



FIAT JUSTITIA

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PRESS STATEMENT

The Sierra Leone Bar Association (hereinafter known as the SLBA) hereby notes with concern the Order of the Supreme Court dated the 28th day of October 2020, which *inter alia* issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Augustine Sorie Sengbe Marrah Esq. and the denial of his access to all Courts in Sierra Leone.

Consistent with our mantra of constructive engagement, the Executive together with some past Presidents of the SLBA has been engrossed in serious consultations with relevant stakeholders in the Judiciary and our Colleague with a view to resolving the aforesaid issue.

Our engagement revealed among other things that our colleague was required to appear before the Supreme Court on Wednesday the 28th October 2020, but failed to do so. His failure necessitated the issue of the Order of the 28th *supra*.

Our engagement further revealed that subsequent to the Judgment of the Supreme Court delivered on the 26th instant in the matter entitled CS No. 6/2019 Between IBRAHIM SORIE AND GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL, our colleague aforesaid published on social media an article that came across as demeaning to the administration of justice in the realm. We hereby state that Judgments, Orders and Rulings of Courts must be respected. We implore Colleagues to be always guided by the Legal Practitioners' (Code of Conduct) Rules 2010 Statutory instrument No 1 of 2011 Rule 4 (1) (c) states

"Every legal practitioner shall act with integrity to ensure that his actions do not bring the administration of Justice into disrepute".

As an Association we are mindful of, and fully endorse the Provisions of Chapter III of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991, particularly Section 25 (1) thereof.

We must however note that these rights are not absolute, they go with responsibilities as provided for in Section 25(2)(a)(ii) of the Constitution which states :

"Nothing contained or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section to the extent that the law in question makes provision -

..... for the purpose of protecting the reputations, rights and Freedoms of other persons,..... maintaining the authority and independence of the Courts....."

In light of the above, the Executive hereby states the following:

1. That Augustine Marrah Esq. is hereby advised to subject himself to the jurisdiction of the Court by appearing before it on Friday the 30th October and thereafter as maybe directed by the Judges.
2. That members of the Executive and some senior colleagues at the Bar will be in attendance.
3. That Augustine Marrah Esq. and other colleagues at the Bar are advised to restrain themselves from making publications that would bring the administration of Justice and the sanctity of the Courts into disrepute.

DATED THIS 29 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020.

END




Abdul Karim Kamara
General -Secretary