

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

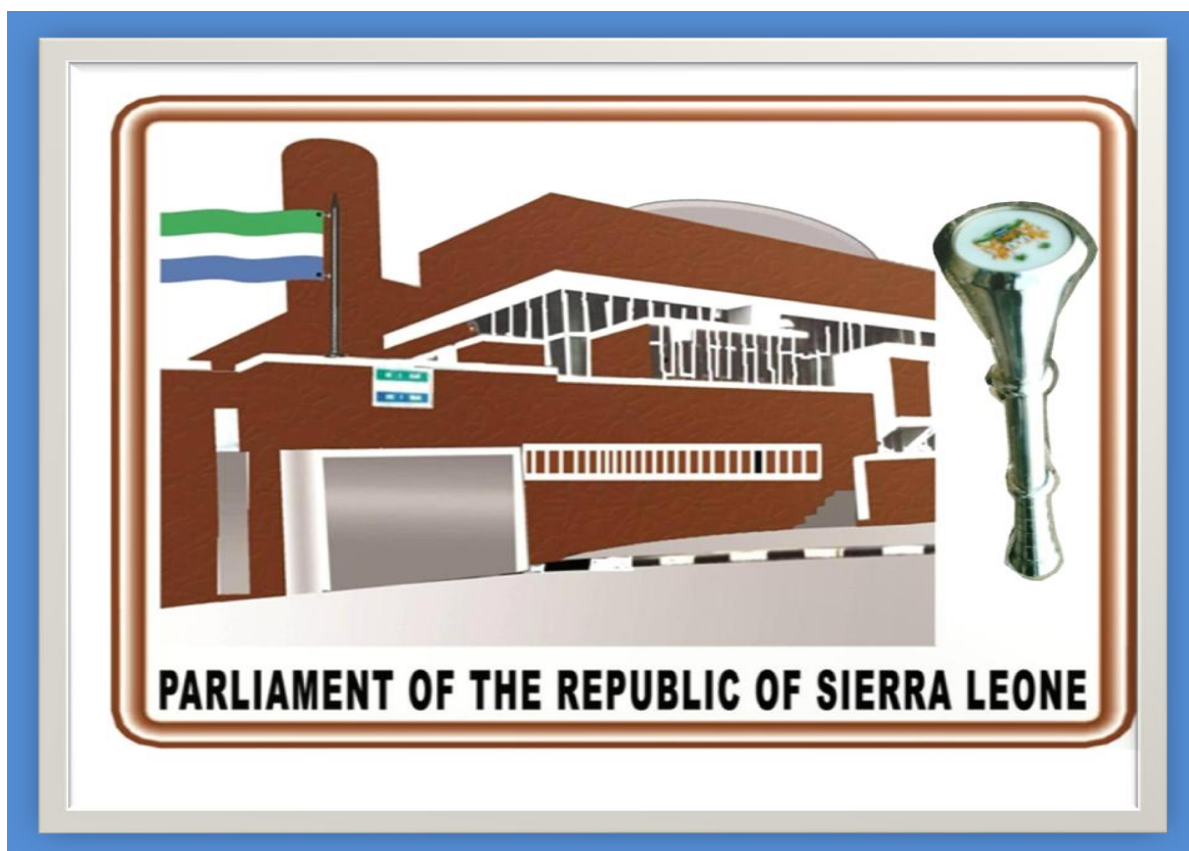
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



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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 on Thursday, 6th March 2025

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Madam Esther Boima, read the prayer]

[The House met at 10:15 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, I rise to amend the Order Paper thus, item IV be expunged from the Order Paper and item V now becomes item IV. I so move, Mr Speaker.

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]

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH MARCH 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 4th March, 2025. As usual, we skip pages 1 to 4 and start with Page 5. Do you have any correction or amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY-CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Page 8, Paragraph 4. I think we have to get it correct regarding the condition of the road from Buedu to Koindu because what we are seeing here is quite different.

THE SPEAKER: It should be Buedu, right?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note.

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Again, on Page 8, it was not the road condition from Panguima. It was clear from Mano Junction to Gbanguma, Tongo and Bumpeh in Kono District. It was not from Panguima.

THE SPEAKER: What paragraph, Honourable Member?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Paragraph 4, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Paragraph 4?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Yes, Mr Speaker. It should be from Mano Junction, going through Panguima, Tongo and Bumpeh in the Kono District.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. 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, 4th March 2025 as amended?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. HABIB K. FABBA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 4th March 2025 has been adopted as amended]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT, BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: There is no announcement today.

IV. BILL

THE COUNTER TERRORISM ACT, 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 stand part of the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 stand part of the Bill.

Parts 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 43 Proposed

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we start with the Roman figures. Roman 1? Roman 2? Roman 3? Roman 4? The Short and long titles, Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Mr Chairman, based on the discussions we had, we agreed to add at the end of Page 9 early warning and response mechanisms.

THE SPEAKER: Did you include it in your report?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: No, it was not captured. It was an oversight, but during the second reading, we agreed to include it. That was under the Counter Terrorism Coordination Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Which particular clause, Honourable Member?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: We have a very long list in Clause 5[1]. In fact, it is after the Chief of Staff and the Office of the National Security.

THE SPEAKER: Is it on Page 8?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, but it continues on Page 9.

THE SPEAKER: Can you move, please?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: I move that the amendment Act to add the early warning and response mechanism in the head of that institution... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Is it not the coordinator?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Director, Director

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so second, my Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

THE SPEAKER: Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? Page 14?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: With your leave, Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to congratulate our learned colleague for his appointment and confirmation by this House. Mr Chairman, I want to look at the definition of terrorist act. You would recall that when this Bill was going through the second reading, the Leader of the Opposition and I approach you and we raised some issues. However, as a responsible Opposition, we proffered solutions. The Honourable Abdul Kargbo proffered solutions as a responsible Opposition Leader. After two days, I got another version from the Chairman of Legislative Committee, where he captured the solutions we proffered. Nevertheless, having gone through this document, I found out that there are remarkable differences. In my opinion, we do not need to belabor this issue because we have already proffered solutions based on the Africa model. This means the document we showed you, should pose no problem. It should pose no problem if we take it as it is, but we can do some modifications. If you open a Pandora Box for further debate, it will not be nice at all. Well, we cannot boast of number, but we do not want this House to go into division, especially when it is not necessary.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the exception clause to terrorist act in the proffered solution goes like this, 'notwithstanding the definition of terrorist act or any other provision of this act, or any other law, the following shall not be considered a terrorism act.' It goes like this, any act describes in 'A' to 'N' for instance, if the act is as a result advocacy or protest...' That is the proffered solution we gave on that day. In my opinion, a modification will open a Pandora's Box for further debate and we do not want this House to go into division, especially when it is not necessary. For instance, the document given to me says lawful advocacy. I have never learnt 'lawful advocacy' in law. Advocacy is advocacy and in most times it bothers on talking on behalf of the vulnerable or underprivileged or the voiceless. So, in my opinion for the interest of

progress, we can go by the solution we proffered, instead of accepting any further modification. That is my submission, Mr Chairman.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Sometimes I get confused to defer an issue we have resolved at the Committee Stage. I was waiting to see whether the Legislative Committee followed the directives given to them. I have been in touch with the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and we agreed to go with best practice with the sub-regional model. That was why I said we should read the report, so that we can au fait with the issues in the report. We allowed the Opposition to make inputs and we concluded that we should have the universal model for various definitions. We proposed this because we did not want people to feel as if they have been cheated. I have discouraged my colleagues not to go into voting all the time. We have the numbers, but that is not the way to go about addressing issues. I believe in negotiations, so that the laws we make are in the best interest of the people of this country. This draft was given to everybody, including me. I was expecting the Acting Leader of the Opposition to approach me or the Chairman of the Legislative Committee to look at the review of this particular presentation and compare same to international best practice. Maybe what we will agree on will be from the ECOWAS model, which is a sub-regional standard. Mr Chairman, in the cyber law that we passed in this House, we had some challenging issues because people tried to change the standard definition. We agreed that we should start using standard definitions that are universally accepted. We have the ECOWAS Protocol; but if you do not have it, I will offer mine to my colleagues.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: I am trying to go through the African law model, but even if this one is extracted from the African law model, maybe the modification is what I think we need to revisit. In terms of advocacy, we have lawful advocacy. We can come back to that and look at all the areas we need to fine-tune.

THE SPEAKER: So, are we sticking a pin on this?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, because it was supposed to have come up on Page 16. It would have been after Sub-section 2 or 12.

THE SPEAKER: We are going to stick a pin on it.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: That is for Page 14 right?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I do not know, but it is not on Page 14. He came up with the issues and that was why we decided to stick a pin on that issue. For now, we have not got to the point where we are going to do amendments.

THE SPEAKER: Why did you bring it on Page 14?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman, can we take five minutes break, so that we fix this issue?

[Electrical malfunction in the Well]

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11:05 a.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 11th March, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]