The President of GICAM
To all
Cameroonian business leaders

COVID-19 and US

Madam, Sir,

In just a few months, the coronavirus has become a pandemic that affects the health and safety of people, business activities and the economy of countries as a whole.

This is perhaps the greatest challenge of our generation!

The huge challenges which the exceptional current circumstances entail concern us all: State, Companies, Employees, Civil Society.

On March 17th, the government announced a series of restrictive measures which, although essential to slow the spread of the virus, now considerably limit companies' operational room for maneuver.

GICAM naturally welcomed the establishment of the Government's Response Plan.

GICAM informed the Government of the situation and the concerns of companies concerning the first impacts of Covid-19 on their operations and households. We have combined this assessment with suggestions for urgent additional measures to be taken.

Alongside political decision-makers, the medical community and, anguished populations, the corporate world must position itself as a bulwark.

We must fully do our part, which is equally essential: in the war against this pandemic, the economic world constitutes the "rear forces". We all have a decisive role to play in the necessary manifestation of the solidarity and resilience of the production tool.

As promoters and managers of companies, our challenge is to ensure the continuity of production, especially in the vital sectors and in all related fields, not for strictly economic and financial reasons. It is indeed important that we do not add to the health crisis, a crisis of deficiency in the supply of our populations.
Madam, Sir,

It is not that easy, I know that.

This will cause the reorganization of work in our factories and our companies or even partial or total teleworking, to ensure the health safety of the employees.

Also, I invite all companies, wherever possible, to examine the necessary arrangements at workstations to ensure the health safety of employees and the business continuity, safety and with respect to barrier gestures and distance rules.

Concerning the relations between companies, I solemnly call for more solidarity, understanding and flexibility, in particular in the management of contractual relations between customers and suppliers, between principals and subcontractors, between bankers and companies, between creditors and debtors.

This is how we will together build the contribution of the business world to the national effort to avoid the collapse of our human, economic and social infrastructure.

This is an opportunity for me to remind you of the setup within GICAM of a Watch Unit, accessible on our website www.legicam.cm, the Covid-19 tab. It is in charge of collecting your concerns, monitoring the impact of the crisis on companies, and clarifying administrative decisions and supporting companies.

With the concern of solidarity and common action for our companies, I wish everyone to get through this crisis as well as possible.

Receive, Madam, Sir, the expression of my full support and my best regards.

Célestin TAWAMBA
President