



## Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association

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### Message from the President to all members of the SLMDA

Good Day all,

I am taking this step to update you all on the ongoing health situation in Sierra Leone as concerns our doctors.

1. Today 30<sup>th</sup> June marks the end of the initial 3 - month agreement by government of Sierra Leone with Healthcare workers on COVID-19 allowances.

By a press release from the Ministry of Finance on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, which erroneously stated that all allowances to date had already been paid. The SLMDA released a counter statement debunking the claims of the Ministry of Finance. As a result of this the payslip of Dr. Samba Jalloh, General Secretary of SLMDA was published on social media with comments that he had already been paid and that the views of the SLMDA were politically motivated influenced by myself the President of SLMDA. Our investigations revealed that little or no effort was made to obtain and verify lists of staff at Isolation and Treatment Centres. It seemed that the authorities were devoid of a working plan to do the verification. The executive team headed by the Vice-President, undertook to obtain lists from all Medical Superintendents nationwide, unaided by the Ministry of Finance or any other form of logistics. These lists were produced and have been in the possession of IHPAU, NACOVERC and the Ministry of Finance for more than 2 (two) weeks and still payments have not been made.

2. To date we as an association have lost 2 (two) members to COVID-19, Dr. Samuel B. Sesay and Dr. Peter M. George. **May their gentle souls rest in peace.**

One of the points on the MOU with the Government of Sierra Leone was the provision of a compensation to the families of deceased doctors.

This has now been developed into a Special COVID-19 Life Insurance Policy under the National Insurance Company with GOSL paying the Premium for initial one year.

This policy includes **a compensation of 15% of annual gross salary to any doctor that contracts COVID-19 and survives**

**Death compensation of 24 (twenty four) months gross salary to the next of kin of the deceased**

**Critical Illness compensation of up to 50% annual gross salary for any verifiable costs incurred during illness**