

WESTERN AREA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Old Main Motor Road, Waterloo, Sierra Leone

E-mail: kashohollandcole@gmail.com



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

11th July, 2021

The Chairman and Councilors of the Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC) are appalled by the news of the arrest and detention on Saturday of the Deputy Chairman of the Council, Councillor Robert A. Browne at the Lumley Police Division apparently on the orders of the acting AIG Freetown West while carrying out his official duties in his capacity as deputy chairman of the Western Area Rural District.

WARDC strongly condemns the said decision and/or action and therefore calls for the immediate and unconditional release of its Deputy Chairman.

Councillor Robert A. Browne had gone to the Adonkia Police Station on Saturday to make a formal complaint following allegations of demolition of houses and homes in his ward (Ward 387) Dodo section in Constituency 109, Goderich, allegedly by some hired thugs led by some police officers, which sparked outrage among the community people. While he was in the process of making the complaint, the acting AIG for Freetown West met him there and allegedly ordered his arrest on a frivolous claim of inciting the people against the police.

We regard this unfortunate action by acting AIG Freetown West as a breach of Local Government Act of 2004 pursuant to Section 123 which states thus:

No matter or thing done and no contract entered into by a local council, and no matter or thing done by a member or officer thereof or other person acting under its authorization if the matter or thing were done or contract were entered into bona fide for the purpose of executing this Act, shall subject any such member or officer thereof or any such person acting under its authorization personally to any action, liability, claim or demand whatsoever.

Against this backdrop, WARDC is calling on the acting AIG Freetown West to order the immediate release of Councillor Roberts A. Browne without prejudice to ongoing investigation of the matter so as not to further jeopardize the already amicable working relationship between the Western Area Rural District Council and the police.

Signed by:

Kasho J. Holland-Cole

CHAIRMAN – Western Area Rural District Council