



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

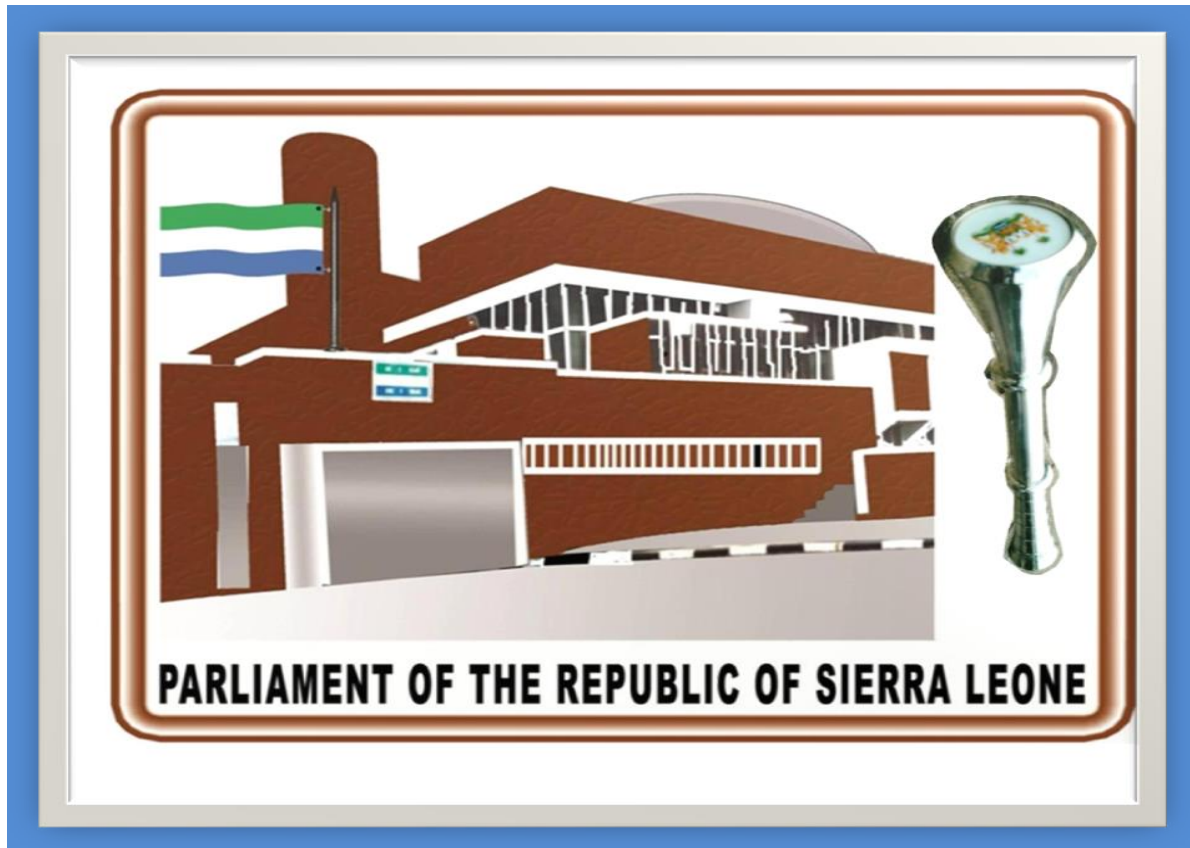
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

*SESSION – 2023/2024*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 38**

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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, 29<sup>th</sup> February , 2024.

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REVIEW OF TOLLGATE CHARGES ALONG THE WELLINGTON/MASIKA HIGHWAY.



*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, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mr Edwin Lebbie read the Prayers]*

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

*[The Speaker, Hon. Abass Chernor Bundu, in the Chair]*

The House was called to Order

**II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESSDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I am not sure whether all the electronic gadgets in front of you are working today. I am sure you have access to your Votes and Proceedings. We go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 27th February, 2024. We start Page 5. Page 5? Page 6? If there is no correction or amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 as presented?

**HON. ALICE KORNYA SANDY:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. FALLAH KENAWAH TENGBEH:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, has been adopted as presented].*

**II. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

Before I make any announcement, I would wish to give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Moyamba District to say something.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have some guests here who are doctors and nurses from the USA and Sierra Leone. The name of their organisation is called Health Care Sierra Leone and we all know that health is wealth. We cannot move if we are unhealthy. They founded this organisation in order to help the people of this country. They have visited Port Loko, Makeni, Royanka and this time the lot fall on Moyamba District, where they visited for few weeks. They were there providing free treatments to our people. For Moyamba

District, they treated about one thousand five hundred people [1,500] this week alone. They also went to the Peninsular and provided free treatments to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our guests came from Moyamba this morning. I want you to join me in appreciating their efforts. They are doing extremely well for the people of this country. We want them to do more because this is just the starting. We are going to do what Olivia Twist did. We need more for our people. We all know the problems we have in Sierra Leone and we know the sufferings our people are going through. Majority of them cannot even afford to buy Paracetamol. This organisation has addressed that problem because they provided enough drugs to the people of Moyamba District. I want to thank them on behalf of the people of Makeni, Royanka, Lungi and the Peninsular.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our guests will soon return, but they will be here again. They have seen the problems in our country and I hope when they go back, they will add more doctors and nurses to their team. We have Dr Soukoh Kambia here and the other young doctors. I know they will do more to help us. I want to encourage them to continue with the good work. We also have Mr Pieh who hails from Taiama, Moyamba District. He is the brain behind everything we are discussing here today. So, on behalf of this Parliament and the people of the areas you have rendered your medical services and those you are planning to do same, I want to thank you very much. We appreciate what you do and we hope to see you again.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her statement and for introducing our distinguished guests this morning.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I am really sorry but with your leave.

**THE SPEAKER:** Very well.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you for giving me the Floor. I want to join one of our senior colleagues in the House, the Leader of the Sierra Leone Delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament and also the President of ECOFEPA. Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving her the Floor. I am sure the team or the guests should meet with our

parliamentary Committee on Health. They should know that there is a Committee on Health and it is necessary for them to meet and interface. They are doing a very good job. I just wanted to join her to say thank you very much for this assistance. You have done what you could. I am sure when you return; they are going to ask you what you have done for your country. This is exactly what you have demonstrated. You went for greener pasture and after you have achieved, you decided to come and give to your people as a service.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, health is one of the biggest challenges we are encountering as a nation. In fact, health is a global challenge, but we are trying our best. We need the private sector to come and help the health sector. I thank the Honourable Veronica K. Sesay for bringing them on board and thank you Mr Speaker for giving her the Floor for telling us about these great people here in Sierra Leone and what they are doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform our guests that we have the Committee on Health and maybe after sittings both parties could meet and establish common understanding. Both the guests and Members of Health Committee should be in touch with each other. We are sick and we need drugs to cure ourselves. We have lots of patients in this Well. We have professional doctors, physicians and gynaecologists. People call us on a daily basis to inform us about their health conditions. Some usually call to tell us that they need operations. Therefore, I want to thank our guests very much for the medical assistance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, even though other people criticise you, but you always serve your conscience. We must however put in place policies that support the health sector. I want to state here that this Parliament is very progressive and also advocate for the enactment of laws that support the health sector. The best we can give you is to make sure we have better health policies that encourage everybody, including those who may want to help us. This is what we can do as Parliament. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I know the Honourable Member from Moyamba District has been hitching to have a say in this important discussion..

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to join the senior colleagues in appreciating the effort of the medical team from the United States of America. They came purposely to support our people, especially those from my district. I want to thank them for extending that humanitarian gesture to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, as the Leader of Government Business rightly stated, we should have a structured form of engagement, such as the involvement of the Committee on Health and the MPs in that particular district. The MPs in those districts must be informed because we have people who look for such opportunities. They do not have the financial supports, but if we have a medical team that provides free services for our people, it is a laudable venture. I want to emphasise that MPs from those districts should be adequately informed, so that they can help to identify the people who are in dire need of these facilities. This is a laudable venture and it is good for them to be in my district. It is only now I came to know that our guests were coming from Moyamba District.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the team for this assistance. I want the MPs to be involved in subsequent visits. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Let me say this to our distinguished guests that the sentiments you have just heard came from one side; i.e., the Government side of the House. It is never complete until you also hear from the Opposition side. I would like to give the Floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO [*Leader of the Opposition*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of this Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone, I would like to express our profound thanks and appreciation to the team. I would also like to express similar sentiment to the previous mother of this House. She is now the Mama of West Africa; she has been promoted to the position of 'Mama of West Africa.' We want to thank you and may God bless you.



Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to emphasise the point stated by the Leader of Government Business that we would want the team to collaborate with the Committee on Health so as to reduce the burden on Members of Parliament. In the last Parliament, Members of Parliament were questioned about their roles and responsibilities in their constituencies and most of them mentioned that they had taken care of medical bills of thousands of their constituents. Therefore, if the Members of Parliament join the team, it will give more authority to the team and they will be more empowered in the various districts they will be visiting. So, I want to reiterate what the Leader of Government Business said that they should work hand in glove with the Committee on Health.

On behalf of the Opposition, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to express our profound thanks and appreciation and we pray that this is not the first and the last. We expect the team to continue the good work.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his kind sentiments. Let me now exercise the privilege of having the last word on this issue. However, before I do that, I think it will be appropriate to introduce members of the visiting team by name. The Chairman has already been introduced by the Honourable Lady, and I hope he does not mind rising again to be acknowledged for the second time. Dr Pieh is the Chairman, Madam Finda Kai Kamachendeh, Madam Fatmata Tarawally, Dr Fuad Sheriff, Mr Chernor Abubakarr Barrie, Madam Kadie Balla Jalloh, Abdul Aziz Suma, Salieu Alpha, Umar Bah, Ishmael Bah, Mohamed Turay Lulu Argbah, Charlotte Israel, Dr Soko Kabia, Madam Angela Dumbuya, Bridget Ahmed Bayoh, Emma Smart, Josephine Kamara and Janet Elliot *[Applauses]*. I hope I have not omitted anyone.

Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire Parliament as you may well have noticed both sides of the House to complement you for your humanitarian gesture, and to express our warmest gratitude to all of you for coming to our country and to give to the people of this country free medical service that is so badly needed by everyone in this country. I am sure the places you have visited may have said this to you that after treating the people you met, they would not want you

to go back, but at last you have to. However, let us say you leave us with the expectation that you will be coming back soon. We appreciate the services you gave to our people; we cannot thank you enough in our traditional way. We will pray for you and say may God shower you with his richest blessings for the good services you have rendered to our people. I thank you on behalf of the entire Parliament. I do not know if you have other engagements, but unless you want to continue to observe our proceedings, otherwise you are at liberty to take leave of us. I wish you good luck and safe journey to all of you who are traveling back to your respective homes.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I beg to amend the Order Paper by inserting: 'Review of Tollgate Charges along the wellington/Masiaka Highway.

*[Question Proposed, Put and agreed to]*

*[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried].*

### **III. LAYING OF PAPER**

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND PUBLIC ASSETS

**DR DENIS SANDY** *[Minister of Works and Public Asset]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following paper:

'Review of Tollgate Charges along the Wellington/Masiaka Highway.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Minister has laid before the House the text of a very important Paper, a Paper that contains the outcome of a review of the Tollgate charges by the parties to the agreements relating to the highway between Wellington and Masiaka. This is the subject which if you have been following the media closely, you would have realised that it has evoked great emotion and great passion amongst the population. I think it is no exasperation to say it is a matter of public interest of the highest order and I am very pleased to observe, in our midst, the segment of the population who have a direct role to play in this matter; i.e., the segment of the population responsible for the carriage of people and goods along the

highway. They are transporters or drivers and I am sure they are somewhere in the Well. If they are here, may I invite them to please rise and be recognised? They are led by Mr Bah who is the President of the Drivers Union. I thank you very much and please take your seats.

Honourable Members, let me make a few remarks on this matter of national interest. First, of all the Agreements between the Government and the CRSG Company, was signed in 2015 and it was ratified by the Parliament of Sierra Leone. So, it is a valid Agreement that cannot be under any question or whatsoever. We want to convey, as forcefully as we can in this House, that our consideration of this matter should not be misconstrued by any stretch of the imagination that this Parliament is seeking to question the validity of that Agreement. It remains valid and binding on the state of Sierra Leone and that is the first point I would like to make. So, whatever is said or done has to be within the confines of the provisions of the Agreement. We are not here to add or subtract from the Agreement, but our role is to ensure that the provisions contained therein are adhered to by the parties to the Agreement. We had the opportunity to conduct a stakeholders' meeting in Committee Room one to listen to the concerns of the various members of the public whose interests were affected by the review of the Tollgate charges. We gave every single attendee the opportunity to tell Members of Parliament who were present their concerns. We listened to them attentively on that day. We did this because this Parliament is a listening Parliament. We are here because we all are concern about what is happening to our country; what is happening to our people. We seek nothing but the best for this country and for the people of this country. This is why we are here, that is why we were voted for. I am sure the Government did the same; they played their part and the ball is now in our court.

Honourable Members, one of the things that came out very clear is that any review of the tollgate charges has to be evidence based; it must be based on concrete empirical evidence *[Applause]*, and not on emotion. The question is, how this evidence is obtained? It is obtained by way of the tariff data; a very crucial element in the

calculation of the charges. There are other elements mentioned by the substratum of the Agreement is the tariff data and it has come to the attention of this House that one party is responsible for generating the data and making that data available to the other party, namely the Government and Government Agencies established for that purpose. In this instance, we take note of the role of the SLRA, but it has also come to our notice that very little if anything at all has been done by the recipient of the data to seek to verify the authenticity of the data. Therefore, we are telling all the agencies of Government involved to please act in the best interest of this nation by receiving the data from where it is generated and verify its authenticity because our decision will depend on the accuracy and authenticity of the data.

Honourable Members, we do not expect agencies like SLRA to receive the data and file it. It is not a piece of furniture; it is evidence and that evidence has a critical role in the assessment of what should happen from time to time mainly: what level of payment? What quantum of payment should be made by the road users? I cannot overemphasise this point more for the simple reason that unlike other jurisdictions where you have tollgates on the highways and alternative routes are provided, we do not have the resources to provide alternative route. It is only one route that is available to road users between the two ends of the road that is the subject matter. So, when you say you are reviewing charges upwards or downwards based on the tariff data, obviously you must see the great importance of the tariff data and we want to implore those agencies to ensure that whatever mistakes may have been made before, those mistakes are now going to be corrected by ensuring that when they receive the data, something is done as is expected of them. They should ensure that the data is accurate and it worth its name because it is based on calculation of charges.

Honourable Members, perhaps we do not have representatives from SLRA here, but I hope the Minister will take this opportunity to convey to the SLRA who functions under his supervision that this House would like the status quo to change going forward. We expect them to treat this matter with the utmost importance; if not for anything else, but for the sake of the people of this country. I want the agencies to ensure that when

the CRSG gives them information, they should go the extra mile to verify the data for accuracy and the data is usable because of the critical importance of the data in the determination of charges. This matter should not be underplayed at all. We do not want to unearth what has happened, but we want to be concerned about what is now going to happen moving forward.

Honourable Members, the second observation I would like to make is to congratulate the Minister in observing that indeed the tariff is an integral part of the Agreement and any review of the Agreement must be ratified by Parliament. This is why the Minister has come here today to lay the Paper on the Table of this House. We will determine what to do with it and at a future date, you will be apprised of our readiness to invite you to come and make your presentation and ask Parliament to ratify the Paper that you have laid before us. We have no date for now and we are going to put everything in abeyance for as long as necessary to give the relevant Committee of Parliament the opportunity to do a detailed study of what you have laid before us *[Applauses]*.

Honourable Members, I am very pleased to announce to the House that out of the discussions we had with the stakeholders the day before yesterday, we have received from the motor drivers and general transport workers union a paper that clearly indicates the area of concern they have. The charges are grouped into six categories, but the category that concerns them most is category 5, which deals with heavy trucks, ten tires and above, trailers, fuel bowzers with tank trailers, semi-trailers, flat beds, etc. These are the trucks that transport essential food items to the extremities of our country and from the extremities of our country to the capital. Naturally, whatever charges are levied on that category, they impact very heavily on the cost of living of ordinary people *[Applauses]*. So, it is not a matter that we can take lightly at all. I am very pleased to observe that the union of motor drivers and general transport workers appreciated our concern just as much as we appreciated theirs. They went back, reflected on their own and came back to me with a document indicating their own proposals as to how they would like to see group 5 be dealt with in the new dispensation.

Honourable Members, I want to implore the executive of the union to please make this document available to the nation. It has come out of your own free will and not out of coercion or otherwise this is good governance. We have given you an opportunity to go and look at the problem yourselves; to appreciate the competing interests involved and to come up with something which you consider to be a compromise that is acceptable to all concern. The producers, as well as the consumers, and Parliament will take due note of these documents that you have presented to us when we come to consider the proposals that have been laid on the Table of this House. I want to give you that assurance that this is an essential factor that the Committee on Works will take into account.

Having said that, Honourable Members, let me end by reiterating that we appreciate this Agreement in the context of it being valid and therefore binding on the state of Sierra Leone, as well as the CRSG. There is no attempt by anyone to undermine the validity of that Agreement. Our concern is to make sure that everything that is contained in the Agreement is complied with or acted upon. That is why we cannot take an immediate decision here, instead we are remitting this matter to the Committee of this House that is going to focus on the Agreement in detailed and come up with recommendations before we set a date for the ratification of the new charges. So, I hope I speak for the House as a whole. I also hope the Minister did same on behalf of the Government he represents that together we would give this matter the consideration it deserves in the best interest of the parties and in the best overarching interest of our country.

Honourable Members, I will end by asking you most kindly to give us time to consider your proposals by this House and to let the Government know that we are as concerned as they are. We know that time is of the essence, but allow us to discuss this matter properly and delve into the nitty-gritty of what is involved. We will summon you and your colleagues to come and justify why it must be X and not Y. We are not saying we are going to keep your document till doomsday, but we cannot give you a time now as to when we will finalise our consideration. However, we will give due diligence to this

matter in the best interest of our nation. I hope what I have said resonates well with both sides of this House. It is quite possible that Leader of Government Business may wish to add a word or two, followed by the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our primary responsibility here is to seek the interest of the masses. We are here as a result of the confidence reposed in us by the people. The people supported us to be in Parliament and that is why we should advocate for them. Like the Speaker said, this issue is of public interest and we do not intend to discourage investors from coming to invest in our country. This is because the manner in which you treat one investor will also scare away other investors. As a Parliament, we should ensure that in as much as we are protecting the rights of our people and we are making life very easy for them, instead of being very difficult, we should ensure that we do not scare away investors' from investing in our country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen what was presented by the CRSG and we as a Parliament would ensure that we digest it very properly, so that at the end of the day, we have a win, win situation where the people will be happy and at the same time the investors and the stakeholders will be happy. I want to believe as a Parliament, we owe it to our nation and the people of this nation. So, I want to share your sentiments that Members of Parliament from the Opposition are in total Agreement with most of what you have said in your statement. You mentioned the vehicles that transport essential goods for the average Sierra Leonean. This is very much important and it is a very good concern. We have to make things very easy for our people and we believe in your leadership. We are in Agreement with that other side of the House and the Leader of Government Business is also in Agreement with what I am saying. We agree with the fact that we give due consideration to this matter. This was why I tweeted that any Agreement that was passed in this Parliament must not be changed without the approval of this Parliament. This shows that Parliament is very important and Parliament is the key stakeholder in any decision making, especially when it comes to reviewing prices that were passed by same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you and I want to assure you of our total commitment in making this happen.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thanks very much, Mr Speaker. I want to borrow some of the words you mentioned. We cannot go back and undo things appropriately. I want to draw your attention to three areas. The Leader of the Opposition stated that we have to consider the state, the people and the investors. We have an existing Agreement and we cannot just put it under the table. As a Nation, we have to pay attention to the three categories I have stated. Mr Speaker said we are here because of our people and we can only progress as a nation if we encourage the investors. Mr Minister, under the category of the state, we want to say thank you for bringing this Agreement for a review. In as much as we put this matter in abeyance, as stated by the Speaker, I want to entreat my colleagues to look at Section 40, Sub-section 4 of the 1991 Constitution. With the leave of the Speaker, it says: "Any Treaty, Agreement or Convention executed by or under the authority of the President, which relates to any matter within the legislative competence of Parliament or which in any way alters the law of Sierra Leone or imposes any charge on or authorises any expenditure out of the consolidated revenue fund or any other fund of Sierra Leone, and any declaration of war made by the President shall be to the notification of Parliament or by a resolution supported by the votes not less than one/half of Members of Parliament."

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, enormous authority is given to Parliament. I am not trying to exacerbate our authority; I am trying to let you understand the authority given to Parliament. The Speaker's ruling is final and Parliament will carefully look at the proposed amendments. We want the public to note this very seriously. Honourable Abdul Kargbo said that any alteration must come to Parliament for ratification and this is why the Minister is here. He is here because Article 10 of the Agreement has been altered and Parliament will have to look at the alterations. I want to say thanks to the Minister for thinking in the positive direction that all of us must be on the same page. Things should be done in the best interest of the people.



Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are many allegations, but some are true while others are not true. We came to understand this during the stakeholders' meeting. Some of the allegations were expressly stated in the Agreement. I want to thank you for you drawing our attention to the Agreement when you are making your presentation. I also want to draw the attention of those who were not there that the transport union was very concern about group five. They have made their submission to the Speaker for publication to the general public. We want the public to make their comments or suggestions. There must be public awareness about new tariff and Civil Societies and other players must take active part in public sensitisation. I think we are in the same trajectory to make sure we have fruitful discussion, followed by the dictate of what we ratified in 2015.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the NCRA is keen about transparency of the data. As I always say in this Well, there is no perfect Agreement and the Speaker said we cannot ignore the Agreement that was ratified in this Parliament in 2015. You will agree with me that government is continuity and we should act responsibly. We have to move towards the direction that will resolve all grievances or concerns. I want to thank the Speaker for referring this issue to the Committee on Works. With the leave of the Speaker, I want the Works Committee to look into some of these allegations made. This is to ensure that Parliament is properly informed. We want to have a clear view of what is happening. Sometimes people make baseless allegations. It is time for the Speaker to call the Committee on Works to do a special investigation on this Agreement that deals with the tollgate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not stop admiring Members of Parliament of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Parliament. We had our differences, but we always find solutions and come to consensus. I will not stop admiring the Speaker because we always pile pressure on him. I know what you are going through. I want to commend you and say thank you very much for this wise decision you have taken. I also want to thank the Minister for bringing this Agreement to Parliament. I also thank the drivers' union and the public for their understanding *[Applauses]*. I do not want people to go out and say

it is an APC and SLPP business. We will go after you, as a Parliament because we have enormous powers, but we do not misuse them at all. Again, we do not intend to use them excessively. We want to be as moderate as possible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Paramount Chiefs have been observing us quietly one of them told me S.O 2 Nyuma wuna take wuna time leh wuna dey discuss tin to wuna sef. Wuna lef da buku tok tok na social media. I want to state here that Paramount Chiefs are here as arbitrators of what we do here. I want to thank you very much. When you speak, you speak the words of our ancestors, and when you speak, you speak for our people whom we do not see, but you can see them. God will richly bless you. Mr Speaker has given his ruling and Mr Minister has also met with us. I want the Minister to reach out to the investors. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business for their statements. Mr Minister you are now at liberty to leave the chair, but not to leave the presence of Parliament without scenery.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENT**

The office of the Clerk of Parliament wishes to inform all Honourable Members and the general public that there will be a pre-legislative hearing on the Bill entitled, The Anti-money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism and Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act 2023 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room one, Parliament Building. Members of Parliament are all encouraged to attend and on time. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I give the Floor to the Honourable Member from the Western Area.

**HON. UNPHA G.S KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23 to an experience I had on my way from work at Goderich Street, around the Eastern Police round about. There is a big hole around that place and my vehicle entered into the hole. The hole had been on that road for months now. I believe it is the responsibility of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority and we should pay attention to that hole. My vehicle was badly damaged and

I am sure a lot of motorists plying that route must have been complaining about that hole. The lives of the people are at stake, Mr Speaker. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, your S.O 23 could not have come at a more appropriate time, especially in the presence of the Minister of Works.

### ***Adjournment***

*The House rose at 11:30 a.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.*