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PRESS RELEASE
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INSPECTION OF WATER FACILITIES ENDS IN FREETOWN

The Parliamentary Committee on Water Resources, chaired by Hon. Sualiho M. Koroma, and deputized by Hon. Abu Jajua, has on the 22nd June, 2015 ended its inspection tour of water sources and facilities in the Western Area. The Committee of 16-Members including 9-APC, 6-SLPP and 1 Paramount Chief representative, visited the Congo Dam, Charlotte Weir, Allen Town Treatment Plant, Maxwell Street - Wellington Reservoir, and GUMA Eastern office at Kissy. The Committee had earlier inspected Mile 13 and other GUMA's water sources and facilities in Freetown. GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY is exclusively charged with the responsibility of providing clean, and sustainable pipe-borne water supply to Freetown and its environs.

During the course of the inspections, the Committee observed that GUMA had failed to protect its water sources and facilities from encroachers, and advised pro-active measures for the protection of those sources and facilities, especially the Charlotte Weir of which GUMA had earlier spoken about abandonment if it is not protected from land grabbers. The Committee also recommended that a meeting be facilitated between the Ministry of Lands, and GUMA involving the community stakeholders to understand the value of protecting and preserving the water sources and facilities in Freetown. The Committee said that adequate security should be provided around the water sources and facilities, and called on the management of GUMA to provide a tank for sustainable water supply to the New Administrative Building at Parliament, whilst underscoring the need for the commercialization of the water sector for sustainability and quality water service delivery.

The General Manager of GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY, Bankole Mansaray said among other things that the Charlotte Weir water source has a natural falls. However, it is being affected by dumping, encroachment, and old small pipes. This water source he said is responsible for taking water to Allen Town, Calaba Town, and some parts of Wellington. He also said that these small pipes should be replaced with big ones so as to supply a lot of water to the East, and promised that GUMA would go all out to fence the Charlotte Weir water source to prevent it from being depleted by the growing communities around the water source. He furthered that each of the pipes will cost about \$ 4,000 to which GUMA has attracted a donor who had expressed similar concerns for protecting the water source. He spoke about the need for soliciting the service of armed

guards around the water sources and facilities, the commercialization of water that is currently being discussed at various quarters, and promised to look into the issue of providing a standard water tank for sustainable water supply to the New Administrative Building in Parliament.

The Committee on Water Resources as per certain provisions in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, and the Standing Orders of Parliament is obligated as assigned to investigate and inquire into the activities of the Ministry, Departments and Agencies under its purview, which findings and recommendations will be tabled and debated in Parliament. This action that is being performed by Committees in Parliament has the potential to result in legislation.