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17th AUGUST 2018

PRESS RELEASE

PAC ORDERS KENEMA CITY COUNCIL TO PAY MINIMUM WAGE WITH BACKLOGS

17/08/18: As part of its continued public hearings with the remaining Councils in the Eastern Region, in respect of the queries raised in the Auditor General's Report of 2016, the Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas has ordered "Kenema City Council to pay the minimum wage as established by law to its staff, with backlogs for the period under review".

The Chairman of the Committee said that "issues bordering on the welfare of staff are human rights concerns, and that any Council that is guilty of paying salaries below the minimum wage should desist forthwith and start to pay the actual minimum wage with backlogs before the end of the year, and keep the evidence for the purposes of audits".

The Public Accounts Committee has also summoned all the officials of Kenema City Council to Parliament on 24/08/18 to present receipts, agreements, demand notices, cash books, and bank statements for various transactions to the tune of Le 2 Billion, "failing which the issues raised will be referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission for further investigations". Part of the said amount includes a Le 30 Million non-existence contract with Marie Momoh, no contract agreement for extending the capacity of the Pavilion from 2,000 to 2,500 for over Le 1 Billion and Le 162 Million was expended on fuel without supporting documents.

Hearings for Kailahun District Council were also deferred and a second summons had been issued for them to be heard in Freetown on the 24/08/18, and were strictly advised to appear in Parliament with all relevant documents relating to their queries and the present and past core staff of the said Council. However, the former and suspended Chief Administrator of Kailahun District Council was present, since he was summoned by the Public Accounts Committee.

Hearings for Kenema District Council were also deferred to the said date for similar reasons such as the absence of the former Chief Administrator, Procurement Officer, and the Finance Officer.

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