



**FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
FIFTH SESSION, 2022/2023
FIRST MEETING OF PARLIAMENT
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING**



VP: Vol. 18
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THURSDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2022

The House met at 10:40 a.m.
The Rt. Hon. Speaker, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu, Presided.

I. ATTENDANCE:

THE FOLLOWING HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE PRESENT:

NO	NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	CONST.
1.	Hon. Abdulai Osman Charles	SLPP	Bo	079
2.	<i>Hon. Alhadi Lihadi</i>	APC	Western Urban	123
3.	<i>Hon. Alu-Conteh Alusine Kainde</i>	APC	Western Urban	125
4.	<i>Hon. Amara Haja Miatta</i>	APC	Western Rural	112
5.	Hon. Aruna Massay Ngahinteh	SLPP	Bo	085
6.	<i>Hon. Bah Alpha Amadu</i>	APC	Western Urban	115
7.	Hon. Bah Chernor R.M.	APC	Western Urban	126
8.	<i>Hon. Bangura Cecilia Mabinty</i>	APC	Karene	065
9.	<i>Hon. Bangura Ibrahim Aziz</i>	APC	Pot Loko	076
10.	<i>Hon. Bangura Mohamed</i>	APC	Karene	066
11.	<i>Hon. Banya Sarty</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	004
12.	Hon. Bhendu Francis Saa	C4C	Kono	027
13.	<i>Hon. Bockarie Momoh</i>	SLPP	Kenema	012
14.	Hon. Braima Zainab Kama	SLPP	Kailahun	010
15.	<i>Hon. Bubu Ngbak IV P.C. Bai Farama Tass</i>	-	Kambia	-
16.	<i>Hon. Charles Sahr</i>	C4C	Kono	028
17.	<i>Hon. Conteh Abdul S. Marray</i>	SLPP	Western Urban	130
18.	<i>Hon. Conteh Emmanuel Saidu</i>	APC	Western Urban	129
19.	<i>Hon. Conteh Ibrahim</i>	APC	Tonkolili	053
20.	<i>Hon. Conteh Ibrahim Tawa</i>	SLPP	Western Urban	132
21.	<i>Hon. Conteh John Charles</i>	APC	Bombali	031
22.	<i>Hon. Davies Kadijatu</i>	APC	Western Rural	110
23.	<i>Hon. Edwin Moses Andrew</i>	SLPP	Bonthe	090
24.	<i>Hon. Fabbah Habib Keifa</i>	SLPP	Bo	078
25.	Hon. Fefegula Simeon	SLPP	Moyamba	096
26.	<i>Hon. Finnoh III P. C. Kandeh</i>	-	Bombali	-
27.	<i>Hon. Fofanah Abubakarr</i>	SLPP	Kenema	016
28.	<i>Hon. Fofanah Abu Bakarr</i>	APC	Western Rural	107
29.	<i>Hon. Fofanah Musa</i>	C4C	Kono	023
30.	<i>Hon. Gberek III P. C. Bai Shebora Sehba</i>	-	Port Loko	-



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31.	<i>Hon. Gbekie Emmanuel Sahr</i>	SLPP	Western Urban	116
32.	<i>Hon. George Edward</i>	SLPP	Moyamba	097
33.	<i>Hon. Gevao Moiwo Hindolo</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	003
34.	<i>Hon. Gondor II P. C. Foray Cyril</i>	-	Kailahun	-
35.	<i>Hon. Hafiju Maada Kanja</i>	SLPP	Kenema	018
36.	<i>Hon. Jabbie Alpha Fode Madie</i>	SLPP	Falaba	040
37.	<i>Hon. Jalloh Osman Wurie</i>	SLPP	Western Rural	109
38.	<i>Hon. Jalloh Timbo Wurroh</i>	APC	Western Urban	119
39.	<i>Hon. Jorkie Moses Baimba</i>	SLPP	Bonthe	091
40.	<i>Hon. Juana Sahr</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	002
41.	<i>Hon. Kabba Lamin Foday</i>	APC	Koinadugu	044
42.	<i>Hon. Kabia Mohamed</i>	APC	Western Rural	106
43.	<i>Hon. Kaisamba Francis Amara</i>	SLPP	Kenema	020
44.	<i>Hon. Kalokoh Mark Mahmoud (Dr.)</i>	APC	Bombali	032
45.	<i>Hon. Kamanda Komba Mansamayao</i>	C4C	Kono	024
46.	<i>Hon. Kamara Abdul Joseph Bash</i>	SLPP	Bo	084
47.	<i>Hon. Kamara Abdul Karim</i>	APC	Kambia	059
48.	<i>Hon. Kamara Abdul Karim</i>	APC	Port Loko	069
49.	<i>Hon. Kamara Abdul Titus</i>	NGC	Kambia	061
50.	<i>Hon. Kamara Alieu Ibrahim</i>	SLPP	Western Urban	122
51.	<i>Hon. Kamara Alusine Bash</i>	APC	Karene	067
52.	<i>Hon. Kamara Bai Sama</i>	NGC	Kambia	060
53.	<i>Hon. Kamara Foday Mario</i>	NGC	Kambia	057
54.	<i>Hon. Kamara Ibrahim</i>	APC	Karene	063
55.	<i>Hon. Kamara Ibrahim Bun (Dr.)</i>	APC	Port Loko	068
56.	<i>Hon. Kamara Rebecca Yei</i>	C4C	Kono	029
57.	<i>Hon. Kamara Saidu Babah</i>	APC	Port Loko	071
58.	<i>Hon. Kanneh Alusine</i>	SLPP	Kenema	013
59.	<i>Hon. Kanneh Mohamed</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	006
60.	<i>Hon. Kanu Ahmed Joseph</i>	SLPP	Western Rural	108
61.	<i>Hon. Kanu Alimamy Brun</i>	APC	Port Loko	072
62.	<i>Hon. Kanu Rugiatu Rosy</i>	APC	Western Urban	113
63.	<i>Hon. Kargbo Abdul</i>	APC	Port Loko	077
64.	<i>Hon. Kargbo Ibrahim Ben</i>	APC	Bombali	034
65.	<i>Hon. Kargbo Papa Abdulai</i>	APC	Tonkolili	047
66.	<i>Hon. Kargbo Roland Foday (Dr.)</i>	APC	Karene	064
67.	<i>Hon. Kassegbama Aiah David Shek</i>	C4C	Kono	026
68.	<i>Hon. Kawalleh II P. C. Alhaji Kandeh Paria</i>	-	Karene	-
69.	<i>Hon. Kemokai Abu</i>	SLPP	Pujehun	103
70.	<i>Hon. Koroma Aaron Aruna</i>	APC	Tonkolili	048
71.	<i>Hon. Koroma Abdul Karim</i>	APC	Port Loko	070



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72.	<i>Hon. Koroma Daniel Brima</i>	APC	<i>Koinadugu</i>	046
73.	<i>Hon. Koroma Issa Oye</i>	APC	<i>Port Loko</i>	073
74.	<i>Hon. Koroma John Telson</i>	SLPP	<i>Western Urban</i>	127
75.	<i>Hon. Koroma Manuel Allieu</i>	APC	<i>Bombali</i>	036
76.	<i>Hon. Koroma Peter Yamba</i>	APC	<i>Bombali</i>	033
77.	<i>Hon. Koroma Unpha Sorie Gbassay (Dr.)</i>	APC	<i>Western Urban</i>	114
78.	<i>Hon. Kumabeh Jebbeh Alice</i>	SLPP	<i>Bonthe</i>	092
79.	<i>Hon. Lahai Musa</i>	SLPP	<i>Kailahun</i>	009
80.	<i>Hon. Lamina Emerson Saa</i>	C4C	<i>Kono</i>	030
81.	<i>Hon. Lansana Abdul Muniru</i>	SLPP	<i>Western Urban</i>	121
82.	<i>Hon. Lansana Festus Mohamed</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	015
83.	<i>Hon. Lansana-Minah P. C. Matilda Yayu</i>	-	<i>Pujehun</i>	-
84.	<i>Hon. Lebbie Nenneh</i>	SLPP	<i>Bo</i>	086
85.	<i>Hon. Macavoray P. C. Kangbai Joe (Prof.)</i>	-	<i>Bo</i>	-
86.	<i>Hon. Makieu Josephine</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	014
87.	<i>Hon. Mansaray Abu</i>	APC	<i>Port Loko</i>	074
88.	<i>Hon. Mansaray Brima</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	017
89.	<i>Hon. Mansaray Hamidu Holla</i>	APC	<i>Koinadugu</i>	043
90.	<i>Hon. Marah Alusine</i>	APC	<i>Falaba</i>	041
91.	<i>Hon. Marrah III P. C. Fasalie Kulako Demba</i>	-	<i>Falaba</i>	-
92.	<i>Hon. Marah Lahai</i>	APC	<i>Falaba</i>	042
93.	<i>Hon. Mbriwa II P. C. Sahr Youngai Kontanday</i>	-	<i>Kono</i>	-
94.	<i>Hon. Moigua Peter Musa</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	011
95.	<i>Hon. Munda Boston</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	021
96.	<i>Hon. Nyuma Mathew Sahr</i>	SLPP	<i>Kenema</i>	019
97.	<i>Hon. Pewa P. C. Prince Mambu</i>	-	<i>Kenema</i>	-
98.	<i>Hon. Rahman-Coker Mohamed Sheriff</i>	SLPP	<i>Western Urban</i>	131
99.	<i>Hon. Rogers Alex Mattia</i>	SLPP	<i>Pujehun</i>	102
100.	<i>Hon. Rogers Dickson Momoh</i>	SLPP	<i>Pujehun</i>	100
101.	<i>Hon. Sam Paul Saa</i>	C4C	<i>Kono</i>	025
102.	<i>Hon. Samura Hajaratu Faith</i>	APC	<i>Western Urban</i>	117
103.	<i>Hon. Sandy Ishmail Sama</i>	SLPP	<i>Bo</i>	080
104.	<i>Hon. Sandy Tennyson Hindolo</i>	SLPP	<i>Western Urban</i>	120
105.	<i>Hon. Sankoh Hassan</i>	APC	<i>Tonkolili</i>	049
106.	<i>Hon. Sellu Mustapha Musa</i>	SLPP	<i>Moyamba</i>	095
107.	<i>Hon. Sesay Abdoul Hassan</i>	APC	<i>Tonkolili</i>	050
108.	<i>Hon. Sesay Abdul Latif</i>	APC	<i>Port Loko</i>	075
109.	<i>Hon. Sesay Daniel Abdulai (Dr.)</i>	APC	<i>Tonkolili</i>	052
110.	<i>Hon. Sesay Kusan</i>	APC	<i>Koinadugu</i>	045
111.	<i>Hon. Sesay Osman Sallieu</i>	APC	<i>Bombali</i>	038
112.	<i>Hon. Sesay Veronica Kadie</i>	SLPP	<i>Moyamba</i>	094



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113.	<i>Hon. Shaw Mohamed Billoh</i>	SLPP	Falaba	039
114.	<i>Hon. Sheriff P. C. Alie Badara</i>	-	Bonthe	-
115.	<i>Hon. Siafa Rosaline Hawa</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	005
116.	<i>Hon. Tarawalie Issac</i>	APC	Western Urban	118
117.	<i>Hon. Tarawally Zainab Catherine</i>	APC	Bombali	037
118.	<i>Hon. Tholley James Ozan</i>	APC	Tonkolili	054
119.	<i>Hon. Tongi Lolloh Emilia</i>	INDEPENDENT	Kailahun	001
120.	<i>Hon. Tucker Tom Issic</i>	APC	Kono	022
121.	<i>Hon. Turay Abdul</i>	APC	Western Rural	105
122.	<i>Hon. Turay Alhaji Sorieba</i>	APC	Tonkolili	051
123.	<i>Hon. Turay Benjamin</i>	SLPP	Western Urban	128
124.	<i>Hon. Turay Sheku Munirr (Dr.)</i>	SLPP	Pujehun	099
125.	<i>Hon. Vandy Christopha Keikura</i>	SLPP	Bo	088
126.	<i>Hon. Williams- Lamin Joseph</i>	SLPP	Bo	081

THE FOLLOWING HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:

1.	<i>Hon. Bangura Rosemarie</i>	APC	Tonkolili	055
2.	<i>Hon. Conteh Samba Paul</i>	APC	Bombali	035
3.	<i>Hon. Kamara Alusine Osaio</i>	APC	Kambia	058
4.	<i>Hon. Kanu Amadu</i>	APC	Moyamba	093
5.	<i>Hon. Koroma Meama Kajue IV P. C. F. H. Bintu</i>	-	Moyamba	-
6.	<i>Hon. Lavalie-Tshombe Dominic Jaybeh</i>	SLPP	Moyamba	098
7.	<i>Hon. Lebby Ambrose Maada</i>	SLPP	Bo	083
8.	<i>Hon. Mackery Yusuf</i>	SLPP	Bo	087
9.	<i>Hon. Manly-Spain Ajibola Emmanuel</i>	APC	Western Urban	124
10.	<i>Hon. Marah III P.C. Alie Balansama</i>	-	Koinadugu	-
11.	<i>Hon. Salia-Konneh Quintin</i>	INDEPENDENT	Kailahun	007
12.	<i>Hon. Sama Musa Shiaka</i>	INDEPENDENT	Pujehun	104
13.	<i>Hon. Sanka III P.C. Bai Kurr Kanagbaro</i>	-	Tonkolili	-
14.	<i>Hon. Silikie Bashiru</i>	SLPP	Bo	082
15.	<i>Hon. Songa Wuyatta Bernadette</i>	SLPP	Kailahun	008
16.	<i>Hon. Thomas Segepoh Solomon</i>	SLPP	Bonthe	089
17.	<i>Hon. Tunis Sidie Mohamed</i>	SLPP	Pujehun	101
18.	<i>Hon. Vincent Horace E.</i>	SLPP	Western Rural	111
19.	<i>Hon. Yumkella Kandeh Kolleh (Dr.)</i>	NGC	Kambia	062



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1. Prayers were read by **Mrs. Fatmata Bintu Weston (Senior Table Clerk)**.
2. **Suspension of Standing Order 5 (2):**
The motion for the suspension of S.O. 5 (2) at 10:45 a.m. was moved by **Hon. Dickson M. Rogers of Constituency 100, Pujehun District**. The motion was seconded by **Hon. Alusine Kanneh of Constituency 013, Kenema District** and approved by the House.
3. **The Adoption of The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 29th June, 2022:**
The motion for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 29th June, 2022 was moved by **Hon. Habib Keifa Fabbah of Constituency 078, Bo District**. It was seconded by **Hon. Maada Kanja Hafiju of Constituency 018, Kenema District** and adopted by the House.
4. **Mr. Speaker's Announcement:**
The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, reminded the House about the visit of two important guests one of whom would be the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia who doubled as the President of the Senate of the Liberian Congress.

Bill: The Public Elections Act, 2022 by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:

Second Reading:

The Table Clerk, **Mr. Francis Ernest Farma**, called upon the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to continue with the process of the Second Reading of the bill.

Continued debate on the Second Reading of the bill.

Standing Order 34 (Raising of Point of Order):

The following Hon. Members stood on S.O. 34

- **Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah of Constituency 115, Western Urban District** stated that the bill entitled “**The Public Elections Act, 2022**” contained so many provisions that tended to alter or amend provisions of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. He made mention of Sections 76 (1a), 74 and 41 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. He said it was important that a Constitutional Instrument should first be brought to the House before the debate on the Second Reading of the bill should be continued with. He said that the process that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice had approached the House with was not proper. He submitted that the bill was not properly before the House and suggested that the House should shelve aside the debate on the Second Reading of the bill until the required Constitutional amendments were done.



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- The Leader of Government Business (**Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma of Constituency 019, Kenema District**) responded that a bill is a process that should go through the “First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Third Reading and Enactment. He said that the bill was not yet a law and assured the House that the Constitutional Instrument would be laid on Tuesday 5th July 2022, which would be supported by two-third majority votes to amend each clause. He emphasized that before **“The Public Elections Act, 2022”** should be enacted into law, the required Constitutional Instrument would first be dealt with. He asked that the House continued with the debate on the Second Reading of the bill.
- **Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah of Constituency 115, Western Urban District** reiterated his point and stated that the Leader of Government Business was putting the cart before the horse. He stated that Parliament should be a House of procedures, and that everything before the House should be done sequentially and procedurally. He said that if the intentions were genuine, the process should be systematically done.
- The Leader of Government Business (**Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma of Constituency 019, Kenema District**) said that he did not understand what **Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah** was talking about. He reemphasized that a bill is a process that should go through the “First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Third Reading and Enactment. He stated that the bill in front of the House was a proposal and assured the House of dealing with the Constitutional Instrument on Tuesday 5th July 2022. He referred the House to Section 108 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone that requires a vote of not less than two-thirds of Members of Parliament for any alteration to the Constitution. He further assured the House that they would first deal with the Constitutional Instrument that would come in the form of a bill before the final enactment of **“The Public Elections Act, 2022”** into law.
- **Hon. Daniel B. Koroma of Constituency 046, Koinadugu District** responded to the submission made by the Leader of Government Business. He referred the House to Section 108 (2) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone that the Leader of Government Business had earlier referenced. He recited the following provision as quoted: **“A Bill for an Act of Parliament under this section shall not be passed unless –**

(a) before the first reading of the bill in Parliament the text of the bill is published in at least two issues of the Gazette:

Provided that not less than nine days shall elapse between the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette and the second publication;

and

(b) the Bill is supported on the second and third readings by the votes of not less than two-thirds of Members of Parliament.”



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He referred the House to Clause 57 of **The Public Elections Act, 2022** with a side note “ **Form of general elections**” and recited the following provision as quoted: “**A general election of Members of Parliament, other than Paramount Chief Members of Parliament, shall be by- (a) the one—member constituency system under subsection(2) of section 38 of the Constitution; or (b) the district block representation system in accordance with section 38 A of the Constitution, as set out in the Twelfth Schedule.**” He said in both of the quoted subsidiary legislations, they took authority from the constitution as the “grund norm” and commended the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for that. He said that there should be a mother-child relationship between the Constitution and any other subsidiary legislation. He said that in the absence of the Constitutional Instrument that could give legitimacy to any subsidiary legislations, any procedure from start would be void. In agreement with the submission made by **Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah**, He submitted that the process was void, and that the House should start from where it ought to have started.

- The Leader of Government Business (**Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma**) reiterated his point made earlier and stated that Parliament is a House of law, debate and procedures. He referred the House to Section 98 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone that stated the behaviours of Hon. Members in and out of Parliament. He said that the business of obstructions by Hon. Members should stop. He emphatically stated that before “**The Public Elections Act, 2022**” would be enacted, the Constitutional Instrument would be first dealt with. He stated that if Hon. Members of the Opposition were sincere, they would have made the said objections on the first day the House started the debate on the Second Reading of the bill.
- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) said that there is no law without a foundation to the Constitution whether it concerns fishery, forestry, security etc., because every law gets its authority and source from the Constitution. He clarified the point made by the Leader of Government Business that they did not participate in the debate of the said bill which they made very clear during the last sitting presided by the Deputy Speaker because, they were yet to read and comprehend the document. He reminded the House that at the pre-legislative hearing of the said bill, he had used the same words as quoted: “That putting the cart before the horse will not be good”. He stated that the Leader of Government Business had informed the House that they had been working on the Constitutional amendments but some of those amendments would affect the bill itself that they wanted to debate. He said that the House would not do justice to law-making if the debate on the Second Reading continued without the necessary foundation (Constitutional amendments). He said that even though they wanted to give more effect to the Electoral Commission, it should be done as per the Constitution. He said that if the House continued with the debate, they may debate areas that might or might not come into fusion and that the House should not debate in that manner. He called



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upon Mr. Speaker to use his wise judgment and experience he had before in ensuring that the House did not debate the document that was not completely proper before the House. He pleaded with the Leader of Government Business not to continue with the debate on the Second Reading of the bill until the Constitutional amendments were done.

- **Mr. Speaker's Intervention:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, said that he would like to believe that he was on record for being a great respecter of the sacrosanctity of the Constitution. He assured the House that under his watch, he would not superintend any process in the House that would seek to depart or violate the Constitution of the country without due process. He said that he had listened to both sides of the aisle and assured the House that with his humble opinion that they had not yet reached any stage that could be described as a violation of the constitution. He guaranteed the House that they would never reach that stage. He invited **Hon. Daniel B. Koroma** to carefully read Section 108 (2) so that he would realize that the submission that he had earlier made was untenable. He said what he was seeing was an engagement to repeal and replace **The Public Elections Act, 2012**. He said that it was true that there were aspects of the bill that touched and concerned some aspects of the Constitution. He assured the House that the process they had started in considering the said bill would never be completed until the foundation upon which it should be based was well established. He proposed to both sides of the aisle to proceed with the debate on the Second Reading of the bill and stop until further notice.

- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) referred the House to the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons of the bill and recited the first paragraph as quoted: **"The object of this Bill is to repeal and replace the Public Elections Act, 2012 (Act No. 4 of 2012), to provide for supplementary provisions to sections 32 and 33 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991) with respect to the Electoral Commission and to provide for other related matters."** He stated that how could the House debate and complete the Second Reading of the bill when they would still need to talk about sections 32 and 33. He pleaded with Mr. Speaker that the House should first finish with the constitutional amendments before continuing with the debate on the Second Reading of the bill. He said that if the debate would hold, they would be debating an incomplete document. He also said that they expected an amendment of the constitution and they did not know the amendments that would be made therefore, they would not extensively debate the bill that was before the House.
- **Hon. Hindolo Moiwo Gevao of constituency 003, Kailahun District** said they had gone through the First Reading and no objection was made for the Second Reading to discontinue. He said that if there was any concern by any Hon. Member, there would be an opportunity during the Committee Stage to make an amendment on the bill. He said that the Second Reading had commenced and the debate was out in the



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public already, and there was no preliminary objection. He beseeched Mr. Speaker to continue with the debate on the Second Reading of the bill.

- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) maintained that they objected participating on the debate of the Second Reading of the bill and said that **Hon. Gevao's perception** about him was wrong. He added that jurisdictional objection could be done at any time during the course of the proceedings.
- The Leader of Government Business (**Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma**) said that they had an agreement that they should allow the public to make an input into the Public Elections bill that was before the House. He read section 108 of the Constitution and said his colleagues should not stop them to continue with the debate because of procedural issues that they were not au fait with the document. He maintained that it was not stated in any law where the debate would be stopped because of a constitutional instrument.

Mr. Speaker's Response:

Mr. Speaker asked whether the bill before the House was meant to amend the constitution. If so, he said it could not be done indirectly, there could only be a direct amendment of the constitution.

5. Suspension of Standing Order 5 (2):

The motion for the suspension of S.O. 5 (2) at 12:00 p.m. was moved by **Hon. Dickson M. Rogers of Constituency 100, Pujehun District**. The motion was seconded by **Hon. Maada Kanja Hafiju of Constituency 018, Kenema District** and approved by the House.

Continued proceedings

Mr. Speaker specifically asked **Hon. Daniel B. Koroma of Constituency 046, Koinadugu District** for his honest opinion on the bill (**The Public Elections Act, 2022**) whether it was meant to alter the constitution.

- **Hon. Daniel B. Koroma of Constituency 046, Koinadugu District** said that the bill had abundant provisions that amounted to amend the constitution. He cited section 32(8) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, (Act No.6 of 1991) (Removal of Electoral Commissioner). He said the bill intended to alter that provision in clause 5(1) for "**gross misbehavior.**"
- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) added that the bill (**Public Elections Act, 2022**) tended to reduce the 12 months period of resignation to



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6 months prior to elections and that would alter the provision of section 76(1)(b) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice responded that such provision was not clearly expressed in the bill when he was asked a similar question by Mr. Speaker.

- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) said that the presentation that the officials of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) did during their Pre-Leg meeting was contradicting the bill itself. He said that their presentations should be consistent with the bill. He cited section 42(4) of the bill which was another provision that would alter the constitution.

Mr. Speaker's Response:

Mr. Speaker asked the Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah**) whether he genuinely felt that proceeding with the debate on bill would in any way prejudice his side. He expressly stated that he would not allow any side to be prejudiced and encouraged the Leader of the Opposition to clearly explain the extent to which his side would be prejudiced if at all he felt that way.

- The Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**) answered on the affirmative and said that the debate would not be effective on their side.

Mr. Speaker's Response:

Mr. Speaker again asked the Leader of Government Business whether their side would be prejudiced if they discontinued with the debate.

- The Leader of Government Business (**Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma of Constituency 019, Kenema District**) said that they had not abrogated any law and so they should continue with the debate on Second Reading of the bill. He also said that time was of the essence because the House would go on recess towards the end of July, and registration should have been done by September. Stated that based on ECOWAS protocols, no major amendments should be done to any electoral laws six months towards elections.

Mr. Speaker stood down the House for consultations at 12:35 p.m.

The House resumed at 12:55 p.m.



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Mr. Speaker's Statement:

After consultations with the Leaders of every political parties in Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Speaker (**Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**) informed the House that the debate on the Second Reading of the bill would continue but would not be concluded on that day.

Continued debate on the Second Reading of the Bill:

No.	Names of Hon. Members	Constituency	District
1.	Hon. Paul Saa Sam	025	Kono
2.	Hon. Abu Kemokai	103	Pujehun
3.	Hon. Mustapha Musa Sellu	095	Moyamba

Mr. Speaker's Acknowledgement:

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, acknowledged the presence of the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia who doubled as the President of the Senate of the Liberian Congress. He heartily welcomed her to the chamber of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. He informed the House that they would continue with the debate after which the Hon. Vice President of the Republic of Liberia would make a statement.

Continued debate:

	Hon. Mustapha Musa Sellu	095	Moyamba
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The Leader of Government Business, **Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma**, called upon Mr. Speaker to give some edification to certain issues for the good of the House and the general public. He said that as a presiding officer, it would be good that Mr. Speaker should interject during the course of the debate to clarify certain issues. He made referenced to the argument between **Hon. Paul Saa Sam of Kono District** and **Hon. Abu Kemokai of Pujehun District**. He pleaded with Mr. Speaker to be interjecting during the course of the debate as the presiding officer.

The Leader of Opposition, **Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah**, cautioned Mr. Speaker to keep within the limit of a presiding officer and be impartial in whatever injections he would make to clarify certain issues.

Mr. Speaker's Response:

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, said that he was very cognizance of his role and the imperative of being impartial. In consonance with the provisions of the Constitution, He said that section 38 (2) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone makes expressed provision for the introduction and application of a system known as First Pass The Post System. He also made reference to section 38 (A).



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Mr. Speaker invited the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia to make a statement.

Statement by the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia:

The Vice President of the Republic of Liberia as well as the President of the Senate of the Liberian Congress (**Chief Dr. Jewel Taylor**) greeted the House. She said that she was honoured through the leave of Mr. Speaker to be given the opportunity to make a brief statement in the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. She informed the House that about some months ago, the Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone visited Liberia for a period of four days. She said that the importance of his visit was that he drove from the City of Freetown to the City of Monrovia, and that he visited the Liberian Senate where he spoke about the beautiful work that **President Julius Maada Bio** had done together with the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. She thanked the House for making decisions on sexual-based violence.

Statement by the President of the Female Caucus:

Hon. Veronica K. Sesay who doubled as the president of the Female Caucus thanked the Vice President of Liberia for her inspiring speech delivered and asked the House to join her in singing the anthem of the Female Caucus. She believed that the Hon. Male Members of the Sierra Leone Parliament would adhere to the advice given by the Liberian Vice President and was optimistic about the outcome. She assured the Hon. Vice President of Liberia that their male counterparts would listen to their call for equality. She thanked the Hon. Vice President for her historic visit and welcomed her on behalf of the House. She encouraged her pay more frequent visits to Sierra Leone as it was a peaceful country with warm people just like Liberia.

Statement by the Leader of the Coalition of Change:

The Leader of the Coalition of Change (C4C), **Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina**, expressed that he was honoured to react to the speech by the Hon. Vice President. He said many past Leaders in Sierra Leone had yearned for the 30% quota to women and now the current President had put it in legislation. He hoped that the male Members of Parliament would be inspired by the soul touching speech by the Hon. Vice President of Liberia and help achieve that dream.

Statement by the Deputy Leader of the National Grand Coalition:

The Deputy Leader of the National Grand Coalition (NGC), **Hon. Foday Mario Kamara, of Constituency 057, Kambia District** also expressed his gratitude to firstly step in the shoes of his Leader who was bereaved at the time and for joining other Leaders to react to the speech made by the Hon. Vice president of Liberia. He said her presence was a big lesson to the Women in Sierra Leone that they could be more. Also, it should not just be on legislation but also based on merit as he was hopeful to see more



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women in higher positions. He thanked her for coming to see Sierra Leone and said that Sierra Leone had seen her as a perfect example for its women. He encouraged her to pay more visits.

Statement by the Leader of opposition:

The Leader of Opposition, **Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah of Constituency 126, Western Urban District**, thanked the Hon. Vice President of Liberia for not only coming to Sierra Leone but for taking her time to visit the Parliament of Sierra Leone. He acknowledged her tireless work to the top and assured her that most women would emulate her, and that the men would support them every step of the way. He also joined other Leaders to encourage her to make more visits so that he would know that she had been enjoying her visit. He also thanked Mr. Speaker for making the platform available as well as given him the opportunity to say some few words. He thanked the Vice President for the deliberate effort to promote women's empowerment and assured Mr. Speaker that he would use his majority as an opposition in Parliament to continue to push for more female representation.

Statement by the Leader of Government Business:

The Leader of Government business, **Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma of Constituency 019, Kenema District**, welcomed the Hon. Vice President and her delegation for the official visit she made to the House. He said on the issue of Gender parity he was not paying a lip service. He said that President Bio had given the platform by first introducing the gender policy and now it had transformed to action. He acknowledged that Sierra Leone was struggling to achieve that because of the political divide and so called for support from women all around the sub region to join in the campaign so that it could be achieved. He pleaded to his colleague Hon. Members to support the gender parity bill. He thanked the Vice President for being there with them and showing that they could come together to fight a common fight and move towards that direction.

Adjournment:

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to Tuesday 5th July 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

The House rose at 4:45 p.m.