



SIERRA LEONE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (SLCAA)

17th October, 2020

A DISCLAIMER TO AFRICANIST PRESS ALLEGATIONS ON MISSING FOREIGN TRAVEL TAX

The attention of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has been drawn to a peddling news article: **"Le3.2 billion Foreign Travel Tax Revenue Missing in Sierra Leone"** published on Thursday 15th October 2020 on allegations of Foreign Travel Tax theft. The Authority wishes it to be known that those allegations are false and, therefore dissociate itself with any misleading and unfounded claim of corruption as it has the propensity of dragging the SLCAA's hard-earned reputation into disrepute.

The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority was established by an Act of Parliament to provide oversight in the aviation industry with a financial autonomy to collect and utilise its funds for the effective and efficient functioning of the Authority. Ref part V Sub Sect 1(vi) and 2 of the CAA Act 2019. These referenced provisions empower the SLCAA to collect revenues and charges levied on service providers such as airline operators, travel agencies, air navigation service providers, etc.

By the creation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) in 2018, all funds accrued to the SLCAA, including Foreign Travel Tax, were consolidated and paid directly into the SLCAA TSA (Treasury Single Account Details: Account Name: Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Revenue Account: 011100211) managed by the Ministry of Finance of which 75% of the total amount is transferred to the SLCAA's Operating Account on a weekly basis as the SLCAA share of funds.

Furthermore, on the establishment of the Treasury Single Account, the Departmental Revenue Account for FTT (01100859/0111002434) previously managed by NRA for and on behalf of the SLCAA and the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) ceased to operate. This, the SLCAA believes, is the missing link in the alleged story of the Africanist Press.

On allegations of FTT funds paid by Air Peace Airline into the SLCAA operating account (**Account Name: Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority Disbursement Account: Account Number: 0112005061**), Management wishes it to be known that these funds were mistakenly paid into the SLCAA operating account by Air Peace Airline without the prior knowledge or approval of the SLCAA. However, upon realising that the funds had been wrongly deposited into the SLCAA operating account, a reversal of the said transfer was done into the SLCAA TSA held at the Bank of Sierra Leone.

In addition, the allegations that Royal Air Maroc made payment into the SLCAA Operating Account is false and malicious, as all funds paid by Royal Air Maroc were done into the SLCAA TSA and not the operating account or any personal account of any staff or any unknown individual.

While we await the official presentation of the 2019 Audit Report, it is worth noting that the SLCAA is a professional institution with an international reputation, and will not allow any individual or group of individuals to drag the name of the institution into disrepute for any personal reason under the guise of promoting transparency and accountability.

Meanwhile, the SLCAA assures the public of its continued support in public transparency and accountability.

Signed:



Management

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