



# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

## PRESS RELEASE



### PARLIAMENT RATIFIES OVER \$ 100 MILLION DEVELOPMENTAL AGREEMENTS

On Tuesday, 10/12/2024, the Parliament of Sierra Leone ratified multiple components of Developmental agreements in the sum of over one hundred million United States Dollars. The agreements are geared towards job creation, financing, livestock and livelihood investments, transportation among others.

The Parliament of Sierra Leone approved the following agreements:

1. Financing Agreement for Livestock and Livelihoods Development Programme Between The Republic of Sierra Leone And the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Dated 6th November 2024.
2. Protocol of Agreement Between the Republic of Sierra Leone And the African Development BANK Development Fund (As Administrators of The Transition Support Facility)(Job Creation For Youth And Women in Climate Smart Agriculture Value Chains and Waste Management (WOKDONCAM), DATED 9th July 2024

3. Establishment of Sierra Leone Climate Finance And Energy Innovation Hub Grant Agreement Between The OPEC Fund for International Development and And The People of The Republic Of Sierra Leone dated 24" JUNE, 2024

4. Financing Agreements (Sierra Leone Connectivity and Agricultural Market Infrastructure Project) Between The Republic of Sierra Leone And The International Development Association, Dated 13<sup>TM</sup> June 2024 and

5. Grant And Project Agreement Between KFW, Frankfurt AM Maub ('KFW'), And The Republic of Sierra Leone (The"Recipient) Represented by the Ministry of Finance and the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) (The "Project-Executing Agency") - Promotion of Pro-Poor Growth for Peace. Consultation And Youth Empowerment (GPCYE)- BMZ-NO.2023 67 449, Dated 5th February 2024.

Presenting the Financing Agreements before the House, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Madam Kadiatu Alie, said that the agreement on livelihood and livestock are geared towards the improvement of life support to the people of Sierra Leone and noted that it is divided into three components. The minister said first component of the agreement was a grant of about 30 million United States dollars. The minister informed the House that the agreement is the part of the Feed Salone initiative by the government.

The minister narrated the other components of the other agreements, which would focus on job creation and building institutional capacity. The Deputy Minister of Finance informed the House that all the agreements are geared towards the State's socioeconomic development.

Making his submission to the debate, the Parliamentary Chairperson on Finance, Hon. Francis Amara Kai-Samba, commended the Administration of President Bio for signing these agreements for the people of Sierra Leone. He said most of these agreements are grants and went on to underscore the importance of positive benchmarks by the government in achieving the grant. He called for the implementing agencies to utilize the funds for the intended purposes and called on Parliamentary oversight Committees to do what is necessary to monitor these agreements.

Hon. Bash Kamara from Bo District submitted that the Agreement on agriculture would help the country have healthy food and sufficient food supply. The MP said the agreements would effectively boost job creation.

Hon. Dr. Unpha S. Koroma from Western Area Urban said the agreements before the House include extensive discussions of agriculture, climate change, and youth development. On rural development, the MP called on the government to provide more programs for youth employment and empowerment to address the influx of youth from rural areas to the city. He concluded by thanking the international partners for supporting the people of Sierra Leone with the grant.

In his contribution to the debate, the Deputy Opposition Leader, Hon Daniel Koroma, thanked the Minister of Finance for being a mediator between the government and its partners. He said livestock is a very important component of the Feed Salone initiative and called for more agricultural productivity.

In support of the agreements, he advised that farmers should embark on white meat livestock. He called on the Finance Ministry to adhere to the conditionality attached to the Financing Agreement in order to implement the agreements for the State.

In rounding up the debate, the Opposition Leader, Hon. Abdul Kargbo, thanked the Ministry of Finance for the financing agreements. He said the Paris agreement has many benefits; "it is a step in the right direction."

He said the OPEC Fund is supporting Sierra Leone due to negative climate change in the country and underscored the need for proper oversight monitoring of these agreements. He acknowledged that as opposition, they would always continue to support positive government initiatives, criticize some, and advise the government when necessary.

He called for prioritizing government interest and noted that the implementing agencies should be able to give proper accounts on these funds. On transportation, he advised for national strategies to be put in place in fighting the challenges," despite a change of government, we should be focusing on the development of the State," he said. He also said one of the agreements that talks about rural road development would continue to boost agricultural productivity. He advised for a national strategy in fighting the challenges," despite a change of government, we should be focusing on the development of the State.", he said.

He added that one of the agreements, which talks about rural road development, would continue to boost agricultural productivity. He called for the agreements to be centralized and requested proper Parliamentary oversight over them.

In concluding the debate, Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nuyma, said that the country would always work in accordance with the Constitution of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the agreements.

He assured of Government's commitment in ensuring adequate support for the agreement's sustainability. He suggested for MPs to look at the other side of the agreement, such as the cancellation. He referenced page 3 of the agreement, which talks about livestock and livelihood as pivotal in the project implementation.

He said the steering committee of the agreement, "wok don kam," comprises the Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Youth, among others. He affirmed that the money for the agreements is over one hundred million dollars, which would be injected into the project for the betterment of Sierra Leonean youth. He lauded the Deputy Minister's explicit explanation regarding the components of the agreement, including trading, youth and women empowerment, and livestock and livelihood, which are all embedded in the project.

The Leader of Government Business furthered that the project would cover eight districts in Sierra Leone, including Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, and Makeni. He alluded to a timeline for the implementation of the project. He lauded the project as a very good one and, therefore, called for a robust oversight responsibility in its implementation.

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