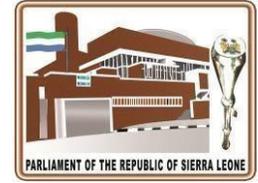




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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT RATIFIES DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 9th November 2021 debated and ratified several agreements geared towards the socioeconomic development of the state.

The following agreements were ratified by Parliament:

1. Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone on Trade and Economic Cooperation
2. Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the Elimination of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance
3. Protocol on Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation Between the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education and Directorate of Science, Technology, and Innovation of Sierra Leone and the Science and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and
4. Protocol of Cooperation on Higher Education Scholarship Between the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Turkey

Presenting the agreements prior to ratification, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mamadi Gobeh Kamara highlighted the socioeconomic developments and bilateral relationship these agreements would archive for both counties. Also for the agreement of education, she said students from Sierra Leone would benefit hugely from exchange programs and research purposes.

Contributing to the debate, Opposition Leader Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah supported the agreements and spoke about the benefits of trade cooperation for both nations. "they are good agreements for the state, we would monitor them for the interest of the nation".he stated.

Rounding up the debate Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo recognized the effort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for establishing a strong bilateral relationship with Turkey and went on to say that the latter is a developed nation that should be reckoned with.

Concluding the debate the Acting Leader of Government Business Hon. Bashiru Silikie commended the Minister and supported the agreements for the interest of the state.

In another development also , the Parliament of Sierra Leone has ratified an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Miro Forestry (SL) Limited, dated November 2021.

The document was presented by the Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Edward Hinga Sand. According to the Minister, the agreement is geared toward the expansion of Miro Tree Planting with economic prospect.

Also, Parliament has ratified the Survey Report of the Site at Black Johnson in the Western Rural District of the Republic of Sierra Leone, being the Site Identified to be appropriated by the Government of Sierra Leone for the Construction of the Proposed Modern Fish Harbour.

The Minister of Lands Dr.Turad Senesie presented the report and highlighted the economic benefits of the project.

Hon. Neneh Lebbie, Chairperson of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Parliament said the agreement is part of the initiatives strives from President Bio government and commended both Ministers of Lands and that of Fisheries for actualizing the project agreement.

Most MPs who contributed to the debates spoke well about the agreement, but some drew the attention of the Minister to consider environmental impact assessment, land acquisition amongst others.

Also, Members of Parliament has debated and commended The Institute of Governance Reforms and OXFARM for an investigation carried out in 2020. The survey featured over one hundred and twenty constituencies around the country to ascertain the challenges of health and education deliverables. MPs expressed hope that the recommendations in the survey report would be implemented by government.

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