



# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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## PRESS RELEASE



### THIRD ALLOTTED DAY: PARLIAMENT CONTINUES DEBATE ON PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone started a Motion of Thanks to President Bio on Wednesday, 06/11/2024, for the speech he so graciously delivered on the Occasion of the State Opening of the Second Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone in the Chamber of the Parliament Building on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024.

In his submission to the debate, Hon. P.C. Kanneh Alameen from Kenema District alluded to the fact that Paramount Chiefs' representatives in the House are there to advise the government on developmental matters. He called on all to put the nation first and added that the rule of law must be respected. He also called on MPs and Citizens to support the government in the areas of development. "We cannot achieve anything without unity," he noted, urging that collaborative efforts would develop Sierra Leone.

Hon. Abdul Latif Sesay from Port Loko District submitted his contribution to job creation. He noted that the President had created some jobs, but he decried the slow pace of job creation for the youth. He questioned certain employment opportunities for foreigners in the business sector who are not employing Sierra Leoneans.

The MPs said capital should be provided for the youth to undertake massive agricultural productivity. In concluding, Hon. Latiff compared the economic management of the previous government to that of the current government.

On her part, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay from Moyamba District, acknowledged President Bio's contribution in terms of the nation's development. She called on the opposition to be constructive in their debate and proffer solutions in their debates. She cautioned the critic about the President's

traveling, adding that the President's traveling had yielded dividends for the nation's development. She referred to the President's speech as "superb" and commended the President for national development.

On Gender-related matters, she said the President had shown political willingness to support the empowerment of women. She encouraged unity in diversity for the development of the nation.

In his submission to the debate, Hon. Bash Alusine Kamara from Karene District, said that the President's address to Parliament mentions the development and sustainability of water. He expressed irony and lambasted that President Bio's government is not serious about tackling water crises in the nation. "Water is life," he noted, referring to Karene District, which lacks enough water supply for the people.

On the road network, he said the previous government paved all district headquarters towns in the country and decried the country's slow road network. On agriculture and food security, he said the food supply is unfairly in certain regions and concluded that the country has many injustices.

Hon. Foday Jabbie from Falaba District, commended President Bio's vision for promoting good governance and democracy. He compared President Bio's dynamic quality to certain Asian Prime Ministers who had to develop their nations through robust educational policies. Hon. Jabbie used the opportunity to explain the government's achievement through education policies with statistical evidence. He explained the recruitment of teachers, the construction of new schools, and the supply of learning materials.

Hon. Mohamed Conteh from Falaba District said the government has neglected the tourist industry. He, therefore, called for the industry's timely revamp and urged for its consideration and improvement.

On her part, Hon. Margaret Feimata Johnson from Kailahun District, applauded President Bio's leadership quality in transforming the nation. On the Big Five Game Changers, she submitted her debate on the contributions and achievements of health care and also submitted the promotions of mental health care facilities for the nation. She praised President Bio's administration for maintaining hospitals around the country. She called the President to consider roads linking communities in the Kailahun District for better development.

On his part, Hon. Edward George from Moyamba District, responding to a previous debater on injustices and went on to recalled the previous government unfairly and unjustly sent him to prison. On youth employment, he said the Youth Ministry had accomplished a lot of employment and recruitment of youth. He commended the President for promoting gender equality and empowering women. The MP also thanked President Bio for giving the country an international facelift and for bringing positive development to the nation.

On electricity supply, he said even some village communities are now benefiting electricity supply.

Hon. Ibrahim Aziz Bangura from Port Loko District zoomed in on infrastructural development in his debate and recalled the President's promises to construct the Lungai bridge. He questioned the President's policy statement on the bridge. He called on the president to stand by his statement and accomplish the bridge, which is vital for the decongestion of Freetown.

On roads, the Member of Parliament outlined the challenges of linking the Lungi township and its environs and called on the government to consider. On youth empowerment, he urged the government to emphasize the entertainment industry, which he said is a revenue-generating sector.

Hon. Lucinda Finda Kellie from Kono District, predicated her debate on the health sector. She went on to commend the previous First Lady for supporting health care facilities for the Kono people. She decried the current government for neglecting roads linking to medical facilities and called on the President and his team to do justice to the people of Kono District on the promises. She commended the President and the government on the Feed Salone initiative but decried the policies surrounding the initiative due to huge taxation on rice importation.

Hon. Mariama Munia Zombo from Pujahun District submitted her debate on food security and climate change. She said women bear the greatest risk of climate change. On food security, she acknowledged the positive steps taken so far in the agricultural sector. She said the Bank of Sierra Leone is giving loans to farmers on 10% interest and urged Sierra Leoneans to take the opportunity and go into farming. She concluded by appreciating Dr. Yumkella and his team for promoting climate change.

Hon. Amid Hula Mansary from Koinadugu District said the government had not constructed a single road in the north or other regions for the past few years and blamed the same for not constructing roads linking towns and cities. The MP said he is not convinced that the Feed Salone initiatives would succeed, saying that measures are not in place. Regarding youth-related issues, he said if the youth are employed, the intake of 'kush' will have no room for the youth.

On his part, Hon. Musa Fofanah from Kono submitted that President Bio's government had transformed the nation's development and clarified to previous debaters who had decried the government on development. He said the Bio's Administration had paid much attention to the country's Northern Region. He said that President Bio had transformed the nation's development and added that the government is struggling with the agriculture sector because it lacks a foundation. He also clarified that the previous government left the nation with many debts. Currently, he said the government is servicing past debts with huge amount of money that would have supported other developments.

Hon. Joseph Bash Kamara from Bo District described the Presidential Speech as a developmental-driven speech geared towards the State's socio-economic development. He commended the Bio Administration for many strides in the energy sector. He alluded to the Mini-Grids of Solar installation in major Chiefdom Headquarter Towns nationwide. Hon. Bash Kamara also made reference to the government's initiative to creating 500,000 jobs for the youth.

Hon. Quatin Salia Konneh from Kailahun District applauded the President and questioned the opposition MPs' contributions to the Presidential debate. He said the APC rule in this country had been destructive and that the SLPP government laid the foundation for the nation's development. On the Feed Salone initiatives, he said mechanized farming had increased, and the State had provided many farm tools to boost agricultural productivity.

Hon. Moses Andrew Edwin from Bonthe District said the government is transparent and commended the President for the nation's developmental strides.

On Bonthe District, he said it was an eyesore without infrastructure but commend the president for the current beautification of Shabro Island.

Hon. Alie Bayoh from Kenema District commended the President for a well-delivered speech and MDAs for gathering data to push and shape the nation's development. He said the President's speech reminded her of good leadership, governance, and policy formulation. He called on the opposition to patient in order to judge the President on the Feed Salone initiatives. He said the country's economic

situation is on track and praised the government for implementing proper economic policies. He concluded by advising colleague MPs to see themselves as brothers and sisters.

Hon. Rugiatu Kamara from Tonkolili District said that since one of the president's flagship programs is agriculture, she called on him to open up to the Feed Salone initiatives. "Let's us own the project and make it timely," she said and went on to encourage Sierra Leoneans to take agriculture very seriously. "We cannot succeed in the Feed Salone project on subsistence farming," she warned and went on to note that mechanized farming is the answer for rice production.

Hon. Amara Momoh Kargbo from Western Area Rural District compared the former government's agricultural farming practices with this current government indicating vast difference between the two. He said former President Koroma's challenges in Agriculture were irrigation, mechanized services, and lack of financing. He said the Bio's administration had secured a lot of funds to boost agricultural activities. He added that the former president's agenda for prosperity failed in agriculture. He concluded by appreciating President Bio for his developmental strides for the nation.

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