathaniel Rudolph

(Director of Administration)

 0505-720-008

Comrade Samuel Bamidele Ojo

(GUNA National Youth Affairs Secretary)

0243-425-011