



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT PROBES CASH CROPS AND COMMERCIAL FORESTRY

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Environment and Climate Change, Chaired by Hon. Yusuf Mackery on Friday 05/07/2024, concluded a two-day oversight in Pujehun District. The Committee had earlier visited Miro Commercial Forestry along the Bo/Freetown Highway.

During the serial oversight tour, the Chairman said the purpose of their engagement is to monitor the operations of those involved in activities that can impact the environment positively or negatively. The Chairman strongly informed that climate change is now becoming a global concern and Sierra Leone is part of the village. He informed that the witnesses that they as lawmakers would not allow the country to lag behind in the fight against environmental degradation and pollution. "Entities that are involved in afforestation, tree planning, land degradation, pollution, or environmental related activities are strongly advised to do the needful," he categorically stated.

The Chairman said their Parliamentary functions and responsibilities are very critical and went on to say that they were not witch-hunting. "If we don't visit you, we would understand what is affecting you," he assured.

He said they wanted to know the successes and challenges of the companies and take the report to the Plenary for consideration.

During the oversight tour around Mile 91, the Committee observed that Miro Commercial Forestry Company is involved in planting thousands of commercial trees and efforts that are in line with conservation, afforestation, and climate mitigation.

It was also observed that many compatriots, including youths and host community members, have gained employment at Miro Commercial Forestry.

The Committee was satisfied with the operations and activities of Miro Forestry.

The Committee discovered that the company waste was well managed.

The Committee also observed that the company has been regularized.

The Committee discovered that Miro has many success stories and few challenges.

The Chairman, Hon. Yusuf Mackey from Bo District said he was very much impressed with cashew farm, but however, Hon. Mackey urged the District Forestry Officer(DFO), Mohamed Koroma, to brush the farm affirming that the farm belonged to him.

At the Gboworbu Cashew project farm in Pujehun District, the Committee Members were impressed with the activities but observed that the farm needs thorough brushing. The Committee, therefore, ordered the farm owner to do the needful.

Members of the Committee who joined the oversight made meaningful contributions during the tour.

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