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PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER OF FINANCE DELIVERS 2019 NATIONAL BUDGET

The Minister of Finance, Jacob Jusu Saffa has on 02nd November 2018 delivered the Statement of Economic and Financial Policies to the Parliament of Sierra Leone in light of the 2019 National Budget which aims to consolidate and strengthen domestic revenue mobilization in accordance with efficient and prudent fiscal expenditure. It was relayed and streamed live on radio, television and the internet by various media houses in the country for the benefits of the general public.

In his presentation, the Minister of Finance said that the projected total budgetary resources is Le 7.03 Trillion from which appropriation is estimated at slightly over Le 6.9 Trillion for the services of Sierra Leone and for other related matters.

Subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and subsequent approval, the said amount will be granted to the Government of Sierra Leone for the 2019 fiscal year that should be applied and expended on the several services set forth in its Schedule.

The Minister of Finance also spoke on the need for strengthening an independent and effective oversight of public sector projects by making provision for the procurement of goods and services. Relating to wages and salaries, he said “the Government wage bill is projected to increase to Le 2.40 Trillion from Le 2.07 Trillion in 2017”. He furthered that “the increase of Le 400 Billion to the wage bill will cater for the recruitment of 5000 teachers, 3000 health sector workers and 1000 police officers in 2019”. He also said that the salary of civil servants, teachers, police and military personnel in grades 1 to 6 is also increased by ten percent and those in grades 7 to 14 by 5 percent, effective in January 2019.

The Parliament is expected to examine and debate the 2019 National Budget next week for certain allotted days in the presence of officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, before committal for the scrutiny of the various budgetary heads.

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