**WEST AFRICAN MONETARY AGENCY**

**REJOINDER REGARDING RECENT PRESS REPORTS**

23 November 2022

The attention of the Management of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) has been drawn to an article at page 19 of The Standard Times newspaper of 23 November 2022 with the title, ‘Diplomat in Drug Trafficking… died at Istanbul Airport.’ Management also notes that the article cites the Monrovia based Front Page Africa as its source for the publication.

While we appreciate the writers and stakeholders behind the two publications for raising some concerns over the scandals and abuse of diplomatic passports they allege; we equally want to set the records straight on issues concerning WAMA brought forward in the publications.

The article states that according to the passport of the alleged holder of the Liberian passport number DP0003054, seen by Front Page Africa, Samuel Kwame Arbekah, he was an Economist with WAMA. We wish to state in unequivocal terms that there is no iota of truth that in that claim; neither the said Samuel Kwame Arbekah nor his published photograph is known to WAMA in any capacity whatsoever in the history of the Agency.

Management also decries the publication of the story without cross checking the facts with the Agency, which is situate in Freetown just as the Standard Times newspaper; following the Front Page Africa reportage which was also made without recourse to WAMA.

Management further notes that other news outlets which carried the story, such as the Turkish Harriyet Daily News reported materially different facts, and neither included WAMA in their reportage nor claimed to have seen the suspect’s passport allegedly tying him to WAMA. (See <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/liberian-diplomat-jumps-to-death-at-istanbul-airport-178734>)

Management of the West African Monetary Agency assures the peoples of the ECOWAS region of fidelity to its mandate and urges them to disregard any subterfuge calculated to or having the potential to denigrate the Agency or bring it into disrepute.