



## PRESS RELEASE

### **GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE THE LAND COMPLAINT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT PUBLIC.**

Freetown, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 - The Sierra Leone Land Alliance (SLLA) calls on the Government of Sierra Leone to publish the recent "Land Complaints and Dispute Resolution Committee" report submitted to the President of Sierra Leone on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

The Sierra Leone Land Alliance actively participated in the process and even facilitated a number of communities to present their complaints to the Committee. We believe that the Committee did a great job in listening to and investigating various complaints brought forward by individuals and communities.

We believe that the findings in the Land Complaints and Dispute Resolution Committee report should result in public debate on the way forward to the development of a comprehensive land policy and land administrative system in Sierra Leone.

Director of Sierra Leone Land Alliance John Paul Bai said "The Land Complaints and Dispute Resolution Committee's report should be made public before being pronounced as blueprint to guide successive government because it will enhance national discussion on the issue of land for the first time. Besides, all other past Ministerial Commissions of Inquiry reports have been published for public consumption. This report should not be treated as a private and confidential document only meant for the eyes of the President."

Our demand for the publication of the Report is based on the fact that since independence over 60 years ago, Sierra Leoneans have never had an opportunity to debate publicly, the issue of land reform with the aim of defining the parameters of an effective and just land policy that will enable fair land use and distribution. It is worth noting that Sierra Leone's land tenure system and land administration is obsolete and in urgent need for overhaul.

Therefore it is only prudent that since the 'Land Complaints and Dispute Resolution Committee' report is a synthesis of conclusions arrived at after a public enquiry, the very public that provided their views must debate and endorse those conclusions before they are declared a blueprint to guide future actions and land policy.

Mr. Solomon Sogbandi, Director of Amnesty International, said "This report should inform part of the discussions on our national constitutional and governance framework in the context of the constitutional review. Other stakeholders including Members of Parliament and Cabinet should commit themselves to working together in pursuit of having the report recommendations and conclusions thoroughly debated and implemented."

The Sierra Leone Land Alliance is a civil society organisation on land that seeks to mobilize the people of Sierra Leone for the realization of land reform ideals, which we consider to be indispensable to the realization of land and environmental security and the survival of our nation.

The End

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JP Bai".

For media inquiries contact:  
Mr. John Paul Bai,  
Director  
Sierra Leone Land Alliance  
42 Main Motor Congo Cross, Freetown