

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

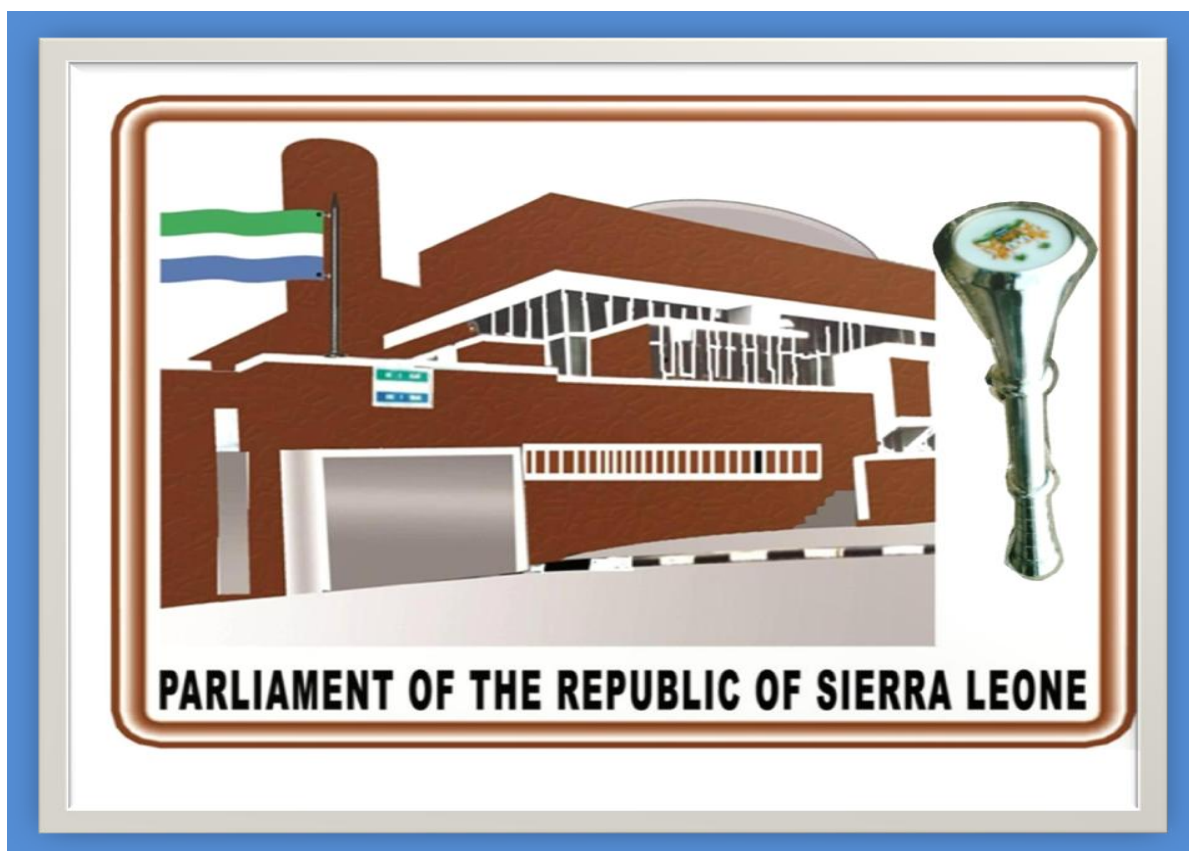
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 4TH JULY, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday 4th July, 2024

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Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

THURSDAY 4TH JULY 2024

I. PRAYERS

[The ACTing Clerk, Mr Gilbert Bosco N'habay, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10: 10:05 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. DICKSON MOMOH ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that S.O 5(2) be suspended in order to continue the Business of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALICE JEBBEH KUMABEH: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]

S.O 5(2) is suspended for the Business of the House to Continue

ii. THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDING FOR TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 25th June, 2024. As usual, we skip from Page 1 to Page 4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? And Page 8? There being no amendment or correction, can someone move for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 25th June, 2024?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. MASSAY GHAHITEH ARUNA: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put And Agree To]

The Record of Votes and Proceeding for Tuesday, 25th June 2024 has been adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honorable Members, other announcement by Mr Speaker levy in the first place indicate to the Members of the Parliamentary Commission, that we have a meeting at 2:00 p.m. prompt. Honourable Members, there is a certain function or event at the State House otherwise, we are expected to be present. The Leadership and I were expected to be there, but we will be having our meeting as well, The

Parliamentary Commission. We are meeting at 2:00 P.M prompt, probably for just 30 minutes or 40 minutes. So, please be informed, especially Members of the Parliamentary Commission to attend and on time. The meeting is being scheduled already for the said time mentioned above. We are going to Committee Room One to S.O 2 "dot the eyes and crossed the tee." Then, later in the day, if we cannot complete the Bill in Committee Room One against 2:00pm, we will leave and attend our meeting in the Speaker's Conference Room.

Honourable Members, at this stage, I wish to recognize the presence of an eminent personality that we have in our midst this morning. If you are all relaxed on your chairs and you have the capacity to use your desktops that is as the result of the Government of the People's Republic of China. So, in our midst this morning, we have the Chinese Ambassador *[Applause]*. He is the current Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone. Honourable members, help welcome His Excellency Mr Wang Qing. Honourable Members, what made me appreciate the Ambassador more is the fact that he is a friend of this Parliament. In fact, the other day when he came to see me, I brought him to the Well of Parliament and I had told him exactly some of our concerns and challenges we are being faced with as an Institution. Honourable Members, we all know how the PA system was fixed about over 5 years ago. So, I supposed to know our challenges too. I told him of the challenges we are faced with as a Parliament, so the Embassy is ready to help Parliament to ensure that some of these problems are fixed *[Applause]*. I invited him to be present in this particular sitting. So, as a special guest to Mr Speaker, I want to take this special moment to recognize and thank His Excellency the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sierra Leone; for his kindness to this Parliament and the nation as a whole *[Applause]*. So please, convey our appreciation to His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of China. To my colleague Honourable Members, help me appreciate His Excellency the Ambassador that we appreciate and aware of the participation and good work of China for the development of Sierra Leone. Therefore, I want to thank you for coming and we appreciate you.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA (Leader of the House and Government's Business):

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for the traditional rulers [*Undertone*], this one is more than that, more than Chief, spiritual, traditional everything the king of the kingdom [*Undertone*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Report on the Assessment Survey of Piece of Land for Public Acquisition for the Sierra Leone Industrial Zone (I.S.Z) [*Applause*].

V. BILL

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ACT 2024, COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, please take your seat before my announcement. Honourable Members, if you could recalled at the last adjourned date, I ruled that this House was supposed to have met yesterday, at 10:00 a.m to be able to look through the pages of the Bill that we have before us. I do not want a situation where we all seat here and start arguing on Clauses in the Well; this Bill is a very huge one and it is about 244 Clauses, so there is no way we will be able to complete this one today if we do not go Committee Room One and wash our dirty linon there, so that when we come to the Well, we would just come and resolved to flick through the pages. We should have met yesterday at 10:00 a.m. Unfortunately, even though several Honourable Members came yesterday, the number was not encouraging enough to allow us to Committee Room One.

Honourable Members, so in such circumstances, I again ruled that we all move quietly. I was going to stand the House down that we all move quietly to Committee Room 1, and deal with this Bill before we come to the Well. I am sure we will be able to pass this Bill today, because am not sure if we will be able to take more than 2hrs dealing with this in Committee Room One.

I personally, instructed the Director of Legislative Affairs to ensure that all Members of Parliament receive a hardcopy of the Bill and I hope you have them with you. Those who have not received will receive theirs in Committee Room One. So this House is stood down.

Mr Minister you can come and any other professional that is here, any other expert that is here, will be allowed to address us on some of these clauses in Committee Room 1 but as it is as long as we are in the Well, they are not required to address us. The only one that can address us here is the Minister and we want the input of other professionals that is one key reason why I am taking all of us to Committee Room One. If we are in Committee Room One, then the DPP can have his say based on his experiences and then, even the Drafter too can also have his say. All other professionals can have their say as long as we are in Committee Room One, but if we are here in the Well, the only one that is required by law to address us is the Minister. So, I thank you very much Honourable Members for your patience and your understanding. This sitting is stood down and we are all required to go down to Committee Room One.

THE HOUSE STOOD DOWN AT 10:45 A.M.

The House resume from Committee of the Whole House at 12:35 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: This sitting is adjourned to tomorrow Friday, 5th July, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. prompt. We will be here tomorrow to do the CPA and Honourable Members, we are going to that CPA in record time tomorrow and it is my hope that that CPA is done in less than 1hr tomorrow [*Undertone*].

Mr Speaker adjourned the House to Friday, 5th July, 2024

The House rose at 12:45 p.m.