BYE LAWS FOR ALL CHIEFDOMS IN SIERRA LEONE

FORMULATED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS AND MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT GEARED TOWARDS

THE PREVENTION OF EBOLA AND OTHER DISEASES

8TH AUGUST, 2014

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
The following Byelaws on the Prevention of Ebola and other Diseases are approved by the Honorable Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and made pursuant to the Public Health Emergency declared by the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and approved by Parliament on Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} August 2014 under section 29 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991.

The Byelaws shall come into force on the ..... day of August 2014
BYE LAWS FOR ALL CHIEFDOMS IN SIERRA LEONE

BYELAWS FOR THE PREVENTION OF EBOLA AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Communication of Ebola

Section 1

No one should keep or harbour any person suspected of having contracted the Ebola virus disease.

Nobody shall conceal any person who is sick from any disease. All illness must be reported to competent health authorities promptly.

Any breach of these provisions is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and/or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 2

All strangers arriving in any residential area shall be immediately reported by their host, guest house or hotel to the competent chiefdom authorities having the rank of at least a Paramount Chief, Speaker, Section Chief, Sub-Chief or Village Chief.

Any person who knowingly harbours an unregistered stranger is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and/or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 3

It is an offence under this Bye-law to distort or send any misleading information on Ebola virus disease or other diseases. Any information on Ebola or other diseases must be geared towards the prevention and control of Ebola or the said disease.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and/or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.
2. Treatment of Ebola Patients

Section 4

The Government Hospitals, Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) or hospitals or treatment centres approved by Government for the treatment of the Ebola virus disease and other contagious diseases shall be the only recognized facilities for the treatment of these diseases.

No person (including herbalists and 'pepper doctors') shall offer or be involved in the treatment of a patient for the Ebola virus disease or other contagious disease at home.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le. 500,000) and/or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment, and loss of professional certificate where applicable.

Section 5

Any person who is suspected of having contracted the Ebola virus and other contagious diseases shall be quarantined and monitored for twenty one (21) days or more by the appropriate medical personnel and the security forces.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le. 500,000) and/or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 6

All patients successfully treated for the Ebola virus and other contagious diseases shall, on return to their home communities, report and present their Discharge Cards to the Paramount Chief. Any former patient who fails to do so shall be liable to a fine of up to One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le. 100,000)

Section 7

Patients treated and recovered from Ebola Virus and other contagious diseases shall be welcomed within their communities without any stigma.
Any person who acts in a way that intends to stigmatise a recovered patient shall be liable to a fine of up to Two Hundred Thousand Leones (Le. 200,000)

3. Death and Burial

Section 8
All deaths must be reported to the appropriate chiefdom authority, Paramount Chief, Section Chief, Sub-Chief or Village Chief. Health personnel

It is an offence under this Byelaw for any person to be involved in the burial of the dead without the permission from the Paramount Chief, Section Chief, Sub-Chief or Village Chief.

Any breach of these provisions is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 9

All washing of the dead is prohibited without a permit from the Paramount Chief, Section Chief, Sub-Chief or Village Chief in consultation with the relevant health authority. Strictly no washing of dead bodies

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 10

No cemetery worker or community grave digger shall allow or permit anyone to be buried without the permission of the Paramount Chief, Section Chief, Sub-Chief, Village Chief or the Local Council where applicable.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.
Section 11

All Funeral Rites including wakes, 3rd day, 7th day, 40th day and other ceremonies, are suspended until such time when the temporary ban has been lifted by the appropriate authority.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.


Section 12

All secret societies and initiations are prohibited by this bye-law until such time when the temporary ban has been lifted by the appropriate authority.

All forms of circumcision for fowl (fol) is outlawed.

Any breach of these provisions is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment for both the initiator and parent/guardian of the child.

Section 13

All hunting or sale of any bush meat in the chiefdom or locality is prohibited until such time when the temporary ban has been lifted by the appropriate authority.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Two Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.200, 000) and confiscation of the said meat by the Paramount Chief/Sub-Chiefs/Section Chiefs / Village Chiefs who must destroy the meat immediately.

Section 14

All Lumas/Doweis and public gatherings are prohibited until such time when the temporary ban has been lifted by the appropriate authority.
Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 15

It is an offence for any unauthorized person to move in or out of a quarantined area, or for any means of transportation (e.g. boats, lorries, cars or bikes) to enter or leave without the permission of the relevant authority.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of up to Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment.

Section 16

All public places, including places of worship, mosques, churches, temples shall endeavor to have buckets with chlorinated water or soap available for visitors and worshippers to wash their hands before entering.

Section 17

Any public official, including but not limited to officials of government, local government or chiefdom or law enforcement officers, who impedes the application or enforcement of any of these Byelaws shall be guilty of an offence.

Any breach of this provision is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500, 000) and / or a term of Six (6) months imprisonment, and the official shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

Section 18

All Paramount Chiefs, Section Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs, Town Chiefs, Village Chiefs and their Speakers shall ensure strict compliance with the provisions of these Byelaws within their locality.

Any chief who has been found negligent in the application and enforcement of these Bye-laws is liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le.500,000) and / or summary suspension from office.
Section 19

Notwithstanding the fines and other punishment set out for offences under these Byelaws, chiefdom authorities retain the right to pursue legal action in the Local Courts or courts of higher jurisdiction, for flagrant violations of these Bye laws.

Signed this 11th day of August 2014

Hon. Finda Diana Konomanyi Kabba
Minister of Local Government & Rural Development

P.C. Charles Caulker, Chairman
National Council of Paramount Chiefs
THE HEADMAN COMMITTEE OF LUMPA VILLAGE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE YOUTH WING

EBOLA BY - LAWS FOR LUMPA COMMUNITY

1) No person shall conceal anyone who is sick from any disease. All illness must be reported to competent health officials promptly. Violator (s) of this law shall be liable to a fine of Le..........................

2) Herbalists and spiritual healers should stop treating patients at home or in their shrines (treatment – houses). Any person (s) guilty shall be liable to a fine of Le..........................

3) No harboring of suspected or positive cases of the Ebola virus. Any defaulter liable to a fine of Le..........................

4) Spreading of false rumors and disseminating misleading information is a crime, and defaulter shall attract a fine of Le..........................

5) Failure to report deaths and burials is also a punishable crime. Defaulters shall attract a fine of Le..........................

6) Drug peddling and treatment of patients at home are punishable crime by law, violators shall be liable to a fine of Le..........................

7) Burial ceremonies – Three (3) Seven (7) and 40 days all temporarily banned until further notice, defaulters are liable to a fine of Le..........................

8) No one shall engage in any form of intimidating or obstructing, community mobilizers, Ebola burial team, or any other health personnel, defaulters shall be liable to a fine of Le..........................

9) All strangers entering in the community shall immediately reported by their hosts to competent authorities, who shall assign that stranger, to a contact tracer for monitoring up to a period of 21 days, such stranger whether a family member or not must be hosted as a potential carrier of the Ebola virus until the end of the 21 days
monitoring period. Harboring of stranger without the consent or noticing competent authorities is liable to a fine of Le..............................................................

10) No clubbing activities or social gathering is allowed presently in the village. Defaulter are also liable to fine of Le..............................................................

11) All patients successfully treated for the Ebola virus disease shall, upon return to the community report and present their discharge certificate to the village head within .......... hours of return. Failure to do so shall pay a fine of Le..............................................................

12) All patients successfully treated and recovered from the Ebola virus shall be welcomed to the community without stigma. Any individual executing an act calculated to stigmatize shall attract a fine of Le..............................................................

13) Anyone suspected of giving false report against another person about Ebola virus because of personal differences (malice, jealous, etc.). Is liable to a fine of Le.................................

SIGNED BY:
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MOHAMED KABBA

(HEAD MAN LUMPA COMMUNITY)