



# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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## PRESS RELEASE



### COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS PROBES MDA's

Parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs chaired by Hon. Sarty Banya recently conducted a three-day oversight and probed officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and related entities. The engagement is part of Parliament's mandates to hold the executive accountable.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Sierra Leone Immigration Department, Sierra Leone Police, Sierra Leone Correctional Service, NCRA, and the National Fire Force were respectively probed by the Committee.

In his remarks during the probing, the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Sarty Banya said, "Parliament is probing into the activities of MDAs and not to witch hunt anyone." "You should

not have any fair when Parliament is on oversight” he said. He encouraged the witnesses to explain challenges they are faced with. Hon. Banya reemphasized the mandates and powers of the committee, citing sections 93,95, and 96 of the 1991 Constitution. He reiterated the need for effective collaboration between the committee and various institutions.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Votes controllers of the above-mentioned institutions highlighted the mandates, mission, and vision of their institutions.

Swaray Junisa is the Director of Administration and Finance at the Immigration Department, he spoke about the activities and that the institution was established in the 1940s, in order to regulate the entering of people in the country.” We are responsible for preparing and issuing all necessary documents for travels” he said. Mr. Swaray added by saying that the introduction of office uniforms at the institution was to ensure professionalism.

Other institutions were engaged by the Committee,who highlighted operations and challenges they've faced.

NCRA highlighted challenges in the sales of the National ID cards particularly in rural areas and asked for more support from the government and collaboration with the committee.

The Sierra Leone Police emphasised its mandates in protecting the lives of Sierra Leoneans.

It was observed that the National Fire Force was affected by untimely and low budget allocation and inadequate hydrants, access to water, and poor environmental planning to respond to emergency as well as under staffing.

The Sierra Leone Correctional Centre, the Committee discovered was affected by inadequate supply of uniforms, manpower, low budgetary allocation, and capacity building was also a challenge amongst others.

The following general observations were made during the engagement.

1. The Committee discovered some irregularities in procurement activities of some of the MDAs
2. The Committee observed a high percentage of women representation at the Ministry of Internal Affairs
3. Members of the Committee also discovered the usage of fuel stations as club facilities during night hours and that the Ministry is doing limited or nothing about it
4. The Committee discovered inadequate supporting documents in certain institutions
5. The Committee discovered that 800 crossing points in the country and 41 are manned, with over 750 crossing points unmanned
6. The Committee discovered porous borders posing security risk in the country
7. The committee noted that the department wanted to be independent and transform into National Immigration Service

In a question and comments session, Members of the Committee raised concerns about inadequate security in the country. The Committee encouraged the various institutions to prioritise the growth and development of the country.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

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