



## Open Letter to Parliament on non-accountable imprest

11<sup>th</sup>, December 2019

Dear Honorable Members of Parliament,

We write to ask of you to rethink the issue of the non-accountable imprest, which appears to change the Public Financial Management Act 2016, by allowing a nonaccountable imprest for the President, Vice President and the Speaker of the House of Parliament.

As stated in our position statement published on the 21<sup>st</sup>, of November 2019, the amount of spending on government overseas traveling has been colossal (Le, 40.2 bn in 2017 and 29.2 bn in 2018). The expenditure on overseas traveling for the year 2017 surpasses the entire budgets for the Ministry of Sports (Le, 7,992.2bn) Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (Le, 18,194.0bn), Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (Le 4,220.7bn) Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Le, 4,023.9bn) combined.

Honorable Members of Parliament, lack of accountability can deprive much needed services to the state and continues to hold the country at bay. Accountability, when uphold, will accelerate economic growth, and strategic infrastructural development that will enhance viable sustainable goals as envisioned in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2023 Medium Term National Development Plan (MTNDP).

The Civil Society realm of Sierra Leone understands the need for confidentiality and security to presidential movements, but accountability of public funds can be achieved without compromising the existing protocols.

We acknowledge the action of President Julius Maada Bio for sending the 2020 Finance Bill unsigned to the House of Parliament proposing a ceiling for non-accountable imprest, however this does not write off the non-accountability aspect of the bill.

The people of Sierra Leone have been suffering for decades for lack of basic services due to corruption, lack of accountability and transparency. In light of the above, for the country to progress towards greater transparency and accountability, we ask that you the people's

representatives, do the needful as expected of you by those you are representing in the well of parliament.

**For further information please contact**  
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#### **About BAN**

The Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) established in 2006, is a Network of Civil Society Organisations in Sierra Leone committed to work on budgets and budget policies to enhance policy making and implementation for sustainable and equitable development. BAN consists of local and international organizations such as Christian Aid (CA), Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Western Area Budget Education Network (WABEAN), ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASISL), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), and the Transparency International (TISL)