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PRESS RELEASE

SPEAKER RECEIVES POSITION PAPER FROM 50/50 GROUP

Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament, Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu on Thursday 17/03/2022 in Committee Room One, Parliament Building received a position paper entitled: "The Tower Hill Declaration" from 50/50, a women's group.

The position paper intends to promote and protect women's empowerment and rights in the country.

Addressing the women, Hon. Abass Chernor Bundu told MPs that the women were in Parliament to lobby them to pass the gender empowerment bill into law, following its recent tabling in Parliament.

On receipt of the position paper, Hon. Abass Chernor Bundu expressed thanks and appreciation to the women, given their advocacy and assured that they would decide on what could be the next step, adding that men would join women in their journey with a view to arrive together.

Presenting the position paper on behalf of 50/50 Group, Lawyer Yasmin Jusu Sheriff said the document was issued by and on behalf of women participants at a National Women's Conference held in Freetown from 16-17 March 2022.

She also said that the outcome of the conference resulted in the Tower Hill Declaration, which she furthered was a unanimous decision by different shades of women with support from partners.

She said in view of the constitutional review and women's empowerment, she said women were demanding for 33% representation in all spheres of participation in governance, education, health and access to economic and financial resources, that the women were cautiously in support of proportional representation to allow women to match with men for elective offices, to effectively hold authorities to account, to fight against corruption, demanding the establishment of a women's commission and the passage and implementation

of the gender equality and women's empowerment bill which had been tabled in Parliament among other recommendations.

A gender advocate and a campaigner for good governance, Madam Marcella Samba-Sesay earlier spoke on gender advocacy and activism and posited that it was timely and crucial for women to come together and ensure they attain victory as a united force in respect of the gender equality and empowerment bill that had been tabled in Parliament for passage into law.

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