



Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association

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PRESS RELEASE

The Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association notes with dismay that a press release from the Ministry of Finance dated 2nd June 2020, stated that all healthcare workers have been paid COVID-19 allowances as per the MOU signed by the healthcare workers.

Healthcare workers of all cadres have been working assiduously since the 1st case of COVID-19 was announced on 31st March 2020. Even when faced with lack of resources, equipment and consumables, we as healthcare workers have given our best. It is very disheartening to note that only lip service is being paid to the efforts of the healthcare workers. There are a lot of unfulfilled promises being made and not translated into reality.

Allowances to healthcare workers in the very forefront in treatment and isolation centres are almost nonexistent at the end of the second month in the COVID-19 fight. The promised PAYE refund has been erratic and only paid to some.

The SLMDA will like to thank all the non-governmental organizations and development partners that have been stepping in to rectify/remedy all the lapses and shortcomings of the COVID-19 response.

The SLMDA notes the disgruntlement of all healthcare workers from doctors through the nursing staff, laboratory technicians or scientists, CHOs, pharmacists, surveillance officers to hygienists.

The SLMDA is advising that if this situation is not resolved within 48hrs, it will lead to a massive disruption in healthcare services in Sierra Leone.

To the general public, please continue to observe handwashing, social distancing and use of face masks in public areas as we continue our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

