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PRESS RELEASE



STAFF OF PARLIAMENT TRAINED ON PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Under the auspices of the European Union's Governance Sector Support to Sierra Leone, the Parliament of Sierra Leone commenced training of trainers on a newly developed manual on public financial management.

The two days training of trainers activity in Kambia, at the Kambia District Council is from 9-10 February. This follows a validation of the draft manual earlier this week. The Centre for Strategy & Parliamentary Studies and the technical team are coordinating the training, being delivered by an expert, Phyllis Makau from Kenya.

Participants are staff from the Parliamentary Budget Office of Sierra Leone, Committee Clerks and officers from Human Resource and the Finance departments of Parliament.

Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), Ibrahim Jimissa thanked participants and acknowledged the good work by PFM expert hired to develop the manual together. The Director of PBO stressed that the manual will be a working document and will be updated over time, to cater for emerging issues bordering on the role of Parliament in the national budget process. Speaking on preparedness of Members of Parliament, he noted that the varied backgrounds of MPs will make the manual an essential document for their training, and that it will be a user-friendly document for parliamentarians, committees and other beneficiaries. He further stated that the PBO will apply the manual to strengthen and enhance budget scrutiny work of Parliament, and to help members in their oversight responsibilities.

The Technical Expert to Parliament of the EU Governance Programme, Adams Fusheini recognized the prompt and enthusiastic participation by the PBO team during the validation of the manual on the 7th & 8th and encouraged similar attention during the training of trainers sessions on the PFM manual. He announced that the PFM manual is one of four being supported under the EU Governance support programme to help enhance the capacity of Parliament in its legislative, representative and oversight functions. The manuals are produced within the capacity institutionalization efforts of the Center for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies.

Director of the Center for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies (CSPS), Mohamed Alpha Jalloh said CSPS is at the embryonic stage of building network with institutions to deliver certified courses for MPs, Staff and other interested persons from the public. He said Parliament was about to go in partnership with the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology (EBKUST) for 20 Staff to do a Master's in Corporate Governance to cater for specific needs given the corporate ambition of Parliament. Thanking the EU for continued support, he called on participants to concentrate and make meaningful inputs in the development of the manual.

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