



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE 10/11/2025

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ENGAGES COUNCILS IN THE EASTERN REGION

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, on Monday, 3rd November 2025, commenced its public hearings with some local councils in the Eastern Region, mainly Kenema City, Kenema and Kailahun District Councils.

The engagements took place at the Kenema District Council Hall in respect of queries raised in the Auditor General's Report for 2023.

In his opening statement, the dynamic Chairman underscored the importance of the Committee's oversight role and highlighted key audit queries raised in the said Report including tax exemptions, mining concessions, consultancy, the challenged petra system, poor revenue mobilisation and failure to deduct and pay withholding taxes to the NRA. He also called on council authorities to ensure strict adherence to prudent financial management practices and procedures through verifiable accountable standards.

Outlining the mandate of the Committee, the Head of Secretariat of the PAC, Mr. Augustine Sesay, who also serves as Deputy Director of Committees, referenced provisions in the Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Standing Orders of Parliament, which empowered the Committee to examine the audited accounts of government entities and ensure transparency in the use of public funds, as espoused in the Auditor General's Report, for the period under review.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ENGAGEMENTS WITH COUNCILS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

As part of its ongoing nationwide engagements with local councils, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, concluded its sessions with local councils in the Southern Region. The engagements were based on the findings and recommendations contained in the Auditor General's Report for 2023.

The meeting, held at the Bo District Council Hall, brought together representatives from the Bo City Council, Bo District Council, Pujehun District Council, Moyamba District Council, Bonthe District Council, and the Bonthe Municipal Council.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh commended the councils for demonstrating improved levels of compliance with audit recommendations, particularly in the management of assets and related financial matters. He also reiterated the Kenema Resolutions including a line by line PowerPoint presentation to determine performing own-source revenue streams and the need for a joint meeting with the Ministry of Finance, PAC and the Councils to resolve the perennial issues relating to the challenged petra system.

The Committee, however, raised concerns over the use of the Petra financial management system by some councils and recommended that further scrutiny be undertaken to ensure its effective and transparent utilization.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ENGAGEMENTS WITH SEVEN LOCAL COUNCILS IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGIONS

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has on Thursday 6/11/2025 successfully concluded its regional oversight hearings with seven local councils in the North-Eastern Regions, based on findings in the 2023 Auditor General's Report.

The public hearings were held at the Makeni City Council Hall in Bombali District, which brought together officials from the said regions.

During the hearings, the PAC reviewed key audit queries and provided recommendations aimed at improving financial management and accountability at the local level.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES OVERSIGHT ON LOCAL COUNCILS IN THE NORTH-WESTERN REGION

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), on Friday, November 7, 2025, concluded its regional oversight engagements with local councils in the North-Western Region.

The exercise, held at the Port Loko City Council Hall, reviewed audit queries highlighted in the 2023 Auditor General's Report for five councils, including Port Loko City Council, Kambia District Council, Karene District Council, and Tonkolili District Council which was referred to Port Loko for hearing due to under-representation.

During the Port Loko District , Council session, auditors raised concerns on related unresolved audit issues. The Committee commended the council for exceeding its own-source revenue target and urged them to always provide supporting documents requested during the audit process.

MINES COMMITTEE LEADS FAMILIRIZATION TALKS WITH CHAMBER OF MINES

On Thursday, 6 November 2025, the Oversight Committee on Mines and Minerals held an in-depth familiarization engagement with the Chamber of Mines at Committee Room 1, Parliament, Tower Hill, Freetown. The session, chaired by Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina, aimed to strengthen collaboration, improve policy clarity, and deepen understanding between lawmakers and mining sector stakeholders.

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