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PRESS RELEASE

MPs on Gender Bill

Following the presentation of the Gender Bill to Parliament, the European Union in collaboration with the Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 28th September 2021 commenced a two-day training workshop for the Gender Committee and Female Caucus of Parliament at Brookfields Hotel, in Freetown. The workshop aimed at building partnerships and consulting on the Gender Empowerment Bill.

Delivering her statement, President of the Female Caucus in Parliament, Hon Veronica Kadie Sesay said they have been in the struggle for the emancipation of women long ago and it was time to achieve it. In a very eloquent and calculated tone, the Female Caucus President emphasized the formation of strong alliance and coordination, in the light of achieving the smooth passage of the Gender Empowerment Bill. She noted that they as women should stoop to conquer and went further to say "No One Should Be Left Behind". She re-echoed the partnership of male Allyship/Male Championship as a very necessary alliance to their course and also encouraged all and sundry to lend hands to support women in all walks of life and contribute meaningfully to the 30% Quota Bill for women's empowerment.

In delivering her opening statement, the Chairperson of the Gender Committee in Parliament, Hon. Zainab Catherine Tarawally buttressed the position of the Female Caucus President and related the importance of the workshop to learning and history-making event for the development and international Benchmarking of Sierra Leone. "We are here to learn and make history," she remarked. She informed that they would continue to garner huge support for the Bill. The MP highlighted several important roles played by women in society and emphasized the justification of why it was necessary to pass the Gender Empowerment Bill into Law. The Gender Chairperson counted on the important roles of the Leadership of Parliament relative to smooth passage of the Bill and called on massive support from all stakeholders. "We are here to deliberate and please make your contributions" she concluded.

EU key expert, attached to Parliament, Adams Fusheini explained that the technical assistance aims to enable Parliament to make effective laws, which include supporting the Female Caucus to contribute effectively in building partnership and alliances with Male MPs i.e. Male Allyship.

He said that engaging stakeholders both in and out of Parliament to lend support to the Bill was prudent.

Experience sharing among female MPs and their Male Champions as well as presentations on necessary topics formed part of the training workshop.

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