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**PRESS RELEASE**

**AMBASSADOR OF LEBANON VISITS THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT**

The Ambassador of Lebanon to Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Brigitta Al-Ojeil, has on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu, with a view of strengthening bilateral relations, especially between the Parliaments of the two countries.



*The Speaker of Parliament Attentively Listening to Her Excellency*

Submitting, Her Excellency congratulated the Speaker on his election as the Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone. She also spoke on the need for maintaining and improving on the continued bilateral relations that had existed between the two countries, whilst extending a formal invitation to the Parliament of Sierra Leone to send representatives to the National Day of Celebrations of Lebanon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. She emphasized the need for information sharing, especially with the committee systems in both parliaments, whilst calling for stronger relations, motivation and safeguarding the good bilateral ties for both Parliaments.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Speaker of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu said "it is an opportunity and privilege to welcome you to the Parliament of Sierra Leone for the first time and I am very pleased to receive a congratulatory message from my counterpart, the

Speaker of the National Assembly of Lebanon". The Speaker also said that, the good bilateral relations that had existed between the two countries would be maintained and improved upon. He observed that a lot of Lebanese nationals have integrated and some have also acquired Sierra Leone's citizenship by birth or naturalization, whilst promising to see that the Lebanese Community is protected in the country. Sierra Leone's Speaker of Parliament has also called on his counterpart, who was born in Sierra Leone, and now Speaker of the National Assembly of Lebanon, to visit the Parliament of Sierra Leone and his birthplace at any time desired by him.

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