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**PRESS RELEASE**

**AUDITOR GENERAL AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSIONER TO SIT WITH  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Following the honouring of Parliamentary Invitations by the Auditor General, Lara Taylor-Pearce and the Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Francis Ben Kaifala; the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas has requested the Auditor General and the ACC Commissioner to be attending its public hearings on Audit Reports; and both have agreed to sit with the Public Accounts Committee as requested.

In light of concerns raised by the Committee regarding Press Conferences on the substance of the COVID-19 Audit, the Auditor General said she is not oblivious of the role of the Public Accounts Committee; that she did that in defence of the reputation and integrity of her Office which was questioned relating to the 47 laptops and the generator. Subject matter of the COVID-19 Audit.

When confronted on the authority of the Audit Service to conduct special audits without the warrant of the President or the approval of Parliament, she promised to seek legal interpretation from the Supreme Court regarding that authority.

In light of similar concerns raised, the ACC Commissioner, Francis Ben Kaifala, said tacitly that the ACC has not acted on the Auditor General's Report of 2019; except the COVID-19 Audit due to its sensitivity and the fact that Parliament had gone on its annual recess. He said the ACC acted in good faith, and not to undercut the role of Parliament, but to redeem the image of the country at a time when civil society organizations and the media had populated their spaces with contents of COVID-19 Audit and the Auditor General's Report on the accounts of Sierra Leone for 2019.

Speaking on the 47 laptops, 65 KVA Generator and recovery of cash to the tune of Le 274 Million, the ACC Commissioner said as per global practice, Audit Reports are the property of Parliament, and the ACC being the creature of Parliament to fight corruption is only playing a complementary role to that effect.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the PAC, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas said the PAC is appreciative and supportive of the work of the ACC and commended the ACC Commissioner and Team for doing a wonderful job which has attracted a lot of accolades

and awards for the Commission. However, he advised the ACC to carry-on with their investigations but to avoid making commentaries on the substance of Audit Reports. He also spoke on the determination of the PAC to take leadership going forward in coordinating the ACC, Audit Service and NPPA in the fight against corruption and accountability in governance.

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