



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

02nd November, 2015

EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENT DELEGATION VISITS PARLIAMENT

Four European Parliament Development Committee Members, headed by Norbert Neuser on Monday the 02nd November, 2015 visited the Sierra Leone Parliament in order to have firsthand information on the post-ebola recovery plans.



Delegation Chatting with MPs at Committee Room One

The meeting which was held at Committee Room One in Parliament building attracted the Leadership of Parliament, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and staff, where they exchanged information on EU's support to Sierra Leone.

Norbert Neuser, head of EU Parliament's delegation informed Parliament of Sierra Leone that they were in the country on a fact finding mission on the effects of ebola, and hoped that Sierra Leone would be declared ebola-free at the end of the first week in November.

Welcoming the delegation to Parliament, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Chernor Bah, commended the EU for their support in the developmental strides of the country, especially on the ebola and infrastructure. Hon. Bah further briefed the delegation on the role so far played by Parliament. Based on perception, Hon. Bah also called on the EU delegation to encourage INGOs to open their books for proper scrutiny. He said that they had received funds and implemented programmes for and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone. He also called on potential European investors to come and invest in the country which he referred to as "a virgin land" with lots of resources.

The head of the ACP-EU delegation, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu commended the delegation for their timely visit and also appreciated their support to the country in terms of

infrastructure, health, trade, and the budget. Hon. Bundu also appealed for EU's support to Parliament in order to effectively perform its oversight functions under the Cotonou Agreement aimed at strengthening oversight in national Parliaments. Hon. Bundu told the delegation that efforts have been made to combat corruption by enacting tougher laws for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), as the Public Accounts, and Transparency and Accountability Committees in Parliament are complementing the work of the ACC in the fight against corruption.

Briefing the delegation, the Chief Whip, Hon. Claude Kamanda stressed the need for legislating on the activities of INGOs as in UK and Uganda with the view of fostering transparency and accountability in Sierra Leone.

Hon. Helen Kuyembeh, Member of Sierra Leone's delegation to EU Parliament, praised the EU for their assistance to the country. She also spoke about the European Development Fund 11 (EDF Eleven) that is coordinated by the National Authorizing Office (NAO). She referred to sign boards of EU's projects all across the country.

For Hon. Isata Kabia, the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated into the country's post-Ebola recovery plans which are in line with education, gender equality, and agriculture in nation building. She emphasized that "education" is the bedrock for the development of any nation.

The EU Development Committee Members also met with the executive branch of Government .