

CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENT

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THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE, 1991
(Act No. 6 of 1991)

THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, 2014

Short Title

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by subsection (5) of section 29 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991, and by Proclamation made by the President and published in the Gazette as (Public Notice No. 1 of 2014) the President hereby makes the following Regulations.

1. In these Regulations “authorised person” means a person authorised for that purpose by the Minister responsible for health. Authorised person.

2. The Government shall open a special account into which all donations received from organisations and the general public for the prevention and control of the *ebola* disease shall be lodged. Special account.

3. (1) Epicenters of the *ebola* disease shall be isolated by authorised persons. Isolation of epicenters.

(2) A person infected or suspected to be infected with the *ebola* disease shall not leave the epicenter, or the general area of residence or house until an authorised medical practitioner is satisfied that he or she is free from the infection.

(3) A person who contravenes sub regulation (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding six hundred thousand leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

4. (1) Subject to regulation 3 no person shall enter or leave an area declared to be an epicenter of the *ebola* disease unless that person has authorisation from an authorised person in that behalf. Movement to and from epicenters.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five million leones or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or or to both the fine and imprisonment.

Role of police and military. 5. (1) The Sierra Leone Police Force and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces shall –

- (a) restrict the movement of persons and vehicles to and from areas declared to be epicenters of the *ebola* disease;
- (b) protect health care providers engaged in the care of persons infected or suspected to be infected with *ebola* disease;
- (c) conduct regular patrols to maintain law and order.

(2) A person who obstructs the Sierra Leone Police force or a member of the Armed Forces in carrying out duties under these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding two million leones or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to both the fine and imprisonment.

Homes to be quarantined. 6. (1) Any location or home where the *ebola* disease is identified shall be quarantined until clearance is given by an authorised person.

(3) No person shall enter or leave a location or home unless that person has authorisation from an authorised person.

(2) A person who without lawful authority enters or leaves a quarantined location commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding two million leones or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Surveillance, or tracing searches. 7. Authorised persons shall conduct surveillance and house to house searches to trace and isolate persons suffering from or reasonably suspected to be infected with the *ebola* disease and suspected cases of *ebola* infection.

Concealment of infected person. 8. A person who conceals a person infected with the *ebola* disease or a suspected case of *ebola* disease commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

Wilful exposure. 9. A person who while infected with the *ebola* disease willfully exposes himself or herself to another person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

10.(1) A person who dies of the ebola disease or otherwise shall not be buried unless his or her death is reported to the Ministry responsible for health. Ebola death to be reported.

(2) A person who buries a dead person in contravention of sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

11.(1) Where a person infected with the ebola disease dies—

(a) the Ministry responsible for health shall be informed of such death who shall give the necessary clearance for the burial of the dead person; Burial of infected deceased person.

(b) a death certificate shall be issued by the appropriate authority before burial of the dead person;

(c) the dead person shall be buried by the authorised persons in the area in which the death occurred.

12. (1) A person who operates a hospital or clinic not registered and licensed in accordance with the relevant enactment shall forthwith cease to operate such hospital or clinic. Unregistered and unlicensed hospitals.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

(3) Sub-regulation (2) shall be without prejudice to any other sanction provided for in any other enactment.

13. The Ministry responsible for health shall establish an emergency operation centre in each district to deal with any reported or suspected case of the ebola disease. Emergency operation centre.

14. Local Councils shall—

(a) enact bye-laws to sensitise, prevent and control the spread of the ebola disease; Local Councils to make bye-laws

(b) support ebola control measures in their respective local council areas.

Prohibition of Public meetings and gatherings. 15.(1) Public meetings and gatherings are prohibited unless the meetings or gathering relate to ebola sensitisation.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding three million leones.

Prohibition of certain sporting activities. 16. (1) No person shall take part in any sporting activity that involves bodily contact.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Prohibition of operation of nightclubs and video centres etc. 17. (1) No person shall operate a nightclub, cinema or video centre until such time as the Minister responsible for internal affairs may determine.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months and the premises shall be closed and equipment confiscated.

Operation of commercial motor bikes 18. (1) Commercial motor bikes riders (okadas) shall operate only from 7a.m. to 7pm daily.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand leones and the motor bike shall be confiscated.

Lungi airport 19. The Civil Aviation Authority shall implement measures relating to the prevention and control of the ebola disease for arriving and departing passengers at the Lungi International Airport.

MADE this 14th day of August, 2014.

DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA
President.