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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Parliament Adopts Two Reports of the Committee on Works**

Parliament of Sierra Leone on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 adopted two reports from the Committee on Works, Housing and Infrastructure. These reports were tabled in Parliament on the 03<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015. The reports also included the Committee's joint inspection exercise with the Sierra Leone Housing Corporation (SALHOC), on the state of the OAU Villas and its oversight visits to road construction sites nationwide.

Presenting the report to Parliament, the Chairman of the Committee on Works, Hon. Kombor Kamara commended the Leadership of Parliament and the Road Maintenance Fund Administration for their support to perform oversight which is required by law. The purpose of the oversight, he said was to get firsthand information about the status of road construction in the country, and that of the OAU Villas in Freetown. Chairman Kombor also informed Parliament that, as a Committee they visited all the road construction sites and the companies in the country. He furthered that they were very pleased with Government's efforts in that direction and also praised SLRA for doing a good job in the infrastructural development strides in the country.

On the Villas, the Chairman called on Parliament to support SALHOC as it was created by an Act of Parliament. He urged tenants occupying these villas to pay their rents which run into billions of Leones. He told them to desist from using titles and court cases as smokescreens so as not to pay their rents. This he said is depriving SALHOC of much needed resources to survive and build more houses for low income earners.

Seconding the motion on the debate, Hon. Tamba E. Ebba appreciated the work of Government in infrastructural development, and called on Sierra Leone Roads Authority to be mindful in the award of contracts; cognizant of capacity and pre-financing. He blamed GuicoPress, a Guinean owned company for doing a bad and incomplete job in Kono and Koinadugu Districts. The contractors for Kono and Koinadugu had been changed for the fourth time without any successful completion.

In her contribution, Hon. Jariatu Smith blamed tenants for contributing to the sad state of SALHOC by owing them over one billion Leones. She commended FIMET/Bento Villa, CSE and ISU Construction Companies for doing a good job in the road construction sites in the country.

Hon. Mustapha Brima thanked the Government for championing roads as a major component of infrastructural development and heartily described the Kenema-Pendembu road project as "classical".

Hon. Kai-Samba said Kenema City has the worst road network and urged Government to concentrate on the development of the District.

Speaking on behalf of the Minority Leader, Hon. Sidi Tunis commended the reports and lashed SALHOC for poor administration and management of the institution. He also commended the work of SLRA for effective monitoring mechanisms put in place on road constructions.

In rounding up the debate, Leader of the House, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu also praised the reports and urged Parliament to adopt the recommendations contained therein. He urged the House to do follow-up on its recommendations and ensure that they are being implemented. He also called on SALHOC to take full responsibility for the OAU Villas, or risk them being privatized by the NCP (National Commission for Privatization).