



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

OAU Drive Tower Hill
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Web: www.parliament.gov.sl
Email: admin@parliament.gov.sl



03rd February, 2015

UNDP CAPACITATES STAFF OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTER BRIEFS MPS ON POSSESSION OF FIRE ARMS

The Clerk of Parliament, Mr. Ibrahim Sesay on Monday 02nd February, 2015 at the Conference Room of the New Administrative Building thanked UNDP on behalf of the Leadership of Parliament for providing the support for staff to be trained in vital areas of records keeping and files management, work ethics, time management and team building.

In his opening submission, he told participants including Clerks to Committees, Secretaries and other staff that responsible filing system is crucial for information and proper records management which could be used by students and researchers at any given time; and made reference to the Right of Access to Information Act, 2013, being an Act that provided for the disclosure of information held by public authorities or by persons providing services for them. He said among things that records keeping and presentation of reports were being used as measures to determine efficient Chairmen and Clerks of Committees.

This one day workshop has attracted over 50 participants, he said and hoped that lessons learnt would be put into use for the development of staff in particular and Parliament in general.

The topics presented and discussed by facilitators were highly interactive, and they include filing and records management, work ethics, prudent time management, and team building. One of the presenters said that records management was the processing, storing and archival of information that should be conditioned by proper personal filing systems which guaranteed audit trail for the purpose of files or documents to be tracked in transit. The facilitators who made presentations were Mr. Albert Moore, Senior Government Archivist and Records Manager-HRMO; Mr. Muctarr Sowa, Director of Library, Research & Documentation-Parliament; Mrs. Georgiana Kamara, Director, Management Services-HRMO; and Mrs. Rhoda Kargobai, Acting Director, Training & Career Development.



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Clerk of Parliament addressing the participants

In another development, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Joseph B. Dauda, and the Chairman for Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission, Rtd. Brigadier M. Laimon have held pre-legislative briefings at Committee Room 1 in Parliament on Monday 02nd February, 2015 with MPs relating to the regulations for private ownership of guns and other weapons to enhance human security within the country, subject to the ratification and approval of Parliament. These regulations, they informed MPs were in accordance with the Arms and Ammunitions Act, 2012 that was passed by Parliament.

The Arms and Ammunitions Regulations, 2014 which was placed on the Table of the House in 2014 for enactment by way of subsidiary legislation after the expiration of 21-days was held in abeyance for the edification and proper digestion of MPs before enactment into law as provided for in Section 170 sub-section 1c of Act No 6 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. According to the deliberations, the regulations would authorize the possession and use of fire arms in the country; functions and processes of the registration of arms; small arms purchase and users' licence; manufacturers' licence; import licence for small arms; search, arrest and offences; and markings of weapons for the purpose of tracing among others.



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Members of Parliament have initially discussed the objects and reasons for the regulations, and promised to effectively go through them in consultations with stakeholders before the proposed regulations could be enacted into law.