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PRESS RELEASE

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES VISITATION TO LOCAL COUNCILS ON AUDIT REPORT**

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sierra Leone Parliament, chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah, has on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017, concluded a week long visitation to all Local Councils in the provinces, order in line with the Auditor General's Report for 2015 on queries levied against Local Councils.



*PAC Committee Members with Local Council Staff at the Hearing process*

The Committee observed that, councils, lack proper documentation, ineffective internal audit controls, effective management of personnel, effective management of councils budget, including poor use of fuel, withholding taxes not paid to the National Revenue Authority, procurement procedures not followed, etc.

Several of the Local Councils during the hearing were cleared on the Audit queries for 2015 whilst other Councils were unable to address queries levied on them.

The Finance Committee Chairman, a member of the PAC Hon. Hassan Sheriff with other members of the Committee decried several district councils for failing to adhere to simple managerial principles and warned that councils which failed to resolve their outstanding issues on the Audit Report 2015 will have their budgetary allocations for the fiscal year

2018 withheld by Parliament. The Committee frowned on the frequent transfer of personnel and the poor record keeping by all councils around the country.

It may be recalled that every year, the Audit Service Sierra Leone undertakes an audit exercise for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), which report is laid in Parliament following which the Public Accounts Committee acts upon it and makes recommendations to the Executive arm of government .

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