

GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT
H/NO. 5, 2ND AVE. STATE HOUSE RD.
SOUTH-EAST RIDGE
(ADJACENT GH. INT'L PRESS CENTRE)
P. O. BOX GP 4150, ACCRA GHANA

TEL: +233 0302-912977/910650/672884
FAX: +233 0302 -256579
E-MAIL: info@ghanabar.org
WEBSITE: www.ghanabar.org

My Ref:
Your Ref:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT: ANTHONY FORSON, JNR
NATIONAL SECRETARY: YAW ACHEAMPONG BOAFO

STATEMENT BY THE GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION ON THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS ACT 2020 (ACT 1012) AND EXECUTIVE INSTRUMENT 164 (EI 164)

The Ghana Bar Association (GBA) has taken note of the provisions of Section 6 of the Imposition Of Restrictions Act 2020 (Act 1012), which imposes penalties on persons who fail to comply with restrictions imposed under Executive Instruments issued under Section 2(1) of the Act.

The GBA has also noted, with concern, the growing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country. It is imperative, in the view of the Bar, that all citizens and residents abide by the provisions of all legislations and in particular those that have been enacted to ensure public safety and health in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Much as punishments ought to be meted out to persons who flout and contravene laws, the GBA is concerned with and finds the punishment imposed in respect of persons who breach Act 1012 and EI 164, harsh. It is our view that the punishments imposed by the provisions of Section 6 of Act 1012 and Paragraph 4(2) of EI 164 are severe and further that may culminate in the imposition of custodial sentences. The GBA is apprehensive that the prisons which are presently congested, may shortly be teeming with convicts who are unable to pay fines imposed by Courts under Section 6 and Paragraph 4(2) aforementioned.

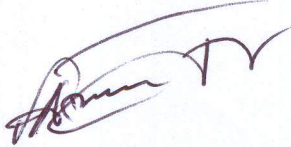
The GBA would therefore suggest, in the circumstances, an amendment of the said Section 6 to impose punishments that are less severe. The Bar would propose a fine of not less than ten penalty units and not more than one hundred and fifty penalty units or to a term of imprisonment of not less than one month and not more than two years. It is our firm belief that our proposals are sufficiently punitive and will deter people from violating the restrictions imposed by virtue of the law.

William Orleans Oduro - National Vice President
Nana Serwaa Acheampong - National Treasurer
Yaa Gyakobo, Mrs. - Nat. PRO

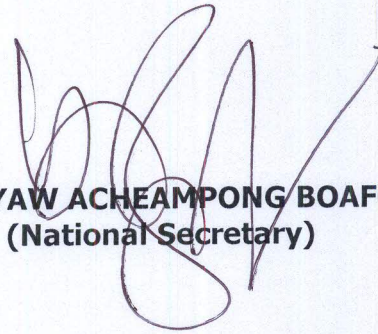
Benson Nutsukpui - Imm. Past President
Kwaku Gyau Baffour - Nat. Asst. Secretary
Saviour Kudze - Nat. Asst. PRO

The Ghana Bar Association hereby reiterates its earlier call for citizens to cooperate in the fight against COVID-19, and its prayer that God protects and keeps Ghana.

DATED AT ACCRA THIS ^{30TH} DAY OF JUNE 2020.



ANTHONY FORSON, JNR.
(National President)



YAW ACHEAMPONG BOAFO
(National Secretary)