

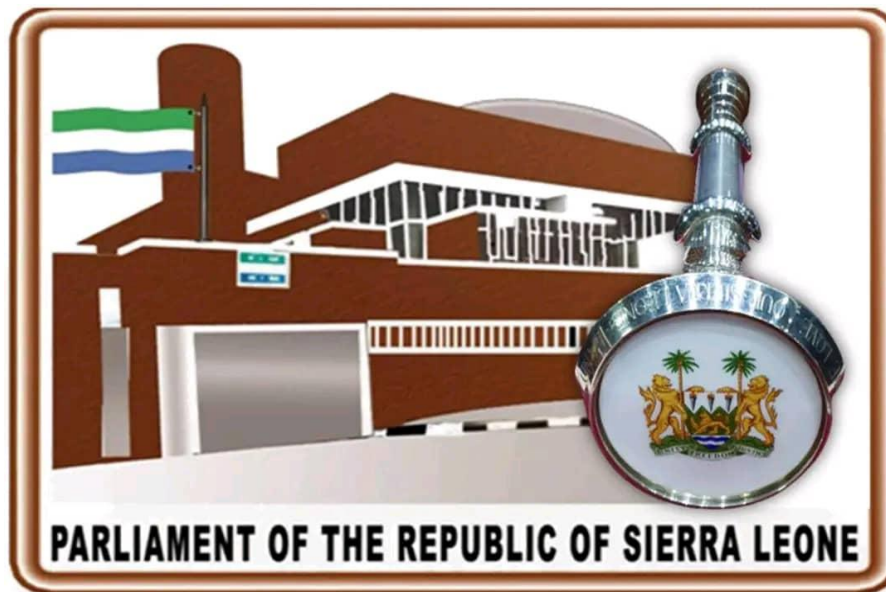


PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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12th May, 2025

PRESS RELEASE



WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE 12/5/2025

MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION HEEDS TO PARLIAMENTARY SUMMONS, OUTLINES CHALLENGES IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Pursuant to Section 107 and paragraphs a & b of subsection 2 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, following a parliamentary summon, the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education, Conrad Sackey on Thursday 08/05/2025 Conrad Sackey appeared in Parliament to explain to MPs and the general public why a huge number of pupils were dropped out of the ongoing 2025 West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), a matter that has attracted huge public interest.

Explaining to Members of Parliament, the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Conrad Sackey described the issue as a grave concern that is seriously affecting quality assurance. He told Parliament that the ministry is tirelessly working to resolve the issues. According to the Minister, the West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) is a public and

international examination. The Minister stated that Sierra Leone is a bit flexible when it comes to the submission of qualified candidates.

The Ministry has taken the following measures to address the issue:

1. The Ministry has held engagement with WAEC to reopen the online portal and
2. The Ministry has further engaged the Gambia and Nigeria High Commissioners in order to reopen the portal for pupils in Sierra Leone

PARLIAMENT APPROVES 2 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

The Tenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, chaired by the Leader of Government Business, Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma, has on Thursday 08/05/2025 debated and unanimously approved by Parliament.

The following presidential nominees were approved by Parliament:

1. Ibrahim Sannoh, Minister of Youth Affairs and
2. Mohamed Alie Bah, Member National Commission for Social Action(NaCSA)

Presenting the Tenth Report, the Deputy Majority and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie, said the Presidential Nominees were interviewed on oaths and under strict procedures on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds. Probing questions covering a wide range of issues relating to track records pertinent to their 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.

PARLIAMENT RATIFES BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has, on Thursday 08/05/2025, debated and ratified the following agreements:

1. Agreement on the cooperation with regards to the creation of the West Africa Science service center on Climate change and Adapted Land use (WASCAL)
2. Additional Act to the cooperation Agreement establishing the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land use (WASCAL).
3. Constitution of the West Africa science service center on climate change and Adapted Land used WASCAL Text Adopted by the 1st WASCAL Council of Ministers.

PARLIAMENT RATIFES E-RESIDENT WORK PERMIT SYSTEM

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 08/5/2025 debated and ratified the Agreement and schedule of conditions of contact for the Development and housing of a unified E-Resident and work permit system between the Ministry of Employment, Labor and social security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Sierra Leone Immigration Department and constrat system Limited, was ratified by Parliament on the same day.

TRADE COMMITTEE ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS ON PETROLEUM ACT

Following popular demands by Members of Parliament to educate citizens on Bills passed into law, the Parliamentary Committee on Trade and Industry chaired by Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay with support from the National Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA) on Tuesday 06/05/2025, commenced the first phase of popularizing the 2025 NPRA Act at J&E Hotel in Bo City. The awareness raising discussion attracted several stakeholders including traders, bike riders, students and pupils, drivers, civil society organisations, local authorities and State officers.

In her opening statement, the Chairperson said the outreach engagement aimed at sensitizing dealers, service providers, consumers, and end users on the implementation of the new petroleum Act. The Seasoned politician said there are many positive things in the new Act, including the free and fair market, fines, guidelines that the people should know and hence, they were in the communities to create awareness. "Fuel is a very important commodity, it makes and breaks government," the MP maintained. She also used the opportunity to explain the reason the institution was changed from an Agency to Authority in tandem with the new law

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

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