



# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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## PRESS RELEASE



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

#### HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH MEETS IMF LEGAL TEAM IN WASHINGTON, DC

Following an invitation extended to the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Sierra Leone Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh met with the IMF Legal Department on debt transparency on Tuesday 22/04/2025 at the IMF headquarters in Washington, DC.

It was a well attended high-level meeting organised by the IMF and The Parliamentary Network on The World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The meeting discussed debt transparency, which has become increasingly significant due to rising public debt and the use of complex and often opaque financing methods such as collateralized borrowing and state-owned enterprise debt.

#### PARLIAMENT MOURNS HON. ZAINAB LYDIA KAMARA

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Thursday 24/04/2025 opened and signed a Book of Condolence during the lying-in-state ceremony of the Late Hon. Zainah Lydia Kamara at the State Hall of Parliament at Tower in Freetown. The former Member of Parliament died at aged 69. She represented Western Area Urban from 2002 to 2007 under the banner of the ruling SLPP.

Reading the declaration of purpose, the Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations, Sheku Lamin Turay, said that Hon. Zainab L. Kamara contributed to the development of local communities and the health sector of Sierra Leone when she was serving as a councillor. According to the citation, Mr. Turay told distinguished mourners and family members that the deceased became a Member of Parliament between 2002/2007 in the Second Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone and was also a Member of the Health Committee in Parliament.

#### PARLIAMENT RATIFIES BILATERAL AGREEMENT, MOU

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Thursday 24/04/2025 unanimously ratified Cooperative agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Sierra Leone and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the mutual benefits and development of both countries.

The following agreement and Memorandum of Understanding were ratified by Parliament of Sierra Leone:

1. Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Presenting the agreement, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Francess P. Alghali said the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of Saudi Arabia signed the cooperation agreement in Saudi. She told the House that the agreement is crucial to various sectors, including investment, health, and agriculture, economic growth amongst others. The Deputy Minister emphasised that the agreement would cover the operations of various sectors. Madam Deputy Minister assured Parliament that the agreement would improve the bilateral relationship between both countries in light of mutual benefits and enhancing trade and economic development. She also vehemently revealed that the agreement would also improve human capital development, especially in technologies and other sectors.

The MOU, she said, would create a platform for cooperation and would promote the national interest of the parties.

#### UPF AWARDS SPEAKER THOMAS FOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS IN SOUTH KOREA

In recognition of his outstanding and transformative leadership of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, coupled with progressive legislation, and his indefatigable support of peacebuilding and inter-parliamentary dialogue, the Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas was recognized and awarded at the Universal Peace Federal (UPF) World Summit in Seoul, South Korea.

This prestigious recognition was presented to the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas Esq., by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Abdul Kargbo, who led Sierra Leone's delegation to the summit.

Two distinguished members of the delegation, Hon. Haja Miatta Amara and madam Zainab Susan Dumbuya joined Hon. Kargbo in this symbolic ceremony in which he presented the Award to Speaker Thomas in his Chambers in Parliament.

The collective presence of the delegation to South Korea highlighted the spirit of national unity, bipartisan cooperation, and shared commitment to peace that defines Sierra Leone's growing global footprint.

The commemorative plaque and gift, presented on behalf of UPF and its co-founder, Mother Moon, went beyond formal recognition. The award and gifts from UPF represent a powerful testament to Sierra Leone's proactive role in promoting global peacebuilding, inter-parliamentary dialogue, and the pursuit of sustainable development.

#### **DIRECTOR TURAY BAGS PUBLIC SECTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM AFRICAN CEO MEDIA CORPORATION**

In recognition of his uncompromising professionalism, coupled with his inimitable and efficacious service delivery for the Parliament of Sierra Leone, the African CEO Media Corporation recognized and handed over a meritorious Public Sector Excellence Award to the Director of the Parliamentary and Public Relations Department of Sierra Leone Parliament, Sheku Lamin Turay, on Friday, 25/04/2025.

The Public Sector Award 2025 was staged and well attended by dignitaries at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The citation on the award reads as follows: "This is in recognition of your outstanding leadership, professionalism, and demonstrated commitment to effective service delivery in the Public Sector in Sierra Leone over the years." It was presented to him during the Public Sector Awards Ceremony held in Freetown on Friday, the 25th of April 2025, by the African CEO Media Corporation.

On receiving the award, Director Turay described it as "deserving and meritorious," and "it has challenged me to do more in the public spheres."

#### **PARLIAMENT MOURNS MRS. ALARI FRANCES SHAW**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Sunday, 27th April, in the year of our Lord 2025, opened and signed a Book of Condolence during the lying-in-state ceremony of the late Mrs. Alari F. Shaw at the State Hall of Parliament at Tower Hill in Freetown. The former Staff of Parliament died at age 64 and served as a Confidential Secretary in the Office of the Clerk of Parliament from 1986 to 2025.

Speaking on the declaration of purpose, the Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations, Sheku Lamin Turay, said that Mrs. Alari F. Shaw was a hard-working, dedicated, and committed Staff of Parliament who contributed to ensuring that the Office of the Clerk of Parliament effectively and efficiently delivered on its mandate. According to the citation, Mr. Turay told distinguished mourners and family members that the deceased was the first staff in the parliamentary history to have been

given such a civic funeral rite. He also opined that the deceased served as a Staff of Parliament from 1986 to 2025.

Giving his tribute in honour of the deceased, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma said in a solitary tone that the former Staff of Parliament was a true mother who was personally concerned about him. He further stated that at some point, he rallied behind his colleagues to recommend the deceased to serve as a Justice of Peace (JP) in recognition of her selfless contributions to Parliament and the country as a whole. He told family members and mourners that the deceased came across influential people and impacted the lives of many, irrespective of who they were or where they came from. He consoled the family members to continue to work in unity and to be mindful that working together as a family is the best for humanity to continue to thrive. He concluded by encouraging the family members to accept their condolences as members of the SLPP.

The Parliamentary Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation Engages Zoodlabs and Metro Cables

On its Parliamentary engagements, The Parliamentary Committee on Communications, Technology and Innovation Chaired by Hon. Boston Munda has on the 23 April 2025 at the Home Suites Hotel Aberdeen engaged

Zoodlabs and Metro Cables on an information shearing process and market updates event.

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