

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

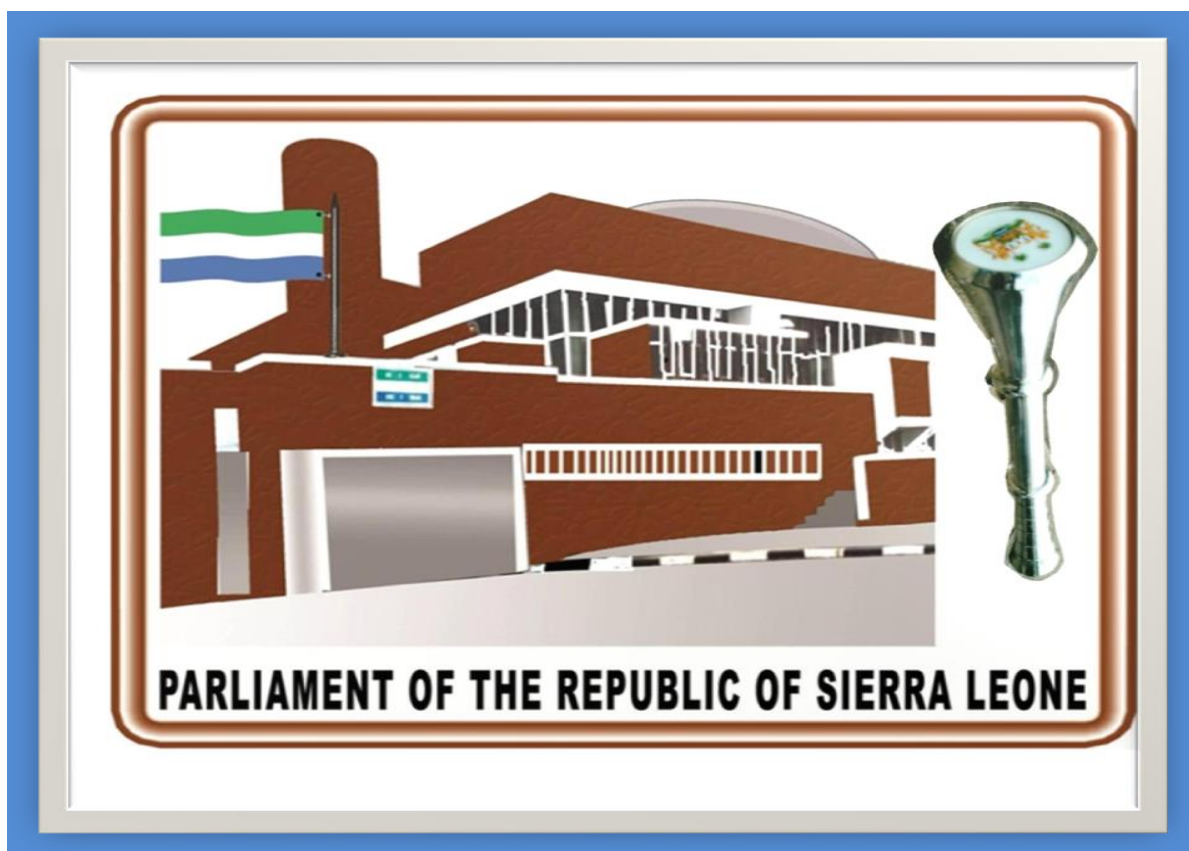
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025**

*SESSION – 2024/2025*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 6**

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First Meeting of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament  
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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MAADA BIO**



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

## **Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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### **THIRD SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025**

#### **1. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mrs Fatmata Bintu Winston, read the Prayers]*

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

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

The House was called to Order

## **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2025. On the very cover page, it should be 9<sup>th</sup> October and not 9<sup>th</sup> August. Please do the correction. As usual, we shall skip pages 1-4 and start with Page 5? Do you have any correction or amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11 and Page 12? If there is no amendment can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 as presented?

**HON. HABIB K. FALLAH:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH:** I so second, Mr Speaker

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 has been adopted as presented]*

## **III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I am to announce to you this morning and of course, I know you already know what I am about to say. I wish to inform you that we have a new and substantive Clerk of Parliament. He is Mr Karmoh K. Conteh. Mr Karmoh Conteh had been a staff of this Parliament and he rose up to the rank of Director of Legislative Services. He was a Clerk to several parliamentary Committees. He left briefly for an assignment at the Executive Branch of Government. He was at State House taking care of the President bidding. However, I told the President personally that I wanted him to be back because I wanted some assistance in the Office of the Clerk. He is here and he is going to be of huge service to this Parliament because he knows his way around. He is not a novice that needs assistance to introduce the whereabouts in Parliament. He knows everything in Parliament and some of those concerns you raised with me, I want to urge you also to raise them with him. He should be taking care of some of those concerns you brought to my notice. I want you to reach out to him, so that I will have less time to deal with certain matters and concentrate on parliamentary affairs.

Honourable Members, I have informed him that I wanted him to sit in this Well always when Parliament sits. This is because if I am in this Well together with the Leaders, I do not see any reason why the Clerk should not be in this Well during parliamentary sitting. He has to be here because he is the Principal Adviser not only to Mr Speaker, but to the House as well. Sometimes we may want to ask him certain questions or to give him certain directives. So, it is a must that the Clerk has to be in the Well during parliamentary sittings. Even when we pass laws, we want him to take notes, so that when the final product of the Bill requires presidential assent, he knows exactly the argument, what happened and the amendment[s] made on certain clauses. So, I told him that he has to sit each time we are here, so that he is directly in the face of matters in this Well. I thank you very much, Mr Karmoh K. Conteh for coming to the Well. I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of Parliament, to congratulate you on your appointment as the Clerk of Parliament. I know you are going to help a lot on several issues and we urge you to speed up directives, particularly to the Executive from this House. You do not only know your way around in Parliament, you also know your way around the Executive Branch. We will not have problems to get the Ministers to come or get a Minister to respect the directives of this House. Thank you very much, Mr Karmoh K. Conteh.

Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the diligence of Members of Parliament who were in this Well before I entered. Although the time I came was a bit late because I was dealing with some matters in my office. However, at this stage, I wish to inform you that the following Members of Parliament were here before I entered:

Honourable Alpha F. M. Jabbie

Honourable Ibrahim Kabba

Honourable Yusuf Mackery

Honourable Musa Fofanah

Honourable Komba Quee

Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray

Honourable Christopher Keikura Vandy

Honourable Fatmata Sarah Soukuneh

Honourable Nenneh Lebbie

Honourable Marie Kamara

Honourable Hawa Conteh

Honourable Beatrice Maaya Kangbai

Honourable Mariama Ella Goba  
Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara  
Honourable Ambrose Maada Lebbie  
Honourable Brima Mansaray  
Honourable Aminata Sesay  
Honourable Fallah Tengbeh  
Honourable Daniel A. Bangura  
Honourable Alex M. Rogers  
Honourable P.C Paul M Sacquee IV  
Honourable Emilia Lolloh Tongi  
Honourable Memunatu Jalloh  
Honourable Tamba Kellie  
Honourable Lucinda F. Kellie  
Honourable Aruna Papay Larkoh  
Honourable Abdullah A. Kamara  
Honourable Moses A. Edwin  
Honourable Allusine Bash Kamara  
Honourable Mohamed A. Jalloh  
Honourable Mamoud Kamara  
Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara  
Honourable Mohamed Conteh  
Honourable Amara M. Kargbo  
Honourable Jibrila S. Moijueh  
Honourable Daniel Fornah  
Honourable Musa Lahai  
Honourable Bockarie Momoh  
Honourable Alhaji Habib Keifa Fabbah  
Honourable Bashiru Silikie

For your information, they call Honourable Bashiru Silikie the Speaker's mind.

Honourable Daniel B. Koroma

Honourable Mariama Bangura

Honourable Boston Munda

Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara the Opposition Whip

Honourable P.C Haja Bintu F.K. Kajue

Thank you very much, Honourable Members for your diligence. Also, we have the first meeting of the Committee on Selection at 3:00 p.m. in the Speaker's Conference Room. I am sure all the Leaders are Members of that Committee and I will urge you all to come prepared. Thank you very much.

#### **IV. AMENDMENT OF THE ORDER PAPER**

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Unfortunately, the Honourable Abdul Kargbo is not here. Therefore, I want to move that we amend the Order Paper for the Honourable Daniel B. Koroma to second the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Leaders on both sides of the aisles, I want you to give me four names from each side. We also have to agree on the time. I do not want to rule on that singlehandedly. Let us agree on the time. We will have five MPs from either side, instead of four. Tomorrow, we will have ten from either side of the aisles. So, if you are interested, I want you to meet your Leaders and make sure your names are included. Maybe we will have more Members to speak on Wednesday.

#### **V. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO**

PROPOSAL: HONOURABLE BASHIRU SILIKIE

SECONDER: HONOURABLE DANIEL .B. KOROMA

[FIRST ALLOTTED DAY]

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that we Members of Parliament here assembled,



wish to thank His Excellency the President, for the address he so graciously delivered on the occasion of the State Opening of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone in the Chamber of Parliament on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. Mr Speaker, as representatives of the people, inclusive of His Excellency the President, who doubles as our head, he has given us his achievements and challenges encountered in the last one year. He has also indicated what he intends to do next year. As we go into the debate proper, I want to remind all of us that we were voted as Members of Parliament and the President as well. So, whatever achievements that have been made by the President, they are made for all of us in this Well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this Well, we neither speak as Members of the All People's Congress [APC] nor as Members of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP], but we speak as Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. When we were elected and subscribed to the oath, we subscribed as Members of Parliament representing the people of Sierra Leone. So, whatever achievements or whatever challenges we have encountered, we are part of those achievements and challenges. There had been no law or no policy that has been implemented by His Excellency the President or by this government that has not been endorsed by this Parliament. We have endorsed not only the Budget; we have also enacted all laws and created offices that aid the Executive and the government as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we look at the statement of His Excellency, we should be able to factor ourselves, believing that we are part of the successes and challenges. I want you to know that we are part of those challenges. As Members of Parliament, we are not only here to praise the President or criticise him, we are here to do due diligence, by making sure that we highlight where there are successes, challenges and then proffer solutions. Our business is not only to criticise, but to critique this Address and critique government. We should also make sure that we proffer solutions. This is because I have listened to Members of Parliament before and we are always criticising, forgetting that we are part of the government. Whatever successes this government achieves, we are part of those success stories and whatever challenges encountered, we are part of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always said here and I will continue to say that when government exists, Parliament, being part of government, our business is to support because at the end of the day, even if you are on the edge, you will survive based on the achievements made by your predecessors. If you yield to critics and undermine your predecessor, you may find yourself in that position in the future and for you to start your work will be difficult and that is what we have always been doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we took over governance in 2018, it was a public secret that the former government did not do well. In the case of energy, for instance, we inherited about **16%**; but today, we are at **36%** and all MPs, including MPs of the APC, SLPP and the Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament are part of this success. However, **36%** is not enough. You would agree with me that other countries are boasting of **60%**. If the foundations have been laid before now, we would have been building on those foundations, but because the foundations were not there, we are trying to make things work. We should be sincere and nationalistic to ourselves. We are laying the foundations, so that the government that will come after us will build and develop on those foundations. If we had met electricity at **40%** and above, we should be boasting of **60%** or above. We got independence in 1961 and we took over in 2018. We inherited electricity at **16%**. Owing to the weak foundations we inherited, that is why we want to strengthen those foundations. As a government, we will not say at the end of our five or ten years, we will be able to achieve everything, but we should see ourselves as part of this government. Members of the APC, the SLPP and the Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament should be part of the successes. We should build this foundation together. As we speak, the electricity generation and distribution is at **36%**. We pray, with the support of this House, that before the end of 2028, we will be able to increase that number to **70%** and above.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we go into this debate, I want to advise Honourable Members that when you go to your constituencies, the questions that are being put to you as Opposition are the same questions that are being put to us. The only thing our constituents want to know or what they want to see is good roads, electricity, health care facility, etc. They will not ask us different questions. They voted for us for the same reason as they voted for our colleagues in Kambia and Port Loko. We are in governance and they voted for all of us. As we go into this debate, let us bear in mind that we are Members of Parliament and the measures you will be using to analyse and criticise this government will be the same measures your constituents will use to analyse and criticise you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, education is one of our flagship programmes. I want to thank His Excellency the President for a job well done. Education should be the bedrock of the development of any nation. It is a bold step for a President to say I am going to prioritise education. That is the only sector that does not have feedback and that is the only sector that has a long lasting success. It is not like road construction, where you will have a feedback that you will take home and five years along the line, we have to reconstruct the roads again. It is only a visionary President that will say the development of this nation depends on education. The President committed **22%** of the GDP to education. He should have committed that percentage to the road sector,

where every contractor who is given a contract will have a feedback of **10%**, instead of education. The President decided to commit that percentage to education in order for us to realise the benefits of education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we pay school fees without getting benefits from it. We are paying from pre-school to university level. It is only when the child or our children complete university that we think of getting benefit from it. That is a long process, Mr Speaker. It is only a courageous person that will invest in education. We are all parents and all of us are paying school fees for our children. It is through vision we are paying school fees because at the end of the day, the benefits we get from paying school fees will come after twenty years or more. They do not come as soon as you expect them and this shows that our President is a parent. He stated that he is going to concentrate or prioritise education. He is a visionary President. I have heard a lot of critics regarding education. Mr Speaker, I do not see the spirit of nationalism in them, especially those who criticise education in this country. Mr Speaker, I want to state here that education is a process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have achieved so far is enrollment. For us to achieve quality education, the government, the schools and the parents are responsible. It is sad for politicians to say there is no quality education. What are we doing as parents? Are we supporting the government? We support our children to even bribe teachers; we also buy leaked papers; we allow our children to go to night clubs instead of encouraging them to study. What we do, as the government, is to pay school fees; we pay teachers' salaries and give the children a conducive learning environment. To achieve quality education rests on the parents. Today, you will see pupils, instead of begging for pamphlet, they are begging for phones. All of these pupils are using Android phones. Go to their houses, they will be on social media for the rest of the day and throughout the night. Do you expect them to perform magic? You are creating the impression as if government is not working to promote quality education. The government is working to ensure quality education. These children are our future. If you do not train them well, if you do not encourage them to study, if you do not encourage them to sit the exams genuinely, if you do not encourage them to participate in school activities and if they fail, they will not only be failing the government, they will also fail you, the parent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the number of dropouts is increasing by the day. A visionary President has committed **22%** of our GDP to education. I am appealing to all of us in this Well to support the government. All of us are parents, whether you are a member of the Opposition Bench or member from the Ruling Bench or Paramount Chief Member of Parliament. Let us support the President to achieve quality education in this

country. If the President had not been a visionary leader, he should have prioritised other areas where he would have feedback. It is a public secret that government is constrained with funds because the bulk of what we generate goes to education. Why do we politicise the educational sector? Of late, I noticed that people who claimed to be graduates and master degree holders cannot even write simple report. What are we doing? It is our responsibility to help the government to achieve quality education, instead of politicising it. When you politicise it and you are fortunate to be the head of a sector, these are the people you will be working with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you looked at the health sector, you would notice that we have done a lot. Let us join hands to support this government. As we debate this Address, let us debate it as nationalists; bearing in mind that Sierra Leone is our country. Today, we are here and before we came here, others were here; and tomorrow, other people will come after us. During our own days, what are we doing? Are we just opposing? What are we contributing? What solutions are we proffering? We are waiting for the solutions. On this side, as we debate this Speech, let us bear in mind that we are Sierra Leoneans; and on the other side of the aisle, let us bear in mind that you want to succeed one day, and you would want to succeed on a very strong foundation. If you succeed on a weak foundation, that will be the beginning of your suffering, but if you succeed on a strong foundation, it would enhance the development of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, regarding infrastructure, it is a public secret that we are connecting communities; we are connecting districts; and we are connecting regions. We have seen the bridges that have been constructed; and we have seen the road infrastructure. I agree with you that they are not enough and no one can stand and say we have achieved that aspect. Governance is continuity. We are building on what we inherited. Even though what we inherited is weak, we are building on it, so that future governments will inherit a very strong system. Nobody will say since independence, it is only these six years of the government of President Bio that things have gone worse. If we had met a strong foundation, it should have been better, but because we met them worse, now we are trying to make them better. Governments before us or presidents before us have been prioritising things that are political, but this President is prioritising developments and the future of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have built bridges all over the country. We have also established health centers across the country. If you go to Connaught Hospital, you would notice that the number of patients has reduced due to the emerging hospitals. Let us build on those areas, so that our future governments will benefit from these strong foundations. Mr Speaker, what worries me is the fact that since 1961, we are

now laying the foundation. Other countries are far ahead of us. Let me remind you that I have been here before some of you. While other countries like Ghana and Nigeria are far ahead of us, we inherited **16%** of electricity in 2018. From 1961 to 2018, electricity was **16%**. From 2018 to 2025, we are now **36%**. This means we are more than **100%** of what we generated since independence to 2018. What we have generated in six years is more than **100%** of what was generated from the period of independence to 2018. So, if you give us 2028 to 2032, we will be able achieve **80%** of the electricity. This is because if we could increase electricity up to **36%** from **16%** within six years, just give us another ten years; we will increase it to **70%**. I will be wrapping up the debate. This is just to whet your appetite.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you travel from Masiaka to Bo or from Masiaka to Makeni, you would notice lots of potholes. I agree with you and the Honourable Member from Falaba also said that the road from Makeni to Falaba is full of potholes. I agree that these roads are deathtraps. This has exonerated His Excellency the President. During the Fourth Parliament, we told them that the roads they were constructing were cosmetic roads. Today, the Opposition is crying about these roads. I now feel exonerated because they have proven us right. It was under the former President that the Makeni-Kabala Road was constructed. Oh yes, we were sitting there as Opposition. When we went on oversight, it was stated that this road should last for a minimum of twenty-five years. Today, nearly six to seven years, they are crying that these roads are not good.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the road from Masiaka to Bo was constructed under the leadership of the former President, Ernest Bai Koroma. We said in this Well that these are cosmetic roads; and today, when I heard my brothers on television and radio crying about these roads, I felt exonerated. I want to thank God because these are roads we inherited. Let me say this and for the Honourable Members that were not here that the road from Congo Cross to Wilkinson Road is the most expensive road. That was the reason the two leaders of the institution, Mr Alimamy Pepito Koroma and Mr Munda Rogers were sacked because they inflated the cost. They created so much variation which caused the President to say *S.O 2, 'ah, dem wan yah na den wan kill dis country. Den wan ya if ar nor pull dem, dem go cause trouble.'* They were fired on the same day, Mr Speaker. I brought this up because when a government fails, it affects all us. We were on that side when we said those words, but they condemned us. However, now that they are on that side, when they criticise us, we will take it very serious. When we were on that side, we criticised them, but they did not take it seriously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure you that when you critique, we are going to take it very serious. What you should not do is to criticise; what you should do,

is to critique. If you critique, we will take it seriously, but if you criticise because of politics, then we will definitely react. At the end of the day, all of us on this side or on both sides of the aisles will be voted out using the same measures. That is to say, the same measures they will be using to vote us out, it will be the same measures they will use to vote you out. We were all on the same ballot papers. We campaigned using the same messages. As we enter into this debate, I want to encourage all of us to do justice to this document. Last week, we approved funds for Karene/Kamakwie Road. So, nothing is expected from the Karene Members of Parliament, rather than to praise His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind us on this side to look at the last three speeches of the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma and compare the promises he made to us as a nation and where we are. I am sure if these promises were achieved, we would not be where we are today. As we go into this debate, my message to the debaters is to remind you that your people did not vote for you to come and criticise; your people voted for you to be part of government, to make laws that will change their lives and excuses in the name of Opposition is not tolerated. In this Parliament, we are being paid the same amount of salaries; we are given the same facilitation; and we are given the same sitting allowance. It is not because they are in the Opposition and we are at Ruling Bench. We are all the same and we belong to the same Committees. We do the same oversight together. There is no segregation because we are all Members of Parliament. I am on air and I will say we are all the same. In fact, we have paid their backlogs. That tells you how magnanimous His Excellency the President is; that tells you they have fulfilled the criteria of a full time Members of Parliament. S.O 2, *'le no body nor go tell wuna say den nor pay dem oh. We all dey receive di same payments.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with what they have achieved on that side and what we have achieved on this side, we are all the same. Therefore, as we enter into this debate, let us debate as government officials. There is no way anybody is going to hide under Opposition. We are in this together. It is either we succeed together or we fail together. In fact, we will not pass laws in this Parliament if we do not inform them and we will not even start sittings if they are not here. So, I am appealing to you that our people will not accept excuses. You will not come here with lies. We are collectively responsible and that is why the President is the head of this Parliament and he is part of us. So, let us debate this document as if it is our property. This is the statement of our boss, who happens to be the head of this Parliament. Thank you very much and let me remind you that the same way you criticise this document, will be the same way your constituents will criticise you. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Leader of Government Business. Any seconder?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is an amendment already. Your Deputy is now the seconder.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I know that there is an amendment before the Leader came in, but he is now here. We are the masters of the rules.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you move a Motion in that regard?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I withdraw the Motion and I move that Honourable Abdul Kargbo seconds the Motion. That was the original intention.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you tell this House the reason, so that it can be recorded? Just tell the House that you decided to second in his absence, but now that he is here, he should second the Motion.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder to that Motion?

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Motion to withdraw the earlier amendment on the Order Paper has been carried].*

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, let me express my profound thanks and appreciation to my deputy for giving me this opportunity. To start with, let us have realistic analyses of the essence of proposing and seconding a debate on the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the President. Of course, we have a lot to debate and we are the ones that will round off the debate. However, the essence is not for us to debate at this stage, it is for us to set the tone for Members of Parliament, so that we will have a thorough idea as to how the debate should go. Interestingly, it is also meant to guide the process. Mr Speaker, permit me to say what is expected of a leader when he has the opportunity to debate.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** He spoke for one hour and nobody interjected him.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, this is a House of rules. The Honourable Daniel B. Koroma and I were here long before now and we have the experience. When we talk about Presidential debate, the Leader of Government Business, who receives the document, will make a short statement. I have not debated. I only set the tone as to

how the debate should look like. In the Fourth Parliament, whenever the Honourable Ibrahim Bundu received the Speech, he opened the debate. At one time, he gave his slot to the Honourable I.B Kargbo to open the debate for him. A short statement was given and after that the debate continued. I received the document on behalf of the Leader of Government Business and I set the tone for the debate to continue. It is un-parliamentary and it is not procedural for me to set the tone and he comes and debate.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is not the point. Honourable Members, you need not to waste your time on all of those issues. What I am saying here is that you have not debated because the leaders will eventually round off the debate. He has just given a brief statement. It is only that his brief statement was very expansive and that is why you think that he actually debated. However, he was only making a brief statement. The Leaders would have to round off at the end. It was only for him to make a brief statement before I put the question. The debate has not really begun because I have not put the question yet. He was only given a statement. It is only when I put the question that the debate actually starts. So, he is only there to second the Motion before I put the question.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. He has not started; he only made a statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** A very long one at that.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I will be rounding off the debate from our side. Therefore, I need not debate at this stage. I will rather guide the process. I want to crave the indulgence of Chairmen of Committees to be with their pens and papers to take note of issues relating to their Committees. If possible, you have to summon MDAs after the debate to discuss the issues raised by MPs. That will be very difficult to achieve if MDAs are not represented here. Basically, this debate is to ensure that we look into the issues and the activities of MDAs, and see how best we can be able to proffer solutions that can address these problems. If we are debating the President's statement and this place is as empty as it is now with less MDAs representation, then it is worrisome. This is because the President's statement is a compilation from MDAs. So, we have to look into what they gave His Excellency the President to read in this House. It is necessary that we make it mandatory for MDAs to be represented here during the course of the debate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to also advise Members of Parliament to pay keen attention to S.O 32, which guides the debate in Parliament. Let us ensure that we go strictly by the rules of debate in the House, in order to ensure that we save ourselves from unnecessary embarrassments of going against the rules. Mr Speaker,



although the Leader did not debate, he however made some erroneous statements that I want to correct.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, you will not go into that now.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I am not debating; I am seconding the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Second the Motion, so that I can put the question.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Definitely, I am not going to debate, Mr Speaker. I just wanted to make few clarifications for the edification of this gathering. Firstly, for the edification of those who are listening to us, the Kabala Road was done by One-Man-Abu under the Leadership of President Siaka Stevens and not under the Leadership of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. I want to make that very clear for the record. The Fadugu/Kabala Road was also done by Siaka Stevens and Compagnie Sahelienne d'Entreprises [CSC] was the contractor in 1990 and not Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. These are some of the misinformation and disinformation that are being given out there. I am not debating and you know my style of debating.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on, Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I am sure you have enough time to bring out all these issues when you will be debating.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, my debate will not even cover this statement. I am not debating.

**THE SPEAKER:** But what you are doing is what we called debate.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I am correcting the wrong messages he sent out.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I will advise that you second the Motion and if possible, tell one of the Members of Parliament to respond to the issue if you do not have time to respond.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, with all due respect, I think everybody was here when he said those statements. He spoke for over one hour, nobody interrupted him and during that purpose, he gave out false information. I think that was the time you would have stopped him and told him to wait until when he will be rounding off.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course, I heard you that he spoke unnecessarily and he used enough time to give his statement. The statement was expected to be brief, but the statement became so lengthy. What I am saying is that if I should allow you now to respond to those issues, then it would be un-procedural.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, because you allowed him to speak unnecessarily; please allow me to speak. I am not going to speak unnecessarily.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, hold on. This is procedure, Mr Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** And the procedure was abrogated by him. He debated for a very long time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on! As the mover of the Motion, he has the audacity even though he was expected to make a statement. The rules provided that audacity for him to set the tone, but if I should allow you now, then it would become un-procedural because all what you are expected to do is to second the Motion. Take your relevant notes and respond to those issues later.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you and I know that both the mover and the seconder of a Motion have the opportunity to make statements.

**THE SPEAKER:** Not at the stage, Honourable Member.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, where it all went wrong is because you gave him the laxity to speak for over one hour; and in the process, he gave false information which we want to correct now.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, it was not one hour. I think he spoke for less than thirty minutes. What I am saying is that he has the laxity because he was the one introducing the entire debate.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, he cannot say anything sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader, with all due respect, please that is my ruling. With all due respect, please save that for another day, otherwise it will be un-procedural. You have enough time to respond to those issues. In fact, it would be a novelty if I allow you to respond to those issues now because it has never happened here before.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** But the Acting Leader debated.

**THE SPEAKER:** He has the laxity because he was introducing the Motion. In fact, that was the point where you had the right to interject or raise a Point of Order. You should have corrected him at the time of his debate, but you waited until it is time for you to second the Motion.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** M Speaker, with all due respect sir, you know that once you have the opportunity to speak, you must wait for that rightful opportunity, instead of interrupting un-procedurally.

**THE SPEAKER:** Your opportunity is only to second the Motion.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Basically, even during the course of this debate, I would advise that Members of Parliament are not interrupted.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, but you should have interjected at that time when he was saying those things.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Please take note, and at the end of the day, they give out what information they want to give out.

**THE SPEAKER:** You will respond to that accordingly when the time comes; you will respond to all the issues when the time comes.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I will not just stand and say I second the Motion. I have to make a statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, you just have to second the Motion or do you want to withdraw?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** No, I am not withdrawing; I am seconding the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, just second the Motion.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I just do not have to say that I second the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader, I have ruled that you just second the Motion and let us move on, please. Please let us not waste time on this.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, interestingly I will just second the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, please. I want you to just second the Motion. It is not procedural to do what you want to do. Do not worry, you have enough time. I know you are you are ready to come after the Leader. I know you will definitely come after him, but let us keep that for another day.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** No, I just want to do that for the edification of the public regarding the false information in order to clear some doubts.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, let us not do that now. So that was the reason you came running? Probably, you were somewhere listening to him while he was making his statement. Please, just second the Motion because you have enough time to respond to him.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** With all due respect, Mr Speaker, I will second the Motion, but this debate is going to be hot. As I said, I want to guide the process just as I have advice Members of Parliament regarding the constant interruptions while others are debating. Whatever utterance that is made by a Member of Parliament, please make sure you take note and when you have the opportunity to debate, you would contradict him or her later. I am hopeful that even during the course of this debate, we will clear most of the misinformation and disinformation presented to this House. With that anticipation, Mr Speaker, I second the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the President.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition.

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before we start the debate, let me refer you to the provisions in the Standing Orders. They are very important. I know you have your Standing Orders with you. I want you to take note of S.O 32[4]. It says:

*"A Member shall not read his speech, but may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his or her memory by reference to notes."*

Of course, you saw the Leader of the Opposition making reference to it, but you do not have to read. Let me also make reference to S.O 32 [5]. It says:

*"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto."*

Honourable Members, take note of the question of relevance. Let me also make reference to S.O 32[6]. It states:

*"Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending."*

Any matter that is in the court, please do not make reference to such matters. Honourable Members, please be properly guided and I am to inform you, pursuant to S.O 38[3] for you to understand it properly. Let me read S.O 38[1].

*"Subject to paragraph [2] of this Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the Whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject; Provided that the mover of a substantive Motion shall be entitled to forty-five minutes for his opening speech."*

That was what the Leader of Government Business did. He was entitled to forty-five minutes of opening his speech because he was the mover, but let me refer you particularly to S.O 38[3].

*"This Order shall not apply to speeches made during the debate on the Presidential Address to Parliament and the debate on the Second reading of the Annual Appropriation Bill."*

*"Provided that if the debate is limited to specific allotted days, the Speaker may determine and allocate the time of each contribution, such as to accommodate the participation of all those who wish to speak. And the fifth day of the five days allotted to the debate on the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the President for his Address to Parliament on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament shall, pursuant to Sub-section [2] of Section 107 of the Constitution, be devoted to Ministerial responses to the issues raised by Members on government policies contained in the Speech."*

Honourable Members, I am giving fifteen minutes to every debater and we will take five from each side of the aisles, but when we come tomorrow, it will be extended to ten speakers; and on Wednesday, probably it will be extended to fifteen speakers, in order to create more room for more MPs to debate. Thank you very much, Honourable

Members. Let me start with the first name on the list that I have before me. I will start with Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh. You have fifteen minutes please.

**HON. ARUNA P. S. LARKOH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is another day for us to look at the Presidential Speech that was delivered on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. For records, I am Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh, a representative from Tonkolili District, Konofadowaya Chiefdom. Mr Speaker, before I start the debate, I would want to make some clarifications from the just concluded statements of the Deputy Leader of Government Business. In his statement, he stated that the Kabala Road was constructed by Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, the former President of Sierra Leone. I want to emphatically tell him that the road was constructed under the regime of the late former President of Sierra Leone, Dr Siaka P. Stevens by the One-Man-Abu construction company and the internship roads in Kabala were constructed by the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. The Fadugu Road, leading to Kabala, was constructed by the CSC, under the leadership of the late former President, Dr Siaka P. Stevens in 1990.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Acting Leader.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, we are live on air and the public is listening to us. I said that road was rehabilitated with a complete over laid by the CSC during the period of the former President. I am not reading history; I was part of the history. I was in this Parliament and I was a Member of the Works Committee together with Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, Honourable Aaron A. Koroma and the Honourable Kombor Kamara was the Chairman. We went to the quarry at Kamabai and we know the starting and ending of that Road. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma was part of us and the Honourable Sallieu Osman Sesay was here. So, I am not reading history because I was part of the Fourth Parliament and I was part of all of the oversights that were conducted. The Kabala Road was rehabilitated and completely overlaid. Thank you.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, since the Honourable Member has mentioned my name, I think I have right to respond.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Daniel B. Koroma.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Indeed, we were all Members of Parliament in the Fourth Parliament, but by way of correction, I was never a Member of the Works Committee. Secondly, the overlay he is talking about only stopped at Kamabai.

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, do not forget that a Leader is on his legs. Please listen to him. The Acting Leader of Government Business is here.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** The users of the Kabala Road can bear me witness that if you move now from Makeni to Kabala, you would find out that the road is as good as the road from Masiaka to Waterloo and that is where the overlay stopped. Users of that road can testify that before that time, the road from Makeni to Fadugu was made by late President Siaka Stevens in those days. It is only now that it has been debilitated. You could imagine the number of years it took. Also the road from Fadugu to Kabala was constructed under the leadership of the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh. I took my O'Level exams in 1990 and while waiting for my results, I worked as a labourer under the leadership of the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh in 1990. That road was not constructed by Dr Ernest Bai Koroma; it was constructed by the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh. You could imagine from 1990 to date the number of years that road has taken. This shows that the road is a quality road.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Daniel B. Koroma was in active service in 1990. You are indeed a senior citizen of this country.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Very senior citizen and my teacher is here. He prepared me for my O'Level exams.

**THE SPEAKER:** Who?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Tony. I got two in his subject. He gave me free tutorials because I could not afford to pay the fees and I made it. I took my O'Level exams in 1990 and I worked as a labourer. I must say this that the road from Fadugu to Kabala was constructed under the leadership of the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh and the road from Makeni to Fadugu was constructed under the leadership of the late President Dr Siaka P. Stevens. However, it was later debilitated and the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma did part of it, but it did not go as far as Kamabai; it stopped half way. If you use the Kabala Road now, you would see what I am talking about. The evidence is there for you to see.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Leader, please be guided.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, let me just set the records straight. The Honourable Member from Tonkolili wanted to correct me. Mr Speaker, the former Speaker of this House, Honourable Sheku Badara Bashiru Dumbuya, used to tell us, "to thyself be true." I have said this and they have confirmed that the road in question was rehabilitated and that was why I said, amongst other things, we are in this together. If we fail, we fail together and if we succeed, we succeed together. I am not reading history and I will bring the evidence to show whether or not it was completed. It is left with us, as Members of Parliament to do the needful. The road from Makeni to Kabala

was to be rehabilitated and completely overlaid. Whatever that happened to the money we do not know.

**HON. ARUNA P. S. LARKOH:** I am still looking at the statement made by the Acting Leader of Government Business. In his statement, he also spoke about dropouts. He said the rate of dropouts is on the increase and Members of Parliament totally agreed with him. We know the issues around the educational system in this country. I want to clarify the issue relating to the Masiaka/Bo Road. The construction of that road started before Dr Ernest Bai Koroma came to power. It was between Bo and Taiama and Dr Ernest Bai Koroma later took over in 2007. If you looked at the road, most of the potholes are found on the areas constructed by the SLPP, under the leadership of Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. If you looked at the area between Masiaka and Moyamba Junction, there are no major potholes and that area was constructed during the Ernest Bai Koroma's era in 2008. It is one of the best roads in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the last seven years back, we had issues we considered to be traditional issues and they have not been addressed. Issues relating to the economy, health, water and other issues have not been addressed, even though we have made so many strides to support the government. Our efforts, as Opposition have not been considered. The current situation in this country is worrisome and this House should pay keen attention to it. I am talking about the drugs in this country.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, before we started, I read the specific Standing Orders. If you do not honour that, I am afraid I would have to stop you.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, the President spoke about drugs in his speech and the modalities the government is instituting to address this menace.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, that was not what he was saying.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** The President spoke about drugs and he is giving a true picture as to what is the current situation relating to drugs in this country.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are a man of God. Do not be smart with me, Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I am not trying to act smart, Mr Speaker. If this statement had not been mentioned by the President, he would not have talked about it. The issue of drugs in this country is very serious. What we are facing now, as a nation is that we are losing a whole generation.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have just warned him. If he goes out of the bracket, I would have to stop him.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** No, he will not go out of the bracket. He will talk about how dangerous drugs are and how the country is fighting to mitigate it.

**THE SPEAKER:** He can carry on and it should be done within the limit of the Speech.

**HON. ARUNA P. S. LARKOH:** Mr Speaker, the issue of drugs is a situation we need to look at as a country and as a Parliament. If you do not want me to talk about it, I will just localise the issue of drugs in Sierra Leone, which is a major concern for the young people. I will not look at it with international lens; I will base my argument within Sierra Leone. We know what is happening all over the country; we know how Kush, Tramadol and other dangerous substances have affected our young people. This is a very concern. Last year, we made some strides by putting some regulations in place, but those strides have not proved positive to combat these dangerous substances. In September, we recorded over two hundred [200] deaths and all those deaths are Kush related. This tells you that our nation is declining; the young generation is declining; and our youth are dying. Our youth are in bad shape and they need our support, as lawmakers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I refer you to Page 31, Paragraphs 29 and 304. Page [31], Paragraph 304 of the Presidential Address says: **"This is a moment of strategic opportunity and national pride. It proves that Sierra Leone is not only rebuilding from its past, but actively shaping the future of our region and the world."** However, what is currently happening in Sierra Leone and beyond is a direct opposite to this particular statement on Page 31, Paragraph 304. On Page 299, the President says: **"As a small nation, we must work twice as hard to secure our right place in the world."** That is exactly what we are doing. All of us know what is happening and this is why we should pay attention, as Members of Parliament. We should support the Executive Arm of government in this country. We are battling with these dangerous substances. We have not seen a clear path to combat these dangerous substances. Deaths are on the increase; the dropout rate is increasing; children are going out of the way; parents can no longer control their children; and the escalation of this drug has now gone into even secondary schools in this country. If you conduct a research now, you would realise that major secondary schools in this country are hosting the sales of these dangerous substances. It is a concern, as a Parliament and as Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I refer you to Page 12, Paragraph 103 of the Speech. It says: **"Through the National Youth Commission, thousands of young people have received technical training in mechanics, construction, hospitality and welding. Over 250 young women have joined digital literacy and entrepreneurship programmes, youth led farming and fisheries**



**initiatives are expanding nationwide.”** This statement caught my attention when I was reading the Speech few days ago. His Excellency the President said that thousands of young people in Sierra Leone have received technical training in mechanics and construction. I want to know where, how and who are these young people that have received these technical trainings. I am from Tonkolili District and I go there almost every weekend. I am just from Tonkolili District and I do interact with the young people, not only in Tonkolili District, but in the Western Region and other regions. Few days ago, we were in Bo and Kono, conducting oversight. We interacted with the young people. The question is, who are these young people that have received these technical trainings when we have hundreds of young people living under the bridges? If you go to Congo Cross Bridge, you would meet hundreds of young people under the bridge, taking Kush. If you go to the Jui Bridge, you would see young people living there. Almost all the bridges in this country, especially in the municipality, are occupied by young people who are engaged in drugs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Even some of the facilities constructed by the government to support young people and to boost youth empowerment, if you go down to those facilities like the Car-wash, I will tell you with authority that those facilities are now the pop for drug intake. If you visit all Carwash centers, you will agree with me that, those initiatives came to empower young people, but those initiatives have been transformed as centers to destroy young people instead of empowering them. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to me, I see this statement which says over two hundred and fifty [250] young people have received digital literacy and entrepreneurship programmes as a statement that requires evidence because we want to know how many young women have started businesses. We want to know the young entrepreneurship women in this country. The young population of this country is declining, and there is no hope for them based on what we are seeing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I refer you to Page 7, Paragraph 59 of this Speech. I want you to take note of this because it is very important. This is a statement read by His Excellency the President. It says: **“The heartbeat of Sierra Leone is its youth. My government remains firmly committed to investing in the skills and innovations, our most sustainable path to increase inclusive prosperity and national renewal.”** If the heartbeat of this government is the youth, why are we discovering hundreds of corpses on the streets of Freetown? This is something that is unprecedented and it has never happened in this country since 1961. It is only under the regime of the SLPP and President Bio we are discovering over 200 corpses when it is not an outbreak of disease. Mind you, during the Ebola, we were discovering corpses as a result of the epidemic, but for the last three months, we are discovering copses on the streets almost on a daily basis. We need to look at this concern as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Acting Leader of Government Business stated that we should not use party lens to debate this Speech; and if that is the case, we have to be objective. Maybe your cousin, your brother or your brother's son, is on the street, languishing. No one is safe in Sierra Leone; everyone in one way or the other is affected with this menace and we need to talk about it. We need to sit as a nation and pay keen attention to how we should address this menace. Let us forget about the global disgrace because if we go to the global disgrace, we are finished.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, your time is up. Please sit down. I now give the Floor to Honourable Alex M. Rogers. Honourable Members, let me tell you something. We are all Honourable Members and we are expected to behave honourably. I do not want to go too deep into matters pertaining to other countries. Let me just use a country that is closed to us. The other day, I landed at the Ghana airport. I was on my way out of the airport when I saw police officer who got hold of a particular lady. He took her phone and smashed it. I wanted to know the reason for that action and somebody told me that one thing about Ghana is that anything negative should not be propagated. I was later told that the lady saw a particular scene relating to two people who were fighting at the airport and she decided to video that particular scene and that was the reason the police officer smashed her phone. The person also told me that in Ghana, whenever you try to expose anything that is negative about their country, they would go all out to ensure that such information is not exposed. In fact, they have a system where they even go to the social media and delete certain information even from your phone. They have a system where they delete pictures or videos that tend to expose the negative aspect of their country. They do not allow anybody to say anything or to expose anything that they think is negative.

Honourable Members, do you know why I am raising this? I am raising this because as Members of Parliament, we can argue and of course, we have our social media groups where we are free to have some of these discussions. However, sometimes when we tend to go international to discuss some of these issues, they are not in our favour because we are here and we want investors to come to Sierra Leone. We want tourists to come to Sierra Leone and we want Sierra Leone to be attractive. If we want the good name of Sierra Leone, there are certain things we must do as nation. We should defend our country in a positive way. Let me tell you that the level at which we are propagating Sierra Leone as a drug nation is too alarming. It is not like that, Honourable Members. The level at which citizens are propagating this nation as a drug nation is not like that. However, it is unfortunate that the people we have high respect for in this nation are the ones taking the lead. I do not want to call certain names. You cannot even compare Sierra Leone to the things that are happening in neighbouring countries. You do not see that or hear that anywhere in world. We are the ones

destroying this nation. For political reasons, we are the ones destroying this nation. Why are we doing this? Of course, you have bad people in every country; you have foreigners who would come to your country and commit crimes. This is happening in America, England and other parts of the world. There are bad people who would come to a country and commit crimes. We also have people who are bad citizens. Why do we paint Sierra Leone as the worse nation on Earth? Why? We want investors to come and invest; we want jobs to be created for the people; and we want people to spend their moneys in Sierra Leone. Why are we doing this? Who has bewitched this nation? A writer once said: **"When something is happening in a nation that is bad, let somebody say it before he or she leaves the stage."** We will continue to say some of these things because they are not good.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you have made a very important point. One day, we had a debate at the ECOWAS Parliament. A Member of the ECOWAS Parliament from the Gambia and the other one from Liberia, both of them alleged that the drugs in their country are from Sierra Leone. So, I was mad at them in my debate. I told them that they were painting a very false image about Sierra Leone and what they were saying about Sierra Leone was wrong. I said Sierra Leone was not responsible for the drugs that are in the Gambia; and Sierra Leone was not responsible for the drugs that are in Liberia. We had a bitter argument; but just few months after that debate, the vehicle belonging to our Embassy in Guinea was captured with cocaine. We cannot keep quiet about that. They are the people that are tainting the image of this country. We should lash them.

**THE SPEAKER:** We have to do that, but we must choose our platforms. That is all what I am saying. I am not a social media fan; I go there occasionally. I was a little bit curious on a particular day I logged into my Facebook. I was looking at things that countries post about their nations. I saw nice pictures and nice sceneries from Ghana, the Gambia and Liberia. I was on Facebook for over 30 minutes. They posted very nice sceneries from these West African countries. However, the very first Sierra Leonean picture that popped up has to do with a house that was on fire somewhere around Freetown. On that footage, people were saying all sorts of things. Somebody even posted a comment, castigating the government and EDSA. I saw beautiful sceneries from other countries and when it comes to Sierra Leone, the very first picture that appeared was very terrible. That is what I am saying. We can choose our platforms to say certain things. We have social media groups where Sierra Leoneans are members of those groups. If we want to discuss politics or discuss negative happenings in Sierra Leone, we have those groups, but some people would leave those groups and go to the international social media, such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok, thereby exposing this nation to the world. Are we surprise when the United States of America [USA]

decided to ban Sierra Leoneans from going to their country? Some people always blame the government and failing to realise that we are the ones doing it. We are the ones that go to the international media and post bad things about this nation, and we call that politics. Is that politics? We call that madness and not politics. It is total madness.

*[Suspension of S.O 5[2] being 12:00 noon]*

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before adding my voice to the debate, let me express my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio for a very comprehensive and honest Speech he delivered during the Occasion of State Opening of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament. I want to use this opportunity to also plead with my colleagues, especially those of us who will be contributing to be very objective in their debate. We should try to avoid naked propaganda. I am sure all of us have read the Speech presented to this House by His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to limit my debate to a very sensitive topic, which I describe as a bedrock of all the thematic issues that are being covered by this Speech. Mr Speaker, Page 28 of the Presidential Speech talks about national security and the rule of law. I consider that as the bedrock of all the thematic topics in this Speech. This is very important and without this thematic topic, we will not be talking about creating the enabling environment for all the sectors that are being covered in the Speech made by His Excellency the President. I stand to be corrected, but I am saying this based on my opinion. I am sure security matters everywhere in the world and this is where I want to dilate on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about the concept of national security. This is relevant in this Speech. Mr Speaker, Pages 28 and Page 29 of the Presidential Speech talk about national security. This is in Paragraphs 277 to 284. These paragraphs talk about government relying on a range of measures, including political, economic and military power. We also have diplomacy to ensure the security of the state. In other words, what I am saying here is exactly what the President had wanted to say. In order to understand the range of measures to safeguard the security of the state, you have to take into consideration those three parameters that I have just mentioned; such as political, economic and military powers. When we talk about national security, you would agree with me that it is protected by the rule of law.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, inasmuch as it is the right of the Honourable Member to choose where to debate, I want him to know that issues of national security are serious matters and I will advise that he avoids issues relating to national security because by the time somebody else responds, that could create a problem to the state.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is it mentioned in the Speech?

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Of course, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, just limit yourself to the issues.

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** I am sure I drew your attention to Paragraph 284, which talks about the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces RSLAF. Honourable Members, I want you to read Paragraph 284.

**THE SPEAKER:** Anybody that wants to respond must limit him or herself to the issues.

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Paragraph 284 talks about the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF]. Section 165 [2] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991 says: **"The principal function of the Armed Forces shall be to guard and secure the Republic of Sierra Leone and preserve the safety and territorial integrity of the State; to participate in its development, to safeguard the people's achievements and to protect this Constitution."** The function of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF] goes beyond that and this is exactly what I wanted to draw your attention to regarding national developments. You would agree with me that this government is a responsible government that has introduced, first of its kind in the history of this country, a tri-service in the military. Tri-service constitutes the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. These areas have created a very serious landmark in this country. We can now talk about investments in the military. Recently, the government of Sierra Leone advertised the establishment of the Defence Establishment Services [DES] and that is the investment wing of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF] in this country. In terms of investments in this country, the military is highly involved and the Military has about ten [10] companies that operate under the Defence Establishment Services [DES]. Recently, they advertised job opportunities in the newspapers. However, I do not want to go into the details because all of us read the newspapers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very responsible Military which is operated under the leadership of the new Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Amara Idara Bangura. You would agree with me that this is the first time in the history of the Army that a first female Battalion Commander was appointed and that person is Lieutenant Colonel Alice Koria Sesay. She is a Kuranko from the Northern part of Sierra Leone. For those who are coming from the Northern part of Sierra Leone, I think you should commend the President for a job well done. She has been deployed in my home town and she is doing very well there. As I said before, the Military has been revolutionised in the development of this country in terms of agriculture. Recently, as a Chairman of the Committee on Defence, I took along some Members of my Committee to Port Loko,

where we have embarked on five hundred [500] acres of cashew plantation. Truly, this is a very serious investment done by the military. The Military is now producing their uniforms, boots and other things. This has never happened before. So, these are some of the developments we should be proud of within the military.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paragraph 279 talks about the Office of National Security [ONS]. This is where the President spoke about the early warning and rapid response mechanisms. Mr Speaker, between 2024 and 2025, the Office of National Security consolidated the Sierra Leone national security architecture through a very decisive leadership, coordinated actions and of course, policy innovation. This was what I was trying to say. I am not going into the details of the security of this country, but it is mentioned in this document. Recently, this Parliament enacted the Early Warning and Rapid Response Act. I must commend this Parliament for enacting that Act. That Act has established an autonomous body that is no longer under the ONS. It is operating under the Office of the President to alert the security sector. There are issues that can be seen under the Early Warning and Rapid Response and some of these issues have to do with strengthening the early warning and rapid response.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you have two more minutes.

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Alright, Mr Speaker. Let me not forget to mention the good things done by the ONS, such as the formulation and launching of the National Security Strategy Paper. I am sure only few African countries can boast of this Strategy Paper. Some of us gave inputs towards it and we are very proud of that. This is a very responsible and sober government because it has helped to revolutionise the Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think it is better I talk about the Yenga issue. I do not want to leave it like that. The Yenga issue is an issue we are working on together with the Honourable Engineer and the ONS. I want to assure you that the Yenga issue is coming to logical conclusion very soon. This is because we have got the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] delegation and we are only waiting for them to tender their report. That is not my area to talk about, but with the recommendation that we have got, I believe that will be a thing of the past. With these few remarks, I want to say, on behalf of my people of Pujehun District, that we are very grateful to His Excellency the President of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. For the edification of the House, the Honourable Member spoke about the Yenga issue. He said that ECOWAS sent a delegation. There is a report that states that the delegation was not permitted by the Guinean military to enter into Yenga. I want to know how true that is.

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** That is not correct because the resident President of the ECOWAS Mission in this country was represented. That is not correct at all and you can confirm that.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Did the ECOWAS delegation have access to Yenga?

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Of course yes. I am telling you this with authority.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Okay, thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Alex M. Rogers, let me thank you profusely for your contribution to this debate. When you want to start the debate relating to the President's Speech, you started by first and foremost thanking the President and I am sure that is the procedure. Is that not so, Leader of the Opposition?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** You are correct, Mr Speaker. On behalf of all the debaters here, I want to thank the President so that they would just continue with their debate.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura.

**HON. DANIEL A. BANGURA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor. I am Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura, representing Tonkolili District, particularly the people of Yoni Mabanta and Yoni Mabela Chiefdoms. I want to go by your words to start by thanking the President for graciously delivered his Speech in this Well. I stand before you today not just as an Opposition representative, but as a voice for the millions of Sierra Leoneans, whose hopes have been dashed; whose struggles remain unseen; and whose patience have tested beyond measure. We gather in this Well today not simply to debate, but to confront the reality that has been unfolding over the years; and that is the great divergence between speeches and realities under the leadership of His Excellency the President, Dr Julius Maada Bio. His Speech that was delivered on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 was a master class in rhetoric, filled with grand claims and a picture of progress that quite frankly bears little resemblance to the lead experiences of our people.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I know you are performing your role in society as an Opposition Member of Parliament, but please be guided with the use of words. The Leaders are so matured in the way they choose their words when addressing Parliament. You can criticise without using insulting words or statements. You are dealing with His Excellency the President of Sierra Leone.

**HON. DANIEL A. BANGURA:** Noted, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I like the words of the President in Paragraph 36, where he said, Mr Speaker with your permission, he says: **"No nation can rise above the quality of its people."** This begs the question, how do we want our nation to rise? When President Maada Bio came

to this very Well in 2018, he stood tall and declared to this nation that the free quality education would be the flagship of his government. He promised every child, every parent and of course, every teacher that education would no longer be a privilege, but a right. He said education would be accessible, free and with quality to this nation. Those words gave hopes to millions of poor families across this nation. Yesterday, when I read Part [3] of the People's manifesto under human capital development and Paragraph [5] supported by the Presidential Speech of 2018, the President promised us plenty things under education.

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Observation, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, please tell the Honourable Members from the other side to allow the Honourable Member to continue his debate.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we are in the face of the gallery.

**HON. DANIEL A. BANGURA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Paragraph 38, the President reported to this House that his government had completed over one thousand, five hundred classrooms. I must confess that this is huge. However, if these classrooms are to be evenly divided among the one thousand, three hundred [1300] administrative sections in this nation, it means that, only two hundred [200] sections will get two classrooms each and the rest of the one thousand [1000] sections will only get one classroom each. Mr Speaker, is this the primary school that was promised for every section? Is this the Junior Secondary School that was promised for every electoral Ward? Is this the Senior Secondary School with a well-equipped science laboratory promised for every constituency? Let me shock you that even with 1,500 classrooms that are being constructed, there are plenty sections, including ours in Yoni Mabanta that are still asking where are these classrooms built? What happened to the expansion of the school feeding programme?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to report to you that Yoni Mabanta, which is one of the most deprived Chiefdoms in Tonkolili District is not benefiting from the school feeding programme. No school is benefitting from the school feeding programme. Interestingly, that is the home Chiefdom of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [S.L.P.P] Tonkolili District Chairman. *S.O 2, 'bo watin Ahmed Saybom Kanu du wuna now?* They are being deprived to the extent of punishing the kids of his Chiefdom. Those kids are Sierra Leoneans and they are innocent children. Mr Speaker, I am humbly asking you to use your good office for the kids in your Yoni Mabanta to be considered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to Paragraphs 141 to 152, the President spoke good things about roads that connect farmers to markets, traders and the patients moving from one point to the other. Mr Speaker, those good statements the



President made in those paragraphs do not reflect the situation in Tonkolili District. I am calling on the attention of this House again, that our women are dying whenever they are in labour. The referral district hospital is in Magburaka and it is 52km away from Mile 91. We have been managing the road that connects those two communities before the intervention of this government. Since five years, we are no longer using that road and it is now a deathtrap. Whenever a patient in Mile 91 is referred to Magburaka, instead of using the 52km road, we have to go all the way round from Masiaka, Lunsar and Makeni to Magburaka. Most times, we lost our people. This is a call I am making on behalf of my people. Mr Speaker, trenches were dug and abandoned and it is a complete deathtrap now.

Moreover Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President spoke about climate in Paragraphs 87 and 239. With your leave, Mr Speaker, let me read. Paragraph 239 says: **"Climate Change is a present and urgent threat. This year's raining season has already brought tragedy. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families."** Paragraph 87 of the Speech states: **"Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene is a basic right and essential for health, education, climate resilience and development."** Mr Speaker, it is not a hidden secret that the Pampana River that passes through Tonkolili District is gone and we are also facing the biggest threat of losing the Rokel River in Tonkolili District. The Rokel River is the river that passes through Bumbuna hydro electricity and it is the closest river that can supply fresh water to this capital city; if we were to expand our water supply in this nation. We are losing that river completely and I am calling on you, and the rest of us here, to add our voices like what the Leader of Government Business was saying. We must not politicise everything in this debate. This is a national call. If we sit down as Leaders and allow the Rokel River to disappear like the Pampana River, we are finished. We can no longer access the Pampana River. Illegal and uncontrolled mining is taking place there. This is the time to make a decision. We are in this today and whatever we do, our generations will ask us question tomorrow. What answers are we going to give them?

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, please take note of the Pampana River issue.

**HON. DANIEL A. BANGURA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am sure we cannot live without clean water. The government is doing its best to implement projects of climate change and it is important for all of us to add our voices to see that we succeed in that direction. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura. You have made my day. That is just what I want. Let us all be nationalistic in our contributions. When it is time for politics, we will go into that, but when it comes to the interest of this nation, let us be nationalistic and discuss issues affecting our people. If we have issues

affecting our people, let us bring them out and probably by next week or week after next, we would invite the Ministers to answer questions relating to those issues and see how they can be addressed. Since 1961 we had independence, no one President has been able to solve our problems. The former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, tried as best as he could; he tried and tried. He did roads in certain areas that he never talked about. He did certain things that were good and I can attest to that. I was seated there in this Well and I said good things about him because he was so audacious about certain things. No one President is going to solve all the problems in Sierra Leone because our problems are so diverse and complicated. So, it would be unfair for you to say he said he was going to do this and he said he was going to do that. Unfortunately, we do not even have the funds. By all standards, we are a very poor country and you do not expect one President to solve all the problems in Sierra Leone except if we want to daydream on that. Next on my list is Honourable Fallah Kenawah Tengbeh.

**HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for according me the opportunity to debate. Today, I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President, for being magnanimous in delivering one of the best proclamation speeches ever in the history of Sierra Leone. I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Kissi people and on behalf of all Sierra Leoneans to His Excellency for being tireless in pushing our country to the peak we are yearning for in Sierra Leone. Today, we gather not to trade with empty words, but to weigh the facts and the facts can be stubborn; the facts can be magnanimous; and they cannot be ignored. The Presidential Address, as was delivered by His Excellency the President, was not a fiction of promises; it was a ledger of delivery and a blueprint of transformation. The President spoke about our kitchens, our farms, our classrooms and above all our future, as Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in agriculture, we sowed seeds and they are already bearing fruits. In electricity, darkness is giving way to light. The All Peoples Congress's [APC] legacy of darkness is giving way to light. With regard to roads, they are not just stagnant, but they are connecting districts. We are connecting to the international world and the international community. Education is no longer a privilege, as it used to be under the One Party regime; today, it is a right for every Sierra Leoneans to be educated and that is why we have the free quality education in Sierra Leone. The economy that was once battered is finding its breadth under the leadership of His Excellency and the SLPP led government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, water and telecommunications are no longer luxuries in Sierra Leone, they are lifeline extended to every citizen and that is why in the President's Speech, it is cleverly captured that we are delivering water infrastructure in Freetown. You do see multi donor projects being implemented across Freetown.

Solar power boreholes are equipped with stand posts and each has the capability of servicing two thousand [2000] people in every community after construction. Hundreds of those projects are ongoing and this tells you that this government is a sober government and we are responsible. Mr Speaker, before I get into the debate proper, let me use one minute to go through the successes. If time beats me, I know that I have communicated something. Under agriculture, we implemented good policies and we were to save fifteen million United State Dollars **[\$15,000,000]** in foreign exchange. The breakdown will be followed as I proceed with my debate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2025, the price of rice dropped by over **20%** and that is another huge achievement of the SLPP led government. I am proud to be a Member of the SLPP. We now have three rice mills that are operational and this is also another huge achievement. Our government has stabilised the economy; we have strengthened national security. With regard the Yenga issue, I could hear my colleagues on the other side murmuring, asking that Yenga should be redeemed. I want to allay your fears because President Bio has stated that an inch of that land would not be left in the hands of the Guineans. So, let us be patient. Diplomacy is a process. It will surely come to pass and Yenga will be a free land as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I get into the debate, I want to start with the first critical sector, which has to do with energy. I am an Electrical engineer. Mr Speaker, let me begin with a simple truth that no nation can prosper in darkness. Without reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity, our doctors cannot save lives. Without electricity, our children will not be able to study effectively and that is also a perfect reason why energy is the lifeblood of industrialisation and developments. Under the APC led government, only one out of every four Sierra Leoneans had access to electricity; but today, that trajectory has changed positively because the energy sector is expanding. The best part of it is that the signing off of the Mission of 300 Energy Compacts is going to transform Sierra Leone into another Mauritius. Under the SLPP, light is a new normal. In 2018, electricity generation was around **one hundred and thirty [130]** megawatts. As we speak, we now have about **two hundred and seventy [270]** megawatts. It means we have not only done more than **100%** of what they did in eleven years, but we are about to triple what was meant to be their success within those years.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member did say that the energy generation has moved from one hundred and thirty [130] megawatts to two hundred and seventy [270] megawatts. However, I want to put it to you that since this government came into office, there has not been other project apart from the rural electrification project and that was all from 2016. There has never been an addition in

the energy system and I am saying this authoritatively. I am equally an electrical and electronics engineer. When you were talking, you misunderstood access to that of generation. There is a huge difference between access to energy and generation. There has not been increase in generation, but there has been increase in access and that is what is causing the overloading of the transformers. Anyways, I am going to reserve that. Honourable Member, I will be happy if you show me the generation.

**THE SPEAKER:** The problem with you Honourable Leader is that, you do not want to reserve opinion. That is your problem.

**HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I hope time will be given to me, because I need to explain that to Honourable Members. I am happy that the Leader happens to be my classmates at the Fourah Bay College. What I am saying here is based on experience and with thorough research. Mr Speaker, the Leader wanted to know the installed capacity against the generation capacity. I am talking about the generation capacity and that is what we get. Installed capacity on the other hand, you can have, let us say, one hundred [100] megawatts, but you only have access to something like **70%** or **80%** out of the 100 megawatts. However, I am saying this with authority and I want to refer my Leader to the African Development Bank reports and also to Country, Economy.com. Those are the references that depict the fact that under the leadership of APC, they only left us with one hundred and thirty [130] megawatts; and today, we have two hundred and seventy [270] megawatts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me refer you to Paragraphs 128 and 129. The availability of the 300 Energy Compacts is not only going to triple what the All Peoples Congress [APC] left, it is going to quadruple and it is going to quintuple it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Fallah Kenawah Tengbeh, with all due respect to all Members of Parliament, I do not want this debate to be about the APC and the SLPP. I want this debate to be what this government is doing versus what we need to do further. I want this debate to focus on the improvement this government has made versus what we need to do further. We still have gaps. Things are happening here that we need to correct. This is the kind of debate I want to listen to and not an APC and SLPP thing. Please wait for 2028 elections.

**HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH:** Thank You, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker that is what I am doing. I have done a perfect analysis of where the APC left us and where we are and what is our mission going forward. The availability of the Mission 300 Energy Compacts and the MCC compact means the energy access is going to expand in Sierra Leone and even the least farmer in the village will have access to electricity. This shows that this government is working and we are ready to use these successes or this good trajectory to maintain power come 2028. One of the good things the two compacts will bring to

Sierra Leone is that all constituencies will be benefiting from the electricity that will be generated, including the APC constituencies. Can you clap for us on this side? Mr Speaker, before I conclude, another point in the energy sector our government has succeeded is that a power plant construction is ongoing and that is also going to provide for us good energy source that is going to be efficient and efficacious enough.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you have two more minutes.

**HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker, let me go to the economy. Our economy has been transformed remarkably under the leadership of the Dr Julius Maada Bio and the SLPP led government. Mr Speaker, from the battered and unstable state of our economy in 2018, it is now forward looking in 2025. Today, the inflation rate is better managed and it has dropped from **54.5%** to a single digit of **7.9%** in June 2025. In 2024, we collected revenue and we exceeded our target with five billion United States Dollars, which surpassed the target that was set in 2024.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, revenue collection has increased by **14.6%** in 2025 and this shows that we have the lesser confidence and not how it used to be in 2018. Our growth rate is rebounding. This means we are improving, using the concept of continuous improvement known as ISO 9001. Our strategic investments into the roads, agriculture and energy are laying the foundation for sustainable prosperity and job creation in Sierra Leone. Our petroleum import grew in 2025 by **56%** and that can be referenced in Paragraph 129. This means two hundred and fifty thousand [250,000] metric tons are now our capability in Sierra Leone. We are allaying the fears that as a government, we are doing very well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone, under the leadership of the Dr Julius Maada Bio and the SLPP led government; we have turned adversity into what I will call a resilient economy. I want to also state that history will remember the transformations and the successes we have achieved as a party. As it was stated earlier, governance is delivery; and as a party, I want to authoritatively say that we have delivered. Education is booming and energy is inspiring light and water is refreshing us. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** Your time is up. Thank you very much. Honourable Mohammed Alpha Jalloh

**HON. MOHAMMED A. JALLOH:** Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking my Leader, Honourable Abdul Kargbo, for thanking the President on our behalf. Today, and unlike any other day in the past, I bring you loads of dissatisfactions from the people of Falaba, Koinadugu District. I bring you great deal of disappointments, dissatisfactions and discontents from

the people of Falaba and Koinadugu District. These are twin districts in the Northern Province. Are you interested to know why we are disgruntled; why we are disappointed; and and why we are dissatisfied? We are disgruntled, dissatisfied and disappointed because in Paragraph 151, the President said: **"Our investments in roads and bridges are central to national transformation - reducing rural/urban disparities, boosting economic activities, and connecting Sierra Leoneans to opportunities and progress."** This statement by the President means he knows that good road network is the lifeline of every district and every locality. However, the President and his SLPP led government sit by and allowed my beloved people of Koinadugu and Falaba Districts are cut off from the rest of the country by failing to reconstruct the Makeni/Kabala Road. I thank my Leader for pointing that out.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to know if the people of Falaba and Koinadugu Districts are not part of the national transformation the President spoke about? Are you saying that the people of these districts do not deserve any progress and opportunities? Why is the government treating the people of Falaba and Koinadugu Districts with levity by not paying attention to that road that leads to those beloved districts? Mr Speaker, despite the repeated calls or the numerous advocacies and ringing the alarm bells by stakeholders, activists and social commentators, nothing has happened. Last week, a fatal accident occurred. A passenger bus was carrying nearly eighty people to Kabala town, including women and children and some of these people voted for the President in order for him to change their lives, but their lives were tragically ended because of the road that the President that they voted for failed to fix. The President failed to give the required attention to that road.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people used to travel at any time from Kabala to Makeni; but today, if you go to the Kabala Park in Makeni, you would not find a single vehicle slated to travel to Kabala. This is because is either all of them or most of them are in the garage or stuck somewhere with their passengers. Sadly, a trip that is supposed to take an hour will now last for more than four hours. It is a shame that this Paopa government is presiding over the affairs of this country, but my people in Koinadugu and Falaba Districts are being cut off from the rest of the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, apart from the roads, it displeases me to inform this noble House that the people of Koinadugu and Falaba Districts feel neglected and abandoned by this government. Do you know why, Mr Speaker? This is because back in 2018, when the President was first elected, he stood in this noble Well and said Paragraph 112 of the 2018 Presidential Address that: **"My government will restore pipe borne water in every district headquarter town."** Eight years down the line, those words that were spoken with conviction remain a source of disappointment. Do

you know the interesting part of that promise? The Musaia Water Works Project, which was meant to supply pipe borne water to the Kabala Township and its environs, was almost **90%** complete when President Bio took up office. The remaining **10%** has still not completed. I used to hear that this government is a “talk and do” government, but to be honest, *S.O 2m dis na talk ehn lie government.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a humble plea to this government on behalf of my people and the youth of Falaba and Koinadugu Districts. The President said in Paragraph 19 of the 2025 Address that he has secured funding to the tune of one hundred and five million United States Dollars **[\$105mln]** for livestock development in Sierra Leone. I want the President to know that Koinadugu and Falaba Districts are the hometowns of livestock in this country. We used to have the Musaia Compound Livestock Project. Honestly, if we were serious as a country and as a people, we would be able to develop the Musaia Project and that project would have created some benefits through the production of milk we are using to make cheese and the meat we eat. Let me remind you that a significant number of Sierra Leoneans do drink tea and milk on a daily basis for breakfast. If we were able to develop that project, we would have had a very big market that produces milk for us. It is on that note I want to urge this government to prioritise the Musaia Compound Livestock Project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a thorny issue that has been troubling me and many other Sierra Leoneans for far too long. I wish the Minister of Finance was here to answer the question relating to the issue I am about to talk about. In Paragraph 201, the President said that domestic revenue has reached **NLe14.6bln**. The President said in Paragraph 202 that: **“Overall fiscal performance improved, with higher revenue, slightly lower spending, and a reduced deficit of 4.8% of GDP, down from 5.3% in 2023.”** It talks about higher revenue and slightly lower spending. Over the years, we have been hearing that the National Revenue Authority [NRA] has exceeded its target; and few minutes ago, Honourable Fallah Tengbeh was saying that MDAs are crying for not receiving their allocations. The teachers are also crying for subsidies. Section 5 of every Appropriation Act will state that: **“Any balances remaining unissued at the end of December each year shall lapse and shall not be available for making any payment in the following year.”** If I may interpret this Section well stated in the different Appropriation Acts, it means funds that are not transferred or used at the end of each year cannot be used the following year. My questions are: what usually happened to all allocations that were not sent to the various MDAs at the end of each year? Are we constantly and with impunity every year, violating the provisions stated in the Appropriation Act? Are we rolling over those funds to the following fiscal year? If we are rolling over these funds to the following fiscal year, I want to know and the people of this country want to know how are we

accommodating that into the next budget? We need correct answers, Mr Speaker. With that being said, I want to thank you all for your attention. God bless you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honorable Mohammed Alpha Jalloh. You spoke very well and your contribution was done within time.

*[The House stood down at 1:00 p.m. and resumed at 1:30 p.m.]*

**THE SPEAKER:** I give the Floor to Honourable Musa Lahai.

**HON. MUSA LAHAI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to seize this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President for the Speech he delivered in this House on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Having gone through the Speech, I will however narrow my presentation on four key areas, such as the economy, security, water, and the Proportional Representation. In the midst of global and domestic challenges, our economy is still making progress; it is on track and it is moving forward. This is due to increase in productivity in the agricultural sector, mining, local manufacturing. Our GDP increased to **4%** in 2024. In 2024, our inflation declined from **55%** to **13.8%**. As at June 2025, we are talking about single digit inflation of **7.10%** and this is stated in Paragraph 106 of the 2024 Presidential Speech and Paragraph 178 of the 2025 Presidential Speech.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the things I have mentioned were partly achieved as a result of the open market economy on rice and petroleum products. Mr Speaker, before this time, CTC was the sole importer of rice in this nation, but because of the open market economy, there are lots of players in rice importation. Owing to the Feed Salone through the production of local rice, there is reduction in the price of rice from one thousand new Leones to six hundred and fifty Leones per bag. Going forward, in the first quarter of 2026, we will be expecting more domestic developments; and with the new pricing formula, we expect the price of rice to decrease further. In 2024, the government increased the storage capacity of petroleum products in order to allow more players into the industry. Before this time, NP and Total Petroleum Stations were the sole importers of petroleum products in this nation, but because of the open market economy, there are now lots of players in the industry. This resulted in decrease of the pump price from thirty new Leones to twenty five new Leones. I am sure the cost of fuel will continue to decrease in 2026 and 2027.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other aspect I would like to talk about has to do with the security sector. Mr Speaker, no nation can make progress without peace. It is within this podium that I want to extend my thanks to the security sector of this nation for preserving our democracy and for the peace we are enjoying today. Before this time, the RSLAF focused only on their traditional roles, but since 2018, when President



Bio took over governance, he has been thinking on how to formulate strategy to make the RSLAF more productive and viable. If you looked at Paragraph 74 of the 2024 Presidential Speech, you would notice that the RSLAF engineering registered as a public liability company in order to engage on commercial and civil engineering activities. This is meant to generate funds to uphold their budget and to address some other financial commitments. In Paragraph 29[vii] of the 2024 Presidential Speech, the army was one of the key players in the Feed Salone Project. Looking at the current improvements, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed-Forces will be able to provide food to feed themselves. Today, RSLAF has transitioned to a trial service system, which has given a lot of opportunities to the young men and women in the military. There is now opportunity for career advancements and opportunities for growth and promotion. As you have heard from the Chairman of Defence Committee, he spoke lengthily about the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. Before this time, all these components were under the Joint Force Commander, which was the old structure, but in the new structure we have now, it has been diversified. The three wings are operating effectively and that can be seen under Paragraph 284 of the 2025 Presidential Speech. With these developments, no individual can use the army for their selfish interest.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other aspect I would want to talk about is the water sector. This government has invested a huge amount of capital in the water sector. Before this time, the Guma Valley Water Company was only responsible for the provision of water in the Western Area; but today, the Babadori Dam, the water reservoir at SS Camp has been completed and the distribution network is in progress from Regent, IMAT, Gloucester, Hill Station to Wilberforce. The Allen Town Water Treatment Plant has been completed. Installation of the distribution pipelines is in progress from Molton to Allen Town and Calaba Town. SALWACO on the other hand is currently engaging in placing one hundred 100 solar powered boreholes across the provinces. So, by the end of the first quarter of 2026, all these communities will be enjoying pipe borne water.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with all these developments this government has done so far, in 2026, Members of Parliament on this side will sensitise this nation with the required information. This can be seen in Section 46[1] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991. This is because most people are misinforming this nation. Section 46[1] talks about the President and not the political party. Therefore, Members of Parliament on this side would want to see the SLPP back in governance in 2028. We will continue with our developmental activities in order to support President Bio to achieve his objectives. We want the people to vote for the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reason we have political tension in this nation is as a result of the winner takes all and this brings me to my final point, which is the Proportional Representation. In order to enjoy the beauty of our democracy, it is good for us to accept the Proportional Representation Electoral System. With this System, there will be more political parties in the governance system and this will help to reduce political tension in the country. With this development, I would like to thank President Bio for introducing the Proportional Representation System. This has enabled us to enjoy the beauty of our governance system and the beauty of our developments agenda. When everyone is involved in the governance of this nation, I am sure the development of this nation will always be great. On that note, I want to use this opportunity once again to thank His Excellency President Bio for his Speech that was delivered in this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Musa Lahai for debating well and within time. I give the Floor to Honourable Mariama Bangura.

**HON. MARIAMA BANGURA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, with your leave, I want to use this opportunity to extend my condolences to the bereaved family of all the Honourable Members who have passed away and may their precious souls rest in perfect peace. May the Almighty Allah grant them Jannatul-ul-firdous. We are here to examine the Presidential Address delivered by His Excellency the President, Dr Julius Maada Bio on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The Speech contains both the successes and the proposed ambitions of the government. However, let me take this opportunity to thank the President and his team for this work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we unpack the content of this Speech, I want to structure my debate on the three game changers and the Proportional Representation Electoral System. Mr Speaker, because of the exigency of time, let me take you to the first game changer, which is Feed Salone. Premium has been laid on Feed Salone and the Feed Salone is not a favour, but a duty pursuant to Section 7[1]C&D] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No 6 of 1991. With your leave, Mr Speaker, I read:

**"c. protect the rights of any citizen to engage in any economic activity without prejudice to the rights of any other person to participate in areas of the economy.**

**d. place proper and adequate emphasis on agriculture in all its aspects so as to ensure self-sufficiency in food production."**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, food is a fundamental thing to the lives of people. One cannot live without food. Honestly, we are happy that a premium has been put on it, but we need to do more. If they say there is adequate food supply, affordability must be questioned. The minimum wage is eight hundred Leones **[Le800,000]**. How many

homes can afford that in this nation? So, food is still scarce. The President said, he has diversified food with eggs. That sounds funny, Mr Speaker. I wondered whether my aunt in Golahun has ever seen an egg since the beginning of 2025. If the President said he had diversified food, why did he choose eggs and not Gari, Plantain or other crops that are similar to rice? The cost of Gari is even equivalent to the cost of rice. This means we are still struggling with food. I want to inform you that is not a privilege, but a duty of the government to ensure adequate food supply. It is our right because it is enshrined in the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to another big Game Changer, which is the human capital development. If we are talking about developments, we should be provided with our needs. It is good to provide more funds for skills training, but what our people need now are modernised rehabilitation centers in all the districts for drug addicts. It is clear and visible that the menace of drugs in this country is in every home. I am sure every family has somebody who is addicted to Kush, Tramadol, Ecstasy or other drugs. Thank God you might be fortunate, but I am talking for the majority of Sierra Leoneans. The issue of drugs should not be underestimated; it is gradually becoming a pandemic. Our youths are suffering. I think we need to put them in their proper state of mind. Drugs are in the universities and even in the secondary schools. What we need now is proper monitoring team, such as anti-drugs agencies. You would agree with me that drug lords and drug institutions are very rich. How can you pay pittance to someone and asks the person to go and arrest somebody a drug lord who is ready to give millions of Leones? We need to pay attention to this issue. As the President mentioned, the heart of this nation is in the hands of the youths, but I will say the heart of this nation is now in limbo because our youths are drug addicts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President proposed that they are catering for five thousand jobs for the youths. I am living in the slums and it is not disrespect. I am proud to be a Member of Parliament from the slums. The only visible job that I am seeing is the clean Salone. Is that the job we are wishing for our kids? We have the Freetown City Council, but boys under the age of eighteen are on the streets, and even the clean Salone is not locating them. I am happy to say that the President we have is a democratically elected President, a man who fought so hard for the democracy of this nation. I believe if he practices what he preaches, I think the Proportional Representation is a de facto to the one party system and that was the system he fought against. He was part of the NPRC and he fought against the then All Peoples Congress [APC]. At that time, we already had a system known as the multi-party system. However, the then APC, under one party system, was made up of members of different political parties. The NPRC came and overthrew the government and we were happy because we needed a change; we wanted to see a democratic system in Sierra Leone.

The people fought for change and in the process, a lot of people died. How can we sit overnight and say we are going to introduce the Proportional Representation System? We have used to the winners take all and that is the why we are here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 61 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991 gives the President the right to hire and fire. What is wrong if the President decides to hire Mariama Bangura, who is a Member of Parliament from the All People Congress to become the Minister of Finance? He has the right to do so. A typical example was in the 2018 election, where the APC had majority in this House, but that was twisted. It would have also been lovely and interesting if the APC had the Speaker of Parliament. It would have been marvelous. The most contentious elections were the 2023 Elections. We still have mixed feelings about those elections. There is still tension among ourselves. Initially, MPs mingled or interact, but now, if you want to visit a colleague from the other political party, you would take a second thought of doing so. It would have been very good if indeed the President means well of what he preached.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as political parties, we must have a meeting point because we might have political differences, but we are one people and Sierra Leone. That should be done genuinely and not in a cunning way that will take us to one party state. Mr Speaker, the issue of drugs should be over emphasised. Our kids and the future of this nation are in limbo. Let there be a monitoring system. The five thousand [5,000] job is not visible. The only job that is visible is the "Clean Salone which is done by the boys. What we need for our youths are professionalised rehabilitation centers to remove them from the drugs and give them skills training. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Mariama Bangura. I give the Floor to Honourable Foday Alpha Jabbie.

**HON. ALPHA F.M. JABBIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this debate. First, I want to thank Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala for giving us a visionary leader, in the person of His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio. I want to thank him for this excellent Speech which was well delivered in this Well on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The President is a visionary leader.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to correct some of the statements made by the Honourable Members from the other side of the aisle. The Opposition Leader said the road from Makeni to Kabala and the one from Makeni to Fadugu were constructed by One-Man-Abu. Mr Speaker, that is not true. It was not One-Man-Abu and I want to state that One-Man-Abu never went to that part of the country. That road was done by a company known as, Pigeroll and the road from Fadugu to Kabala was constructed by CSC. The Honourable Member from Koinadugu said that the layover from Makeni to Kamabai and then one mile to Kamabai. That was where it was stopped. Do you know

why it was stopped at Kamabai? It was because the mother of the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, was living at Kamabai or in a village around Kamabai. That was the reason he made that layover. The layover is still there and it is very durable.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. That is imputing improper motive, Mr Speaker. We can all agree and even you can testify today that the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, did his best in terms of road infrastructure. He did the Kailahun Road, which is not his town or his mother's or his father's hometown. So, it is wrong for him to say the former President did Makeni to Kamabai Road because his mother lived there. Kailahun District is not the home of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma's mother.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Jabbie, please be guided.

**HON. ALPHA F.M. JABBIE:** Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member from Tonkolili District stated that the President spoke about classrooms. He wanted to know how many of those classrooms would be completed by the time his tenure comes to an end. His tenure has not yet ended. He has just started doing these things and he has three more years to go. So, do not jump the gun. The Honourable Member also spoke about the school feeding programme. I want the Honourable Member to know that the school feeding programme is alive and kicking. Few days ago, the government paid one hundred and ninety million new Leones to Plan International to restart the school feeding programme. They also paid two million dollars **[\$2,000,000]** to World Food Programme to restart the school feeding programme. The Chinese government has donated two thousand [2000] metric tons of rice. The Indian Government is about to donate rice. So, the school feeding programme is going to commence in those districts very soon. I want to let you know that not all Chiefdoms or districts are benefitting except the Chiefdoms that are seriously marginalised. Those vulnerable areas are the ones that have been selected for the school feeding programme.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start my debate with the free quality education. In August 2018, President Julius Maada Bio declared the free quality education initiative with a purpose. Like what my Deputy Leader said, Education is very important for the economic developments of a country. Education is the foundation for economic development. Without education, no nation can progress. It is only education that ensures a solid foundation for economic development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President took a page from other famous leaders around the world that have used education as a stepping stone for economic development. Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore is a perfect example. We almost had independence with Singapore at the same time; but today, Singapore is far ahead of us in terms of development. In fact, it is considered as one of the highest developed countries in the world. Singapore is almost at par with the United

States of America and the European countries. So, our President followed the example of Mr Lee Kuan Yew to initiate the free quality education because Singapore used education as the foundation for their economic development. Singapore is a country that does not have natural resources. The only natural resource they have is the deep natural Harbour. So, what they relied on is the introduction of education to improve the human capital development of the country. That was what enabled them to embark on industrialisation; that was what enabled them to have many technological developments. So, our President took a page from the example of Singapore and that is why he introduced the free quality education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before 2018, education in this country was considered rubbish. Around 1980s, the education in this country was declared rubbish and not important. I have a reason for saying that, Mr Speaker. *S.O 2*, 'den say' Bailor Barrie was a very successful businessman while Davidson Nicol was a prominent academician and one time principal of the Fourah Bay College. I am sure comparing Bailor Barrie to Davidson Nicol simply means education was a waste of time and it was considered rubbish. That was how they started to destroy Fourah Bay College which used to be the 'Athens of West Africa.' The then Leader started destroying Fourah Bay College by taking out all the prominent lecturers and prominent professors from that college at that time and gave them political appointments. Mr Speaker, with your leave, I want to mention some of those lecturers who were fetched out of Fourah Bay College for political appointments at that time. Dr Abdulai O. Conteh of blessed memory was a famous lecturer at Fourah Bay College, but he was taken out of the university and brought to the government circle. Dr Abdul Karim Koroma was taken from Fourah Bay College and brought into government. Dr Ramadan Dumbuya of Political Science and the other Dr Dumbuya from sociology were taken out of Fourah Bay College and brought into politics.

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, what is happening? Proceed!

**HON. ALPHA F.M. JABBIE:** Mr Speaker, we also have Dr A.K. Turay, who was also a famous lecturer at that time. We have Dr Mambu [AKA] Leave my Coat alone. That was how we used to call him. All of these prominent lecturers were taken out of Fourah Bay College and they were brought into politics. What happened? When the lecturers that remained in the University saw their colleagues living a kind of luxury life, they became frustrated and most of them started leaving the country, seeking for greener pastures and those who stayed back stopped giving their level best to the students in terms of conducting researches. This is because they noticed that the other lectures that were brought into politics were living luxurious lifestyles, far above how they used to live in Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when President Joseph Momoh came, he threw education under the bridge, stating that 'education is a privilege.' That pronouncement started during his tenure. He said 'education is a privilege' rather than a right.' This is what our President, Dr Julius Maada Bio, came to change by introducing the free quality education. If you are traveling from Freetown to the provinces, [everywhere in the provinces], you would see pupils in their school uniforms, moving from one small village to bigger villages to attend school. This shows that education is a right and not a privilege. Whether you are in the slums or in the villages, or whether you are rich person or poor, education is a right for everybody and that is the tenet of the free quality education.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you have two minutes.

**HON. ALPHA F.M. JABBIE:** I would like to talk about the achievements of the free quality education. We have made payments of examination fees and these payments have been ongoing for the National Primary School Examination [NPSE], Basic Education Certificate Examination [BECE] and West Africa Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination [WASSCE]. The 2025 examination fees have just been paid and the results are going to be released this week. So examination fees have been paid and this has increased the number of enrolments in the NPSE, BECE and WASSCE. This government has managed to pay for these examinations. We are not saying that the free quality education is a smooth ride because there are so many challenges. There are many challenges, but what is more important is for us to know that despite the challenges, the government is doing its level best to honour its commitments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the free quality education should have been done many years back. As my Deputy Leader said, these things would have been done at a time when we had lots of minerals like diamonds. That was the easiest time for us to have introduced some of these facilities. If this had been done, we would never be struggling at this time. The leaders then were busy entrenching themselves in power with the one party dictatorship, fighting political opponents in the country. Despite all these challenges, the free quality education is in progress and everything is going to be done by the President to make sure he succeeds. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** I give the Floor to Honourable Mohamed Kamara.

**HON. MOHAMED KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the records, I am Honourable Mahmoud Kamara, although across my district they call me 'nice guy.' I come from Lumley, representing the Western Urban. I rise to contribute to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the President on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Let me first of all express my appreciation to His Excellency for delivering a comprehensive and

thoughtful statement in this House. I wish to commend him for the spirit of unity, which is captured in Paragraph 5 of his Speech. Mr Speaker, with your leave, I read: **"I extend my heartfelt commendation to the leadership of the House, to all political parties represented here, to every Honourable Member and to our Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament. You have carried out your mandate with distinction. You have shown that when we rise above partisanship and put Sierra Leone first, we can deliver a year, lasting progress."** This statement speaks directly to our national aspirations. It reminds us that beyond party lines, our collective duty is to represent the people of Sierra Leone in a manner that strengthen democracy and ensure inclusive governance. It is in this light I want to respectfully emphasize the need for the SLPP led government to truly rise above partisanship and reflect on the concerns of the PR System.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, under this arrangement, so many communities have been left out without a council representative or a Member of Parliament. This undermines the very essence of representation. The people want to add their voices directly through those they have personally elected in their constituencies. Representation is the foundation of democracy. If a community has a Councilor or a Member of Parliament whom they did not directly elect, they feel excluded from national conversation. This lack of direct accountability weakens the bond between the leaders and their people. It erodes trust, which is essential for stability and progress.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, perhaps the most critical issue before us has to do with the young ones involving in drugs. The state of emergency on drugs and substance abuse was declared in 2024, it has little impact on the reality on ground, contrary to the optimism expressed by the President in Paragraph 108. Mr Speaker, with your leave, it says: **"We have to intensify enforcement, tighten border controls and strengthen legislations to hold perpetrators accountable."**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the daily reality print a different pictures. Corpses of young people are being collected across our cities. Almost in every community you go, you will find a group of young people who are taking Kush. Some are so pale that they could barely walk. Some of them their feet have swollen and their bodies are covered with wounds. Their numbers are rising at an extremely high rate. Those who are charged with the responsibility of clamping down drugs peddlers or drug traffickers and Kush sellers have failed this nation and their inaction has betrayed the trust of our people. Mr Speaker, this crisis demands more than a declaration; it requires decisive and coordinated efforts, so that we construct rehabilitation centers across the country to rescue those that are already trapped in web of addiction, while also empowering families, schools and communities with the necessary tools to take care of this menace.



The law enforcement agencies should target, not the helpless users, but the powerful cartel leaders who are profiting from this tragedy. This nation is going down and as leaders; we should act to save the nation.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do not be a doomsayer. We are not going down; this nation is not going down; we are making progress.

**HON. MOHAMED KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, the things that are happening now are terrible and the young people are considered the future of this nation. Let me also shed light on the Feed Salone initiative, which is considered as government's top priority. Mr Speaker, *S.O 2, 'empty bag nor dae tinap.'* The achievements of the Feed Salone on paper are so admirable. The Speech says, **8%** increase in rice production, **20%** decrease in the cost of rice and three new rice mills are in operation. The reality on ground came with a different picture. For instance, a cleaner who earns a basic salary of one thousand Leones [**Le1,000**] that has a wife and a kid to support is terrible. If he spends **Le75,000** to buy a bag of rice, what will remain of his salary? Mr Speaker, what success is there to celebrate when our locally produced rice is more expensive than the imported rice? We have been told that there is a decrease of **20%** in the cost of imported rice. Why Sierra Leoneans are still struggling to find our locally produced rice in the markets, despite we have been told to believe that the rice mills are functioning and they are operational? Let me urge this government to move away from political declaration and ensure that the Feed Salone initiative delivers genuine and tangible benefits to the people of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my conscience will not allow me to sit if I do not talk about health because any community that lacks proper access to healthcare facilities, is a community that is at risk. I was so saddened for my people at Lumley, when I heard His Excellency stated in Paragraph 65 that his government is investing heavily in hospital infrastructure. Mr Speaker, during the 2023 elections, Lumley alone recorded over forty three thousand [43,000] registered voters. If you add that number to the estimated fifty to sixty thousands residents that were below the age to register, we are approximately looking at a population of ninety thousand 90,000 residents at Lumley. However, these residents at Lumley will have to rely on three [3] bedroom apartments as hospital is situated in a deplorable location and poor road access. How can the government be talking about heavy investments in hospital infrastructure when you have the Regent Road Lumley hospital unfinished for over seven years? This government should prioritise this project and ensure that the people of Lumley have a dignified healthcare facility. Does that mean these heavy investments in hospital infrastructure exclude this facility our people urgently need? Access to quality

healthcare facility is not a privilege, it is the right of every Sierra Leonean, and any investment that fails to accept this reality is an injustice to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the overhead foot bridge at central Lumley is poorly advised. The traffic flow at that location poses threat to pedestrians. The real danger is at Juba, by the Barrack, where accidents occur almost every week. Crossing there is extremely hazardous because vehicles and motorbikes are always speeding. That area has one of the biggest secondary schools and other secondary schools. That means thousands of people are crossing there on a daily basis with high risk. I strongly urge this government to relocate that overhead foot bridge to central Lumley at Juba, by the Barracks. If the government wishes to maintain the structure as Central Lumley, then let an additional overhead foot bridge be constructed at Juba in order to save lives and protect our young people. No infrastructure, no project, and no investment is more valuable than the life of a single Sierra Leonean. So, let us act now to save lives. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Mohamed Kamara for debating within the set time. Our final debater or final contributor is Honourable Musa Fofanah.

**HON. MUSA FOFANAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it will interest this House to know that we have Members of Parliament who do not want us to talk about history, failing to believe that history is the only thing that will inform the present, and the present will inform the future.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, what the Honourable Member is trying to say is that he is against your directives. You guided this House earlier on that we should depart from the past, focus on the present, and move to the future. It is your directive.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Musa Fofanah, relevance should not be emphasised.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Relevance is matter rather than going to history. You guided this House and I believe it should stand, instead of delving into things that happened in the 60s.

**THE SPEAKER:** With all due respect, Honourable Musa Fofanah, what I want us to do is to tell this House what the government is doing that is positive; the strives and all the efforts the government is making to ensure that there is development. The Opposition cannot just criticise, they should make suggestions or proffer solutions. You have to tell the House where the government did something this way, but it could have been better if they did it that way. You have to bring out the gaps that should be addressed by the government. That is how a debate is done. It is not just about criticisms. Nobody can tell me that there is nothing positive among the things this government has done. If

you talk about the gaps, you should also talk about the positive or the good things that have been done. Honourable Musa Fofanah, please be relevant and do not forget that members of the public are listening. We want to convince them that these are the things the government is doing and these are the gaps that should be addressed. You have to convince the public that whatever is happening right now or whatever government is doing now is good for the development of this nation.

**HON. MUSA FOFANAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. One thing about debate is that you have to lay your premise.

**THE SPEAKER:** I know, but you should to try to be relevant.

**HON. MUSA FOFANAH:** Mr Speaker, I want to assure you that in fifty eight [58] years of our country's history, this is the only time we have seen a government that has worked on a national document and popularised it with precision. It has monitored this document and is working on a data with facts. We want to reference these facts. In my district, we have mined diamonds for over ninety years, but our roads were never constructed. When I visited Koinadugu and Falaba Districts during the Fifth Parliament, I saw the road construction going on there. It is unfortunate to see people behaving in this Well as if the government is not doing anything.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot create new districts without proper planning. Falaba and Karene were created for political purpose. I am from the North and I can assure you that my mother and father are from the North, but as we speak, the government has just laid a paper for the Tomparie and Kamakwie Road. This is a huge benefit for the people in the North. Let me state here that when the Iron Ore was booming in Marampa and when the Diamond was booming in lower Bambara and in Kono District, who was in governance by that time? Mr Speaker, they want to blame the government that has just taken six years in governance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to the energy sector. The leader was talking about energy at **16%**. With all due respect to the Chairman of the Energy Committee, this is a Speech that was delivered by the former President in 2015, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Paragraph 30 of the 2015 Speech, it says: **"Mr Speaker, my government objective remains one thousand [1000] megawatts by 2017 to increase access to electricity for provisional headquarters, cities and rural areas."** Mr Speaker, we have proven with data that in 2018 and 2019 when the Midterm National Development Plan was in its development stage, this whole country was only surviving on **15.0%** electricity. In less than five to six years, we are boasting of almost 36 megawatts. Despite this development, people do not want to congratulate a government that is forward looking to develop a nation. You can control us on what to say, but we in the ruling bench, need to clarify some of these allegations against the

ruling government. We cannot sit here as if we came here by invitation. We were elected to represent the people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the Feed Salone Project. Years back, governments have come and gone and those governments have been talking about agriculture. Mr Speaker, let me take you to the Speech that was delivered in this House by the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma in 2012. The President said he was going to increase agricultural funding from **1.6%** in 2007 to **7.7%**. I can assure you that nothing changed between those periods. Again, let me take you to the speech delivered in 2015. In 2015 Speech, the government was talking about increasing fertilizer supply or agricultural support to sixty nine thousand [69,000] farmers. Were they serious about agriculture? The answer is no. We have the Tomabom, but nothing happened to that project. In the 2016 Speech delivered in this House, instead of seventy thousand [70,000] farmers, it was forty two thousand [42,000] farmers. I am not saying this because I want to say it; I am saying it because my government developed a document called the Midterm National Development Plan for Sierra Leone and this document has a comprehensive data. In that document, we have a road map for strategic developments; it is not a road map for upside down developments. So, we are speaking with data.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the Feed Salone Project. People always argue on social media and on televisions that nothing is happening in the agriculture sector. In fact, they were projecting that by the end of 2025, we would buy a bag of rice in this country at one thousand [1,000] Leones. The late President Kabbah left the bag of rice at sixty thousand old Leones [**Le60,000**], but by the time Dr Ernest Bai Koroma left office, a bag of rice was three hundred thousand old Leones [**Le300,000**]. During President Bio's era, people are buying a bag of rise at almost one thousand new Leones [**NLe1,000**]. Mr Speaker, this is the only time in the history of this country that the cost of a bag of rice, which was close to one thousand new Leones [**NLe1,000**], has been decreased to five hundred and ten new Leones [**NLe510**]. If you want to buy five or ten or fifty bags of rice that is the price you will buy it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to focus on the Feed Salone Project proper. It is not by chance when the SLPP led government looks at the Midterm National Development Plan and aligns this document to the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs].

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, for the edification of this House. When the Honourable Member was debating, he said they have increased electricity to thirty six [36] megawatts, but they are still struggling to distinguish between access to electricity and generation. So, I want to make it clear that there is no thirty six [36] megawatts.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think you had that argument before with Honourable Fallah Tengbeh. He said **36%**.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** No, he said 36 Kilowatts. I heard him very clearly. Let us forget about that and move forward. We are saying the access to electricity is quite different from the electricity generation. Let me explain this better for the edification of those who are listening.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, I think you would debate on Thursday. Honourable Members, I want to inform you that Thursday is going to be the last day. On Friday, we have the Laying out ceremony of our colleague here. So, we are not going to come here for any debate. On Thursday, I am going to invite the relevant MDAs to be here in respect of the thorny issues that have been raised by MPs, especially the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Agriculture, etc. We will invite them here to address this Parliament regarding those thorny issues. We want to understand exactly the status of those issues. They will come here to edify Members of Parliament and we will probably ask questions. Please, let us not be in a hurry. On Thursday, we will go halfway with the debate and allow the Ministers to address the House. We will give each of them one hour to address us. Mr Leader of the Opposition, I think we should allow the debate to continue.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I agree, but there is a distinction between access to electricity and power generated.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I think you should understand that the Leader of the Opposition is an engineer. So, when you mention these things, they keep boiling in his mind. He would want to say something, but please exercise patience and you will have your turn to debate. Take your jottings on all of these issues for proper response.

**HON. MUSA FOFANAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. With your leave, when I read the document, I spoke about megawatts. I spoke about **15.0%** and also **36%**. I am the Chairman for the Committee on Economic Planning and Development. I have a guide and I always sleep with it. I can assure you that if it were not for the destruction of those transformers nationwide, this government would have even gone beyond **40%** of electricity supply. Mr Speaker, Koinadugu and Falaba lost over **60%** of their transformers and most of them were vandalised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take you to Section 13[c] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991. Mr Speaker, this is the only time we have got a government that has decided to electrify seven district headquarter towns. The Honourable Caucus Leader can testify that they have forty megawatts of solar energy project that is ongoing in Karene District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me shift to road infrastructure. With your leave, the President mentioned road infrastructure on Page 15. This is the only time in the history of this country that we have seen strategic developments around the road infrastructure. In June 2023, when the SLPP was campaigning, they spoke about four major bridges: the Senehun Bridge, the Tom Pari Bridge, the Bandajuma Bridge, and the Kenema Bridge. Mr Speaker, virtually all those bridges have been completed. Social media will tell you that the road construction from Kailahun to Koindu is not ongoing, and MPs can testify that construction of that road is ongoing. In less than seven years, we would talk about tangible road construction across the entire country. So, when we talk about clarification, we are not only talking about it because we want to trick our colleagues, but because they are debating as if nothing is going on. We want to assure them that a lot of developments are going on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will end my contribution with the water sector. Somebody spoke about Guma Valley Water Company. I want you to go and see the millions of stainless liter tanks that have been installed at the Guma gate within the Guma compound. This is to ensure that the reserved water is supplied to different communities during the peak of the dry season. I am sure no government has thought of improving the water facility in Freetown. This is the only moment you can see that Guma is expanding and at the same time, other small catchment areas are improving. Mr Speaker, at Angola Town, where Honourable Neneh Lebbie comes from, houses have pipe borne water. I am not talking about street taps. In the entire Western area, a lot of improvements are going on, especially water pipe installation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by saying that the SLPP led government is a serious government and I must confess that they are doing well for the development of this country. My colleague was talking about health. I am sure in the next one week, Kono will be handed over the Maternal Hospital of Excellence. Honourable Members, I have more information to give you, but I do not have time to talk on them. However, these are the debates some of us are very interested in because we have the capacity to debate issues. I have a lot of clarifications to make, but time could not permit me. President Bio is not only a serious President, but he is also a determined President that wants to change the narratives of this country. The Opposition spoke about the free quality education. When the Iron Ore and Diamond were booming in this country, we did not hear free quality education. They are sabotaging the free quality education; they are sabotaging the electricity because they know that they would continue to be in Opposition. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank you very much, Honourable Musa Fofanah.

**HON BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, we listened to the Opposition Leader this morning. I want to join him and the Speaker for us to invite the relevant MDAs to come here. This is a very serious debate and we are representatives of the people. They should come and listen to our concerns. What the President has told us that he has achieved in the last one year and what he wants to achieve will be implemented by these MDAs. I would want to urge the senior staff of these MDAs to be represented here for the next three days. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree with you, Leader of Government Business. Mr Clerk, can you please address this House with regard the invitation that you sent out?

**MR KARMOH K. CONTEH [*Clerk of Parliament*]:** With the leave of Mr Speaker, a notice was sent out to all Permanent Secretaries to be represented here and they were strongly advised to send senior staff in the instance where they are unable to attend. Of course, I informed you this morning that only few MDAs were represented here. However, I have just asked my Deputy to write another follow up letter.

**THE SPEAKER:** The letter must have a pinner notice. When you write the reminder letter, include a pinner notice that in the case they do not come, they will be held in contempt.

**MR KARMOH K. CONTEH:** It will be done, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please inform Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, who is in charge of the Energy team and the Ministers of Agriculture and Health to be here.

**MR KARMOH K. CONTEH:** We have to indicate the issues around energy, agriculture and health.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please give them enough notice to be here on Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

**MR KARMOH K. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I do not know whether Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella is within the rank to address this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am going to give him special leave. All Members of the Committee on Selection should go to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately this sitting is adjourned. It is going to be a brief meeting. Mr Clerk, you are the Secretary to that Committee not so? Let us go to the Speaker's Conference Room for a brief meeting.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 14:46 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]*