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HONOURABLE MATHEW SAHR NYUMA SPEAKS ON THE 1ST AFRICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON FAMILY VALUES AND SOVEREIGNTY.

In his tireless efforts in ensuring the growth of the African continent, the seasoned law maker and Leader of Government Business in Sierra Leone Parliament Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma has addressed dozens of members of Parliament across Africa, at the 1st African Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Entebbe, Uganda. Giving his remarks, the erudite Leader expresses satisfaction on the theme of the conference which says "Protecting African Culture and Family Values", for which he said indeed sovereignty belongs to the people, and that the rights and values of the people in the continent of Africa should be protected always in all ways. The indefatigable Leader continues by citing article 41(1) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which prevents international communities from interfering into internal affairs of that state, particularly for countries that have ratified the said convention. Making an addendum to his statement, the Leader emphasizes on protecting the values of the people, he mentioned a meeting he had regarding safe motherhood and reproductive health care, for which he encourages the pioneers to engage in more consultation, with emphasis on the Inter-Religious Council members. Honourable Nyuma continues by saying human rights goes with responsibilities and that the voiceless needs to be protected.

The reason for the conference is not disconnected to the long decades, international institutions and donor countries have been providing substantial, much needed foreign aid to address the multi-faceted needs of our countries. However, supports have often come to implement policies and programs, which directly impact our sovereignties, African culture, Family values, and Africa's children. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians play a key role in it, considering legislation as one of their core mandates. Therefore, they are obliged to uphold our culture and values as enshrined in countries laws and policies. It is critical that African parliamentarians need to come together to discuss and map a way forward to collectively and strongly tackle the pervasive form of cultural colonialisation that is accelerating at the international, regional, sub-regional, and national levels, and now into our rural and local communities. The objectives of the conference are but not limited to providing an in-depth briefing by African scholars and experts and provide a space for dialogue among parliamentarians in a bid to create understanding and joint actions. And also to identify ways to ensure the protection of the sovereign right and duty of African nations to protect the African family values as the fundamental unit of society and to protect Africa's cultural values against emerging global threats. African parliaments to address the aforementioned concerns through multilateral as well as unilateral actions.

Another key objective is to create an integrated and unified approach among African parliaments on the way forward in addressing cultural colonialism in African laws, policies, and programs including in the areas of education, health, and human rights.

The event capture the attention of many across Africa Continent, which took place at Entebbe, Uganda.

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