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## LOCAL NEWS

### ZAINAB BANGURA TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Bangura's swearing-in came after she received a nod from the Appointments and Public Service Committee the day before.



Hon. Zainab Bangura, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
reciting oath of Office

Administering the oath of office to the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, President Ernest Bai Koroma expressed optimism that Mrs. Zainab Bangura would be able to strengthen, among other things, the already existing cordial ties between Sierra Leone and international bodies like the African Union, European Union, ECOWAS, the Commonwealth and the Mano River Union respectively.

He also articulated the hope that Mrs. Zainab Bangura, through her vast knowledge and expertise in international affairs, would help Sierra Leone gain unfettered access in the international scene.

In her acceptance speech, the newly sworn-in Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation described her appointment as an honour and privilege fraught with numerous challenges as manifested by the high expectations of the populace.

She however reassured the president and the general public that she would do her utmost to ensure that Sierra Leone's international image is positively re-branded.

"I do also realize that to whom much is given much is expected. The fact that this great responsibility has been thrust upon me is an indication of your confidence in my ability to serve you and the people of Sierra Leone," she underscored.

Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, prior to her new appointment, distinguished herself as one of the few Sierra Leonean women always ready to stand up to the challenges of nationalism and patriotism.

A career diplomat, civil society activist and politician, Zainab Bangura was foremost among Sierra Leonean women who stoutly resisted the military junta of Major Johnny Paul Koroma as the country teetered on the brink of chaos.

Her influential role in organising civil society organisations to resist the junta catapulted her to both national and international recognition.

At the end of the war, she became the first female candidate ever to contest for the presidency in Sierra Leone's political history under the Movement for Progress (MOP) party during the 2002 Parliamentary and Presidential elections.

After failing to secure the presidency, she returned to her former role as civil society

activist and later headed the civil society organisation, Campaign for Good Governance (CGG). Afterwards, she took up appointment with the UN Mission in Liberia, a position she held until her current appointment.

The New Citizen wishes the new minister good luck in her new endeavour.

Mrs. Zainab Bangura is married with a son currently enrolled at Fourah Bay College.

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