



PR50383



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

PRESS RELEASE

COURT DISCHARGES LIBEL CASES

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Anthony Yeawoh Brewah Esq and his prosecution team today (16 Nov. 2020) rendered the case of the State Vs Dr. Sylvia O. Blyden and Hussain Muckson Sesay as "Nolle prosequi" in fulfilment of the recent commitment made by His Excellency President Jullus Maada Bio whilst assenting to the repeal of Part V of the Public Order Act of 1965.

In his brief address to the court before discharging the said case, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice disclosed that that Pursuant to Section 64 (3) of 1991 Sierra Leone Constitution, the state will no longer continue the matter as they have dropped all charges against the accused persons.

The matter between the State Vs Dr. Sylvia O. Blyden and Hussain Muckson Sesay were finally discharged by the Presiding Magistrate of Magistrate Court No. 1, Hannah Bonnie ordering that all documents and properties related to the matter be returned accordingly to the accused persons.

It could be recalled that the accused persons were charged with seditious and defamatory libel against President Maada Bio, and His Government in May this year.

Similar matters are expected to be reviewed and discharged in due course according to the Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swarray.

Today's action by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice is aimed at broadening and deepening the democratic space and unshackling responsible free speech.

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Directorate of Information

16th NOVEMBER, 2020

