



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TOWER HILL
FREETOWN
Cell Phone: 076616457/033441279

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Defence and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces' (RSLAF) attention has been drawn to the Informant Newspaper Publication of Monday 5th May, 2014 with the caption **"Salone Peace Keeping Mission may collapse, as Le2,570,886,000 unaccounted for..."**

The said publication states that this Ministry withdrew the sum of Le2, 570,886,000 from the Peace Keeping Operations Account (Account No.003001116076030194) operated with the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank to buy Fuel for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces for the months of January, February, and March 2014. It also further states that an additional Le89, 023,500 was withdrawn from the same Account to buy Fuel for the Ministry's Civilian Staff for the month of January, February and March, 2014.

The Ministry of Defence views this publication as totally baseless, misleading, misrepresentation of the facts and in contravention of the Media Code of Practice as both payments mentioned in the Writer's Publication were made from the Ministry's Quarterly Allocation Account (Account No. 00300111607030194) operated with the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and not the Peace Keeping Operation Account as purported by the Informant newspaper.

The General Public is hereby informed that in as much as it is the responsibility and duty of the media to help curb corruption by exposing corrupt practices; it should be done with the highest levels of professionalism as prescribed by the Independent Media Commission (IMC).

Media Houses are additionally requested to cross check their information with the Public Relations Information (PR/INFO) Department of the Ministry of Defence prior to publication in order to avoid misleading the general populace.

Signed:

ISSA BANGURA

Major

for Director of Defence Public Relations and Information

Date: 8th May 2014