



PRESS RELEASE

30th January, 2015

**PARLIAMENT RATIFIES TWO GRANTS AND CONCLUDES DEBATE ON
PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on the 30th of January, 2015 ratified two grants which were laid on the table of the House on Monday 26th January, 2015 geared towards containing the Ebola Virus Disease in the country. The following grants were ratified by Parliament:

- I. Grant agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Government of Sierra Leone for the provision of a grant to assist in the fight against Ebola, dated 6th January, 2015; and
- II. Grant agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Islamic Development Bank (as administrator of the FA'EL KHAIR donation) to support the efforts to fight the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic in Sierra Leone, dated 12th January, 2015

Prior to ratification, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Foday B.L Mansaray said the grant provided by the Islamic Government of Mauritania was more than Le 1,000,000,000.00 (one billion leones) as part of African solidarity to assist the affected countries that have been hit by the Ebola virus to stop the spread of infections and improve on their public health systems. On the other hand, he said that the Islamic Development Bank gave a grant of over \$ 6,000,000.00 (six million dollars) aimed at containing the Ebola Virus Disease and assist Government of Sierra Leone with resources meant for the re-opening schools for a period of six months, starting February this year. The Ministry of Education Science and Technology is the main implementing agency for this project which among other things looks at the safe re-opening of schools; and provision of thermal sensors, computers, boreholes, psychosocial counseling, and vehicles.

“In her brief contribution, the Minority Leader, Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai said that both grants were non-controversial and thanked the grantors for the assistance to contain the Ebola Virus Disease soonest”.

“In his short submission, the Majority Leader, Hon. Ibrahim R. Bundu also thanked the grantors for the kind help being rendered to the country at a challenging moment like



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this; and advised that those responsible for the implementation of both grants would use due diligence to achieve its desired results”.

In another development, the Parliament of Sierra Leone has concluded debating on the Presidential Speech for five consecutive allotted days on the 30th January, 2015 on the motion which was exhaustively dealt with by over 20 Members of Parliament from both sides of the aisle, including one Paramount Chief Member from Moyamba District. The motion was moved and seconded by Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah from Kenema, and Hon. Komba E. Kodoeyoma from Kono respectively. The motion reads that be it resolved “That we the Members of Parliament here assembled wish to thank His Excellency the President for the Address he so graciously delivered on the occasion of the State Opening of the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone in the Chamber of Parliament on Friday 5th December, 2014”.

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