



Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association

c/o Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association Secretariat
New England Ville, P.O.Box 850, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa.
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14th of April, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

The Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association (SLMDA) condemns the physical assault of Dr. Catherine Jackson Cole on Tuesday, 13th of April 2021 at Connaught Hospital by Senior Officials of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Such an ugly action done by key officials of the MOHS is totally unacceptable. For a female colleague of such a noble profession to be assaulted publicly. The SLMDA condemns the assault of its member in the strongest possible terms. Our hearts are with our colleague and family at this time. Unfortunately, the intimidation of doctors by key officials of MOHS is not new. For instance, doing wrong or inappropriate postings, diverting opportunities, writing letters threatening doctors who are demanding a well structured and efficient healthcare system in our country, Sierra Leone.

We are working day and night (24 Hours) more than the required time for a civil servant to ensure maximum healthcare service delivery to the people of Sierra Leone even with the extremely low number of doctors in the country, less motivation for our extra work, slow progress in post graduate training, several welfare issues, unhealthy working environment and a poorly structured and inefficient healthcare system. The public may recall that during the last strike action promises were made to address perennial issues affecting the health sector, most of which are yet to be addressed.





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After meeting with our members, the SLMDA has agreed to withhold their services till a response is made to our genuine concerns. Notwithstanding, skeletal staff are around to ensure that emergencies/critical cases are managed during the strike action.

To reiterate, we are withholding our services until the Government of Sierra Leone adequately respond to the following concerns:

- **Justice for our colleague, Dr. Catherine Jackson Cole**
- **Public Apology to our colleague,**
- **A committee to conduct an investigation into the events that transpired and communicate its findings with the SLMDA and subsequent disciplinary action.**
- **The entire membership of the SLMDA stands in solidarity with Catherine and will not tolerate any action to victimize her. Any attempts to do so will undoubtedly lead to very grave consequences.**

We ask the general public to remain calm as our primary focus is our patients. We apologize for any inconveniences or unintended consequences.

Sierra Leoneans deserve a better health sector now!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delwin".

Dr Delwin M. Findlay
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samba Jalloh".

Dr. Samba Jalloh
General Secretary