

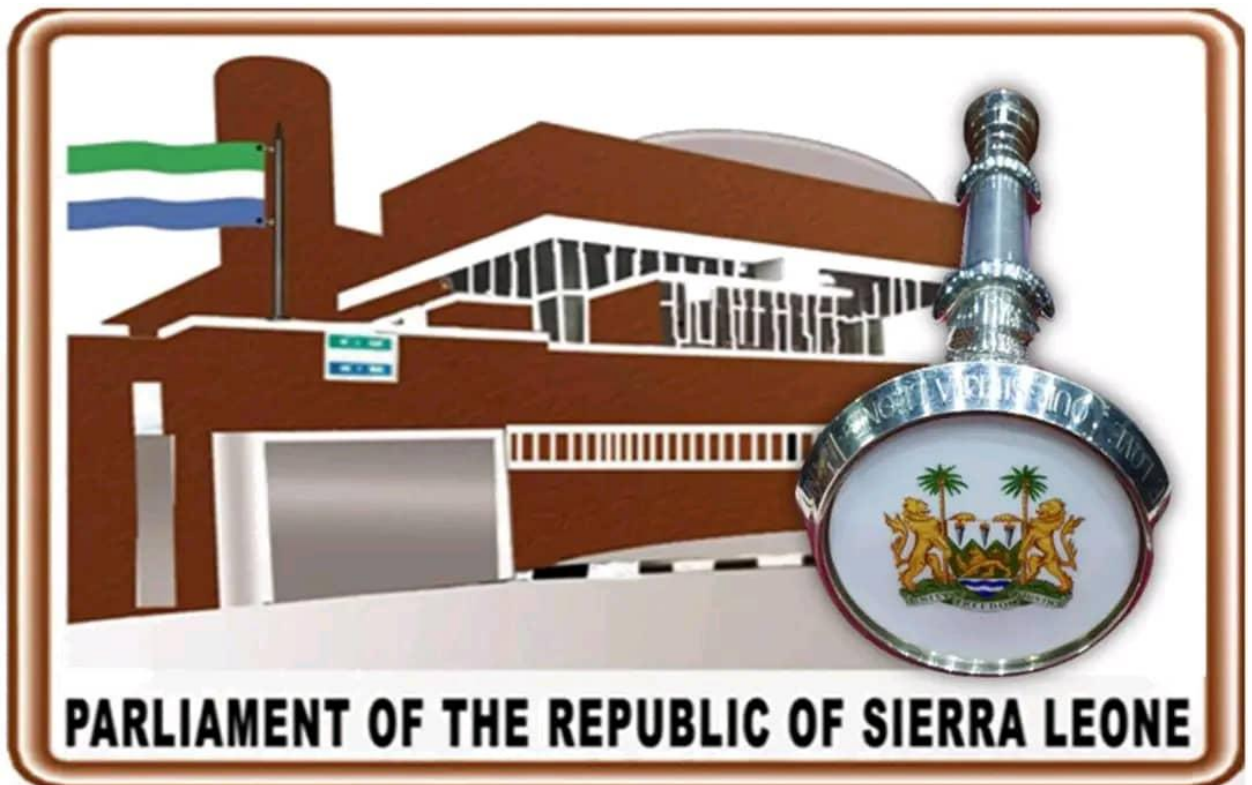


## PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Parliament Building - O.A.U Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown | [admin@parliament.gov.sl](mailto:admin@parliament.gov.sl) | [www.parliament.gov.sl](http://www.parliament.gov.sl)

13<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

### PRESS RELEASE



#### WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

##### PARLIAMENT PASSES INTO LAW THE SIERRA LEONE SHIPPING AGENCY ACT 2025

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Thursday, 13/03/2025 debated and passed into law with some Amendment, the Bill, entitled; "The Sierra Leone Shipping Agency Act 2025", for the development of the State.

The Bill seeks to make provision for the establishment of the Sierra Leone National Shipping Agency as the sole national carrier of the Republic of Sierra Leone with the right to perform at its discretion the maritime transportation of 40% of the total value of cargo exported out of and imported into Sierra Leone, whether unitized or in bulk, dry or liquid, including the provision of

FPSOs, FSOs, freight clearing and forwarding, transshipment, Crew management, cabotage services haulage and related logistics services and to provide for other related matters.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Ambassador Fanday Turay, earlier piloted the Bill.

#### Audit Service Engages Parliamentary Committees

The Parliament of Sierra Leone and the Audit Service Sierra Leone has on Wednesday 12/3/2025 engaged various committees in Parliament on a pre-submission engagement on the Audit Service Regulation, 2024

The engagement attracted various committees such as Public Account Committee, Finance Committee, Transparency and Accountability Committee

Committee on Works and Public Asset engages the Ministry of Works

The Parliamentary Committee Housing and Public Asset has on Wednesday 12/3/2025 engaged Ministry of Works and Public Asset on its operational activities

The Chairperson of the Committee Hon. Bashiru Silikie outlines Parliament's mandate and requested all information necessary for the work of the Committee

#### Leader of Government Business laid statutory instrument

On behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Leader of Government Business Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma has, on Thursday 13/3/2025, laid in the Chamber of Parliament the Audit Service Regulations 2024,

The Audit Service Act 2014 [Act No. 4 of 2014],  
Statutory Instrument No. 15 of 2024

#### THE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT ENGAGES GENTO GROUP

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Transport and Aviation on Monday 10 convened and deliberated the ambitious Banana Island Port and Railway Project spearheaded by Gento Group of Companies. The initiative, designed to establish a world-class deep-sea port and modern railway network, aims to link Sierra Leone's mining regions to global trade routes. With its potential to boost economic growth, create jobs, and revolutionize trade and logistics across West Africa, it is receiving a bi-partisan support.

#### Committee on Fisheries Engages Ministry Officials

The Parliamentary Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources recently engaged Officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources at Parliament in Freetown. The Ministry Officials led by the Permanent Secretary and other professional and technical personnel updated the Committee Members.

#### Speaker Segepoh Thomas Commended for Leading Parliament's Openness and Transparency

As part of his unwavering commitment to deepening openness and transparency in Sierra Leone's Parliament, the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, on Friday 14th March 2025, welcomed Mr. Joseph Munda Bindi, Chairman of the National Council for Civic

Education and Democracy (NaCEED), an organization dedicated to promoting civic education and participation, to acknowledge the Speaker's role in promoting openness and to discuss ways to support further the implementation of Sierra Leone's National Action Plan (NAP 5) on Open Government.

During the meeting, the Chairman Bindi expressed his profound appreciation for the Speaker's steadfast belief in parliamentary openness, transparency, and accountability. According to the Chairman, Parliament and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), they were ranked highly in the latest Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report for their dedication and tangible progress in implementing their commitments and milestones. He praised the Speaker's supportive leadership, which he described as a driving force behind Parliament's remarkable progress in achieving its parliamentary milestones. "Parliament, under your guidance, has not only made strong commitments to openness but is delivering on them impressively," the Chairman noted.

#### KONO HERITAGE ORGANIZATION DONATES 50 BAGS OF CEMENT TO PARLIAMENT CHURCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

In order to promote religious tolerance, the Kono Heritage organization, which consists of indigenes of Kono District, has on Thursday 13/3/2025 donated fifty (50) bags of cement to Parliament Church construction project.

During the donation at the ongoing construction site, the Chief Executive Officer of Kono Heritage Organization who doubles as the Deputy Leader of Government Business 2, honourable Saa Emerson Lamina said the donation is to boost the speedy construction of the Parliamentary Chapel, saying building a place to worship God is essential in order to win more souls for the kingdom of God.

The Deputy Leader added that the ongoing Church construction is the first since the establishment of Parliament in April 1961

#### PARLIAMENT, WFD, UN WOMEN, AND OTHER PARTNERS COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with Westminster Foundation for Democracy, UN WOMEN, PetroJetty, World Vision, Plan International and Orange Sierra Leone, on Thursday 13/3/2025, commemorated International Women's Day themed: "Accelerating Action: Strengthening Women's Leadership and Civic Engagement for Inclusive Governance."

In his opening statement and declaration of purpose, the Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Gilbert Bosco N'habay, expressed happiness for participating in the event and said that the event would serve as a way to addressing issues affecting women. The Deputy Clerk assured the women of Sierra Leone that the Leadership of Parliament is fully in support of promoting gender equality, which has been manifested through the enactment of various legislations.

In her goodwill message, the Vice President of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Female Caucus, Hon. Rosemarie Bangura said the event was aimed at raising awareness on issues affecting women in Sierra Leone and that the gathering was not only to celebrate women, but a call to action, to address issues faced by women. "As we reflect on the achievements in the gender sector, we must also remind all that the sector is faced with numerous challenges and that these challenges need to be addressed to prevent gender based violence.

For more information, please visit us @:

>[www.parliament.gov.sl](http://www.parliament.gov.sl)

>> Parliament of Sierra Leone app

>> Parliament of Sierra Leone's Facebook account

>> Parliament of Sierra Leone's Twitter account >Email:[admin@parliament.gov.sl](mailto:admin@parliament.gov.sl)

>> Parliament YouTube account

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

Parliament of Sierra Leone

+23278495023/+23276625960/+23278426851/+23278697776/+23277473804