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PRESS RELEASE
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HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE BUREAU OF THE ACP-EU

The Sierra Leone Parliamentary Delegation to the ACP-EU attended the 40th Session of the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-PA) earlier this month. It also took part in the 30th Session of the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) from the 02nd to 09th December, 2015 in Brussels, Belgium. The delegation consists of Hon. Ibrahim R. Bundu (Head of Delegation); Hon. Alpha B. Lewally (Member); Hon. Helen Kuyembeh (Member); and Mohamed Koroma (Secretary to Delegation).

The significance of those meetings was highlighted as follows:

1. **PRESENTATION OF A REPORT TO THE JPA:** - in a meeting organized by the Social Affairs and Environment Committee on the 19th March 2015, its membership unanimously appointed Hon. Ibrahim Bundu as co-rapporteur. He also prepared and presented a draft report on: How to Improve Economic and Social Conditions in Developing Countries, Including the Contribution of Family Businesses in Order to Prevent Health Disasters. The draft report was considered by the Committee at its meetings of 13th June in Fiji; 24th-25th September; and finally 05th December, 2015 in Belgium.

On Wednesday 09th December, 2015, Hon. Bundu and his kind co-rapporteur, Arne Gericke (a German) presented the report to the JPA with 130 amendments. The JPA acclaimed the report as one of the best reports it has received in the recent past and congratulated the co-rapporteurs for their hard work and further reaffirmed their commitment to do follow up on the recommendations contained in the report.

2. **ADOPTION TO THE BUREAU OF THE ACP-EU:** - Head of Sierra Leone's Delegation, Hon. Ibrahim Rassin Bundu has been unanimously nominated to the Bureau of the ACP-EU, following an announcement at the 39th Session of the ACP-PA, when its Secretariat informed Members of the West African Region to fill in vacancies including President of the ACP and Co-President of the JPA; and two Members to the Bureau in respect of the rotational policy of the Group. Sierra Leone's Delegation expressed interest for membership to the Bureau (executive arm of the ACP-EU) alongside other contenders from other West African Countries, especially the Francophone's. Meanwhile, the Delegation was

able to mobilize support from all Members at the final moment due to the solid campaign strategy that was adopted by the Sierra Leone Delegation. The Gambian Delegation also gave their unreserved support to Sierra Leone's and Hon. Ibrahim Bundu was unanimously nominated, rather than elected to the Bureau.



Hon. Bundu and his co-rapporteur, Gericke

Also of significance to note, is that Hon. Netty Baldeh from the Gambia (educated in Sierra Leone) was also nominated as ACP President and Co-President of the JPA. It was the Sierra Leone Delegation that led and managed his campaign. Their terms of office start in January 2016 and end in November 2017.

THE JPA

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) brings together Members of the European Parliaments (MEPs) and MPs from 78 European Union (EU) and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States that had signed the Cotonou Agreement, which is the basis for ACP-EU cooperation and development work. At the 30th Session of the ACP-EU JPA, Members debated, among others the following topics: universal healthcare cover; migration; human rights and humanitarian refugees; the post-election situation in Burundi; evaluation of the African Peace Facility after ten years; forty years of ACP-EU partnership; how to improve economic and social conditions in developing countries; not excluding the Contribution of Family Businesses in order to Prevent Health Disasters.

The session was officially opened by the JPA co-chairs, Louis Michel (Belgian) for the European Parliament, Fitz A. Jackson (Jamaican) for the ACP countries and Mars di Bartlomeo-President of the Chamber of Deputies (Luxembourg). Other Speakers of the occasion were Neven Mimica- EU International Cooperation and Development Commissioner, for the European Commission, Mamphono Khaketla-Finance Minister of Lesotho and Romain Schneider-Luxembourg's Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action.

THE 31ST SESSION OF THE JPA

The 31st Session of the JPA is scheduled from 13th -15th June, 2016 and would take place in a country in Central Africa that is yet to be determined.