



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER LEADS SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO AFRICA CHILD PARLIAMENT FORUM IN MOROCCO

The Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie, headed a parliamentary delegation to the Africa Child Parliament Forum in Rabat-Morocco, representing the Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament, Rt. Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas Esq.

The three-day conference, held from Friday 21 to 23 November 2025, gathered MPs, children's parliamentarians and senior officials under the theme: "Children's Participation in Africa's Development."

Delivering his address, Hon. Silikie, speaking on behalf of Speaker Thomas, said the forum was an opportunity to move beyond tokenism and embed children's voices in policy-making. He highlighted the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and Agenda 2040 as frameworks that must be matched by concrete action.

He also presented a five-point action plan aimed at strengthening systems for education, protection, and meaningful participation:

Speaking on education, he called for a shift from building schools to building critical-thinking skills, improving teacher training and ensure universal digital access.

He also called for a robust legal safeguards against child marriage, labour, trafficking and violence, and bolster child-protection services.

The Deputy Leader also advocated for all to institutionalise children's parliaments at national and local levels and involve youth in budgeting and planning.

He also requested policymakers to embed child-sensitive allocations into national budgets for education, health and climate initiatives, and also create accountable structures that protect vulnerable children, including girls and those with disabilities.

The Deputy Majority Leader of Sierra Leone Parliament has urged African governments to translate discussions into budgetary lines, legislative reforms and trained personnel, emphasizing that "an educated child is an empowered citizen." He also thanked Princess Lalla Meryem and fellow delegates for their commitments.

The three days forum is highly anticipated to a call for a concrete roadmap to be implemented across the Continent, reinforcing the message that African children are not merely beneficiaries but active architects of developments.

The Sierra Leone Parliamentary delegation includes the Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie, the Director General of Parliament, Mrs Finda Findosia Fraser, and Bernadette Sourie, Secretary to the delegation.

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