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24th of June 2021

Your Excellency,

Developments in recent months have prompted the Management Board and the Steering Committee of German Doctors to assess the state of our collaboration. We continue to have serious concerns with recurrent structural problems and corruption in the Serabu Community Hospital. While there have been some efforts on the side of the Diocese to address these concerns — mainly the independent audit to clarify the different corruption issues — some problems remain and others have worsened.

In the light of the theft of medicines in 2019, the report by GD's long-term doctor on wide-spread structural corruption in 2020, and the results of the audit report at the end of 2020 that verified most of the accusations, it was disappointing to see that the clearly needed reform process has not been properly implemented.

Recently, German Doctors has been confronted with another violation of procurement guidelines. In addition, GD was not involved in the recruitment process of the three vacant management positions at the Serabu Community Hospital, although we had clearly stated this was a precondition for our future cooperation. We asked for the required documents several times without any reaction.

The latest report of a short-term doctor that she and CHOs had worked a whole weekend without gloves and with a lack of medicine is entirely unacceptable, given that GD is providing all essential funding for the hospital. For months, the settlements of accounts have not been delivered neither in time nor in an acceptable quality. Until today, open questions remain in regard to the accounts dating back to April 2021.

German Doctors has invested millions of Euros into the development of the Serabu Community Hospital. We have been building the capacity of CHOs, nurses and administrative staff and have been supporting the hospital in a very hands-on manner – all in order to improve the health care of a very vulnerable population in a secluded part of Sierra Leone. The developments of the last years have eroded our trust and the recent events have not contributed in any way to rebuild it.

Vorstand  
Dr. Harald Kischlat  
Dr. Christine Winkelmann

Präsidiumsvorsitz  
Dr. Elisabeth Kauder  
Dr. Marion Reimer

Kuratoriumsvorsitz  
Dr. Maria Furtwängler



As a result, German Doctors has decided to end its cooperation with the Diocese of Bo as we cannot reconcile the mismanagement of funds with our accountability to our donors.

This decision will take effect on the 01<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. Should your Excellency identify verifiable ways to guarantee the funds will be completely and efficiently used for the hospital only, the funding period can be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021. We can have a meeting in the coming days to clarify any open questions.

We have informed Kindermissionswerk and KZE on our decision.

We regret that our cooperation has to end in this very unfortunate way.

Kind regards,



Dr. Elisabeth Kauder,  
President  
Steering Committee

Dr. Harald Kischlat;  
Management Board

Dr. Christine Winkelmann  
Management Board