



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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24th October, 2024

PRESS RELEASE



DEPUTY CLERK OF PARLIAMENT LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY PROJECT

The Deputy Clerk of Parliament Gilbert Nhabay on behalf of the Leadership of the Sierra Leone Parliament, has on Thursday 24/10/2024 in Committee Room One Parliament, officially Launched the "Environmental Democracy Project", which was organized by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy

The purpose of the Launching of the project is to raise awareness among lawmakers, and other Civil Society Organizations on the implications of destroying the beautiful environment.

The Deputy Clerk of Parliament Mr. Gilbert Nhabay acknowledged that legislators have a very clear role to play in addressing climate change issues in the country. He added that there had been a whole commitment beyond political beliefs and orientations to not only participate but to equally address the numerous climate change issues in the country which had been regarded as the 3rd most prone country to climate change.

The Deputy Clerk highlighted that transparency is among three other essential items needed in the fight against environmental democracy and climate change entirely. He appreciated the contributions of WFD in supporting Parliament and the government of Sierra Leone to fight environmental issues and climate change.

"On behalf of the House Speaker, and his Deputy, and the entire House of Representatives, I officially launched the campaign", he concluded.

Rev. Alusine Diamond Suma, the Country Director of WFD mentioned that there's an urgent need for SL to discuss environmental issues and democracy. "Sierra Leone's environmental issues are not secret anymore, it is evident in every rainy season," he revealed.

He established that the causes of environmental issues in SL range from growth in population size, to uncontrollable uses and disposals of plastic wastes especially in the capital.

He said it is better to engage communities through interactive discussions on environmental issues and went on to emphasize regular engagement and capacity building for MPs, with strong networking and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in the fight against environmental and climate change issues. He emphasized that environmental democracy had gone beyond just what they think and acknowledged total collaboration.

Hon. Konkafa Farah Mansaray who represented the Chairman of the Committee on Water Resources in Parliament, and a member of the Water Resources Committee stated that the focus of addressing climate change and environmental issues is mainly for the next generation.

He mentioned that globally cultivating pure water is becoming a huge challenge for countries like Sierra Leone.

On his part, Mr. Kemoh Marrah Principal Clerk for the Mines Committee, said the Mining Sector which contributes hugely to the National Budget also had laws binding the sector. He added that caution should be taken when doing mining across the country. He stated that his committee does emphasize community engagement with mining companies even before work is done.

Mr. Marrah said Parliament is still bent on protecting the environment and therefore, called on all MPs to join in addressing all environmental and climate change issues in the country.

In his submission, Hon. Daniel Amadu Bangura, a representative from the Fisheries Committee said that climate change threatens fish migrations through torrential rains and other climate change issues.

He spoke on collaborative efforts with local groups and communities in shaping the climate change issues within the fisheries sector.

He welcomed and thanked WFD for supporting and upholding democracy and climate change issues.

Shaka Mansaray while speaking on behalf of the Parliamentary Civil Society Network (ParlCSO Net), mentioned that the CSOs in Sierra Leone are not exempt from what is happening with the space of global climate change.

He urged MPs to draft standard laws to uphold climate change issues in the country and address the numerous challenges affecting even the normal lifestyle of people.

He called on MPs to explicitly discuss and enlighten their people at the local levels on those laws made in the House of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. "We urge lawmakers to craft laws addressing those things," he called.

He emphasized that the impact of climate change is vividly seen by the way it affects the health sector, agricultural sector, and the general livelihood of the people of Sierra Leone.

Director of the Parliamentary and Public Relations Department Sheku Lamin Turay moderated the Program and outlined the significant of addressing climate change in the country.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

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