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Liberia: Teahjay Wants Internal Auditors Deployed

By Necus M. Andrews

Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay is seeking the deployment of Internal Auditors in the offices of County Superintendents across the country.

In a communication to Plenary Tuesday, Senator Teahjay said his request is in line with an Act creating the Internal Audit Agency (IAA).

The IAA is responsible to conduct forensic internal audit functions within the public sector.

IAA also has the primary mandate to standardize, harmonize, direct, and especially control all audit functions within the three branches of Government including public sector entities and autonomous agencies.

The immediate former Sinoe County Superintendent said pursuant to the IAA's mandate, it has been verifiable established that the agency's Internal Auditors are narrowly deployed currently within ministries, agencies and other state-owned enterprises only around Monrovia, providing technical assurance and professional advice on financial and operational activities.

Senator Teahjay told plenary that as a former Superintendent, he was worried over the limited deployment of auditors of the Internal Audit Agency considering the controversy over allegations regarding abuse and mismanagement of both county and social development funds by Superintendents and Chairpersons of the Project Management Committee in the various counties.

"I stood accused as a sitting County Superintendent for what was interpreted as corruption occasioned by the absence of the IAA Auditors nationwide," Senator Teahjay indicated.

He said when internal auditors are deployed in counties' capitals, they would regulate immediate assurance of compliance to financial and procurement policies in order to avoid prolonged auditing reports from external auditors, which sometimes become controversial amongst the offices of county superintendents, legislators and auditors from the General Auditing Commission (GAC).

Senator Teahjay said he is optimistic that assigning Internal Auditors in the 15 counties will not only professionalize, but will also upgrade the financial performance of counties' authorities and enhance productivity in the governance system.

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