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PRESS STATEMENT

WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1, 2011

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, today, December 1, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is pleased to join the international community to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and to express its solidarity with victims in the face of the pandemic.

The Commission recognizes this day as one of the most important days on the UN calendar as it presents an opportunity to spread awareness about the status of the AIDS pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care around the world.

This year's celebration, which is on the theme "**Getting to Zero - Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths**", brings to the fore the need for governments and all stakeholders to redouble efforts at dealing with the most destructive epidemic which continues to dog the human race.

Whilst the Commission takes cognizance of the progress the nation has made in reducing the HIV prevalence rate, it believes that the current rate of 1.5% (HSS 2010) still gives cause to worry as we still have a long way to go in reaching the global target of zero infections rate by 2015.

The Commission welcomes the news that the Ghana AIDS Commission, in partnership with the National Development Planning Commission and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, has developed and disseminated a National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS (NSP 2011-2015) throughout the ten regions.

It is also gratifying to note that the Ghana AIDS Commission has mainstreamed HIV policy into the medium term development plans for all districts. However, CHRAJ is urging government and all stakeholders to give their all to make these plans work effectively in dealing with the AIDS pandemic.

CHRAJ is, particularly, concerned that victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic continue to battle with challenges such as stigmatization, discrimination, family isolation and lack of adequate healthcare.

The Commission, therefore, admonishes all Ghanaians to shun such acts and to embrace persons living with HIV by showing them respect, acceptance and affection, as well as creating an enabling environment for them to smoothly integrate into the Ghanaian society.

We must always bear in mind that, they too, like every other Ghanaian, have fundamental human rights which must be respected at all times.

RICHARD QUAYSON
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER