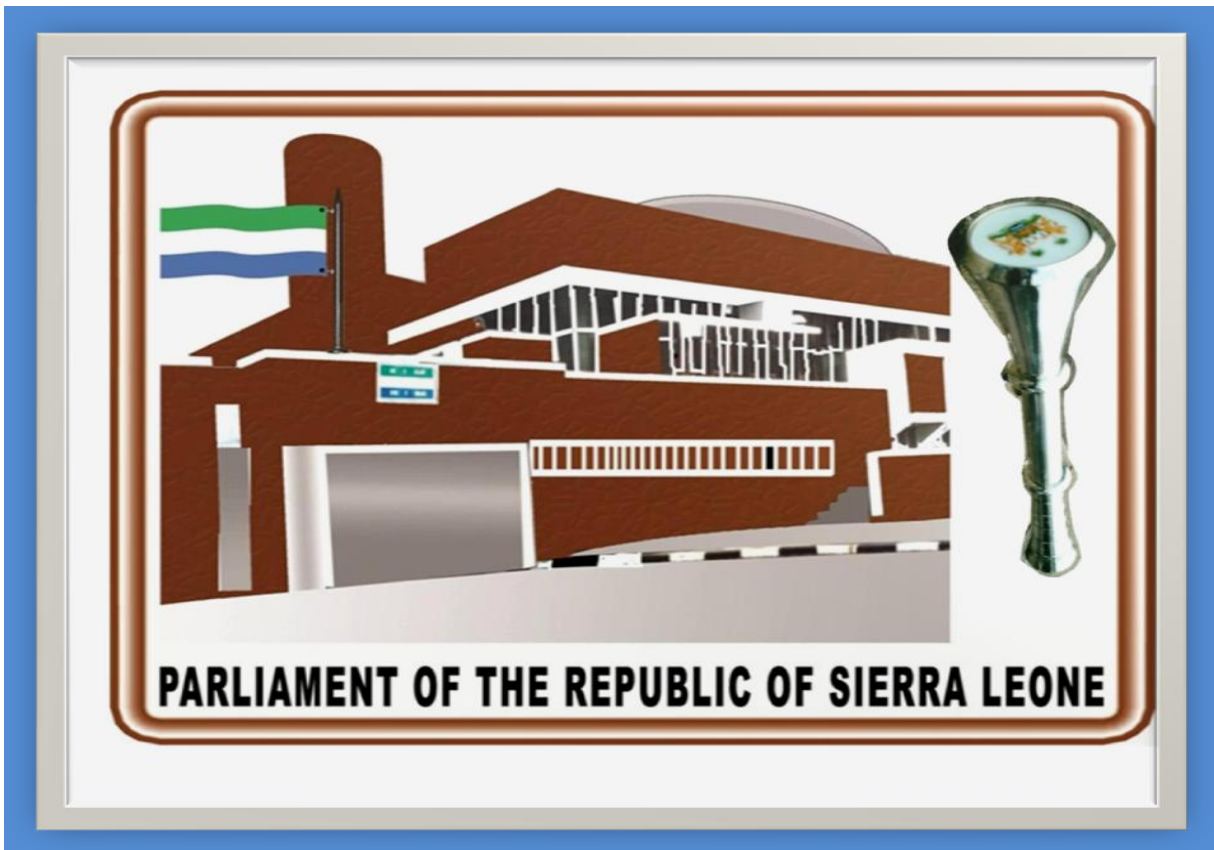


*POSL/Dept/Hansard/Vol II, No 39/1/4/26*



**OUA DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN**

**PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

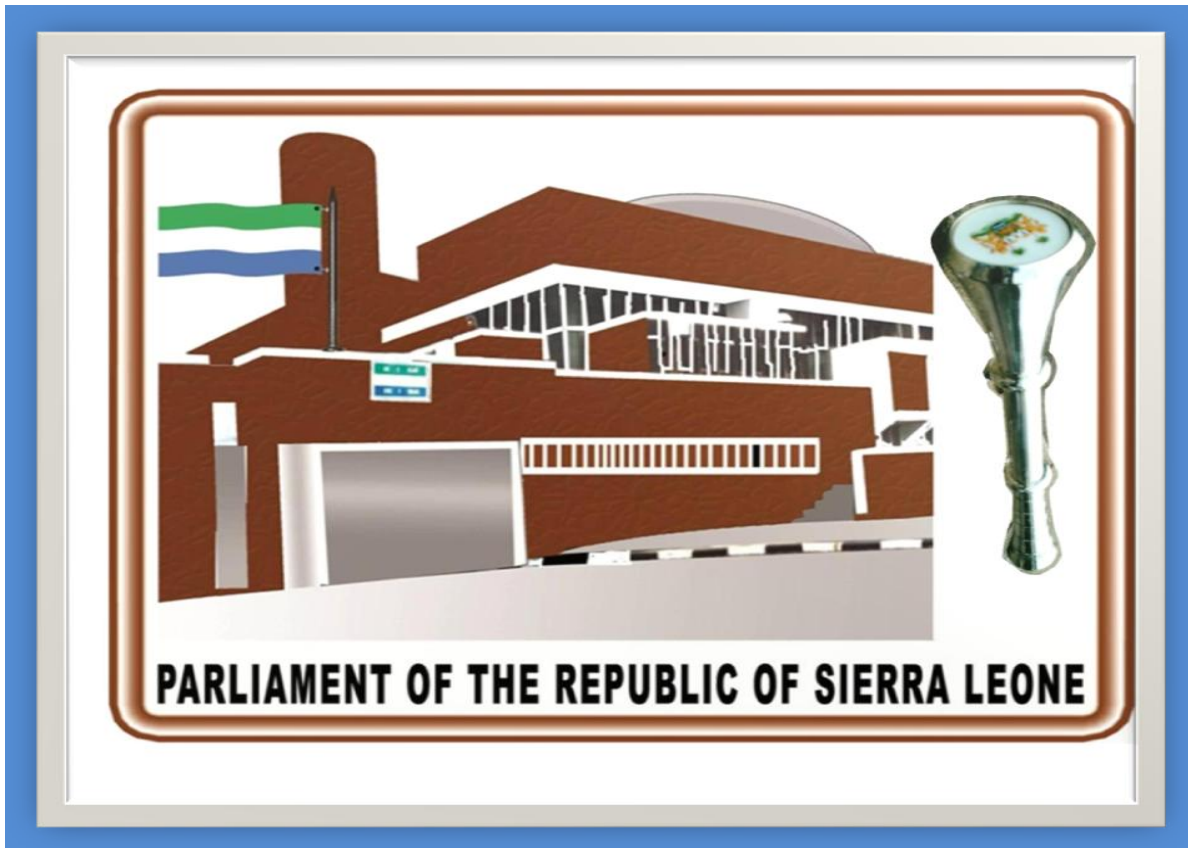
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2026**

*SESSION – 2025/2026*



**OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

**NUMBER: 39**

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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 Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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

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

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**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.**

**I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Ms, Yeama Mamie Musa 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*

*Suspension of S.O5 [2]*

**RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AND TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday 27th March 2026, Pages 1? to Page 4? Page 5?

**HON. ABDUL S.M. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I think today the Chinese intervened or interfered with the Votes and Proceedings because we are trying to read what is coming up in Chinese.

**THE SPEAKER:** Probably you need to be reminded. Do you have hard copies? Please call the IT, can the IT department help? I am granting every Member of Parliament, to shift to any other sitting area where there are no faulty systems; I grant you leave, because I know you cannot come this way, so pages 1 to 4? Page 5?

Mr Tony, I am seeing so many names of Honourable Members, that were absent with excuses. You know, I am supposed to have those letters of excuses on my desk, I don't think I have this total number, so take note of that, tell them to do that formally and let me have it on my desk please. Pages 1 to page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? and page 9? Can a Member please move for the adoption of Votes and Proceedings for 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026?

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN:** Mr Speaker, I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. IDRIS SAHID KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I so second

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Record of votes and proceedings for Friday 27th and Tuesday 31st March 2026  
has been adopted]*

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I recognize the diligence of the following Honourable Members, who were in this Well at the commencement of this sitting.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Names of Hon. Members</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Hon. Joseph Williams-Lamin</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Bo</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Hon. Ibrahim Kabba</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Bo</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Hon. Alhaji Yusuf Mackery</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Bo</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Hon. Alie Bayoh</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kenema</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Hon. Musa Fofanah</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kono</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Hon. Tamba Simeon Johnny</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kono</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Hon. Rtd. Captain Sylvester Boima</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Moyamba</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Hon. Abu Bakarr Fofanah</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kenema</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Hon. Fatmata Sarah Soukenah</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>W/Area Urban</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Hon. Brima Manasaray</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kenema</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Hon. Charles O. Abdulai</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Bo</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Hon. Umu Pyne</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Moyamba</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Hon. Idriss Sahid Kamara</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>W/Area Urban</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Hon. Juliana A. Fatorma</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Kenema</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Hon. Beatrice Iyaminde Langley</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>W/Area Urban</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Hon. P.C. Fatmata B. M. Kajue Koroma</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Moyamba</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Hon. Mustapha M. Sellu</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Moyamba</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Hon. Fatmata B. Bockarie</b>	<b>SLPP</b>	<b>Bonthe</b>

19.	Hon. P.C. Alameen Kanneh	SLPP	Kenema
20.	Hon. Rebecca Yei Kamara	SLPP	Kono
21.	Hon. Nenneh Lebbie	SLPP	Bo
22.	Hon. Mohamed Bangura	APC	Karene
23.	Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay	SLPP	Moyamba
24.	Hon. Festus M. Lansana	SLPP	Kenema
25.	Hon. Abdulai Karim Kamara	SLPP	Port Loko
26.	Hon. Emelia Lolloh Tongi	SLPP	Kailahun
27.	Hon. Alhaji Christopha Kekurah Vandi	SLPP	Bo
28.	Hon. P.C Kandeh Paria Kawalleh II	SLPP	Karene
29.	Hon. Ambrose Maada Lebyy	SLPP	Bo
30.	Hon. Momoh Bockarie	SLPP	Kenema
31.	Hon. Sia Mahawa Tommy	SLPP	Kono
32.	Hon. Abdul Karim Bangura	SLPP	Karene
33.	Hon. Abdul Sulaiman Marray Conteh	SLPP	W/Area Urban
34.	Hon. P.C. Desmond Kargobai	SLPP	Bo
35.	Hon. Dickson Momoh Rogers	SLPP	Pujehun
36.	Hon. Moses Andrew Edwin	SLPP	Bonthe
37.	Hon. Mathew S Nyuma	SLPP	Kenema
38.	Hon. Mohamed Fofanah Tarawalie	SLPP	Kambia

39.	Hon. Adama Bangura	SLPP	Kambia
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Thank you. Yes, we proceed.

Honourable Members, I am to inform you that on the 8th of April this month, we are going to have visitors. The ECOWAS Parliament is to have a sitting in Freetown, Sierra Leone and we should all be proud of that, we should be extremely proud that we are having our brothers from the sub-region coming to our city to meet as a Regional Parliament, through the resilience and hard work of the leader of delegation, Honourable Veronica K. Sesay. So, in the circumstances I call on you to briefly address your colleagues on that visit.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr Speaker, for given me this opportunity to explain to my colleagues about this great venture that the ECOWAS has taken.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as you have heard from Mr Speaker, on the 8th of April, 2026, the ECOWAS is to meet here to deliberate on certain issues but as the routine says at the ECOWAS Parliament, we should have three consecutive meetings, that is ordinary session that is to be held at the headquarter and the extraordinary session to be held rotationally. There will be delocalized meetings is wherein committees are merged to go around to the heads of various countries to deliberate on certain issues that are of burning concern. In this regard, the joint committee that is the Social Affairs, Gender, Women's Empowerment and Persons with Disabilities, wherein I am the chairperson, and also Political Affairs, Security and APRM, the Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Trade Customs and Free Movement is to be held here, that is for the delocalized meeting.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the theme of that meeting is; ***"Parliamentary Approaches to safe guiding Children in street situations and addressing Child exploitation in the ECOWAS region."*** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe

we are blessed as Sierra Leoneans and I want to say again thank you to the ECOWAS Parliament, for choosing Sierra Leone. There are other countries with same problems but because we are blessed that is why we have chosen Sierra Leone so that we come and see the situation of our streets children in this country.

So, on the 8th of April, it will be hosted here. Fortunately, our able Speaker, will give the keynote address. Therefore, I am asking my colleagues, Members of Parliament, to please go and grace this occasion. As we have heard at the beginning, foreign affairs very close to us will be there. So, I want you to go and grace that occasion because our able Speaker will be there to grace this occasion.

So, with that, I want to say thank you. And I warmly, on behalf of my colleagues Members of the ECOWAS Parliament, warmly invite all of you to that occasion. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay. Honourable Members, you know what that means if we are to have visitors on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2026, and if you are to have your Speaker as somebody who is going to give the keynote address then you have to be in attendance.

Honourable Members, if I am to go there to give the keynote address and these visitors are going to be here as a result of our Parliament, it behooves us to be present. I urge every Member of Parliament to be present that day. I think it is 10:00 a.m. in the morning but you should be there before 10:00 a.m. We cannot show our visitors anything other than been extremely time-conscious. You can't get them to leave Freetown with a very bad impression about our Parliament. So please, Honourable Members, maybe there will be sitting fees but please ensure that you are in attendance and on time. As a Parliament, let us give them the right impression Honourable Members, let us give our brothers and sisters that will be here the right impression about the House of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much. Let me take this opportunity to welcome

Honourable Sidi Tunis, former Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, you are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, I want you to please make some clarification on your ruling yesterday, it was misconstrued by some citizens or media houses that the motion moved was suspended and the motion based on your ruling was not suspended but the formation of the Committee was put on hold. So, Mr Speaker, I want you to go over that for the public to understand and to have a better understanding.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, they are hearing you and that is the fact, actually the motion was carried.

Let me take this opportunity to inform the public that the motion moved by Honourable Mustapha Sellu yesterday was carried by the majority of the House. We only had one dissension but the entire House carried the motion. I only put on hold the formation of the Committee for the investigation. This is for the attention of the public and I did that for good judgment, as a result of very good reason, I decided to put on hold the formation of the Committee for the investigation and that the motion yesterday was carried by the majority of the House. Let that be known by the public.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for making clarifications but under your very Leadership, you have formed Civil Society desk in this Parliament, a launch attended by His Excellency, the Vice President of this Republic, to open up Parliament to citizens, to stop misinformation and when you have questions or queries, you have to approach the necessary authorities who are in charge for clarifications in terms of Parliament, and we have said Parliament is not working in isolation, Parliament is working in tandem with the rules of procedure and also with the citizens of this Country, that is why I was very clear in my statement.

So, people go around misconstruing your ruling, it is also another issue we have to deal with. So we are doing our best to reach out to the general public.

We met with the NGOs, Civil Society organizations on that day and S.O [80], we have the press Gallery, I think you and the Clerk, you have to work on the press Gallery, you cannot have the press Gallery, and you allow media houses to misinform the general public. Why do we have the press Gallery? So, S.O [80] is very clear about the rules of procedure in occupying that press Gallery, I really don't want to read it but please, Mr Speaker, I think you have to talk with the Clerk so that we can make a better use of our press Gallery, because our colleagues are feeling intimidated by media houses by saying things that are not true but I refused not to talk because this is purely Private Member motion, for their dignity as Members of Parliament, it must be respected. In fact, giving wrong information about Mr Speaker's ruling is another big issue. If we start dragging them to Parliament, S.O [2]" *Oh nah so dem dae do wi.*" It's very wrong, and that is why we have said we have the press Gallery, we have a Civil Society desk in this Parliament, we have opened space for both the local NGOs and International NGOs. So, I think we should make use of those structures we have in Parliament, and I do not think the door of Mr Clerk is closed, we have a well-entrenched Clerk, he has been here as the honorary Clerk, and now he is here as the Clerk of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** He knows everything about Parliament.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Exactly both in and out.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, if you can see, I am extremely comfortable now. You do not need to come to me anymore, I will just tell you go to the Clerk, and he will report to me. Before this time, I had headaches dealing with Parliament, but now I have a Clerk that is extremely competent and he is there to work for Parliament, and he knows everything about parliamentary procedures and tenets or ethics. So, there is nothing I need to do only that he reports to me and I tell him go ahead. So, I am extremely comfortable now.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I really do not want to involve in trying to set the records straight. If we continue like this, we will constrain the work of Members

of Parliament, and also Mr Speaker. One day I will move a motion as the Leader of Government Business to bring them.

**THE SPEAKER:** To bring whom?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Those who are involved.

**THE SPEAKER:** Oh, those press houses? Oh, yes, because I just want to. This is a warning from the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** If you do not understand the rules, we can understand, Parliamentary procedures are very difficult. So, we have demystified whatever is around Parliament, with the incoming Clerk, and with your very self.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Come to Parliament, approach us, we can talk to you but to misconstrue the work that we are doing here, you have no exception to the rule of law. So, this is a message to the general public. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course, very soon they will start saying Parliament is intimidating them. Okay, we proceed.

**HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI:** Mr Speaker, please, can I observe? Mr Speaker, I just heard my colleague saying that we should create a Committee to investigate on this issue but I think we have Committees like Transparency and accountability.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, this is a special ad hoc Committee.

**HON. LOLLOH M. TONGI:** Yes, but Mr Speaker, we are more experienced.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not opening that to a debate, please, Honourable. Thank you.

## **PAPER LAID**

**THE CLERK:** Honourable Abdul S.M. Conteh, Executive-Member CPA Sierra Leone Branch.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable, proceed.

**HON. ABDUL S. M. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, thank you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Order [18]6 I beg to lay on the Table of the House Report of the 90th Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association CPA African Region held in Namibia, Swakopmund, from the 2nd to 6th March, 2026, and a report of the 9th Professional Development Seminar of the Society of Clerks at the Table, SOCAT, African Region, 9th to 13th March, 2026, in Gaborone, Botswana.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed.

**BILL:**

## **THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT 2025**

### **COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING**

#### **THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**

**HON. ABDUL S.M. CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, may I proceed?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Proceeds.

**HON. ABDUL S.M. CONTEH:** Clause [480] Misconduct by a licenced pilot be renumbered to become clause [479].

Clause [479] Misconduct by a licenced pilot, sub clause [1aii] be amended by replacing the word "inquiry" with the word "injury" on the first line, to now read, "The death of, or serious injury to, a person on board a ship." Clause [479] Misconduct by a licensed pilot, second sub clause [1c] becomes [1d]. Clause 479 Misconduct by a licensed pilot sub clause [1d] be amended to read, "Occurs when the licensed pilot is under the influence of alcohol or a drug, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [481] defense if drug taken for medical purpose, be renumbered to become clause "480." Clause [480] defense if drug taken for medical purpose be approved. Clause [482] licensed pilot not personally liable be renumbered to become clause [481].

Clause [481] licensed pilot not personally liable be amended by separating the words "for damage" to be "for damage" at the beginning of the second line, to now read, "A licensed

pilot is not personally liable in any proceedings for damage done by him or for loss suffered as a result of an act done by him or of failure to do anything required to be done by him while acting as a licensed pilot." Clause [483] Presence of licensed pilot does not diminish responsibility of master, be renumbered to become clause "482" Clause [482] Presence of licensed pilot does not diminish responsibility of master be approved. Clause [484] Owner and master liable for damage be renumbered to become clause "483." Clause [483] Owner and master liable for damage be amended by inserting the word "an" after the word "in" and before the word "area" on the fifth line, to now read, "The owner and the master of a ship are jointly and severally liable for loss or damage caused by the ship, or as a result of any fault in the navigation of a ship, notwithstanding that a licensed pilot was on board the ship at the time the loss or damage was caused and the ship was being navigated in an area and in circumstances in which pilotage is compulsory." Clause [485] Pilotage authorities not liable for loss or damage be renumbered to become clause "484." Clause [484] Pilotage authorities not liable for loss or damage sub paragraph [bii], be amended by deleting the word "licensed" after the word "pilot" and before the word "whilst" on the second line to now read, "Failure to do anything required to be done by a licensed pilot, whilst the licensed pilot is acting as a pilot of a ship." Clause [486] pilotage services be renumbered to become clause "485." Clause [485] Pilotage services be approved. Clause [487] Pilotage dues and charges for pilotage services be renumbered to become clause "486." Clause [486] Pilotage dues and charges for pilotage services be approved. Clause [488] Fees for pilotage licensed and pilotage exemption certificate be renumbered to become clause "487." Clause [487] Fees for pilotage licensed and pilotage exemption certificate be approved. Clause [489] Delegation of functions be renumbered to become clause "488." Clause [488] Delegation of functions be approved.

Clause [490] Pilotage Regulations be renumbered to become clause "489."

Clause [489] Pilotage Regulations be amended to read, "The Minister on the advice of the Administration may, by Statutory Instrument, make Regulations for and in relation for all or any of the following purposes--"

Clause [489] Pilotage Regulations sub paragraph [g], be amended by replacing the word "of" with the word "or" after the word "maintenance" and before the word "efficiency" on the first line to now read, "Maintenance or efficiency of licensed pilots and of holders of pilotage exemption certificate." Clause [491] Application of this Part be renumbered to become clause "490" Clause [490] Application of this Part be approved.

## **PART XXVII – SHIPPING CASUALTIES, INQUIRES AND INVESTIGATION**

Clause [492] Interpretation be renumbered to become clause "491." Clause [491] Interpretation be approved. Clause [493] Reporting of causalities and incidents be renumbered to become clause "492." Clause [492] Reporting of causalities and incidents sub clause [1], be amended by replacing the word "mater" with the word "master". To now read, "The master of the ship shall, where a ship--"

Clause [492] Reporting of causalities and incidents sub clause [1e] be amended by replacing the word "wither" with the word "whether" at the beginning of the third line, to now read, "Is involved in an accident in which the sea is polluted by oil or by other noxious substance whether by the ship or by another ship."

Clause [492] Reporting of causalities and incidents sub clause [2] be amended to read, "A master of a ship who fails without reasonable cause, to comply with subsection [1] commits an offence and is liable to a fine not less than **\$3,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [494] Investigation of shipping causalities be renumbered to become clause "493."

Clause [493] Investigation of shipping causalities sub clause [1d] be amended by inserting the word "of" after "[1]" and before the word "section" on the third line, to now read, "pollution from an incident in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sierra Leone as established by subsection [1] or section [8] of the Maritime Zones [Establishment] Act, 1996 which threatens Sierra Leone marine environment, cause a preliminary inquiry into the casualty to be held by a person appointed for the purpose by the Minister." Clause [495] Preliminary inquiries be renumbered to become clause "494"

Clause [494] Preliminary inquiry sub clause [1b] be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" on the sixth line. To now read, "shall, on conclusion of the investigation, send to the Minister a report containing a full statement of the case and his opinion on it accompanied by such report on or extracts from the evidence and such observations as he deems fit." Clause [496] Formal marine inquiry be renumbered to become clause "495." Clause [495] Formal marine inquiry sub clause [6] be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" on the fourth line, to now read, "The person holding a marine inquiry after hearing the case shall make a full report to the Minister together with such other report or extracts from the evidence and such observations as the person deems fit and each shall either sign the report or state in writing to the Minister his dissent therefrom and the reasons for the dissent."

Clause [495] Formal marine inquiry sub clause [8] be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" and deleting the word "do" on the first line. To now read, "The Minister may, in a case that he deems fit to do, pay any or all of the costs of a marine inquiry." Clause [497] Power marine inquiry as to certificate: be renumbered to become clause "496." Clause [496] Power marine inquiry as to certificate be approved. Clause [498] Cancellation of certificate be renumbered to become clause "497." Clause [497] Cancellation of certificate sub clause [4], be amended to read, "An officer who fails to comply with subsection [3] commits an offence and is liable, to a fine not less than **\$1,000** or its equivalent in Leones."

Clause [499] Limitation of powers as to certificate be renumbered to become clause "498." Clause [498] Limitation of powers as to certificate be approved. Clause [500]

Certificate issued by foreign state be renumbered to become clause "499"

Clause [499] Certificate issued by foreign state be amended by separating the words "fora" to be "for a" at the beginning of the second line to now read, "Where the certificate of competency affected by the report for a marine inquiry was issued by a foreign state, the Minister shall forward a copy of the report of the inquiry to the appropriate authority for action as appropriate in line with the recommendations of the inquiry." Clause [501] Rehearing of marine inquiry be renumbered to become clause "500." Clause [500] Rehearing of marine inquiry be approved. Clause [502] Appeals be renumbered to become clause "501." Clause [501] Appeals be approved. Clause [503] Regulations for marine inquiry be renumbered to become clause 502. Clause [502] Regulations for marine inquiry sub clause [1], be amended to read, "The Minister on the advice of the Administration may by Statutory Instrument make Regulations for prescribing the provisions relating to marine inquiries and to the rehearing of or an appeal from a marine inquiry under this Part."

## **PART XXIX – LEGAL PROCEEDINGS – JURISDICTION**

Clause [504] Jurisdiction in case of offences be renumbered to become clause "503." Clause [503] Jurisdiction in case of offences be approved. Clause [505] Jurisdiction in case of offences on board ship be renumbered to become clause "504." Clause [504] Jurisdiction in case of offences on board ship be approved. Clause [506] Offences at foreign port be renumbered to become clause "505." Clause [505] Offences at foreign port be approved. Clause [507] Application of fine be renumbered to become clause "506."

Clause [506] Application of fine sub clause [1], be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" on the second line and separating the words "whole specific" to be "whole specific" on the third line, to now read, "Where a court imposes a fine under this Act for which no specific application is provided the Court may if it thinks fit, direct the whole specific or part of the fine"

Clause [508] Conviction under other law be renumbered to become clause "507." Clause [507] Conviction under other law be approved. Clause [509] Jurisdiction in collision and other cases be renumbered to become clause "508".

Clause [508] Jurisdiction in collision and other cases sub clause [3], be amended by replacing the word "referent" with the word "reference" after the letter "a" and before the word "to" on the fourth line and inserting the word "in" after the word "or" and before the word "the" on the fourth line to now read, "Subsections [1] and [2] shall apply to a counterclaim not being a counterclaim in proceedings arising out of the same incident or series of incidents as they apply to actions in personam and a referent to the plaintiff is a reference to the plaintiff or in the counterclaim and a reference to the defendant is a reference to the defendant to the counterclaim." Clause [510] Action *in rem*: be

renumbered to become clause "509". Clause [509] Action *in rem*: be approved.

### **PART XXX – DETENTION AND DISTRESS ON SHIP FOR DAMAGE CAUSED**

Clause [511] Power to detain foreign ship be renumbered to become clause "510." Clause [510] Power to detain foreign ship be approved. Clause [512] Enforcing detention of ship be renumbered to become clause "511." Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [2], be amended to read, "Where a ship after detention or after service on the master of a notice of an order for detention, proceeds to sea before it is released by a competent authority, the master of the ship and the owner commits an offence and a person who sends the ship to sea if the owner or person is a part or privy to the master's offence, is liable to a fine not less than \$3,000 or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [3] be amended to read, "Where a ship proceeding to sea in the circumstances specified in subsection [2] takes to sea when it has on board in the execution of his duty an officer of the customs or other officer appointed under this or other law, the owner and master of the ship shall each commit an offence and each is liable, to a fine not less than \$3,000 or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [4b], be amended to read, "a sum of **\$1,000** or its equivalent in Leones for each day until the officer returns or until such time as would enable him, after leaving the ship to return to the port from which he was taken, and the expenses ordered to be paid may be recovered in like manner as the fine." Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [7], be amended to read, "A person who opposes or in a way obstructs an officer detaining a ship, or a police guard or surveyor commits an offence and is liable, on conviction to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones."

Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [8], be amended by inserting the phrase "or officer in charge" after the word "customs" and before the word "that" on the second line to now read, "An officer detaining a ship under this Act shall notify the proper officer of customs or officer in charge that such ship is liable to be detained."

Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [9], be amended by inserting the phrase "or officer in charge" after the word "customs" and before the word "shall" on the second line to now read, "Where under this Act, a ship is to be detained, the proper officer of customs or officer in charge shall detain the ship as the case may be and refuse to clear that ship outwards."

Clause [511] Enforcing detention of ship sub clause [10], be amended by inserting the phrase "or officer in charge" after the word "customs" and before the word "means" on the second line to now read, "For the purposes of this Section, the expression "proper officer of customs" or "officer in charge" means an officer able to grant clearance to a ship." Clause [513] Notice to consular officer on detention of foreign ship be renumbered to become clause "512." Clause [512] Notice to consular officer on detention of foreign ship be approved. Clause [514] Distress on ship be renumbered to become clause "513."

Clause [513] Distress on ship be approved. Clause [515] Inquiries into death of crew members and others be renumbered to become clause "514."

Clause [514] Inquiries into death of crew members and others sub clause [1b], be amended by replacing the word "does" with the word "dies" on the second line, to now read, "The master or a seafarer employed in a Sierra Leonean ship dies in a country outside Sierra Leone; an Inquiry into the cause of death shall be held by an officer of the Administration designated by the Executive Director for such purpose." Clause [516] Ship may be seized and sold if penalty not paid be renumbered to become clause "515." Clause [515] Ship may be seized and sold if penalty not paid sub clause [1] be amended by inserting the word "not" after the word "is" and before the word "paid" on the third line, to now read, "In a case where a conviction has been secured against the owner of a ship for the contravention of the provisions of this Act and a fine has been imposed, the ship shall, if the fine is not paid forthwith, be liable to be seized and after such reasonable notice as the Executive Director may, in each case determine, may be sold by a person authorized for the purpose in writing by the Executive Director, and that person may, by bill of sale, give to the purchaser a valid title to the ship free of mortgage or other claim thereon which at the time of the sale may be in existence."

Clause [517] Conveyance of offenders and witnesses to Sierra Leone be renumbered to become clause [516]

Clause [516] Conveyance of offenders and witnesses to Sierra Leone sub clause [4b], be amended to read, "does not deliver an offender committed to his charge into the custody of a police officer as directed, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones."

## **PART XXXI – PROSECUTION AND COMPOUNDING OF OFFENCES**

Clause [518] Liability of ship owners be renumbered to become clause "517." Clause [517] Liability of ship owners be approved. Clause [519] Offence by bodies of persons, servants and agents be renumbered to become clause "518." Clause [518] Offence by bodies of persons, servants and agents be approved. Clause [520] Fines: be renumbered to become clause "519." Clause [519] Fines sub clause [1], be amended by replacing the word "Magistrate" with the phrase "competent court in Sierra Leone" at the end of the second line, to now read, "A fine incurred or imposed under this Act may, except as otherwise provided by this Act be recovered before a competent court in Sierra Leone on conviction."

Clause [519] Fines sub clause [3], be amended to read, "A person who commits an offence under this Act, or does anything or omits to do anything in contravention of this Act, for which no penalty is provided elsewhere than in this section is liable, on conviction, to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones."

Clause [519] Fines sub clause [4], be amended to read, "Where an offence against this Act is a continuing one and no penalty is provided in respect of the continuance thereof elsewhere than in this section, a person who commits that offence shall, in addition to other liability, be liable to a fine of **\$500** or its equivalent in Leones for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues." Clause [521] Prosecution of offences be renumbered to become clause "520." Clause [520] Prosecution of offences be approved. Clause [522] compounding of offences be renumbered to become clause "521." Clause [521] Compounding of offences be amended to read, "The Executive Director may compound offence under this Act which is prescribed to be an offence compoundable by the Administration on payment by the person suspected of having committed such offence a sum of money not exceeding **\$10,000** or its equivalent in Leones or payment of any sum of money under subsection [1] in which." Clause [523] Depositions received when witnesses cannot be produced be renumbered to become clause "522." Clause [522] Depositions received when witnesses cannot be produced: be approved. Clause [524] Proof of attestation not required be renumbered to become clause "523." Clause [523] Proof of attestation not required be approved. Clause [525] Proceedings on forfeiture of ship be renumbered to become clause "524." Clause [524] Proceedings on forfeiture of ship be approved. Clause [526] Proof of document be renumbered to become clause "525." Clause [525] Proof of document be approved. Clause [527] Admissibility of document in evidence be renumbered to become clause "526." Clause [526] Admissibility of document in evidence be approved. Clause [528] Service of document be renumbered to become clause "527." Clause [527] Service of document be approved. Clause [529] Public officers under this Act, be renumbered to become clause "528." Clause [528] Public officers under this Act, be amended to read, "Every officer appointed under this Act or the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Act, 2000 and every person authorized under this Act for purposes under this Act when acting in pursuance of such purpose shall be a public officer." Clause [530] Protection of public officers be renumbered to become clause "529." Clause [529] Protection of public officers be approved. Clause [531] Notices, etc. to be in writing, be renumbered to become clause "530." Clause [530] Notices, etc. to be in writing be approved. Clause [532] Averment be renumbered to become clause "531." Clause [531] Averment be approved.

## **PART XXXII – MISCELLANEOUS**

Clause [533] Definition of authorized officer be renumbered to become clause "532" Clause [532] Definition of authorized officer be approved. Clause [534] Powers of authorized officer to board ship be renumbered to become clause "533." Clause [533] Powers of authorized officer to board ship sub clause [3], be amended to read, "A master or owner of a ship, who without reasonable excuse refuses to allow an officer to board such ship in the exercise of the powers conferred by subsection [1] or [2] is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine not less than **\$500** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [535] power to require production of document be renumbered to become clause "534"

Clause [534] power to require production of document sub clause [2e] be amended to read, "Knowingly misleads or deceives the authorized officer under this section to demand such explanation, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [536] Inspection of ship be renumbered to become clause "535." Clause [535] Inspection of ship sub clause [1] be amended by inserting the word "at" after the word "may" and before the word "all" on the third line. To now read, "For the purposes of ensuring that this Act and Regulations made thereunder are duly complied with, an authorized officer may at all reasonable times inspect a ship and its equipment or part thereof, articles on board the ship, and document carried in the ship in pursuance of this act or international convention relating to shipping to which Sierra Leone is a party and if the ship is registered in Sierra Leone, the powers conferred by this section may also be exercised outside Sierra Leone by a proper officer in addition to an authorized officer." Clause [535] Inspection of ship sub clause [3c] be amended to read, "refuses or fails to give an authorized officer reasonable facility for the exercise of his powers under this section, commits an offence and is liable, to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [537] Report by surveyor to Executive Director be renumbered to become clause "536." Clause [536] Report by surveyor to Executive Director be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" on the first line to now read "The Executive Director may, as and when he deems fit required a surveyor to report to him on." Clause [538] powers of surveyor be renumbered to become clause "537." Clause [537] Powers of surveyor sub clause [1a], be amended by inserting the phrase "the ship or" after the word "of" and before the word "an" on the fourth line, to now read, "go on board a ship and inspect the same or part thereof or of the machinery, boats, equipment or articles on board thereof, or of the certificates of the ship or an officer to which the provisions of this Act apply"

Clause [537] Powers of surveyor sub clause [1b], be amended by replacing the word "thinks" with the word "deems" on the tenth line. To now read, "Investigate and report to the Executive Director, upon the nature and causes of accident or damage which a ship has sustained or caused or is alleged to have sustained or caused and for this purpose may require the attendance of all such persons as he deems fit to call before him and examine on oath for the purpose of his report and may require answers or returns to inquiries he thinks fit to make." Clause [539] Returns by surveyors be renumbered to become clause "538." Clause [538] Returns by surveyors sub clause [2], be amended by replacing the word "return" with the word "returns" on the fourth line. To now read, "An owner, master and engineer of a ship surveyed by a surveyor shall, on demand give to the surveyor such information and assistance within his power as the surveyor may require for the purpose of making returns under subsection [1]."

Clause [538] Returns by surveyors sub clause [3], be amended to read, "An owner, master or engineer of a ship who, after demand by a surveyor, fails without reasonable cause to give information or assistance pursuant to subsection [2] commits an offence and is liable to fine not less than **\$1,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [540] Receipt of fee an offence be renumbered to become clause "539." Clause [539] Receipt

of fee an offence side note be amended to read, "Receipt of fee for an offence." Clause [541] Obstruction of surveyor be renumbered to become clause "540."

Clause [540] Obstruction of surveyor sub clause [2], be amended to read, A person who willfully impedes a surveyor of ships or a person having the powers of a surveyor of ships in the execution of his duty whether on board a ship or elsewhere, commits an offence and is liable to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [542] Power of Minister to prescribe forms be renumbered to become clause "541." Clause [541] Power of Minister to prescribe forms sub clause [1] be amended to read, "The Minister on the advice of the Administration may, subject to special provisions of this Act, prepare and sanction forms of any book, instrument or paper required under this Act, other than Part IV and may from time to time make such alterations in these forms as he thinks fit." Clause [543] Offences in respect of use of forms: be renumbered to become clause "542." Clause [542] Offences in respect of use of forms sub paragraph [a], be amended by separating the words "not purported" to be "not purported" on the second line to now read, "without reasonable cause uses a form not purported to be a form approved by the Minister in a case where a form approved by the Minister is, under this Act required to be used;" Clause [542] Offences in respect of use of forms sub paragraph [b], be amended to read, "prints, sells or uses documents purporting to be a form approved by the Minister under this Act knowing the same not to be the form approved by the Minister or not, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than **\$2,000** or its equivalent in Leones." Clause [544] General power to make Regulations be renumbered to become clause "543". Clause [543] General power to make Regulations be approved. Clause [545] Delegation by Minister be renumbered to become clause "544". Clause [544] Delegation by Minister be amended by separating the words "a person" to be "a person" on the second line to now read, Subject to this Act, the Minister may in writing delegate to a person all or any of his powers and functions under this Act. "Clause [546] State owned ships not subject to certain proceedings be renumbered to become clause "545." Clause [545] State owned ships not subject to certain proceedings be approved. Clause [547] Fees and fines, etc. be renumbered to become clause "546." Clause [546] Fees and fines, etc. be approved. Clause [548] Application of conventions in Sierra Leone: be renumbered to become clause "547" Clause [547] Application of conventions in Sierra Leone sub clause [1] be amended by separating the words "notice cause" to be "notice cause" on at the beginning of the second line to now read, "The Executive Director shall, from time to time, by notice cause to be published the International Maritime Conventions including amendments thereto and replacements thereof and other International Instruments which apply to Sierra Leone, the reservations, if any, entered thereon by Sierra Leone as well as those International Maritime Conventions including amendments thereto and replacements thereof and other instruments which cease to apply to Sierra Leone."

### **PART XXXIII – REPEALS AND SAVINGS**

Clause [549] Repeal and savings be renumbered to become clause "548." Clause [548]

Repeal and savings sub clause [1], be amended be separating the words "is hereby" to be "is hereby" at the beginning of the second line to now read, "The Merchant Shipping Act, 2003 Act No. 3 of 2003 is hereby repealed." Clause [550] Modification of existing laws be renumbered to become clause "549." Clause [549] Modification of existing laws be amended to read, "The Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority Act, 2023 Act No.29 of 2023 and any other enactment in existence upon the coming into operation of this Act shall apply with such modifications as are necessary to give effect to this Act"

## **CONCLUSION**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinized the Bill entitled: THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 2026, hereby recommend these proposals to the House for approval. The Report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee, I therefore move that the House pass the Bill entitled; THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 2026 through Committee Stage, Third Reading and into Law.

I thank you for your attention.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, resumes the House.

## ***THE HOUSE RESUMED***

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Chairman of Legislative Committee, thank you very much, thank you very much Mr Minister, you may leave, we will continue tomorrow. Any announcement?

**TABLE CLERK:** Parliamentary Committee on Mines and Minerals resources notice to the attention for the Honourable Members of the Mines and Minerals Committee, kindly be inform that the Mines and Minerals Committee in collaboration with the Finance Committee will hold joint Committee meeting with the Minister tomorrow Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 2026 in Committee Room [1] at 2: p.m.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we are having sittings again tomorrow but let me assure you I know some of you will be travelling to Bo for your celebration, the Bo School celebration so please let us come tomorrow, let me assure you that I won't keep you up to 12: O clock tomorrow so you can still travel after the sitting but please come tomorrow it is important that we come here tomorrow please. Thank you very much.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*[Mr Speaker adjourned the House to Thursday 2nd April, 2026 at 10: a.m.]*

*The House rose at 11:25 a.m*

