



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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

8th September 2025

PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WELFARE PROBS MDAs

The Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare chaired by Hon. Haja Miatta Amara, over the weekend, concluded its oversight activities at Approved School Juvenile Home East-end of Freetown.

During the course of the oversight activities, the Chairperson made reference to the Constitution in light of their mandate and stated that they want to be updated as a committee.

The Committee initially engaged the National Public Health Agency and the National Drug Enforcement Agency, where they categorically expressed concerns that drugs are undermining the development of the State and concerted efforts are required to fight the menace in the country. The Committee observed that illicit drugs were negatively projecting the country's image into disruption, and hence, the need for a collaborative consultation in order to report the mitigation to the President.

It was disclosed to the Committee Members that robust and collaborative efforts are being established to mitigate illicit drug proliferation and abuse, especially "kush." Insufficient funding, amongst others, are the challenges. The Committee observed that the Government of Sierra Leone and the Chinese are solely supporting the process or activities. It was discovered that four hundred

drug addicts successfully went through the Hastings and Gondoma rehabilitation centers, respectively. It was also discovered that over two thousand victims of drugs and other substances abused have received psychological first aid at 'One Stop Center' at the Ministry of Social Welfare. It was observed that those who went through the rehabilitation process are now referred to as 'Ambassadors of Positive Change'.

A suggestion was made for the creation of basket funding and statistical data to attract more funding to fight drug abuse. The current negative impact and dangers of drugs and mitigation were also discussed.

It was observed that the Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Agency is working in collaboration with partners to implement its operations and activities. It was observed by the Committee that the Agency was envisaging financial limitation, lack of certain equipment's, the Act was strange, limited mobility

At Approved School Juvenile Home, it was observed that some teachers and tutors were not on payroll. It was discovered that land belonging to the Ministry of Social Welfare, amounting to 44 acres that host the school, has been encroached. It was discovered that the school field is now under Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA), and some people are illegally possessing the school quarters. The school had predominantly male juveniles, and their performances in exams were encouraging, and one of their rehabilitated pupils is pursuing university education at Njala University.

The Committee observed that structures including hotels, market, and dwelling houses, amongst others, had illegally occupied Approved School Juvenile Home land. Illegally, occupants have appealed to the authorities to grant them mercy. However, efforts to meet the Hajj Secretariat proved unsuccessful as staff of the Secretariat could show up for the meeting after several attempts were made to reach them.

For more information, visit: www.parliament.gov.sl
Parliament of Sierra Leone App
Facebook | Twitter | YouTube
Email: admin@parliament.gov.sl

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department
Parliament of Sierra Leone

☎ +23278495023 / +23276625960 / +23278426851 / +23278697776 / +23277473804