



ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC)
MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

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STATEMENT FROM THE ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS PARTY NATIONAL WOMENS CONGRESS ON THE SPATE OF HARASHMENTS OF THE MAYOR OF THE FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL, HER WORSHIP Mdm. YVONNE AKI-SAWYERR BY THE GOVERNMENT
(FREETOWN 7TH FEBRUARY 2022)

1. The All Peoples Congress (APC) Party National Women's Congress strongly condemns the constant spate of harassments of the Mayor of the Freetown City Council, Her worship Mdm. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr by not only the House of Parliament, but also by the Anti-Corruption Commission.
2. The constant hounding and hecklings around her as well as the pattern of intimidations and violence against women in general in and around the country poses a significant threat to women's participation in the social, political, and economic development of Sierra Leone at a time when such contribution to nation building by women is needed more than at any other time in the nation's history. The government in its wisdom has initiated a Gender and Women's Empowerment Bill all intended to protect and empower women.
3. The All Peoples Congress Party National Women's Congress would like to remind all parties that are involved in these seemingly unending spate of harassments and intimidations of the Mayor in this particular instance, and all other women in general in and around the country that their actions neither resemble nor represent Sierra Leone's morals, values, ethics and customs that respect the dignity and sanctity of women not only in their homes but also in their work places.
4. By this position statement, the APC National Women's Congress announces our unwavering solidarity with Her Worship the Mayor of the Freetown City Council Mdm. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, as well as other women who have endured harassments and

continue to do so under the government. The unwarranted and undignified barrage of intimidations and harassments by this government or their officials must stop.

5. **IN CONCLUSION**, The APC National Women's Congress is calling on all state actors, civil society groups, and the international partners to join us to admonish the government to ensure the **IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL** cessation of all these unwarranted smear campaigns against the Mayor, which we and the vast majority of Freetownians believe are all well calculated attempts aimed at tarnishing her hard earned reputation.. We urge the government to focus on the more important issues that are threatening the very survival of the state paramount among which are; addressing the **BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, JUSTICE, AND BUILDING NATIONAL COHESION**. The issue of the Mayor should also attract the attention of the recently created Peace and Cohesion Commission and all gender friendly groups.

Signed: _____

E. Mans

Mdm. Elesabeth Mans -President

Signed: _____

Z. Hassan Cooper

Mdm. Zuliatsu Hassan Cooper-Secretary

Copy:

1. The Embassy of the United States of America-FREETOWN
2. The British High Commission-FREETOWN
3. The EU Delegation to Sierra Leone-FREETOWN
4. The UN Resident Coordinator-FREETOWN
5. The Dean of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp-FREETOWN