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*For Immediate Release*

**ALLEGED SHOOTING TO DEATH OF STAFF SERGEANT BARRIE OF THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL  
GUARD FORCE AT STATE LODGE**

The attention of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been drawn to a message in circulation on Social Media alleging that a Soldier was shot and killed at the President Lodge. According to the message, Staff Sergeant Barrie was shot to death because he made a statement on the delay for the supply of take home rice for the month of May 2022. The said statement is completely false and the story misleading.

The MoD would therefore like to inform the public of the correct account of the incident which led to the unfortunate death of the RSLAF Soldier. The facts are as follows:

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, one civilian residing at No. 49 Davies Drive Hill Station, made a distress call to Staff Sergeant Barrie and Sergeant Tucker (close friends of his), requesting for assistance to contain the unruly behavior of his son. The two Soldiers immediately arrived at his premises unarmed. Whilst the Soldiers were both attentively listening to him, his son unexpectedly appeared with a knife and stabbed both Sergeant Tucker and Staff Sergeant Barrie.

The two Soldiers were immediately taken to the 34 Military Hospital at Wilberforce Barracks. Unfortunately Staff Sergeant Barrie died moments later whilst Sergeant Tucker is still responding to treatment. The suspect was arrested on the same day and handed over to the Sierra Leone Police at Hill Top Police Station Mountain Division for investigation. The public is hereby reminded that, such acts has the potential to incite Soldiers which may affect the peace and security of the country. It is therefore advised that citizens should avoid publishing or spreading false messages on social media that are inciting and misleading to Soldiers.

MoD unequivocally condemns the stabbing of serving military personnel and sympathizes with the bereaved family.

= End =

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SIERRA LEONE POLICE  
**PRESS STATEMENT**

**ALLEGED THREAT BY POLICE OFFICERS TO EMBARK ON  
NATIONWIDE STRIKE ACTION**

MANAGEMENT OF THE SIERRA LEONE POLICE IS SEIZED OF THE FACTS THAT SIERRALOADED, WHICH IS AN ONLINE NEWSPAPER OR MEDIUM, PUBLISHED A STORY PURPORTING THAT SOME POLICE OFFICERS HAVE PLANNED OR ARE PLANNING TO EMBARK ON A NATIONWIDE STRIKE ACTION, ON A DATE YET KNOWN, ALLEGEDLY DUE TO A DEDUCTION OF LE 300,000 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND) LEONES FROM THEIR SALARIES, WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION, MANAGEMENT WOULD LIKE TO STATE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT WHAT POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE, AT WHATEVER LEVELS, AS THEIR SALARIES, IS INCLUSIVE OF ALLOWANCES;
2. THAT THESE ALLOWANCES ARE CATEGORISED AS FIXED ALLOWANCES AND/OR TEMPORAL ALLOWANCES;
3. THAT FIXED ALLOWANCES ARE CONTINUOUS AND ARE ALWAYS PART OF OUR SALARIES;
4. THAT TEMPORAL ALLOWANCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE OCCASIONALLY INCLUDED AS PART OF OUR SALARIES CONTINGENT UPON CERTAIN SUBSISTING NATIONAL SITUATIONS AND/OR CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS EMERGENCIES;
5. THAT WHEN THE SITUATION AND/OR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NECESSITATED THE ALLOWANCE(S) SUBSIDE(S), NORMALIZE(S) OR DRASTICALLY IMPROVE(S), THAT ALLOWANCE(S) RECEIVED FOR THAT PURPOSE WILL BE TERMINATED;
6. THAT DURING THE PEAK OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SIERRA LEONE, THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INFORMED THE POLICE MANAGEMENT ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF LE 300,000.00 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND) LEONES INTO POLICE OFFICERS' SALARIES, KNOWN AS TEMPORAL RISK ALLOWANCE, PENDING THE PANDEMIC;
7. THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS ADEQUATELY COMMUNICATED TO ALL PERSONNEL THROUGH THE COMMAND STRUCTURES OF THE SLP; AND FOR WHICH THEY STARTED RECEIVING AND CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE SAID AMOUNT INTO THEIR SALARIES ON A MONTHLY BASIS;



## GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Information and Communications  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Youyi Building, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

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### Media Advisory

*Punta Del Este, Uruguay - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022*

#### **Sierra Leone makes impressive progress on media freedom, jump 29 spaces up in the Global Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**

Sierra Leone has continued to make impressive leaps on its media freedom credentials. In the 20th World Press Freedom Index report published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 (<https://rsf.org/en/rsfs-2022-world-press-freedom-index-new-era-polarisation>), Sierra Leone was ranked 46<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries, jumping 29 places up from 75<sup>th</sup> position in 2021. The annual RSF World Press Freedom Index assesses the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories based on the political, economic, sociocultural contexts, media legal framework, and safety of journalists. The new methodology for Press Freedom Index defines press freedom as “the effective possibility for journalists, as individuals and as groups, to select, produce and disseminate news and information in the public interest, independently from political, economic, legal and social interference, and without threats to their physical and mental safety.”

This RSF’s new selection criterion sits well with our efforts to support and promote media freedom in Sierra Leone. Our impressive World Press Freedom ranking this year is a testament of the Government of Sierra Leone’s concrete actions to unshackle the media and chart a pathway for sustainable funding mechanism for the media in a manner that is inclusive, transparent and sustainable, and guarantees the free flow of public interest content. The repeal of part 5 of the 1965 Public Order Act, the new IMC Act and code of practice for journalists, the Cyber Security and Crimes Act 2021 and the just concluded media viability and investment conference were all the cumulative building blocks for this progress.

While we celebrate the world freedom index report, we also believe that this by itself is not enough to guarantee and sustain press freedom and the free flow of trusted public interest content without a viable media. At this year’s World Press Freedom day meetings, we are told that Sierra Leone is already ahead of the game. We are already working with partners across the media ecosystem to improve the funding environment of the media and to re-energise the media to be more transparent and improve