



**SIXTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
FIRST SESSION, 2023/2024  
FIRST MEETING OF PARLIAMENT  
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING**



**VP: Vol. 17**

**[Ref: OP/6/01/17]**

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**

**The House Met at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Rt. Hon. Speaker, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu, Presided.**

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

<b>THE FOLLOWING HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE PRESENT:</b>			
<b>NO</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PARTY</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
1.	Hon. Abdulai Charles Osman	SLPP	Bo
2.	Hon. Amara Haja Miatta	APC	Western Area Rural
3.	Hon. Aruna Massay Ngahiteh	SLPP	Bo
4.	Hon. Bangura Abdul Karim	SLPP	Karene
5.	Hon. Bah Alpha Amadu	APC	Western Area Urban
6.	Hon. Bangura Cecilia Mabinty	APC	Karene
7.	Hon. Bangura Daniel Amadu	APC	Tonkolili
8.	Hon. Bayoh Alie	SLPP	Kenema
9.	Hon. Bockarie Bintu Fatmata	SLPP	Bonthe
10.	Hon. Bangura Ibrahim Aziz	APC	Port Loko
11.	Hon. Bangura Mariama	APC	Western Area Urban
12.	Hon. Bangura Mohamed	APC	Karene
13.	Hon. Bangura Mohamed	APC	Bombali
14.	Hon. Bangura Rose - Marie	APC	Tonkolili
15.	Hon. Banya Sarty	SLPP	Kailahun
16.	Hon. Barrie Ibrahim	APC	Bombali
17.	Hon. Bockarie Momoh	SLPP	Kailahun
18.	Hon. Conteh Adama	APC	Western Area Urban
19.	Hon. Conteh Hawa	APC	Koinadugu
20.	Hon. Conteh Ibrahim Tawa	SLPP	Western Area Urban
21.	Hon. Conteh John Charles	APC	Bombali
22.	Hon. Conteh Kemokoh	APC	Western Area Rural
23.	Hon. Conteh Mohamed	APC	Bombali
24.	Hon. Conteh Paul Samba	APC	Bombali
25.	Hon. Daramy Princess Kadie	SLPP	Western Area Urban
26.	Hon. Fabbah Habib Keifa	SLPP	Bo
27.	Hon. Fatorma Juliana Aliematu	SLPP	Kenema
28.	Hon. Fofanah Abu Bakarr	APC	Western Area Rural
29.	Hon. Fofanah Mohamed Tawallie	SLPP	Kambia
30.	Hon. Fofanah Musa	SLPP	Kono
31.	Hon. Fornah Daniel	APC	Tonkolili



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32.	Hon. Forna Mabinty	APC	Tonkolili
33.	Hon. Gberah III P.C Bai Shebora Sheba	-	Port Loko
34.	Hon. Gevao Hindolo Moiwo	SLPP	Kailahun
35.	Hon. George Edward	SLPP	Moyamba
36.	Hon. Goba Mariama Ella	SLPP	Kenema
37.	Hon. Gondor II P.C. Foray Cyril	-	Kailahun
38.	Hon. Jabbie Alpha Fodie Madie	SLPP	Falaba
39.	Hon. Jalloh Memunatu	APC	Port Loko
40.	Hon. Jalloh Mohamed Alpha	APC	Bombali
41.	Hon. Johnson Margaret Feimata	SLPP	Kailahun
42.	Hon. Johnny Tamba Simeon	SLPP	Kono
43.	Hon. Kabba Ibrahim	SLPP	Western Area Rural
44.	Hon. Kaisamba Francis Amara	SLPP	Kenema
45.	Hon. Kallon Hawa	SLPP	Pujehun
46.	Hon. Kamara Abdulai	APC	Western Area Urban
47.	Hon. Kamara Abdul Karim	APC	Kambia
48.	Hon. Kamara Abdul Karim	APC	Port Loko
49.	Hon. Kamara Alusine Bash	APC	Karene
50.	Hon. Kamara Idriss Sahid	SLPP	Western Area Urban
51.	Hon. Kamara Joseph Abdul Bash	SLPP	Bo
52.	Hon. Kamara Mahmoud	APC	Western Area Urban
53.	Hon. Kamara Marie	APC	Bombali
54.	Hon. Kamara Rebecca Yei	SLPP	Kono
55.	Hon. Kanamanka III P.C Alhaji Masakama	-	Tonkolili
56.	Hon. Kanneh Mohamed	SLPP	Kailahun
57.	Hon. Kamara Mohamed Sheridan	APC	Kambia
58.	Hon. Kamara Rugiatu	APC	Tonkolili
59.	Hon. Kanbgai Beatrice Maaya	SLPP	Bo
60.	Hon. Kanu Abdulai Karim	SLPP	Port Loko
61.	Hon. Kanu Ahmed Joseph	SLPP	Western Area Rural
62.	Hon. Kanu Rugiatu Rosy	APC	Western Area Urban
63.	Hon. Kargbo Abdul	APC	Port Loko
64.	Hon. Kargbo Amara Momoh	SLPP	Western Area Rural
65.	Hon. Kargbo John Sartty	APC	Western Area Rural
66.	Hon. Kargbo Mohamed Sheriff	APC	Karene
67.	Hon. Kargbo Sheikh Santigie Ibrahim	SLPP	Port Loko
68.	Hon. Kargobai P.C Desmond Mahayei	-	Bo
69.	Hon. Kawaleh II P.C Kandeh Paria	-	Karene
70.	Hon. Kellie Lucinda Finda	APC	Kono
71.	Hon. Kellie Tamba	APC	Kono



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72.	Hon. Kemokai Abu	SLPP	Pujehun
73.	Hon. Koroma Aaron Aruna	APC	Tonkolili
74.	Hon. Koroma Daniel Brima	APC	Koinadugu
75.	Hon. Koroma Ernest	APC	Kambia
76.	Hon. Koroma Meama Kajue P.C Haja Fatmata Bintu	-	Moyamba
77.	Hon. Koroma Peter Yamba	APC	Bombali
78.	Hon. Koroma Unpha Sorie Gbessay	APC	Wester Area n Urban
79.	Hon. Kumabeh Alice Jebbeh	SLPP	Bonthe
80.	Hon. Lahai Musa	SLPP	Kailahun
81.	Hon. Lamina Saa Emerson	SLPP	Kono
82.	Hon. Langley Beatrice Iyamide	SLPP	Western Area Rural
83.	Hon. Lansana P.C Bio Prince	-	Bonthe
84.	Hon. Larkoh Aruna Papay	APC	Tonkolili
85.	Hon. Lebbie Nenneh	SLPP	Bo
86.	Hon. Lebyy Ambrose Maada	SLPP	Bo
87.	Hon. Mansaray Alpha Ben	APC	Moyamba
88.	Hon. Mansaray Brima	SLPP	Kenema
89.	Hon. Mansaray Hamidu Holla	APC	Koinadugu
90.	Hon. Mansaray Konkofa Farah	SLPP	Koinadugu
91.	Hon. Marrah III P.C Alie Balan Sama	-	Koinadugu
92.	Hon. Marrah III P.C Thor Thor Sheku Terenah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Lai	-	Falaba
93.	Hon. Marray – Conteh Abdul Sulaiman	SLPP	Western Area Urban
94.	Hon. Moigua Musa Peter	SLPP	Kenema
95.	Hon. Momodu Sahr Koutu	SLPP	Kono
96.	Hon. Moriba Amie Nyava	SLPP	Bo
97.	Hon. Munda Boston	SLPP	Kenem
98.	Hon. Ngbak IV P.C Bai Farama Tass Bubu	-	Kambia
99.	Hon. Nyuma Mathew Sahr	SLPP	Kenema
100.	Hon. Pyne Umu	SLPP	Moyamba
101.	Hon. Quee Komba	SLPP	Kono
102.	Hon. Rahman – Coker Mohamed Sheriff	SLPP	Western Area Urban
103.	Hon. Rogers Alex Mattia	SLPP	Pujehun
104.	Hon. Rogers Dickson Momoh	SLPP	Pujehun
105.	Hon. Sama Shiaka Musa	SLPP	Pujehun
106.	Hon. Sandy Alice Kornya	SLPP	Kenema
107.	Hon. Saquee IV P.C Paul Ngaba	-	Kono
108.	Hon. Sellu Mustapha Musa	SLPP	Moyamba
109.	Hon. Sesay Abdul Latiff	APC	Port Loko
110.	Hon. Sesay Aminata	APC	Port Loko



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111.	Hon. Sesay Jawah	APC	Tonkolili
112.	Hon. Sesay Pessima Mariatu Racheal	SLPP	Port Loko
113.	Hon. Sesay Sallieu Osman	APC	Bombali
114.	Hon. Sesay Veronica Kadie	SLPP	Moyamba
115.	Hon. Shaw Mohamed Billoh	SLPP	Falaba
116.	Hon. Siafa Rosaline Hawa	SLPP	Kailahun
117.	Hon. Silikie Bashiru	SLPP	Bo
118.	Hon. Surmoijueh Jibrila	SLPP	Bonthe
119.	Hon. Tarawally Cathrine Zainab	APC	Bombali
120.	Hon. Tarawalli-Mussaffa Rugiatu	SLPP	Kenema
121.	Hon. Taylor-Bangura Mabinty Alice	APC	Kambia
122.	Hon. Tengbeh Fallah Kenawah	SLPP	Kailahun
123.	Hon. Thomas Segepoh Solomon	SLPP	Bonthe
124.	Hon. Thompson Alfred Ayodele	APC	Western Area Urban
125.	Hon. Timbo Osman Abdal	APC	Western Area Urban
126.	Hon. Timbo Zinab	APC	Western Area Rural
127.	Hon. Tommy Sia Mahawa Habiamama	SLPP	Kono
128.	Hon. Tongi Emilia Lolloh	SLPP	Kailahun
129.	Hon. Tucker Tom Issic	APC	Kono
130.	Hon. Tunis Sidie Mohamed	SLPP	Pujehun
131.	Hon. Turay Alhaji Sorieba	APC	Tonkolili
132.	Hon. Turay Benjamin	SLPP	Western Area Urban
133.	Hon. Vandy Christopha Kekura	SLPP	Bo
134.	Hon. Williams – Lamin Joseph	SLPP	Bo
135.	Hon. Zombo Mariama Munia	SLPP	Pujehun
<b>THE FOLLOWING HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE ABSENT:</b>			
1.	Hon. Bangura Adama	SLPP	Kambia
2.	Hon. Boima Sylvester Arnold Maxwell (Rtd. Capt.)	SLPP	Moyamba
3.	Hon. Dauda Idris Moiwai	SLPP	Bonthe
4.	Hon. Koroma Ibrahim	SLPP	Kenema
5.	Hon. Salia – Konneh Quintin	SLPP	Kailahun
6.	Hon. Sankoh – Yillah Ishmael	SLPP	Port Loko
7.	Hon. Songa Wuyatta Bernadette	SLPP	Kailahun
8.	Hon. Soukenah Fatmata Sarah	SLPP	Western Area Urban
9.	Hon. Tholley Foyoh	SLPP	Tonkolili
<b>THE FOLLOWING HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE ABSENT WITH AN EXCUSE:</b>			
1.	Hon. Jalloh Osman Wurie	SLPP	Western Area Rural
2.	Hon. Keiha III P.C Kandeh Baba	-	Bombali
3.	Hon. Mackery Yusuf	SLPP	Bo



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**1. Prayers were read by Mrs. Fatmata Bintu Weston (Senior Table Clerk).**

**2. Suspension of Standing Order 5(2) at 10:35 am:**

The motion for the suspension of S.O. 5(2) at 10:35 am was moved by **Hon. Dickson M. Rogers of Pujehun District** for the commencement of proceedings. The motion was seconded by **Hon. Alpha Fodie Maadie Jabbie of Falaba District** and approved by the House.

**3. Amendment of Order Paper:**

The Leader of Government Business, **Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma of Kenema District**, moved a motion to amend the initial Order Paper by expunging sub-item "B" being the paper that ought to have been laid by the Minister of Trade and Industry under item "VII" (**Laying of Papers**) and sub-item "C" became sub-item "B". The motion was seconded by the Deputy Leader 1 of Government Business (**Hon. Bashiru Silikie of Bo District**) and approved by the House.

**4. Adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023:**

The motion for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 was moved by **Hon. Habib Keifa Fabbah of Bo District**. It was seconded by **Hon. Abdul Karim Bangura of Karene District** and adopted by the House.

**5. Mr. Speaker's Announcement:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, informed the House about the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) of which the Parliament of Sierra Leone was a member. He said that the assembly of the IPU met in Luanda (The Republic of Angola) and elected a new president of the IPU who happened to be an African and more importantly a woman in the person of the sitting Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania by the name of Dr. Tulia Akson. He mentioned that his brothers and colleagues from Ghana; the Senate President of Nigeria; the Speaker of South Africa and his humble self led the campaign for the Speaker of Tanzania and that they achieved a resounding success.

**6. SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE) (Act No. 6 of 1991):**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, stated that in conformity with the certificate of elections from ECSL and pursuant to Section 83 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act. No. 6 of 1991) in tandem with S.O. 1 A of the Standing Orders of Parliament, he thereby declared that the following had been duly elected as Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. He, then, called upon the Clerk of Parliament to administer the oath of office.

The Clerk of Parliament called upon the following Hon. Members of Parliament elect by Districts to administer the oath of allegiance.



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**Group One:**

**Kono District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
1.	Hon. Lucinda Finda Kellie	APC	Present
2.	Hon. Tamba Kellie	APC	Present
3.	Hon. Issic Tom Tucker	APC	Present

**Moyamba District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
4.	Hon. Alpha Ben Mansaray	APC	Present

**Port Loko District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
5.	Hon. Ibrahim Aziz Bangura	APC	Present
6.	Hon. Memunatu Jalloh	APC	Present
7.	Hon. Abdul Kargbo	APC	Present
8.	Hon. Abdul Latif Sesay	APC	Present
9.	Hon. Aminata Sesay	APC	Present
10.	Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara	APC	Present

**Karene District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
11.	Hon. Cecilia Mabinty Bangura	APC	Present
12.	Hon. Alusine Bash Kamara	APC	Present
13.	Hon. Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo	APC	Present

**Group Two:**

**Falaba District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
14.	Hon. Mohamed Conteh	APC	Present
15.	Hon. Mohamed Alpha Jalloh	APC	Present

**Koinadugu District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
16.	Hon. Hawa Conteh	APC	Present
17.	Hon. Daniel Brima Koroma	APC	Present
18.	Hon. Hamidu Holla Mansaray	APC	Present



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**Bombali District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
19.	Hon. Mohamed Bangura	APC	Present
20.	Hon. Ibrahim Barrie	APC	Present
21.	Hon. John Charles Conteh	APC	Present
22.	Hon. Paul Samba Conteh	APC	Present
23.	Hon. Marie Kamara	APC	Present
24.	Hon. Peter Yamba Koroma	APC	Present
25.	Hon. Sallieu Osman Sesay	APC	Present
26.	Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally	APC	Present

**Group Three:**

**Tonkolili District**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
27.	Hon. Daniel Amadu Bangura	APC	Present
28.	Hon. Rose Marie Bangura	APC	Present
29.	Hon. Mabinty Forna	APC	Present
30.	Hon. Daniel Fornah	APC	Present
31.	Hon. Rugiatu Kamara	APC	Present
32.	Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma	APC	Present
33.	Hon. Aruna Papay Larkoh	APC	Present
34.	Hon. Jawah Sesay	APC	Present
35.	Hon. Sorieba Alhaji Turay	APC	Present

**Kambia District:**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
36.	Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara	APC	Present
37.	Hon. Mohamed Sheridan Kamara	APC	Present
38.	Hon. Ernest Dura Koroma	APC	Present
39.	Hon. Mabinty Alice Taylor-Bangura	APC	Present

**Group Four:**

**Western Urban District**

No.	Names of MPs Elect	Party	Attendance
40.	Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah	APC	Present
41.	Hon. Mariama Bangura	APC	Present
42.	Hon. Adama Conteh	APC	Present
43.	Hon. Abdulai Kamara	APC	Present



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<b>44.</b>	<b>Hon. Mahmoud Kamara</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>45.</b>	<b>Hon. Rugiatu Rosy Kanu</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>46.</b>	<b>Hon. Unpha Sorie Gbassay Koroma</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>47.</b>	<b>Hon. Osman Abdal Timbo</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>

**Western Rural District**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Names of MPs Elect</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>48.</b>	<b>Hon. Haja Miatta</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>49.</b>	<b>Hon. Kemokoh Conteh</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>50.</b>	<b>Hon. Abu Bakarr Fofanah</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>51.</b>	<b>Hon. John Sarty Kargbo</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>52.</b>	<b>Hon. Zinabu Timbo</b>	<b>APC</b>	<b>Present</b>

The Clerk of Parliament (**Hon. Paran Umar Tarawally**) administered the oath of allegiance as enshrined in the Third Schedule of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6) of 1991 to the aforementioned Hon. Members of Parliament; he asked each of them to sign the Oath Book and also presented to them a package that contained: the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, The Standing Orders of Parliament, The Parliament Act, 2023 and the Parliamentary Prayers. He congratulated and welcomed them to the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

**Acknowledgement and Recognition of Eminent Personalities:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, noted the following as quoted: "That the Business Committee of the Parliament of Ghana is privileged to visit the Parliament of Sierra Leone to familiarize themselves with international best practices through interactions and exchange of ideas with their counterparts in this Parliament. The study visit is expected to afford the delegation the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the management and planning of parliamentary business and to promote efficiency for the effective functioning of the Committee."

He acknowledged the following members of the delegation:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Names of Members of the Delegation</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Bush</b>	<b>Deputy Minority Leader</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Hon. Moses Amin</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Hon. Alex Tetteh Djornobuah</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Hon. Dela Sowah</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Hon. Eric Afful</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Mr. Peter Apenkwah</b>	<b>Principal Reporter (Supporting Staff)</b>





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The Rt. Hon. Speaker also acknowledged the presence of the following distinguished personalities and host of others of which we will name but few. Details would be seen in the hansard:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Names of Distinguished Personnalities</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Hon. Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Hon. Amb. Osman Foday Yansaneh</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Lansana Dumbuya Esq.</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Bai Mahmoud Bangura</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Sidie Yaya Tunis</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Yvonne Aki-Sawyer</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Kweku Lisk</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Lahai Marah</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Mr. Rex Bonapha</b>

He further acknowledged and recognized the presence of the U S Ambassador (**Bryan Hunt**) and entourage.

**Suspension of S.O. 5(2) at 12 noon:**

After the Deputy Chief Whip 1 (**Hon. Veronica K. Sesay**) had moved a motion for the suspension of S.O. 5(2) which was seconded by the Deputy Chief Whip 2 (**Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh**), Mr. Speaker was about to put the question for vote but was interrupted by the Leader of Opposition (**Hon. Abdul Kargbo**) through a point of order by referring the House to the proviso of S.O. 5(2).

**Mr. Speaker's Response:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor**, thanked **Hon. Abdul Kargbo** for his astute observation. He said that it had been the practice to suspend proceedings at 12 noon but that practice could not supersede the written language of the Standing Orders. He, therefore, ruled that the motion was premature and that the House would continue with its proceedings until the appointed time.

**Announcement and Recognition of Opposition Leadership in the House:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, recognized the following Leadership Positions:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Names of Opposition Leaders in the House</b>	<b>Positions</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Hon. Abdul Kargbo</b>	<b>Leader</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Hon. Daniel B. Koroma</b>	<b>Deputy Leader 1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma</b>	<b>Deputy Leader 2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara</b>	<b>Whip</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally</b>	<b>Deputy Whip 1</b>



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6. Hon. Kemokoh Conteh

Deputy Whip 2

**Question put and agreed to.  
The Leadership was approved**

**Welcome Address By Mr. Speaker:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, made the following welcome address as quoted:

"Honourable Members, Like the seminal date of July 13, 2023, when the Members of Parliament of the ruling SLPP Party subscribed the oath of office, today, November 7, 2023, marks yet another milestone in the life of this Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic. 52 Members of the Opposition APC Party who had followed the dictates of their Party to boycott Parliament have today also subscribed the oath of office as Members of Parliament. I therefore consider it a great honour to welcome all of you to this hallowed and sacred Chamber of Parliament.

Honourable Members, Permit me to start with the question: what kept you away? On several occasions I tried to plead with you to see reason and come to the House to perform the sacred constitutional duties for which you had been elected by your people. Instead you chose to stonewall. You should have come a long time ago just as your honourable colleagues across the aisle did on July 13, and also as your Party comrades, Hon. Mohamed Bangura and Hon. Alfred Thompson, had done so gloriously. Although nearly four months late in arriving, nonetheless it's better late than never. More especially, I feel deeply gratified that my urgings didn't fall on deaf ears entirely and today this Sixth Parliament can proudly say its whole membership is now fully seated and in full conformity with the multiparty democratic Constitution of 1991; a Constitution that vehemently and vigorously eschews any return to anything even remotely resembling the one-party dispensation of yesteryears that it had ingloriously banished to the nauseating attics of history.

Therefore, I should hasten to pay a very special tribute to the dogged determination and perseverance of the Independent Commission on Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) for living up to its legal mandate and to the expectations of the general public. Differences of opinion, perception and persuasion in the political arena, by definition, form an integral part of any truly functioning and vibrant democracy and therefore it is of the utmost importance that national institutions are established and capacitated to speedily enter into the breach and provide the much needed relief where such party differences occur and particularly importantly where such party differences exhibit the potential of exploding into a national crisis and possible violence. So,



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all of us, the Executive Branch and the Legislature alike, today deserve the fullest commendation for having had the foresight to propose and legislate into existence the ICPNC which has worked tirelessly to bring about this exalted and much desired outcome. All of us therefore should applaud their timely intervention.

By the same token, I would like to convey, on behalf of the entire House, our profound appreciation and our debt of gratitude to the special peace envoys deployed to our country by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat, all of whom had spared no effort in discharging their collective role as international interlocutors and moral guarantors to ensure the successful outcome of the dialogue between the ruling SLPP Government and the APC Opposition which today has been consummated by our colleagues from the APC agreeing to terminate their boycott and to assume their seats in the Well of this House to begin the process of discharging their constitutional responsibilities to the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic to which they have been duly elected by their people.

Nor can afford to not acknowledge the presence in our midst of the indefatigable Hon. Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah, erstwhile Deputy Speaker of this House and former Leader of the APC Opposition in the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic. Indeed no meritorious accomplishments can be properly paid to the Fifth Parliament without a resounding and fulsome acknowledgement of the pivotal role of the Hon. Chernor Bah. Not only was his contribution profound as an illustrious Member of this House and the ECOWAS Parliament but also his exemplary and visionary leadership throughout his tenure as a Member of this House have left an indelible imprint in the annals of our legislative history. Let truth be loudly and boldly told, Honourable Chernor Bah you are a man who is sorely missed in this hallowed Chamber as well as within every corridor of this House.

I turn next to the quintessential Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo. It is most apposite that I should unhesitatingly describe you as both the political encyclopedia of Sierra Leone and a true first edition of all that stands out as remarkably good of the APC Party, the archetypal Alpha and Omega of Parliamentary politics. On behalf of this entire House I commend you and extend to you our very best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, restful and well-earned retirement.

Last but by no means least I turn now to the affable, tall and elegant Honourable Ajibola Manly-Spain. This is a man of many admirable qualities. His gentility, humility, and even his every slow but majestic steps still re-echo resoundingly throughout the portals of this hallowed Building, and the ECOWAS Parliament as well, with legendary wisdom and tenacity. True, in an age of renewal



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in any rapidly changing society, it is inevitable that there must come a time when the old has to give way to the young. Indeed one of the most difficult tasks in politics is not how to acquire power but how to transfer it to a new generation of leaders. More difficult still is for leaders to deliberately create new and able leaders to systematically take over from the older when the time comes. But if I were asked to appraise the redoubtable Ajibola Manly-Spain on his character, ability, reliability and strength to connect and influence people, I would say without a doubt that only a handful of men would be able to match him.

Honourable Members, These three Honourable Members have truly left their marks on the floor of this Chamber and the least homage we can and should all pay them is to say you all carry with you to the rest of the world our most abiding love, respect and affection. Posterity will never forget to chronicle that indeed you once passed through this way.

Honourable Members, Today, as we welcome our APC colleagues from the shadows into the limelight of Parliamentary politics and banter, let me take this opportunity to remind them that Sierra Leone is at a most critical stage where human capital and economic development have now taken centre stage and indeed are now the topmost priorities. It is indeed a formidable task to accomplish. And it is a task that beckons for attention from all: from all able bodied men and women, the old and young, the lettered and unlettered, the high and low, no matter where you are, at home or abroad, in every nook and cranny of this land that we love so much. It also means it is not a task for one political party alone; on the contrary, it is a task for all of us working together but more importantly with us the Honourable Members of this Parliament taking the lead. Above all I believe it is a task that is doable and achievable so long as our constant refrain is that Sierra Leone is and will always remain our only country and there's no other country we can call our own.

Honourable Members, Before I delve into the nature of the task in hand, allow me to recall here a little instructive lesson of contemporary history to refresh our minds. Our country, Sierra Leone, obtained its political independence from our British colonizer in 1961, four good years ahead of Singapore, a comparatively small island country in Southeast Asia, which attained its statehood in 1965. It was and still is inhabited by a much smaller population than ours, consisting of Chinese, Malays, Indians and others. So it is not any less heterogeneous than we are in Sierra Leone. But there is this remarkable difference. Singapore had nothing, literally no natural resource at independence apart from human beings and a deep sea harbour, just as we have our own Deep Water Quay. But we in Sierra Leone have a lot more assets to be proud of: we are endowed with



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gold, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, tantalite, rutile, palm oil, palm kernel, etc. etc. You name it, we have it.

Yet, in 1961, Sierra Leone's per capita income was only \$140 and its annual GDP was \$328 million. Singapore's per capita in 1965 was \$517 and its annual GDP was \$975 million. By 2022, sixty years on, Sierra Leone's per capita income was still only \$488 and an annual GDP of not more than \$3,970 million compared to Singapore's per capita income of \$82,808 and an annual GDP of \$466,789 million.

Today, with this galaxy of notables gathered in this Well of Parliament from both our two main political parties, I cannot resist the temptation to ask the question: where did we go wrong? It is certainly not for want of human capital, because we once prided ourselves with the accolade of the "Athens of Education" in West Africa although today we lament how that has plummeted to such low levels that the young at school are not ashamed to think they have a Divine right to spy to pass public examinations and our public servants are equally busy embellishing the desks of their offices with Degrees and Diplomas, not properly earned, but purchased from non-accredited "Dominion" Colleges with high sounding names. So while Singapore was busy obtaining laurels and moving up the development ladder rapidly from a Third World classification to a First World, Sierra Leone has remained behind wallowing in abject poverty and deprivation and fighting with other countries and hoping for the crumbs to fall from the dinner tables of rich countries.

Honourable Members, With all the brilliant minds we have produced in this country, past and present, where really have we gone wrong?

To answer this question, I will invite all of us present in this Well today to borrow a leaf from Singapore's enviable Book of Development.

First, they gave the highest national priority to educating and training their people to the highest standard. They sent them to the best of the best colleges everywhere at home and abroad and they got them bonded on scholarships that obligated them to return and work for Singapore after graduation. The success of this scheme reached such a point that those who went to the United States, the country with the stiffest requirements in the world for a visa, relaxed their entry requirements for Singaporeans because no Singapore graduate wanted ever to remain permanently in America after graduation because the salaries waiting for them at home were much higher than they could earn in America.



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Second, Singapore challenged their citizens to imbibe a sense of patriotism that was second to none. Those who have studied with Singaporeans in colleges abroad can testify to this. A student from Singapore aspires to nothing but a first class honours degree and the day he gets it he is on the next plane back to Singapore.

Third, Singapore developed a culture of appointing to high office people of proven competence and leadership based on meritocracy. Nepotism and cronyism died the very day that an independent Singapore was born and they have remained permanently in their graves to this day. Remember, Honourable Members, how serious this principle is respected in a country with such a small population that everybody virtually knows everybody else. Amazingly, this is a country where their development plans are tailored to run for decades and they are executed to the last detail and it matters not who or which political party is in power.

Fourth, in Singapore the culture of incorruptibility is second to none. Their leaders don't govern; they lead and they also peremptorily lead by example. The first Prime Minister, Lee Kwan Yew, was once accused of corruption by a British newspaper in England. What did he do? He sued the newspaper for defamation but interestingly he sued not in Singapore but in the British Courts and he won. That in itself speaks volumes about the character of the man.

Honourable Members, I narrate all this simply to demonstrate the essential ingredients which combined to produce the phenomenal economic development of Singapore. But it also points to another simple truth. Singapore has achieved its phenomenal development and growth over the last 60 years not by luck or happenstance but rather through good and transformative leadership that is highly educated, locally-driven, focused, motivated, dedicated, purposeful and incorruptible. This is the new challenge facing us today in this Sixth Parliament and it confronts all of us equally regardless of party colour or affiliation. I invite all of us to emulate the good example that Singapore presents and it's not yet too late to do so.

It may sound like a feat of serendipitous proportions but it's not impossible. Together we can do it and achieve it!

Honourable Members, I thank you all for your kind attention."

The Deputy Leader 1 of the Opposition (**Hon. Daniel B. Koroma**) stated that the speech delivered by Mr. Speaker made their day and sought the permission of Mr. Speaker to furnish each and every Member of Parliament with either a soft or hard copy.



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In response to his request, Mr. Speaker gave a copy of his speech to one of the Clerks-at-the-table (**Alimamy Lincoln-Bangura**) so that it would be incorporated into the Votes and Proceedings.

**Bereavement Announced:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, informed the House about the death of the mother of **Hon. Umu Pyne** whose demise took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at Kossoh Town, Jui. He asked the House to rise and observe a minute of silence in respect of the deceased. He recited the following prayers as quoted: "May God forgive her mistakes on Earth and grant the soul of the faithful departed eternal rest in His heavenly kingdom."

**Briefing by the Clerk of Parliament:**

The Clerk of Parliament, **Hon. Paran Umar Tarawally**, informed the House that on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10:00 a. m., there would be a meeting to plan an induction training for the newly sworn-in Members of Parliament as Members of the ruling side had already had a three-week induction.

**4. Laying of Papers:**

The Senior Table Clerk, **Mrs. Fatmata Bintu Weston**, called upon **Hon. Segepoh S. Thomas** to lay the paper that was itemized on the Amended Order Paper.

**A. Paper laid by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament:**

The Deputy Speaker as well as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (**Hon. Segepoh S. Thomas**), laid the following paper:

**The Audited Financial Statements of the Parliamentary Service for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.**

The Senior Table Clerk, **Mrs. Fatmata Bintu Weston**, called upon **the Minister of Transport and Aviation** to lay the paper that was itemized on the Amended Order Paper.

**B. Paper laid by the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation:**

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation (**Mr. Rex Bonapha**), laid the following paper:

**Railway and Port Lease Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Kingho Railway and Port Company Limited Dated 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.**



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**Standing Order 25 (Notice of Motion):**

The Deputy Leader 2 of the Opposition, **Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma**, rose on Section 97 (b) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6) of 1991 in tandem with S.O. 25 (1) to give a notice of motion with regards the 70 % increase of mobile tariffs. He said that as representatives of the people, it was befitting for the House to call upon the concerned authorities to answer to relevant questions. He assured the House that he would do the needful through the Office of the Clerk.

**Mr. Speaker's Response:**

The Rt. Hon. Speaker, **Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu**, took note of the request made by **Hon. Aaron**. He drew the attention of the Hon. Member to the fact that the House would meet on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and that there would be the very likelihood of "**The Finance Bill of 2024**" before the House. He said his very first address would concern the issue that **Hon. Aaron** would like to raise. He noted that **The Finance Bill of 2024** would be followed by the reading of the budget on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**Adjournment:**

**Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 10:00 am.  
The House rose at 2:50 p.m.**