



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT APPROVES SUPREME COURT JUDGE

The Eleventh Report of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, chaired by the Leader of Government Business, Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma, has on Tuesday 20/05/2025 debated and unanimously approved by Parliament.

The following presidential nominee was approved by Parliament:

1. Hon. Justice Fatmatta Bintu Alhadi - Supreme Court Judge

Presenting the Tenth Report, the Majority and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma said the Presidential Nominee was interviewed on oaths and under strict procedures on issues pertaining to her educational backgrounds. Probing questions covering a wide range of issues relating to track records and her declared assets, tax obligations, and vision for sustainable tenure. He assured the plenary that the Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service.

Seconding the motion, the Whip of Opposition, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara from Kambia District, underscored the appointments of Hon. Justice Fatimata for her experience leadership and also spoke

about the need to improve the conditions of service in the judiciary. He described the nominee as a woman of substance. He said Sierra Leone has not done justice to the judiciary over the years in terms of financial allocation. "Let support the Judiciary for a proper service delivery in the judiciary sector," he said. He ended by saying that there is a need to empower more women in our society.

In his submission to the debate, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh said Parliament make laws, but the power to interpret the law made by Parliament is in the hand of the judiciary. Referencing section 138 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Honourable Tawa Conteh said the salaries and allowances of judges should be encouraging, to improve on welfare and service delivering of same, adding that attention should be giving in order to support the judiciary sector. He added that much more empowerment should be given to the judiciary in order to perform effectively. "The disbursement of funds in the judiciary must be timely to ensure effective service delivery," he said.

Chief Whip 2, Honourable Neneh Lebbie in her debate, extended appreciation to President Bio for the appointment of Honourable Justice Fatimata, she describes the appointee as an experience and competent individual who is more than capable to act in the capacity, she has been appointed to.

Rounding up the debate, the opposition, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma, said he has a strong conviction that the nominee will perform extremely well in the Supreme Court. He said there is a need for the Judiciary to go on a self account system to enhance its operations. He encourages the Chief Justice to continue rebranding the image of the judiciary and ensure justice for the people of Sierra Leone. "We want to see 30% representation in the judiciary also as Parliament has set pace," he said. He ended by saying that Parliament has a great role to play in the independence of the judiciary through allocation of resources to the sector.

Rounding up debate, the Majority and Leader of Government Business, Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma said that even though Parliament determines its salary and allowances, there is always public outcry when Parliament try to do so. He continues that there is a need for better conditions of service in the Judiciary sector and that President Bio will work tirelessly to ensure better conditions of service and the additional two arms of government. He said the judiciary is an independent organ of government it therefore, it should not be politicised. He continues by saying there is a need to reform in order to change the image of the judiciary.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

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