



TRADITIONAL LEADERS SL NORTHERN REGION

PRESS RELEASE

Bombali District (10th October 2020) – The Traditional leaders Northern Region-SL wishes to express utter dismay with regards to various Press releases by the SLPP government through The Security sector, Office of National security (ONS), The Political Parties Registration Commission etc.

The Traditional leaders Northern Region-SL in no uncertain terms, wishes to debunk all Press Release issued and falsely and most despicably, accuses members of Traditional groups, youths and good citizens in restraining the ACC from having engagement with the Former President.

The Traditional Leaders Northern Region SL views these unfounded accusations as distractions from the real issues around SLPP's government display of disrespect, lawlessness and disregards of constitutional rights in the person of the Former President. Instead of issuing a sincere apology to residents of Makeni for their egregious breach of the peace, the SLPP government is making matters worse by insulting the intelligence of Sierra Leoneans with outlandish and ludicrous Press Releases.

We recognize, heartily applaud and support all proper and well-minded efforts at achieving accountability and ensuring that this principle becomes a widespread guiding norm in Sierra Leone. The setting up of the commissions of inquiry was therefore a laudable decision by the current government, however, we also hold and maintain that such should not involve the subversion of the rule of law or due process. Nevertheless, we find the COI findings and subsequent recommendations to be outrageous, lacking any support in law, unprecedented and simply vile in the Persons of interest, particularly The Former President.

It is obvious that anyone abused position of trust must face the law and this includes serving government officials, but this government has been incompetent, indecisive with no clearly defined policy in the fight against corruption. Focusing on the past government officials, to discredit your political opponent whiles your government is not above suspicion on corruption practices will not be tolerated henceforth.

Against the above background, The Traditional leaders Northern Region-SL is calling the government to note that the findings of a Commission of Inquiry have the effect of a high



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Court judgment and can be appealed, But even though the Former President has instructed his legal team to accordingly file in an appeal, the ACC has, in a curious turn, given indication that it once again wants to open an investigation into the same exact issues already dealt with by the COI. We view this as a politically motivated charade calculated to impugn the hard-earned reputation of our Son and brother The Former president.

For ten years, he served diligently, fairly and with honor and integrity. It is unfortunate that the government has chosen this route to unduly tarnish the reputation of the former president because of politics. Such ridiculous political harassment, witch hunt will not be tolerated, ENOUGH is ENOUGH.

Let it be known that, we stand with the Former President and readily prepared to defend and protect our people at all levels and will hunt those wanted to provoke unrest on our people.

Accordingly, All traditional Leaders are hereby required to do the needful and await further instructions. This is a fight we must take to their homes and offices, if the need arises.

END