

PRESS RELEASE



After a careful and thorough analysis of the allegations of Dr John Idriss Lahai over the mammoth of fake degree holders in the civil service, government agencies and other sectors, The Grass Roots Action for National Development (**GRAND**) is gravely concerned about the rate at which the revelations of falsehood in acquiring these degrees have proliferated.

We as an organisation believe that quality education and knowledge are the most valuable skills and weapons for societal transformation. It is our utmost desire as an organisation attending to the needs of young people of Sierra Leone, particularly in education to make it clear that it is intolerable for a developing nation to go through this untimely, unnecessary, misleading and pathetic act that is being allegedly carried out by some leaders in our society. It goes without saying that if there is no strong desire to acquire valuable and genuine education the future of our country is at stake.

Amongst the most serious repercussions of this incautious act by a handful of Sierra Leoneans relates to painting a very gloomy future and mockery of our academia, exposure to unfair questioning by outside institutions of Sierra Leonean students, defrauding deserving and hard-working people of their merited jobs and horrendously normalising impersonation and academic fraud in our society. All those Sierra Leoneans

PRESS RELEASE

at home and abroad with genuine degrees will be exposed to harsh treatment and "elements of suspicion" which brings the nation into disrepute on all levels.

Against the backdrop of a government that identifies itself with quality education as its flagship endeavour, this “degreegate” revelation has the tendency to sabotage the gains made in the sector and questions the viability of its flagship programme if stringent actions are not taken. We require that the Government should inform the entire nation of their plan to address this issue and ensure that the future of our youth and the jobs they are genuinely entitled to are protected. We should not wait to be judged by posterity.

GRAND SIERRA LEONE

#73 Adelaide Street, Freetown

+232 75 461-222 / grandsleone@gmail.com

Grassroots Action for National Development (GRAND), is a non-profit, humanitarian organisation whose membership is open to all Sierra Leoneans. The objectives of GRAND include, but not limited:

- 1. To undertake humanitarian and developmental projects and activities, specifically targeting the underprivileged, vulnerable and marginalised in our society, particularly women and children.*
- 2. To promote and support good governance and the rule of law through advocacy, constructive criticism and awareness raising interventions.*
- 3. To act as a pressure group to ensure accountability of government, government functionaries and other public servants.*