

COMMUNIQUE

Extension of Maternity Leave from 12 to 14 weeks

It is brought to the attention of employers and employees that the Employment Rights (Amendment) Act 2015 provides for:

- (a) the duration of maternity leave to be increased from 12 to 14 weeks with a view to better support working mothers to fulfill their family obligations;
 - (b) the number of weeks of maternity leave to be taken immediately following the confinement has been increased from at least 6 weeks to at least 7 weeks; and
 - (c) the maternity leave in case of still birth has been increased from 12 weeks to 14 weeks.
2. The Act has been proclaimed on 21 May 2015 and it has come into operation on the same date.
 3. The Employment Rights (Amendment) Act 2015 also applies to workers employed in the sectors covered by the existing 30 Remuneration Regulations.
 4. It is also to be pointed out that all employees already on maternity leave as at 21 May 2015 will benefit from this extension.
 5. Employers are hereby requested to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Employment Rights (Amendment) Act 2015.

**Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations,
Employment and Training
28 May 2015**