



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



PRESIDENT BIO OPENS THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT

The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Supreme Head of State, Grand Commander of the Order of the Republic, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Fountain of Honour, Freedom and Justice, Brigadier Retired, Dr. Julius Maada Bio has on Thursday 3rd August 2023 officially proclaimed the commencement of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Pursuant to Section 84 subsections 1,2 and 3 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of 1991) that the President shall officially proclaim the Commencement of Parliament after the conduct of the General Elections.

Giving the State of the Nation's Address, President Bio said he was honoured to receive the resounding mandate of the People from the June 24th 2023 General Elections to lead the country. President Bio said as a strong advocate of democracy, he holds Parliament to very high esteem and went on to congratulate the Speaker and Deputy Speaker as well as Members of Parliament for their elections or re-elections.

He described the day as a momentum occasion in the history of Sierra Leone and continued to laud the increasing representation of women in the just concluded national elections and current governance. He bestowed praises on women, in light of their participation in Parliament and categorically stated that the Sixth Parliament predicated on a sound democracy. The President trend his speech on continuity and spoke about the progressive drive amid the global challenges.

President Bio Spoke positively about his People's Manifesto, in light of the Big 5 Agenda relative to food security, youth employment scheme, human capital development, technology and infrastructure and enhancing the public sector among others initiatives he intended to drive the development of the state on.

President Bio strongly reaffirmed his commitment and elaborated on the Big 5 Game Changer including Feed Sierra Leone, Human Capital Development, Youth Employment Scheme, Enhancing Public Sector and Technology and Infrastructure Initiative.

The President spoke about the transformation of health care and women's status in government amongst others developmental trajectories.

In concluding his statement, President Bio underscored dialogue and national cohesion in politics, especially in Parliament. He said the need for dialogue and peace resonate with utmost importance. He spoke positively of the value of the people in democracy, especially in debate and service delivery. President Bio patriotically used the opportunity to ask all and sundry to put the nation first. Dialogue he said was a necessity and positive trend. "Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members on behalf of the Executive, I pledge to nurture a healthy relationship with this esteem Parliament and other branches of government. Together we shall strive to achieve our shared goals over the next five years ' he stated and went to underscore sustainable peace and dialogue. "It falls on our shoulders to safeguard the Democracy", he maintained. He also spoke well of the collaborative support of all compatriots and partners. He also recalled the activities of the just concluded June 24 Elections in light of planning, logistic and supports as well as the review of the Electoral bodies.

He congratulated the Security, the Judiciary and the Press.

"As we embark on this shared journey, let us move forward for optimism" he reassured.

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