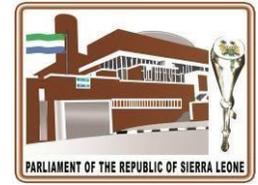




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19<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE**

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ON VALIDATION WORKSHOP**

The Directorate of Committees have on Thursday 19th August 2021 held a day Validation workshop, at the Brookfields Hotel in Freetown.

The event which was organized by Parliament with support from UNDP, aimed at strengthening the work of oversight committees, in order to map out requirements, procedures and expected results that would be demanded by the institution.

In his welcome addresses, the Director of Committees, Julius Moriba Songa threw light on the primary task of the committees and went on to highlight the challenges.

The Director whilst commending the Clerk of Parliament for his proactive support to the oversight committee works, highlighted the objective of the workshop including strengthening oversight works and improvements. He expressed hope for better service delivering by committee clerks after the workshop and assured all and sundry of professionalism.

UNDP Technical Advisor to Parliament, Hon Jariatu K. Smith said effective Legislation should not only be limited to the plenary, but to effective oversight scrutiny as well. The Technical Adviser highlighted lots of supports by UNDP to Parliament in light of capacity building and also informed that in line with the workshop agenda, they have developed tools for committee that would enhance effective oversight.

She finally assured that after the workshop, two Oversight Committees will proceed on pre-testing of the tools developed by UNDP.

Delivering his Keynote address, Clerk of Parliament, Hon, Dr. Param Umar Tarawalie recalled some of his achievements since he took office and highlighted the primary functions of Members of Parliament including Oversight. "In 2019, at Kenema, we ensured clear mandate of the Committees' Directorates to provide effective services to support Members of Parliament in their interfacing with the executives and other non-state actors" he reiterated and went on to underscore the importance of the workshop.

The Clerk used the opportunity to thank UNDP on behalf of the Speaker and the entire Leadership of Parliament and also expressed hope for the positive outcome of the workshop in light of committees performance.

The Consultant, James Fofana did comprehensive presentations on Consideration of Parliamentary Oversight Committees Tool and, questions and answers amongst others formed part of the day's workshop.

The adoption of the UNDP Tool climaxed the workshop.

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