



**THE FIFTY-FIFTY GROUP OF SIERRA LEONE**  
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**GENDER PARITY THROUGH TRAINING & ADVOCACY**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Freetown

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**STATEMENT ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE AUDITOR- GENERAL**

The 50/50 Group Sierra Leone notes with grave concern and utter dismay the sudden and indefinite suspension of the Auditor-General, Mrs Lara Taylor-Pearce, and her deputy, Mr Tamba Momoh, pending an “investigation”.

Whilst we await the outcome of such an investigation, the 50/50 Group would like to remind the government of the constitutional provisions that established the Office of the Auditor General and enshrined its independence, which safeguards the integrity and impartiality of that office which Mrs Lara Taylor-Pearce and her team have exhibited over the years. However, it has not gone unnoticed that Mrs Taylor- Pearce has been subjected to continuous harassment and intimidation. We wish to remind the government that the current Auditor General has an unblemished record both nationally and internationally. Therefore, we condemn any attempt to sully her reputation and integrity.

Furthermore, we remind the government of its commitment to empower women and girls. We fear that this action negates the positive steps taken by the government with the recent formulation of the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy (GEWE, 2020) and the Gender Empowerment Bill (2021). We hope that this suspension is not part of a concerted campaign against high profile women in Sierra Leone, which further discourages women from taking such posts.

Finally, we urge the government to fully disclose the reasons for her suspension to the general public, to take steps to resolve this impasse and reassure the people of Sierra Leone of their continued support towards gender parity, equality and the independence of state institutions.

The 50/50 Group Secretariat

*The Fifty Fifty Group seeks to increase the level of female participation in political and public life and ensure equivalence in the local councils, parliament, cabinet and other decision-making institutions of the State and to provide leadership training and literacy classes for women throughout the country. For further details contact the Fifty-Fifty Group Headquarters 50 OAU Drive, Tower Hill or the President, Haja Alimattu Abdullah;076609235.*