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## Liberia: Lawmaker Opts for Confirmation of All Appointees

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By Richard Stephens

Nimba County Senator Thomas Grupee has called for the confirmation of all individuals, including Board members, who are appointed by the Executive branch of Government.

Senator Grupee believes that this would remind public officials that they are accountable to the public and exercise due diligence while serving in public offices.

He was responding to the Senate Judiciary Committee's report submitted to plenary Tuesday which among other things called for severance pay for employees of NOCAL, including those who served in top managerial posts.

Meanwhile, Senator Grupee has argued that compensating individuals accused of financial malpractices that has led to the near bankruptcy of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), would be unfair to the Liberian people.

The Nimba County lawmaker said non-compensation would help to minimize the high level of corruption that has brought NOCAL on the verge of collapse.

He noted that officials appointed by the President to head NOCAL did not go through Senate confirmation proceedings and therefore there was no check and balance, which made them to feel that they were only accountable to the Chief Executive.

Grupee, like other Senators, called for forensic audit of the NOCAL leadership, noting that severance pay must not be given to the accused until they were vindicated by the outcome of the audit.

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