



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  
**Treasury Building**  
George Street, Freetown.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The General Public would recall that on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health and Sanitation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with representatives of Healthcare Workers (the Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association, the Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Nurses Association and the Sierra Leone Association of Community Health Officers) establishing a compensation and incentive package for the Covid-19 response in Sierra Leone.

One of the commitments of the incentive package was that "All healthcare workers will be provided with a cash risk allowance in lieu of their PAYE (Pay as You Earn) tax deduction for the period of three (3) months commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, subject to review as may be necessary"

In fulfilment of this commitment by the Government, the Ministry of Finance wishes to inform the general public that, as at 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Government has paid **Le6,529,184,393** to **8,889** Healthcare Workers as PAYE tax rebate for the months of April and May 2020. The tax refund was paid into their accounts directly during the payment of the salaries for May 2020. Government will continue to make monthly tax refunds to Healthcare workers as and when monthly salaries are paid.

This payment is in addition to the weekly allowances of **Le1,000,000** paid by the Covid-19 Emergency Operation Centre to Healthcare Workers at the treatment and isolation centres, laboratories and quarantine homes/centres.

Also, the Ministry of Finance wishes to inform the general public that Government is concluding arrangements with the National Insurance Company (NIC) on a life insurance policy for Healthcare Workers that either become infected with Covid-19 and/or subsequently die during the course of the combatting and treatment of persons infected with Covid-19.

Government will also provide free tuition and other forms of educational support up to a maximum of three (3) children, up to 1<sup>st</sup> degree level, for any Healthcare Worker who loses his/her life in the discharge of their duties in the combatting and treatment of persons infected with Covid-19.

The Government is keen to ensure that frontline Healthcare Workers are provided with the required incentives to facilitate their efforts and activities in the combatting of Covid-19 in Sierra Leone.



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