



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENT BUILDING  
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL  
FREETOWN  
Tel: 232-076-615187  
E-mail: [admin@parliament.gov.sl](mailto:admin@parliament.gov.sl)



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**08<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

### **Editor of Salone Times News Paper Apologies to Parliament**

The Editor of Salone Times Newspaper, Thomas Dixon on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015, apologized to Parliament for publishing a misleading story on the Ministry of Information and Communications' budget that was before the Sub-Appropriation Committee Three, chaired by Hon. Benneh Bangura.

Presenting his apology at the Conference Room of Parliament, Thomas Dixon, against a backdrop of evidence presented, including sections of the Parliamentary Standing Orders and of the 1991 Constitution premised on contempt of parliament, promised to do a retraction and apologized to Parliament (for failing to follow procedures and presenting inaccurate figures).



*Clerk of Parliament addressing journalists*

Earlier, the Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Sesay, welcomed journalists, describing the meeting as a family discussion. He cited certain provisions of the Standing Orders of Parliament and of the Constitution, where the Editor went wrong in respect of premature publication of Committee reports.

The Clerk urged journalists to work with Parliament and always cross-check information for accuracy. He called on the media and civil society organizations to work together with Parliament and noted that parliament is not witch hunting any media institution in the country.

The Chairman of the Committee on Supply III, Hon. Benneh Bangura, narrated that all that was said at 98.1 Radio Democracy about his Committee probing the budget of the Ministry of Information on travelling fees for the Minister as amounting to three billion Leones as alleged by the Editor, is false and misleading, and the four cars as was alleged to be used by the Deputy Minister of Information is also wrong. He called on journalists to report the facts and adhere to Parliamentary procedures.

SLAJ President Kelvin Lewis thanked and appreciated the Clerk of Parliament for handling the matter amicably. Kelvin Lewis noted that evidence presented on the allegation that Minister Alpha Kanu used 3 billion Leones on travelling allowance contradicts what was reported by Thomas Dixon. The SLAJ President pleaded for leniency.

The Commissioner of IMC, Ambassador Alie Kanu also pleaded on behalf of the journalists and advised proper and accurate reporting.