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PRESS RELEASE

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PAC CONCLUDES HEARINGS ON MANAGEMENT OF EBOLA FUNDS

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in the Parliament of Sierra Leone, charged with the responsibility for examining the Auditor General's report and making appropriate recommendations to Parliament has today concluded its week-long public hearings on the management of the ebola funds from May to October, 2014. The PAC, Auditor General, and the Auditees were engaged in the full view of the public as streamed live on SLBC.

Today's hearings examined payment without adequate supporting documents and non-deductions of withholding taxes that were to be paid to NRA which had amounted to Billions of Leones. To this end, both the Finance Director of MOHS, and the Coordinator for the then EOC, Mr. Steven Gaojia had confirmed 95% of the documentations had been received; and letters had also been written to contractors to pay the outstanding withholding taxes to the NRA. Many of them have complied and started making payment. The Committee has urged them to provide 100% documentation to the Clerk of the Committee, subject to the verification of Audit Service Sierra Leone.

In rounding up the public hearings, the Chairman PAC who doubles as Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Chernor R.M Bah thanked SLBC for relaying live the proceedings of PAC; the Auditor General and team for doing a good job; the Auditees or vote controllers who cooperated and provided the needed answers; CSOs, the media, and the general public who witnessed and followed through the proceedings.



Deputy Speaker & Other Members of the Committee

He said "auditing is an exercise that aids government's transparency and accountability which should not be frowned at or taken as being offensive;" and adjourned the hearings sine die. He said the issues raised remained inconclusive until after the Report shall have been prepared speedily, debated and concluded in Parliament.