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PRESS RELEASE

COMMITTEE ON NACSA & NGO RETURNS FROM A WEEK'S OVERSIGHT

The Parliamentary Committee on NACSA & NGO, chaired by Hon. Mustapha F. Sellu has returned from a week's oversight engagements in the North-West, North-East, Eastern and Southern Regions in the country relative to the conduct of NACSA.

According to Hon. Sellu, the Committee was out on a set objective to ascertain the mode of payment and distribution of non-food items to vulnerable persons superintended by NACSA during the first and second lockdown aimed at curtailing community transmission in the fight against COVID-19; and the distribution of Le 1, 309, 000 to affected persons and businesses by COVID-19. He said it was a World Bank support provided to Government and was implemented by NACSA to ameliorate the impacts of COVID-19 on the affected persons and businesses such as cinemas, hotels, petty traders and transporters.

In light of deliberations in the four regions, the Committee observed the following:

- 1. Lists of beneficiaries for disable persons were generated in Freetown and sent to the provinces for implementation in some cases
- 2. For the first lockdown Le250,000 and non-food items were distributed to disable and orphans before and after the lockdown
- 3. For the second lockdown, only a cash of Le 250,000 was given again to the same beneficiaries of the first lockdown; instead of extending it to those who did not benefit during the first lockdown
- 4. In other instances, beneficiary lists were compiled by Councils and submitted to NACSA for payments
- 5. That NACSA did not obtain a general procurement waiver to allow sole-sourcing during emergency

- 6. Irrespective of distance, almost all of the 25kg of rice procured by NACSA was at Le 150,000; save for Moyamba who purchased at a lesser price
- 7. Following the cancellation of lists submitted by both Kenema City and District Councils by the Commissioner of NACSA for the cash transfer of Le 1, 309,000 to affected persons and businesses, both Councils posited that they did not take part in the activities of NACSA in the municipality and district

The Committee has returned from its fact-finding mission relative to conduct of NACSA during COVID-19 and will submit its report to the plenary with solid recommendations for adoption by Parliament

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