



SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT

Office of the President

PRESS RELEASE

The Office of the President wishes to remind the general public that Finance Acts 2016, 2017 and 2018 were enacted by Parliament which has the sole authority to amend or alter any part therein on the request of the Minister of Finance.

In a Memorandum dated 24th May 2018 to the Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Ref: OP/BF 266355/01, titled "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCE ACTS 2016, 2017 AND 2018", I stated: "Following a meeting held yesterday 23rd May 2018 with a cross section of the Sierra Leone Business Community, His Excellency the President has directed that you put on hold the implementation of Finance Acts 2016, 2017 and 2018 until further notice."

I erred in that Memorandum by ascribing to His Excellency the President that he made such a direction. The President DID NOT give such a direction knowing that section 110 (1) of Act No. 6 of 1991 clearly states: "No taxation shall be imposed or altered otherwise than by or under the authority of an Act of Parliament." During the meeting, His Excellency the President expressed serious concern about the impact of any taxation on ordinary people and therefore ONLY suspended discussions on the matter pending further consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Development Partners.

Accordingly, the Office of the President wishes to inform the business community and the general public that all relevant laws relating to revenue collection remain valid until so amended by an Act of Parliament. I also wish to apologise to the business community and the general public for any inconvenience this miscommunication might have caused.



STATE HOUSE
FREETOWN.

28TH MAY, 2018.