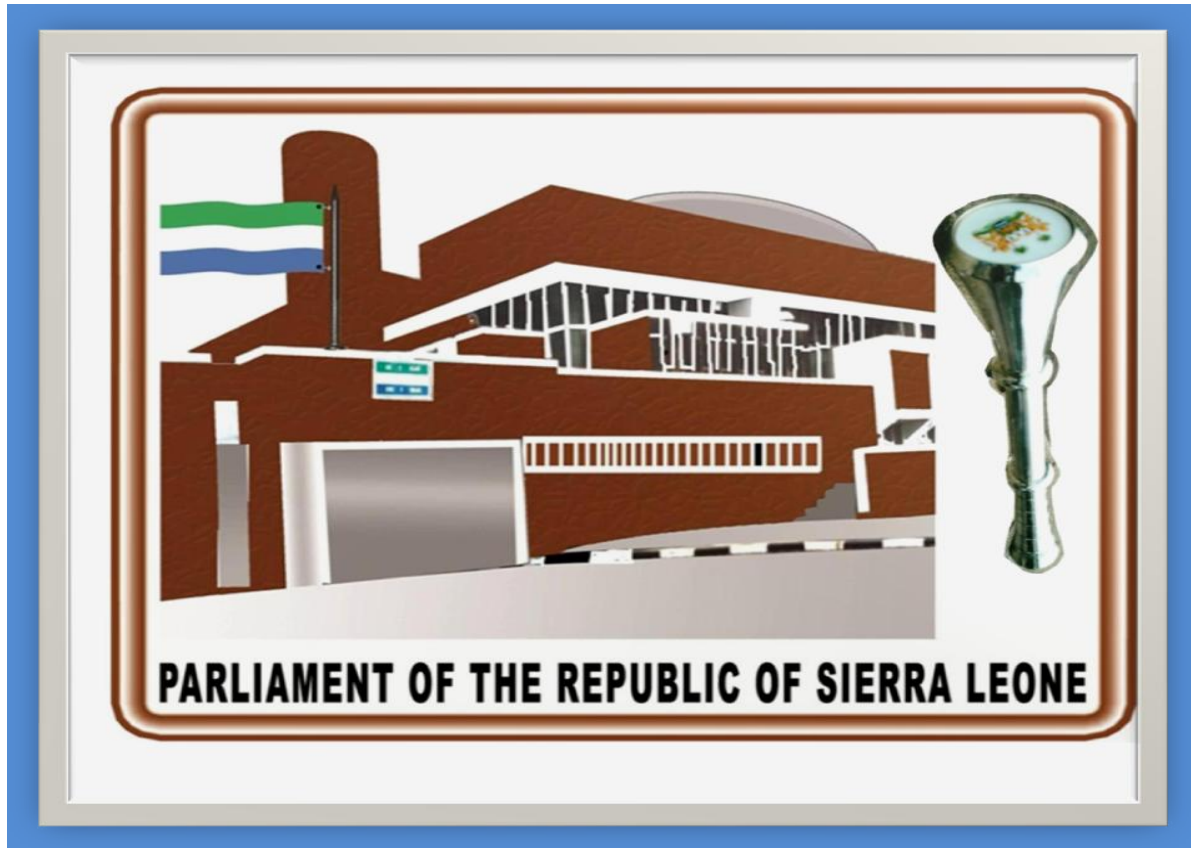


**POSL/Dept/Hansard/Vol. 1, No.62/18/7/2024**



***OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN***

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

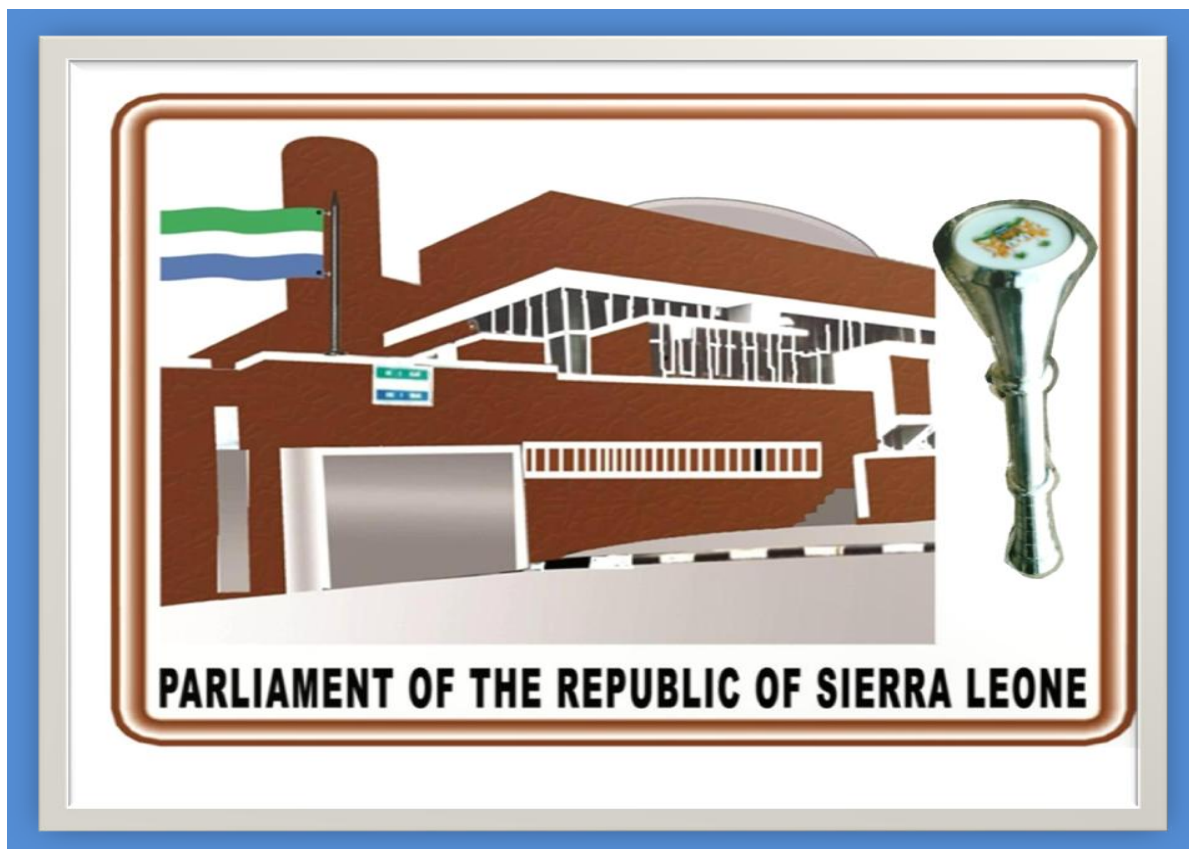
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

***SESSION – 2023/2024***



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 24**

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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 Thursday 18<sup>TH</sup> July, 2024

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## **CONTENTS**

### **1. PRAYERS**

### **2. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY 16TH JULY 2024**

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

### **4. LAYING OF PAPER**

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
FIRST REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY

OVERSIGHT REPORT ON REVENUE MOBILISATION AND PROCUREMENT IN  
EIGHT (8) LOCAL COUNCILS ACROSS SIERRA LEONE, JULY 2024.

#### **5. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

##### **A. 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 TUESDAY  
16TH JULY 2024

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES FISCAL STABILISATION AGREEMENT FOR LARGE-  
SCALE MINING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE AND CTC  
MINING (SL) LTD., DATED 11TH JULY 2024.

##### **B. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING  
AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON TUESDAY  
28TH MAY, THURSDAY 24TH JUNE, AND TUESDAY 16TH JULY 2024  
RESPECTIVELY.

[i] AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE FOR AIR  
SERVICES BETWEEN AND BEYOND THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES, DATED  
23RD OCTOBER 2014.

[ii] BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, DATED 3RD DECEMBER 2023

[iii] BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, 2023.

[iv] MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AERONAUTICAL OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AND THE AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, DATED 6TH DECEMBER 2023.

[v] AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, DATED 26TH DECEMBER 2013.

[vi] AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DATED 5TH DECEMBER 2023.

[vii] ADMINISTRATIVE PACKAGE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING ARTICLE 50 (A) OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, DATED 6TH OCTOBER 2016.

(viii) ADMINISTRATIVE PACKAGE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING ARTICLE 56 OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, DATED 6TH OCTOBER 2016.



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

## **Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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

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**THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mr Gilbert Bosco N'habay, read the Prayers]*

*[The House met at 10:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

**RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, as usual we skip pages one to four. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? In the absence of any other amendment can a Member move the Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2024?

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** I so move Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. ABDUL LATIFF SESAY:** I so second.

***[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]***

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 has been adopted]

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** There is no announcement but what I will do is that I will stand the House down for 10 minutes.

**THE HOUSE STOOD DOWN AT 10:20 A.M.**

**THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 10:45 A.M.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we have had a very good conversation with the Leadership of the two political parties in the House and unfortunately it is an oversight and something I will have to correct next time when we have conversations like this we should include the Paramount Chiefs because they are also in the House. Where is the Leader of Government Business? We will have to wait for the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that we amend the Order Paper to expunge Roman figure 5 and B now becomes the A with the following Roman figure.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. DANIEL KOROMA:** I so second Mr Speaker.

***[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]***

[Motion of amending the Order Paper by the Acting Leader of Government Business has been carried]

**THE SPEAKER:** What is the next item? Please move to the next item.

**GOVERNMENT MOTION**

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**

**MR REX BONAPHA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 respectively.

1. Agreement between the Government of the United Arab Emirate and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for air services between and beyond their respective territories dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.
2. Bilateral Agreement service between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
3. Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of Sierra Leone 2023.
4. Memorandum of understanding between the Aeronautical Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Aeronautical Authority of Sierra Leone dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
5. Air Services Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Singapore dated 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013.
6. Air Transport between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Czech Republic dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
7. Administrative Package for Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 50[A] of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

8. Administrative Package for the Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Chicago Convention of 1944 establishes the International Civil Aviation Commission [ICAO] responsible for fostering, the planning and development of international air transport and international civil aviation. Over the following years [ICAO] developed a series of traffic light known as the freedom of the air. These freedoms continued to form the basis of lights exchange in air service negotiations today. National Government must continue to always negotiate new Treaties to allow international aviation to grow and to expand their careers. Access to new and emerging market, the bilateral system has allowed international aviation to grow into a vibrant industry. It is a sure path to legalizing the air transport sector in the circumstance we should note that these Agreements are at low financial cost to Government and the people of Sierra Leone but rather facilitate air transport and its intended economic benefits to improve on the efficiency of supply chains to enable investment and labour supply in and out of the country and region referred to as spill over effect. Though bilateral air service Agreement contains provision on traffic light the route airlines can fly including cities and can be seen within and beyond the bilateral partners as the case maybe.

Mr Speaker, capacity is the number of flights that can be operated or passengers that can be carried between the bilateral partners. Designation, ownership and control of the number of Airlines the bilateral partners can nominate to operate services and the ownership criteria Airlines must meet to designate under the bilateral Agreement. Operational flexibility, each designated airlines may operate flight in either or both directions cooperative arrangement that is in operative or authorized services on the agreed grounds. A designated airline of one state party may enter into comparative marketing arrangement such as co-sharing etc. Competition rules, third party shall ensure fair opportunity on no discriminatory basis as such over the years the State of Sierra Leone has initially



the following bilateral services Agreement which I now submit for your due consideration and ratification.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this House on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 respectively.

1. Agreement of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for Air Services between and beyond their respective territories dated 23 August 2014.
2. Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dated 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.
3. Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of the federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone 2023.
4. Memorandum of understanding between the Aeronautical Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Aeronautical Authority of Sierra Leone dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
5. Air Transport Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Singapore dated 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
6. Air Transport between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Czech Republic dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.
7. Administrative Package for Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 50[A] of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.
8. Administrative Package for Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 56 of the Convention on International and Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question I will want to draw the attention of the Minister, if you go through the list of Agreements that he has read you

will realize that we still have Agreements that were entered into or either ratified at the point of signing dated 2016 and 2014. So if there are other Agreement related to air services that we have entered into please bring them to the House so that we can ratify them because as a country we also have obligation to ensure that once we sign up to international Treaties and Agreements they are brought to this House as provided by the Constitution and this House gives the due seal of approval for it to be operational.

### **[QUESTION PROPOSED]**

**HON. AMBROSE MAADA LEBBY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Transport and Aviation and the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those of us who were in this House in the Fifth Parliament we realised that the later part of the life span of that Parliament we ratified Conventions of such nature about 26 of them were brought to this House for ratification. So of these Instruments, Sierra Leone signed to as a member State were laid on our shelves gathering dust. But thankfully enough for the forward thinking Director General of the National Civil Aviation the former and now the present one they are doing extremely well in ensuring we ratify these Instruments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the bilateral air services Agreements are straight forward based on international standards and regulated by the international Civil Aviation Authority [ICAO]. So for all the Agreements, the bilateral Agreements they are all similar the only advantage depends on what the members, the parties put together or what they desire at that given time but in essence I want to state to this House that these Agreements are not controversial and ICAO regulates their operations. We all heard from the Minister of Transport and Aviation which he has expressed to this House that if these Agreements are ratified they will boost international trade, they will boost tourism, they will boost air transportation system, and will enhance corporation between the two countries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you take a look at the two Conventions, Chicago Conventions Article 50 and Article 56 are the two Conventions we are ratifying today.

The Air Navigation Commission made an amendment to increase the number of its membership. The initial Amendment they did to this document was in 1971 to increase the membership from 19 to 21. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are ratifying this document that was signed in October 2016 by the then Minister of Transport. Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, let me also draw your attention to Article 50 that states Air Navigation Commission the size of the Council from 26 members to 4. So this is what we are ratifying here and it has no financial implication, we are going into this Agreement with no financial obligation to the State.

Mr Speaker, let us not waste the time of the Minister here and let us not waste our own time in discussing these documents because they are straight forward and I therefore call on Members on both side of the aisles to speedily ratify these Agreements so that we can start enjoying the goodies in these Agreements. Mr Speaker, the Air Service Agreement will bring to this country especially at the time when Sierra Leone is now moving towards the issuance of air operator certificate. You know we were blacklisted by the EU. So we are in the process of ensuring that we are removed from that blacklist. This can only be achieved if we ratify some of these Conventions that we signed up to and then we start issuing air operator certificate. These are all international civil aviation conditionalities. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on you all to let us speedily ratify these Agreements, thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman, Honourable Kellie I do not want to give you the Floor.

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Mr Speaker, I thank you very much. I agreed with my Honourable friend that these Agreements are not controversial. However, it is air transport bilateral Agreements whereby landing rights are granted as aspect of international Treaties. Mr Speaker, for us to benefit we need to have aircraft so an effective compliment of these Agreements is serious effort on our part to own at least one aircraft in the absent of that literally we are serving that aspect of preparation of trade for other countries. I agreed it is not a complicated arrangement and it is done within the framework of ICAO but it is really a personal contract because air transport

contract between the two countries are done within the framework and of course taking cognisance of the relevance of the provisions of the relevance international Treaty. We will ratify but we should also take note of the fact that until we make serious effort to earn at least one aircraft there is no way we are going to benefit. Mr Speaker, I agreed we should speedily ratify but let also bear in mind that for us to maximize profit from these Agreements we need to have an aircraft capable of taking advantage of the rental services otherwise we seek the economic severity in that area to other countries.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Kellie that is a very good submission and we hope as we continue to strive as a nation we would have an aircraft of our own that would also generate revenue for us in other countries otherwise we are ratifying these for other countries and other aircrafts landing in Sierra Leone. However, the task component related to it is additional tax revenue to our bottom line but your point is well noted and I am sure the Minister is taking note.

**HON. EMELIA LOLLOH TONGI:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. We have been actually ratifying a lot of Agreements on the spot without debating lengthily simply because we think they are not controversial but sometimes I think we need the Committee of Legislative to be involved in those Agreements because we actually do not go through them. If you look through there is no direct flight from Freetown to London or to United States but we need at least to have a direct flight from Freetown to a specific destination to Europe or the United States of America. We do not know actually the in depth of all these Agreements and sometimes it could lead to some regret and I think it is good to have a lot of aircrafts because it increases work opportunities in the country. These are some of the things we need to look into, to have a direct flight because we go through a lot to get to our final destinations and they are coming on and on and lot of aircrafts are now here and let us see if we can get direct flight among all those that are coming to our country. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Emelia Lolloh Tongi. Honourable Latiff do you want to attract my attention? Is the Honourable from Lumley in the

building? He is not? He always has preference whenever I am presiding the Honourable from Lumley always has my preference.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a situation today in which the Honourable from Kono has made it clear for all of us to understand that such an Agreement of this nature is more beneficial to us when we have our own aircraft and Mr Minister if you look at our price for flight tickets around the sub-region we pay more than almost all other countries. I think it is high time as a Minister of Transport and Aviation you started engaging international partners to understand that our country is no more in the threat zone and we must be removed from that zone where we can also afford tickets like Guinea and Liberia. We have more passengers here compared to even Liberia but our ticket in Sierra Leone is very expensive to the point that even people now leave Sierra Leone to travel through Guinea. I think that should also be a very important concern for us as a nation and it should be dealt with by you Mr Minister. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I agree with you I think I should also draw the attention of the House that currently if you want to fly from Sierra Leone you would hardly find a flight all the flights are completely full which means Sierra Leoneans have also started inculcating the culture of travelling. So it is also important that we strive towards been removed from this list so that our ticket prices can go down and Honourable Latiff will travel instead of going to Port Loko he would now go to the U.S.A.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, today we have document laid on this Table to be ratified an Agreement that is very important to this country. But the reason why I actually decided to add my voice to this particular document is that my Colleagues are talking about owning an aircraft. To own an aircraft it is not like buying 'keke or okada' because it has its own cost implications.

**THE SPEAKER:** What I will want you to understand is that as a nation we must have aspirations for us as a country and we must embrace it that we need to have our own aircraft.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** I certainly agree with that but I am just laying a premise that the cost implication involves in that to have an aircraft. When you start an engine of an aircraft it is reported to the manufacturers and it is observed on the radar and the cost involves in all of that.

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** Can I observe for a moment please?

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a Point of Order from one of the 'mamas' in the House.

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** Mr Speaker, I just want to clarify something because sometimes age is very important I may be very old but perhaps I have every right to bring to your mind for those of you who do not know that Sierra Leone used to have an aircraft.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you debating?

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** I am not debating I just want to make some thing clear and believe you me I am saying this objectively with no politics attached but we used to have an aircraft.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, a Leader is speaking from a Point of Order.

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** I have almost concluded. I said I just wanted to bring to this House or to bring to mind for those who do not know that Sierra Leone used to have an aircraft, and I am not saying this with any politics attached but I just want the House to know. So what I am trying to say I want to allude to what you are saying, it is not impossible for us to have an aircraft.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Thank you very much Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Member from Bo. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, it is not impossible for us to own an aircraft but what I am saying like what

the Honourable Member from Bo said we used to have an airline which was changed from one name to another but we also have to be careful when we suggest to the Minister that we have to do this and we have to prepare ourselves so that when we have the opportunity to have such it has to be scrupulously observed and it has to be carefully taken into management terms so that we will match up with Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia. We could maximize profit, we could make use of the landing permission to other countries otherwise if tomorrow we have an airline, we have a landing Agreement to certain nations that we are able to use the run ways so that we use for the purpose of our airline. But let us also have in mind that when we are striving for such as a nation we should also bear in mind that we have to do it with sincerity. It is good but there are huge cost implications to it and therefore it has to go with discipline. You should not tolerate any form of nepotism, favouritism or any order from above that this ticket must be issued to this particular one. So therefore, I ask Colleague Members of Parliament that we endorse and we approve these Agreements. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** So we are rounding up now, Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the Minister of Transport and Aviation based on my observation for the past three or four months I have seen that he has proven himself to be one of the most innovative Ministers. I also want to thank his team in the Ministry and even the aviation industry. What is before us now as rightly stated by you with reference to the date is a clear manifestation that the Mamama Project that has now be put on hold was a good project. Some of these Agreements signed at that time were geared towards full time preparation for the functioning of the Mamama Project and I agreed with the Honourable Member from Kono 100% but as it is now we have ignored the continuity aspect of governance in terms of our aviation industry. I will tell you for free that if Mamama Project had continued it would have been completed by now.

**HON. DICKSON MOMOH ROGERS:** Mr Speaker Point of Order.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will want the Leader to conclude.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, if the Mamama Project had been continued it would have been completed in the Fifth Parliament and by the start of this Sixth Parliament the second term of His Excellency the President this particular time would have been harvesting stage and the ground would have been more prepared for establishment of the Sierra National Airlines [SNA] that has gone into comma for many years would come to life. An airline of a particular nation can operate up to six planes. All you need is bilateral agreement with those industries and then you will be supplied based on the agreement. In fact, I am not even sure that if you are even prepared to resurrect our darling Sierra National Airlines that used to operate in this country and Sierra Leone used to have internal aviation system. We used to have air taxis multiple ones from Freetown to Portloko, to Kabala, to Yengema, to Kenema and to Bo apart from international ones. They were all over the country, so the question is what went wrong? Those systems have all gone into comma and Mr Minister is here to see if he can resurrect them. I see your good intentions Mr Minister and I want to commend you for that for now I cannot say you are my best Minister of this First Session of the Sixth Parliament I cannot say for now, I will hold on for a while but you made a very good candidate for being my best Minister this First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister's action by bringing this document for ratification I think the real defence now he should make is for you to serve as a wake-up call to say enough is enough, we do not need direct cost to operate an airline, all we need is political wing and then we have bilateral agreement with those giant companies they can do it for us. I want to urge this Government since we are at the early part of this Sixth Parliament to reconsider the decision in respect of Mamama Airport, having more than one airport in a country can be no way a bad policy for any country in other countries they have three to four airports and that creates more employments and it creates more revenues. In my opinion Mamama Airport can never be political, it is for this country.



Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note I want to join my Colleagues to say that these Agreements are by no means controversial. In fact, they are long overdue but we should not be only seeing ratifying such Agreement but we should position ourselves in a way that we can maximize profit. We can maximize the benefit and the best way to harvest from the goodies of these Agreements is to have our own airline. We can have it and do not say we do not have money because with just partnership we can have it Sir. So thank you very much Mr Minister, I commend you for all you have done for the past one month or so with a flying heart and with four, five, six of your kind I think this Government is bound to succeed. We are here to support you in this strive and on that note I urge my Colleague Members of Parliament to speedily ratify these Agreements because they are long overdue but above all let us position ourselves to have maximum benefit from these Agreements rather than allowing others to benefit. I think that is not enough, it is a start but it is not enough. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Leader of the Opposition. He has made very salient points and I am sure the Minister is taking due notes and as a nation we have to come together to seek some of these old recommendations and try to get ourselves in the conversation with other countries around the sub region like Gambia, Senegal and even Ghana. Few years ago they were behind us today they are far ahead of us so we need to come together and look at what went wrong and how we are going to fix them so that we would make Sierra Leone great again.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I raised on a Point of Order but you said I should give it to the Leader of the Opposition. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most times we are on international platforms because sometimes those debates are live there we need to make some clarification and correction. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to say that this Government supposed to continue with the Mamama Airport I beg to disagree because there was nothing about that Mamama Airport because if it was started and we abandoned it then it will be right to say we are supposed to continue it but nothing was done that is one. Secondly, it was a proposal and as a responsible

Government we looked into that proposal and we found out that, we do not need an airport of that nature. Thirdly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us in this country for those of us above 50 years we know that we used to have Sierra National Airlines but all of us also know how that Airlines ended this is not something we need to open debate on to say we did not maintain as a Government, it is not true because by the time we came to power there was no Sierra National Airlines in this country. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Chief Whip your point is well noted, Leader of Government Business.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate and Mr Minister thank you very much I noticed in the last Parliament you have brought in bilateral Agreements we signed with other countries dated way back in the Sixties and Seventies. You are bringing Agreements dated way back in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2023 like the Speaker said we hope you will bring all Agreements that have been signed on behalf of this country so that we would matching up with the time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, bringing bilateral Agreement in the area of aviation is very good and the Honourable Members have said if we have an airline running we will also earn the benefit but we are doing this with a vision as a country that in the future we have our own airline we would have a lot of airlines that will be flying in other countries that would help us to maximize profit. Today, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we noticed in the past we only have one or two airlines and flights to Sierra Leone but in the recent time we can now boast of Ethiopia Airlines and plenty other airways that are coming. Mr Speaker, before now it has been said clearly that we used to have our own internal air flight but Mr Minister I noticed of late they have encroached on all of these air fields. If you go to Bo, Kenema, Mile 91, Masiaka, Makeni and even in Freetown but today you would notice that huge buildings are going on there. We should also bear the fact that we are signing these Agreements we should also be buying lands so that with a vision we would create new Airport.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of the urge for us to have an airline we had Fly Sierra Leone in the last dispensation we were in this Parliament the Honourable Daniel Koroma knows we used to have Fly Sierra Leone that used to transit from here to other places but today we do not have that, that one existed for barely 2 to 3 months. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Minister you need to consider our Sierra National Airlines, let us have our own airline whether or not we have planes or not let it come into reality. We also hope that this Agreement will bring more planes to Sierra Leone and we could not just sign in because some of these Agreements have been signed in 2013, 2014 and 2016. We want to see more bigger airlines in this country because we used to have KLM coming to Sierra Leone flying directly to America from here to America is the shortest in fact it spends seven to eight hours if we have a direct flight from Lungi to America. Today we have to go through Turkey, Brussels, or Ghana that is extremely cumbersome for us to travel.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I want to thank the Minister for bringing this document we hope this document will be acted upon. We should also be proactive we know it is difficult but as a country we used to have an airline it is still not late. Mr Speaker thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much the Acting Leader of Government Business for such a wonderful submission.

**MR REX BONAPHA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members let me use this opportunity to thank all of you for making such a laudable and nationalistic contributions to this paper I must confess here that I am moved by the passion Honourable Members have manifested here. I agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that it is no crime for us to aspire as a nation for greater good that is exactly what we are doing as a Ministry. We want to make sure we bring this Agreement to this Parliament so that it has the legal backing for us to go into negotiation with organisations and other countries so that we can eventually own our own airline that is what we want to achieve before we leave office and we will spare no effort in ensuring that we have that before we leave by the special grace of God. As already said by Members in the House we continue to bring

these Agreements because that is the more reason why these Agreements are here, so we have the legitimacy, the platform to negotiate with other countries and other Airlines to make Sierra Leone en route to England or America as the case maybe. I agreed that we can only maximize profit or benefit out of these Agreements if we are to own our own airline. It may be difficult but what I can assure this House is as latest as last week we had been having conversation with people who are interested in investing in the aviation industry in Sierra Leone. We want to make sure we do the needful before we bring such Agreement before you here in Parliament and very soon you will see us here again standing here with such Agreement. The Acting Leader of Government Business made mention of internal aviation, it is sad as a country that we have allowed ourselves or allowed those airfields to be encroached upon by our own very people either as a result of lawlessness, indiscipline or greed as the case maybe. It is unfortunate but we are making every effort to retrieve the ones that we can still retrieve for example I can say here with no doubt in mind that Yengema Airfield is 100% intact, Hastings you can say is almost gone, Bo is gone, Kenema we have about 60% intact, Tongo is gone, and Bonthe is 100% intact. But what we are now doing, we are identifying additional land in between for example Magburaka and Makeni to have an airfield that will service this two communities. We are doing the same for Bo and Kenema. Like somebody mentioned Government is not oblivious of these challenges we are aware they exist but the good news is that there is political wing to fight further and to look beyond your standing that is what we are doing.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the debate by and large like you said all of you have alluded to this document that is not controversial at all.

Therefore Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday 28 May, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 respectively:

- i. Agreement between the Government of the United Arab Emirate and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for Air Services between and beyond their respective territories dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.

- ii. Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dated 12 December 2023.
- iii. Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of Sierra Leone 2023.
- iv. Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Authority of Sierra Leone dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- v. Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Singapore dated 6 December 2013.
- vi. Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of Czech Republic dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- vii. Administrative Package for Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 50(A) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- viii. Administrative Package and Ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 56 of the Convention on International and Civil Aviation dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question I would like to recognise the Honourable Dominic Shomba, I think he has gone out.

***[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]***

***[Government Motion by the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation has been ratified]***

**THE SPEAKER:** Can we accommodate the laying of paper by the Chief Whip? Mr Minister you are to go.

**PAPER LAID**

**THE CHAIRMAN**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Sorry Sir, for neatness of procedure we should have amended the Order Paper for the record we need to amend the Order Paper, I think Honourable Bashiru Silikie I asked you to amend the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** He has amended the Order Paper; he was not here at the time when ruled. I did not rule that the item be expunged; my ruling was we proceed with the items on the Order Paper so we may not need to adjourn.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the Committee on Transparency was funded 100% by Parliament and I must proffer my gratitude to the Members of the Committee and by extension thank the Opposition Members of this Committee because they gave me their 100% support. On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to lay before this House the First Report of the Sixth Parliament of the Transparency and Accountability Committee:

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability over certain Report on Revenue Mobilization and Procurement in eight Local Councils across Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me report to this House that almost most of the Local Councils are adhering to transparency issues. I will say thank you to this House and I must report to the Leader of Government Business who happens to be our Leader of Delegation to EU-ACP Parliament. I am glad to inform this House that the EU funded project to Local Councils were properly implemented and we are very proud as a Committee when we went to EU projects. A case study is the Kenema District Council, we even suggested that the report on Kenema District Council be disseminated and a copy sent to the Chief Minister, so we can use that as a stepping stone to tell the EU that this Government is not misusing their monies in implementing their projects. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are so happy for some of us coming from those Districts that the benefit of those EU programs is for our people is very enormous therefore I want to call on this House for us to continue the support to Local Councils because they are now doing better than they were before. On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to lay on the Table of this House the first

Report of the Sixth Parliament on Parliamentary Committee on Transparency and Accountability.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, the last time we have given budget for oversight functions and Mr Speaker made a ruling about the Report. We have only received one Report that has been laid today the other Reports are yet to come. But if I do not receive Report before we go for recess it will be at the peril of the Chairmen. Because I asked the Speaker to notify the House which he did and Members here think they can do anything they feel like doing but I am sending notice again that if I do not get all the Reports I have the database on those that have been given monies for oversight. If they fail to bring their Reports to this Chamber it will be at their own peril. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Leader of Government Business has spoken he who has ears let them hear. So if you are a Chairman today if you fail to bring your Report to the House you should not expect to be Chairman tomorrow.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2024 AT**

**10:00 A.M.**

**THE HOUSE ROSE AT 11:50 A.M.**

