

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

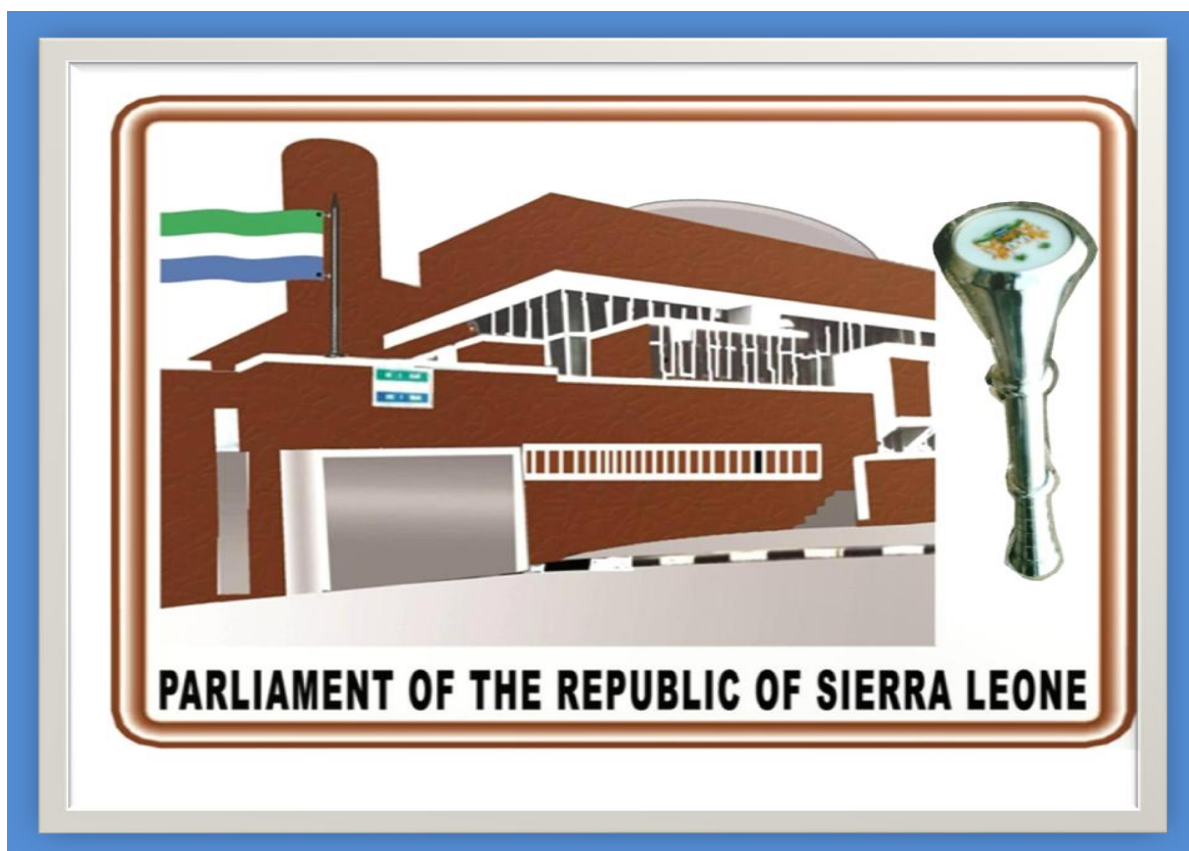
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 11th March 2025

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY 11TH MARCH 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Madam Sam-Kpakara, read the prayer]

[The House met at 10:35 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to amend the Order Paper thus, items II, IV and V be deleted from the Order Paper. Items IV is now item V and item V becomes item VI. I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. EMILIA L. TONGI: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]

CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 6th March 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1-4 and start with Page 5. Do you have any comments or corrections to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? If there are no comments or corrections, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held n Thursday, 6th March 2025 as presented?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. IDRIS SAHID KAMARA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put & Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 6th, March 2025 has been adopted as presented]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: There is no announcement, Honourable Members.

PAPER LAID

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MR TAMBA LAMINA [Minister of Local Government]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers:

The Freetown City Council Solid and Liquid Wastes Collection Bylaws, 2024

Local Government Act, 2022, Act No. 26 of 2022
Statutory Instrument No. 14 of 2024

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker and colleagues. After consultation with the Ministry and the Freetown City Council Management team, we are in doubt of such Clauses in the Statutory Instrument number 14 of 2024. The Minister is here and we have been able to talk to the Freetown City Council Management team to clarify the Statutory Instrument No. 14 of 2024, Pages 6 and 7. I am sure based on our previous consultations, I want to believe that the drafters, in their right senses, wanted us to leave it like that and we have done it in consultation with the Opposition.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: I rise on S. O 25. Mr Speaker, considering the importance of the waste management in the city and the rules or the bylaws that the FCC is trying to put in place, which are expected to impact our people, I rise to give a notice of Motion, so that these rules can be debated.

BILL

THE COUNTER TERRORISM ACT, 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICES

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE]

Part 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 stand part of the Bill.

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH [*Attorney General and Minister of Justice*]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 stand part of the Bill.

Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 Proposed.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Roman 1? Roman 2? Roman 3? Roman 4? Page 1? The short and long titles? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? Page 14? Page 15?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Page 15.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: This is about the addition we made under the Counter-Terrorism Bill, where we added 'the early warning system and response.' Let me just give you the right rendition. It says that 'the Executive Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Center to be added.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which letter is that, Honourable Member?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Now, it could be the last letter on Page 15.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which one exactly? Are you referring to letter 'O'?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman. It is also going to letter 'P' because we also added the Nuclear Safety Radiation Authority as part of the report. However, this one was not part of the report and it was what I moved the other day that we needed to add.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, we all know. So, you are referring to letters 'O' and 'P'?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Absolutely, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, letter 'O' is what?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Well, that was already in the report and we did not need to add it because the previous 'N' became 'O' which is National Ambulance and Emergency Services.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are we deleting the 'N'?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: No, Mr Chairman. We added a new 'N' in that particular order. We added the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Authority to come before the National Ambulance and Emergency Services.

THE CHAIRMAN: Therefore, the National Ambulance and Emergency Services becomes 'O'?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes sir and 'O' becomes 'P,' which deals with the Executive Director of Early Warning System and Response Mechanisms.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Clerk, please take note. So, the new 'N' is what?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: The new 'N' is the National Ambulance and Emergency Services.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that is O now.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, O. The new N is Nuclear Safety and Radiation Authority.

THE CHAIRMAN: And 'P' now becomes what?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: 'P' becomes the Early Warning System and Response Mechanisms.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the title?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: The title is the Executive Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Center.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Again, Mr Chairman, just the manner in which we left the Well, you have made a few additions, but we added the Early Warning System and Response Mechanisms twice. I am sure it was done on Page 9.

THE CHAIRMAN: Somewhere on Page 9?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will find out as we move along. Please bring it to my notice.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Okay, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 15? Page 16?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Mr Chairman, it is on Page 16 we have to address the issue that was brought to our attention by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, where we need to add the exception clause. We needed some modifications and we have done that, subject to plenary approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you shared that with the Opposition?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Well, he is aware and he even took the lead.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you aware, Mr Deputy Leader of the Opposition?

HON. DAINEL B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman, I am aware. As the Leader of Government Business said we agreed that there were several models that should be adopted verbatim. We have done that and I gave him a copy of that model this morning. We found out that the first page is almost the same with Clause 12[2] and the exception clause will now form Clause 12[3], and then clause 12[3] now becomes clause 12[4]. The exception Clause in this West African model now becomes Clause 12[3] and then the present Clause 12[3] in respect of offences and penalties becomes Clause 12[4]. and then the exception Clause is as follows, at least for the attention of other Honourable Members. Therefore, the exception clause says, 'notwithstanding the definition of terrorist act above or in any other provision of this Act or any other law, it shall not be considered a terrorist act if an act described in 'Paragraphs A to H' is the result of one advocacy to protest through dissent for industrial action. There is a proviso which says, 'provided that or any similar motive shall not be considered for any reason, including for the purpose of prosecution or extradition to be a justifiable defence in respect of any offence of which the definition of terrorist act forms an integral part. This is the provision, Mr Chairman. So, we have agreed for it to form Clause 12[3] and 12[3] now becomes 12[4].

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that okay with you?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman. This was the agreement because it was to be taken verbatim.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, is that okay with you?

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you shared that with the Minister?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: I will give her a copy, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Give the Minister a copy now. Madam Minister, please look at it quickly. The Leader of the Opposition should now move.

HON. DAINEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I move that Page 17, Clause 12[3] becomes Clause 12[4] and the exception Clause in the West Africa Model as agreed by both parties now becomes Clause 12[3] and Clause 12[3] now becomes Clause 12[4].

THE CHAIRMAN: Any seconder?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: I so second, Mr Chairman.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Motion moved by the Deputy Leader 1 of the Opposition has been carried]

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 17? Page 18? Page 19? Page 20? Page 21? Page 22? Page 23? Page 24? Page 25? Page 26? Page 27? Page 28? Page 29? Page 30? Page 31? Page 32? Page 33? Page 34? Page 35? Page 36?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, as you can see from the report, it was deleted and we are not going to reinstate it because in the Financial Intelligence Act, which has to do with financial terrorism and the proliferation of... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, please move.

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 form part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Part 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 formed part of the Bill as amended]

Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 44 to 71 stand part of the Bill

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 44 to 71 stand part of the Bill.

Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 44 to 71 Proposed

THE SPEAKER: Page 36? Page 37? Page 38? Page 39? Page 40? Page 41? Page 42? Page 43? Page 44? Page 45? Page 46? Page 47? Page 48? Page 49? Page 50? Page 51? Page 52?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Pages 52 and 53. I do not know if you want to look at it.

THE CHAIRMAN: 52 to 53?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman.

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 44 to 71 form part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 44 to 71 formed part of the Bill as amended]

[The House resumes]

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister, please report on the Bill.

MADAM SAPTIEU ELIZABETH SACCOH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, 'The Counter Terrorism Act, 2024 having gone through the Committee of the whole House with amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

'The Bill entitled, 'The Counter Terrorism Act, 2024 being an Act to provide for the establishment of the National Counter Terrorism Coordination Committee to provide for offences of terrorism and terrorism related matters, to provide for enforcement measures and terrorist funds and other assets to provide for the prohibition of financial support to terrorism and to provide for other related matters has been read the third time and passed into law.'

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11:10 a.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 13th March, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]