



BAN CALLS ON HIS EXCELLENCY TO RECONSIDER THE SUSPENSION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND ONE OF HER DEPUTIES

We the undersigned members of BAN are concerned about the indefinite suspension of the Auditor- General Mrs. Lara Taylor Pearce and Deputy Tamba Momoh of the Audit Service Sierra Leone. This decision came as a shock to the public especially that there is limited information for this action.

We are particularly worried that this action undermines public accountability which is fundamental for good governance and development. It further hampers efforts in maintaining fiscal discipline and accountable use of public resources.

His Excellency, the President, should be reminded that Sierra Leone is committed to the African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance, which under Chapter (9) Article (33) indicate that:

"State parties shall institutionalise good economic and corporate governance through effective and efficient Public Services; and through promoting transparency in Public Finance management".

We want to state that the Audit Service Sierra Leone has over the years demonstrated high levels of financial probity and provided oversight on the use of public resources as evidence in the Open Budget Survey where its score for 2020 was 72%¹ and as mandated by the 1991 constitution, with high levels of professionalism and acceptance of its work by citizens. Therefore, in the area of auditing, ensuring effective financial management, performance and professionalism, the Audit Sierra Service Leone and the Auditor General are rated highly in the world.

This action is more disturbing when the country is looking forward to the release of the annual audit report by the Audit Service Sierra Leone.

We want to draw the attention of His Excellency to his government commitment² towards protecting the independence of the Audit Service Sierra Leone. While we respect the authority of the president, citizens have the right to be informed of the reasons for the indefinite

¹ <https://www.internationalbudget.org/sites/default/files/country-surveys-pdfs/2019/open-budget-survey-sierra-leone-2019-en.pdf>

² [SLPP 2012 Manifesto.cdr \(sierra-leone.org\)](#)

suspension of the Auditor General and deputy to avoid misconceptions and misinformation amongst the Sierra Leonean population.

Since there are no clear information on this decision, we kindly ask His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone to reconsider this suspension of the Auditor General and her deputy because it is not in line with what was he promised to Sierra Leoneans in the New Direction Manifesto. It is also not a good and popular action, especially when the country is doing well in the Control of corruption indicator.

We therefore kindly ask His Excellency to rescind this decision in the spirit of national interest.

Freetown, 13th November, 2021

Signed

Budget Advocacy Network (BAN)

Members Include: Christian Aid (CA), Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Network Movement for Justice (NMJD), Western Area Budget Education Advocacy Network (WABEAN) and Transparency International Sierra Leone