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21st DECEMBER, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT RATIFIES ENERGY AGREEMENT

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 21st December 2021 debated and ratified energy agreement geared towards the improvement of the state.

The following agreement was ratified by Parliament:

1. Amended and Restated Power Purchase Agreements Relating to the 148.5MW Freetown Generation Project in the Republic of Sierra Leone and

Presenting the agreement on the power purchase relating to the 148.5MW, the Minister of Energy Alhaji Kanja Sesay said electricity and energy are the driving factors for the socio-economic development of the country. He informed the House that, President Bio has given priority to energy across the country and went on to say since 2018 to date energy has improved rapidly. The minister highlighted the importance of the project agreement and went on to speak about the socio-economic development of the project.

He also said phase II of this agreement would be activated by the government, when necessary; adding that all issues relating to the environment had been addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency. He also said the Western Area power generation would employ more than five hundred Sierra Leoneans.

Contributing to the debate, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Energy Hon. Kekura Vandi said the Western Area power generation is a very good one for the people of Sierra Leone. He said the agreement is environmentally friendly and would be geared towards sufficient electricity generation.

Hon. Abdul Kargbo expressed thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Energy for providing electricity supply for the people of Lungi as was promised recently by the Minister of Energy. He said the agreement talked about foreign direct investment and the quality of supply of electricity

Hon. Alpha Bah also expressed thanks to the minister and noted that his people in the East-end of Freetown would benefit hugely. "A vibrant energy sector led to the development of a nation", he affirmed.

Rounding up the debate, Leader of Opposition Hon. Chernor RM Bah said the investment is credible with the involvement of the World Bank and the IDA. He commended the Minister and his Technical Team for presenting the agreement for ratification.

Concluding the debate, Leader of Government of Business Hon. Matthew Shar Nyuma commended MPs who contributed to the debate and also commended the minister and his Technical Team for the agreement. He reiterated that the agreement is environmentally friendly. He used the opportunity to call on MPs and the citizens to report energy-related defaults in our communities

The Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu thanked the minister for the tremendous energy effort put so far into the electricity generation for the country and wished the Minister and his Technical Team for more effective work for the nation.

Also, Parliament has deferred debate on the Joint Venture Agreement Between the Sierra Leone State Lottery Company Limited (SLSC) the Government of Sierra Leone (Represented by the National Commission of Privatisation ("NCP")) and Accord Logistics for the Establishment of a Gaming and Betting Industry in Sierra Leone

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