



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO ECOWAS PARLIAMENT PROVES FRUITFUL IN REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Parliament of Sierra Leone Delegation participated in the 2025 Second Parliamentary Seminar and Second Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament, held from Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th September 2025, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The theme of the seminar was “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Parliamentary Efficiency, Ethical Governance and Development in the ECOWAS Region”.

The event which was graced by several Nigerian Government dignitaries such as Senator Barau Jibrin, 1st Deputy Speaker and Leader of the Nigerian Representatives to the ECOWAS Parliament, the Speaker of Rivers State House of Assembly, Hon. Martins Amaewhule, the Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, who was represented by his deputy, Professor Ngozi Odu, among others, was opened by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Hadja Mémounatou Ibrahima.

In contemporary society, AI offers tools to support legislative drafting, data analysis, citizens engagement, and monitoring of government policies and programmes.

However, AI also raises critical concerns regarding ethics, transparency, accountability, algorithmic bias, misinformation, and data protection.

It is within this context that the Members of the ECOWAS Parliament have convened the 2025 Second Parliamentary Seminar to deepen their understanding of AI's opportunities and risks to regulate its use effectively, promote ethical governance, and mitigate misuse such as disinformation.

Key topics discussed during the seminar that brings together lawmakers, experts, and stakeholders include understanding AI and Parliamentary Roles, demonstrating AI applications, and navigating the AI era.

At the end of the Seminar, the legislators pledged to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the ethical, security, and socio-economic implications of these technologies, particularly in a region still grappling with issues of the digital divide, unemployment, and cyber threats.

As for the Extraordinary Session, MPs did not only consider and adopted the Block's Budget for the year 2026 to enable Parliament to fulfill its mandate but also provided a platform for the disclosure of the prudent expenditure of the current fiscal year's budget.

Hon. Shiaka Musa Sama also presented the Report of the Committee on Administration, Finance and Budget on the 2025 mid-year's budgetary performance.

The delegation comprised:

Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay, Head of Delegation and President of ECOWAS Female MPs;

Hon. Shiaka Musa Sama, Deputy Head of Delegation

Hon. Abdul Kargbo, Member, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina, Member

Hon. Mabinty Funna, Member, Favour Mafudia Bangura, Secretary and Mohamed Koroma, Secretary.

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