



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN

Tel: 232-076-615187

E-mail: admin@parliament.gov.sl



PRESS RELEASE

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LE 1.6 BILLION DISHONoured CHEQUES IN AG'S AUDITED REPORT CLEARED OFF

Following the much talked about Auditor General's report on the management of the ebola funds, the Public Accounts Committee in Parliament has started its hearings on 25th February, 2015 at Committee Room No. 1 in a tripartite arrangement including Members of the Committee; the Auditors, the Auditees, in full glare of the public and live on TV.

In today's deliberations, the Finance Director for MOHS, Mr. Festus A. Kuyembah said under oath that all the donated cheques totaling Le 1.6 Billion that were dishonoured by Sierra Leone Commercial Bank (SLCB) have been cleared off. To this end, the Managing Director for SLCB, Mr. Idrissa A. Kamara confirmed the statement of the Finance Director noting that the said amount had been paid in full by the donors. This aspect of the discussion revealed that there was discrepancy in the amount in figures and that in words in the cheque presented on behalf of the Flaming Bible Church. The Committee has asked the officials to provide the necessary documentations to the Clerk of PAC by noon tomorrow for onward verification by Audit Service Sierra Leone for final resolution of the dishonoured cheques which have been reportedly cleared off.



Some of the auditees before Parliament

The Auditor General in her brief statement, said that audit was an examination based on sound financial policies, evidence based and produced during the time of audit; and the burden of proof rests with the vote controllers who were the lead auditees.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament who doubles as Chairman of PAC, Hon. Chernor R.M Bah referred to PAC as one of the Standing Committees in Parliament and underscored its functions as outlined in the rules of procedures of Parliament. He said among other things that Parliament should be guided by public opinion, but should not be swayed or led by public opinion; and craved the indulgence of the public to give Parliament time to do her work; whilst underscoring its supremacy. He advised members of the media whose role he described as indispensable to inform the public guidedly.

The Committee resumes hearings next Monday.