

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

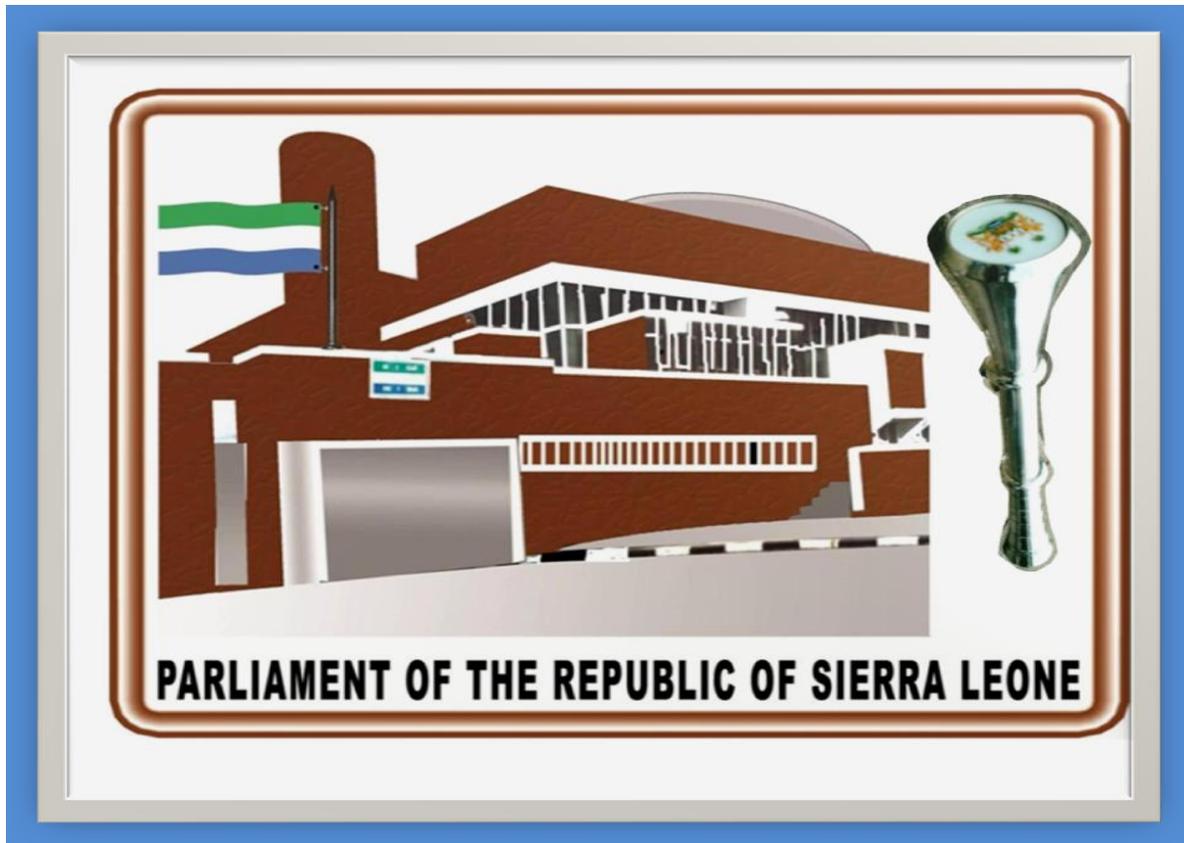
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: II

NUMBER: 48

First Meeting of the First Session of the Fourth Parliament
Of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 7th November, 2013.

CONTENT:

I. PRAYERS

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY 29th
OCTOBER, 2013**

III. LAYING OF PAPERS

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER, 2013

AMENDMENT TO THE PETROLEUM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE (THE "STATE") AND EUROPEAN HYDROCARBONS LIMITED, (REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES UNDER COMPANY NUMBER 04819033) WHOSE REGISTERED OFFICE IS AT ST BOTOLPH BUILDING, 138 HOUNDSDITCH, LONDON EC3A 7AR, UNITED KINGDOM (EUROPEAN HYDROCARBONS), DATED 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2013.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

**FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2013.

The House met at 10:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

[The Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Mr Mohamed Lebbie, Read the Prayers].

[The Speaker, Hon. Justice Abel Nathaniel Bankole Stronge, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2013

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 29th October, 2013. Page1? Page2? Page3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Since there is no amendment can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 29th October, 2013 be adopted as presented?

HON. DAVID JOHNSON: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHAJI SERAY DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 29th October, 2013 was unanimously adopted as presented)

III GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

MR ARROW BOCKARIE (*Deputy 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 Tuesday, 22nd October, 2013:

"Amendment to the Petroleum Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and European Hydrocarbons Limited, (registered in England and Wales under company number 04819033) whose registered office is at St Botolph Building,

138 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7AR, United Kingdom (European Hydrocarbons), dated 23rd September, 2013."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Amendment to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and European Hydrocarbons Limited which was laid on the Table of Parliament on 22nd October, 2013 be ratified by this Honourable House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the European Hydrocarbons entered into a petroleum exploration agreement on the 23rd April, 2010. This agreement was however terminated by the Director-General of the Petroleum Directorate due to a difference of opinion on the interpretation of the word 'effective date' and also a perceived failure of the European Hydrocarbons to comply with relinquishment obligations. Following discussions between the Government and European Hydrocarbons (in compliance with the provisions in the agreement to the agreement to cooperate in every possible manner to achieve the objectives of the 2010 agreement), it has been reinstated and is in full force and effect. Subject to the provisions of this, some amendments were made in the agreement, which hopefully will be ratified by this Honourable House today. Some of the amendments to the said agreements are:

- a. the extension of the initial exploration period from the 23rd April, 2013 to the 23rd April, 2015;
- b. Detailed graphic analysis must be carried out by the contractor on multi-attribute volumes, using paradigm tool suit; and
- c. the minimum expenditure of the contractor to work on the initial exploration Period shall be 3 million United States Dollars.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the amount of money expected to be spent by the contractor during the initial programme (i.e. the first year of the extended initial exploration period in this agreement) is 750 United States Dollars. I would like to refer the House to Article 6 of the said agreement under the 'Rubric Social Programme,' which clearly states the obligation of the company towards meeting its social

obligations. For instance, during the first year of the extended initial exploration period, the Licensee will be spending 750,000 United States Dollars. Article 6(b) provides that during the second year of the extended initial exploration period, the Licensee commits to be spending 750 United States Dollars from a total of 1,500,000 United States Dollars on social programmes, relating to areas of health, education, sanitation, agriculture, small or medium enterprise development for the whole of the extended or initial period.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, "be it resolved that the amendment to the Petroleum Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serra Leone and European Hydrocarbons Limited, which was laid before Parliament on the 22nd October, 2013 be ratified by Parliament.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Government motion by the Deputy Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has been unanimously ratified).

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 10.12 a.m. and was adjourned until Tuesday, 12th September, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)