

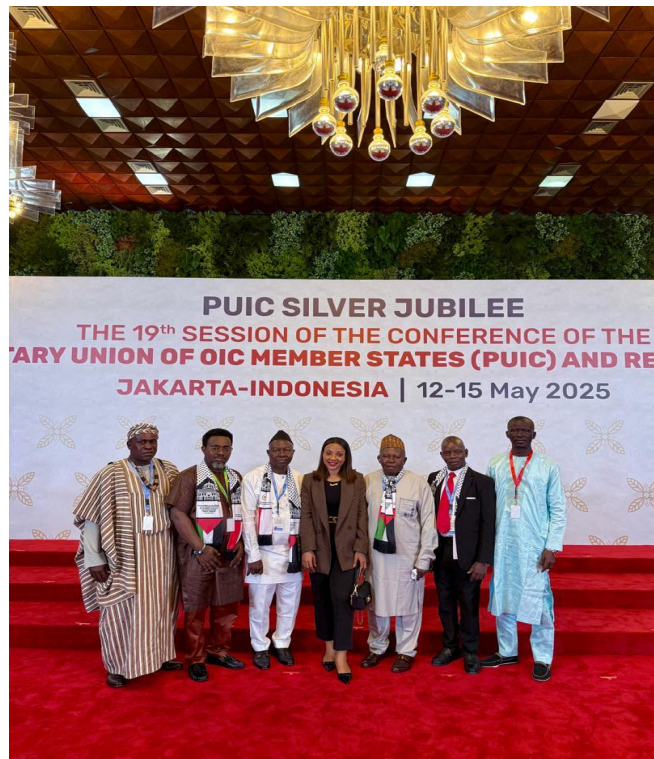


# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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## PRESS RELEASE



### THE 19TH SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC). STATEMENT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION

The Rt. Hon Speaker, House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia - H.E. Dr. (HC) Puan Maharani;

H.E. Mr. Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia;

H. E. Dr. Haji Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia;

H. E. Mr. Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore;

Colleague Parliamentarians from other jurisdictions here present;

Our distinguished religious leaders;

Fellow Participants;

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentle men.

We bring you greetings and warm regards from our Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament, the Rt. Hon Segepoh Solomon Thomas who was determined to be here today but got engaged in other important state matters on the date of departure. He therefore had no other option but to send me and my team to ably represent him throughout this conference and report to him accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished guest, we are indeed delighted and honoured by your determination to continue our long standing cordial relationship between the OIC Member States and we are equally determined to ensure it grows from strength to strength.

Today we are all clued together to commemorate the theme PUIC Silver Jubilee : Sound Governance and Strong Institutions as pillars of Resilience.

We therefore commend ourselves for areas we got right and improve on areas that remain challenging. As we set the pace for an exponential growth over the years leading to the Golden Jubilee, thematic issues like good governance infrastructure, strong economic policies, safe environmental practices, increase number of women parliamentarians, strong democratic institutions and bi- lateral and multi - lateral cooperations between member state to Boost trade and investment cannot be ignored.

We in Sierra Leone remain committed to promoting investment opportunities in areas like Agriculture, Tourism, Energy Generation and Distribution, Mining, Road Infrastructure, Women Empowerment, Environment Protection etc.

As I speak, we have passed a law mandating at least 30% female representation in both elective and appointment positions in both public and private sectors with sanctions for failing to comply.

Recently, our Parliament ratified an MOU with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allowing both countries to identify investment opportunities and tap into those opportunities for mutual benefits. Similar agreements have been entered into with Turkey and Morocco to provide defence expertise for the good of all. Many more untapped opportunities do exist in our petroleum and road sectors awaiting our intervention for mutual benefits.

Last week, few parliamentarians from Iran visited Sierra Leone Parliament to solidify the establishment of the Sierra Leone Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group. Today it is my wish to pave the way for the establishment of the Sierra Leone Indonesia Parliamentary Friendship Group because the benefits to be derived are far more than one can imagine.

As we continue this engagement, I once again express our commitment to the shared values we all stand for as OIC Members States. As we work towards sumounting our challenges we must note that our similarities and what we stand to benefit through cooperation far outweigh our differences. We are here to support our common interests, share knowledge and investment opportunities for the good of all. I thank you for your audience.