



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN
Tel: 232-076-615187
E-mail: admin@parliament.gov.sl



PRESS RELEASE
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PARLIAMENT RATIFIES TWO AGREEMENTS OVER \$ 30 MILLION ON POVERTY REDUCTION

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Tuesday 15th December, 2015 ratified two financing agreements, worth over \$ 30 Million aimed at poverty reduction and supplemental budgetary support to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone.

The following financial agreements were ratified by Parliament:

- I. “Amended and restated financing agreement (social safety net project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and International Development Association, dated 18th September, 2015” and
- II. “Financing agreement (supplemental financing for the emergency economic and fiscal support development policy financing) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and International Development Association, dated 08th December, 2015.”

In presenting both financing agreements to the House before ratification, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Kaifala Marah said among other things, that both agreements are in line with the Agenda for Prosperity. In that vein, he referenced human capital development and poverty reduction particularly for the aged in 12,000 poverty-stricken households across the regions in the country.

In contributing to the debate, Hon. Hassan Sheriff, Chairman for the Finance Committee in Parliament, commended IDA for both agreements aimed at reducing poverty in their constituencies in the country, and the provision of supplementary support to our national budget.

Hon. Komba Kodoeyoma described the agreements as “straight forward” with the view of reducing poverty in our poorest regions, describing the supplemental budgetary support as a “welcome gesture”.

For Hon. Paramount Chief, Alie Kavura Kongomoh III, the agreements are “non-debatable”, because they are aimed at poverty reduction and the improvement of the economy. He also called for the funds to be used for their intended purpose.

Hon. Ansumana KaiKai, acting Minority Leader of the House, said that he appreciated all the help we are getting from our foreign friends, and thanked IDA for both agreements aimed at poverty reduction and returning the economy to the path we had set for ourselves. He also recalled the assistance the country had received when the war ended, pointing at the restructuring of the police and the army in the security sector.

Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, Majority Leader of Parliament thanked those who signed both agreements, particularly IDA, for responding favorably. He also said that “we are in a state of emergency, and now we are receiving emergency budgetary support”; and finally wished Members of Parliament a “Happy Christmas”.