



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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

23rd November, 2024

PRESS RELEASE



SECOND ALLOTTED DAY:

PARLIAMENT CONTINUES DEBATE ON 2025 NATIONAL BUDGET

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Friday 23/11/2024 continued debate on the Bill entitled; "The National Budget 2025 or "The Appropriation Act 2025", for financial services of Sierra Leone, on the theme; "Improving the Well-being and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans".

The Bill seeks to authorise expenditure from the consolidated fund for the services of Sierra Leone for the year 2025 and for other related matters.

Continuing the debate, Hon. Dr. Unfa Sorie G. Koroma from Western Area made referenced to a document from an NGO, Concern Worldwide on the level of poverty in Africa, including Sierra Leone.

On social safety network, referencing the theme of the budget, he said the assertion remained vulnerable; adding that the people of Sierra Leone are suffering. He said the social protection service remains the same." For the past years, many budgetary allocations have been given out but it's minimal", he said.

He continued that the suffering of citizens is massive and went on to call on the Government to address the social safety net for the poor and vulnerable.

He concluded by emphasizing that they need to advocate for the people of Sierra Leone especially on roads in the eastern part of Freetown which need massive construction.

On his part, Hon. Charles Abdulai from Bo District predicated his debate on social protection and said the Government of President Bio is responsible and recalled the intervention of the Government in protecting the vulnerable people of Sierra Leone.

On the budget projection for 2025. The MP said the Government is on the right trajectory to develop the nation. "Our Leone is gradually stabilizing", he said.

On the achievement of the Government, he said international partners have confidence in the current Government, citing huge funds supported to the Government and the People of Sierra Leone.

On the road network, he acknowledged the massive work and rehabilitation which are presently going on, adding that the unfinished ones would be completed soonest.

In his submission to the debate, Hon Ibrahim Barrie from Bombali District, highlighted the importance of the National Budget and also the role of the opposition in checkmating the ruling Government.

On Kush-related drug matters, he raised concern over the little amount of budgetary allocation to National Drug Law Agencies to tackle the effects of Kush. "Our young people are vulnerable", he said. He suggested to the House to look into the establishment of Kush rehabilitation center in tandem with budgetary allocations for Kush victims in the provinces. He called on the Government to provide more funds for Kush rehabilitation.

He pleaded with the Government to rehabilitate the road linking the regional Makeni Government Hospital. "let there be equity in the development of the State resources and let us approach development with one mind", he affirmed.

The MP called on the Government to reduce the creation of new MDAs and other appointments, in order to salvage the consistent increase of the wage bill

On her part, Chief Whip 1, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay said the budget must be given the respect it deserves.

She referenced the theme of the budget, adding that, the budget is on the right trajectory. She noted that it was unfortunate for a Member of Parliament to refer to the budget as a Kush budget.

"The budget is not a Kush budget, as alluded to by a Member of Parliament from Bombali District." She said.

She referred to the budget as a "National Cake" adding that the budget would be shared equally in regions of the country.

The MP acknowledged the appointment of Joe A.D Alie as opposed by the opposition.

She concluded by commending the President for the achievements on road network and other developmental sectors. She also commended the President for the empowerment of women into politics.

Hon.Daniel Amadu Bangura from Tonkolili District, submitted that the opposition would continue to criticize the ruling Government for not doing the right things.

He said the people of Tonkolili District are calling on the Government not to neglect them, considering the amount of revenue they had given back to the State.

He narrated the challenges of the road network in that part of the district despite the income benefit of that district .

"Today Tonkolili is not asking for much but are asking for justice, so that the fruit of their labour be turned to development".he affirmed.

He called on the Government to develop the Tonkolili District as much of the revenue mobilizations are coming from that part of the country.

On his part, Hon Brima Mansary from Kenema, in his submission, debunked the previous debater' that there is no development in Tonkolili. He further reaffirmed and referenced the avalanche of developments in that part of the country courtesy of the Bio's Administration. He said the budget spoke volumes on development and noted that there would be economic prudence in the development of the State. On agricultural activities he said, financial support and machinery should be provided to meet the need of the Feed 'Salone' project initiative. He welcomed the initiative for the recruitment of staff in 2025 and concluded his debate on the tremendous transformation in the electricity supply sector.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, Sierra Leone Parliament.

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