



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASES

Westminster Foundation for Democracy Conducts Training on Post-Legislative Scrutiny

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy, on Tuesday, 10/10/2023, commenced a two-day training for a cross-section of Parliamentary Staff on post-legislative scrutiny at the New Administrative Building, at the House of Parliament in Freetown.

In his welcome address, the Director for Center and Parliamentary Studies, Mr Mohamed Jalloh, expressed thanks and appreciation for conducting Training on Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS). Director Jalloh said the training would assess laws passed by the Parliament of Sierra Leone and their significance to the development of the State. He encouraged all staff members to take the training program seriously and share knowledge gained to impact society.

Country Director of Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Rev. Alusine Diomand-Suma firmly informed that clerks of committees and legislative staff members in Parliament should have a unique position at the heart of the legislative process. "You are the guardians of parliamentary procedure, the keepers of the parliamentary record, and the trusted advisors to our legislators; your roles are not merely administrative; they are the very backbone of our democratic systems," he asserted

He disclosed that in May 2023, WFD, with support from Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, supported three staff members of Parliament to join others in undertaking an advanced course in Innovations in Post Legislative Scrutiny with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. "I will proudly note that there are only six Sierra Leoneans who have such credentials; Four of whom are staff of Parliament, namely, Mr. Mohamed Jalloh (Director CSPS who graduated in 2018), Mr. Augustine Sesay (Principal Clerk of Committee), Mr. Abdul Rahim Sowe (Director, Office of the Law Clerk) and Mrs. Tangella M. C. Sam (Deputy Director, Office of the Law Clerk). The other two are myself and Edmond Abu of ParICSONet", he noted.

Franklin De Vrieze, Head of Practice Accountability at Westminster Foundation for Democracy, said in a Virtual Video conference that the legislative process is a cornerstone of any thriving democracy. He also noted that laws are crafted, debated, and enacted for the development of the nation and the citizens. He said the efficiency and effectiveness of this process hinged greatly on People's collective competence and dedication.

He said he was honoured to attend the training for the legislative department with a unique responsibility of advanced training in London. According to him, the legislative process is the cornerstone of laws for development. He encouraged all to participate in the training process actively.

From the Political Affairs Office in the British High Commission, Amasara Jalloh said the embassy would continue its support to Parliament through the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. For those who are trained in PLS, he called on them to share the knowledge acquired from training. He assured the audience of their continued support to the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

The Director General of Parliament, Madam Finda Fraser, said the occasion was part of their testament as a corporate institution and categorically stated that they are the backbone of their democracy. She informed that, during the training, much is expected to be delivered in light of the Legislative process and other related governance knowledge, including integrity and impartiality. She expressed confidence that staff members would acquire knowledge and implement the laws.

Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations in the Parliament of Sierra Leone Sheku Lamin Turay, who moderated the program, outlines the significance of the training program.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

Parliament of Sierra Leone

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