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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

374 INMATES GRANTED BAIL DURING JUDICIAL WEEK

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 17th February, 2022: The Judiciary of Sierra Leone wishes to inform the general public that during the nationwide JUDICIAL WEEK, that commenced on 31st January, 2022 to 4th February, 2022, eight hundred and seventy (870) cases were processed by the Court. Out of this number, four hundred and twenty-three (423) were from the provinces and the remaining four hundred and forty-seven (447) were processed in the Western Area.

The Access To Justice Through Judicial Week is a huge success with a large number of cases handled and completed by 26 Judges who were deployed across the Country.

In a bid to increasing access to justice and decongesting Correctional Centres across the country, a total number of eight hundred and seventy cases (870) had the opportunity of their incarcerations being reviewed through prolonged adjournments, bail variation, bail application, summary review and *habeas corpus* application.

As part of the Chief Justice's commitment to enhance access to justice, inmates/accused persons or some convicted persons have the opportunity to be heard and their cases reviewed by specific Judges deployed across the country. Three hundred and seventy-four (374) inmates were granted bail to secure their release two hundred and fifty-nine (259) in the provinces, one hundred and fifteen (115) in the Western Area.

It should be noted that the initial number of incarcerated inmates was one thousand and thirteen (1,013). The number later increased to one thousand one hundred and seventy-five (1,175) inmates. Out of this number (1,175), the total number of prolonged adjournments were one hundred and thirty-four (134) and ninety-three (93) were completed. There was a total of one hundred and four (104) Summary Review cases of which one hundred and one (101) was completed. Out of a total of one hundred and three (103) of the *habeas corpus* application, seventy-eight (78) without Indictments were completed and the remaining twenty-five (25) were referred to the Law Officers Department. A total of two hundred and thirty-four (234) nationwide were discharged.

Detailed report with full analysis can be found on our website. For more enquires contact the Communications Department on 21334617548/+23279101086 or visit us on www.judiciary.gov.sl