



**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN**

E-mail: sierraleoneparliament@hotmail.com/admin@parliament.gov.sl



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PRESS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA LEARNS FROM PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

A three-man delegation from the National Assembly of The Gambia headed by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy's Country Representative, Madi Jobarteh had returned from a three-day intensive study visit at the Parliament of Sierra Leone supported and coordinated by the Country Representative of Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Sierra Leone chapter, Mohamed Jalloh.

Submitting, Mr. Jalloh said that even though the research unit is at its embryonic stage, the purpose of the visit is to learn from the establishment of a Parliamentary Research Unit in the Parliament of Sierra Leone with a view to establishing same in the National Assembly of The Gambia, aiming at providing factually based research materials for the consumption of Members of Parliament, Staff, Committees, and the Leadership of Parliament.

Mr. Jobarteh also said that "our visit to the Parliament of Sierra Leone is to learn and replicate same in the National Assembly of The Gambia in the areas of Research, Hanzard/Official Reports, and Communication, cognizant that we had the opportunity to go to another Parliament, but we chose Sierra Leone because of our historical similarities". "It was indeed a moment of intensive learning and knowledge sharing that could be used for strengthening the capacity of both Parliaments", Mr. Jobarteh remarked at the conclusion of a three-day visit.



A cross-section of parliamentary staff

The Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Paran Umar Tarawally in bidding goodbye said that “I am happy for such a learning visit to the Parliament of Sierra Leone, which means our counter-part in the National Assembly of The Gambia recognizes and appreciates our systems and processes in respect of capacity building and also for doing the right thing”.

Research Coordinator to the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Mr. Gilbert N’hbay had told the Team from the National Assembly of The Gambia that the newly established Parliamentary Research Unit is offering professional, confidential, quality and non-partisan support to Parliament, through the production of factsheets, briefing papers, packs and the organization of training, seminars, policy briefing sessions, and specialists’ hearings for Members of Parliament.

The main objectives of the visit are based on understanding steps relating to establishing a new research unit in view of best practices, ownership, commitment and use of research products by MPs; supporting the work of MPs especially in dealing with requests in respect of integrity, impartiality and credibility; understanding key systems and tools to better provide impartial and non-partisan support to MPs; and to foster and raise awareness on how to develop a sustainable research programme.

Department of Public Relations
Parliament of Sierra Leone
+23278495023/+23277669726/+23278426851