



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

The Ministry of Finance wishes to inform the General Public that following the release of the 2021 Audit Report by the Acting Auditor General, Government is currently working with various stakeholders, including the Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), to develop a holistic and coordinated approach to address the issues raised in the Audit Report.

In this regard, the Ministry of Finance further wishes to inform the public that the Internal Audit Directorate within the Ministry is currently undertaking follow-up actions on the report and that appropriate actions will be taken against all process owners, vote controllers, accountants, procurement officers etc, both past and present, mentioned in the Audit Report.

It is worthy to note that actions to be taken by Government will include application of Section 23 of the Finance Act 2022, which amends Section 13 of the Public Financial Management Act 2016, by the provision of a new Sub-Section (6) stipulating that: **"Notwithstanding this Act or any other law where the vote controller or other responsible person of a– (a) budgetary agency; (b) sub-vented agency; (c) other entity in the central government (d) local council; (e) social security fund ; or (f) public enterprise fails to implement or respond to the internal and external audit recommendations within thirty working days from the effective date of the publication or issuance of the report, his remuneration, fees and allowances shall be withheld subject to the authorization of the minister until the vote controller, or other responsible person, implements the internal and external audit recommendations"**.

In that regard, the Ministry of Finance is compiling a schedule (by public sector entities) detailing audit issues, responsible officers and action points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Finally, the Ministry of Finance would like to thank the Acting Auditor General on the release of the 2021 Annual Report and assure the General Public that the Ministry is carefully looking at the report to take the required actions to ensure that the audit issues raised are adequately and appropriately addressed, and the General Public will be informed of actions taken to ensure that audit recommendations are implemented accordingly to improve the overall public financial management in Sierra Leone.

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

For more information: Contact: +232 78 584 006 or [asesav@mofsl.gov.sl](mailto:asesav@mofsl.gov.sl)

