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## Liberia: Senator Pledges to Help Get State University Radio in 2016/17 Budget

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By Ballah M. Kollie

Senate Committee Chairman on Broadcasting and information, J. Milton Teahjay, has promised to ensure the inclusion of the state-run university radio station, Lux FM 106.6, in the 2016/17 National Budget.

He noted that the inclusion of the station in the national budget is prudent as the radio serves as a catalyst for the training of the country's current and future communicators.

The senate committee chair made the pledge in remarks at the launch of a rally for the resuscitation of Lux 106.6, which was gutted by fire on March 21 this year.

Lux FM is the training arm of the Mass Communications Department of the University of Liberia that affords broadcast journalism students the opportunity to practice what is being taught them.

He noted that placing the station in the national budget is the best option as donations and humanitarian gestures will not always be forthcoming for the running of the station.

Teahjay, however, cautioned that when included, the station administration will be required to annually account for funds given it through report, noting that its allotment will be cut off once it fails to provide proper account.

Meanwhile, UL Vice President for Administration, Weade Kobbah Wureh, thinks that the inclusion of just a component of the university is inadequate as the university as an entity still has multiple financial challenges.

She emphasized the need for an increase of UL's allotment in the national budget.

"If it must cope with competing challenges, our annual support from national government must increase, as running the University of Liberia is highly expensive," she indicated.

She lauded the Open Society initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), IREX and Inter News all of which, she said, have responded to the call to restore Lux FM 106.6 by making financial and material contributions.

She expressed optimism that the station will return to the airwaves at the opening of school in September this year.

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