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PRESS RELEASE

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Parliament Concludes a Day's Training Program with Agriculture Ministry on Planned Activities

The Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security has on Friday the 23rd of May 2015, concluded a one day interactive session at Newton Agricultural Center, in the Western Rural District. with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) to understand their operations, projects, programs, and activities.

The one day programme was also to ascertain the geographic coverage of MAFFS donor funded projects, District Agricultural Officers, devolved function activities' budget, main NGOs and private sector investments, and the structures and mechanisms established within the Ministry to effectively and efficiently coordinate such programs.



MPs and officials of Agriculture charting the way forward

According to the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay, the engagement was to strengthen the Committee's capacity to effectively link the Ministry to Parliament by informing Parliament about funds available to the Ministry, physical achievements, and problems and constraints confronting the Ministry. He said the engagement would enhance publicity and visibility of field activities

for performance audit, transparency and accountability to the public, civil societies, Parliament and Audit Service.

Welcoming the Members of Parliament, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Marie Jalloh, appreciated the interactive session with MPs on the status and activities of the Ministry.

Director of Agriculture Mr. Francis Sankoh, gave an overview of the Ministry, and explained the roles and functions of unit heads and departments in the promotion of Agriculture in the country.

The Acting Chairman, of the Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Thomas Mark Turay, commended the Ministry for the dialogue forum in exchanging ideas on how Parliament and the Ministry should work together. He noted that it was mandatory on Parliament to engage Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in order to know their activities, challenges and status. The Chairman pleaded with the Ministry to support MPs that are undertaking Agricultural activities in the country and promised to work with the Ministry in order to achieve food security and President Koroma's Agenda for Prosperity.

Presidential Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Sheku Kamara, noted among other things that the Agenda for Prosperity is geared towards shaping development in the country through Agricultural activities.

The one day dialogue resolved that joint site visits between Parliament and the Ministry in all 14 Agricultural sites in the country be conducted, to support MPs on Agricultural activities, to improve mechanized farming, to review land lease agreements and to look into the Western Area National Park.

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