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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT CANCELS THE AUCTIONING OF HIV AIDS AND OTHER RELATED DRUGS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Friday 03rd August 2018 unanimously voted for the cancellation of an intended auction of HIV AIDS and other related drugs that had incurred demurrage charges at the Ports, for failing to pay charges of over Le 100,000,000.00 (One Hundred Million).

After Parliament had voted on the matter, the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu called on the relevant Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA) to take due note in respect of the decision of Parliament, adding that “I hope they will take due heed immediately”.

The following motion was moved by the Leader of Government Business and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Sidie M. Tunis and Hon. Chernor R.M Bah respectively:

“That this Honourable House resolves that the proposed Auction for Goods and Medicines donated by the “Global Fund” be cancelled forthwith to allow the said goods and medicines to be cleared from customs and delivered without further delay to their intended destinations or warehouses”.

Contributing to the motion, Hon. Daniel B. Koroma of APC spoke largely against the intended auction of HIV AIDS and other related drugs donated as gifts to Sierra Leone by Global Fund but were to be cleared from the Ports. He recalled that Legal Aid Board had organized a workshop for MPs where they learnt that HIV AIDS had risen to 63,000 infected persons, with just 23,000 undergoing treatments, and that people living with HIV AIDS could live longer if they take their drugs regularly.

Hon. Dickson Rogers of SLPP, who doubles as the Chief Whip of Parliament said that he had spoken to the General Managers of Ports and Bollore to facilitate the immediate clearing of those drugs for onward delivery to the required destinations.

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