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PARLIAMENT RECEIVES 2014 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Chernor R.M Bah has on the 28th September, 2015 in the Conference Room of Parliament, received the “State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone Eighth Report 2014”, which was presented by the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission-Sierra Leone, Mr. Brima A. Sheriff.

Prior to the presentation, Commissioner Sheriff said among other things that the ebola virus disease and the recent incidences of flooding in Freetown and other parts of the country are very challenging times in the history and life of the country. He therefore extended on behalf of the Commission heartfelt condolences to those who had been consumed and rendered homeless by the shocks of ebola and the latest wake of flooding in the country. He also said that the Commission noted the ongoing efforts by Government of Sierra Leone to contain these disasters, whilst speaking on its advisory, collaborative, and the conduct of trainings for security personnel on the implementation of the regulations contained in the State of Emergency. He said further that the Commission acknowledged Government’s support to its work especially the provision of operational costs and salaries, whilst noting the assistance of UNDP and other development partners. He also spoke on the need for increasing the annual budget of the Commission, and called on Government to provide 15% of its budget to the health sector, referencing the Abuja Declaration, and urged Government to implement the recommendations contained in the current and previous Human Rights Reports in the country.



Deputy Speaker Receiving the 2014 Human Rights Report From the Chairperson HRCSL.

In acknowledging receipt of the report, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Cherner Bah congratulated Mrs. Jamestina King for her recent appointment to the Africa Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. He also commended the Commission for doing a good job, especially in the area of advocacy. He recalled that he was the one that received the Commission's report in 2014, and thought of the need to collaborate with them. He also told the Commission to educate Parliament and the populace about her work, whilst explaining his experience in Mali and Nigeria had he not known about the activities of the Commission whose able Chairman in Parliament is Hon. Komba E.S Boyah. On the part of funding, he said that Parliament would endeavour to see that the Commission's budgetary estimates go through the House. He referenced the previous report that was tabled in Parliament, whilst assuring the Commission on behalf of the Leadership and the administration of the House that the 2014 Report would be tabled and debated in Parliament.