

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

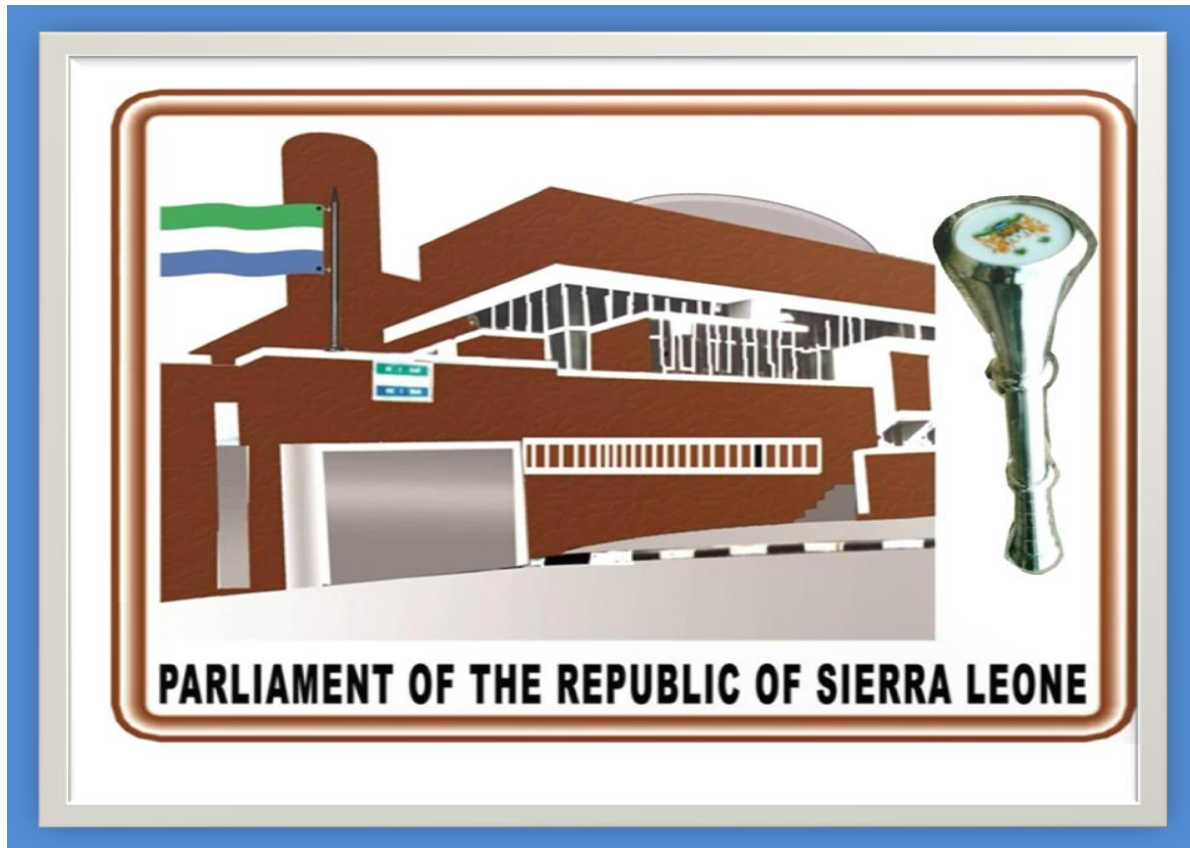
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION – FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 4th JULY, 2019

SESSION – 2019/2020



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 11

First Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 4th July, 2019

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

**SECOND SESSION – FIRST MEETING
OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

Thursday, 4th July, 2019.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mrs Bintu Weston, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:45 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2019

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. This is for the purpose of sanity. I have seen over the years; i.e., for the past three to four years in in Parliament, that we have totally discarded S.O. 5 [2]. If that is the case, then there is no need for the time. However, the drafters of the Standing Orders deemed it fit to include the time this House should commence its proceedings. But it has almost become a tradition to suspend S.O. 5[2] any time we meet. So, I am not moving a counter Motion because you should have asked for a counter Motion. Nevertheless, moving a counter Motion is like stalling the process or stopping Parliament from continuing its proceedings. So, I will not move a counter Motion. It is my right to do so, but I will not. Mr Speaker, we can however agree, especially when you are the presiding officer for this sitting to help this situation. Suspending S.O. 5[2] on a daily basis is rendering our rules useless. S. O. 5[2] should be meaningful. We know that Parliament sits at 10:00 a.m. and we should ensure that S O 5[2] is meaningful. That is my submission, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Noted, Honourable Member, but let me state with authority that the sittings of Parliament depend on several factors among which is the quorum. If Members of Parliament do not turn up in time, and if we have not got a quorum, Parliament cannot sit. So, until we address some of these factors, I do not think if we will address the issue you have just raised.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 27th June, 2019. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? If there is no correction or amendment, could somebody

move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 27th June, 2019 as presented?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, I so move.

HON. JOSEPH LAMIN –WILLIAMS: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 27th June, 2019 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] HONOURABLE SIDIE M TUNIS, THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

HON SEDIE M TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the National Electoral Commission [NEC] Annual Report for the year ended 2018
[Applause].

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, it seems as if Members are partially sleeping this morning. Mr Speaker, considering the importance of NEC today in our political cycle, I move that we debate this report that has just been laid on the Table of the House by the Leader of Government Business.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion to debate NEC's Annual Report for the year 2018 has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: This House shall debate the report in due course.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has touched on a very important subject, which is also very close to my heart; i.e., to debate this document. I however have a challenge. I have gone through the Order Paper and I realised that we do not have much to do today. I am sure we are here just to lay Papers. We have laid several Papers in this House, but this is the first time a Member of Parliament has attempted to move a Motion to debate these documents. We have laid

other documents like the Performance Audits Reports for sensitive areas, including Sustainable Development Goals on Corruption. I want to encourage Members of this House to look at those documents as well. Maybe I will move another Motion for those documents to be debated, so that the people of this country get value for money. As Members of Parliament, we are paid to do this work and let us do our work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if documents are laid and the twenty-one days period elapsed without debating them, I am sure that will not add value to our democracy. In fact, it will not also add value to Members of Parliament because we are expected to do justice to these documents. Since I entered this Parliament, I have received series of documents. I have also got more books within this short period than what I had in my entire school years. This means such documents must be useful to the people of this country. I move that the three documents that we have so laid be debated in this House.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, which documents are you referring to?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, I was referring to the Performance Audit Report on the Institutional Framework for fighting Corruption by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, those documents are not before this House this morning.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, those documents were laid and they are within the period specified by law. This suggests that a Motion could be moved within the twenty-one days period as spelt out by law. We are still within the range, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, those documents are not on the Order Paper this morning; and therefore, we cannot refer to them.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, in that instance, I would want to give a notice.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please sit down.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: I stand on S.O. 25 to give a notice of Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I think we spoke about something few months ago. I think it was during the last session. However, I want to repeat two things; first, the twenty-one days rule for all of us is only applicable to a report or a document that needs the ratification of this House. So, if it is not debated within twenty-one days, then it becomes law; and second, the reports from the Office of the Auditor General is laid in Parliament and this Parliament in turn hands it over to the Public Accounts Committee to conduct hearings; and until the PAC completes its hearings and presents a report to this House, debating the Auditor General's report is premature.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Leader. Let us go to the second item.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I want to know if the Motion that has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition is a notice of Motion.

THE SPEAKER: He has not moved any Motion.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: But it has been put to vote.

THE SPEAKER: He has not given any notice, Honourable Member and nothing has been put to vote.

HON. CHERNOR M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I want to remind my colleague from Bo that reports are not exceptions to 25 [2]. In other words, reports from MDAs do not fall within the purview of S.O. 25 to the exception that requires notice. These are mere reports for us to debate and S.O. 25[2] is very clear. The exceptions are listed there.

[B] HONOURABLE WUYATTA SONGA, CHAIRPERSON, INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION COMMITTEE.

HON. WUYATTA SONGA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the report of the 148 General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU], held in Doha, Qatar from the 6th to the 10th April, 2019 *[Applause]*.

[C] THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

MR ADEKUNLE J. M. KING *[Minister of Labour and Social Security]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following Conventions:

[i] Convention 160, Labour Statistics Convention of 1985;

[ii] Convention 189, Domestic Workers Convention 2011, No. 189;

[iii] Convention 102, Social Security Minimum Standards Convention of 1952;

[iv] Convention 150, Labour Administration Convention of 1978; and

[v] Convention 181, Private Employment Agency and Protocol 029 of 2014 to the first Labour Convention of 1930.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Honourable Daniel B. Koroma raised a very salient and important issue regarding attendance. We have overused S.O. 5[2] and there is no gainsaying as Members of Parliament that we owe a duty to the citizens of Sierra Leone. We adjourn each day for 10:00 a.m., but it is unfortunate we do not usually come on time. Sometimes we start proceedings at 11:00 a.m. which is very unfair. I want to remind Members of Parliament that we will not commence sitting as long as there is no quorum. So, please take note of this particular point raised by Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, so that we can address this issue. This is for the attention of the Whips, particularly the Chief Whip of the House of Parliament. I thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11.05 a.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 11th July, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]