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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Parliament Debates President Koroma's Speech on State Opening**

Parliament on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 commenced the debate on President Koroma's Address on the State Opening of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone in the Chamber of Parliament last December.

Moving the motion of thanks in respect of his Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma's speech, the Chief whip of Parliament, Hon. Cluade Kamanda, commended President Koroma for the good leadership demonstrated in the fight against the Ebola virus and for declaring maternal and mortality health as an emergency issue due to the frequent deaths of babies in the country.

The Chief whip, appreciated president koroma's attention to Waterloo Rural District in the area of social support to the aged, installation of electricity supply for the people of Newton, construction of Waterloo gravity water system, construction of roads in the Waterloo Rural District, provision for Waterloo bus services and fees paid for public examinations for students.

Hon. Sulaiman Sessay, Chairman for Energy, appreciated the work of the president in ensuring electricity supply for the country. He narrated the 2007 promise by the President the premium he laid on electricity which, he noted, he has fulfilled. He acknowledged the several ratifications Parliament has made in respect of electricity supply for the nation.

Hon JB Mansary, praised President Koroma for developmental strides made in the country but pleaded with the president to consider constituency 73, Bo District, for development.

Hon Kes Boya, Parliamentary Chairman, Human Rights Committee, deliberated on the congestion of the prison system, commending the Family Support Unit (FSU) for doing a good job in the family sector.

Engaging in the debate, Hon. Komba koedoyoma, highlighted President Koroma's efforts in the fight against the Ebola virus. He appreciated the President for acknowledging the work of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in enhancing transparency and accountability. He called on International Non- Governmental Organizations (INGOs) to give proper records on funds used on behalf of the people of this country. Hon Abubakarr Koroma and Hon. P.L. Kargbo were also heard in the debate.