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**PRESS RELEASE
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AGAIN PARLIAMENT RATIFIES SEVEN (7) PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 12th April 2016, after an extensive debate ratified a motion for the approval of seven Presidential nominees to serve in respectable and high offices of State.

The following nominees were approved by Parliament through a collection of voices:

- I. Mr. Momodu Lamin Kargbo-Minister of Finance and Economic Development
- II. Dr. Christiana Thorpe-Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology
- III. Dr. Kaifala Marah-Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone
- IV. Mr. Alfred P. Conteh-Minister of Internal Affairs
- V. Maj. General John E. Milton-Chief of Defence Staff of the RSLAF
- VI. Ms. Mabinty Daramy-Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea
- VII. Ms. Rugiatu N. Turay-Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs

Members of Parliament on both sides of the aisle, who spoke to the debate, praised President Ernest Bai Koroma for nominating a collection of eminent Sierra Leonean men and women who he deemed fit to carry out his agenda for the development of the country. MPs also recognized the enviable role played by each of the nominees for the advancement of the country, and challenged them to improve the economy, the military, internal security, education, and bi-lateral ties for mutual benefit between Guinea and Sierra Leone. However, the nominees were cautioned to work in harmony with their Deputies.

The Minority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai referenced a programme aired on 98.1 FM, Radio Democracy with the view of trivializing the interviewing process in Parliament. She then edified the public on the process by citing the relevant provisions in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Standing Orders of the House, cognizant of their rights, privileges and immunities in Parliament. She also underscored that nominees should be provided with the necessary logistics to succeed in their respective offices.

For his part, the Majority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu prefaced his intervention by thanking the Minority Leader for educating the public on the interviewing process in Parliament and the role of Parliament in maintaining peace and quiet in the nation. He espoused the role of the media to “inform, educate, and entertain, but decried unethical journalism”. He also reminded the citizenry of their duties and responsibilities to the State, such as payment of taxes, love, loyalty and patriotism, whilst recognizing the plethora of supporters that came from across all the constituencies in Port Loko District.

The nominees will take up their respective duties after President Koroma would have administered the oath of office to them as contained in the Third Schedule of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Outside the Chamber were mammoth crowds of jubilant supporters of the nominees, amidst singing and drumming of cultural music.