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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT DEBATES THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING REGULATORY COUNCIL ACT 2021

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 15/2/2022 debated the bill entitled "The Professional Engineering Regulatory Council Act 2021".

The Bill seeks to make provision for the establishment of the Professional Engineering Regulatory Council with the responsibility to regulate the practice of engineering in Sierra Leone, including the registration and discipline of professional engineers, and to provide for other related matters

Presenting the bill to Parliament, the Deputy Minister of Works and Public Assets, Hon. Philip Tetema Tondeneh said the bill is geared toward strengthening the engineering sector; improving the engineering on standard and procedure ;adding that the council would be the autonomous body responsible for the regulation of professional engineers and practices in Sierra Leone ,including registration and discipline of professional engineers. He said most construction companies lack the technicality and when the bill would have enacted into law, it would address all the challenges involved in the engineering sector

Making his submission to the bill, Hon. Mack-Mamoud Kalokoh said any bill passed by Parliament should stand the test of times, whilst calling on Parliament to commits the bill to the Legislative Committee for further scrutiny

Hon. Joseph William-Lamin spoke on the need for professional engineers to have standards, whilst citing several errors made by engineers around the country. He called for a proper monitoring mechanism in the engineering sectors.

On his part, Hon. Abdul Kargbo said the engineering profession is a sacred one and noted that, one mistake from an engineer can cost money and lives more than any other profession and advised for a trained and qualified engineer to be certified before one be given a contract to manage. He pleaded with the minister for contract to be awarded to local contractors to help them develop.

Hon. Rev. Sama Sandy welcomed the initiative to have such a bill to regulate the engineering sector; considering the number of contractors they have in the country that are accomplishing bad jobs. He spoke well on the importance of the bill and its need for regulations.

Hon. Mustapha Sellu questioned the absence of engineers in Parliament, whilst debating the bill and commended engineers for their outstanding performance in their work. He called on the Engineering Council to stipulate a timeline for an engineer to be acquired a professional engineering license before operations

Hon. Emilia Lolloh Tongi, an Independent MP from Kailahun District condemned the bad job done by bad engineers and praised the entirety of the bill to control the profession.

Hon. Paul Sam described the bill as a "fine one", and said the bill is to safeguard the engineering profession, and advised that international engineers operating in Sierra Leone to be registered prior to their operation

Hon. Emerson Saa Lamina Leader C4C said the bill is non-controversial; adding that the bill spoke volume on it standard operation and commended the ministry .

Rounding up the debate, Leader of Opposition, Hon. Chernor RM Bah commended MPs who spoke to the Bill and asked for the suspension of debate so that the debate would continue in a later day and it was seconded by the Acting Leader of Government Business Hon. Bashiru Silikie

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