



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –SECOND MEETING**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 2021**

*SESSION – 2020/2021*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

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Second Meeting of the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament  
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.

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THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

G-BLOCKS 96, 97, 114, 115, 116, 117, 133, 134 AND 135. INNOSON OIL AND GAS [SL] LTD, PETROLEUM LICENCE NO. 001/20

### **V. PETITION**



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

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

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### **THIRD SESSION – SECOND MEETING OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mr Prince Oviasuyi, Read the Prayers]*

*[The House met at 10:40 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY HELD ON THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. As usual, we shall skip pages 1, 2, 3, and 4. We start with Page 5. Honourable Members, do you have amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Page 8. It should be Honourable Bashiru Silikie, Acting Leader of Government Business, Constituency 29, Bo District and not Kono.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 9? Page 10? If there is no other correction, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 as amended?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. HINDOLO T. SANDY:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 has been adopted as amended]*

**III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina, Leader of the C4C, you are the Chairman of a particular Committee that was set up to investigate an issue relating to water pollution, particularly in the constituency of Honourable Jebbeh Alice Kumabeh. Do we have the report now because I have not seen it on the Order Paper? Do you want to update this House, instead?

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, the Special Select Committee that was formed to investigate water pollution around the Tiaiee River was planned, but we realised that the funds were not disbursed as early as expected. However, the Committee was divided into two and the report is ready. The only mistake we did was that it has not reached the Speaker as at the time of preparing the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is okay, Honourable Member.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** The Report is now in the various pigeon holes of Members of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** So are we sure that by the next adjourned date the report will be before this House?

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Member.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** My pleasure, Mr Speaker.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** That Committee cannot be underestimated because only few days ago people from my constituency came and said that a group of Ghanaians were mining there. I cannot tell what they were mining, but in the process of mining, the entire Rokel River is being polluted. This means that other areas will also suffer. So, this is what the Member of Parliament is suffering from and I think this Committee should be more proactive and begin to work because this is a very important issue which we should address without delay.

**THE SPEAKER:** I totally agree with you, Honourable Member. This particular matter must be treated with the utmost seriousness it deserves. Honourable Members, this particular item is the Speaker's announcement. I am only trying to ask a few questions. Please let us not turn this into a debate.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, it is not a debate because I also wish that we go through this item very quickly. However, it is unfortunate to hear the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo reporting about a Ghanaian mining company in the area he

mentioned. I am sure this issue was reported to him by one of his constituents. I am certain that this is becoming a habit for contractors or companies to go to the constituencies of Member of Parliament without informing them. We have said this over and over in this House *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, it takes nothing from a Minister to tell the company that when they go to any constituency, they should contact the Member of Parliament representing that constituency and inform him/her about what they are doing there. I think we have to enforce this because Members of Parliament are not respected at all. How can a company operate in a constituency without making reference to the Member of Parliament representing that area? Mr Speaker, they are undermining the authority of Members of Parliament *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Your point is noted. Honourable Deputy Leader of Government Business, you were also placed in charge of a Committee for the investigation of buildings under bridges. What have you got to tell us?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have two assignments, but we are writing the report on one relating to the roads and that report will be tabled in the next adjourned date. Mr Speaker, on the issue relating to buildings under the bridges, we have scheduled a date to visit those areas on Monday, together with the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] and the Ministry of Works.

**THE SPEAKER:** When do we get the report?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** The next adjourned date. Mr Speaker, in line with what the Chief Whip said, I think we have problem with the paramount chiefs because no mining company can go to a constituency without the full knowledge of the paramount chiefs. I am certain that a lot of Members of Parliament have issues with their paramount chiefs. Therefore, we should move a Motion that whenever the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources or its officials want to send mining companies to our various constituencies, they should also do due diligence by writing letters to the Members of Parliament as they do to the paramount chiefs. We have to be involved as Members of Parliament. We have had situations whereby when mining companies entered our constituencies and met with the paramount chiefs, they would start mining without informing

Members of Parliament. We had no clue of what was happening and when issues came up, we as representatives are obliged to bring these issues up to Government. Sometimes we are constrained to talk about something you have no knowledge of. So, we should also move a Motion that the Ministry should write to us as they do to the paramount chiefs, introducing every mining company that goes to our communities. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, before I allow one of the paramount chiefs to respond to what you have just said, I would want the Chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources to get the Minister of Mines and the National Minerals Agency [NMA] to ensure that whenever they send mining companies to communities, they should involve Members of Parliament.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, it is unfortunate because those officials had a pending meeting here two days ago, but they did not come. I am sure you are aware of that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, Honourable Member.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** They did not tell us the reason why they did not appear to you or to my very self, but we will seize the opportunity to bring them here tomorrow. We however have a pending meeting with them.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am aware of that meeting, but it has been postponed severally; and at the end of the day, we had this construction going on. Honourable Leader of Government Business, what have you got to say about this meeting with the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and NMA?

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I think we have to look for a comfortable time for us to meet because the environment is not conducive presently. The Minister called me and it coincided with the programme at Bintumani and all of us were at the Bintumani.

**THE SPEAKER:** There were several intervening things.



**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, because we had the programme at Bintumani, we could not meet, but we have to agree on a date for us to meet.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, we will find a convenient place.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** At present, Parliament is not conducive for such meeting to take place. We will find a comfortable place for this meeting.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please have this as part of your schedule to ensure that the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources and the Director of NMA are summoned. They should accept the fact that before sending mining companies to communities, they do not only inform the paramount chiefs, but also to ensure that Members of Parliament representing those communities are informed accordingly *[Applause]*.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. P.C. FATMATA BINTU KOROMA MEAMA KAJUE IV:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will not deny for all the paramount chiefs of this country, but for the few that I know and what I know is that most of these things are discussed in our chieftom committee meetings, where Members of Parliament are part and parcel of. However, Members of Parliament hardly attend meetings where we discuss some of these issues. Secondly, whatever percentage of royalty they give, they give allowances to Members of Parliament for their constituencies' development, which means they are part and parcel of what is happening. I am totally surprised to hear this from Members of Parliament.

**HON. PC KANGBAI JOE MACAVORAY:** Mr Speaker, the paramount chiefs are resident in their chiefdoms and Members of Parliament come from those chiefdoms. According to our tradition, if you leave your home and come to Parliament, you have to pay a courtesy call on the paramount chief and the paramount chief will brief you on what has been happening if you were not attending committee meetings *[Applause]*. Therefore, we need an apology from them. Thank you.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I want us to proceed because this issue is becoming controversial. This matter is within your jurisdiction and I do not think it should spark up a debate. Let us proceed with other items on the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, as far as I sit here, I am the arbiter of the procedure.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** That is correct, but the Speaker's announcement should not generate a debate. We want you to continue with the proceedings of the House, but if you want us to continue debating this issue, it left with you sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is not a debate, Honourable Member. I am just listening to a few Members of Parliament.

**HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH:** Mr Speaker, in addition to having a meeting with the Ministry, I want to believe that frantic efforts should also be made with the paramount chief on the ground because to a very large extent, some of the paramount chiefs see Honourable Members as rivals. So, even when these people contact the chiefs first, the chiefs will deliberately refuse to invite Members of Parliament to such meetings. I want to suggest that we also invite the Ministry of Local Government to be part of the meeting we will be having with the Ministry of Mines and NMA. The paramount chiefs should be mandated to ensure that Honourable Members are part of the meetings with investors or mining companies *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Some of these issues are so serious that they deserve to be exhaustively discussed. They form part of what I have couched as my announcement. Let us proceed with the Order Paper.

#### **IV. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

**MR ANTHONY Y. BREWAH** *[The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021:

G-Blocks 96, 97, 114, 115, 116, 117, 133, 134 and 135. Innoson Oil and Gas Sierra Leone Limited Petroleum License number 001/20.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement establishes the comprehensive regime in the Petroleum Industry for the Government and people of Sierra Leone. The license provides for the exploration, development and production of the petroleum in the licenses areas, covering a total of approximately **115.65km** by the licensee. The period of use is thirty [30] years with an undertaking from the licensee to comply with the good international petroleum industry practice while subjecting his business to our laws and regulations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this project provides our people with lots of opportunities, such as employment, procurement and purchasing, revenue, royalties, bonuses, etc. There is also the advantage of our workers in reaching their skills expertise by peering with foreign counterparts. Further, three [3] oil wells will be drilled at the end of the seven [7] years exploration period and that will give a total of eleven [11] oil wells that the country will have. To appreciate it better, Dianna has twenty-four [24] exploratory wells with an output of 8 billion barrel of oil. Again, the right of the first refusal in the event of the licensee intends to transfer part of the right takes care of any undue matter. This is different from assignment provider in Article 26. The commitment by the licensee to invest **\$300,000** in corporate social responsibility for affected communities is also meaningful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the parties engaged the citizenry on the socio-economic benefits of the Agreement and their feedbacks were acknowledged. It was made clear by the parties that the development will not be used to discriminate against a person or class of persons on the grounds of religious beliefs of political opinion. I am pleased to state that the targeted consultees welcomed the development and showed their support for its completion. Therefore, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the Agreement laid on the House on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, you have listened keenly to the presentation by the Leader of Government Business, when he said in clear terms that this building is not convenient or conducive for Members of Parliament and that whatever we do here today, we should speed up. I totally agree with him and I will crave your kind indulgence to see if we can just allow a few Members of Parliament to debate, so that we leave this building as soon as possible. If left with me, we will leave this building in the next ten [10] minutes, but the point is that the moment you tell Members of Parliament to hold on let us have two speakers on either side of the aisle, we will still want to debate. We all know that renovation is ongoing and the environment is polluted with dust. So, please allow me to take two speakers from either side, so that we conclude this debate as soon as possible. I am sure you will agree with me *[Applause]*. Let us have two speakers before the leaders summarise. I am sure Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin wants to say something, but please allow the leader to say something first. The leader is on his feet and you have to allow him first. Honourable Members, this goes to all of that whenever a leader stands to say something, you the Member speaking will have to resume your seat immediately. You too will be leaders and you would want Members of Parliament to respect you as leaders.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Mr Speaker, I want to add my voice to this long awaited license that we are about to ratify. I want to draw the attention of this House to Article 22[1] of this Agreement. With your leave, Mr Speaker, it reads: **“The State shall take all necessary and possible steps to facilitate the implementation of the license’s objective and license and to protect the property and the operations of the licensees, its employees and agents in the territory of Sierra Leone.”** This is very important because when we talk about investments in our beloved country, it does not come within a short period. The planning period is so long, but as soon as our signature is appended, we have to make sure that those documents and the operations are protected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we were discussing earlier, the parties to this Agreement should ensure that Members of Parliament are fully involved. If Members of

Parliament are involved, they could help to educate their constituents and the traditional leaders. What happened in Bombali was that the indigenes were so upset that they set ablaze the sugarcane farm and the company lost billions of Leones. So, when people are aggrieved, there will be no sense of directions and they will do whatever comes to their minds. Therefore, I want to ask that the Members of Parliament in those areas are involved, so that they could talk to their people. The Members of Parliament will ensure that the company's operations and rights are protected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is something I would like to share with you. In some cases, when royalties are given to household members, certain individuals within that household usually take the lion share. In other instances, some members of the family will not get a dime and those are the aggrieved ones who later exhibit some barbaric behaviour. In view of this, I want to appeal to all parties, especially Members of Parliament and paramount chiefs to ensure that the people and the companies are protected. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to take this opportunity to recognise a woman of substance who is in our midst. She is Asma James, the Managing Director of 98.1 FM Radio Station. She is welcome to this House *[Applause]*.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement has been laid in this Well for quite some time now. We normally say that whatever good for Sierra Leone is good for all of us. However, some Agreements are better evaluated from a cost benefit analysis point of view. The question is, do we stand to lose anything if we encourage this Agreement? I think the answer is no because there are people who want to put their moneys to see whether drilling is beneficial. I am sure there are clauses geared towards protecting the interest of this country. We will benefit from the license fee and that means revenue comes to the Government. I am also sure that this Agreement will provide employment for people within the investment area and those in other parts of the country. So, if we look at it from that point of view, we will have nothing to lose.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I agree with the Honourable Member who was insisting that Members of Parliament from those areas are involved in the process. This is because if Members of Parliament are part of the process and considering the fact that they do not have enough resources to give to the people, they will ensure that what is supposed to go to the people meet them. It is however obvious that Members of Parliament may want to gain political favour and if that is the case, since they campaigned to be Members of Parliament, they should always encourage projects that are beneficial to them. They would want to champion them and that is their role. This is not a controversial Agreement and we are not yet sure if they will get the oil. If they do not get it, they will go and other companies will definitely come and try their luck. We will not stop any investment that stands to benefit the people of this country. In fact, it is better to deal with smaller companies for a start than the big sharks. I call them big sharks in this business because you cannot compel them to pay certain bonuses that smaller companies that are trying to get into the business pay.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we do not have a reason to object or reject this investment. Let us encourage it, but we should make sure that the monitoring mechanism is effective and that is where Members of Parliament come. This is because they will be able to provide effective monitoring mechanism. They will also be able to ensure that the provisions in this Agreement, if ratified by this House, are followed to the letter. I think we do not have a problem with this Agreement, but to give them a try. I am sure if they succeed, we stand to benefit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other part of this Agreement state that if we are short of oil supply, we can always refer to them to feel the gaps. In this case, I think this is a win-win situation for us and we must ensure that we monitor these activities to make sure that the people benefit. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker [*Applause*].

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, The World Bank's definition of good governance refers to 'the ability of a nation to manage their natural resources' and this is what the Attorney General has just demonstrated. This Agreement is detailed and comprehensive. I am sure those who have knowledge in geography will

begin to understand that neighbouring nations that are blessed with oil and gas should be worried because we stand at an advantage point to explore our mineral resources. Section 7 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone clearly state that if only Sierra Leoneans can harness our natural resources, including gold, diamond, oil and gas, petroleum then we stand to benefit from a resilience economy and this is what we are pushing for now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Attorney General should be commended because he has fulfilled Sections 110, 44 and 171[15] of Sierra Leone's 1991 Constitution. Whatever law we make, this Constitution stands supreme and this is what these constitutional provisions are all about. The Constitution of this country is supreme. We are however still awaiting the ratification of the MLAs. We must commend the Attorney General because the Agreement features Section 12 and that provision is very important. It talks about local procurement in this Agreement. It also talks about giving priority to local inhabitants from Pujehun, Sulima and other places living around Kambia. Those are the people that we will be featuring in the local procurement process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also like the provision in Article 26 of this Agreement because it specifically points at arbitration and independent experts. I am sure we have learnt from bad experiences over the years. This is because multinational companies infringed our sovereignty due to the fact that arbitration and independent experts were not fully utilised. This is why we have not gain much to even fund the free quality education or construct roads, provide electricity, water and other amenities. So, bringing Articles 26 in this Agreement is laudable. Mr Speaker, because Sierra Leone does not have the technology to explore this oil, we are looking forward to the fortunate companies to exploit our oil that will benefit us. In the early 90s, Kuwait was referred to as the richest country because of its oil and gas. The economies of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, etc. are booming because of petroleum benefits. I am sure and I hold this belief that our oil will pump trillion into our economy.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call upon this House to swiftly ratify this Agreement. I thank you very much [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** We can now round off the debate.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whenever we talk about oil and the prospect of mining oil in this country, our hopes are raised. We all know that once there is oil in this country, this country will become a millionaire country, principally because we have seen countries which have become millionaire states simply because of the discovery of oil in their territories. We have tried time and time again to begin to look out for oil in this country and I have benefited from being part of this excavation when I boarded the oil excavation vessels to watch the process itself. It was quite an extensive process. I am sure whoever comes to a country like Sierra Leone and decides to invest in a very expensive venture, such as oil exploration, that company wants to go into good partnership with us is a laudable venture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not praising the Attorney General nor am I suggesting that it is an easy move for us to simply ratify this Agreement. The question one may want to ask is that have we done due diligence to this company? If we want to get the results of due diligence, we may wait for about one, two or three weeks. However, I am sure the Attorney General, being an experienced citizen, would have asked this company to come with due diligence and its track record is also important. I am not asking for due diligence because I want to assume that the Attorney General has taken care of that. I must however state here that if we must have a company of this nature which is going to cost them millions of United States Dollars, we should also take our security into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the communication component of this Agreement is very important because once the company comes here, they will be able to communicate with the rest of the world where we may not be present. Are we certain that they are going to have a licence for communications with the National Telecommunications Commission [NATCOM]? They must have a licence with NATCOM. Apart from merely having a licence to explore in this country, our regulatory authority,



which is NATCOM, must know the kind of equipment this company will be using. In this world of satellite and marine cable, we want to be certain that we are safe as citizens. However, I do not doubt the Attorney General and I am sure that he would have asked these questions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like my colleague said, this Agreement is not controversial and we are very satisfied. We are happy that a company is coming to invest in our country with the hope that we will make money. I am sure when we start to produce oil in this country, Sierra Leone will become a billionaire country and all of us will smile. I hope this will be handled well this time. I am certain that handling this sector well takes me to an earlier legislation which you are aware of. I think the oil sector should have its own Minister, Permanent Secretary and structures for good governance and best international practice. I am sure this sector is still managed by the Office of the President or the Office of the Attorney General. I did not see any Permanent Secretary and the Minister. I think the President is the Minister, but let us look at it from an angle that we need the necessary structures because this is a very expensive venture. Therefore, even though we enjoy the good will of the President who would want to bring an Agreement like this to Parliament, we also want to be very certain that this country benefits immensely from its resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would not want to waste more time because the Speaker has warned about the dangerous nature of this place and some of us are suffocating. Mr Speaker, we have always supported the Government whenever it comes with sensible and people centred Agreements and we have said so in good faith. This is our country and we are all the same people. I am certain that when we take over the governance of this country again, we are going to benefit from this legislation. Therefore, there is no reason why we should not support the ratification of this Agreement. I think we should congratulate the Government for identifying and bringing such an investor to this country. We must also congratulate the President for agreeing to accommodate such an investor, which to us is very important. This is because if the President does not want the investor to invest in his country, he would not enter into an

agreement with that investor. I am sure the Attorney General would have advised the Government about the good intentions of this company.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we on this side will continue to support good legislations, but the due diligence I spoke about must be taken into consideration. Therefore, we support the ratification of this Agreement. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank my colleagues, especially the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo for his experience in governance. This environment is not conducive at the moment. This is a good investment and whenever we bring investment to Sierra Leone, we should look at our colleagues on the other side not as enemies, but opponent in governance. They are here to ensure that if we have gone wrong, we tap from their advice and move forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I have heard this morning is not different from what we have done. It is however clear that we want to bring more investors to Sierra Leone. I am certain that when you talk about oil, you are talking about wealth because petroleum oil is synonymous to wealth. The Minister has done a good job because when you read through this Agreement, it is crystal clear that he exhausted all the things we have been yearning for; i.e., commercial liability, environmental protection, the local content policy and litigation the Honourable Emerson S. Lamina was talking about. These are issues you have to envisage before embarking on oil exploration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the approximate area that will be involved in this particular exploration is 11,516 SKM. What is very key in this Agreement is the responsibility given to the Director General. Mr Speaker, most times things go wrong because we do not do our oversight functions. Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo spoke about creating a Ministry on Oil and Gas and this was discussed in Kenema. I can understand the circumstance under which this exploration is happening. Are we really serious in oil and gas exploration? Maybe that is why this is still under the Office of Presidency. This Agreement is giving more powers to the Director General. With your

permission, Article 28, Page 63, Paragraph 28.7 reads: **“The Director General shall represent the State under this licence and he is empowered to grant, in the name and on behalf of the State any consent necessary or useful for the implementation of this Agreement.”** Mr Speaker, I am sure the Committee on Transparency should look at this Agreement at different layers. First, how are we going to implement the provisions in this Agreement? Parliament cannot go directly to implement this Agreement, but we can ensure that the right thing is done. We have to monitor it effectively, so that the people can benefit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement talks about royalties and this is written in capital letters. According to the Agreement, **10%** will be given as royalties. This is fantastic, Mr Speaker. If you make millions of Dollars, **10%** of that amount will be given to the local communities as royalties. I want to emphasise that the Director General should take this Agreement very seriously and ensure that it is fully implemented. He is here and he should take note of what we are saying here. I want to ensure that all the powers given to you are enforced to the letter.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a colleague spoke about the Local Content Policy and it is provided for in this Agreement. We are now talking about crude oil and for Local Content Policy, it is very clear in the minds of those who signed this Agreement. With your permission, Mr Speaker, Paragraph 21.8 on Page 51 reads: **“The licence shall be subject to the Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act of 2016 and all current regulations with respect the employment of citizens of Sierra Leone.”**

Mr Speaker, these are some of the things we have been talking about from day one and that has to do with the implementation of this Agreement. It is very clear in this Agreement that both parties have agreed to adhere to the Local Content Policy. We only want the Director General and his team to ensure that this Agreement is implemented to the fullest.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is in two folds; i.e., employment and production. Mr Speaker, employment also has to do with training. With your leave, Article 21 on Page 50 reads: **“Licence shall paid to the State the sum of \$10 per**

**graticular block per annum from the effective date during the exploration period and \$30,000 per graticular block per annum during the production period which the Petroleum Directorate may use at his own discretion..."** I was looking for the phrase, '...may use as his own discretion.' The Agreement makes provision for training. It says: **'...to train Sierra Leonean personnel.'** There is more transparency and accountability in this Agreement and we are giving ourselves the responsibility to charge **10,000** per annum. So, the first will get **10,000** and the second will get **30,000**, but you should not go and keep it. We have given the discretion to our own institutions to train Sierra Leoneans and not Ghanaians or Chinese. It say: **"...to train Sierra Leonean personnel, transfer the management and technical skills required for the efficient conduct of the petroleum operations and for other general and educational training purposes."** Mr Speaker, this is a specialised field. If you check how many Sierra Leoneans that are in the oil and gas industry, I am sure they are not up to **5%** or **10%** trained in that particular field. We are however lucky to have young Sierra Leoneans brothers and sisters who are engaged in this particular field. If materialised, this is going to change the lives of Sierra Leoneans. The money is going to be used for training and transfer of technology.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paragraph 21.2 reads: **"licence shall be transfer to employ of Sierra Leonean citizens in all categories and functions except if there are no Sierra Leoneans in the national market with the required qualification and experience under terms regulated."** Mr Speaker, this is key and we are bringing these issues for you to understand that Parliament will come on board, especially where there are lapses. For instance, if we notice that the Director General is not working, we will bring him here for questioning. Our colleagues on the other side have said that this Agreement is good, but the enforcement of this Agreement and the mode of implementation should be critically looked into.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can go on and on talking about the good things in this Agreement, but I will conclude with environmental protection or the marine

environment. The marine environment is clearly enshrined in this Agreement. Mr Speaker, Paragraph 14.6 on Page 43 talks about the environment. It is now up to the Minister to protect Sierra Leoneans and to see how best our people can benefit from this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo said that we have to look at many things in this Agreement. Of course it is a risky business. This is something we have to support and we need the Director General to support same. So, without much ado, there are many things we have to look at in this Agreement. There is another part that talks about the commerciality of this Agreement or the commercial viability of these blocks. It is saying that when you start your exploration, you are not going to get commercial viability because there are things you need to follow and there are difficulties you will encounter. The exploration period is for seven years with an initial extension period of two years and the second extension period is also two years. These are some of the things we will be following in this Agreement because they are there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are only giving them the environment or the surface area where they can do their exploration, but when it comes to the area of commercial viability or developing the well blocks, they have to take enormous risk to do it. We believe that we need to support them. The Director General has been given enormous powers in this Agreement to do certain things. I cannot go through all these things, because I will spend the rest of the day talking about them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you all for your contributions. I thank my colleagues on the other side for their contributions. The opposition is here to support or criticise when necessary. This is the good thing about democracy and that is what we are demonstrating here. Thank you very much and may the Lord bless us all  
*[Applause].*

**THE SPEAKER:** Let us hear from the Honourable Minister.

**MR ANTHONY Y. BREWAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me state here that the issue of performance security in the form of bank guarantee and other compliance mechanisms are in place. The financial implications to this project has been concisely captured in three phases and the minimum estimation of expenses within the exploration phases are as follows: phase one is **\$45,800mln**, phase two is **\$39,610mln** and phase three is **\$48.9mln**. Mr Speaker, the project in all its phases is environmentally friendly and with no socio-economic impact that will affect the lives of neighbouring inhabitants or their communities. If you look at Article 17 is safe, which is captured in Article 20.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021:

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. We are aware of the fact that the sitting accommodation is done by you and we have suspended S.Os. 3.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, Honourable Member.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We have suspended S.Os. 3 because this is not the first time Honourable Member on the other side is engaged in this type of un-parliamentary behaviour. I will ask you to take a decision on the behaviour of our colleague Honourable Member. He should be aware of the proceedings in Parliament. I am moving a notion that Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay leaves the Chamber now *[Applause]*.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, even if you are supporting me, procedures are procedures and the Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay should go out.

**HON. IBRAHIN B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Member in question, I apologise for what he has done and to assure you that it would not happen again.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, do not be so quick to apologise.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I know that the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo is acting as leader of the Opposition and I have tremendous respect for you. This is not the first time the Honourable Member is misbehaving. He has done it when Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah, who is a substantive leader, was here and he has done it in your presence. If he is frustrated, there are procedures in this House. Mr Speaker, I have moved a Motion and the Motion has been seconded. Let us maintain discipline and the Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay should leave the Chamber.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

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

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay leaves the Chamber.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**MR ANTHONY Y. BREWAH:** Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021:

G- Blocks 96, 97, 114, 115, 116, 117, 133, 134 and 135. Innoson Oil and Gas [SL] Ltd, Petroleum Licence No.001/20.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Government Motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice has been ratified]*

## **V. PETITION**

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. You can now leave us.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina, representing Constituency 030, beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, a petition that concerns a Sierra Leonean of this great Republic. Mr

Speaker, in line of his details, I pray that this petition be read by the Clerk in accordance with S.Os. 17, Paragraphs 4 and 5.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH:** Mr Speaker, I Honourable Quintin Salia-Konneh, representing the people of Constituency 007, Kailahun District and the leader of Independent, humbly second this Motion *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

**THE SPEAKER:** You can now read the Petition, Honourable Member.

## **V. PETITION PRAYER**

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** That by resolution this Honourable House here by moves to revoke and rescind thereby declaring as null and void its earlier resolution and consequential warrant passed on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007 empowering the Government of the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba to compulsorily acquire two [2] properties of Dr Abass Chernor Bundu and his family owned either by themselves directly or through their companies continental commodities and services limited situated at 28 The Loop, Wilberforce Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown and at 28 Wallace Johnson Street, Freetown on the grounds that vital information that ought to have been given to Parliament had been withheld it.

This prayer is based on the following fact:

- that when presenting the Motion in this House on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007 the then Minister of Lands, Country Planning and Environment, clearly withheld vital information from Parliament, particularly that relating to the fact that the matter had been through the highest courts of the land and that there were rulings in favour of the Dr Chernor Abass Bundu and his family relating to the tittle and possession of the said properties.
- that with the leave of this Honourable House, the following vital document will now laid on the Table of the House:



- [i] a memorandum giving an historical account of the matter;
  - [ii] a copy of the Hansard of 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007;
  - [iii] a copy of the judgement of the Court of Appeal delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2006;
- and
- [iv] a copy of the Order of the Supreme Court, dated 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

Equally significant is the report of the Justice, Mrs Laura Marcus-Jones, Commission of 2000 to which I would like to refer to this House. The Commission made no adverse findings against Dr Chernor Abass Bundu. As such, he did not consider it necessary to exercise his right under Section 149 of the 1991 Constitution of the Sierra Leone [Act No. 6 of 1991]. Also significant is the fact that throughout the inquiry by the Commission, Dr Chernor Abass Bundu was neither within the jurisdiction nor represented by Counsel nor summoned to appear before the Commission. Therefore, the entirety of the evidence before the Commission was as presented to it by the Government. The Commission had been set up in November, 1998 by the Government of the Late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba to investigate the leasing and sale of State lands in Western Area, covering the period from 1986 to October, 1998. The Commission concluded its inquiry published its findings in December, 1999 and submitted its report to the then President in January, 2000.

Even though there was no adverse finding against Dr Chernor Abass Bundu, the Government nevertheless published a White Paper in October, 2000 more than six [6] month after the report was presented to the Government and it was in that White Paper that the adverse findings were made with respect to the manner in which it claimed Dr Chernor Abass Bundu had acquired his properties. After the publication of the White Paper, the Government sought to enforce the recommendations of the White Paper in High Court in 2003. The High Court found in its favour in 2004 which was unanimously overturned by the Court of the Appeal in 2000, the State then appealed to Supreme Court. However, when the matter came up for hearing, the State did not appear and consequently, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal with costs. That notwithstanding, the Government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabba, having failed to get

what it wanted from the Judiciary, turned to the Legislature through the then Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, who made a Motion on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007 asking that his Government be empowered to compulsorily acquired Dr Chernor Abass Bundu's properties.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, we are very much au fait with this petition which in fact is coming here for the second time and this time we have no intention of coming with any contrary view except to state that we have two other citizens of this Republic who suffered the same fate as Dr Chernor Abass Bundu and whose cases will also be heard in this House. We want to give notice here that we are going to encourage Mrs Matilda Sesay, Sanu Sesay and Arnold Gooding Esq. who also suffered in the hands of bad legislation for them to be given an equal opportunity to make their case in this House. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Leader of the Opposition. Honourable Members, let me state here that there is fundamental principle of separation of powers that states that when a matter is sub-adjudicate, when a matter is before the court of law and such matter cannot be dealt with by Parliament. I have been informed and I do verily believe that at the time this matter was brought to Parliament and by the time Parliament decided on this matter, the matter has already been dealt with by the Supreme Court. I am sure that particular procedure was flawed at the time. I have been informed that there are several cases of this nature and we are ready to entertain any such applications. If you have relatives or friends with similar cases, let them come. This Parliament is a different Parliament and we are here to right the wrongs. Thank you very much, Honourable Members for this historic day of justice and I hope and pray that we continue to move as a Parliament to correct all the wrongs that were done to citizens of this Republic.

#### *ANNOUNCEMENT*

*[The House rose at 11:45 a.m. and was adjourned Sine Die]*