



SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT

**For Immediate Release
Freetown, 17th August, 2017**

PARLIAMENT DENOUNCES MISUSE OF PICTURES OF FLOOD VICTIMS

Parliament today endorsed a motion by the Majority Leader, Hon. Leonard Fofanah, that members of the public who transfer, display or parade nude pictures and videos of victims of the August 14th Flood disaster in any shape or form, are to be liable for prosecution.

Presenting the motion, seconded by Minority Leader Dr. Bernadette Lahai, Hon. Fofanah in rounding up tributes by Members of Parliament to the memory of the deceased, said the sharing of those pictures is an act of disrespect for the dead, which other MPs described as heartless and insensitive.

The Acting Speaker, Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah and colleague MPs called on law enforcement agencies to act immediately to stop the circulation of flood and mudslide victims on the social media and warned Sierra Leoneans to desist from it or face the full penalty of the law.

In their condolences, MPs from both sides asked Government and international partners to help address the situation of the homeless and affected communities, calling it a “natural disaster.” They also urged Government to put measures in place to address the situation of those living in disaster prone areas.

The Minority Leader, Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai, who is also Vice President of the Pan African Parliament, extended profound sympathy to bereaved family members noting that the Pan African and other Parliaments around the world have joined the people of Sierra Leone in mourning the victims of the disaster.

The House also resolved to move to the major scenes of the disaster at Lumley and Regent, to accord parliamentarians an opportunity to be guided through the scenes of the calamity. Earlier, the presiding Speaker recognised the humanitarian intervention of a parliamentary staff, Osman Kokofele at the major disaster site at Regent, where he also lost dear ones.

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