



Immediate Press Release

**CALL DEFAULTING INSTITUTIONS TO SUBMIT FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO THE AUDIT SERVICE SIERRA LEONE FOR AUDITING AND SALARY WITHHELD IMMEDIATELY**

Freetown, Sierra Leone 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

We strongly commend the Acting Auditor General, Deputy Auditor General inclusive the management and board for the leadership and proactiveness taken by informing the general public and naming publicly institutions receiving, generating funds for and on behalf the people and Government for service deliveries failed to adhere to statutory mandate

Section 119(2) of the 1991 Constitution mandates the Auditor-General to audit the Public Accounts of Sierra Leone and all public offices including the courts, the accounts of the central and local government administrations, of the universities and public institutions of like nature, any statutory corporation, company or other body or organisation established by an Act of Parliament or statutory instrument or otherwise set up partly or wholly out of Public Funds.

Sections 86(1) and 118(1)(b) of the Public Financial Management Act 2016 state that the Annual Financial Statements of Public Enterprises, Commissions and Agencies shall be audited by the Auditor-General or other auditor appointed by him. Violating the very Act of Parliament or statutory instrument or otherwise set up partly or wholly out of Public Funds.

People love to take up public titles but reluctant to take up public responsibility and accountability that exactly the leadership of the named institutions demonstrate. That is totally unacceptable. Tax payers including illiterate tax payers frown and strongly condemn such violations.

We recommend the following measures taken against the leadership of these institutions for violating the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone:

1. Query letter issue to all top management and board members of the respective institutions
2. Financial statement submission deadline (31 March) become a performance issue and be included on all MDAs performance tracking contract.
3. The Minister of Finance with immediate effect withhold the salaries and other benefit withhold with immediate effect for all top management including board members of institutions fail to submit financial statement to the Auditor General for auditing.
4. MDAs that had never submitted financial statement to the Auditor General for auditing, the top management should be sack and new board members appointed
5. ACC with immediate effect launch an investigation on the four (4) institutions named by Audit Service Sierra Leone public notice dated 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.
6. With immediate effect, salaries and other benefit withhold for all top management including board members of institutions failed to submit financial statements for the past two years.
7. Parliament to summon the top management and board members of institutions fail to submit financial statements for auditing and their supervising ministries.
8. The Minister of Finance to stop funding the four (4) institutions until financial statements submitted for auditing.

Network AID seeks to enhance the welfare and wellbeing of illiterate women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities and deprive children for a corrupt free, healthy population and environment.

Sign

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