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PRESS RELEASE
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THE 2016 NATIONAL BUDGET HAS BEEN READ THE FIRST TIME

The Appropriation Act, 2016, being an Act to authorize expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for the services of Sierra Leone for the year 2016 has been “Read The First Time” in the Parliament of Sierra Leone on the 06th November, 2015. The 2016 Budget was read and presented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Kaifala Marah.

The Act contains its schedule to the total sum of three trillion nine hundred and thirty eight billion four hundred and sixty one million eight hundred and twenty thousand Leones (3,938,461,822,000); funds necessary to meet the expenditure to carry on the services of the Government. These funds have been granted to His Excellency, the President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma for the purposes set forth in its Schedule. “The Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 1st day of January, 2016”.



Dr. Kaifala Marah Presenting the 2016 Budget in Parliament

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs and UNICEF, ensured that selected children in all the districts across Sierra Leone witnessed the budget presentation live in the Well of Parliament. Later the children met in Committee Room 1 with a cross section of the Leadership of Parliament and presented position papers aimed at budget increase in the areas of health, education and other sectors that are impacting on the lives of the children in the country.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Chernor Bah promised that the position papers presented would be circulated to MPs for consideration during the debate.

The Majority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu described the children as “lucky” and “future leaders”, whilst restating the point raised earlier that their concerns would be circulated to MPs for onward consideration.

The Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Ansumana Karkai said that as far as the finances of this country are concerned the “buck stops” at the Ministry of Finance.

As part of the legislative process for the approval of the national budget, the Act will be debated for certain allotted days and later committed to the Committee of Supply (Second Reading) before it will be Read “The Third Time” and passed into law, authorizing expenditure for the general services of Sierra Leone.