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PRESS RELEASE
26TH APRIL, 2016

EPA TRAINS PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has in a one-day workshop at Committee Room One in Parliament on the 26th April 2016, trained MPs on the causes and effects of green house emissions and climate change, noting that Sierra Leone has low emissions.

Hon. Rosaline J. Smith, Parliamentary Chairperson for the Committee on Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment had said among other things that “Sierra Leone is among the three countries that have been identified as highly prone to disaster”, whilst recalling the effects of the September flooding on their constituents and the Government of Sierra Leone, and the climate change conference which they attended in Paris, France. She also called on MPs to listen keenly to issues that would be discussed during the course of the workshop and communicate same to their constituents bordering on climate change and disaster risks reduction.

The Deputy Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Leonard Fofanah spoke on the need of communicating major development and livelihood issues with MPs who are the direct representatives of the people. He also averred that the training was “geared towards reducing the effects of green house emissions and climate change on their constituents”.

The Director of EPA, Mr. Momodu Bah told MPs that “climate change remains an inevitable threat to livelihood and sustainable development”, whilst speaking on adaptation measures such as early warning infrastructure like disaster preparedness at local and national level, noting adequate financing for mitigation and other control measures. He also said that “12 out of the 17 SDGs are linked to climate change, whilst stating that the Paris Agreement on climate change is yet to be ratified by Parliament, as well as the Kyoto Protocol. He also said that “taking action now on climate change will yield immense dividends and add value to our development trajectories”.

Presentations were done by Dr. Reynold Johnson and Mr. Abdul Salim respectively. It was during one of the presentations that Dr. Johnson informed MPs that the “intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) are the vehicles through which Governments in post-2020 tailored their responses to cut down on green house emissions and climate change by taking actions that are climate resilient”. To this end, he said that Sierra Leone had adopted the paths of mitigation, adaptation, and loss or damage, cognizant of low emissions and green growth in the Agenda for Prosperity. He also said that Sierra Leone’s conditional contribution is committed to taking reduction actions hinging on formulation and implementation of policies across the board with resources to the tune of “\$900 Million”.

In their respective interventions, MPs blamed EPA for failing in her duties, such as taking the Kyoto Protocol for Cabinet conclusion and subsequent ratification by Parliament, destruction of the green belt that has led to water shortage, plastics littering the streets of Freetown, poor interface with the respective committees in Parliament, and called for horizontal coordination because of poor inter-ministerial cooperation and reforestation.

The workshop called for the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change that had been signed by Sierra Leone, followed by effective implementation.