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PRESS RELEASE

Parliament Joins Water Sector to Review Water Related Bills

The Parliamentary Committee on Water Resources has, at Freetown's Hill Valley Hotel, joined the Ministry of Water Resources and water related agencies to review three water bills proposed for Parliament.

The Bills reviewed include the National Water Resources Management Act 2016, which deals with the equitable, beneficial, efficient and sustainable use and management of the country's water resources. It aims to establish a national water resources management agency; to provide a water basin management board and catchment water resources management Committee and for other related matters. The two others are the Sierra Leone Water Company Act 2016 and the Guma Valley Water Company Act 2016.



Chairman of the parliamentary oversight Committee on water Resources, Hon. Sualiho M. Koroma commended Government and International partners for supporting the water sector. As the chairman, Water Resources Committee in Parliament, he pledged his support for the three bills planned to be presented to Parliament for deliberation and subsequent passage. Hon. Koroma acknowledged the importance of the bills in light of the challenges of the water sector and promised to see them through in the interest of the people of Sierra Leone.

Speaking on behalf of the Legislative Committee, Hon. Alhaji Alhaji Serray Dumbuya, welcomed the move to regulate the water sector in the country. He said that when the bill reaches Parliament it will be given the utmost attention it deserves because, as he said, “water touches the lives of the people.”

General Manager of Guma Valley Water Company, Bankole Mansaray, narrated the challenges faced by the Company in raising revenue and the difficulties encountered in providing pure drinking water for the nation. The Company Secretary of Sierra Leone Water Company, Junisa P. Bangura, further pleaded with MPs for their support in improving the sector.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Water Resources, Momodu Maligie expressed appreciation for the continued support of Parliament and International organizations to the water sector. He explained the benefits the bills will deliver to the country and promised to collaborate with line agencies to ensure that the nation achieves adequate water supply.

In concluding the two-day consultative workshop on the three water bills, stakeholders and Members of Parliament deliberated on the three bills and made recommendations for the attention of Parliament.