



Press Release

14th June 2024

Civil Society Organisations Call for Transparency in Auditor General Tribunal Outcome

Freetown, 14 June 2024 – We, the undermentioned Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), are calling for greater transparency following the conclusion of the tribunal set up to investigate the Auditor General, Lara Taylor-Pearce, and one of her deputies, Tamba Momoh, over allegations of 'professional misconduct.'

The tribunal, established to review charges of 'breach of confidentiality and professional misconduct,' has completed its investigation. On 12 June 2024, the Tribunal's Report was presented to the President, as stipulated under Section 137(5)(b) of the Constitution. The charges pertained to the Auditor General's contact with third parties during a compliance audit of the Office of the President, allegedly without the client's expressed permission. Specifically, the tribunal examined the concern that Mrs. Taylor-Pearce and Mr. Momoh contacted hotels in Lebanon, South Africa, and The Gambia to verify the authenticity of receipts submitted for audit without the explicit approval of the Office of the President.

Despite the conclusion of the tribunal, there has been no communication to the public regarding the next steps. CSOs emphasise that given the public nature of the investigation, principles of natural justice demand that the findings be communicated to Mrs. Taylor-Pearce, Mr. Momoh, and the public. This is essential for upholding transparency, accountability, and the integrity of the investigative process.

We urgently call on the tribunal to release the contents of the report to Mrs. Taylor-Pearce, and Mr. Momoh and to make the findings public. This transparency is crucial to ensure the fairness of the process and to address the growing concerns about the tribunal's proceedings.

End of statement

About BAN

BAN is composed of local and international organizations such as Christian Aid Sierra Leone (CASL), Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Western Area Budget Education Advocacy Network (WABEAN), ActionAid Sierra Leone (AASL), Talking Drum Studio (TDS) and Transparency International Sierra Leone (TISL).

About the 50/50 Group

The 50/50 Group Sierra Leone is a non-partisan organization advocating for equal rights and political participation of women in Sierra Leone.

About the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ)

The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) is the umbrella membership body for the media in Sierra Leone established to protect and promote free speech and a free press and hold public officials accountable.

About Institute for Legal Research and Advocacy for Justice (ILRAJ)

ILRAJ is an independent non-partisan public policy research and educational think tank established to explain, monitor and contribute to the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

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