



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
FREETOWN MUNICIPALITY

REASONS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL 2022 BUDGET HEARING

The most important significant and important expenditure element of the Council's budget is Sanitation. There has been no presentation made to the Mayor and the Councillors of the Sanitation budget for 2022.

Furthermore, as highlighted through a series of letters of complaint written to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, press conferences, press releases and media appearances made by the Mayor of Freetown and Councillors of the Freetown City Council, the systematic and continuous actions of the Chief Administrator to prevent the achievement of the Council's 2021 budget for sanitation and revenue collection is having devastating consequences for the physical state of the city and the health of our residents.

The 2021 budgeted interventions that have been completely undermined by the actions of the Chief Administrator are Property Rates, Business Licenses and Sanitation.

Property rate collection stands at only 44% of the 2021 budgeted revenue (estimated before the completion of the MOPTAX calculations) and just 24% of the value of demand notes issued to residents.

Business license collection stands at only 42% of the 2021 budgeted revenue (estimated before the completion of the MOPTAX calculations) and just 16% of the value of demand notes issued to business owners.

Sanitation activities have been sabotaged to the extent that the commitment to keep our city clean is not being delivered on. Specific but non-exhaustive examples of this include:

- Failure to pay the tricycle groups that are sweeping the streets for almost 3 months. Without payment for this length of time, sweeping has stopped in many parts of the city leaving it in an increasingly unsightly and unhealth state
- Failure to give the tricycles groups access to the funds (Osusu Fund) that they saved with FCC over the past year for the repairs of their tricycles
- Considerable delay in the procurement of tricycles funded by the Mayor's Migration Council as part of a one-year project to increase waste collection capacity and improve sanitation. Funds were received in December 2020 but the tricycles have yet to be delivered

- Failure to even start the procurement process for the FCDO funded transfer stations that were handed over to FCC in May 2021
- Failure to provide adequate fleet management systems in places for the fuelling, repairs, servicing, licencing and overall management of the growing number of FCC vehicles. Recently only 3 out of 11 sanitation vehicles were working resulting in garbage build up in markets and public spaces
- Cemeteries all over the city are terribly overgrown with no respect for the dead. Le54m was cashed by the ESO in July 2021 and no action has been taken to address the fact that the work has still not been done
- Recent and earlier efforts by the valuation and business license departments to accelerate revenue collection have been squashed and teams prevented from executing plans to respond to over 360 queries, capture and issue 12,000 demand notices known to be missing, sensitize residents and generally progress with revenue collection under the new MOPTAX system.