

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

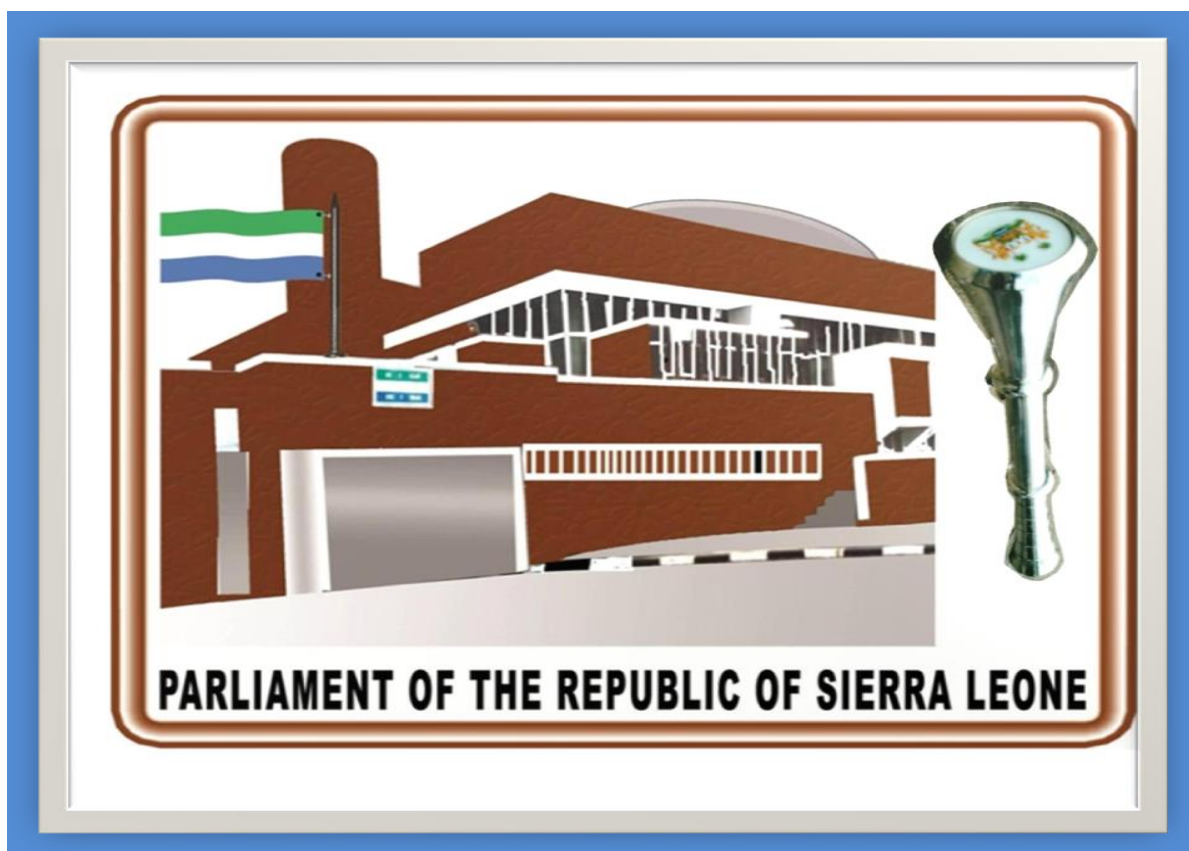
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION—SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 57

Second Meeting of the Second Session of the Sixth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 10th July, 2025.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3RD JULY 2025.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

IV. LAYING OF PAPER.

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE [ECSL] ANNUAL REPORT 2024.

V. GOVERNMENT MOTION

A] THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BE IT RESOLVED: THAT THE HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2025:

AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE AND KISSY INDUSTRY AND TRADING COMPANY [KITC] SIERRA LEONE [SL] LIMITED DATED JANUARY, 2025.

[B] THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY 29TH MAY, 2025:

[I] AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT PREPARATION OF SIERRA LEONE RURAL ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT [SLREAP] REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE DATED 15TH JANUARY 2025

[II] SUBSIDIARY GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE REPRESENTED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF ENERGY PREPARATION OF SIERRA LEONE RURAL ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT [SLREAP]



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIRST SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday 10 July 2025.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mrs Esther Boima, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:10 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

[Suspension of S.O 5[2]]

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3RD JULY 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 3rd July 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1-4 and start with Page 5. Do you have any comments or correction to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? If there is no amendment can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 3rd July 2025 as presented?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 3rd July 2025 has been adopted as presented]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: I am not sure I have any announcement to make. However, it would have been best if I was sitting as a Member of Parliament to stand on S.O 23, but I want to draw the attention of this House that from six months ago, I reported to this House that the Chief of Defense Staff, Lieutenant General Hydera Bangura is about to grab and take over our school land. He went there on Monday with armed personnel. He has threatened to demolish property constituting **80%** of the total Services Secondary School land. We see this as an aggression. We have contacted the National Security Adviser and we have reported the matter to the ONS Coordinator, but he is insisting that nothing and nobody would stop him. On Thursday night, he is going to roll

out his military personnel to demolish whatever they think should be demolished. So, I am just drawing the attention of the House to this development.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Have you gone to court to seek an injunction to stop his intention? Why not try that? If he went against the injunction, then that would be contempt, and he is not above the law just like the president is not above the law. I am sure none of us is above the law. If you consulted a lawyer, he/she would do a writ of summons and an emergency injunction would be served on him. If he breached the injunction, he would then be dealt with.

THE SPEAKER: I take your advice and I want to state here that the school is completely different and distinct from the barracks. In 1998, a survey was conducted and that survey produced two sets of survey plans: one was given to the school and the other was given to the military. In those two survey plans, it was clearly indicated that the survey warranted the construction of a fence to demarcate the barracks and the school. What he is trying to do now is to take an aggression on the school, thinking and assuming that the school is under the proprietorship of the Army or the school belongs to the Army. He wants to take over our school and land, and give it to certain business people.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: As you rightly said, at the end of today's proceedings, when the time for S.O 23 is due, we need to treat this matter very seriously. I believe Parliament can stop the process until we know the reasons for his intended action. Maybe I or anyone else will move a Motion since you are now the Acting Speaker. We cannot allow this happen.

THE SPEAKER: I take that, Honourable Member. I want to thank you Sir. Leader of Government Business, please lead us.

IV. PAPER LAID

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone [ECSL] Annual Report, 2024.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 25, to give notice to this Honourable House that I intend to file a Motion for us to debate the ECSL report... - *[Applause]*.

V. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MR ALPHA IBRAHIM SESAY *[Minister of Trade and Industry]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 3rd July 2025:

Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and trading Company Sierra Leone limited, dated January 2025. Mr Speaker and Members of this House, I stand before this august body... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, you should address Members as Honourable Members because they came here honourably and they should be addressed accordingly.

MR ALPHA IBRAHIM SESAY: This is well noted sir. I stand before this august body and prestigious assembly to present an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone, a company that operates in the agro food sector, specifically oil palm. The Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone Limited was established under the Company's Act of 2009 and registered under the laws of Sierra Leone with a company certificate, incorporation number with his registered office at Kissy Industry Trading Company limited, Old Oil Refinery, Kissy Duck Yard, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Since commencing operations, Kissy Industry and Trading Company has consistently employed over 300 workers, ensuring regular skills development and has positively impacted more than 250 farmers and over 800 small and medium sized enterprises. The company continues to meet local demands for its

products, while exporting regionally, significantly contributing to our country's gross domestic product.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I speak, Sierra Leone today is the next exporter of vegetable oil and no longer importing vegetable oil, with specialty in oil products such as sunflower and olive oil. This was made possible by this House, which ratified agreement for companies to operate as oil pump processors in Sierra Leone. The Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone Limited, being one of them, is desirous to continue its operations in Sierra Leone, which has been producing 120,000 metric tons of vegetable oil per day from local crude palm oil, producing 65 metric tons of Kernel oil per day. It has established a marine plant, confectionary factory for soaps, detergents, as well as byproducts for animal feed stock. As a Ministry, this Company is in compliant with all its obligations and statutory mandate, bringing the much needed revenue to government through taxes. Direct employment stands as five hundred and fifty [550] to date, and corporate social responsibilities will support communities totaling over two hundred thousand Dollars **[\$200,000]** and over five thousand [5,000] palm oil sellers are benefiting from microcredit facilities. We have over seven hundred [700] small farm holders being enrolled into special programmes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the total investment is over sixty million Dollars **[\$60mln]** and is poised to increase to \$90mln within the next five years. It is our wish that this Parliament will grant an extension to Kissy Industry and Trading Company to continue its operations in line with government vision, which is the Feed Salone, the Sierra Leone multi-midterm national development programme, and also part of supporting Sierra Leone's economic diversification agenda and our quest to becoming a middle income country.

With this, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of this House on Thursday, 3rd July 2025:

An Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone Limited, dated January 2025.

[Question Proposed]

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise again today to debate on the Agreement between Sierra Leone and a trading company. However, in some of these debates, we would have loved the very individuals to be invited here, but they are not here. This is what has been happening with some of these organisations or institutions. We will stand here and open our mouths to talk, but they do not care to come to listen to us. We are Honourable Members for God's sake. We speak for you and we also speak for them. At the end of the day, they do not do justice to what is written in these documents.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as stated by the Minister, asking for an extension for the Kissy Industry and Trading Company is good. It is very good for our people and they claimed to have employed 300 people; which is very good. However, each time we go to some of these institutions, what is being written in the document is completely different from what is on the ground. They will say they have employed 300 people or 2,000 people, but when you go there, you only see few people. It is what they stated in some of these Agreements that urged us to ratify their Agreements. In as much as we are talking about Feed Salone, yes, we want to see our people going to bed without an empty stomach. Again, it is not because of the loss of our mothers we should start to cry for our great grandmothers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Minister to know that there are various Agreements that have been ratified here. One such Agreement is the Dura Plat Agreement in 2021. It was stated in that Agreement that two thousand [2,000] people would be employed, but when we went there on oversight, what we saw was completely different. We have been monitoring that company and we gave them two months for them to do the right thing, but when we went again, there was no improvement. Of course, there are massive construction going on there, which is very good, but the employment facility has been the problem. Our youths are out there, looking for jobs. Honourable Members have been bothering them to employ their constituents, but to no avail. If you went there, you would meet something different.

The lucky ones were employed by the contractor or the engineer who is doing the work. We told them that we wanted to see tangible things, especially those mentioned in that Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to see people being employed, even if not the 2,000 mentioned, we want to see the effort of the company. We encouraged them to start work. We have seen the buildings, **80%** for Dura Plant and **80%** for the building, but we want to see the production process kick start. They said they had the finished products, but when we went there, we did not see anything of that nature. So, we want to see the commencement of the production process and the number of labourers they have employed as stated in their Agreement. They have given us another two weeks and we will go there again to find out. It is our work to oversee and represent our people, and also to make laws. So, you are here again this morning, asking for an extension. Now, they said they have employed 300 people, but you have to outline a comprehensive plan that can significantly boost local production of vegetable oil up to 120 to 65 metric tons per day. If there is going to be an extension, it should be times two [X2] because the workload is also expanding.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about 300 workers being employed, but if they are asking for extension, the number of workers should also increase to 600 or more because this is what we want to see. We do not want the youths who are smoking kush to be idle; we have to engage them. "You Bobo dae ya oh", S.O [2]. We want to engage them fully. If you went to Kissy and some of the slums, you see these youths there. Whatever money you give them, you have to go by the payment or the daily wage and they will manage it; instead of wasting time in smoking kush or marijuana. Why can't we engage them? It is good to expand and I will ask my colleagues to unanimously ratify this Agreement, but be rest assured that what you have stated here must be implemented. I want you to be the best Minister and that why it is good to go by what is stated in some of your Agreements you brought here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another Agreement that is under the purview of the Minister we are looking into is the one between the Sierra Leone State Lottery Limited and Accord Logistics. This Agreement has been a thorny issue.

THE SPEAKER: I think that Agreement should have expired by now.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Of course, Mr Speaker. We have called them yesterday and we have also invited the National Commission for Privatisation [NCP]. We will also invite Minister, so that we look at that Agreement properly. We have to look at some of these Agreements in order to establish whether they need extension or not. I am sure Lotto is the baby of the government and we do not joke with it. We have to review some of these Agreements after every four years. We have written a letter to invite them here and I am sure you have got yours. I decided to bring out these things because they will ask for an extension again. If you did not do justice, how can we extend the time?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister said it is expected to create over 300 jobs. This is very good because we want to see our youths being engaged and we want to help the Honorable Members who are around that area. That is why each time I go to these institutions, I always ask for the Honourable Members who are there because I want them to help you. Of course, corporate social responsibility is a matter of must; you need to do it. They will say it on paper, but there are no justifications. So, the Honourable Members who are representing the people will be in a better position to monitor the implementation of the corporate social responsibility. That is why I was expecting them to be here this morning.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, there are lots of good things being mentioned in this document. We eat what we sow. I always call them 'made in ya so,' S.O[2]. It is good to eat what we produce. This is because sometimes we only see vegetable oil, not knowing what it is made from. They give them all kinds of labels and that is why we have many illnesses in our system today. If we have our own palm kernel being processed here, it will be very good for us. They will be producing many vegetable oils, such as margarine, olive oil, etc. We will not hesitate to eat them at all. We are talking

about extension and I want to confirm that we will extend it and we will visit them to perform our oversight activity. Already, we are talking about 300 workers before the extension commences and we will go there to do head count. If we have those 300 workers there, that will inform how many workers are going to be added.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want Honourable Members to know that we are helping our farmers to enjoy their jobs. I am asking this Honourable House to please ratify this Agreement, but the Minister should take note of what I have said regarding these companies. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: We want to thank the Honourable Chairperson for the Committee on Trade. I now give the Floor to the Honourable Whip of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I see no reason why we spend time on this Agreement. You would agree with me that we do more of importation and when that happens, you have to take your foreign reserve out of the country to be able to get the goods. This factory is just a one stop factory, but it has a value chain addition, adding more value to our agricultural productivity. We have the agro business in this country; we have one in Sahn Malen that is producing palm kernel. I am sure at the inception of these projects, we asked the inevitable question of where do we take the products to. Today, Kissy Industry alone is almost absorbing all the agro based company in Sierra Leone; and even after production, their wastes are being used by other factories. If you looked at the soap industry, Sierra Leone does not even need to import any raw materials anymore. This is what we want as Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if there is any Agreement that needs more time, I was the Chairman of Human Rights Committee in the last session and when the concept of human rights and business was introduced in Sierra Leone, we had the opportunity of visiting industries. We went to the Kissy Industry, the input in terms of equipment in Kissy Industry, even a five years term in the Agreement is injustice to the investments they made in Sierra Leone. For me, we need to extend the time. Mr Minister, if we have another Agreement for people like Kissy Industry who are investing directly in Sierra Leone, producing and exporting oil, even five years is too small. We

should know that they are also in the global market to attract direct investments in Sierra Leone and to partner with other companies. I am sure five year might scare away other investors. At least, they need ten years for them to have a breathing space and five years more to chase actual productivity and to get a break-even. If we do it that way, we would be able to attract more investors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy that the Minister of Finance is here. We cannot grow our economy if those that are willing to invest do not have time or do not have the space or given tax waivers. We give tax waivers to mining companies who come and loot away our resources and pay us pittance in turn. Mr Speaker, why not the business people who employ our people; they encourage the local people to go into agriculture. These are the people we should give more tax waivers. We should not give them small tax waivers at all. I am sorry to say this at a time like this, but this is the time to say it. We should promote our local industries in Sierra Leone. The Minister of Trade and the Minister of Finance should ensure that we attract our local industries. This is because what we do is [whether it is Zoodlabs or Kissy Industry] they create the enabling environment for our citizens to have jobs and the farmers to have returns in their investments. We should encourage more people to go into agriculture. If this industry continues to thrive, I am sure we may need more palm oil production in Sierra Leone; more farms producing palm kernels.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure they need more raw materials and this is encouraging for our young people. This is the way we need to grow our economy. No matter what we do, whether it is our political colours or not, we cannot address the economic injustice of our people if we do not have companies of this nature. We cannot and that is why we must encourage them to invest in the country. Let me say this to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade that we have to look at some of the local products we are producing in Sierra Leone. If somebody imports them, we must increase the tax on those who are importing the products we are making locally. I am sure that is one way to boost our own local investors. We should not allow the brewery

situation, where we encouraged people to import liquor and give them less tax compared to those in the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we are producing oil, we must tax the oil that is coming into Sierra Leone more than the one we are producing here. If we do not do this, we are killing our local industries; and if we kill our local industries, we are reducing the rate of employment of our young people. We are killing the agro based industry in Sierra Leone and we must not sit as a country and allow this to happen. The number is three hundred [300], but I will tell you that if you looked at the value chain of this company, the number is beyond three hundred [300] because even the farmers that are producing are also part of the value chain of the Kissy Industry. So, a period of five years is injustice to the investments and our economic growth as a country. Please note that five years is not helping our country to grow in anyway and it is not given investors the ambience and confidence to come and invest in Sierra Leone. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member from Kambia District for his wonderful contribution to the debate. He has said something that is worthy of consideration. I think one that touches my attention is the fact that, we pass Agreements in this House and at the same time we encourage importation of the same materials for which a given company should produce locally. There are several examples I will not mention, but I know of many of them. I know we have the Maggi factory in Sierra Leone and an Agreement was ratified here in that regard, but King Diven is importing Hunga Maggi into the country. They pay customs pittance. This is challenging, but we must stop it entirely.

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the Floor. Of course, let me take the cue from the other speakers. I think this Agreement deserves extension based on the submission made by the Minister. You would agree with me that this is not a controversial Agreement. Usually, when we have investments like this nature, sixty billion Dollars [**\$60bln**] and there are plans to extend it to ninety billion Dollars [**\$90bln**]. This is something we should encourage and accept wholeheartedly.

Of course, we have listened to the goodies from the Kissy Industry and Trading Company, supporting our local farmers, Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs], our agro based industries and all other activities

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, supplying our local markets or regional markets with vegetable oils is very good, but our local farmers are always suffering in terms of accessing these markets. However, if we have got the Kissy Industry and Trading Company supporting farmers and SMEs to produce more, I think it is a welcome idea. My advice is that to reduce the extent at which our oil palm has been exported to Bamoi, Pamlap and even Guinea. This is because when the company buys, it is obvious that the farmers will get more income and the much needed revenue for the government through taxes. I am sure whatever income that goes to government will be used to provide basic amenities. This is one area they should look at attentively. It could be **100%** cut down, but a drastic reduction of those commodities or oil palm products going to other local markets through middle men should be discouraged. Of course, we have seen this industry supplying our regional markets. I am sure extension of such an Agreement is laudable. I think no government or institution can shy away from this kind of investment, from sixty billion to ninety billion Dollars' investments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are expecting more people to be employed. It is believed that supporting the activities along the value chain means we are supporting the farmers. The Company is employing our people and I want to say kudos to them. We expect them to do more, so that our brothers and sisters can have the opportunity to work. I think this Agreement is worth ratification and I would like to urge my colleagues to ratify it and to also extend their period of operations. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I think we should now roundup the debate. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to make his contribution.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I have always said, we support good laws and we want to see Agreements that add either to the economy or employment of this nation. To us, there are pros and cons in this Agreement which I

would like to look at. First, I would start with the advantages of this Agreement. I would also delve into some of the disadvantages and see how far Parliament can be able to make amendments or adjustments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want us to look at Article III, terms of the Agreement. Article II [C] is about extension of term and Article III [C] in the Agreement states that in the event the Agreement period is not extended, the company is entitled to continue its lawful activities pursuant to the laws of Sierra Leone. To me, if the term is not extended by Parliament, the company should not be given the opportunity to continue its activities. I am sure continuation of activities by the company should be contingent on the approval of this House. This one area or one key factor I would want us to look at. Notwithstanding, there are a lot of goodies in this Agreement. Firstly, as the Minister was saying, it boosts domestic oil supply and we all know what it means to have sufficient oil in the market. If we have steady flow of oil supply in the country, it would help to stabilise the prices by reducing the volatility from the global market. If the oil supply fluctuates regularly in the global market, we can rely on our own oil products. It will help to mitigate these fluctuations at the global market. This is one good thing in this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that the youth population of our nation is **60%** and unemployment has been one of the troubling issues we have as a nation. This Agreement will also create employment for our young people and it will lead to the construction or expansion of oil storage facilities in the country, which is the refinery plant. So, it will create direct and indirect employment opportunities for our young people. It will also serve as revenue generation for the government. We all know that government is constrained with revenue mobilisation. We have seen the gap between expenditure and revenue generation, but this Agreement will help to reduce the deficits through taxes, royalties or levies from oil production. It will generate revenue for the government. In fact, it also ensures foreign exchange through exportation of oil products. The Agreement will also help private sector development

through strengthening of local industries. It will foster domestic capacity in the energy sector. For me, there are several goodies in this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be missing my responsibility if I failed to highlight the challenges in this Agreement. We all know that oil production has significant environmental concerns. Therefore, we should ensure that the production or storage facility does not pollute the environment. We do not want a situation wherein the oil spills. I could remember there was, one point in time, when we went for oversight in Kenema in the last Parliament, a particular company polluted the waters. There were residues of oil all over the water. Our people were drinking the polluted water. We do not want to see similar situation at all. So, the company should ensure that modalities are put in place to stop oil spillage, pollution or other environmental hazardous factors. We know that we do not have strong environmental laws to protect our citizens, but we should put things in place to prevent such occurrence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said, we would always support Agreements that geared towards creating employment and increasing the revenue of our nation or stabilising the exchange rate through export; but similarly, we would not oversight on safeguards, and one of the safe guards I have stated is in Articles 3.2 and 3.2[C]. We cannot say if the Agreement period is not extended, the company has the right to continue with their activities; that is not a good law and it means even if Parliament does not look at the Agreement again or extend the period, the company legitimately would proceed with their activities. The only way we should get this company to comply is when they want an extension they have to come back to Parliament. I want us to look at that clause very closely as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said before, generally the Agreement is not bad, but the safe guard should be instituted to ensure that pollution is controlled, spillage is controlled and other hazardous effects are controlled, so that the third party, which are the people, are protected. I do not think this is controversial and I want to advise that the few amendments that I have proposed are taken into consideration, so that we ratify this Agreement expeditiously. I thank you for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his wonderful contribution. I now take the Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate. When you listened to the other side, they said this Agreement is not controversial and it is unblemished. This means the Minister has done well and I want to thank the Minister. Mr Speaker, I want to recognise the Honourable Osman Abdal Timbo *[Laughter]*.

THE SPEAKER: That is our flag-bearer, flag-bearer welcome sir.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, when you are fortunate to sit in the same room with a person who wants to lead this nation is a blessing for us. The unfortunate side is we see Members of Parliament from the other side declaring for other candidates.

THE SPEAKER: It is important to pay homage to people like that because when they become President, they will remember you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Exactly, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You are welcome sir.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I recognise the Honourable Kandeh K. Yumkella.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: The Leader on the other side should stick to the debate.

THE SPEAKER: Are you supporting another candidate?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Please stick to the debate.

THE SPEAKER: Do you have another candidate different from ours?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: What happens in the All Peoples Congress is solely the business of Members of the All Peoples Congress. I want to state here that Honourable Osman Abdal Timbo is over protected. The Acting Leader should be talking about the barrage of candidates they have in the SLPP.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I have not said anything about the All Peoples Congress, I have just recognise the Honourable Abdel Timbo.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Thank you for recognising him sir, but stick to the debate.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I also recognise the Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella. He is also here.

THE SPEAKER: We do not know him to be a flag bearer. I know he is the lead for the energy sector and he is doing a fantastic job. I am sure just recently, he brought 20 megawatt from Guinea. I am not campaigning; but like I said in the case of Honourable Osman Abdal Timbo that when you have people around you whose aspirations are high, you have to recognise them when you see them because you do not know what will happen tomorrow.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Minister, you have done very well as far as this Agreement is concern. This is the kind of Agreement we want to see here and I want the Minister to be bringing similar Agreements. We want to empower our local investors. Like the Chairperson of the Trade Committee said, we have ratified many of these Agreements and they should be reporting to this House to see how effective they have been implementing the provisions in those Agreements. Your predecessor also brought several of these Agreements here. I want to encourage the Committee on Trade to begin to look into these Agreements that have been ratified by this Parliament. Some of these Agreements have elapsed, but we want to know the status of their implementations. Some came here and made lots of promises just like what this Agreement is doing. We would want to know how far they have gone; how effective they have been; what are their successes and challenges. This is an investment of sixty million Dollars with a possible extension of ninety million Dollars. It is a fine Agreement and we should also protect this institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you looked at the Agreement they have advocated or they have asked us to protect them from unhealthy competitions. Mr Speaker, you have just said that we have companies that import Maggi and other food items and that

the taxes they are paying to customs are pittance. We have companies that are producing the same products.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business, I am sorry to interrupt, but I do not want you to use what I have said, but what they are paying at customs is two Dollars and eighty eight cent **[\$2.88]** per carton. They are selling each carton at six hundred and fifty thousand Leones **[650,000]**, which is twenty seven Dollars **[\$27]**. So, if they are paying two Dollars and eighty eight cent, it means they are declaring that they are buying one carton at one Dollars and they are selling to us at twenty seven Dollars. That is the fact. In fact, their numbers are there.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: This is a case for the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Finance and NRA to look into. Fortunately, we have the Finance Bill that will be brought to this House very soon before the budget. We are expecting taxes to be increased, so that we can empower our local investors. I have been in this Well when the Sierra Leone Brewery said that if they are levied the same taxes with the importers, it is better for them to close their business and begin to imports. This is because there is no competition and we are not protecting our local businesses. As the Honourable Member from Kambia said, these businesses are creating jobs for people to be employed; the farmers are being employed; and the people who buy these products from them are also employed. So, if you looked at the chain of employment or the chain of gainful employment by these investors is very huge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as His Excellency the President said, we are going to create jobs and these are the means through which we create jobs. When you look at the extension period, they have said six month before the contract elapsed and they should write to the Ministry of Finance. I do not know why they should write to the Ministry of Finance. I believe this document is being prepared by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and this same Ministry will be providing oversight, making sure what is agreed upon is what is implemented. The Ministry would have to make sure that these companies go by the laws. If we say you should write to the Ministry of Finance for the Agreement to be renewed and the Ministry granted approval for them to continue, that

is good; but if the Ministry says no and still have the right to continue, that is not good for the country. So, what the Opposition Leader said is very correct and it is a very serious concern because you cannot say this Agreement, whether or not the time period is extended by the parties, you still have the right to continue with your activities. It means we have given it perpetual existence. We expect the parties to look at those clauses because Parliament, at this stage, does not have the mandate to amend this Agreement. At this stage, it is either we accept it holistically or we reject it. However, we do not want to reject it, but to encourage you to go and look at it. We want you to make sure that you come back to us with an amended version or an addendum, so as to tiding up the document.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of course, Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR] is mentioned in Article 7 of the Agreement. A lot of corporate social responsibilities have been stated in terms of recruitment and they have also said that they were going to make a CSR Clerk who will be supervised by the Ministry of Trade, together with the Ministry of Finance and other institutions. I am sure Parliament is not excluded from that function. So, I want to encourage the Committee on Trade to look at the CSR plan properly. We do not want them to just state that they are going to do certain things within a period of time without proper monitoring. In most cases this is what happens. We have institutions in our areas that are doing businesses who have told us their CSR plan, but they are not doing anything for our people. For instance, I have a solar project in my constituency and this project has a CSR plan, but what they have done is nothing to write home about. They have been in existence for more than six to seven years, but they have not done much for our people. Mr Speaker, even what they promised us in terms of investing fifty thousand Dollars on CSR, nothing has been done for our people. This is what they do; the ministries signed Agreements and assured us that this is what they would do; but at the end of the day, nobody is there to follow up and the community people do not have the ability to follow up. They said fifty thousand Dollars would be utilised on CSR on a yearly basis, but nothing has been done to date.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should be talking about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars which should be for the community people in respect of CSR. Today, we also have this Agreement and they have told us that they were going to make a CSR plan for onward implementation. I want to encourage the Committee on Trade to please follow up on the implementation of the CSR Plan they will put in place. After they shall have done the plan, make sure we validate it and visit them. You have to make sure that what they have included in the plan that has been approved is executed to the fullest. I believe when once this Agreement is ratified and when you look at the extension period, they should be able to start implementation process. We want them to be protected. They have said continuously, in different paragraphs in this Agreement, that they want competition, but not unhealthy one. Thus, they should be protected from foreign investors. I thank you very much Mr Minister and Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Leader for his contribution and the other Members. However, before I give the Floor to the Minister, I would want to reiterate and re-echo the position earlier stated by two Leaders, particularly the one that has to do with fuel. This company and other companies are using the route by Kissy, along Total route, but that road is very bad; it is terrible and we have big companies there. I think we have five companies: the CTC, Kissy Industry, Total, Kings Production and a Water Factory, which is Family Care. I am sure all of them committed to CSR and they have been in operation for over ten years. This is the first step to a real cooperate social responsibility by any company, protecting your line of revenue. This is their main source of revenue and trust me if you see the fuel tankers that go through that route, you will be surprised. One of them tipped over, but they still neglect that road. Mr Minister, as you respond to the issues being raised, I hope you will continue to monitor or step up the monitoring mechanisms. This is because these are major conditions for the implementation of such an Agreement. If they cannot meet the conditions as simple as CSR, then it means they are not fulfilling any other part of the Agreement, and it is important that we look into these things to ensure that we put them under pressure to

deliver on their commitments. I do not want to open a debate on it, unfortunately you will mention that under S.O. 23.

MR ALPHA IBRAHIM SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the constructive dialogue, the wonderful contributions and the objective analysis given in respect of this Agreement. I am very grateful and I will start by responding to the concerns raised by the Chairperson of the Trade Committee, especially the issue relating to unemployment. I can confirm that this Company provides both formal and informal employments. When we want to calculate the figures, I encourage you not to only focus on what we find in the factories because they are also providing employments for quite a number of farmers and a number of SMEs who are benefiting from this Agreement. For example, we have the palm oil sellers and a host of others. These employments are provided on a yearly basis and we have new people emerging to fill these vacancies in the remote communities. These communities are being strongly supported. So, employment goes beyond the formal employment. During your oversight activities, I will encourage you to visit some of those communities, where this company is operating and we will support it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also emphasise that as a Ministry, effective this year, we will be engaging this Honourable House, so that we have a consistent dialogue. We will be creating our public/private dialogue, where we will invite most of these industries to also participate, so that we have a clear understanding as to what is expected of them during your oversight and what they are also expected to do, especially on the number of issues you have raised in respect of this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also refer to the issue relating to the Dura Plast. Prior to my appointment, this Agreement has been in existence and there were delays simply because they had challenges accessing funds. This is because the impact of Covid-19, but I must emphasise here that they have radically improved on that area. The construction is ongoing and I have approved quite a number of machineries that have been imported, so that they commence the manufacturing process. For Lotto,

unfortunately it used to be a company under the Ministry, but it is now under the NCP. We were not involved at all, we are not aware of most of those activities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Member from Kambia for his viable contribution. He emphasised on value addition regarding foreign exchange and what they are providing to farmers. I strongly agree with the point relating to our local and infant industries. The Ministry of Trade and Industry will closely work with the Ministry of Finance to make sure that most of these issues that have been raised are captured in the Finance Act this year. Whatever we will have in the Finance Act, it should be captured there to be able to protect our local industries. This is because once we are able to protect them; it means it is the first step we can take to stop exporting goods. We will do that to make sure that it happens.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure the Honourable Member from Bo that his comments are well noted and I can categorically state here that this company has been able to open up many communities. They created roads where there were no roads before and we will continue to do that; we will make sure that adequate access is provided for most of these palm oil producers in our communities, particularly in hard to reach areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke on the issue of continuation. Let me read what it says. It says: **"The Company shall be entitled to continuing its lawful activities pursuant to the laws of Sierra Leone."** I am sure many other companies that have registered in this country and have gone through the normal process do not come to Parliament because they are not asking for concession. This is because the only body that has the authority and responsibility to grant concession is this House. Also, they are not asking for tax break. What this sentence is saying is that they can continue like any normal company because they do not ask for concessions or tax cut. Your contributions are well noted. Today, we have adequate rice and petroleum products in the market. We will continue to stabilise the market.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, almost all the Members who contributed spoke about employment opportunities. We would continue to make sure that they provide adequate employment opportunities in most of the areas they will be operating, especially in Freetown. They have improved the storage facilities and we are also working to review the PMB Act, because the laws covering storage facilities are outdated. We have to be consistent in line with international best practice and other protocols. We have ratified the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme. The standards relating to storing and packaging have to improve and very soon we would bring a paper to this House for approval. I strongly agree with you that revenue has increased because this company pays its taxes and also contributes to forex stabilisation. It also contributes to our foreign exchange stabilisation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the environmental concerns are well noted; and as a Ministry, we will work very closely with the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]. We would make sure that both social and environmental safeguards are taken into consideration. We would seek approval from the EPA before bringing this Agreement. We would continue to monitor and we encourage this Honourable House to look at some of these areas when performing your oversight responsibilities. This can help us to reduce the negative impacts. It can also improve other areas that require improvements, particularly those relating to safeguards. We would fight very hard to improve on them once they have been highlighted by this Honourable House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Leader of Government Business for all the issues he has raised, but most of them have been addressed in my previous addresses. Regarding corporate social responsibility, we would share the plan with this Honourable House and we would make sure that the plan is strictly adhered to. This is because one of the best ways our communities can benefit is through the CSR. If we do not monitor them, it means we are losing. I want to assure you that we will make sure they present a plan and I will share it with this House. We will continue to monitor it properly. Regarding the Kissy Terminal, I also want to inform this Honourable House that the Ministry of Trade is working closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to

prepare a Cabinet Paper, so that the issues that are currently affecting the Kissy Terminal are addressed. The roads are not good and there has been a lot of encroachments. We are trying very hard to address these issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the on Thursday, 3rd July 2025.

Agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone Limited, dated January 2025.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government motion by the Minister of Trade and Industry has been ratified]

VI. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

MADAM KADIATU ALIE [*Deputy Minister of Finance*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreements, which were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 29th May 2025:

- i. Africa Development Fund Project preparation of Sierra Leone Rural Electricity Access Project, Republic of Sierra Leone, dated 15th January 2025.
- ii. Subsidiary grant Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy and for the preparation of Sierra Leone Rural Electricity Access Project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone's electricity sector faces critical challenges. We have 300 megawatts, but only 90 megawatts are actually given as at April 2024. The reliant on Bumbuna, Karpowership and CLSG, in connections, is quite dominant. Some of the challenges we will be facing include ageing infrastructure, poor maintenance, non-performing PPAs, weak utilities and high cost of service, which is about twenty one US Dollar cent per kilowatts. I am sure about **36%** that have access nationally and only **6%** enrolled in Sierra Leone, with Freetown dominating the

consumption. The objective of this Agreement is to scale up our access beyond **50%** by 2030 through the national electrification strategy and to diversify generation with solar mini-grid off-grid PVs and Low-grid extensions. The Project preparation facilities supports the government in preparing the Sierra Leone Rural Electrification Access Project for full scale implementation of conducting visibility studies, detailed designs, safeguards and EPCs binding documents. It would also strengthen the institutional capacity of Ministry of Energy and EDSA; it would enhance project quality in line with AFDB independent safeguards systems.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this proposed infrastructure, under this Project, would target sixty rural communities; it will have eight new sixty-six by thirty-three KV sub-stations; it will have 23,311 KV sub-stations; it will have 150, 33/0.4kv distribution sub-stations; it will cover over 350 kilometers of 66KV transmission lines; it will also have more than 400km of 33KV distribution lines; and approximately 50,000 consumer connections; and it will have a public lining and social infrastructure. This will be financed through AfDBs resources and PPF will fund the visibility studies which will include the forecast site surveys and also the least cost analysis. The detailed engineering designs will also have details on sub-stations lines protections system. The EPC tendered documents will be compliant as per AFDBs requirements. We will conduct environmental and social impact assessments to mitigate the displacement impact; we will have a resettlement action plan and gender assessment action plan.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the expected results will be a fully prepared and bankable project investment ready for AFDB funding and development partners will co-finance to the tune of one hundred million US Dollars. It will improve electricity access in rural areas, strengthen health, education and local enterprise services; it will empower women-led businesses and improve rural value chains; it will also reduce rural/urban migration; it will improve livelihoods and promote peace building. The financial implications will be a total loan amount for this first phase will be approximately **USD3.6mln.** There will a service charge of **1%.** This is a highly concessional loan that will span over twenty years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I conclude, I wish to underscore the importance of this initiative in advancing our national development goals. This Project represents an estimated one hundred million strategic investments in Sierra Leone's future, one that will expand reliable electricity access to rural communities, enhances public services and fosters inclusive economic growth through careful preparation and collaboration with our development partners. We are ensuring that this Project is both technically robust and socially responsible. By harnessing modern energy infrastructure and prioritising gender inclusivity and environmental safeguards, we are not only addressing the immediate challenges of energy poverty, but also building resilient and stability across our nation. I call on all stakeholders to continue supporting this transformative endeavour with the same dedication and urgency, so that together, we can achieve a brighter and more equitable future for all Sierra Leoneans. I thank you all

[Question Proposed]

HON. ALHAJI CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I think this is my first debate after my return from the Holy Land. It is definitely going to be a Holy debate. I am going to be very brief and mild. As we have heard from the Minister, energy installation and distribution is capital intensive; and in a situation where you are faced with serious economic challenges, you find it difficult to address some of these issues. However, with your good governance practices, you will be able to attract funds from international financial institutions and bigger economies will come to your aid. This is what we are coming to enjoy, as far as this project is concern.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone rural electrification access project is about to provide affordable electricity for over sixty communities. I am sure electricity access, as it stands, is **36%** and the rural communities only enjoy **6%** out of the **36%**. However, we should not forget the fact that we are all Sierra Leoneans. They are supposed to live as we are living in the cities. This project is definitely going to address some of those problems. We are going to increase on the energy access in the rural communities and even in the cities. This is because we are not only going to concentrate in the cities, but also the rural communities. The cities are also going to be

taking care of because we want to scale up the energy access up to **50%** by 2030. Mr Speaker, once this happens, it means we are getting there gradually. I want everybody to know that it is not going to be a quick fix. The energy issue is not going to be a quick fix at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have some people I refer to as distractors and most time they will say, S.O[2] 'How long we don't see this thing.' Are we want to make den no say we nor get we yon money. Na bega bega we dae bega bega. The energy problem started 50 to 60 years back. It is not a day problem, but I have always said that the commitments of the Bio-led government to improve the energy access have never happened since independence. The results are there for us to crosscheck. We used our own source revenue to fix the transmission and distribution networks in seven districts headquarter towns. This is very remarkable, Mr Speaker. It is difficult because we do not have money; and if we are going to use all the money in the energy sector, Honourable Kekura Vandy will not be paid and I will not be happy. I will not be a happy man and the Leader of the Opposition will not be paid and he will not be happy as well. He will not go to Lungi again and Acting Leader of Government Business will not go to Bo. However, let us wait and see what this Project is going to do for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if this Project is going to help us to improve on energy access, how is it going to happen. This Project is going to take care of eight new 66/33KV sub-stations; and after that, two new 33/11KV sub-stations and then another one, which is more than 150/330.4KV distribution stations and 350km of 66kv transmissions. What does this mean? You would agree with me that before now, we had 11KV sub-stations all over Freetown, but if we have 66, they will serve for decades before you think of rehabilitating them. In 1995, we had a situation to undertake major rehabilitation on energy access in Freetown. We used to have 11kv lines and up to this moment, we still have a lot of these 11kv lines in Freetown. Therefore, even if we install 1,000 megawatts in Freetown today, you will not have sustainable electricity except those transmission and distribution networks are properly repaired. Another 400km of 33kv distribution line is also going to be fixed. You will have IPPs that will

help us in the energy sector, but they are all afraid to do transmission and distribution networks. This Project is going to fix 33kv transmission and distribution lines and 66kv transmission and distribution lines. This Project, after the completion, we will expect over fifty thousand customers. This means **36%** energy access will grow exponentially. This is what the Project is all about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not a controversial Agreement at all. I do not know if there are people who deny loans except otherwise. Mr Speaker, the first money from the AFDB is going to be **USD 2.5mln** for feasibility studies; and after that, this Project will attract **USD 100mln** to fix all these problems. I want to thank the energy team, led by my senior colleague, Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella. I want to thank him and his two deputies from Kitchon. Of course, he is from Kambia; he is coming from the same district with Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, you are not paying attention. You are always interested in Kambia and that is why I want to thank Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella and his team. I also want to thank the Ministry of Finance. They always stand by the Ministry of Energy to make sure that they provide the available resources for our people to have electricity. I want to thank you Madam Minister and I want you to convey this message to your boss. You have extremely done well for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want Honourable Dr Kandeh Yumkella to know that he has no excuse and we will not accept any excuse. We are only taking our time because you too do not have the resources. You have been moving helter-skelter to solicit funds to fix the energy problems. I want to say kudos for what you are doing for this country. We want you to continue in that trajectory and we want you to encourage your team and this Parliament to address the energy quagmire once and for all. It is not going to be a quick fix; you will fix it to some level and somebody else will take it to another level. That is what government is all about. When Alhaji Kanja Sesay was there, he took the energy sector from one point to another point. We want to say thanks to him for what he has done. Today, you are in charge and you are moving the sector where Alhaji Kanja Sesay stopped to another level. I am sure when you will be appointed to another position, someone else will come and take after you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this House to speedily ratify this Agreement. Honourable Tamba Kellie, your Chairman is still on his legs. I know that you have passion for energy and you will be allowed to contribute. I want us to speedily ratify this Agreement, so that the team will go and start work. I want the energy team to make sure that our energy problem is solved, although it is not going to be a quick fix; it is going to be a gradual process. We shall get there someday. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I want to toe the line that in as much as we will not encourage further excuses, I know that the Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella should be coming to this Parliament and brief us in Committee Room One. This is because you came from Rwanda; you signed something with SEKA, but we do not know the details. We understand exactly what is happening because we follow the progress made so far. We are encouraging you to be briefing this Parliament because we are in desperate need of energy.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I want to thank the electricity-lead, who happens to be my former school mate, Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella and of the Deputy Minister [1] for the good work they are doing at the Ministry of Energy. The previous speaker wanted to politicise this debate, but I want to state here that energy is not a political issue. I am sure anybody with common sense or modicum of remembrance will know that the concept of rural electrification started under the last APC government. This means whatever that has been done, today it is a continuation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are preparing ourselves for rural electrification and we know that electricity is critical to national development. As the previous speaker said, the bulk of our people are living in the rural areas, but they have very limited access to electricity. Therefore, this is a very good initiative, but I would like to advise those responsible for the electricity to look at the generation aspect which is extremely important. The Minister said today, we have distribution systems in fourteen or seven districts, but this are depending on cost of fuel. They are not sustainable because within five years, the people will not be able to pay for electricity in those areas and the

systems will collapse. I think what we should be looking at is renewable sources of electricity provision. I want Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella and the Deputy Minister of Energy to know that the plan they gave incorporated everything. It has all sources of energy we intend to use.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me conclude by thanking you and to state that this is a laudable system and I recommend to this House that we ratify this Agreement. I want to also state that energy is not a political matter; it is a national issue. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I agree with you, Honourable Member. On that note, I will take the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is so crucial and it came at a time when we are struggling with electricity. Currently, we have issues with the Karpowership and this why this Agreement is very important. The scope and funding of the Agreement is about **\$3.3mln.** I will briefly look at the development objective of this Agreement. The first one is to increase rural electrification and to ensure the extension of the grid. It is also going to reduce reliance on diesel and enable detailed project restructuring for full implementation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me look at the strength and weaknesses of this Agreement. I will begin with the strengths. First, it is a thorough preparation, inclusion of structural design, procurement, and the 'E' and 'S' preparation to reduce delays. This is because we have seen instances where projects are delayed due to lack of proper preparation. In this Agreement, we have seen the inclusion of structural design, the procurement and the 'E' and 'S' preparation, just to ensure that when the main phase reaches, the delays are drastically reduced. So, this is one of the strengths of this Agreement. Second, it is a multipurpose energy approach. You would agree with me that this Agreement looks closely at combining the grid extension and off-grid solar to ensure that electricity reaches to the towns, clinics and schools. Therefore, combining the two is a laudable venture. This Agreement aims at replacing about 28 megawatts of fossil fuel capacity with cleaner sources. A conference held in Paris Agreement indicates

that we should reduce our greenhouse emission to two degrees or possibly minus one point five degree. So, this Agreement aligns with that vision.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at alignments and partnerships. We are seeing the synchronisation that this Agreement has with the regional West African Power Pool [WAPP] and the Cote D'voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea [CLSG grid programmes. We also have the private sector mini-grid initiatives, such as the INFRACO and the National Electricity Sector Reform. I am sure for all of these bodies to be synchronised, it a laudable venture and it is an advantage for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would similarly have to look at some of the weaknesses or challenges of this Agreement we should pay attention to. You would agree with me that the track records of procurement and staffing delays could hamper the progress of this project. We have seen lots of projects that have been ratified here; but just because of procurement and staffing delays, these projects were left unattended. There are moneys we have not even utilised due to administrative delays on our own side. So, we have to pay attention to this area, so that this particular project is not exposed to similar situation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at financial sustainability. The rural tariff affordability and cost recovery remains uncertain, especially in the off-grid areas, where subsidies will be required. This rural electrification project was launched in 2016 in my constituency and what happened was that the tariff was comparatively high. Therefore, the people were struggling to meet the cost of the mini-gird. In most communities, the people revolted. They grumbled against the high cost involved; and for us to be able to have a perfect financial sustainability, there should be financial returns. So, we have to be able to manage it because the problems we are having now is poor financial management. We increase electricity tariffs, but we are still struggling to pay our debts. This is due to poor management of our finances or our inability to have sufficient financial returns to take care of the electricity charges. Similarly, I would not want to see a situation wherein we invest and at the end of the day, there are no

corresponding returns, thereby derailing a beautiful Agreement that is geared towards addressing the problem of electricity in our country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with regard to reliance on future financing, the PPF covers preparatory work for full implementation. You would agree with me that funding is not secured and the lack of funds can halt progress. Therefore, we have to also look at future funding. I am saying this because it is not nice to have started and at end of the day, we face challenges that will prevent the completion of the project.

[Suspension of S.O 5[2] being 12:00 noon]

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, the reliance on future financing is an issue. When you look closely at this Agreement, it only covers preparatory works and the full implementation funding is not yet secured. This means the loan only covers the feasibility studies, which is also known as the preparation works, but we are yet to look at the funding for the full implementation of this project. If we have spent so much for preparatory works, I am worried and scared as to where we will secure funds to implement the project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, complex coordination is another issue. Multi-stakeholder landscape also increases in the management of complexity and risk of misalignment. We have environmental and social safeguards to consider and you would agree with me that the crossing transmission corridors and installing sub-stations off-grid system require rigorous safeguards. There is also the component of preventing land right uses. Like I stated earlier, we should not only focus on the preparation works. This loan is so huge; it is **USD 3.3mln**. This money is going to be spent on the preparation works. For me, it will be nice for the government to finance the preparation works and we take the loan for the main implementation of the project. This is because after the completion of the preparation works, we have to think again where to source funds for the main implementation of the project. I am sure if we complete this preparation works and we do not get funds for the main implementation, it means whenever we get money, we have to come to roundabout. Therefore, we have to carefully look at it. I know that our former colleague, Honourable Dr Kandeh K.

Yumkella is over enthusiastic to see that the Ministry succeeds. The Deputy Minister of Energy was once my comrade and he is also over enthusiastic; but as a nation, we have to be objective, so that we do not misplace our priorities. We have to ensure that whatever government lays hands on is achieved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the Honourable from Kono said, energy does not need any form of politicisation because when they supply electricity, they do not look for the card caring Members of SLPP or card caring Members of APC. I am sure whatsoever infrastructure is put in place will not be dismantled by any subsequent governments because every government leverages from any infrastructure. This is why we have to ensure that we reduce the risk of slow procurement. There is the risk of full project funding or delays after the PPF funding. Mr Speaker, holistically the key questions for further scrutiny are the conditionalities as safeguards for tariff affordability and cost recovery. This is because I have stated that the tariff is very difficult for us to meet. We do not want to see a situation where after investment, there are no corresponding returns. This means the project is derailed and there will be no further implementation. Therefore, my first question to the Minister is the conditionalities involved. I want to know whether there are safeguards for tariffs affordability and cost recovery. I am concern with funding availability and I want to know from the Minister, the status of the full implementation of the project. Have we secured funds or do we have a prospective investor? Do we have any mechanism in place that has made the Ministry so optimistic regarding the full implementation of the project? These are questions I would want genuine answers to. I also want to know if the Ministry has sufficient qualified staff to absorb the PPF outcomes. This has to do with capacity building.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of qualified staff is critical because you cannot invest when you have capacity issue. I am an engineer by profession, I did not read engineering just for four years, I read engineering for eight years not out of stupidity. I have diploma, Higher National Diploma and a degree in engineering. Parliament is a place with people from various professions. I practice engineering

judiciously and for over 12 years. I am not just talking because I am a Member of Parliament; I have the opportunity to debate. Madam Minister, the issue of reliability. How would the project ensure reliable off-grid operation, especially during the rains and the dry seasons? This is a combination of the grid and off-grid. I want to know how they will operate to ensure that there is reliability in the system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my next question has to do with the community acceptance. What is the 'E' and 'S' consultation strategy to engage the local people around sub-stations and solar sites? We have seen situations where government property are destroyed by people; we have seen videos all over the regions where government infrastructures are being destroyed. This is affecting everybody, not only one set of people. So, I want to make a suggestion because as Opposition, we should always be prepared to provide alternatives to government. I want you to ensure trigger funding and this is only possible if you tie downstream financing commitments to the PPF milestone to avoid delays. The worst that will happen is when we shall have done the feasibility studies, but failed to go into proper implementation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the last Parliament, we went to Bo and there was a government project which has already started for over years. What they needed were already at the quay on demurrage and the project got stranded, everything went back to square one. You begin to wonder how resources are destroyed or how resources are not managed properly. This is because of our inability to complete projects. So, I want to suggest that when a Project is undertaken, we should ensure that it is completed and we should also fast-track the hiring of specialised staff and technical supports during the preparation and execution of the project. I have said this some minutes ago that without specialised staff, it will be very difficult to properly execute the project. We should also spend some of the money to hire specialised PMU staff and provide technical support, so that this project is successful.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the tariff and subsidy mechanism should be looked into. We should ensure that the rural tariff is affordable by considering the

vulnerable users. In law, there is a principle known as the 'Nemo Dat Quod Non Habet. You cannot give what you do not have.

THE SPEAKER: I think it is the 'Nemo Dat Quod Non Habet Rule.' You do not give what you do not have.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Exactly and I know that you are a young lawyer. I heard that there is already a bar in your house. Again, we should ensure that we have an integrated 'E' and 'S' management and develop a strong resettlement and environmental management framework with community consultation. In areas we want to provide infrastructure to the communities, we should engage the stakeholders and ensure that there is framework community consultation; so that at the end of the day, we do not go back.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the DSL interconnection, we should also ensure technical integration with the wider CLSG and WAPP power system for sustainability and load balancing. I am a proponent of this Agreement, but I have presented my case and I hope the Ministry will take it into consideration. This will help the Ministry and the government; it will help us the ordinary people. You would agree with me that electricity is a crucial factor for a country's development; you have to get sufficient electricity supply. When we talk about foreign direct investments, these are the things that should be at the back of our minds. There is no developed country without sufficient electricity. If the government is making strides to ensure that we increase electricity supply, we on this side are not opponents, but proponents towards the development of this nation. I thank you for the opportunity. Like I told you, I have not debated like an ordinary Member of Parliament; I garnished my debate with my expertise in the electricity industry. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition. He has demonstrated that indeed he is a trained and practicing engineer. He has shared a classroom with the current deputy Minister. I know he is knowledgeable on what he is talking about and on track. I now give the floor to the Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also thank the Minister for presenting this Agreement to us. I want to thank the Opposition Leader because he spoke like an engineer. Of course, I want the Minister to know that these are the same issues we have raised and we have also asked the same questions that have been asked. There should be a way forward for the development for this country. We respect the views of the Opposition because our business is to improve on energy generation and develop this nation. So, the views that will add value to what we are planning will be considered very seriously. I have just been told that this project is going to be built and we already have thirty three [33] communities connected to this project. I have also been told that there will be a special implementation project committee that will be constituted by the Ministry of Energy, so that all the concerns raised by the Opposition Leader are captured and to ensure due diligence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement was signed on the 15th January 2025 and this means it is almost six months before bringing it to this Parliament. Madam Minister, in future, Agreement of this nature should be brought to this House with speed. This is because we are under pressure to deliver for the people of this country. The Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella has done very well. When we took over governance in 2018, we met electricity supply at **16%**; but today, the Minister has told us that we now have **36%** access to electricity in Sierra Leone; **30%** in the Western Area and **6%** in the provinces. With this Agreement, we are expecting an increase of **50%** and the rural communities would enjoy more.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this PPF project, the major objective is feasibility studies. Of course, we are expecting feasibility studies and Article 4, Section 401 talks about feasibility studies. The primary objective of the feasibility studies is to assess the anticipated outcomes of the proposed project and its economic viability. The technical feasibility studies are essential for the proposed project. This is because it lays the groundwork for informed decision making for effective project planning. The economic feasibility study aims to demonstrate the net benefit of the proposed project, considering both the benefit and the cost of the implementing agency and the

beneficiaries. These are the issues people will be looking at during the visibility study. I want us to ensure that the environmental and social impact assessments are done and a resettlement action plan, as mentioned by the Opposition Leader of APC, is captured. They should also ensure that gender assessment is done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a donor funded project and we have been assured that funding would be available, not only for the preparation stage, but also for the implementation phase. So, my concern is that the Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella and team should have ensured that Agreement of this nature should have been brought to this Parliament earlier than this time. We do not want to be under pressure. I thank you very much for what you have been doing as a team. We had challenge with the Karpowership and the Government decided that we would not sign another contract beyond one year. This is a huge challenge and it is putting the government under immense pressure in making sure that we deliver for ourselves. Before now, we had the Karpowership which was making us to be very lazy. Today, we have challenged ourselves and I want to thank you very much for the challenge that in one year, we should be able to generate our own electricity. As a Parliament, we will give you the fullest of support to achieve it. We should not be surviving as a country on emergency power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since independence to date, we have been struggling with electricity; we inherited an emergency electricity situation and it continues till this day. If we do not take the pain to get over emergency electricity and get our own electricity, we will continue with emergency power supply for political reason; and at the end of the day, our children will also inherit emergency electricity. Today, even other countries are struggling with electricity, but these are the sacrifices we should make; these are the challenges we should consider, so that at the end of the day, if we are able to generate our own electricity, we will benefit. I am very sure that we will benefit from it, but that will be the future of Sierra Leone or our children in the next government. They will not spend all their time paying for emergency power

supply, but to sustain what is already available. They will build on the institutions that are already built.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have listened to you the Energy Lead on the radio and TV, and I want to thank you very much for the sensitisation. If we are doing all these and our people do not understand what we are doing, they will be left with doubts and their minds will be polluted and politics will come in. I want to thank you for taking the challenge to explain to the people and I want you to continue doing it. Madam Minister, please make sure you answer the questions put to you by Members of Parliament and please make sure Agreement of this nature that will enhance electricity and other services are brought to this House. We are ready to ratify them. Thank you very much.

MADAM KADIATU ALLIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me thank this House for giving me the opportunity to come before you and start this ratification process. I was here prior to this ratification process; but I am thankful that today, we are on the agenda. Let me thank the Honourable Members who have given their contributions. I want to thank Alhaji Christopher Kekura Vandy for his wealth of knowledge in the energy sector and the additional information relating to this project he has provided. He has also talked about the importance of transmission and distribution, which most times get overlooked in the process of generation. Let me also thank Honourable Tamba Kellie for his interventions on paying keen attention to renewable and the latest technology. I want you to be rest assured that this will be addressed. As we speak, the Ministry of Energy is in the process of converting some of the districts that have been using fossil fuel. In fact, Moyamba District just converted or added the solar component of 1megawatts for which His Excellency was present to commission same. The European Union [EU] has just signed the Financing Agreement for the inclusion of sixty [6] solar systems across the rural communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to thank the Honourable Abdul Kargbo for his extensive knowledge in the engineering field and also in electricity sector. He made very salient points and I want to assure you that on behalf of the Ministry of

Finance and the Ministry of Energy, all the points you have made in terms of making sure that stranded work does not happen in this project. We are going to make sure that we hire qualified and competent staff. We will also make sure that the tariff system is reviewed. I think in terms of the tariffs, one of the things that will be done is to make sure they are affordable for the rural communities is to combine different technologies. I am sure once you bring the solar, hydro and fossil fuel on the grid and the off-grid together, the cost will reduce. Also, I have been told that the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission is in the process of reviewing the rural tariff systems, so that the issue of affordability is considered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the past, we have noted the problems of procurement and those ones will be addressed. I think this first phase will be very helpful in terms of how we plan the implementation process, so that this procurement bottleneck is addressed ahead of time. In terms of funding for actual implementation, I think the Honourable Leader of Government Business has addressed it, that the ADB would be instrumental in leading the process. With regard the remaining amount of money, they will be leading that process and we are very confident that once that time comes or once we ratify this initial phase, the implementation phase will kick start and it will be done expeditiously. I think I have addressed a whole lot of issues that were raised and this project will extend to the healthcare facilities; it will extend to the schools. In terms of environmental impacts, those ones will be addressed in this first phase. This is why I cannot over emphasise the need for the initial feasibility study.

With that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to once again thank you for your attention. Mr Speaker, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreement which were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 29th May 2025:

- i. Africa Development Fund Project Preparation of Sierra Leone Rural Electricity Access Project, Republic of Sierra Leone, dated 15th January, 2025; and

- ii. the Subsidiary Grants Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone, Represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy, in the Preparation of the Sierra Leone Rural Electricity Access Project.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government Motion by the Minister of Finance has been ratified]

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I stand on S.O 23. My point relates to an issue that currently threatens the ownership of Services School at Juba. We all know that a key flagship programme of this government is human capital development; and in pursuant of that flagship programme, we must do our best as representatives of our people to ensure that the interest of every school and learning institution remains intact. This matter has been brought here before, but we thought at that stage, it would be addressed or stopped with immediate effect, but we found out that there are plans to continue to deprive Services School of the legitimate land space that it currently has. This is a matter between the administration of the Military and the school. So, taking the land from the school or taking the land from the military is a different ball game. However, taking the land from the school and give it to a private individual or institution is an insult to this very House and it is a complete disregard for the Free Quality Education Project, which is the flagship programme of this government. It is a disregard for human capital development and a disregard for human rights because it is a human rights issue. I believe this house cannot sit by and allow that to happen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the point is that if we commit it or refer the matter to the Committee on Defence and the Committee on Basic and Senior Secondary Education, there could be conflict of interest. That is why in your wisdom, you have established a Public Interest Committee and a matter like this should be referred to that Committee because it is most suitable to handle such case. If you say the Committee on Defence should take charge, the Committee on Basic and Senior Secondary Education will cry foul; and if you say the Committee of Basic and Senior Secondary Education should take charge on behalf of the school, the Committee on Defence will

cry foul. So, I believe this is the most appropriate time to handle this matter. You can invoke the Public Interest Committee to take charge of this matter and all the relevant parties should be summoned immediately. They have to tell us their justifications for taking the steps they intend to take. It is a matter of urgency; otherwise it will be too late. That is my submission Sir.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I will advise at this moment to form a joint Committee, consisting of the Committee on Defence, the Committee on Basic and Senior Secondary Education and the Committee on Lands. We are going to give them strict instructions with time lines, such as not more than four days or three weeks they should report back to this House. This is what I will suggest, instead of the Public Interest Committee. We are going to give them this responsibility and we will make sure that they work within the time line.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, I would love to state that in the circumstance the establishment of the Public Interest Committee is to give additional credence to the importance of this Parliament, and how leadership controls and manages the process through which certain issues that have to do with Section 93[4] in the Constitution are dealt with. I know how passionate the Chairman of the Committee on Defence is and I also know the passion that the Chairman of the Committee on Basic and Senior Secondary Education has. I would want to appeal to the Deputy Leader II of the Opposition for us to give the responsibility to these three Committees. I want to further add to the comment made by the Leader that the Acting Clerk of this House should formally communicate to the Chief of Defence Staff [CDS] and the Deputy Minister of Defence, instructing them to put a hold on any activity they intend to embark on until the Committee completes its work and submits its report to this House.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I would also advise that we invite the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education because the issue deals with the property of a school.

THE SPEAKER: I agree with you. Mr Clerk, please write to the CDS, the Deputy Minister of Defence and the related ministries, particularly the Ministry of Defence to put on hold any planned activity with regard the demolition of structures and the

negotiation or the award of the property of Services Secondary School to any private business person, until the joint Committee mandated by this House completes its work and present the report to this House.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, you have not stated the time line they should report to this House. It has to be done before State Opening.

THE SPEAKER: This means the joint committee should commence their work next week and they should report in the third week of July. This is because the next week is the second week and they can use the entire week to do their work.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We give them towards the end of the month; let us on the 30th of July or before the 30th of July. This will enable them to even visit the site or the school compound.

THE SPEAKER: I take it that the committees should complete their work on or before the 31st of July. The Acting Clerk should communicate to the CDS and the Ministry of Defence to put on hold any intended demolition exercise or any plan to allocate Services School land until the committees complete their work.

HON. ABUBAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23 to say, the people of Kenema District greet you in peace and solidarity. I stand here in compliance with the Public Election Act, passed by this very Honourable House in the 5th Parliament. My heart is filled with mixed emotions. All of us know about the passing away of our brother, Honourable Peter M. Moigua, who fought very hard for this party. He was a brother, a friend and a political reformer. He served this country with passion, dedication and unwavering commitments. His advocacy for education, his tireless work for community development will continue to inspire us all. I want to assure the people of Kenema District and the country as a whole that I will uphold the Constitution of this nation. I want to assure my people of Kenema District that I will represent them well and I will continue the good work of my past hero, Honourable Peter M. Moigua. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to say these few words regarding the passing

friend and a colleague, whom I am here today to represent or to replace him under the PR Act that was enacted in the last Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for reintroducing himself to the House and I am sure he can attest that this House is completely different from the House he left some two years ago. Now, the House gives opportunity to everybody and you can make your contribution as freely as possible, but we are working consciously as a team; we work in unison for the progress, development and for the prosperity of our country. Honourable Abdel Osman Timbo has summoned a meeting to speak to SLPP MPs, but APC MPs can also attend because it is a shared concern.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 12:45 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 15th July 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]