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PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT PASSES THE WAGES AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION ACT, 2023

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday, 06/04/2023, debated extensively and passed into law with some amendments the Bill entitled "The Wages and Compensation Commission Act, 2023", for the development of Sierra Leone.

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Wages and Compensation Commission to be responsible to determine wages and compensation for public sector employees, to harmonize the public sector pay system to reflect equity and merit, and to provide for other related matters.

Presenting the Bill, the Minister of Finance, Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura said Government recognized that to achieve, depends on the quality of the workforce. According to him, the motivated workforce and their effectiveness depend on wages and salaries. The Minister referred to the legislative framework, in light of the disparity between wages and other related aspects.

The Minister also highlighted the importance and objectives of the Bill.

Chairman of Finance Committee in Parliament, Hon. Francis Amara Kai-Samba said the Bill is in line with the Manifesto promises of President Bio and went on to expressed the disparity gap between wages or salaries. He used the opportunity to assure the House that, the document would address the problems.

Hon. Abdul Muniru Lassana said the Bill is timely and underscored its importance in the development of the State. He called on his colleague MPs to speedily enact the Bill into law with scrutiny.

Hon. Dr. Mark-Mahmoud Kaloko predicated his submission on the long title of the Bill, allowances, and spoke well of the Bill.

On his part, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas said the Bill in front of the House is in conflict with the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and requested the House to do the needful.

Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara recalled the campaigns promises of the SLPP Government during the 2018 General Elections and went on to state that, the coming of the Bill is too late. He also said that, the Bill should have saved the Government a lot of money, if the Bill would have been enacted earlier.

Hon. Mustapha Sallu said the Bill sought to harmonize salary and went on to commend the intent of the Government to address wage bill.

Hon. Rev.Sama Sandy gave statistical data for the increase of the wage bill and went on to commend the Government for the initiatives.

In rounding up the debate, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Daniel Koroma said there are salaries and wages disparity between all the commissioners of Government Commissions with same grade. He said as an opposition they would continue to support all Bills and agreements meant for the development of the State. "We on this side are in support of the Bill", he concluded.

In concluding the debate, the Leader of Government Business, Hon.Mathew Sahr Nyuma said people have been disadvantaged in terms of salary differences and requested the House to fix the structure, in light of value for money. "In as much as we are harmonizing, we have to ensure the value for money", he concluded.

In another development also, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation, Rex Ponapha has introduced the Bill entitled: "The Civil Aviation Act, 2023". in the Chamber of Parliament.

The Bill is seeking to provide for the repeal and replacement of the Civil Aviation Act, 2019 (Act No. 7 of 2019), to provide for an effective aviation safety and security oversight system; provide for the incorporation of the requirements of the Chicago and Montreal Convention into the domestic law and to provide for other related matters.

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