



## PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENT BUILDING  
O.A.U DRIVE, TOWER HILL  
FREETOWN

Website: [www.parliament.gov.sl](http://www.parliament.gov.sl)



**06<sup>th</sup> February, 2015**

### **SPEAKER REQUESTS CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT OFFICE SPACE FOR 124 MPS**

The Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament, Hon. Sheku B.B Dumbuya on behalf of the Leadership of Parliament requested the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to construct office space to accommodate 124 Members of Parliament on Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 when the Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, His Excellency Zhao Yangbo paid a courtesy call to his office at Parliament Building.

He described “China’s volume of assistance to Sierra Leone as uncountable which we deeply appreciated; and regarded the friendship as being eternal and would never die”. He also apologized for being “unreasonable to ask too much from someone who is always willing to help”. He also said “China rehabilitated Parliament, and constructed a modern building which is now being used by the Administration as it cannot accommodate all the 124 Members of Parliament”; and described Chinese aid as “unconditional with no strings attached”. He also said that “the Leadership of Parliament is therefore requesting for help as staff have offices to work but MPs do not”; and referenced other jurisdictions where each MP has an office to work. “This is not happening in Sierra Leone and MPs work in and around the Canteen of Parliament”. He recognized China as the “first country to respond to the plight of Sierra Leone when the ebola virus disease first struck in May last year”; and described China’s assistance to Sierra Leone as “unprecedented”.

In welcoming the Ambassador, he exchanged diplomatic pleasantries and underscored the need for strengthening and deepening the relationship between Sierra Leone and China; he thanked the Peoples Republic of China for the support accorded to him during his tour of duty when he served as Sierra Leone’s Ambassador to China and mentioned the role he played in the formation of the Sierra Leone-China Friendship.



(L-R) Majority Leader, Hon. Speaker of Parliament & Chinese Ambassador



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In his response, the Ambassador promised that the “Hon. Speaker’s request will be duly communicated to Beijing” for consideration. He spoke about the need for continued closer diplomatic relations between the two countries and recognized the role played by Sierra Leone for China to secure a seat at the UN Security Council 44 years ago. He said “China is obligated to help Sierra Leone because we are old friends”. He recalled when he presented his credentials to President Koroma who told him that “China constructed our buildings, roads and other infrastructure”. He enumerated China’s support to the country since the outbreak of the ebola virus disease ranging from medical personnel, supplies, trainings, provision of laboratories, and even renting of a special flight to transport these items to the country. He also spoke about post-ebola recovery plans that have been put in place to assist the Government and the people of Sierra Leone. He presented a book on governance and reformation written by the President of China, His Excellency “XI JINPING” to the Speaker of Parliament.