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PRESS RELEASE

SECOND ALLOTTED DAY: DEBATE CONTINUES ON NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 2022

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 25/11/2021 continued debate on the 2022 National Budget aimed at authorizing expenditure for the services of Sierra Leone.

Speaking to the motion, Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma decried the budget in light of debts management and budget deficits. Describing the budget as misleading, he questioned budgetary allocation to youth farms and low budgetary allocation to agriculture and issues surrounding climate change.

Hon. Peter Musa Moigua said the budget was on the right track for development in the country and debunked certain statements made by MPs in respect of the national budget.

Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Bun Kamara described the budget as contradictory and misleading. He also said that COVID-19 pandemic had no effect on the economy and argued that the budget did not do much to improve the livelihoods of the people.

Hon. Rev. Ishmail Sama Sandy said the trend of inflation globally was affecting livelihoods and said the current budget was designed around supporting livelihoods in the country.

Hon. Foday Mario Kamara commended the Minister of Finance and referred to the budget as a fine one. Speaking on agriculture, education and the economy, he called on government to translate the budget into reality.

Hon. Rebecca Y. Kamara thanked President Bio for his recent visit to Kono and acclaimed him for turning the sod for the construction of the university of science and technology in Kono District and for commissioning the construction of a road from Kono to the border of neighbouring Guinea.

However, she called on the Ministry of Basic Education to pay backlog subsidies to 40 schools in her constituency.

Hon. Bernadette Wuyatta Songa described the budget as people-centered. She spoke on challenges in the health sector even though government had recruited a lot of nurses with pin

codes and questioned their attitude in workplaces. She called on Sierra Leoneans to be honest and do the job they are being paid to do.

Mustering support for the completion of a modernize hospital in her constituency, Hon. Kadijatu Davies commended the Minister of Finance and also called for the completion of the road linking No. 2 to Tokeh.

Hon. Neneh Lebbie described the budget as a good one and that it was a pro-poor budget. She called on MPs to put country first by honestly debating the budget and praised government for its solid interventions in areas such as education and fisheries.

Hon. Foday Lamin Kabba commended the Minister of Finance for presenting the budget to Parliament for consideration. He said Koinadugu District was suffering from underdevelopment, and also spoke on challenges in agriculture and tourism in the country.

Hon. Paul Saa Sam thanked President Bio for commissioning the road linking Kono to Guinea and for turning the sod for the construction of the university of science and technology in Kono District. He said tax exemption on foodstuffs was in no way affecting the people positively.

Hon. Mustapha F. Sellu said the economy was doing well until COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head. He debunked some statements made on the economy, debts management and increments on the wage Bill.

Hon. James Ozan Tholley said the 21% of the national budget allocated to education was not positively affecting the free quality education and called on government to address those challenges for the development of the education sector in the country.

Speaking on government's policies and programmes and how budgets were being tailored, Hon. Momoh Bokarrie called on MPs to lend credibility to the budgetary process by debating the issues honestly.

Referring to the budget as misleading and called it a "shinka" budget, Hon. Alpha Bah said it had nothing to write home about.

Hon. Yusuf Mackery described the budget as a progressive one and that the current Government was known for establishing good institutions in the country. He said President Bio was sober-minded for the development of the country.

Hon. Komba Kamanda spoke on the need for allocating more funds to women's empowerment, free quality education and the youth farms.

Hon. Moses B. Jorkie said the government had done remarkably well by recruiting Sierra Leoneans to positions of trust and spoke about progress in the areas of health, agriculture and education in the country.

Hon. Abdul Latif Sesay said there were discrepancies in teacher recruitments based on the budget presented to Parliament. Calling for bailouts, he said SIERRATEL, Postal Service and Fire Force were dying entities.

Hon. Hafiju Kanja recognized the achievements made by government in areas such as defence, agriculture, health and road network among others.

Speaking on macroeconomic variables, Hon. Abubakar Fofanah described the budget as "fictional".

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