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PRESS RELEASE
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PARLIAMENT APPROVES HON. ISATA KABIA, AND 8 OTHERS

Parliament of Sierra Leone on Thursday 14th January, 2016 adopted and ratified the Second Report of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service. Nine eminent and professional Sierra Leoneans were approved to serve in various high offices of State.

The following presidential nominees were approved through a collection of voices:

1. Hon. Justice Hamid Abdulai Charm-Chief Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone
2. Professor Monty Patrick Jones-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security
3. Hon. Isata Kabia-Minister of State II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
4. Mr. Patrick Saidu Conteh-Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
5. Dr. Mohamed Gibril Sesay-Minister of State I, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
6. Mr. Mohamed Alhaji Momoh-Jah Stevens-High Court Judge
7. Mr. Komba Kamanda-High Court Judge
8. Idrissa Barrie-Board Member, Guma Valley Water Company Limited, and
9. Dr. Ebum Strasser-King-Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal



Cross-section of the presidential nominees approved in Parliament today

Minority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai referred to the nominees as professionals in their own rights, whom President Koroma in his wisdom had chosen to serve the country nationally and internationally. She also said that these positions are central and integral to the development of the nation, noting the need for agriculture and sustainable water supply. She said if Parliament had her way, it would have withheld the ratification of Hon. Isata Kabia. She also opined that losing her to the executive has created vacancies locally and internationally in the Pan African Parliament, where she was a rappporteur in the Education Committee. She also underscored the need for the expediency of justice, and curbing of financial leakages with the view of enhancing national development.

Majority Leader of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu said among other things that an election should not be held on the basis of “popularity”, but “materiality”, whilst congratulating the people for voting Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo to Parliament. He also challenged graduates in engineering to emulate the lawyers by creating small firms and give service for the development of the country. Thus the need for self-

employment, he emphasized. He noted that agriculture has the capacity to employ “thousands and thousands of people in the country”. He ended by saying that he was particularly gratified with the plethora of praises that were heaped on Hon. Isata Kabia and wished her well in her new appointment.

Several other MPs from both sides had contributed to the debate where the lower and upper galleries were full to capacity with hundreds more outside the Chamber