



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Parliament Building - O.A.U Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown | admin@parliament.gov.sl | www.parliament.gov.sl

22nd November, 2024

PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT RATIFIES NINETY MILLION EURO AGREEMENT

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Friday, 22/11/2024 debated and unanimously ratified an agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the European Commission to the tune of Ninety Million Euro to support the National Budget implementation of Sierra Leone.

The following Agreement was approved by the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

1. The Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the Republic of Sierra Leone on Nature Nourishes SRBC Sierra Leone, dated 29th August, 2024.

Presenting the Agreement, the Deputy Minister of Finance 1, Kadiatu Allie said the total amount of the Agreement is NINETY MILLION EURO and would be delivered in two components;

1. EURO 65 Million as direct budget support and
2. EURO 25 Million for complementary support.

According to her, the purpose of the Agreement is to make Sierra Leone to be more prepared and resilience against internal and external shocks. She also disclosed that the Agreement is intended to safeguarding the environment and improving the education for future generation inline with the national plans.

The Deputy Minister explained the Complementary support aspect of the Agreement, relative to reforms of the Public Financial Management, resources mobilization and social services. She reiterated that agriculture, education and environment protection would similarly gained supports from the Agreement. Madam Deputy Minister assured Parliament that the Agreement would address some Sustainable Development Goals including zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, climate action, control human population amongst others.

She also made mentioned of other important aspects including social protection, women and youths in agriculture, rural development and improve other sectors.

She reassured that both parties would adhere to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement.

Commencing the Debate the Chairman of Finance Committee, Hon. Francis Amara Kai- Samba thanked the Ministry of Finance and extended appreciation to the Government and European Commission for the such laudable Agreement. He emphatically informed Members of Parliament that the Agreement would support the 2025 National Budget. He said the Agreement is not controversial and emphasized that it is a grant. The MP maintained that the Agreement is very timely and would boost the 2025 Finance Act.

Rounding up the debate, the Leader of Opposition, Hon. Abdul Kargbo reiterated the points made by the Chairman of Finance Committee that the Agreement is not controversial. He informed the House that they as opposition want the best for the country and such an Agreement would cushion the Budget and also change the lives of the people. He vehemently noted that the Agreement must reflect on the lives of the people. The Opposition Leader continued that they are not opponents to the development of the Country, but rather proponents to the development of the Country. He said they want Sierra Leone to be very competitive, in order to be earmarked by other countries. He added that they don't want anything that would retrogress the Country. He used the opportunity to admonish the end users to be judicious in the use of the funds.

He emphatically advised the Government to improve on revenue mobilization to promote the complementary support and to also mitigate against internal and external shocks. He underscored the purpose of the Agreement and assured that they would not go against such an Agreement.

Concluding the debate, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma thanked colleague MPs for their contributions to the debate. He underscored and clarified the importance of the various components of the Agreement. While highlighting the various articles of the Agreement, the Leader explained and clarified areas in tandem with Government policies. He underscored the importance of the Agreement which gears towards the mobilization of external resources with reference to macroeconomics budget performance. He also stressed on the Agreement implementation inline with the benchmark and fiscal policy. He used the opportunity to state that the economy of Sierra Leone had improved exponentially with reference to the previous, current and forthcoming financial years.

The Majority Leader edified that the Agreement is a grant budgetary support that would support the various sectors as earlier revealed. He noted that the grant would be implemented in light of proper fiscal policy and oversight responsibility to ensure due diligence for the benefit of the people.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, Sierra Leone Parliament.

Contacts: +23278495023/+23276625960/+23278426852_+23278697776/+23277473804