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### PRESS RELEASE

16<sup>th</sup> June 2015

#### **Parliament Concludes Investigations on the Finances of Local Councils**

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Local Government and Rural Development, chaired by Hon. Abu Bakarr Koroma has concluded ten day's visitations to all local councils in the South and Eastern Regions of the country in order to investigate finances and projects implemented for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

The Chairman in his statements during the oversight visits to some ten local councils stressed the need for proper transparency and accountability on finances and projects implemented for the development of the country. Hon Abu Bakarr Koroma explained the importance of the visits and the mandate of the Committee which he said was derived from the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Parliamentary Standing Orders.

During the Committee's investigations, all sector heads including Agriculture, Education, Health, Water Resources, Youth and Sport, Social Welfare and others were in full attendance in which the Committee was able to probe into their financial records and projects implementation.



MPs at Work

The Committee in public hearings engaged Kenema District Council, Kenema City Council, Pujehun District Council, Bonthe District Council, Bonthe Municipal Council, Bo District Council, Bo City Council, Moyamba District Council, Kono District Council, Koidu New Sembahun City Council, and contractors who implemented the councils' projects. On site visits to projects implemented by Councils it was observed that much needed to be done on feeder roads and the maintenance of existing structures.

Council Chairmen expressed satisfaction with Parliament, but raised concerns on the frequent transfer of staff from one Council to another, and articulated problems that are being encountered in mobilizing own source revenue to undertake development.

On the overall visits, the Chairman and Members of the Committee were very impressed with some of the projects that have been implemented by various Councils with funds appropriated to undertake developmental activities.