



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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HIGH PROFILE VISITORS INTERFACE WITH PARLIAMENT

The Hon. Speaker and the Leadership of Parliament, despite a nationally declared public holiday in honour of Armed Forces Day on Wednesday 18th February, 2015 met with Helen Clark, visiting Chair of the United Nations Development Group; consisting of the Heads of all UN funds, programmes, and departments working on development issues, at Committee Room 1 in Parliament.

In welcoming Helen Clark, the Hon. Speaker said that she had been a teacher, legislator, Minister of Government, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and now Head of UNDP programmes. He said she had assiduously carried herself with unblemished distinction and that her achievements had been incalculable by endearing herself to her people and country; and now helping the world with development programmes and policies. He ended by saying, that certain needs of Parliament would be communicated to her through UNDP CTA- Parliament, and PACO; whilst describing her as a consummate politician.



Sheku B.B Dumbuya & Helen Clark

In her response, Helen Clark said that the purpose of the visit was to assist the country to end the EVD, and help Sierra Leone in its post-ebola recovery programmes as there was light at the end of the tunnel when the virus would have been contained and eradicated. She also said that Sierra Leone would conquer ebola because of the leadership skills demonstrated by H.E President Ernest Bai Koroma in his social mobilization and sensitization drive calling on MPs, Paramount Chiefs, local and international partners which had resulted in the downward trend of the ebola figures in the country. She spoke about prospective meetings to be held by international partners to assist the ebola hit countries to recover from the devastating economic shocks, livelihood programmes, care for children orphaned by ebola, and the reopening of schools.

In another development, the Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Sheku B.B Dumbuya on 19th February, 2015 announced the presence of the Right Hon. Baroness Hayman, Crossbench Member of the House of Lords who was officially in the Chamber to witness firsthand the proceedings of Parliament. She was recognized with an outstanding ovation of applause by MPs. She later met with the Leadership of Parliament, the office of the Clerk of Parliament, Parliamentary Women's Caucus, PACO, and UNDP CTA-Parliament.



Baroness Hayman & Assistant Witnessed the Proceedings in Parliament