



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN
Tel: 232-076-615187
E-mail: admin@parliament.gov.sl



PRESS RELEASE
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Parliament Approves \$ 44 Million Grant for Water and Electricity

Parliament Sierra Leone on Thursday 17th December, 2015 approved a forty-four million dollars grant agreement for water and electricity supply in the country. The agreement is between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program; acting through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the United States of America; acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Presenting the agreement to Parliament, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Kaifala Marah noted that the grant agreement is geared towards strengthening and establishing electricity and water supply facilities for Freetown and its environs. He further said that the project is divided into two phases namely; regulating and strengthening the water sector project; and the electricity sector reforms for development project. The Minister also highlighted the importance of the project with specific reference to President Ernest Bai Koroma's Agenda for Prosperity.

Making her contribution to the debate, Hon. Isata Kabia welcomed the initiative of Government aimed at improving water and electricity projects in the country. She also called on Sierra Leoneans to support development and the successful implementation of these projects.

Hon. Helen Kuyembah appreciated the Government for the grant and however noted that electricity and water have remained a challenge for Sierra Leone. Hon. Kuyembah also pointed out that if Sierra Leone was to be eligible for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, transparency and accountability should be maintained as the bedrock for sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of the Minority Leader, Hon. Sidi Tunis called on Government and its officials to manage the resources for their intended purposes.

Concluding the debate, the Leader of the House, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu said that the grant was meant to help Sierra Leone improve its delivery in the water and energy sectors. He also said that such grant would qualify and enable the country to earn more money for its development. He acknowledged the fact that corruption is affecting the development of the country and therefore called on the Minister of Finance and the Government to cross-check documents on finances before approval, so as to minimize corruption.

In another development, Parliament has approved the following five presidential nominees for various high offices in the country.

Dr. Ibrahim Lahai Stevens, Member, National Commission for Privatization

Hon. Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards –Judge, Court of Appeal

Hon. Justice Alusine Sesay-Judge, Court of Appeal

Ms. Jerelyn O.P. Manly–Spain, Board Member, National Public Procurement Authority

Mr. Alie Mohamed Kargbo-Board Member, National Public Procurement Authority

Members of Parliament from both sides of the political divide welcomed the presidential nominees and urged them to work for the country's for its development.

After approval, the presiding Speaker, Hon. Chernor R.M Bah congratulated them and wished them well in their pursuits.