



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

Tel: 232-076-615187

E-mail: admin@parliament.gov.sl



PRESS RELEASE

13th October, 2016

PARLIAMENT APPROVES OVER \$100 MILLION TO IMPROVE ELECTRICITY & HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

13/10/16: The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 13th October, 2016 ratified four agreements related to improving electricity and effective health service delivery in the country. This will be achieved through integrated and coordinated systems and processes in the West African sub-region. The agreements include the following loans and grants to the Government and People of Sierra Leone:

- I. Financing agreement (regional disease surveillance systems enhancement project in West Africa-REDISSE)-Sierra Leone project, under the first phase of the REDISSE between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association, dated 4th August 2016
- II. Financing agreement (health service delivery and system support project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association, dated 4th August 2016
- III. Ebola recovery and reconstruction trust fund grant (health service delivery and system support project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association (acting as administrator of the Ebola recovery and reconstruction trust fund, dated 4th August 2016 and
- IV. Dollar credit line agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Export-Import Bank of India, dated 11th August 2016.

Presenting the loans prior to ratification, the Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, Momoh Vandi said among other things that the first agreement, amounting to \$30 Million (inclusive of \$10 Million grant) was aimed at putting in place an effective regional disease control and surveillance mechanism for humans and animals to tackle any form of epidemics. He said the second and third agreements aggregate to \$15 Million, including a grant of \$5 Million, purposefully to improve and increase coverage on child related service delivery, noting emergencies and effective community engagements. He furthered that the fourth agreement amounts to \$78 Million and hinges on improving the electricity transmission

lines from Bumbuna to Waterloo, cognizant of the regional transmission project with the view of generating and distributing effective and reliable power supply to the consumers.

Members of Parliament on both sides of the aisle, who spoke to the motion, described these loans and grants as timely and non-controversial. They also called on the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through the Ministry of Finance to urgently consider and treat the issue of the recruitment of trained and qualified Nurses as an emergency. They furthered that as a nation we should utilize our trained Nurses to support and improve service delivery in our various medical facilities in the country, whilst noting the need for health incentives.

They however decried the absence of the Minister and officials of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and encouraged the Ministry of Finance to negotiate loans by harmonizing the interest rates, and avoiding excessive tax exemptions.