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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT STANDS DISSOLVED FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS

Hon. Clerk of Parliament, Ibrahim Sesay in the Chamber of Parliament on 07th December 2017, read out a proclamation signed by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the House, Hon. SBB Dumbuya that Parliament stands dissolved as constitutionally obliged.

This, he said is in line with section 85(1) of Act No. 6 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, which provides that the House stands dissolved following the date of its first sitting after the conduct of general elections. First sitting of the dissolved parliament was on the 07th December 2012, after the conclusive outcome of the elections conducted on the 17th November 2012.

Therefore, the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic has been dissolved.

In his farewell valedictory speech, President Koroma proudly enumerated the successes of his Government in spite of challenges, whilst thanking the APC party and all shades of Sierra Leoneans for the confidence reposed on him to serve the country, with sincerity, commitment and purpose. He also described ordinary Sierra Leoneans as the true heroes of his transformative drives in all sectors, including health, education, energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and appointing women to take responsible leadership positions in the country.

Recalling ten years of governance under his watch, he espoused that in respect of compromises, agreements, and disagreements referring to the short-lived walk-outs that had been staged by the opposition, yet they were voting together with APC in the interests of ordinary Sierra Leoneans. He thanked Parliament for being supportive of his programmes and policies, by passing important Bills into law for the development of the country. He also said that the economy had grown under his watch, regardless of the reversals posed by ebola and the drop in the prices of ore.

He bluffed that under his watch, our foreign reserves has grown from \$200 Million to \$500 Million, that at the time a bag of rice was Le60,000, our minimum wage was a little over Le20,000, but now that a bag of rice is over Le200,000, our minimum wage is Le500,000, and

that he has increased budgetary allocations to the education sector from a little over 3% of our GDP to 15%, among others, since he took governance in 2007.

The Well of Parliament was filled with dignitaries, including Judges, Ministers, heads of MDAs and the host Speaker, MPs, and the administration.

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