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**PRESS RELEASE**

**PAC COMMENDS MAKENI CITY COUNCIL**

After hearing Councils in the South and Eastern Regions, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is currently hearing auditees in the Northern Region in the Makeni City Council's Hall in respect of the Auditor General's Report of 2017.

The Acting Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Abdul Titus Kamara of NGC has heaped praises on Makeni City Council for coming out clean in the 2017 Auditor General's Report after the submission of an Investigation Report to Audit Service Sierra Leone for verification.

As at time of audit, the MCC failed to submit the Investigation Report that led to the dismissal of three staff who were allegedly involved in stealing 252 chairs belonging to the Council. The Acting Chairman in the presence of the Mayor of Makeni City Council encouraged officials to submit required documents as at time of audit.

However, officials of Bombali District Council have been summoned to Parliament on Thursday 11th July 2019 for a query regarding the construction of bridges due to the absence of its Civil Engineer.

Following this summons, the Civil Engineer of Bombali District Council later appeared before the PAC and spoke on oath that the issue raised for the construction of a 20m bridge at Bombali Bana had been resolved by fixing the guard rails and backfilling done. He said "the backfilling was delayed due to the rains and the completion certificate had been issued to the contractor". Thus Bombali District Council has also been cleared of its only query in the Auditor General's Report of 2017.

Relating to a query to the tune of Le 400 Million on the payment for outstanding cleaning services that were neither budgeted for; nor disclosed as arrears in the financial statements, the Councillor in charge of the contract, the current and past Chief Administrators, Procurement Officers, Finance Officers and Internal Auditors of Tonkolili District Council have been summoned to Parliament on 11th July 2019 at 10:00 AM. The Acting Chairman promised that "the ACC and the Police may be around to support the work of the PAC and ASSL in executing their duties" in light of the said and other queries.

The Acting Chairman, Hon. Abdul Titus Kamara has also warned "Chief Administrators not to pay sitting fees to absentee Councillors for council meetings without reasonable excuses, otherwise they would refund those monies paid from their pockets or hard-earned salaries".

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