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## 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2024



## **PRESS RELEASE**

## EU PAYS COURTESY CALL ON SPEAKER THOMAS, LAUDS PARLIAMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION

The Deputy Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Sierra Leone, Emilio Rossetti, and the Team Leader of the European Union, Els Mortier, paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas on Tuesday, 26/11/2025. The Team also commended the Sixth Parliament for enacting progressive legislation, including the Prohibition of the Child Marriage Act 2024.

Emilio Rossetti, the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation, congratulated the House Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas and the House of Parliament on the ratification of two Financing Agreements from the European Union. He also intimated that the EU would be having an Apolitical Dialogue between the EU and the Government of Sierra Leone, which is slated for the 10th of December 2024. He added that President Julius Maada Bio would be honoring the EU with the opening of the Apolitical Dialogue slated for the 10th of December 2024. He assured the House Speaker that the Dialogue is conducted under the Legal Provisions of the Samao Agreement, which is the successor of the Cotonou Agreement. He said issues like Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law would be considered and discussed at the proposed Apolitical Dialogue slated for the 10th of December.

The Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Sierra Leone spoke on the viability of the Business Environment in Sierra Leone, adding that they had done some consultations with EU Business Investors to invest in Sierra Leone.

Els Mortier, the European Union's team leader, commended Parliament for supporting the EU's developmental strides across the country's radius and circumference. She also assured that the EU would continue to support the Parliament of Sierra Leone. She recalled that the EU had been supporting the House of Sierra Leone Parliament, especially in the area of technical components. The EU Team Leader also assured Speaker Thomas that the EU would continue its support to Parliament and Sierra Leone in generality.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas welcomed the delegation to the House of Parliament. Speaker Thomas confessed that Parliament is proud of the European Union's Interventions in various Budgetary Aspects, including grants and donations to the Government and the People of Sierra Leone.

"I want to say that we truly appreciate your contributions and will not take anything for granted. Be rest assured that every Financing Agreement from the EU will be ratified," he assured.

Speaker Thomas also acknowledged the EU's great support for Parliament. He concluded by assuring the team to feel free to come to Parliament and wished them well in their development aspirations for Sierra Leone.

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