



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

PRESS RELEASE

16th February, 2021

The attention of the Office of the Chief Minister (OCM) has been drawn to the baseless allegation by Chernoh Bah and his so-called Africanist Press alleging that over Le 34.2 billion (more than US\$3.4 million) has been spent on media consultancies and travel per diem in less than three years.

The OCM is an operational oversight/supervisory Ministry responsible for the monitoring and performance management of all Ministries. It also includes the following Directorates: Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiatives (OPII), Directorate of Performance Management & Service Delivery (DPMSD) and Directorate of Human Capital Development (HCD). In addition, it performance managed all the fifteen Agencies in the Office of the President.

All funds allocated have gone through the Ministry of Finance's normal budgetary processes, ratified by Parliament and allocated to all the respective Agencies, Commissions and Units within the Office of the Chief Minister which are verifiably and credibly accounted for through the normal internal and external audit processes and mechanisms. It is therefore important to clarify that the OCM is not a single unit as claimed by Chernoh Bah and his ill-informed Africanist Press.

Additionally, all procurements undertaken by the OCM were done in accordance with the Procurement Act of 2016. This has been confirmed by the NPPA. The claim by Chernoh Bah and his Africanist Press that the OCM breached procurement procedures is false and calculated to tarnish the good image of the New Direction Government.

In the desperate attempt to smear the integrity, credibility and reputation of the Office of the Chief Minister, Minister Dr. ~~Sengeh~~ and Directorate of Science & Technology, the so-called Africanist Press is spewing out outlandish claims that even the uneducated find it hard to believe. This shenanigan culture is disruptive to national development.

**Permanent Secretary,
Office of the Chief Minister**