



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
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ECOWAS PRESIDENT LEADS A DELEGATION TO PARLIAMENT

The President of ECOWAS, H.E Kadre Desire Ouedraogo on Wednesday 19th Nov. 2014 led a delegation to Parliament and met with the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Ebola after he had held fruitful discussions with H.E the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma during the course of a day's visit to the country.

In his submission to the Ebola Committee, the ECOWAS President said that he was honoured to have met with the President of Sierra Leone and the Parliament at a challenging moment like, this to show solidarity with the people of Sierra Leone. He told the Committee that ECOWAS has donated \$ 1,000,000 (one million dollars) to fight the Ebola epidemic in the country; and has held an extra-ordinary summit to look into the regional epidemic. He said key decisions taken at the summit were to allow access to free border travels to facilitate trade; the resumption of air travels to the three countries that are worst hit by Ebola in the sub-region; and plans to deploy about 130 medical personnel in the three countries. He thanked the UN for supporting his visit and underscored the levels of cooperation among UN, AU and ECOWAS to tackle this global health challenge; and also praised UN for setting up a rapid response team in less than three months to cushion this global health scourge.

The Chairman for the Ebola Committee in Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, described the visit as touching and one of recognition for the representatives of the people. He mentioned the global, regional and sub-regional response to fight the Ebola that has come into the country both in-cash and in-kind. He said that it was for this reason that Parliament wasted no time in passing a motion as per provisions in the Constitution of Sierra Leone (1991) to monitor the judicious use of all the funds being disbursed to the country to fight Ebola. Otherwise they would have to face the dreadful "gallows" of the electorates. He said that "some people seek aid to aid themselves", and recognized the need for strong structures to be left behind when the virus would have been combated, to tackle any re-occurrence. He ended by assuring the ECOWAS delegation that the Ebola Committee would ensure prudent expenditure of local and international resources aimed at combating the Ebola epidemic in the country.



President of ECOWA in the Middle Smiling with MPs

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