

## PUBLIC NOTICE: INCREASE IN COST PER BUNDLE OF SACHET WATER

The public is hereby informed that there has been an increase in the cost per bundle of sachet water from Le 2,500 to Le 3,300 as approved by the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (SLEWRC).

This is in line with section 45 of the SLEWRC Act of 2011 which gives the Commission power to set and review rates of electricity and water services in its regulatory role of these two critical sectors.

The increase comes in the wake of an illegal and unlawful prior increase by the Salone Pure Water Packeters and Bottling Organisation (SPWPBO) on Tuesday 1st October 2019. After a series of round table discussions between the Commission and SPWPBO, a reversal of the initially proposed price of Le 3,500 by the organisation and its subsequent formal application for price review to the Commission, the cost was per bundle containing 20 sachets of 500 millilitres of water was approved by the Commission from Le 2,500 to Le 3,300 on Tuesday 8th October 2019.

As part of the approval and in compliance with regulatory standards, the following conditions were put forward to water producers:

- Each sachet should be 500 milliliters and water should be of the highest quality and fit for drinking
- Any producer without a licence from the Commission or that is non-compliant to rules governing the bottle and sachet water production business will be shut down until they are compliant
- Each sachet shall bear the producer's unique label affixed to it before it leaves the plant. No impersonation will be allowed.
- Financial, operational and technical record-keeping should be maintained at the Factory.
- The Packaged Water Organization in collaboration with the Commission should be responsible for ensuring a robust price control mechanism.
- The Packaged Water Organization should ensure that they comply with all conditions as stipulated in the Bottle and Sachet Water Rules.

Any package water producer that attempts to proceed with an unlawful price for the sale of bundle/sachet water shall face the full penalties of the law as stipulated in Section 65 of the SLEWRC Act of 2011.

EMMANUEL MANNAH

DIRECTOR GENERAL

+23278359299