



JOINT CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING ENTITIES

FROM: Josiah F. Joekai, Jr.  29/08/2024
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
Civil Service Agency (CSA)

: Anthony G. Myers 
ACTING MINISTER
Ministry Of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP)

SUBJECT : **BLOCKING/SUSPENSION OF UNVERIFIED INDIVIDUALS
ON THE NATIONAL PAYROLL**

DATE : August 29, 2024

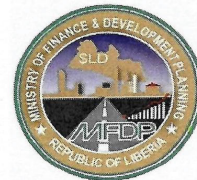
As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability in the utilization of public finance, the Government of Liberia, through the Civil Service Agency (CSA) and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), will implement a significant payroll reform measure. Effective September 2, 2024, 6,387 individuals who remain unverified on the national payroll will be temporarily blocked, pending a two-month verification from September 2 to November 4, 2024.

These individuals have consistently failed to participate in mandatory payroll verification processes, including the General Auditing Commission's (GAC) Payroll Compliance Audit in 2021 and a subsequent 90-day post-audit verification exercise. The previous administration's failure to act on the Auditor General's recommendations has resulted in substantial financial losses, with millions potentially being paid out monthly and annually to non-existent employees, commonly called "ghost workers." Below is the Auditor General's recommendation:

"The Office of the Comptroller and Accountant General (CAG) would place a moratorium on salaries of all employees (6,387) not verified during the physical verification exercises and for whom legitimate excuses were not provided."

This blocking action is a crucial step toward rectifying past oversights and safeguarding the integrity of the Government's payroll system.

Kind regards.



MAJOR PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE


Monrovia, Liberia. August 29, 2024. The Government of Liberia (GoL) through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and the Civil Service Agency (CSA) will temporarily block 6,387 unverified ‘civil servants’ currently on the GoL national payroll system. The individuals in question failed to participate in the General Auditing Commission (GAC) Payroll Compliance Audit in 2021 and a 90-day post-audit verification exercise – both of which are all **MANDATORY** Payroll Verification Processes. Accordingly, the individuals identified will be temporarily blocked pending a two-month verification exercise commencing Monday, September 2, 2024 and ending Monday, November 4, 2024.

The CSA and the MFDP are particularly concerned by the manner in which the past administration caused leakages by enrolling fictitious names within our payroll system outside of clearly defined processes and procedures as enshrined in the Standing Orders of the Civil Service. Clearly, this has cost millions of dollars in losses to central government, thereby impairing her ability to direct much needed resources to crucial areas of intervention such as health, education, security and road infrastructure.

This action is premised on a direct recommendation from the office of the Auditor-General to the the Office of Comptroller and Accountant General. In his report, the AG recommended that *“The Office of Comptroller and Accountant General (CAG) would place moratorium on salaries of all employees (6,387) not verified during the physical verification exercise and for whom legitimate excuses were not provided”*. The CSA and MFDP maintain that this action is belated as the failure of the previous administration to implement the AG’s recommendations has caused financial losses for the government as well as compromised the integrity of the national payroll.

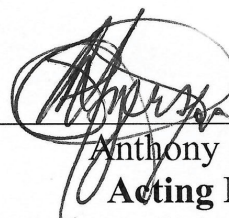
The CSA and MFDP remain relentless in ensuring that government accounts for those in its employ, a responsible and decent workforce as well as merit-based recruitment in the public service. These reform exercises are meant to restore integrity to the Civil Service, weed out unscrupulous individuals bent on stealing from the national coffer while depriving other very deserving Liberians of the opportunity to serve their country.

The public is assured of the government’s commitment to fighting waste and abuse.



29/08/2024

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Civil Service Agency (CSA)



Anthony G. Myers
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Ministry of Finance and Dev. Planning