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PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT COMMENCES ANNUAL REVIEW IN KENEMA CITY

The Parliamentary Service, headed by the Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Paran Umar Tarawally has today Thursday 19/01/2023 commenced a four-day annual review and planning for 2023 in Kenema City at the Albertson Hotel aimed at tracking performance and agreeing on key priorities for the year 2023.

The annual review and planning will take place from the 18th to 21st January 2023 and it is cofunded by Parliament and the European Union.

Speaking on the importance of the annual review and planning, Country Representative for WFD, Rev. Alusine Diamond-Suma said among other things that since Parliament's decision to go corporate, it has attracted a number of learnings and reforms that have put Sierra Leone Parliament at per comparatively with other legislatures in the world. He also said that Parliament has increased its openness and inclusive agenda through the establishment of the CSO Desk in Parliament, recognized strides in the OGP space, development of a mobile app, live streaming of proceedings and dedicated staffers have greatly enhanced the visibility of Sierra Leone Parliament. He assured of WFD's continued support to Parliament through partnership coordination with the European Union.

The Key Expert to Parliament of the EU Governance Sector Support Programme, Adams Fusheini in his remarks assured the Director General and directors participating in the annual

review and planning event, that the Technical Team of the Programme will remain engaged with the parliamentary service in its preparations towards the 6th parliament. He informed participants about ongoing support to the Centre for Strategy & Parliamentary Studies in the development of various training tools including manuals on legislative scrutiny and practice; gender and parliament; and parliament and public financial management which are aimed at consolidating capacity in the parliamentary service in its preparations and induction of the 6th parliament after the elections. The strengthening of parliament's oversight capacity is at the core of these transitional activities that are being implemented with the various departments and the technical team will continue to support your efforts, the expert assured.

Declaring the annual review and planning open, Director General of Parliament, Mrs Finda Findosia Fraser said that Parliament has taken a bold and deliberate step to go corporate with the view to enhancing the work of Parliament by providing technical and administrative assistance to Members of Parliament in light of legislation, representation and oversight by effectively holding the executive to account for the development of the country. She also said that this year's review was centered on tracking performance and agreeing on key priorities for the Parliamentary Service for 2023, tracking progress on the implementation of the operational and departmental plans for 2023, new administrative reforms that required adjustments to departmental plans, and validation of the induction programme plan for the next Parliament.

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