



**PARLIAMENTARY QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE
[PQAC] REPORT**

ON

**MEETING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURAL NEEDS AT THE
PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE, FREETOWN**

A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION [EU]

AND IMPLEMENTED

BY

**THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES
[UNOPS]**

SUBMITTED BY:

ABDUL RAHMAN N'JAI

1. LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BoQ	Bills of Quantities
CoP	Clerk of Parliament
CSPS	Center for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies
DG	Director General
EC	European Commission
EDSA	Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority
EGTC	Electricity Generation and Transmission Company
EU	European Union
FCC	Freetown City Council
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
HoP	House of Parliament
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MoE	Ministry of Energy
MPs	Members of Parliament
PoSL	Parliament of Sierra Leone
PQAC	Parliamentary Quality Assurance Committee
PS	Parliamentary Service
PSC	Parliamentary Service Commission
PTC	Parliamentary Technical Committee
ToR	Terms of References
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
vfm	Value for Money

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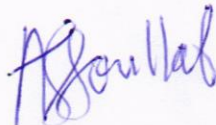
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Quality Assurance Committee (PQAC) was established by the Clerk of Parliament (CoP) in July, 2022 [following the adoption of a Motion by Members of Parliament where they expressed dissatisfaction over poor implementation of the project – Meeting Critical Infrastructural Needs of Parliament of Sierra Leone (PoSL)], with the mandate to assess the quality of the work of the United Nations Office for Project Services [UNOPS] in all material respect, including the refurbishment of Parliament among others and accordingly report on the Committee's findings.

The Committee had its first meeting on the 3rd August, 2022 where it mapped out a strategic direction on how the investigation process would look like. At that meeting and with its mandate, the Committee, as one of its responsibilities, agreed on several actions. Among the actions was the one to write to UNOPS through the Project Board Chair for the submission of the project documents, especially the Bills of Quantities [BoQs] before the commencement of the exercise. A Letter was then written to UNOPS, copying all stakeholders, requesting for BoQs and all other related documents that would aid the Committee carryout the task within the stipulated timeframe, but there was no response to the request and that delayed the work of the Committee.

The Committee held several meetings thereafter, including project site visitations, interviews with key stakeholders. Those meetings provided the platform upon which certain decisions that informed the course of the investigation were taken.

In totality, the investigation covered thirteen [13] components of the Project that were funded by the EU and implemented by UNOPS. It is the view of the Committee that this report would provide the most invaluable information for the Parliamentary Leadership, Members of Parliament (MPs), Parliamentary Staff, the General Public, the Donor and the Project Implementers.

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2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Located on the hill top of Tower Hill, OAU Drive, Freetown [overlooking the capital city], the Sierra Leone House of Parliament (HoP) is the Legislative Arm of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and was inaugurated in 1961 as House of Representatives; and since that period, it had never been renovated until 2004, when a Chinese Company was contracted to renovate same by the GoSL after forty-three [43] years in existence.

In 2016, the European Commission [EC] agreed to provide Twenty-Seven Million Euros [EUR 27,000,000] to support the governance sector in Sierra Leone and Parliament was to benefit Three Million Euros [EUR 3,000,000] from that amount. A Committee [on the European Union Parliamentary Project] was constituted by the Leadership of the Forth Parliament [which comprised of MPs, Management and Staff of Parliament], stated in one of their recommendations that the Three Million Euros was too huge for the rehabilitation of the Main Legislative Building and thus recommended that the amount be used to construct one hundred and fifty [150] offices for MPs, three hundred [300] seater multipurpose conference hall and twenty [20] special offices for the Leadership.

The EU came to the Leadership [after the feedback from Parliament], and informed same that in their assessment, the Three Million Euros would not be enough to meet the listed needs. The erstwhile Leadership was however of different view, which was in disagreement with that of the EU and there was a standoff between both parties, and the Project was temporarily abandoned. After several deliberations when the process was resuscitated, the erstwhile Leadership of Parliament acceded, but on the condition that the whole structure of the Main Legislative Building is properly roofed, so as to put to rest the persistent leakage that had engulfed same every rainy season. The EU agreed, but the implementation process was suspended until after the general elections in 2018.



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3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The PQAC was established by the CoP and approved by the Rt. Honourable Speaker of Parliament, following the adoption of a Motion by MPs [where they expressed frustration over the use of substandard materials and poor works done by engineers contracted by **UNOPS**, to investigate whether the Project Implementers complied with the terms and conditions of the Project and value for money [vfm] is attained in terms of meeting the desired result.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

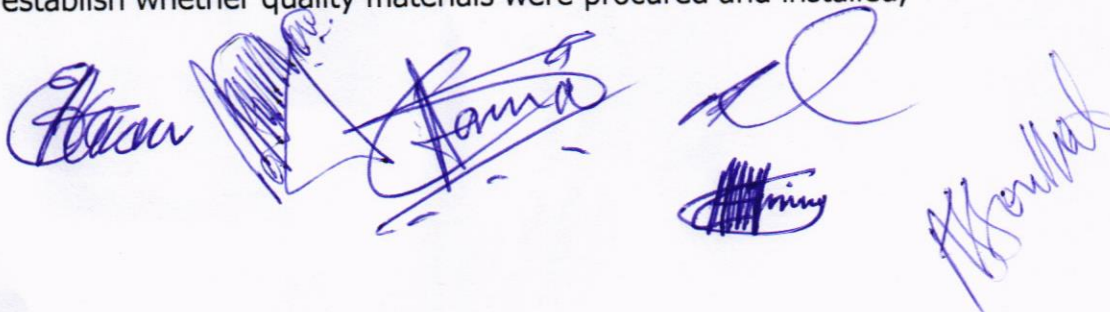
As stated in the Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR), the Committee was constituted to find out whether the Project Implementers observed the Project terms and conditions and to also determine whether vfm is attained by examining the quality of works done and the quality of materials used. Other responsibilities of the Committee [as indicated in its ToR] are:

- ❖ Follow upon on project implementation of approved BoQs with the contractors to ensure compliance to standards and signed contracts;
- ❖ Conduct inspection of rehabilitation works, materials and equipment installed;
- ❖ Assist the Project Board through assessment of identified critical infrastructure in selected location and develop a work plan with estimated cost; and
- ❖ Any other duties as may be assigned by the Project Board Chair.

5. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

The main aim of the exercise was to find out whether vfm is attained by looking at the quality of workmanship and of the materials used to meet the desired output. The specific objectives are:

- ❖ to ascertain whether the Project Implementers complied with the Project terms and conditions;
- ❖ to examine the quality of work done and determine whether vfm is realised;
- ❖ to establish whether quality materials were procured and installed;



- ❖ to bring to light the challenges encountered by the Project Implementers in the course of executing same;
- ❖ to identify the gaps and provide solid recommendations;
- ❖ to find out whether the awards of the Project Contract to UNOPS and contracts to contractors were done in accordance with the required laws or procedures; and
- ❖ to discover the extent to which UNOPS [the Lead for the Project implementation], adhered to procurement regulations and the tax laws of Sierra Leone.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The following constitute the membership of the Committee and a Secretary:

N'Jai, Abdul Rahman	Chairman
Sannoh, Abdulai B	Member
Conteh, Mamusu Fatima	Member
Kamara, Anthony C	Member
Kamara, Alie	Member
Foullah, Musa L A	Secretary

7. SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

The exercise lasted for months [from August, 2022 to March, 2023] and covered the following components of the Project:

- i. Construction of the Walkway/Ram;
- ii. Installation of Two Passengers Lifts;
- iii. Construction of a Water Reservoir and a Pump Room;
- iv. Construction of a Police Security Post;
- v. Electrification of the Main Building – 500 KVA Generator and PV Solar;
- vi. Firefighting System;
- vii. Project Vehicle [Toyota Hilux];
- viii. Plumbing, Tiling, Ceiling, Electricals and Sewage System;
- ix. Addressing the Leakages;

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Anthony C Kamara

- x. Expansion of the Leadership Offices, Provision of additional Toilet Facilities, and the Renovation of Staff Offices and Public Toilets;
- xi. Maintenance of Three [3] Main Entrance and Sixteen [16] Exit Doors;
- xii. Construction of parliamentary stores and offices for CSPS
- xiii. ICT Infrastructure.

8. METHODOLOGY

The exercise comprised a review of the Project documents, reports, including letters and memos, Minutes of Meetings and Mails showing evidence of communication and other relevant documents. Besides, the Committee visited Project sites with PoSL technical staff to physically verify the quality of materials used and the quality of work done. The Committee further conducted interviews with the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, the CoP, Project Board Chairman, Director General (DG), Director of Internal Controls and Compliance (ICC), Director of ICT and team, Director of Sergeant-At-Arms, Facility Supervisor and team, aiming at gaining insights into how the Project was awarded and eventually implemented. In this respect, the review of documents and explanations from interviewees gave this Committee a better understanding of the issues and directed further investigations to specific areas of concern.

Again, to ensure fairness and in compliance with the principle of audi alteram partem, the Committee met with Ing. Trudy Morgan for some clarifications on issues raised by Parliamentary Facility and Technical Teams and to hear her (Ing Trudy Morgan) own part, especially on the quality of materials used and the expected results.

9. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are summaries of the Committee's general findings and recommendations:

a. Parliament's Involvement in the Award and Implementation of the Project

Interviews conducted and documents reviewed revealed that:

- ❖ The EU Delegation awarded the Project Contract to UNOPS after obtaining a '**No Objection**' from PoSL, informing the Leadership of Parliament that the grant was about to lapse unless utilised immediately. Consequently, the EU Delegation awarded the Contract to UNOPS without following the due procurement process in accordance with the Procurement Laws of Sierra Leone.

In view of the above and in consideration of the fact that EU could have their own procedures relating to the award of Projects/Contracts, the Committee is of the view that in future, the country's procurement laws and even donor regulations be strictly adhered to so that a contractual relationship between the Beneficiary and the Project Implementer[s] is clearly established.

b. Governance of the Project

A Project Board [consisting of the CoP as Chair, Ing. Trudy Morgan as Secretary, representatives from all Political Parties and Paramount Chiefs], was established to provide strategic direction, guidance and management of the Project through review and approval of changes to initial plans, priorities, deliverables and schedules.

The Committee observed from the review of Project Board Minutes and interviews conducted with Ing. Trudy Morgan [UNOPS' Project Manager], that the Project Board made certain changes to the original plans, deliverables and priority areas, such as the provision of ten Desktop Computers [instead of the approved sixty]; Lenovo Tablets [instead of Apple Brand (iPad) suggested by the ICT Director]; not including the Lithium Energy Storage System [Solar Battery] and also dropping the construction of another facility to host the other PV Solar, provision of Lifts and the reinstallation of half of the old aluminum zinc. However, the Committee noted that the decision to terminate the contracts with BDEV and subsequently awarded to other contractors was not taken by the Project Board, but by UNOPS after consultations with EU. The Committee was with the opinion that the issue should have been discussed first at Project Board meetings, given the critical nature of same.

Contingent upon the above, the Committee is of the view that in future, every decision is sanctioned by the established Project Board; and that the

A series of handwritten signatures in blue ink, including a signature that appears to be 'Trudy Morgan' and another that appears to be 'James'.

decision to not include the second PV Solar and the Lithium Energy Storage System [Solar Battery] be reconsidered by the Project Board because it will help to store excess electricity that can be used in the event Solar Panels cannot generate enough energy, especially at night and during the rainy seasons when the supply of sunshine is not always constant.

c. Bills of Quantities [BoQs]

The BoQs is simply a detailed statement of work, prices, dimensions and other important details in the construction industry. Wikipedia defines BoQs as a document used in the construction engineering wherein materials, labour and their costs are itemised. The Committee however noted from the review of documents that:

- ❖ the BoQs were without costs or prices attached; and as a result, the Committee was unable to ascertain the cost of materials and labour; and
- ❖ in some instances, the contractors were asked to cost materials, a situation the Committee noted as not only an aberration to normal construction practice, but the possibility for overpricing. An example here also, was when Mr. Joseph Conteh, the ICT Director was directed to do costing for an amount of **€500,000** for ICT needs.

Based on the foregoing, the Committee is of the view that comprehensive BoQs are submitted to the newly established Parliamentary Technical Committee (PTC) for further consideration; and in future, contractors should not be asked to provide costs of materials, so as to avoid conflicts of interest, which could eventually lead to overpricing.

d. Provision of Additional Facilities

From the interviews conducted and sites visited, the Committee found that some alterations were made by the Project Board, which resulted in the provision of additional facilities, such as the installation of Lifts for people with disabilities, walkway/ram linking the Main Legislative and the Administrative Buildings, Water Reservoir, 500KVA Generator, PV Solar, Police Post, Stores, offices for the Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies [CSPS], expansion of Leadership Offices with additional toilet facilities, etc.



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Whilst commending the Project Board and UNOPS for these adjustments, the Committee however expressed grave concern over poor workmanship and the use of substandard materials in these facilities, especially the wooden plank installed on the walkway and its size, fittings and fixtures, glass and therefore recommends that those materials are replaced with better quality materials and the size of the walkway increased to prevent water from splashing on users when it rains.

e. Ongoing Works

Project sites visited and interviews conducted with sites engineers revealed that the contracts for the installation of pipes and other equipment at the Pump Room, installation of solar gadgets, Lifts, etc. are still ongoing; and recently UNOPS has awarded contracts to address the defects caused by poor work and substandard materials earlier used, especially those relating to plumbing, leakage, ceiling, fittings and fixtures, etc.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that UNOPS exercises urgency and ensure that the various aspects of the Project are completed without further delay; and the PTC [through their professional advice] ensures that quality materials are used and quality works are carried out.

f. Relationship between UNOPS and Parliament's Facility Teams

Under normal circumstances, it is expected that a healthy work relationship between the resident technical teams and the project implementers is cultivated and nurtured for proper execution of specific tasks. The Committee however realised from interviews conducted that this ideal situation was not achieved due to reasons best known to both parties. This created embarrassing situations wherein Parliament's Facility Teams are not opportune to know how the water pipes and electrical cables were run; and in the event there is a glitch somewhere within the building, it would be very difficult to swiftly address the problem by Parliament Facility Teams.

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Based on the foregoing and in consideration of the fact that the Facility

Teams would have to take over the maintenance aspects of these facilities,

the Committee considers the following as critical:

- ❖ The Office of the COP and that of the DG should ensure that the various maintenance teams cooperate with UNOPS/sites engineers, so that they familiarise themselves with happenings at the various sites; and

❖ UNOPS to provide trainings for all Facility Teams on the maintenance aspect of these facilities, such as the pipes and equipment at the Pump

Room Station, the Lifts, PV Solar, etc.

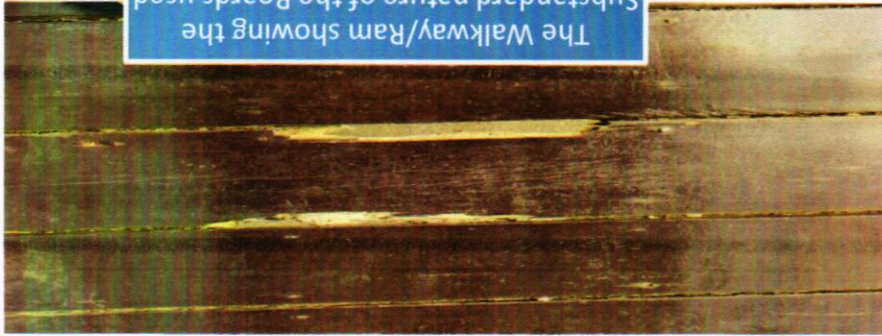
B. SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALKWAY/RAM LINKING THE TWO BUILDINGS

The walkway/ram links the Main Legislative Building to the Administrative building. This is one of the innovative areas of the Project because pedestrians are expected to be protected from the scorches of the sun or rains when trying to access any of the buildings from the other end. During the investigation process, however, the Committee

noted the following:

- ❖ I-beam steels were of higher quality, and both the steels and wooden plank were perfectly installed. However, the Committee considered the walkway as a death trap due to the low quality of boards used and some of them have sustained serious cracks that could lead to horrible accident, if nothing is done in the not-too-distant future. See photo below:



The Walkway/Ram showing the Substandard nature of the Boards used

❖ the Committee also considered the walkway to be too narrow for the purpose with

no water prevention guards to prevent water from splashing on pedestrians when it rains. Consequently, the boards get slippery, making very difficult and too risky for

users. See photo below:

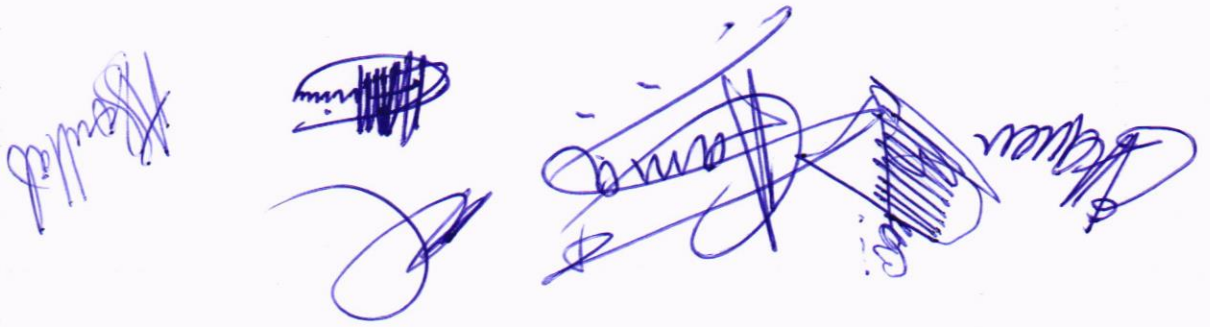


In view of the above, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ the walkway facility should be temporarily put out of use until the wooden plank is replaced with concrete slab; and
- ❖ the way sides of the walkway [from the plank to the roof of both sides] are enclosed with glass or any other transparent material, thereby creating a corridor that will prevent rainwater from splashing on pedestrians whenever it rains.

(!!!) INSTALLATION OF TWO PASSENGERS LIFTS

Interviews conducted and sites visited revealed that the two pits for the installation of passengers' lifts had been dug and the installation process has started. Thus, the Committee constrained to give further comments on them. As indicated in the photograph below, installation of the Main Entrance Lift is now in advanced stage. See photo below:





The site engineer informed the Committee that the Main Entrance Lift would enable people with disabilities [especially those on crutches, wheelchairs, etc.], to access important areas such as the Lower and Upper Galleries, Members' Lounge, Stall Hall and Speaker's Level within Parliament.

The Platform Passenger Lift to be installed at the Committee Level Floor would enable same to access the famous Committee Room 1 where Presidential Nominees are vetted and Bills are scrutinised. The Committee observed that the installation process has commenced.

The Committee commended the Project Board for recommending the incorporation of this aspect into the Project, adding that it is now a global phenomenon for public institutions, especially Government Institutions, Schools, Hospitals, Universities, etc. to ensure that people with disabilities or people with special needs have barrier free access to the facilities of these institutions. The Committee is however of the view that the decision to install a Lift at the main entrance of the Main Building, which is now in advanced stage, was not strategic and therefore does not add any real time value to the Project because a ram [expected to serve the same purpose], could have been more economical when considering the amount used to procure same and the cost [electricity consumption, maintenance and related], it would bring Parliament in future.

Based on the foregoing and in consideration of the importance of this facility for the disabled community, the Committee recommends that:

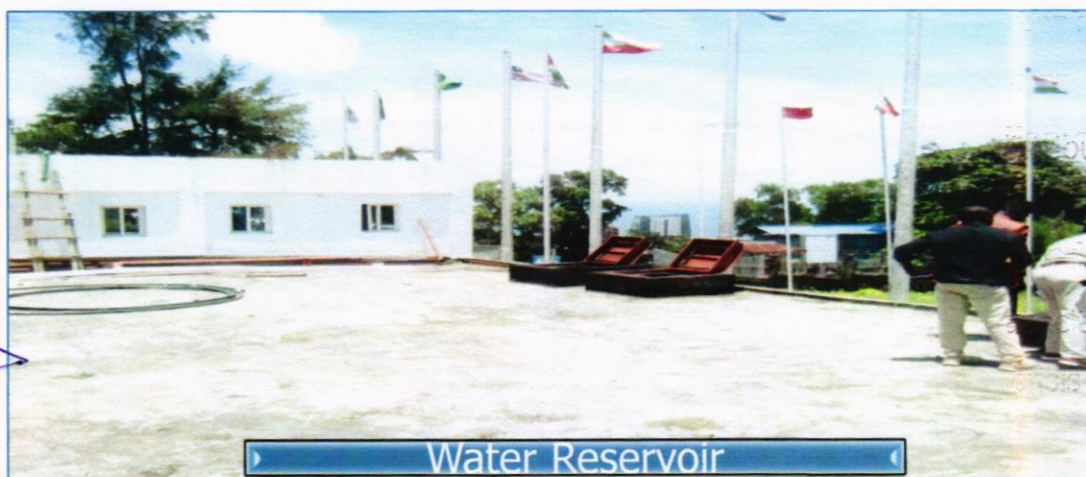
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- ❖ UNOPS expedites the completion of the installation process, so that the facility is made available to would-be users and proper repairs and maintenance plans (including trainings) are shared with Parliament's Facility Teams;
- ❖ The newly established PTC to follow-up on the quality of works and the quality of materials in use; and
- ❖ Any future opportunity of same, the area to consider first should be at the back of the Main Building, where there are more staircases.

(iii) CONSTRUCTION OF A RESERVOIR AND A PUMP ROOM

The reservoir is expected to serve as the water storage facility for onward distribution to the Miller Tanks installed at the Main Legislative Building. Interviews conducted with sites engineers and sites visited revealed the following:

- ❖ The water reservoir is approximately 223 cubic meters and has a capacity of 223,000 litres, which when completed, would help to salvage the water crisis that has engulfed Parliament for several years. The reservoir is shown below:

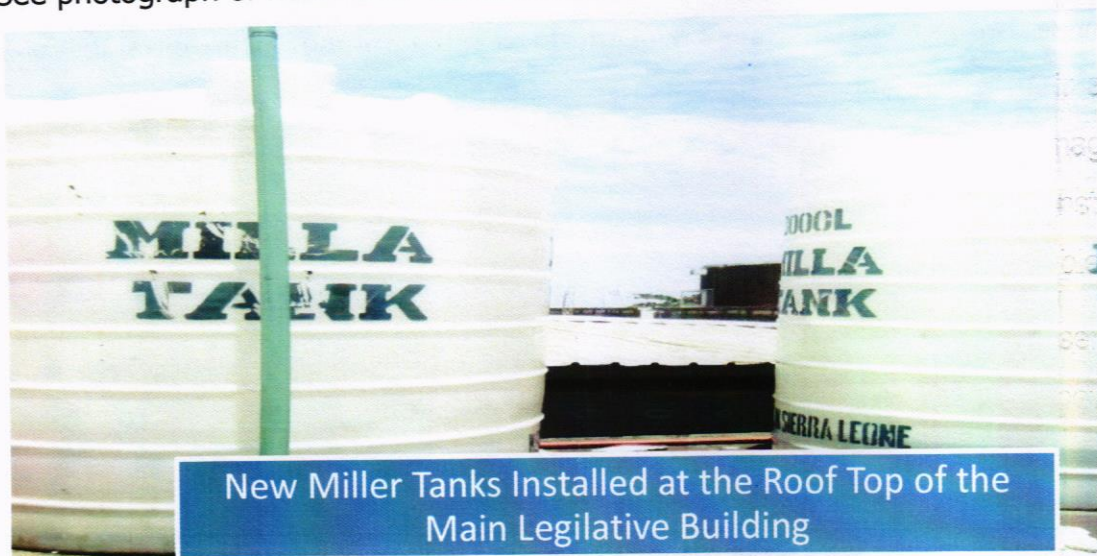


- ❖ work has resumed at the Pump Room Station and sixty to seventy percent of installation of pipes and other equipment had been done, after several months of stalemate due to termination of initial contract as a result of underperformance and other challenges encountered with the contractor;

See photos below.



- ❖ the Pump Room will serve as the link between the main source Reservoir and the Main Building. The Committee was reliably informed by UNOPS Project Manager that the feasibility studies had been done by officials from GUMA and that the installation of pipes from GUMA to Parliament would commence when funds are available;
- ❖ The Old Miller tanks that are expected to receive water supply from the reservoir for onward distribution to the end users were removed and replaced with new ones. See photograph of new Miller Tanks below:



In consideration of the above, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **UNOPS fast-track the completion of the installation of pipes and other equipment, so that the facility is made available to end users;**

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- ❖ **parliamentary staff are trained on how to use the equipment and also an engineer/technician is attached in the event some technical hitches occur. This would ensure swift response to technical faults and also prevent Parliament from outsourcing technicians;**
- ❖ **The newly established PTC should follow-up on the remaining works to be done and report its findings to the Project Board.**

(iv) A SECURITY POLICE POST

A Police Post, which was not part of the Project, was also incorporated and eventually constructed at the top of the Pump Room to address the accommodation problem the police officers are currently facing, so as to provide adequate security within the precincts of Parliament. The new security structure, as shown below, makes provision for an office, two toilets and a lobby.



While applauding the Project Board for suggesting the construction of a Police Post, the Committee recommends that proper care is taken.

(v) ELECTRIFICATION OF THE MAIN BUILDING – 500 KVA GENERATOR AND PV SOLAR

During the course of the investigation, the Committee noted the following:

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- ❖ the procurement and installation of 500KVA Generator was awarded to IPC Company and the said generator was rated **99%** satisfactory by Engineers from Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDSA] and Electricity Generation and Transmission Company [EGTC] from the Ministry of Energy [MoE]. However, the Engineers expressed concern over the limited space in which the generator is installed, stating that it is not well-ventilated. When this concern was brought to the attention of Ing. Trudy Morgan, she promised to look into the issue and probably suggest ways of addressing same;

See photo below:



- ❖ Apart from the current electricity consumption rate in Parliament, the said generator is believed to provide electricity for more than ten additional buildings with similar electrical load, even though it was rumored that its consumption rate is twice higher than the previous generator;
- ❖ The Stanchions and other materials for the installation of Solar Panels and Inverters have been procured and work has commenced at the Forecourt. See photos below:











It was revealed that when completed, the Solar PV would help to reduce the electricity problem in the event there is no electricity supply from EDSA or the generator.

While commending the Project Board and UNOPS for the inclusion of this aspect into the Project, the Committee however recommends the following:

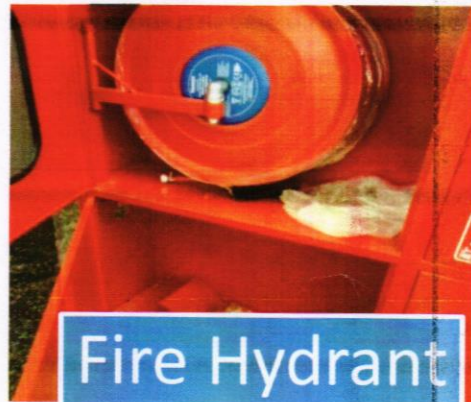
- ❖ **the decision to not include the Solar Battery be reconsidered by the Project Board to help store excess electricity that can be used in the event Solar Panels cannot generate enough energy, especially during the rainy seasons when the supply of sunshine is not always constant. The decision for the installation of only one of the two proposed ones should be revisited; and**
- ❖ **the wall at the back of Power House should be slit open, so as to allow enough air to enter or erect a makeshift structure outside the Power House for the said purpose.**

(vi) FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM

Firefighting system is a very important activity geared towards preventing fire from causing more damage and institutions are taking proactive steps to ensure that modalities are put in place to tackle this menace. The Committee noted during sites visits and interviews conducted that the firefighting equipment [such as hydrants and extinguishers], as shown in the photo below, have been procured and distributed to strategic locations within the Building.



Fire Extinguisher



Fire Hydrant

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While noting the final phase of the installation process is now in advanced stage, the Committee however recommends that additional hydrants and extinguishers are provided and proper training is given to staff on how to use them.

(vii) PROJECT VEHICLE [TOYOTA HILUX]

When asked to explain the procurement process leading to the purchase of the Toyota Hilux, the Project Manager, Ing. Trudy Morgan replied that, UNOPS usually follow their own procurement procedures and every procurement process is scrutinised by EU, including the one for the procurement of the Project Vehicle [Toyota Hilux]. She concluded that UNOPS is not obliged to follow any other procurement laws or other donor regulations.

The vehicle was presented to the Committee for physical verification, but since it [the Committee] lacked the technical competence to ascertain whether it is brand new or not, the Committee therefore recommends that Ing. Trudy Morgan shares with the PTC the procurement rules in the award of contracts and procurement of goods and services, and Parliament hires the technical services of the Sierra Leone Roads Safety Authority [SLRSA] for a proper evaluation of the said vehicle on the day it will be handed over to Parliament.

(viii) PLUMBING, TILING, CEILING, ELECTRICALS AND SEWAGE SYSTEM

Plumbing, tiling, ceiling, sewage system and ensuring constant supply of electricity are critical components in meeting the critical needs of PoSL. Interviews conducted and sites visits revealed the following:

- ❖ The plumbing works, especially in the public and leadership toilet rooms were not properly done and some of the flush toilets in the Leadership Offices still return water, thereby producing an unbearable stench. Plumbing materials were also considered to be of not the specified quality. It was however noted during the recent sites visits that work to address this issue has resumed;

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- ❖ Incomplete tiling at the basement earlier observed has been completed and the tiling process was commended by the Committee although it was unable to determine whether the tiles used were the ones mentioned in the BoQs because they [BoQs] were not spotted in any of the documents submitted;
- ❖ The work for the installation of ceiling tiles was not properly done and in some areas within the Building, the ceiling tiles have started falling down as shown below. It was also observed that the ceiling tiles in some areas were removed by the contractors, so as to prevent them from being affected by the leakage. The Committee however noted that the contract to address this issue had been awarded and work has commenced;
- ❖ The new electrical cables have been installed and the main Distribution Board at the Power House and Sub-distribution Boards at the Pump Room and other parts of the building, including the Automatic Power Transfer [Change-over] have been connected, but are yet to be energised. The old electrical system is still in operation;
- ❖ A new septic tank had been constructed to ensure proper sewage disposal and the sewage pipes from the septic to the Freetown City Council [FCC] also installed.

In view of the above and in consideration of the fact that these aspects of the Project are still under construction, the Committee recommends that the PTC follow up with the ongoing works with a clear focus on the quality of workmanship and materials.



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Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly 'Ghan'.

Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly 'Aboullal'.

(ix) ADDRESSING THE LEAKAGES

Interviews conducted and sites visited revealed the following:

- ❖ the issue of the leakages was presented as if the roof was the main cause of the problem; and as a result, aluminum zincs were removed, replanted and re-roofed with half of the old aluminum zincs;
- ❖ It was discovered that the expanded parapets and even the terraces absorbed water, thereby causing serious leakages. This prompted UNOPS to apply additional concrete [about 4 inches thickness] on all expanded parapets, thereby adding more weight to over sixty [60] years old building. The Committee further observed serious lacerations [slits/cracks] on the floors where the additional concrete was applied, which the Committee considered as either due to poor mixture or poor workmanship;
- ❖ As shown in the photo below, the pipes that were installed in the drainage gutters [pass through the male and female public toilets situated along the Speaker's Level] were poorly installed and this caused serious leakages in those toilets and other places;



- ❖ places that never experienced seepages, such as Members' Lounge, the Parliamentary Library and many others now experience serious leakages and those with minor leakages now experience more leaks than any other time in the History of Sierra Leone Parliament;
- ❖ additional concrete was surfaced on top of the concrete in the Main Building, adding more load to the Building. The Committee also noticed cracks all over the area that

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additional concrete was surfaced, which it (the Committee) considered as poor workmanship;

- ❖ it was however noted that the contract to rectify and address this problem has been awarded to a company and the Committee was informed by the site engineers that the leakages have been addressed, but the Committee reserved its opinion on these claims until the rains prove them right or wrong. The Committee further noted that no provision was made to replace the broken window glasses of the box offices at State Hall, which also contribute to the leakages whenever its rains.

Based on the foregoing and in view of the fact that work is ongoing and it is very difficult to determine, at this period, whether the leakages have been addressed or not, the Committee recommends that the PTC follow up on the ongoing works with a view to ensuring that all defects associated with the leakages are adjusted and the Project Board should ensure that the broken window glasses in the Library, State Hall and other offices are replaced without further delay. The PTC should also investigate properly and report on the causes of the cracks.

- (x) EXPANSION OF THE LEADERSHIP OFFICES, PROVISION OF TOILET FACILITIES, AND THE RENOVATION OF STAFF OFFICES AND PUBLIC TOILETS

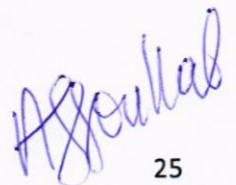
The Committee noted from the review of Project Board Minutes, sites visited and interviews conducted that:

- ❖ a decision was taken to not only repair the Leadership Offices, but to also expand the offices and provide toilet facilities for all Leadership Offices, including showers. The Committee described the decision as strategic and thus commended the Project Board, stating that the dignity of the Leaders of this House has been restored. The Committee however expressed serious concern over poor workmanship and the use of low quality handheld bidets, wash hand basins, etc. in both the Leadership and Public toilet facilities. The flush toilets in a sample of Leadership Offices and visitors' toilets are malfunctioning; and in other instances, the urinals were not only

malfunctioning, but highly installed, thereby making it difficult for shorter people to use without tiptoeing;

- ❖ The Committee further noted that the glass walls installed were substandard, but Madam Trudy Morgan informed the Committee that the procurement of some of the materials took place during the period when COVID-19 was at its highest peak and most of the companies that were manufacturing quality products were temporarily closed and UNOPS had to make use of available ones. She added that the quality materials companies used produce twenty to thirty years ago rarely seen these days, adding that the length and size of iron rod [for instance] had been reduced.
- ❖ The flush door locks are of low quality and some are no longer working, and due to heavy drilling, crack walls were spotted in several parts of the Building;
- ❖ staff offices on the last floor around State Hall had their wooden doors replaced, but only few of those offices were painted.
- ❖ On the issue of the timber used (which the Committee also considered is of low quality) in the construction of the Ram and the Walkway, the response from Ing. Trudy Morgan was that the site engineer (who was responsible for the certification of materials used) accepted and certified that the timbers were of the right quality and fit for purpose. She (Ing. Trudy Morgan) however further commented on same that, no matter the quality of materials used in any construction work, if maintenance is lacking, the result would be what we are experiencing now. And this, she added, is going for other areas, especially the toilets where she advised for a consistent and proper cleaning and clearing. She even drew the Committee's attention to a call from the Speaker of Parliament on the blockage of the facility in the Office of the Speaker. To her surprised, when she got the facility, she realised that it was blocked by a substance that is normally the cause of such blockages.

In view of the above and in consideration of the fact that work has resumed to identify and address these issues, the Committee recommends that:



- ❖ the remaining offices are painted and the PTC follow up on all ongoing works with a view to ensuring that quality materials are properly installed; and
- ❖ Proper care in the use of the facilities and maintenance of same must be practiced by all and sundry. The Committee also request for the call and questioning of the then Site Engineer who at the time certified that all materials procured were of the requisite quality, which turns out to be the opposite [in the Committee's view].

(xi) MAINTENANCE OF THREE [3] MAIN ENTRANCE AND SIXTEEN [16] EXIT DOORS
 The contract for the installation of three main entrance doors was awarded to BDEV. The Committee first realised that the three main entrances were supposed to be access control (biometric) doors and fire rated, but the ones initially installed did not meet the requirements. It was also noted that the sixteen [16] exit doors that were installed are substandard and most of them were malfunctioning. However, the Committee observed that the contract to replace same had been awarded and work has commenced. See photo below:



In this regard, the Committee recommends that UNOPS exercises urgency and ensures that the work is expedited and the PTC follow up on the ongoing works with a view to confirming the quality of glass and quality workmanship.

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(xii) PROVISION OF PARLIAMENTARY STORES AND CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES FOR CSPS

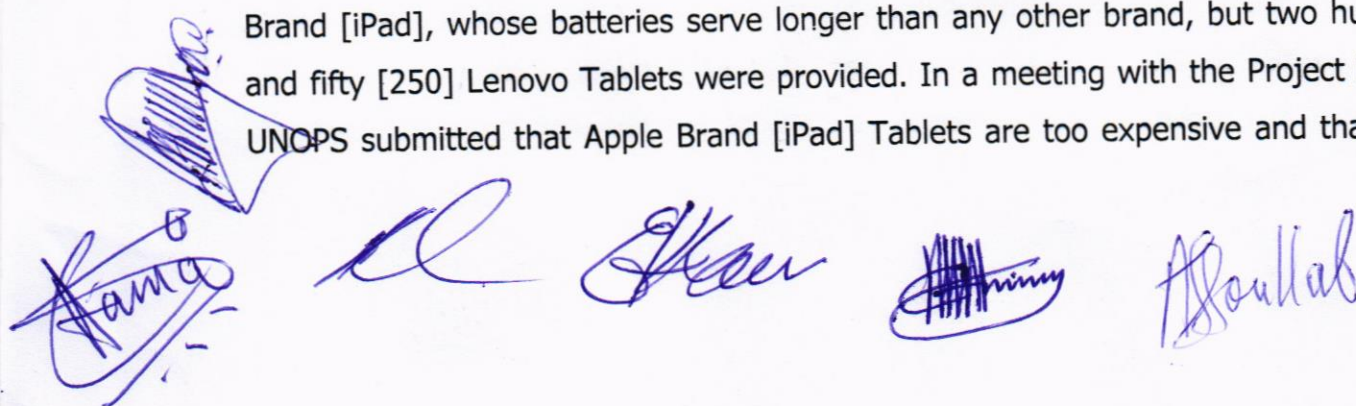
During the course of the investigation, the Committee noted that spacious Parliamentary Stores was provided and UNOPS co-funded [tiling, ceiling and electrification] the construction of a training center and offices for the CSPS situated at the basement. The Committee however received no complaints from end users, but serious leakages were detected in the stores, which damaged many stores items. The site engineer however revealed that the leakages had been identified and addressed.

In consideration of the fact that it is very difficult to determine, at this period, whether the leakages have been addressed or not, the Committee recommends that the PTC follow up on this issue.

(xiii) ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee also conducted interviews with Parliament ICT Team since the ICT infrastructure is a major component of the Project and it is expected that the ICT Function in Parliament would have supported the process in their capacity as custodians of the Network. From the deliberations and sites visits conducted, the Committee noted a plethora of unresolved issues as mentioned below:

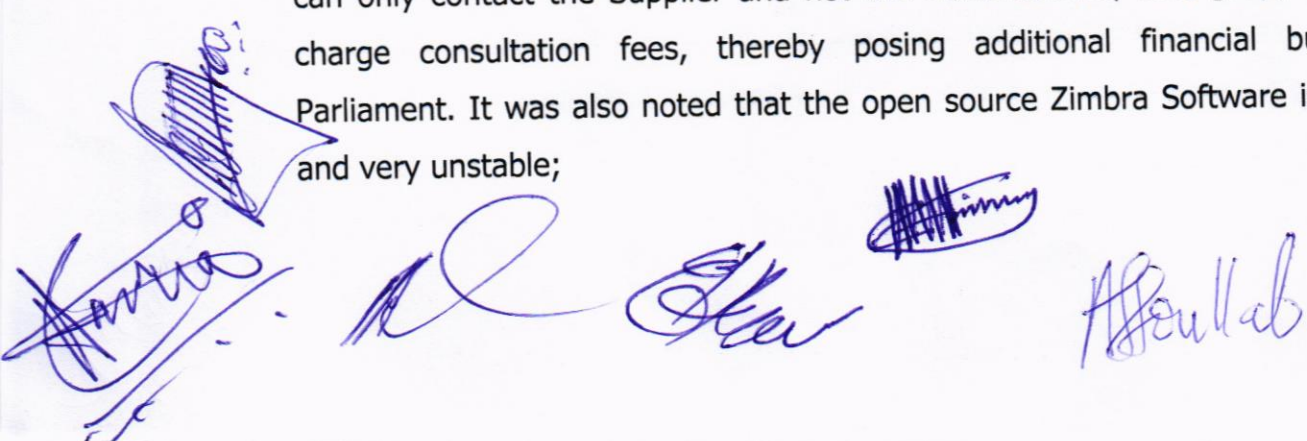
- a. The Project Board approved all ICT related contracts to be advertised in a competitive bidding before they are awarded, but the networking and installation component was awarded to BDEV [a building construction company with no knowledge in ICT], without advert or the approval of the Project Board. Consequently, they were not assessed by the Procurement Technical Committee established for the purpose;
- b. The Project Board removed from the Project everything that has to do with the Chamber, apart from the procurement of tablets for MPs, where again, there is a change of Specs. Parliament ICT Director recommended for the purchase of Apple Brand [iPad], whose batteries serve longer than any other brand, but two hundred and fifty [250] Lenovo Tablets were provided. In a meeting with the Project Board, UNOPS submitted that Apple Brand [iPad] Tablets are too expensive and that they



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[UNOPS] would prefer Lenovo Tablets. Even when UNOPS decided to make changes from Apple Brand [iPad] to other brand, Parliament's ICT technicians [who are the custodians of ICT Facilities and advisers to the end users as beneficiaries to ascertain durability], were not consulted;

- c. The ICT Director recommended for one hundred [100] desktop computers, the Project Board approved sixty [60] to be used by the Center for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies [CSPS] for training purposes, but only ten [10] and few printers were procured without the approval of the Project Board;
- d. The BoQs for internet networking and Fiber Optic connection make provision for Cisco Switches [which have the advantage of direct connectivity without third party devices], but low quality Ubiquity switches that do not have provisions for direct fiber optic connections, unless third party devices, such as hub connectors, are used to link the fibers to the switches. This situation is reported to have been causing serious problems on the network;
- e. The number of access points that were approved by the Project Board were reduced upon installation and both the equipment and cables used for the installation process were of lower quality than was specified, and the equipment and cables were not the ones approved by the Project Board;
- f. The Software that were approved by the Project Board and which were reported to have taken a chunk of the money were not the ones procured and the users were also reduced. For instance:
 - i. The Microsoft Exchange Server that was approved by the Project Board [with 150 users' licenses], was replaced with Zimbra Open Source [with only 50 users' license] and was not procured in the name of Parliament, but in the name of the Supplier. Thus, in the event there are problems with the Software, Parliament can only contact the Supplier and not the Manufacturer, who [Supplier] would charge consultation fees, thereby posing additional financial burden on Parliament. It was also noted that the open source Zimbra Software is insecure and very unstable;



- ii. The ALFRESCO EDMS Software was not procured in the name of Parliament; but instead, the Suppliers shared their Alfresco License with Parliament. This issue was reported to the UNOPS team, but nothing was done to address it. The Committee noted that in the event the Software is disconnected, subscription or renewal fee would be charged and this would add more financial burden on Parliament. It was also reported that the Software was not completely designed and developed; and this has resulted in a situation where some departments were left out because of the format UNOPS Project Manager used to gather data for the development of same. Parliament ICT Team was ignored in the process;
- iii. The Dragon Nuance Transcription Software that was procured is reported to be the oldest edition and is marred with lots of transcription problems;
- iv. The Finance/Project Management Software that was approved by the Project Board was not the one supplied and the Committee was informed that the installation, configuration and deployment to fit into Parliament's Accounting System is yet to be carried out, thus making it very difficult for Parliament ICT Team to rollover the use of the Software to the end users, including Finance Department;
- v. Microsoft Dynamics GP 2020 was approved, but the Supplier procured 365 Software, which lacks the facilities and features of GP 2020. Again, the Security Firewall that was approved by the Project Board was replaced with a lesser quality by the Supplier, but UNOPS accepted the change of Specs without the collaboration of Parliament ICT Team;
- vi. UPS were not provided for the Servers, the Centralised Network Switches and Ubiquity Router, which has created a situation where these gadgets are susceptible to bad current. It was reported that the Servers supplied are completely different from what was approved as indicated in the bidding documents. Again, the Operating Systems and Office Applications Software that were approved by the Project Board were removed by UNOPS and the Supplier without the knowledge of Parliament ICT Team;

- vii. The Project Board approved for the purchase of giant photocopier machines, but that aspect was later removed;
- viii. The Live Video Streaming Systems UNOPS bought is incomplete as there are no character generator, instant replay system, centralised robotic camera, multi camera switcher digital video mixer, multi-camera switcher, recorders, encoders, title writer and it does not synchronise to the transcription system and the other systems;
- ix. The Wi-Fi Ubiquity access points were short range and cannot pierce through walls. This is why the Wi-Fi network is not in some offices, but can only be accessed in the corridors;
- x. Six [6] offices [2 transport office, facility office, hospital offices, drivers' office, PAC Office, LUC and security entrance office] were removed from the Local Area Networks [LAN] facility and at the same time not provided with network;
- xi. Instead of Advanced Security Firewall, Fortigate 100 Firewall was provided. And this was reported to be too small to contain high ended network traffic, and does not meet the criteria of high ended security protection. Also, the change in specs, from Microsoft Dynamics GP to dynamics 360 ERP, is not only with less advanced features, but is reported to not meeting the ITB set standards;
- xii. Instead of Advanced High Ended Network Switch, Ordinary Ubiquiti Network Switches [which do not meet the criteria on the ITB], for the LAN installation were supplied;
- g. The Project Board discussed and approved **500,000 Euro** for the ICT component of the Project and the ICT Director was asked to develop a budget around that figure, but as shown in **Annex 1**, not all those materials were provided.

In view of the above, and in consideration of the fact that PoSL is striving to become an e-Parliament and a paperless institution, the Committee considered the ICT component as critical and therefore deserves special attention. Thus, the Committee recommends that UNOPS, on the advice and



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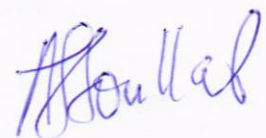
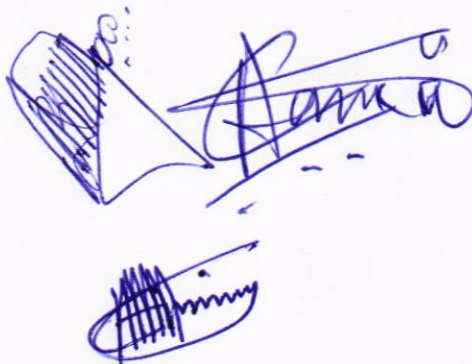
supervision of the Project Board, looks into these issues mentioned above, with a view to addressing same without further delay.

10. CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this report is a manifestation of the Leadership and MPs' dissatisfaction over the materials used and the quality of work done. The Committee believes that, if its findings and recommendations contained in this report [which were obtained through sites visits with Parliament's Technical Teams, interviews with various stakeholders and the review of documents], are taken into account and implemented, they would help to address the defects; even though the Committee's draft report presented earlier, during the meeting between the Parliamentary Leadership and EU/UNOPS, was considered by Ing. Trudy Morgan as inconsistent and was fraught with inaccuracies. However, the said summary draft report raised the alarm button and unveiled a legion of issues, which are currently under serious consideration for rectification.

Let me at this point express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Members of the PQAC for their supports and the Leadership of Parliament, not forgetting the CoP, who doubles as Project Board Chair, for giving the PQAC the opportunity to serve in a different capacity. Special thanks go to the Secretary, Mr. Musa Leonald Amid Foullah for documenting these findings.

The Committee however stands by its previous observations until those issues are addressed.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: ICT Components and Costing

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The critical ICT needs upgrade is divided into 7 priority areas that are crucial and immediate needs for enhancement that will actualise the core functions of Parliament and will make Parliament Open, Transparent and Accessible to the General Public and will make Members of Parliament (MPs) more effective and efficient in delivering their duties. The priority areas are as follows:

- No. A CCTV Camera Security System
- B Hardware and Smart Technologies
- C Lithographic Systems
- D Live Video Streaming System
- E Network and Security Infrastructure
- F Server and Data Centre
- G Software Systems

No.	Items	Action	Specs	Unit	Qty.	Unit Price	Amount
						€	€
A	CCTV CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEMS						
	DS-96256NI-I24 (NVR)Third-party network cameras supported Up to 12 Megapixels resolution recording, 24 SATA interfaces Supports H.264+,H.264,MPEG4,H.265,MJPEG video format	not provided			1	7,215.50	7,215.50
2	Dome Camera-(DS-2cd2125fwd-is) 2mp	not provided			65	164.798	10,711.87
3	Bullet Camera-(DS-2cd2t25fwd-i5) 2mp	not provided			45	164.798	7,415.91
4	Dome Camera- (DS-2cd2145fwd-is) 4mp	not provided			20	188.3331	3,766.66
5	Bullet Camera-(ds-2cd2045fwd-i) 4mp	not provided			15	188.3331	2,825.00
6	POE Extender	not provided			15	94.16654	1,412.50
7	Gigabit POE Switch	not provided			8	612.0825	4,896.66
8	Core Switch	not provided			2	188.3331	376.67
9	62" Monitor	not provided			2	282.4996	565.00
10	15 TB HDD(Storage Hard Disk)	not provided			15	235.4163	3,531.24
11	CAT6- Network Cables (305m)	not provided			40	141.2498	5,649.99
12	Camera Poles (galvanized)	not provided			9	141.2498	1,271.25
13	Fittings and Accessories	not provided			1	2,825.00	2,825.00

Apple Ipad

14	(Connectors, clips, RJ 45, B&C, trunked box, PVC, etc.)	not provided				
15	Installation, Configuration & testing.	not provided		1	3,766.66	3,766.66
Line Total						56,229.90

B HARDWARE AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES

1	Apple Ipad 32gb for Members of Parliament	provided	no	250	448.16	112,040.25
2	HP desktop computers for staff and the training center (i7 Intel core processor, 500 gb HDD, 8gb RAM)	10 supplied		60	980.00	58,800.00
Line Total						170,840.25

C LITHOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS

1	Riso Comcolor 7150	not provided		1	7000	7,000.00
2	Riso EZ 571	not provided		1	8000	8,000.00
3	Canon Image Runner Advance C3525i III	not provided		1	4000	4,000.00
	Fargo DTC 4500e Dual sided I.D. Card printer to print MPS and staff ID Cards	not provided		1	2,555.51	2,555.51
Line Total						21,555.51

D LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SYSTEM

1	Sony HXR-NX100 HD NXCAM Camcorder	provided	no	3	2,242.55	6,727.65
2	Video Mixer - Roland -V-4EX Digital	provided	no	1	2,063.47	2,063.47
3	Go Pro Hero 5 Cameras	provided	no	4	448.59	1,794.36
4	UGREEN Micro HDMI to HDMI Cable Male to Female Micro HDMI	provided	no	5	13.46	67.29
5	HTTX-Connector- Coupler adapter	provided	no	3	13.46	40.38
6	Tripod	provided	no	3	89.72	269.16
7	HDMI Cable	provided	no	3	53.83	161.50
8	HDMI connector	provided	no	6	8.97	53.84
9	HDMI Twisted pairs	provided	no	2	22.43	44.87
10	Cannon EOS - still pictures	provided	no	1	1,390.95	1,390.95
Line Total						12,613.47

E NETWORK AND SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1	Unifi Security Gateway Pro Enterprise Router with Gigabit Ethernet (USG-PRO-4)	provided	no	1	477.89	477.89
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Alfonso

2	Checkpoint 15600 Security Gateway Firewall	not provided			1	40,000.00	40,000.00
3	Barracuda Next-Gen X 600 Network Firewall	not provided			1	627.02	627.02
4	48 ports Cisco Gigabit POE Switch Catalyst 2960-X 48 GigE POE 740W, 4 x 1G SFP, LAN Base	provided	no		12	902.55	10,830.55
5	CAT 6 Network cables (305 meters)	10 supplied		Ctn	20	108.29	2,165.88
6	Big sized trunked box	25 supplied	yes		50	19.00	950.00
7	Medium sized trunked box	25 supplied	yes		50	17.00	850.00
8	Small sized trunked box	25 supplied	yes		50	16.00	800.00
9	Tack nails	✓		Pkt	40	5.00	200.00
10	Cable tie	✓		Pkt	40	7.00	280.00
11	RJ 45 Network connectors	10 supplied		Pct.	20	19.00	380.00
12	Network wall jack & wall plate for jack	45 supplied		Pcs	100	7.00	700.00
13	Cable stripper	✓		Pcs	12	10.00	120.00
14	Network crimping tools	not provided			20	20.00	400.00
15	Network tester				12	15.00	180.00

Line Total **58,961.34**

F SERVER AND DATA CENTRE

1	HPE ProLiant DL580 gen10 8164 4P 256GB-R P408i-p 8SFF 4x1600W PS Perf Server	provided	no		1	44,337.85	44,337.85
2	HPE 3PAR StoreServ 9000 Storage with 6000 TiB	not provided			1	15,041.72	15,041.72
3	Windows Server 2019 Ultimate Edition Software, 64 Bit Service Pack II	provided	no		1	1,343.54	1,343.54

Line Total **60,723.11**

G SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

1	Alfresco Enterprise Content Management System (100 users)	provided	no		100		89,609.44
2	Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains Systems (10 users)	provided	no		10	2,240.24	22,402.40
3	Windows 10 ultimate edition volume license (200 users)	not provided			200	179.21	35,842.80
4	Corel Video Studio Pro 2019	✓			1	350.00	350.00
5	Adobe CS 5 Suite	not provided			1	2,342.41	2,342.41

- 6 Dragon Naturally speaking software for transcription of plenary deliberations and hearings (Nuance Systems)
- 7 Microsoft Exchange Server 2019
- 8 Bulk SMS platform

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Line Total

153,705.58

Grand Total

534,629.17

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