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PRESS RELEASE

16TH MARCH, 2017

PARLIAMENT RATIFIES TWO AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTRICITY IN BO AND KENEMA

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 16th March 2017 debated and ratified two agreements for the improvement and sustainable supply of electricity to the people of Bo and Kenema Districts respectively.

The following agreements were ratified by Parliament:

- I. “Loan Agreement Between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Fund (Rehabilitation and Extension of the Bo-Kenema Distribution System) Dated 22nd November, 2016 and
- II. Protocol of Agreement Between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Fund (Rehabilitation and Extension of the Bo-Kenema Distribution System) Dated 22nd November, 2016”.

Presenting both agreements prior to ratification, the Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Momoh Vandi said among other things that the estimated cost for both agreements is \$59 Million to be funded by Government and donor partners. He said Government has responsibility to compensate affected property owners along the power grid. He furthered that it is a 30-years loan with 10-years grace period. He also said that these agreements will upgrade and improve connectivity of power to inhabitants in Bo and Kenema, including Blama, Gerihun, and Yormandu.

Contributing to the debate, Acting Minority Leader of the House, Hon. Sidie Tunis described the agreements as timely and non-contradictory considering the current status of electricity supply in Bo and Kenema. He decried the poor state of electricity in Freetown in spite of the huge investments by Government and its partners, whilst urging EDSA to do continued sensitization to avoid destruction of its property.

In rounding the debate, Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu thanked MoFED for initiating these agreements for the benefits of the people of Sierra Leone. He

also likened electricity to money, saying “the more you get, the more you want”, whilst noting the importance of electricity supply to the inhabitants of Bo and Kenema. He also said that the confidence reposed in the energy sector has attracted huge investment flows such as factories and population growth.

Other MPs spoke to the motion.