PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE ON THE MANHANDLING OF A POLICE OFFICER (HRCSL002/22)

16th May 2022, Tower Hill, Freetown

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) is the statutory body responsible to protect and promote human rights of all in the country pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act (No.9) 2004.

Through its monitoring of the social media, HRCSL came across a video that has gone viral where a police officer, PC 18080 Mansaray was seen being manhandled by one Ibrahim Bangura, a civilian.

In order to verify the said video, HRCSL engaged senior personnel of the SLP including the Head of CID, Crime Officer at the Central Police Division, Deputy Director of Communications, and the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Crime Services, all of whom confirmed that the said officer, PC 18080 Mansaray was the one seen assaulted in the said video and that the suspect is under police custody while investigations continue.

HRCSL hereby strongly condemns the said attack on the police officer and all other attacks that the police and other law enforcement officers have been subjected to in recent times in the course of the discharge of their lawful duties.

Citizens are hereby reminded that they also owe a duty to be law-abiding and to support the work of law enforcement officers in carrying out their lawful responsibility as provided for in Section 13 (j) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 which stipulates;

"Every citizen shall- render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order."

HRCSL however calls on the Sierra Leone Police to immediately charge this matter to court without any further delay as the detention of the suspect has gone beyond the constitutional term limit.

HRCSL takes this opportunity to assure the general public of its unwavering commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights of all in Sierra Leone.

Signed:

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Mrs. Patricia Narsu Ndanema
Chairperson