

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

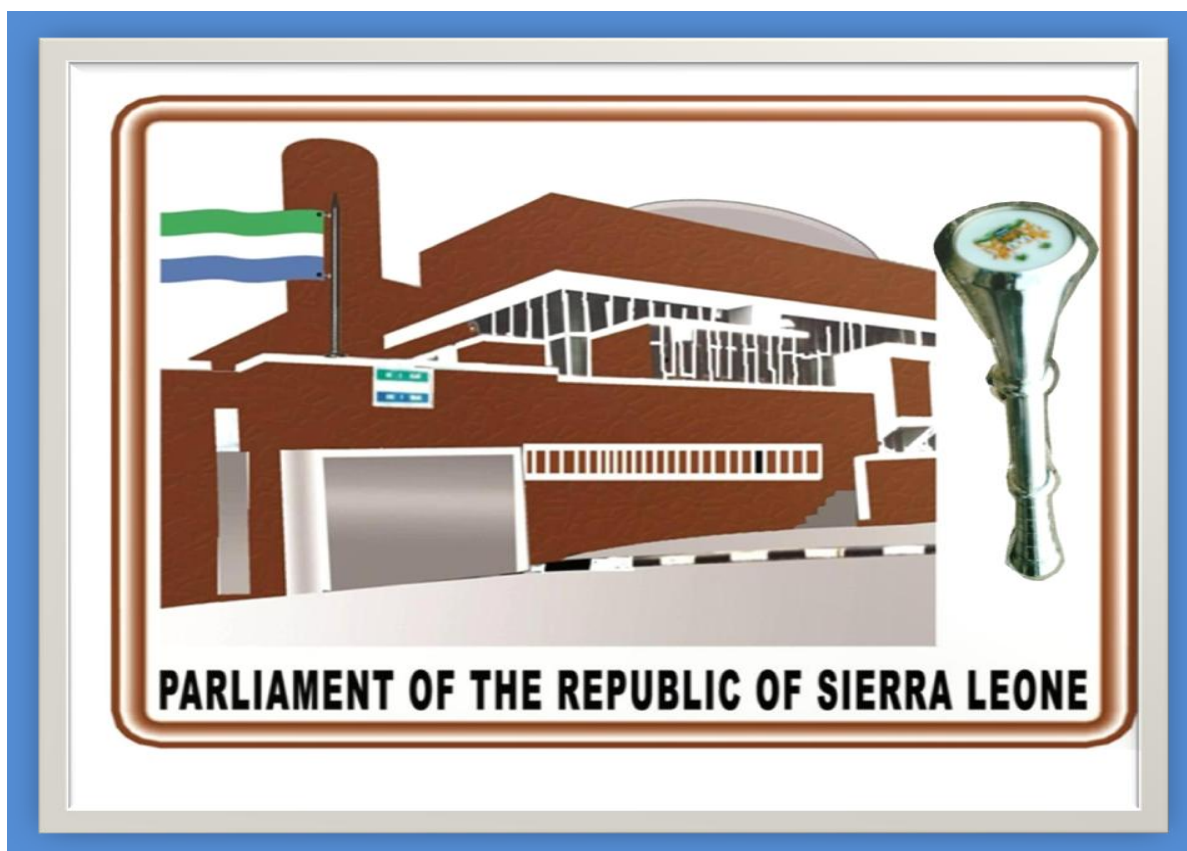
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2025**

*SESSION – 2024/2025*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

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THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS REGULATION COUNCIL ACT, 2025

[COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE



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

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

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

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**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mr Alimamy Lincoln Bangura, Read the Prayers]*

*[The House met at 11:20 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, early this week, we met in Committee Room 1 under your directives and we came up with certain resolutions. The Minister of Finance was not around at that time, but the meeting centered on our concerns. So, I stand on S.O. 26[1&2], so that we can meet with the Minister of Finance, the Leadership of the Opposition, the leadership of the Government Bench and the Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament to discuss issues that have to do with MPs' welfare. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I said it in clear terms that even if you did not move that Motion, there is no way I was going to proceed with whatever item we have on the Order Paper that is related to the Ministry of Finance. We have issues to address before we proceed with any document that has to do with the Ministry of Finance. In other words, there is no way we are going to proceed with any document related to the Ministry of Finance if the issues we have raised are not properly looked into. Can someone second this Motion?

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

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Motion moved by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]*

**II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON THURSDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4 and start with Page 5. Do you have any correction or amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6?

**HON. ABDUL MARRAY-CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, Page 6, the third to last paragraph reads: The Deputy Director, Miss Fatmata Bintu Weston, pronounced that the Government Motion by the Minister...." I think we have to add the words 'by the Deputy Minister.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Please indicate Deputy Minister. Page 7? 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 Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 as amended?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ABU KEMOKAI:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agree To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 has been adopted as amended]*

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I wish to state again that this House has a very serious problem with attendance, particularly punctuality. I will summon a meeting of the entire membership of the House in Committee Room 1 next week. We have to have a conversation relating to attendance and of course punctuality. I think something has to be done in that regard. This is something that has not just started yesterday; it has been ongoing for the past fifteen years. We have to do something to correct this situation. I will announce the date for this meeting, where all of us would have to agree on the kind of punitive measures or sanctions we should put in place to ensure that MPs attend sittings and on time. We cannot continue in this trend and that is why we have to do something now. This is becoming extremely embarrassing for the entire House and we cannot allow a few of us to embarrass the entire House. We cannot continue to entertain a situation where the Speaker would have to wait for nearly an hour before a quorum is formed. This should not continue at all, Honourable Members. I would not want an MP to blame me for being uncompromising that is why I am cautioning everybody here. We all have to meet and agree on what to do going forward. I have been here nearly one hour waiting for a quorum. Why is that happening? This is becoming extremely embarrassing and this is something I will not accept going forward. I know it has been happening, but we should not make that a culture of this House. This is the people's House and I would like to urge all MPs to take their work seriously. You have all been elected by the citizens of this country to work in their interest, but it seems some of us do not even care to know why we are here. So, I think we need to meet and have a conversation on this issue. We have to arrive at certain conclusions going forward.

Honourable Members, the second thing I would like to bring to your attention is the fact that I had a brief meeting with the President last week; and in that meeting, a particular concern came up that has to do with the activities of oversight Committees. I felt a bit embarrassed when the President himself raised certain issues relating to some Committees summoning diplomatic missions and also private businesses. We have had situations where five or six Oversight Committees summoned a particular institution at the same time. This also is becoming embarrassing to Parliament and I will be having a meeting with all Committee Clerks tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. We are going to develop

certain rules governing Committees' operations. The Leadership and I will develop clear rules relating to summons. This is because if all of us are not on the same page, some individuals, particularly members of our staff, are going to end up embarrassing this House. I know as well as you do that some of these summons are done without even the knowledge of the Chairpersons. The Clerks know what they are benefitting from that, but I do not know. We are going to have a serious meeting tomorrow with the Clerks of Committees. I urge every Committee Clerk to be present at that meeting because I am ready to set the brightest example after having arrived at certain conclusions. If any clerk sends out a letter without following the procedures, that Clerk will get himself or herself to be blamed. I think we need to take some of these things very seriously. We cannot just allow people to summon entities without checks or controls. I urge this House not to accept a thing like that at all. At this stage, I invite the leadership, including the leadership of Paramount Chiefs and the Minister of Finance to my Chambers for a brief discussion. Mr Clerk, please invite our Finance Director and his Deputy to be present in that meeting.

*[The House stood down for 20 minutes]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we have just met with the Minister of Finance and I would like to state here that the meeting was successful. As we speak, our team is on its way to the Ministry of Finance and we are expecting positive response. However, we cannot proceed with the document that has to do with the Ministry of Finance. We should know what is happening before we proceed. We cannot proceed blindly because it could be counterproductive. So, I will urge the Leader of Government Business to do the needful.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I beg to amend the Order Paper thus, item IV[b] be expunged from the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

#### **IV. BILL**

THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS REGULATION COUNCIL ACT, 2025

[COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE]

PARTS 1 TO 6, CLAUSES 1 TO 24, STAND PART OF THE BILL

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY** [*Minister of Social Welfare*]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 24 stand part of the Bill.

Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 24 Proposed

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? Page 14? Page 15? Page 16? Page 17? Page 18? Page 19?

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** It is at the bottom part of Page 19.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 24 form part of the Bill as amended.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]  
[Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 24 formed part of the Bill as amended]*

Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 stand part of the Bill.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 stand part of the Bill.

Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 Proposed

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 19?

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, this has to do with punctuation and we need to get it right under Clause 25[1]. It says, 'The registration of records and social work facilities, organisations and institutions in the business of social work...' We should have a comma after the word 'work.'

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, in the same Clause, Why did you remove the word 'facilities.' There is a comma just after that word. So, we need to check your proposal. There is comma just after that word on Page 19, Clause 25[1]. The registrar shall record in the register social work, facilities, organisations and institutions.

**THE SPEAKER:** Indeed, there's already a comma.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** But he did not make reference to the word facilities. So, I want to know why they removed 'facilities,' but did not indicate the comma. Well, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee has just said that it is not the first two lines. It has to do with the third sentence. That is okay, Mr Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 19? Page 20? Page 21? Page 22? 23?



**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I would like to stress on something that the Minister mentioned. Most times public interest is interpreted based on individual's opinion. On Page 22, Clause 6[e], says 'the Council may refuse to register an applicant who in the opinion of the Council...' Well, what do you refer to in this case under the definition that has to do with someone not to be registered because it will not be in the interest of the public? Please throw light on it, so that we will not have a Clause somebody will use to do other things.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Leader of Government Business. This has to do with the fact that we are trying to regulate the social sector, and there are things we need to look at carefully. For example, a social worker can get a license, or a social work facility or organisation. The issue is that if they do not meet those criteria they are going to be set, then the social work facility or organisation will not be registered. That is what it means. We are working towards regulating the sector. I just wanted you to tie that with Part II, under the miscellaneous provisions. If we are addressing issues of public interest, we have to make laws, so that we can shape institutions and the activities of individuals. I just wanted to draw your attention to the provision. You have considered it necessary and it can give effect to the provision of this Act. I wanted you to make commitments because we have difficulties in trying to attach public interest to the rights of individuals. This is a very professional Bill we are trying to enact in a way that somebody will not misinterpret it and that is why the Regulation should be brought after this Bill would have been enacted into law. So, I wanted you to take note of that and make commitments, so that some of these ambiguous Clauses are captured and explicitly explained in the Regulations. Mr Chairman, I wanted to draw the attention of Madam Minister to this issue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Madam Minister, I hope you are with us.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Yes, I am, Mr Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 23? Page 24? Page 25?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, we did not see the schedule for the payment. I however believe and also to draw the attention of Madam Minister to Clause 29[2] which says, 'the registration shall, upon an order for reinstatement under Paragraph A of sub-section 1, issue a certificate of registration to the applicant, subject to payment of a prescribed fee.' Madam Minister, I would like clarifications on this. How do you intend to deal with the prescribed fees? Is it going to come under the Regulation and is displayed on the chat board in the different institutions, so that you know what you are going to pay? I want to know, Mr Chairman.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Yes, we are bringing the Regulations because this Act requires it. I strongly believe that we should have a Regulation and what you have mentioned will be articulated in the Regulations.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is not certain.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I mentioned chat board; for example, if you go to the department responsible for reinstatement, you see some amount of transparency because you will see clearly what you have to pay for reinstatement or re-registration. Is it going to be displayed on the chat boards of these institutions?

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Yes, Honourable Member. In fact, in the Ministry of Social Welfare, we are working on a service charter as we usually call it. The Local Councils will be one of those places where we will display our Service Charter. The Service Charter will tell you exactly the services they provide as well as the fees to be paid.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I am okay with that explanation. I just need a commitment from her.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Chairman, I am not too clear whether it is going to be a registration or renewal. Can we have that clarification, please? This is because re-registration will not have the same condition as renewal. Which ones are we talking about here, re-registration or renewal? It cannot be the same thing or going through the same procedure.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** You have to register as a worker with someone managing a social work institution; or if you want to open an institution, you have to register and after a year of operation, you can renew your registration. The same goes for the license as well. First of all you have to register and later renew your license after a year of operation.

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, maybe for further clarification, what we are talking about here is reinstatement. It is clear that when you are reinstated, you have to follow the procedure again. That is what this one is saying. It is not complex at all, Honourable Member.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please, let us proceed. Page 25? Page 26?

**HON. FALLAH TENGBEH:** Mr Chairman, Page 25, Clause 31 reads: "a deleted professional social worker, social work facility or organisation..." There is some kind of confusion here. I need clarification.

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** That was covered in the report. In fact, that last line should read a deleted professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution that is aggrieved by the decision of the Council may, within 30 days of being

notified of removal, appeal to an Appeals Court. So, in the third line, the phrase, to remove him has been deleted. In the first line, there is a comma between social worker and social work facility. In the third line, the word 'is' was removed, but it is clarified in the report.

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 25? Page 26?

**HON. PC ALIE BALANSAMA MARAH:** Mr Chairman, let us look at Page 26, Paragraph 32 where it says 'appellant,' instead of 'applicants.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Paramount Chief. Page 27? Page 28?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I want the Minister to throw light on this. This is a very good example for those in professional jobs like the doctors, lawyers, etc. I think we should have a Committee to be reviewing their licenses. This is a very good practice and it is happening in other countries. The Medical and Dental Association has a panel maybe for a period of five years or annually. This gives me real hope that there will be some decency in carrying out their jobs. Madam Minister, this is a good Clause, but I want you to tell this House that renewal of practicing license of a registered professional social worker 'may' apply for renewal of his/her practicing license. How do you try to institute this when it is not mandatory?

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Well, this is because there are times people find themselves in certain professions and they would want to quit later. So, if you are in a profession and you want to quit; maybe you have found something else to do, then you are not bound to renew your license. This is just the plain fact, but if you are going to stay in the profession, then you have to renew your license because the license gives you the opportunity to practice. If your license is not renewed, it means you are not practicing anymore, but if you want to continue practicing, you must renew your license. You are not required to renew your license if you want to leave the profession and that is at your own discretion. You have to take that responsibility to license or to renew your license. Nobody is going to force you, but if we get hold of you practicing when your license has not been renewed, then there's a penalty for that.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** If you go to Clause 35[2], it says, the provision on the application for a professional social work practicing certificate shall apply for an application for renewal. It also says, a registered professional social worker may apply to renew his practicing certificate. What is the difference here? Perhaps, you have your own reasons.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Maybe that is just a matter of semantics, but... -  
*[Interruption].*

**THE SPEAKER:** In English, no two words are exactly the same, let alone the legal words. We all know that shall is mandatory and may is discretionary.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear from Honourable Abdul K. Kamara.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Chairman, since this is a voluntary issue for the practitioner, we should not use the word 'shall,' but 'may,' if I want to continue to practice, register with the Council and if I do not want to continue, I will not renew my license. Therefore, it should not be 'shall.'

**THE SPEAKER:** The position is that if you do not take the certificate, you cannot practice. So, if you want to practice, it is incumbent on you to take the certificate.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** It is discretionary, Mr Chairman.

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, please take a second look at it. We are talking about renewal and if you decide to renew it, then it is mandatory. It is clear that you can only renew if you want to continue.

**THE SPEAKER:** For instance, it is incumbent on any lawyer to take out his/her practicing certificate if he/she wants to practice; but if you do not want to practice, then nobody is going to ask you for a practicing certificate.

**HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH:** This is why it is not talking about whether you want to practice or not, but it is about the renewal process.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, it has to be mandatory and 'shall' is the most appropriate word. If you use the word 'may,' then even if you want to practice, it is discretionary; whether you take the certificate or not. This means even if you want to practice, you have to take the certificate, but if you do not want to practice, there is no need for that.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Chairman, we are talking about renewal here. I was a practicing social worker with a certificate for six years and I used to renew my certificate because I wanted to continue.

**THE SPEAKER:** That does not mean you can use the word 'may.' I am certain that shall is the most appropriate word to use. This means whether you want to practice or not. Madam Minister, if we are okay, let us proceed. Page 28? Page 29? Page 30?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I need a commitment from the Minister. I am happy that you have clarified Clause 35[1] in the interest of people who would want to continue with the profession. This is not only about acquiring qualifications, but also keeping with best practice, so that people are always at their best. Mr Chairman, offences is a very critical area. This is why I always say that we do not want to make

crime a lucrative enterprise. Madam Minister, the question is how do we curb this social menace? One of the fundamental problems in this country is social issues, whether you believe it or not. In fact, if we have lawyers giving pro bono services, you can make more money than looking for clients to hire and represent them in court. The level of poverty is so high and we have many social issues in our hands. Most of the issues we have now are social in nature, whether you like it or not. These social issues cut across the board because the same problems we have in Makeni are the ones we have in Kenema. However, we can minimise them by imposing harsh punishments. That is why I am happy when the Chairman said it is mandatory to renew your certificate or license. How do we ensure complete compliance? If you failed to comply, you should be fined heavily. Madam Minister, please tell us how you plan to enforce these penalties. We do not just want them to be in the Act without being applied. As Ministers of institutions under Section 6[2] of the 1991 Constitution, you have to ensure that these provisions are enforced. We can mitigate these social problems, but cannot be eradicated completely. Social problems will always be with us, no matter how you look at it. For example, rape is a social issue that affects young girls and women. So how do we deal with it?

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Thank you, Mr Leader of Government Business. I absolutely agree with you that the social issues we have in this country are many and they are found in the North, South, East or West. The reason we have laws is to actually address these issues and that is why we have to regulate this sector. I have found out that if we do not have a regulatory tool, the sector will continue to be in shambles. Our social workers need to be regulated; our social work facilities need to be regulated; our social work institutions need to be regulated. This is because at the end of the day, we must make sure that the laws that we make work effectively. If we do that, we will have the maximum benefits of what the social work services are, or the people will even benefit from it. What you are saying is correct and as a Ministry, we are going to establish the Council. There is going to be a Council with a Chairman and a Registrar, including other members. They are going to work with the Ministry to ensure that everything that is articulated in the law is adhered to the letter. Of course, you would want to ask about the monitoring aspect. This is why we are going to train our social workers who will make sure that there is proper monitoring system. For example, if you establish an orphanage, you have to know that when this Bill is passed into law, you cannot just wake up one morning and establish an orphanage. There are set criteria you have to follow; but if you failed to follow them and receive your license, you cannot register your facility or institution. If you do, we are going to close it. So, what this law is doing is to empower us, both as a Ministry and the Council, so that we will

able to regulate the sector very well. So, we have to make sure that we work together with other law enforcement agencies where necessary, to support us.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, although we are yet to look at Page 31, but with your leave, the effectiveness of this law has to do with robust Regulations. Let me draw your attention to two Clauses in the Bill. The Legislative Committee did a very good job by recommending some penalties. Clause 38, Page 30 has to do with fraud. Clause 41 deals with falsely impersonating a professional worker. So, I do not know when you will bring the Regulations, but there must be offices in the different districts, so that those who are dealing with them can report to them directly at the districts levels. We do not want impersonation to take place at all. Someone can easily identify those who are the social workers in a particular locality. I think it will help our people greatly because the level of education is low and those who are educated need to be enlightened as well. How do you deal with some of these issues? I do not know how far we have the trauma healing and counseling and I do not know how they are handling it, but the problems we have in this country right now are social problems. If we failed to put these regulations in place, this law will not make any sense. They need to move around to make sure that they enforce it.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, there is no law in the Western World we do not have in Sierra Leone. We have beautiful laws and we are very proud of that. When this very Parliament placed a ban on harvesting of timber, they asked for Regulations. People tend not to respect what we do here, but anytime we are on international platforms, people respect us. The Regulation in respect of timber harvest was passed in this House, which is the best Regulation in the sub-region. Therefore, I want to know when they will bring the Regulation. This law can only be meaningful to us if we have proper regulations in place. These are issues that affect us. I do not know if you have data, but that is very important. In addressing social problems, we need the relevant data. I used to get data from UNICEF regarding sexual offences against young girls. Mr Chairman, we have generated a lot of data in the Kenema City. The truth is that there were lots of children who were not attending schools. These are social activities that are influencing our children negatively. So, the data was correct. Madam Minister, this law can only be meaningful if you bring these Regulations as early as possible. We need the Regulations to give effect to this law. I just wanted to make that clarification and to entreat you to bring the Regulations as soon as possible.

**THE SPEAKER:** Madam Minister, are you sure you will be here with the Regulations?

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Absolutely, Mr Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Leader is not convinced with your response.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** The Regulations will come, Mr Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** How soon, Madam Minister?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I think at a reasonable time. I am happy that she has made commitments that it will be at the end of the year. The Committee will see how best they can work together because it has to be based on consultations. If you do not consult, you will not have better Regulations.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, would you like to explain for the Minister? I know you are the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** When you stand here and make commitments to the third gentleman of the country, you have to be very careful. So, I do not want to push her to the limit, but I know that setting up the Council and developing the Regulations require consultations.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Chairman, based on the timeline, the Minister said before the end of the year, but I want her to know that we are dealing with Sessions and not the financial year of the government. When she said before the end of the year, I hope she meant before the end of the parliamentary year.

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Honourable Members, like I said, I want to assure you that the Regulations will be here, but certainly there has to be consultations, like what the Leader of Government has said. There are things we need to do before we bring the Regulations; there are so many players we have to consult.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Madam Minister, before you get to all of those processes, I think the most important thing is to get the Bill signed by the President. You cannot determine when the President will sign it. It has to be signed and gazetted for it to be formally published as law. I am sure once that is done, you can then determine and begin to put things in place for the Regulations. I would want to plead with the Chairman and the Leader of the Opposition not to use the parliamentary year because it will be too short and we cannot determine when the President will sign it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** We do not want to prolong this day, but we know that in parliamentary administration, we are here to set records. We are here to deliver and that is why there is nothing wrong if we give timeline to the Minister. Well, if you cannot determine when the President will give his assent, then December will not even be appropriate. There is no need to give timeline based on the Deputy Speaker's submission. The President can choose to sign next year or even sign in 2028. So, as far as I am concerned, it is good to give timeline. There is nothing wrong in giving timeline

because if they cannot meet the deadline due to the unavailability of presidential assent, it is understandable. We definitely have to give timeline as she has already suggested. I think there is nothing wrong with timeline because it will help her to work harder.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Through the Chair, I think we have agreed to set the timeline, but let it be in December, instead of July, which is the parliamentary year. Let us take the end of the financial year.

**THE SPEAKER:** Madam Minister, please go and do your work diligently. You have to make sure you come here with the Regulations within the shortest possible time. Parliament is in a hurry and there are several gaps in this particular Bill we need to fill. When once this Bill is passed into law, we have to address these gaps using the Regulations.

Honourable Members, I told you during the last sitting that we would expect visitors from Iran. I said they would be here to hear our stories. At this stage, I would like you to recognise their presence. I will start by introducing His Excellency Mr Sadati Amiri, who is the Iranian Ambassador to Sierra Leone. You are heartily Welcome, Mr Ambassador. We have the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Kevin Rezai. You are also welcome. We have other members of the delegation, the Chairman of the Friendship Group, Honourable Ara Shabadia; we have the vice Chairman of the Friendship Group, Honourable Faramarz Shahsavari; a member of the Friendship Group, Honourable Hadi Kavami; two other gentlemen at the back are also part of this delegation. You are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. This is the people's House and Sierra Leone is a good friend of Iran. We hope and pray that this friendship continues to strengthen. We have been in bilateral relationship for quite a while, and our relationship has been fruitful and beneficial to both countries. We are always happy to have you in this House. Of course, I know you are beginning to enjoy the nice things we have in Sierra Leone. So, immediately after this sitting is adjourned, I would like to have a meeting with the leaders of this House, including our visitors in the Speaker's Conference Room. Thank you very much for coming. Honourable Members, Page 30? Page 31? Page 32? Page 33? Page 34?

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 form part of the Bill as amended.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Parts 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 formed part of the Bill as amended]*

[THE HOUSE RESUMES]



**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, we are trying to get a date for the Regulations. I think after this enactment, we now have to look at the constitutional provisions, especially Section 106, Sub-section 7 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, we should not be in violation of this provision. We consider ourselves as different entity of governance and those constitutional provisions must be adhered to. Why do we need to expedite the development of the Regulations?

**THE SPEAKER:** Who is in breach of the Constitution?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I am not talking about this House. This House can never be in breach, but we need to remind the Executive.

**THE SPEAKER:** We will invite the Minister here after a couple of months regarding the Regulations.

[REPORT STAGE AND THIRD READING]

**MRS MELROSE KARMITY** Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, the Professional Social Workers Regulatory Council Act, 2025, having gone through the Committee of the Whole House with amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]*

*[The Bill entitled the Professional Social Workers Regulatory Council Act, 2025, being an Act to make provision for the establishment of the Professional Social Work Regulatory Council to provide for the Regulation of Professional Social Workers, Social Work facilities, Organisations and Institutions in Sierra Leone, including Licensing, Registration and discipline, and to provide for other related matters, has been read the third time and passed into law]*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 12:32 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]*