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LRA/PR-006/18-19

New LRA Boss Envisages Taking Annual Revenue Beyond US\$500m



(Monrovia, August 22, 2018): Commissioner General-designate of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Thomas Doe-Nah says in a bid to achieve the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, the country's revenue base must be expanded beyond an annual budget of US\$500 million.



Mr. Doe-Nah said for too long Liberia's annual budget has struggled to go beyond half a billion mark, but the LRA under his stewardship will strive to go all out to change the situation and raised the needed revenue to support the country's development agenda.

Mr. Doe-Nah and along with his deputy-designate for Technical Affairs, Decontee T. King Sackie, appearing before the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget for confirmation hearings Wednesday at the Capitol Building

Mr. Doe-Nah said it was disheartened that other countries are

advancing and the lives of their people changing, while Liberia remains at the same spot over and again.

The LRA boss-designate was speaking Wednesday (Aug 22), when he, along with his deputy-designate for Technical Affairs, Decontee T. King Sackie, appeared before the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget for confirmation hearings.



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Mr. Doe-Nah intimated that more revenue sources and simplified tax systems will be introduced as ways to spur tax compliance and boost domestic revenue collection.

Among others, Mr. Doe-Nah expounded on improving revenue collection in the real estate and tourism sectors as well as building on existing initiatives of sealing up revenue leakages, using modern information communication technologies, stamping out corruption and enforcing transparency and accountability initiatives.

He said to boost revenue collection, premium will be placed on creating a people-centered LRA, a customer and business-friendly tax environment as well as ensuring educational and outreach programs that will enhance the public's understanding of their tax obligations.

The Commissioner General-designate indicated that employment at the LRA will be merit-base and that there will be no room for corruption, vowing that both parties connected to corrupt practices will face the weight of the law. "We will fight corruption at both ends."

Meanwhile, the Deputy CG for Technical Affairs-designate told the Senate Committee that she will work with the CG to meet the targets of the LRA and to take the LRA to the people.

Mrs. King-Sackie said the ground work of moving the LRA to a greater level has already been laid via the Authority's 5-year corporate strategic plan which emphasizes, among others, increasing voluntary compliance, and effectively administering revenue legislations.

Mrs. King-Sackie called for building the capacity and technical skills of LRA staff, especially in auditing, in a bid to track down hidden taxes.

The Acting Commissioner General noted that more emphasizes and investments will be done in taxpayer's education through outreach initiatives into the communities, schools as well as teaching tax education in universities and colleges.

The two appointed LRA officials thanked President George Weah for appointing them to serve their country and noted that they will not disappoint the President and people of Liberia.



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