



Renaissance Movement calls for respect for institutional independence and an end to intimidation tactics against State institutions.

Freetown, 16th March 2021

The Renaissance Movement Sierra Leone (RMSL) is following with keen interest the recent developments in the country relating to accountability, corruption, and the independence of critical State institutions. We are particularly concerned about the communication between the Auditor General, Financial Secretary and other government officials relating to payment of fees into a revenue account as well as threats to withhold the salaries of staff at Audit Service Sierra Leone; and the discussions following the release of the Anti-Corruption Commission's findings on the corruption allegations in Parliament made by Hon Ibrahim Tawa Conteh.

First, we reiterate the public trust in the leadership, independence, and integrity of the nation's Auditor General, Ms. Lara Taylor-Pearce. We strongly condemn all unnecessary attacks, threats and intimidations on her person and her institution. We urge Ms. Taylor-Pearce and the Auditor General's office to continue their patriotic service of shedding light on violations of processes and malfeasance in the public sector, without fear and favor.

We urge our national leaders and the public to show respect for and refrain from bullying and interfering with the work and the persons of sacred national institutions including the Office of the Ombudsman, Audit Service Sierra Leone, and the Anti-Corruption Commission to name but a few.

The Renaissance Movement urges His Excellency, the President, to take necessary actions to reassure the public of the independence of integrity institutions and give assurance to heads of these institutions of his support and noninterference as part of his vision to end graft and impropriety in public service.

On the matter of Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh and allegations of graft in Parliament, we thank the ACC for delving into the allegations of corruption in Parliament and for sharing their findings with the public.

We commend Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh for blowing the whistle and speaking truth to power despite the personal consequences he has had to endure.

The Renaissance Movement notes that it is only when people break ranks with dubious dealings that the sanctity of public coffers and resources can be maintained.

We urge the leadership of Parliament to swiftly clean up its act and put in place systems and processes that would be worthy of the people's house. We call on them to protect the free speech rights of all its members.



We acknowledge the ACC's findings on lack of systems of accountability in Parliament and welcome their proposal to support Parliament on strengthening its internal processes geared towards more transparency and accountability. We urge the ACC to do so swiftly and to hold accountable anyone found wanting for breach of even the smallest violation of the law, and systems and processes. No one should be above the law.

We urge the ACC to take necessary steps to reassure the public not to be discouraged to come forward as whistleblowers in exposing incidences of corruption and to ensure their protection.

We remain committed to supporting the State, the building of independent State institutions and a corrupt free and democratic Sierra Leone.

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