

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

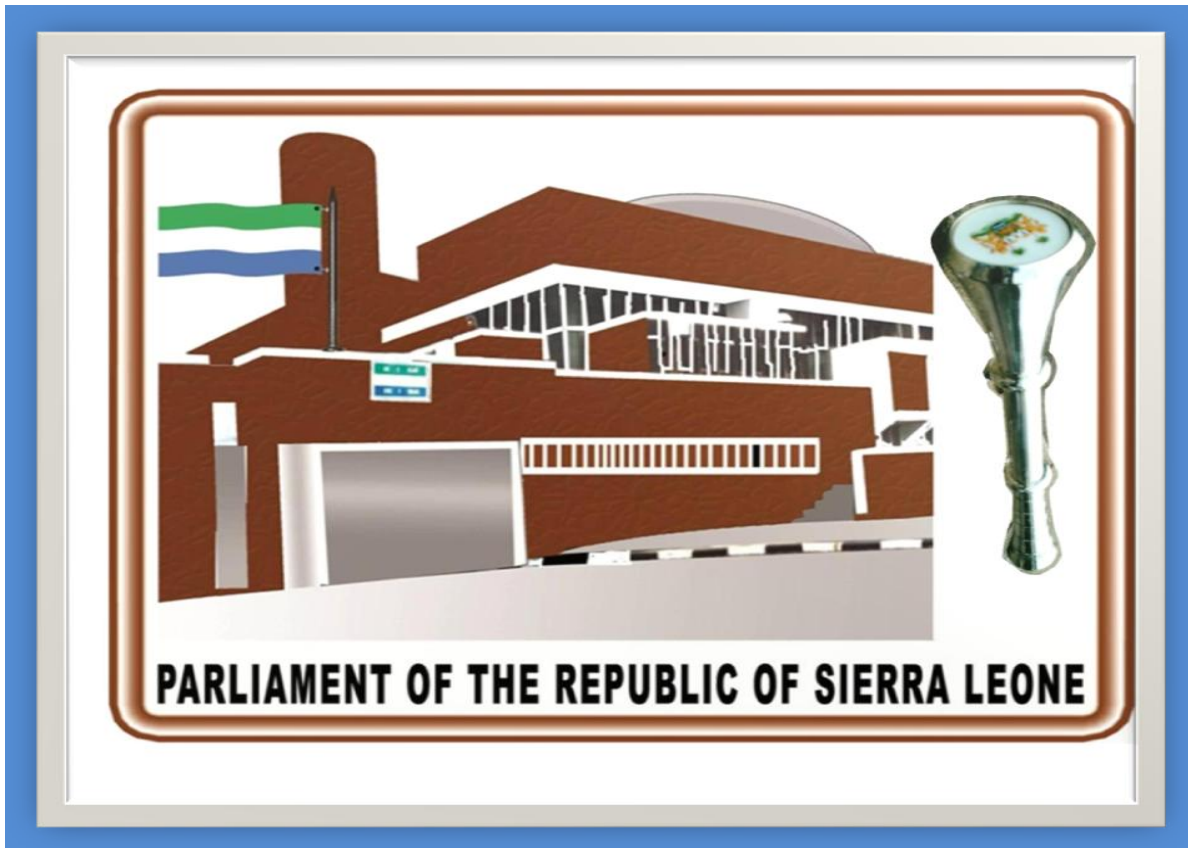
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

*SESSION – 2025-2026*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

**NUMBER: 29**

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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  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

## **CONTENTS**

### **I. PRAYERS**

### **II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 RESPECTIVELY**

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

### **IV. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH [a] & [b] OF SUBSECTION 2 OF SECTION 107 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE (ACT NO. 6) OF 1991**

### **V. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

#### **(A) THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND JOLAKS MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED DATED SETEMBER 2025**

**(B) THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**LONG TERM PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND RAINFOREST BUILDER (SL) LIMITED DATED 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER ,2025**

**(C) THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025:**

**(I) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 3/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON THE LIBERALIZATION OF THE MARKET ACCESS TO GRAND HANDLING SERVICES IN AIRPORT OF ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

**(II) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SA/SP 4/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES DETERMINING STORE ALLOCATION AT AIRPORT IN ECOWAS MEMBERS STATES.**

**(III) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/ SP 5/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON AIR CARRIER LIABILITY IN CASE OF ACCIDENT IN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

**(IV) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 10/02//12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON THE APPROVAL OF AIR CARRIER OF ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

**(V) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/ SP 6/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO PASSENGERS FREIGHT AND MAIL FOR AIR TRANSPORT WITHIN, FROM AND TO ECOWAS MEMBERS STATES.**

**(VI) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 3/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON THE COMPENSATION TO PASSENGERS IN THE EVENT OF DENIED BOARDING, CANCELLATION OR MAJOR DELAY OF FREIGHTS IN THE ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

**(VII) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 8/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON THE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO AIR TRANSPORT MARKETS IN ECOWAS MEMBERS STATES.**

**(VIII) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 9/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND CONCERTED PRACTICES RELATING TO RULES OF COMPETITION IN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES WITHIN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

**(IX) SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP 11/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON AVIATION SECURITY IN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.**

## 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**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

[Miss Isha M. Kamara read the prayers]

[The House met at 10:00 A.M. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

*Suspension of S.O 5 [2]*

#### **I. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 RESPECTIVELY**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Pages 1 to 4? Page 5? Can a Member please move?

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** I so move Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW:** I so second Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

#### **II. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the diligence of the following Honourable Members who were in this Well before my entering. Today, I am going to announce the list of those who came late and those who do not come at all and that is why you should wake up at 6 A.M. to be here. Do you want me to wait for next week? Is that the demand of the House? Now I know MPs do not want their names to be called, I will leave that for today.

Honourable Members, the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Pages 1-4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? And Page 9? Can a Member please move?

**HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW:** I so move Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. RUGIATU ROSY KANU:** I so second Mr Speaker.

***[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]***

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29 January, 2026 respectively has been adopted]

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let me recognise the diligence of the following Honourable Members who were in the Well before my entering. I will not announce the late comers, but I will announce those who were here before my entering. Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin, Honourable Ibrahim Kabba, Honourable Alhaji Yusuf Mackery, Honourable Musa Fofanah, Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara, Honourable Ali Bayoh, Honourable Ismael Sankoh Yillah, Honourable Mohamed Sheborah Bangura, Honourable P.C Desmond M. Kargobai, Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu, Honourable Amie Nyava Moriba, Honourable Juliana A. Fatorma, Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara, Honourable Princess K. Daramy, Honourable Charles O. Abdulai, Honourable Umu Pyne, Honourable Foryor Tholley, Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba Keiha III, Honourable Mohamed Tarawallie Fofanah, Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina, Honourable Veronica K. Sesay, Honourable Massaay Ngahiteh Aruna, Honourable Joseph Bash Kamara, Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh, Honourable Abdul Sulaiman Marray Conteh, Honourable Abubakar Fofanah, Honourable Memunatu Jalloh, Honourable Mohamed Bangura, Honourable Marie Kamara, Honourable Joseph A. Kanu, Honourable Alhaji Kekura Vandy and Honourable Alpha F.M Jabbie. Honourable Members, today is a very sad day for this House because we lost one of us Honourable Mariama Ella Goba. I therefore call on every Member of Parliament to stand briefly and observe a moment of silent prayers. May her soul rest in perfect peace.

**THE CLERK:** Pursuant to paragraph [A] and [B] of Subsection II of Section 107 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to give a detailed and comprehensive status report on the West Africa Examination Council [WAEC] continuous assessment scores capturing systems [CAS].

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the Minister here?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He called me and told me that, there is heavy traffic along the way.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is he on his way coming?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, that is what he told me.

**THE SPEAKER:** Then do your amendment.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I so move that we amend the Order Paper for item four to be item five and item five to be item four.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. EMMERSON S. LAMINA:** I so second Mr Speaker.

***[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]***

**[Motion to amend the Order Paper by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]**

### **III. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

#### **THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**MR ALPHA IBRAHIM SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS Manufacturing Limited dated September 2025.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as most of us might be aware JOLAKS Manufacturing Company Limited is a limited liability Company registered under the Laws

of Sierra Leone, having its registered office at NATA Compound, Wellington Industrial Estate, Freetown Sierra Leone. The Company is a subsidiary of Pee Cee Holding Sierra Leone Limited. This is a Sierra Leonean based Company primarily engaged in the production of vegetable oil and its by products. I can attest to the fact that we used to be a key importer of vegetable oil but today we are exporter of vegetable oil. This is an opportunity that created jobs and also made a lot of savings in our foreign exchange. The Company was established in 2012 originally from the processing of crude palm oil into a refined vegetable oil and selling it in containers of diverse sizes that include 1 litre, 5 litres, 10 litres, 20 litres and 25 litres. Over the years the Company has expanded its activity and investment. It has constructed and installed equipment facility at Wellington and has invested over Forty Five Million US Dollars [45 Million USD] into multiple downstream processes and procurement of crude oil but not limited to the following, refinery, leaching, and deodorising of crude palm oil into vegetable cooking oil, example of these are Padi and Mama Brand with a 300 metric ton per day capacity. Mr Speaker, secondly, fractionalisation of Palm steering and palm fatty as distillate. Thirdly, saponification plant to manufacture soap noodles, in addition it also includes the production of Beauty soaps, Laundering soaps, Medicated soaps and multipurpose soaps. In 2020 JOLAKS Manufacturing Company Limited entered into an agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone with the primarily objectives of striving to meet one of the key Government objectives of promoting private sector investment and agriculture and the use of local products in manufacturing or refinery finished products in the form of semi-finished product such as soap.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Company seeks an extension to its current Agreement and as a Ministry we believe they met all of the key requirements and obligations. If we take note of the following since the commencement of the Agreement they have invested about Forty Five Million Dollars as I indicated earlier, and let me just highlight some of the key areas they have invested. Land acquisition is Eight Million Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars, Building and Construction, Eleven Million Five Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars, Plant and

Machinery about Twenty Five Million Dollars, Office equipment, Two Hundred and Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Eight Dollars, Vehicles, One Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars all of these amounted to about Forty Five Thousand Dollars. Since the Agreement with the Government the Company has produced the equivalent of Seven Million Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Six litres of vegetable oil at an average annual production of One Million Four Hundred and Forty Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand per year. Furthermore, this Company continues to produce soap noodles and soap under various categories namely Beauty soaps, Multipurpose soap, Medicated soap and Laundry soap which are some of the bye products of the crude oil itself. All of these have significant impact on our foreign exchange. Again, we can highlight some of these soaps that have been produced over the years. The plant expansion therefore is to ensure that this Company continues its current production and expand its production to other bye products that have not yet been covered over the years on the foreign exchange.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to say that domestic production placed a critical role in augmenting the Country's foreign exchange reserved by reducing on the import, promoting export and stabilizing the economy. Following the Agreement five years ago, One Hundred and Eighty Million Dollars which we have been used to import vegetable oil has been used to procure crude palm oil in Sierra Leone, primarily from SOFIN. The Company is also contributing to domestic revenue mobilization, in terms of payee, GST and other taxes, this will be quantified and all the relevant information are with the NRA and the Ministry of Finance. For example, for payee from the period of 2020 to 2024 it is the equivalent of new Leones, One Million Two Hundred and Eight Three Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three [Le 1,283,693] that is payment that has been made from 2020 to 2024.

Mr Speaker, in terms of employment, we are aware that domestic production serves as a powerful engine for job creation, skills development and long term economic stability. When nation prioritises locally manufactured goods over import they unlock opportunities across diverse industries from factory to research labs. This does not only

reduce reliance on foreign supply chains but also foster self-reliance economy where innovation and labour productivity thrives by cultivating home grown industry can generate Millions of stable jobs of skilled workforce and build core resilient economic foundation for future generations. Over the five past years, JOLAKS has created over Seven Hundred employments opportunities directly at its Wellington site by establishing a procurement network of small holder farmers about Three Thousands of them providing crude palm oil to the refinery at Wellington, Port Loko and Buedu.

In conclusion Mr Speaker, the extension of the Agreement to enable JOLAKS to harmonise synergies between the other subsidiaries will increase the competitiveness of the Company in international market such as Senegal and Mali and particularly also takes advantage of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area while making significant contribution to the 'Feed Salon Program' and make sustainable contribution towards manufacturing our agriculture in Sierra Leone. This Company is on the right trajectory for growth and development and to further strengthen domestic production to reduce reliance on import to provide employment opportunities for youth, women, save the Country foreign reserved and enhance Government revenues. This could be made only possible through a support of Government through the provision of fiscal incentives to allow the Company to thrive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS Manufacturing Company Limited dated September 2025. I thank you.

***[Question Proposed]***

**HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy the Minister emphasised the Agreement is between the Government of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS unlike other Agreements some people would monopolise them but thank God, we are debating here today an Agreement between

the Government of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS. I hope everybody has clearly understood the Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is very laudable and it came at a time when we are talking about local content, job creation, economic booming, and of course beneficiaries to local farmers. I think we should applaud the Minister for bringing this document before us because we are yearning for employment for our youth and we are yearning for local content. We want to produce here what we eat so it is very important to make sure we work with JOLAKS.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to make few extracts for the benefit of those who are not having the document because we are representing our people so they need to know the nitty-gritty of this particular Agreement. Mr Speaker, with your leave, as we heard from the Minister, JOLAKS currently operates at Three Thousand Metric Tons [3,000 metric tons] per day, refinery plant that processes crude oil into vegetable oil and produces a variety of soaps. The Company presently employs more than Four Hundred [400] Sierra Leoneans and supplies Padi Vegetable Oil about Ten to Twenty Five litres. Its products are exported to Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Guinea, adding valuable external revenues for our Country. This Agreement is timely, this has shown that Sierra Leone can do it, we are now moving from Sierra Leone to other Countries, at least we are on course.

Mr Speaker, the expansion will create direct and indirect jobs, reducing unemployment and supporting livelihood across communities, a notable portion of these opportunities are expected to be accessible to women promoting greater female economic participation. It increases production and export volumes that will boost foreign exchange earnings and contributes to Government revenues through taxes, duties and related economic activities. This can also help us to boost the economy of this Country, industrial capacity and value addition by scaling up refinery and soap production, strengthening domestic value addition in agriculture and manufacturing value chain keeping more economic value in Sierra Leone. I have stated it can help the farmers to bring their products to JOLAKS so that they can produce our local contents, and also

regional competitiveness and trade by expanding the capacity and export. Sierra Leone will be better positioned to compete in regional market enhancing our trade profile and commercial relationship in West Africa where people will now move from place to place to carry their commodities. The investment will stimulate up-stream and down-stream sectors from oil seed farmers and transporters to packaging logistics and retail rating will bring broader economic impact.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee will monitor the implementation milestone and capacity development associated with the Three Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars investment. We would be there to see whether they are complying and also ensuring employment commitment including measures to promote women's employments are met so we are always forced to see whether they have that 30% of female representation. We see so many Sierra Leoneans in the Company and we want to see whether they have been trained so that they can be ready to do their own work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to call the attention of JOLAKS that environmental Laws are embedded in our Agreement between Sierra Leone and this particular institution. You should comply and abide by the Laws as stated and also your corporate social responsibility. Of course, you will be doing it but we want you to do more and I believe in the Committee there are Honourable Members in the city that will be going there to see whether you adhere to the corporate social responsibility in terms of helping the communities. I want you to know that it is in the Agreement that the importation of machines and equipment is not yearly but every five years so if you are bringing your machines, please make sure you bring a good number of your machines because it is for five years. Also ECOWAS levy is not the responsibility of Government but the responsibility of the Company. I am emphasizing this because sometimes when you have Agreement they tend to forget or they just engulf their expatriates not knowing that the youth are there to be trained. They can do it so whenever your people are not there they will work. Do not say the Manager for producing soap is out of Country, he is gone for holidays, there should be somebody who will take after him so

each time we go there as Committee we want to see everybody is active doing his or her work.

Mr Speaker, the Government of Sierra Leone shall make this Agreement to be laid and tabled before approve by Parliament for the Republic of Sierra Leone. This shows the important of Parliament nothing can go out without the approval of Parliament. So you have to make sure you abide and you take Parliament to be your friend. Mr Minister, you have to protect your business partners because sometimes people will start to come at the back of the door to bring in their own commodity. Please make sure you protect your business people and compliance with the Law and we do not want you to go out of track. Please make sure you abide by the Laws and that is why we are here. I want to pause here, and I want to state here with a very heavy heart one of our Members who was so instrumental in this Agreement and each time we have meeting she will be the first person to call me and she is no more. I want to say let her soul rest in perfect peace the Honourable Mariama Ella Goba who is not here to see the passing of this Bill. I thank you very much.

**HON. EMMERSON S. LAMINA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from Section 40 of the Constitution Sub-Section [4] paragraph [G] without prejudice the President or his Minister cannot do any Agreement without Members of Parliament and this is just what you are doing today. Mr Speaker, I want to talk on this Agreement because I realized that the Agreement is very rich with enough stabilizing Clauses that the Company will benefit from this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, I realised that the Company will benefit from exemption, reduction of taxes, waivers for them to boost the local content policies for ten years on realizing that it will commence and it will have these exemptions subject to renewal and the Minister is very powerful here. If the Company does not comply well the Minister representing Government of Sierra Leone shall not in any case extend the life of the Company. Clause 41, I want to say very interesting to protect the Minister here with blessing of the Government of Sierra Leone to protect the Company from foreign unhealthy competition, those bigger foreign Companies that have economic fist to bully, the

Minister is here in a capacity to protect JOLAKS. JOLAKS is so blessed to be protected by the Minister whenever they are unduly seemly bullied.

Mr Speaker, Clause 43[1], the Government here have a role to monitor Members of Parliament. It comes to mind in Section 93 Sub-Section 3 and 6 also boost that a Minister here as the policy maker will not only play oversight role, Members of Parliament are also here called upon to enforce Section 93, Clause [3] and [6] of the oversight role and we realised that Clause 41 here will give this Company Thirty Million Dollars for investment and 30 Million Dollars is not a small money to be invested in a Company in the first five years phase. Mr Speaker, I must confess to you, I see in this Agreement in Clause 42, it makes cooperate social responsible very compulsory, I really in love with this Agreement. Many years ago, I actually drag a particular Mining Company to litigation, I lost that case woefully because by Law according to the Agreement cooperate social responsibility was not compulsory but looking at this Agreement here it is making it compulsory for corporate social responsibility so the MPs around Wellington where are you?

Mr Speaker, also progress report is also compulsory that is every half of the year between the Month of January and June it is mandatory. It is incumbent upon the community to submit progress report to the Minister of Trade and I see local content unfolding in diverse ways. It says indigenes should be employed in terms of employment and also they should submit their HR plan that is very important for the Minister as well for Members of Parliament to see whether they are adhering to the Bill that we passed in this House. Interestingly, the Minister of Environment is here, the EPA Act should be enforced around communities where they operate. I have the idea of the three R policy of environmental challenged, that is the reduce, reuse and the recycle but what they do they can reuse it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, article 5 is also interesting the fiscal concession given to a Company, duties and waivers at least five years for them to stabilize. They are going to be given tax for the day which is important and it is fine. Let them be given tax holiday. They will not renege from corporate tax, they have to pay it even

though we give them tax holiday. These are the few taxes where they do not have holiday importation plan and also withholding taxes. So this Agreement is very rich because Sierra Leone delegation in ECOWAS the Government of Sierra Leone does not pay ticket for us whenever we go to Abuja for sittings because every ships that sail within the waters of Sierra Leone 0.1% should be paid and kept in the purse of ECOWAS for us and Sierra Leone is one of the Countries that will never renege from our obligations as far as obligations are concerned. We are always top-notch that is why every sitting they will either call me or they call Honourable Abdul Kargbo to engage the television to expose those countries that will not adhere and because of the strategies Sierra Leone actually employs 0.5% is always kept aside for the adherence to ECOWAS taxes.

Mr Speaker, I have been a fine partaker of Padi Oil. JOLAKS is the grandparents for the production of the Padi Oil and also soaps that will benefit ECOWAS Countries. The Minister has a role to protect JOLAKS and also to protect JOLAKS at all times from unfair competition and from foreign Companies. The Parliament of Sierra Leone has actually strengthened the Ant-Corruption Commission Act 2019 and also this Act also gives room to zero tolerance for anything that will create marginalisation that is why this Parliament has also enacted the GEWE Act that gives women the opportunity.

As I conclude Mr Speaker, Clause 8 gives room for those that will breach. The Company can hold the Government of Sierra Leone accountable according to Clause 8, and the Government of Sierra Leone can also hold the Company accountable if they also breach the Law. It is a very fine Agreement which will give opportunity to gainful employment with dignity. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**HON. DR UMPHA S.G KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before us today is an Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS Manufacturing Company Limited. I have articulated the importance of this Agreement of course I want to state that a lot of what has been said is one that I agreed with and we want to appreciate what JOLAKS Manufacturing Company is doing for Sierra Leone. We want to appreciate the fact that they will add value to our palm oil and palm kernel and boost

our export and revenue. We want to appreciate the fact that they have a potential to create employment for our people.

Mr Speaker, my intervention here is going to be brief and I am going to take three Clauses in this Agreement which are 7.3, 4.25 and 4.22 and the 7.3 states the tariff protection that this Company will benefit from, then if this Company is going to benefit from this tariff protection, it is important that protection be realized by the people of this Country. Tariff protection, it ensures that this Company survives in the long term in Sierra Leone. It means that their survivability the people of Sierra Leone should benefit from that. We appreciate the fact that we have Padi Oil. We appreciate the fact that they have transformed the crude oil in making Mayonnaise. We appreciate the fact that they can add value to the farmers but we also want to see what they can do in the immediate communities where they operate. 2.5 talks about employment opportunities, and employment opportunities in our communities are really lacking. Mr Speaker, in terms of creating employment we want to see a situation wherein value also should be added, skilled training should be added, and employees should have employment protection in those communities. As a Member of Parliament representing Constituency 114, which Wellington is part of my communities, I can tell you emphatically here Mr Speaker that the JOLAKS Company has really not been directly engaging us as stakeholders in the community. JOLAKS has been very sluggish in dealing with us as Members of Parliament in that community, and 4.25 states that in creating employment, stakeholders, Government officials, Farmers have to be engaged. The Company shall collaborate with all relevant stakeholders including collaborating with Government officials, community elders, farmers, and the beneficiaries themselves to facilitate the development and implementation of corporate social responsibility.

Mr Speaker, JOLAKS has been in our community for years. This Agreement is adding to what they would be doing in our communities. I have been a Member of Parliament in those communities for eight years now and my relationship with JOLAKS has been one that is being strained meaning they do not collaborate with me. They do not cooperate with me, and they do not collaborate with stakeholders in that community to create

jobs for people in that community. We are not reaching out to them for ourselves but we are reaching out to them for our people that we serve and unfortunately they have been sluggish so I decided to stop reaching to them but I am glad that this Agreement is here today and we should remind them that their responsibility is not just to Government officials there but also to stakeholders like me even Chiefs and Chairladies in those communities. We appreciate what they are doing for Sierra Leone. We appreciate the fact that Government has given them tariff protection even the finance Act captured some protection for them. So we want to see how they can translate that to develop our communities. We have health facilities in our communities that need that development, so if I can contribute here today Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would state that this Agreement is a fine one. This is an Agreement that Sierra Leone stands to benefit from. This is an Agreement that the people of this Country stands to benefit from but we want to see how JOLAKS as a Company can collaborate with us as stakeholders of those communities to bring value to those communities to develop our people and the young people of this Country to benefit from what they are bringing to our Country and not just the products that they bring to our Country. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Umpha Koroma. I know it is a very good Agreement and I am sure representatives of JOLAKS are here. In each of these Agreements we have ratified in Parliament, we have particular Clauses that they promised to do upon ratification. So I urge the representatives of JOLAKS that are here to go and tell your superiors that those requirements must be made. We do not want a situation where we would have to come here to question some of these issues. Of course, we know that the Agreement is fine and is good but make sure you abide by the promises that are made in the Agreement. Thank you very much.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I promised to be very brief today, but I am little bit worried after hearing the Honourable Member from that Constituency. You see, most of these infrastructures are based in different Constituencies so that the Member of Parliament covering those Constituencies has a

total look at the operations and see where Parliament could intervene. The Member of Parliament in the Constituency should be the intermediary between the Company and Government and the Company and Parliament. So if the Company faces any serious issue due attention will be given by the Member of Parliament. I have seen Companies operating not only at Wellington. I have seen Companies in the South-East, in the North and the North-West; they are operating without any reverence to the Members of Parliament of those Constituencies. There are times it is even shocking for the Member of Parliament to only discover that document belonging to those Companies are coming to Parliament without their attention. So I want to seize this opportunity to kindly advise JOLAKS to mend their relationship with the Member of Parliament, and by extension, to caution all other Companies operating in different parts of the Country to have a very good relationship with the Member of Parliament because the Member of Parliament holds a crucial responsibility.

Mr Speaker, as I said, I am going to be very brief today, because we have a good number of items on the Order Paper. Firstly, let us have an understanding about the Agreement. This is an investment concession Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade, and the JOLAKS Manufacturing Company. According to this Agreement, JOLAKS will be refinery crude palm oil into vegetable oil, and they will be producing soap, including medicated and laundry soap, supplying the domestic market and exporting to neighbouring Countries and the term of the Agreement is 10 years. According to JOLAKS in the Agreement; they have said they have secured 20 Million Dollars loan from Popaco Company, and also they have expanded at Wellington from 35% to 40% and now they have 70% to 80%. They also said in the Agreement that they have 300 metric ton per day facility, and more than 400 employments have already been created. According to them, after this expansion, they will create more additional 500 jobs. So my point now is, if such a huge number of jobs have been created, I am of the firmest conviction that the stakeholders within the community must have been part of the creation of the job. You cannot go to a community to create jobs without including the stakeholders of the

community. Remember, I am one person who believes that whosoever is not competent should not be given the opportunity. Wellington is a very big community, and they have all classes of people there, so if you are to create 400 jobs, to me, it is highly likely that there should be nobody that is unemployed within the community, especially the Wellington community. Out of 400 jobs, the stakeholders there stated must have been very instrumental in facilitating these employments. So I am still shocked and surprised that the Member of Parliament is not only speaking on his own behalf, he has said that community stakeholders are not involved, and they are not aware of such job opportunity. So this is the finest opportunity for JOLAKS to create a very good relationship with the stakeholders there, because even for the protection of the investment, you need the stakeholders.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Company shall invest at least \$30 Million in the next phase, and these are some of the Company's obligation. I carefully listened to Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, who made salient points about environmental compliance that is critical. We should ensure that the Company must comply with the EPA Act of 2008. We should ensure that Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation of 2010 are complied with, and we must maintain an EPA license through all of their term of existence. So to me, as a responsible Opposition, we will always approve or support an Agreement that creates employment. We cannot go against it, Mr Speaker, but we have to ensure that what are in this Agreement are strictly complied with. We have to ensure that monitoring is done. When I look at the Agreement, I see a lot of tax exemptions especially in Article Five, foreign employment payee exemption for 183 days, import duty exemptions for plant machines and equipment. We have also packet materials, import duty exemptions all for five years. And we even have GST exemptions, so in as much as these exemptions are done, we should ensure that there is a corresponding return. Few days ago, I was going to Aberdeen Beach, and I returned home very late around 10 P.M and on my way coming, I saw huge number of young people, they are all wearing white top and short trousers, so I had to ask who are they? Why is the number so huge? Why are they in the street at around 10 P.M.? I

came to realize that they have applied to be employed by the Military so it shows the number of youth who are looking for employment in Sierra Leone. So whichever way we have an opportunity to create job for these youth, we should treat it with the prerequisite seriousness it deserves. It shows a huge number of our youth are unemployed, and as a nation, we should do everything humanly possible to position these youth.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that the Agreement especially in areas where it is creating employment for our youth is very good and the Agreement is making use of our local content. We should ensure that most of the processing is done here and our youths benefit from this Agreement entirely. We should pay keen attention to environmental degradation caused by activities of the Company, and we should ensure that our brothers and sisters who are employees in the Company are wholeheartedly taken care of and one of our responsibilities is to ensure that we take care of the Company as well. Because we have seen Companies come and gone, Companies that are meant to stay. Let us ensure that we play our own role in the Legislative angle so that they are well taken care of. So without much ado, Mr Speaker, I want to crave the indulgence of both Members of the Ruling Bench and us in the Opposition to ensure that we pass this Agreement because it benefits our youths. I thank you.

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

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to have an Agreement of such nature where I can have the Opposition and Members of the Ruling Bench by consensus the Paramount Chiefs. I will not bore you to read because I have read everything Clause by Clause. I will just make an insight of what you have said Mr Minister for the renegotiation of the 20 Million Dollars from a Company called Popaco which you have already secured. It is a loan from this Company. So they planned to create an expansion as the Leader of the Opposition said from 40% to 80% 300 metric tons of this particular capacity. Mr Minister, they have raised issues of national interest by increasing on the exchange rate because we are doing business in

neighbouring Countries like Ghana, Senegal and we are also trying to improve on domestic goods. What matters to us very much is that, these products are also in phases and by litres. They have 5 litres to 25 litres which everybody can afford and the prices are affordable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they are not only dealing with Sierra Leone, they are also dealing with neighbouring Countries so protecting the infant industry Mr Minister, it is in your care and that is really key to us. So if you go to Article Four on unhealthy competitions, you do not just allow every Companies to come with expired products. First, how do we monitor them? The periodic visiting is already stated. Secondly, Honourable Emmerson Lamina read that provision on the progress report. We also need to talk about that because they are stated in Act Four of this Agreement. All of those things when we go to the field as part of our oversight responsibility which Parliament is part of. It is going to be a proper oversight visit because this is not a new Company. I do not want to go to ask about the monitoring of what they told us before in the previous Agreement, that is the first phase of the Agreement, they were going to employ over 500 Sierra Leoneans so we have to do this periodic visit as stated by the Chair of the Committee and under the same provision, they are asking that they should do periodic EPA licence review to see the compliance between 2010 Regulation of the EPA. These are important for environmental security of what is discharged to the environment and what is not supposed to be discharged.

Mr Speaker, it was also said by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that \$30 Million is supposed to be spent in five years on this production of palm oil production of vegetable fat and oil. These are just things that we see in the Agreement and we think we should make them very clear to the public so that they can understand. I want to join Honourable Dr Umpha Koroma who was talking about corporate social responsibility of the Company. He was very vocal when we ratified that Agreement not under your administration Mr Minister, it was under your predecessor. He supported the Agreement and he was also agitating for the Company to give jobs to people within the locality that is why I am forced about the employment provision on that Article Four.

There is no way they can leave the MP out, and this is what exactly has been happening when they see the MP around they start to publish news. S.O [2] “ oh da MP nar bega bega business e don go pan, den they harass we.” It is not any form of harassment. It is clear in the Agreement, if you do not consult the MP who do you think is the stakeholder in that community? I am really frustrated when I talked to Honourable Bah on the other side. He said S.O. [2] “ Bra den nor dae consider we self” even in meeting den nor dae do nartin.” So these are things we have done under the same rubric that we need to take into consideration.

Mr Speaker, the local content evidently promotes the utilisation of local Sierra Leonean suppliers in operations of goods and relevant artillery services such as transportation, inputs, supplies, warehousing and others from time to time. If Umpha has a Company within the locality, are you going to leave him out to take somebody from another locality? No, Mr Minister, it is very unfair. How do you protect people? How do you think people are working? That is why we are talking about protecting the infant industry and going down the ladder, we protect our own small businesses that we are doing. If I am seeking supplies, I will turn around the community and implement a local content policy. It is not about colour, it is not about tribe, and it is about the policy that you have passed in this very House Mr Minister.

Mr Speaker, we have stated all of these but let me draw your attention to Article Five. The incentive that you have given is tax waivers, but there is limitation to the tax waivers. I have heard where people are saying we are giving blanket waivers, we are not giving blanket waivers, Mr Minister, these waivers you have given are time bound. This Parliament is a very responsible Parliament, and we are very progressive. You have recycled the Agreement for provisions that you are giving tax waivers. These are incentives that is why in this Agreement, we are giving an insight of what we are going to do in terms of tariffs. The GST waivers, it is stated there so we are not doing it as if we are not responsible citizens. We are not implementing the Agreement but we are giving policies to them so that they can implement those policies because based on Section 110, this Parliament is always charged with the responsibility by the

Constitution to give duty waivers, tax waivers as stated there so we are giving it with provision that is only for five years as stated in this Agreement. It is not because it is a disaster of political upheaval or political instability that you can disadvantage the Company. There is a provision under Article Eight, if the period is something above 90 days that one can be compensated by giving them an extension of this Agreement based on the time that have caused natural disaster or any political instability. In fact, in this 10 years Agreement as stated by the Leader of the Opposition, extension should be negotiated one year towards the expiration of the Agreement. Now if, Mr Minister, you are not in any way to renew this Agreement, the standard, the target, the level, the production should not go below standard. It should be the same and follow the rules that you have agreed on. In this Agreement, it is clearly stated that if you do not extend the Agreement within one year of negotiations, you have the responsibility to hit on the target and produce quality goods for people to utilize.

Mr Speaker, when we passed the Agreement that has to do with the direct funder's Agreement for the Airport we also stated about political inclusion. So we are doing all of these because we are very conscious about the environment. So we can take care of all of these issues that is really disturbing the investors. We are also protecting investors, but we are very mindful of what is happening around all of us. So we can encourage other investors to come on board so that Sierra Leone can be a better place, and as I said, Mr Minister, put to mind no unhealthy competition will be accepted. Put to mind safety gears come number one in fact, it is very brief in the Agreement. These are Sierra Leoneans, in fact in the employment cadre it is stated for every level. We talked about the junior level, the middle level and the managerial level also you should employ Sierra Leoneans. So let us take into consideration because Article Four is very important to all of them. Article 13, of course, confidentiality, we all know what happens if you breach that one but Clause 13, Anti-Corruption Commission is always around. That is why we do not forget them when we are doing our Agreement.

Mr Speaker, it is a good Agreement as clearly stated by all of us but there are certain provisions that we need to take into consideration from Article One. I will pray that

these provisions that we have stated will live the test of time. Do not forget, we are also here to help under the oversight Committee to always be with you and Madam Chair was very cleared about employment for women that one should be taken into consideration. So I am very glad that we are now looking at some of these things in the review of this Agreement and we are not giving pro-bono taxes based on certain things because we are futuristic Members of Parliament. We want this nation to grow so we have always supported Agreements. I always say to my Colleagues when they criticize us, do not be annoyed with them, patient with them, when they support us, it will be our birthday party. So today, thank you for supporting this Agreement, when we come to other issues, we also incorporate where we think we can manage ourselves. So I want to join the Chair of the Committee to say, it is a heavy heart that Mr Speaker to announce the demise of one of us. We came in different forms, so we shall return at the time when God calls us. Death is real, death is fact, and death is the only thing that you are sure of. May the Lord bless us all and may the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, yes Mr Minister.

**MR IBRAHIM ALPHA SESAY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by noting all the supports you have given to this Agreement.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on Mr Minister, the Chief Whip and the Leader of Government Business, please approach me.

**MR ALPHA IBRAHIM SESAY:** Mr Speaker, with all sincerity the caution that have been raised here we will try our best to see how we can support them. I want to emphasize that prior to concluding this Agreement, I invited my Colleague Ministers, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Lands and Minister of Environment visited this Company to see exactly what they are doing. Unfortunately, the Minister of Environment was not around, but I went with my Colleagues, the Minister of Labour for him to see how they can address Labour issues and the Minister of Lands, this was just to confirm what this Government has promised, and as a Ministry we will continue to

provide a thriving environment for businesses in this Country. Again, as all of us are aware, we are primary signatories to certain Agreements. One is the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme ETLS. The other one is the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement for us to be competitive, for us to fully participate in this Agreement; it means we have to take advantage of our own comparative advantage. What we have, JOLAKS represents that, its value addition to one of the most popular products we have in this Country. If we are able to do that, then we can compete globally and able to export our own products that we have produced in this Country. So a signatory to this Agreement, one of the best ways we can fully participate is when you support our Companies to make sure they are competitive at that level, then we can fully participate. I guess all of us are following the current global trends today, we see a high sense of nationalism, and the only way we can succeed as a Country, the only way we should be able to produce what we require, what we need and what we consume, is when we support Companies like this. Otherwise, if we continue to depend on import, we will run short of most of the basic commodities that we require as a Country.

Mr Speaker, again, I want to note some of the key contributions here relating to environmental Laws ensuring compliance with environment, we are working closely with the Ministry of Environment. We also work closely with EPA. This is a major commitment on our part to make sure that all environmental and sometimes even social issues are in full compliance. We would continue to monitor that. On capacity building, I mean, that is central, that is critical not only for the Company but for us as a Country. Because once those skills are acquired locally, once we have impacted that knowledge to Sierra Leoneans, if even they move from this Company to another Company, we have the capacity in this Country. So continue to emphasize that, and we will continue to make sure that all those who work there are properly trained; they can also be competitive, both locally and internationally. The issue of Corporate Social Responsibility is critical, and it is a way to give back. I must say based on the concern raised by the Honourable Member representing that Constituency, I am deeply concerned. I want to emphasize here that as a Ministry, we would find a way to increase and improve that

interface. You cannot create jobs if the key stakeholders are not fully involved. I mean, nothing is more painful if you set up a Company and the primary beneficiaries come from outside, then it becomes difficult for those who living in that community. I also want to use this opportunity to implore Members of Parliament to make sure they monitor the HR plan that has been submitted, there is a human resource plan, we shared it, and we have to make sure that is fully supervised. On job creation also, I note the concern raised by the Leader of the Opposition supporting what the Honourable Member representing the Constituency has said, we will review the current employment opportunities, we look at the future employment opportunities because we have various levels of employments, from Director level, management level, up to the lower levels, we will see how the communities are fully involved and how they fully participate in all of these.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to emphasize that what this House has done today is adding credibility because this is going to be internationally recognized as a Government. We are very serious, and we support investment, and we also protect investment whether local or international.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to emphasize that the successful implementation of this Agreement also strongly depends on the oversight responsibility of this House, especially when it comes to some of the key things that have been highlighted. We will work closely with Members of this House to make sure that this Agreement is fully executed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House, hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on 19th December 2025, Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and JOLAKS Manufacturing Company Limited dated September 2025.

***[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]***

***[Government Motion by the Minister of Trade and Industry has been ratified]***

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Minister, you may leave. Mr Leader of Government Business, are we proceeding with the Motion from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change or with the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, we will leave the Amendment as we did so we can accommodate and bring to the fore to have the Minister to make a Ministerial statement. I discussed with my counterparts on the other side and we have agreed because this is really pressing. So we can have the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education after that we would take the Minister of Environment.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** I so second Mr Speaker.

***[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]***

**[Motion moved for amending the Order Paper read by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, Mr Minister, before you say anything, let me inform the Honourable Members that the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education is here on the invitation of this Parliament on paragraphs [A] and [B] of Sub-Section Two of Section 107 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991. Of course, there is no gain saying that, there is almost a song sung all over Sierra Leone that the Ministry, and by extension, the Government of Sierra Leone has decided to prevent some pupils from sitting to WASSCE and we considered as a Parliament that very serious and as a result of that, this Parliament decided to invite the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to tell us exactly what the issues are so that we arrive at reasonable conclusions as a House relating to that matter. Yes Mr Minister.

#### **IV. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**MR CORNAD O. SACKY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all, may I start off by apologizing for being not too punctual this morning. I stand before you here to present a detailed and comprehensive status report on the West African Examination Council, continuous assessment scores capturing system. Let me start off by setting a context. The most stable and advanced societies are those in which rules and Laws are obeyed, and those that break the rules are called to account. Chaos reign in societies in which rules and Laws are ignored and there is no accountability. So let us for a moment imagine the danger and chaos at a busy road junction where motorists decide to ignore the traffic lights and the traffic Police fail to take control of the situation.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I would like to know if the Press is present this morning.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think we are live.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** I just wanted to know because it is very important. We do not want misinformation.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much.

**MR CORNAD SACKY:** Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education has guidelines, policies and legislations that contain many rules designed to ensure that safe, high quality schooling is provided for all Sierra Leonean children. Most relevant for this discussion are the Basic and Senior Secondary Education Act of 2023, and the pre and post school examination admission rules, regulations and guidelines. References shall be made to these two documents during my statement, Section Two of the Basic Education and Senior Secondary Education Act of 2023 states, the Minister shall have control and supervision of pre-primary, primary, junior secondary and senior secondary schooling, as well as the non-formal and school level adult learning sectors throughout Sierra Leone. The same Act states in Section 28 that the Basic Education Certificate Examination shall be taken by pupils from Government, Government assisted

and Private Junior secondary schools that have completed three years of Junior Secondary School or its equivalent, and further the Act states in Section 29 Subsection Two, that the Ministry shall determine conditions for entry into Government and Government assisted Senior Secondary Schools provided those conditions do not discriminate against pupils other than on academic grounds. The conditions state in the pre and post WAEC school examination admission rules, regulations and guidelines that a minimum of five passes at BECE in a single sitting, including Language Arts and Mathematics. On the basis of these rules and regulations, the Ministry has since the commencement of the 6-3-3-4 system of education required all pupils to have passed BECE or its equivalent before admission into Senior Secondary School as a consequence of an alarming increase in WASSCE candidates entry from Senior Secondary Schools that could not be accounted for by passes at BECE even allowing for class repetition. The MBSSE commenced a rigorous check of the BECE results of school WASSCE candidates in 2024, what was revealed by the check was astonishing. Large numbers of Senior Secondary schools were submitting candidates with fake BECE results, results that belonged to candidates who had failed BECE, and candidates with the same year BECE IDs that were repeatedly used within the same school or different schools within the same District or different Districts. For example, a check of the preliminary submission of senior secondary schools for 2026 school WASSCE showed that One Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety One candidates had BECE IDs that were used more than once.

### ***Suspension of S.O.5 [2]***

**MR CONRAD O. SACKEY:** Mr Speaker, the check of the preliminary submission of Senior Secondary Schools for the 2026 WASSCE shows that One Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety One candidates had BECE IDs that were used more than once. One particularly BECE ID number, 3456789 was used 77 times. The Sierra Leone Teachers Union [SLTU], the Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools and representatives of Private Schools were invited to a meeting at the Ministry and the data shared with them. They were given the opportunity to work with Principals and

heads of schools to correct mistakes that may have been made and resubmit corrected list. The resubmitted lists were received by the Ministry and the check still revealed many BECE IDs that were being used by more than one candidate and therefore could not be cleared by the Ministry. The lists of cleared candidates were shared with the schools and MBSSE District Deputy Directors, so that Principals could work with MBSSE District Education Offices and parents to further clean up resubmitted lists. Principals were given the go ahead to upload the WAEC Portal unlike what happened in the previous two years 2024 and 2025, all schools uploaded on time and this year we had One Thousand and Forty Five schools uploaded on time as compared to last year which was Eight Hundred and Eighty Three. WAEC forwarded the uploaded list to MBSSE so that the check will be made that only cleared candidates had been uploaded, alarmingly a total of Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Two candidates were on the list. The Ministry quickly sent the uploaded lists and cleared lists of schools to its District Education Offices so that meetings could be held with Principals in an attempt to clear any of the uploaded candidates that had not previously been cleared. The effort resulted in Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred and Five additional candidates being cleared leaving a total of Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Four uploaded candidates who could not be cleared. Subtracting this number of candidates that could not be cleared from Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand One Hundred and Seventy One [219,171] candidates uploaded leaves a total of One Hundred and Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven [163,997] candidates on the list submitted by the Ministry to WAEC. Let me just go through a table of summary of the situation nationally and by Districts to give you an indication of what we are dealing with. The CAS uploaded were Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Two [10,862] those that matched the cleared lists were Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Four [8,794] leaving us with an unmatched lists of Two Thousand and Sixty Four [2,064]. The verified and cleared candidates by the DDs were Two Hundred and Twenty One [221] and the list submitted to WAEC is Nine Thousand and Fifteen [9,015]. Bombali started up with Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Two [11,872] CAS uploaded matched, Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Nineteen [8,619], unmatched, Three

Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Three [3,253], verified and cleared at the second attempt, Four Hundred and Forty Five [445] submitted to WAEC, Nine Thousand and Sixty Four [9,054]. Bonthe, Two Thousand and Forty Two [2,042], CAS uploaded matched, One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Three [1,353], unmatched, Six Hundred and Eighty Nine [689], verified and cleared, Six Hundred and Eighty Nine [689]. So all of their candidates were cleared in the second attempt leaving a total number submitted to WAEC as Two Thousand and Forty Two [2,042]. Falaba, CAS uploaded, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighteen [1,718], matched, One Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Five [1,135], unmatched, Five Hundred and Eighty Three [583], verified and cleared in the second attempt, Ninety Three [93], submitted to WAEC, One Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Eight [1,228]. Guinea, CAS uploaded, Thirty Four [34], matched, Twenty Three [23], unmatched, Eleven [11], verified and cleared zero file to the WAEC Twenty Three [23]. Kailahun, Six Thousand and Five Hundred and Seven [6,507], CAS uploaded matched, Four Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Six [4,576], unmatched, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty One [1,931], verified and cleared second attempt, Four Hundred and Thirty Two [432], file to WAEC, Five Thousand and Eight [5,008]. Kambia, Five Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Seven [5,677], CAS uploaded matched, Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen [3,817], unmatched, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty [1,860], verified and cleared on the second attempt Zero file to WAEC, Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen [3,817]. Karene, CAS uploaded, Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Six [6,256], matched, Three Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Two [3,182], unmatched Three Thousand and Seventy Two [3,072], verified and cleared Five Hundred and Sixteen [516], file to WAEC, Three Thousand and Seven Hundred [3,700]. Kenema, Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy [24,570], CAS uploaded matched, Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Five [13,675], unmatched, Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Five [10,895], cleared at the second attempt, Twenty [20] and file to WAEC, Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Five [13,695]. Koinadugu, CAS uploaded Three Thousand Four Hundred and Seven [3,407], matched, Two Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Two [2,282], unmatched, One

Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Five [1,125], verified and cleared in the second attempt was One Thousand and Fifty Five [1,055], submitted to WAEC is Three Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Seven [3,337]. Kono, Six Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Nine [6,489], CAS uploaded matched Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Fourteen [5,714], unmatched Seven Hundred and Seventy Five [775], verified and cleared in the second attempt Four Hundred and Forty Nine [449], submitted to WAEC Six Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Three [6,163]. Moyamba, CAS uploaded One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six [1,896], matched One Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Seven [1,587], unmatched Three Hundred and Nine [309], cleared in the second attempt One Hundred and Forty Seven [147], submitted to WAEC One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Four. Port Loko CAS uploaded 12,533, matched 8,142, unmatched 4,390, verified and cleared in the second attempt 1,522, submitted to WAEC 9,665. Pujehun CAS uploaded 2,025, matched 1,620, unmatched 405, cleared at the second attempt 306, submitted to WAEC 1,926. Tonkolili, CAS uploaded 7,691, matched 5,953, unmatched 1,738, cleared at the second attempt 1,179, submitted to WAEC 7,132. Western Rural CAS uploaded 50,276, matched 27,805, unmatched 22,471, cleared at the second attempt 6,030, submitted to WAEC 33,835. Western Urban CAS uploaded 63,316, matched 46,212, unmatched, 19,104, cleared at the second attempt 6,401, submitted to WAEC 52,613.

Mr Speaker, on a national level the CAS uploaded for 2026 reads, 219,173 this is against the backdrop of a BECE three years ago which was 119,000. So effectively we have over 100,000 additional pupils. Now those that were matched, we have 144,492, those unmatched 74,679, those that were cleared at the second attempt are 19,505 and so those that have been submitted to WAEC reads as 163,997.

Mr Speaker, approximately \$25 is paid by the Government of Sierra Leone for every candidate that sits WASSCE removing the 55,174 candidates that could not be cleared, brings about a saving of approximately \$1,379,350 that is almost 1,000,400 Dollars. In 2024 a total of 25,407 candidates were absent, primarily because they had registered in more than one school, but could only sit in one and hence were recorded as absent in

the other school. In 2025 a total of 35,020 WASSCE candidates were also reported as absent, even if 2% of the absentees in 2024 and 2025 were genuine this still leaves a large amount of money wasted by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this cannot be allowed to continue particularly as there is a new global reality of dwindling donor support and scarce financial resources. The Basic and Senior Secondary School Education Act of 2023 states in Section 86 subsection 1, that the Ministry shall not entertain fraud or corrupt practice in any educational institutions. Subsection 2, fraud and other corrupt practices in any educational institutions are prohibited. In this regard seven Principals have been suspended without pay for two months for extorting money. 60 suspended without pay for 12 months for failing to upload CAS year one and two. However, actions by schools with regard to submitted candidates list for 2026 WASSCE suggests that these actions are not given the desired effect. Heads of schools and Proprietors are therefore going to be required to sign the following undertakings.

Mr Speaker, the Government of Sierra Leone is willing to pay for all genuine and eligible candidates, and we now require the school heads and their Proprietors or the Chairs of Courts to sign this undertaking on a particular date 2026 by the undersigned school leaders in view of sections 86 and 87 of The Basic Senior Secondary School Education Act of 2023, Section 15 of the Anti- Corruption amended Act of 2019 and the Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission's Code of Conduct of 2019 and other relevant legal provisions. Whereas The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education herein after referred to as the Ministry, has made effort to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration of the West African Senior School Certificate Examination [WASSCE] to maintain the integrity and safeguard public resources in the education system in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, it is acknowledged that for over two years now, the Ministry has experienced candidates absenteeism, figures of approximately 25,000 in 2024 and 35,000 in 2025 with an estimated cost of 25 Dollars per candidate, thereby placing undue burden on public resources, particularly when the Government is required to pay exam fees for all

candidates up front before the exams. Pursuant to subsection 1 and 2 of section 29 of the Basic Senior Secondary School Education Act of 2023 every WASSCE candidate must have passed the BECE with five credits being the minimum requirement for progression to Senior Secondary School. The Ministry has detected that 55,000 unapproved candidates, many of whom may not meet the BECE requirement were uploaded before the 2026 WASSCE and whereas within the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education takes a zero tolerance approach to duplicate registrations, whereby a candidate registers at multiple schools. The Ministry had previously detected 124,000 duplicate candidates and school leaders have been provided ample opportunity to clean up these discrepancies, and whereas candidates who are registered in more than one school and take the exams in another will be flagged for examination malpractice.

Now therefore, to promote compliance with the Law, regulations and policies guiding the conduct of WASSCE, the undersigned school leaders thereby made the following commitment and undertaking.

1. That absenteeism rates in their respective schools shall not exceed 2% threshold of enrolled candidates, bearing in mind that 2% absent threshold allows for natural absences such as illness, death or exceptional circumstances.
2. That all candidates registered in their respective schools for WASSCE shall meet the eligibility criteria as provided by Law, regulations and policy, and further undertake specifically that all candidates would have achieved at least five credits, including Maths or English in Basic Education Certificates Examination [BECE] within the last four or five years before taking WASSCE.
3. That we will take all necessary steps to ensure that duplicate registrations do not occur in our schools or under our leadership.

This undertaking is made unequivocally and irrevocable understanding reached with the Ministry in full knowledge of the fact that should they fail, that is, the school leaders fail to comply with any of the conditions outlined here in above, the school leaders shall be held accountable with consequences of non-compliance, being inclusive of the following:

1. Repayment of examination fees. The school leaders or any of them as the case may be will be required to repay the Government the examination fees that would have been paid for candidates whose registrations violate the conditions outlined in this undertaking.

2. Termination, the understanding that if any of the school leaders is found to have violated the above conditions, the violators employment as a school leader may be summarily terminated.
3. Investigation, in addition to any of the administrative measures or sanctions, shall be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission and prosecuted if necessary, pursuant of Section 7, Subsection 1 of the Anti- Corruption Amendment Act 2019.

We are therefore asking all of our school leaders to sign these undertakings. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is my statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. Honourable Members, all of those names that are submitted, that are uploaded should be paid for by Government because that is the policy that Government pays for all candidates for the very first time, if you are attempting your BECE, or if you are attempting your WASSCE. We have Principals or heads of schools who sometimes collect money from people who do not qualify to be paid for by Government and then put these names under their schools so that Government pays for them. Sometimes these heads of schools, they create fictitious names for Government to pay. There is some collusion among heads of schools and you even have officials of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. They create fictitious names and sometimes they get more candidates to register in different schools just to create more numbers so that when Government pays they are going to benefit. When Government says we are not going to pay for these number of candidates, they inspired people to come out and protest. You know, we had a very lengthy meeting relating to this matter, and I suggested Government is going to pay but you should come and make an undertaking. We want the public to know that Government is not going to refuse to pay for any candidate at all that is all the more reason why you are required to sign the undertaking because we do not want this to become a political question because we know how gullible the population is. Very soon, people would start shouting it is this Government that has created this kind of problem because our people do not know the underlying reasons. So we do not want this to become a political question. So heads of schools or owners of schools come and sign your undertaking, so that at the end of the day, if you are found wanting, then you get yourself

to blame. Thank you very much, Mr Minister, probably I want to hear from the Chairman. I want to hear from the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business but we just want the public to know that Government has not done anything wrong.

**HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think this is a very laudable venture that the Government has taken. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not say I am new in the education sector because even before coming to Parliament, I was working for an NGO that works in the Ministry of Education. They called it 'Education for Change'. So I have been following through the educational system. I want to thank the Government for coming in for our parents that are poor but vulnerable in terms of finances to help their children to sit to these public exams. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we Sierra Leoneans are true to ourselves, we should give kudos to this Government because this has never happened in former Governments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, subsequent Governments were allowing 'let my people go'. You would see older people who have sat to the WASSCE three times coming back to sit WASSCE without going through private WASSCE but now I believe Government has demonstrated value for money. We will not allow a system of 'let my people go'. We will not allow people who have sat to the WASSCE more than once to sit to the WASSCE through crooked means. I am talking to all of us Sierra Leoneans; let us ensure we stop politicizing education in this Country. Remember, if children that are eligible are being eliminated because you bring in people that are not eligible, these children are not just SLPP children and APC children. They are our children in Sierra Leone. So if they are being eliminated because other people are going behind the doors, paying money for their names to be in there, all of us should take it as our responsibility to put a stop to it. They are doing it so that at the end of the day, they use it as a political tool to go at the Government. We should not sit down and watch in as much as people want to use their own means of getting money. We should ensure that eligible children are not left out in sitting to these public exams. When I was appointed as the Chairman for Basic Education, I went to WAEC together with my Deputy Honourable, Umu Pyne and the Clerk for the

Committee. It is so pathetic to see such numbers that people are doing things to benefit themselves. If the Anti-Corruption Commission does not go after these people, we in the Ruling Bench will shout over that, they are encouraging corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they will upload candidates at the end of the day, when the exam is taking place, you will not see them. So could you imagine the amount of money Government is losing because of this absenteeism? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I really support this particular move, it should not be an option but compulsory for them to do this undertaking.

Mr Speaker, and Leaders in the House, I think this is also a very good activity for us as Members of Parliament because we have school Head Teachers or school Principals who are living in rural communities they might not be able to get this information on time. So I am pleading that the Committee undertakes a move together with the Ministry for us to do a sensitization before the deadline. We cannot do otherwise, so it is better now we undertake this as a strict activity together with the Ministry and have a regional sensitization with these heads of schools so that they will not say we do not know. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** One from the Opposition Bench, then one from the Ruling Bench and we will release the Minister.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been around this matter for the last five years, and today, I am not surprised that the Minister is presenting some other reasons for these kids not taking the exams. Mr Speaker, sincerity must be the benchmark, because we are dealing with kids whose future is in our hands as Leaders. Sincerity is important to build the future of this nation, and therefore, at time like this, we must not just look at the fact presented, but we must be able to think deep and ensure we are factual with what is laid before us. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, procedurally the Minister knows that before submitting to WAEC, the schools were meant to supply information of all BECE certified by the Ministry of Education before they are being uploaded. Is the Minister telling us today that the Ministry of Education is so inept that what is given to them that is how they are being sent to WAEC? Mr Speaker,

Honourable Members, before every year the Ministry of Education undertakes the school census every year, and Government is spending a huge amount of money in that. Is the Minister telling us that the school census is not effective enough to tell us how many kids are in schools? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask, are these kids taking BECE not asked to submit their NIN? If yes, how could somebody duplicate their NIN and BECE results? Something is not clear, and the Minister needs to give us an in-depth analysis of what actually the problem is. You are talking about a situation in which 119 kids took their exams and at uploading, you have over 260 kids just within three years. What has happened over the years? This same Government gave us an opportunity that only kids who have taken exams once should take a resit exam. Has that policy been reversed? What is happening to the kids who just took WASSCE and want to re-sit? Are they all forced to go to the private? If that is the policy, Mr Minister, come out clean, because we have schools. Mr Speaker, we have schools that are not approved, that are running as a school, but they are not in Government system, therefore they are not being catered for in the normal census, when it is time to take the exams, they have to come to schools that are approved. What is wrong if Government can approve those schools and stop this whole menace of saying the kids do not have the right papers, the challenges are more than what has been presented to us. Well, he is a noble man. We accept what he has presented. But the facts are more than that. Every year, the Ministry of Education will give us different reasons why these kids will not take the exams. Firstly, it also shows the Minister of Education is not monitoring the schools. How do you admit kids at JSS 1 and you tell us these Kids do not have BECE in their various schools? Why did not you go there as a Ministry to ask the schools to send you their admission list?

Mr Speaker, you go to certain schools they will tell you for admission to SSS 1, we are only taking kids with 15 to 17 aggregate. So at the end of the day, are these schools not sending returns to the Ministry of Education? Who is fooling who? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after that process when the kids go to SSS 2, there is a school census. On that level you should have known that the next WASSCE coming we are expecting 110,000 kids that should be submitted. At SSS 2, all verification of exams

results will have been done before going to SSS 3. Why wait for the kids to go to SSS 3, and you start creating commotion and trouble for the parents?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I think what the Minister presented to this House is very clear to me. There is no confusion as to what he presented to this House. He said in the first place that Government has been paying for pupils that do not even turn up. Initially it was 25,000 now it got to 35,000 and today we have 50,000 that is the question. Now, those issues you are raising no longer matter to me because what the Minister is saying now, all schools are free to bring their candidates. They are now free to come forward, bring your candidates, all the heads of schools but if at the end of the day you are found wanting, then you will be punished. That is the point. So forget about all of those issues you are raising now they do not matter anymore. Those issues do not matter anymore. The Minister has just said, in the face of this Parliament and for the citizens of Sierra Leone that every head of school is free to bring his or her candidates, but that head of school is going to sign an undertaking you cannot be allowing Government to pay money for pupils that do not turn up. You even heard the Minister talking about duplicate numbers, one particular candidate using his or her number to share to other candidates. These are the issues we should be talking about as a nation. We have to stop as a nation. There is something materially wrong with what is happening right now relating to BECE and WASSCE and we all know that. He has just said, everybody is free to come forward, but when you bring your candidates, you would sign an undertaking. If at the end of the day, you are found wanting, either for fraud or going against the policy then you would get yourself to blame. Those are the issues I want you to talk about. Forget about whether what happened last year or what happened in 2021 those issues will not matter anymore. Let us talk about what the Minister just presented to this House, please.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. You know I was tempted to go there because the Minister made reference to those years, and it was important that some of these facts were cleared. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, is it important for school leaders to make an undertaking? Yes, it is. Is it important to even

have them take more stringent measures than the ones they have been taking? Yes, it is important. But Mr Speaker, what is more important is that the Ministry has a database that will tell you who is qualified to take the exam even before the CAS information is sent. Because if I take WASSCE in 2020 it means in 2023, therefore, all those sat in that bracket should be made clear even before, and that is why I said all of them have an index number and they have a NIM number, so there is no need for duplication. We must build the system in as much as we are also trying to give them measures not to go that way, we must build a system. My emphasis, basically, Mr Speaker, I want you to understand it is not that there is no problem. What you see as problem now the Minister will tell you, I have told him long before that problem existed.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are right, but that is for another conversation.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I will not just support us having this agreement between schools and heads of schools, but Mr Speaker, I also want to say we must also ensure we stop the practice of those community schools who are not approved to run SSS. Mr Speaker, let the Minister go after them.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is all right. In fact, that was mentioned during the meeting, but that will be for another conversation. Thank you very much, I know you are 100% in support for the undertaking.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, having listened to the Minister I know this will be the last year that we will be faced with this challenge.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am doubly sure that is the very last year we are going to have this problem because nobody wants to be caught especially when the Anti-Corruption Commission is going to counter sign that undertaking.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, we just heard what the Minister said for instance in Kenema, they registered 23,000 plus and when candidates were presented, it was only 13,000 that was verified meaning 10,000 either mismatched or were not qualified to take the exams. So this is to the Principals please make sure, as the Minister has granted that

everybody that is qualified should be registered, if you know your candidate is not qualified, please do not register that candidate because if you register him or her, you will be taking an undertaking. The Minister has assured us today that he is going to open the portal and all qualified candidates will sit the WASSCE. Qualification means you should have passed the BECE. You should have gone through JSS 1 to SSS 3, completed the CAS and ready to be uploaded. To the Principals, if you know you do not have qualified pupils, please do not register them. This should not be a political fight. It is all over. You go to the South-East; we have Principals who are in the habit of registering pupils who are not qualified. You go to the North-West; you have Principals who are in the habit of registering people who are not qualified. And as the Opposition Chief Whip said, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, schools running SSS which are not recognized by the Ministry of Education, please Mr Minister, going forward, these schools should stop running SSS, these are the schools that bring problem at the end of the day. They run SSS when it is time for the exams, they do not have codes. And these are the schools that will be running out of schools that have codes so that these schools that have codes should register their pupils.

Mr Minister, make sure your District Officers close these schools who are not qualified to run SSS, they are in our Constituencies. Make sure only schools that are supposed to run SSS are the schools that should exist. So you have to empower your District Officers and your Inspector of Schools. Mr Minister, you have told us today that you are going to open the portal, and Principals should register qualified pupils. But again, let us make sure these Principals signed this document. They should sign together with Anti-Corruption Commission. If you bring in pupils who are not qualified at the end of the day when they go for the exams, and you have absenteeism of more than 2% these Principals should be held responsible because we are paying for them, and we are spending huge sums of money as a Government to pay for them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you will be amazed to see more than 30% of pupils who Government has paid for do not go to the exam rooms. And you will see some pupils whose names will appear at three different schools. Some pupils name will be in Kono,

they will be attending secondary school in Kono, and they will sit in Freetown. You will see pupils who attend schools at Goderich when it is time for the WASSCE, they would go to Wellington or Waterloo. You will see pupils who attend schools in Bo at the end of the day, when it comes to WASSCE, they go to Obama Secondary School to take the WASSCE. It is all over the place. Mr Speaker, so Mr Minister, please, let this be the final discussion on WASSCE saga. You are here and you would get the fullest support from us as a Parliament. Whatever proposals you bring, whatever suggestions you bring, I assure you, the Committee on Education and in generality, this Parliament will give you its fullest support so that you can be able to minimize the fraud rates. Please, Mr Minister, you would get our support. Of course, the Speaker gives you the fullest support for us on this side as Leaders, and the Leaders on the other side and the Paramount Chiefs, we are going to give you the fullest support. Make sure, this time round, only qualified people should be uploaded and allowed to take the exam. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Acting Leader of Government Business. Mr Minister, I will give you three minutes to just respond to some of the issues quickly.

**MR CONRAD O. SACKEY:** I just wanted to mention a couple of things that the Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara commented on which I just wanted to respond to. I think the issue here is the fact that all pupils who are eligible are going to be paid for by the Government. That is important. I think we are not going backwards. We are moving forward. So that is an important thing. I think the point that was also made was about, how do we get the numbers? I think what was missing in the analysis of the numbers is the fact that if you have duplicates, then it means that those numbers, if even you were to record by year it will be different. So I think there was a problem there with the mathematics, because if you do the maths, you will always know that you will have more if you have duplicates. But I think let me conclude Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, enough is enough. It is anticipated that with the signing of this undertaking and taking the stated action against those who violate it, sanity will be restored to the currently unacceptable situation. My Ministry had not wished for matters to reach this stage, but unscrupulous and corrupt individuals have made it necessary, and we are determined to

ensure that the WASSCE stops being the playground for these people. My goal, and our goal in all of these is to take school level education in Sierra Leone beyond the heights that it once achieved. I thank you all for listening so patiently.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Minister, you may leave.

## **V. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

### **THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**MR JIWOH EMMANUEL ABDULAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it Resolved this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday 27th January, 2026. The long term partnership Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Rainforest Builder Sierra Leone Limited, dated 24th September, 2025. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the challenges we faced from the impacts of climate change are profound and pervasive, and they disproportionately affect our local communities and ecosystems. Forests are not just natural resources, they are nature's technology for climate action, and sustainable management of these critical pieces of infrastructure is a necessity for survival of humanity.

In Sierra Leone, there is an undeniable bond between forests and our people. Our forests nurture our watersheds, protect biodiversity and sustain rural livelihoods, our coasts and mangroves feed our communities and protect them from the rising seas. Yet these systems, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, are under relentless pressure from deforestation, unsustainable land use and climate change. Every tree lost, every mangrove eroded, diminishes our resilience and undermines our shared future. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, last year, the Honourable Vice President launched protect Sierra Leone to expand protection to the 30% of our land and marine ecosystems and restore 30% of degraded forests and mangroves by 2030. Our local communities will be empowered to be equal partners in this enduring journey of conservation that respects the balance between economic development and environmental stewardship. Together, we will be translating ambition into tangible action on the ground. And that takes me to

this Agreement, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government has a template for these projects. These projects are about not only restoring the ecosystems, but bringing economic development to our rural communities across the Country. So let me just highlight some of the benefits of this particular project. We will be restoring degraded forest through reforestation and assisted natural regeneration across multiple Chiefdoms in the Country. The project will generate high integrity carbon credits that will be sold in international markets. It will enhance biodiversity protection and ecosystem resilience and support livelihoods and local economic development.

Mr Speaker, in all of these projects, you have multiple stakeholders, the Government represented by the Executive and the Legislature, the Company in this case Rainforest Builders, the local communities and land holding families who will be the primary beneficiaries of the economic development brought to this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there will be direct economic benefits, creation of jobs in these local communities, additional income for land owning families and the boosting of skills to increase the productivity of people in these communities, especially with climate smart agriculture that we are hoping will transform lives across the Country. Communities have been engaged, those that will be in the pilot phase of this project, but it will be an ongoing process. Mr Speaker, wherein communities will be engaged, and Stakeholders will be engaged and will be partners in these projects.

Mr Speaker, from a Government point of view, we will be looking at the environmental impact of these projects, the impact on the forest cover, the impact on the regeneration and restoration of our forests, which not only increase the forest cover, but also have an impact on the local climate, which will impact agriculture for our people across the Country. We will be looking at the direct impact on the local economies to ensure that these communities are getting the direct benefits that have been outlined in these projects, and we will be monitoring also the amount of financing that is coming into the Country to support the Project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, forests are not abstract ideas, they are the lungs, the lifeblood and the hope of our world. Protecting them is not optional. It is our responsibility

to our people, to our children and to generations yet unborn. This Government will continue to lead by example globally and together we can restore nature to secure a future where our forests fly and our planet endures. I thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it Resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House 27th January, 2026. Long term partnership Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Rainforest Builders Limited dated 24th September, 2025.

### ***QUESTION PROPOSED***

**HON. ALHAJI YUSUF MACKERY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to really thank the Minister for bringing this Agreement to the House which is not only important for our Colleagues but it is also important to honour our international treaties. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone is among Countries that are vulnerable to the adverse effect of climate change because of human activities ranging from land degradation, deforestation, water pollution and air pollution. So meaning all of us, including you, Mr Speaker, we are committing either otherwise one of those activities that is hindering climate change promotion like emission through cars or using thermal generators at home. So this particular Agreement Mr Speaker, is very timely towards our actions in fighting against climate change.

Mr Speaker, the Government is working to improve forest conservation and restoration, which includes activities like reforestation, forest management biodiversity and also regulated tree felling. Mr Speaker, the forest is very important, because the forest hosts over 60 to 70% of our biodiversity, including watershed. So it is very critical for us as Sierra Leoneans to make sure we encourage partners that are involved in activities that mitigate against the adverse effect of climate change. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of this, the Government is looking for partners that can also work in this direction to reduce climate change actions which also create adverse impact on the people. So because of this, Rainforest Builder is a tropical forest restoration Company that operates across West Africa, including Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ghana. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company is well grounded in forest restoration using indigenous species.

So it is very critical for us to know because most of those depleted areas are now causing problems for ourselves, making us more vulnerable for climate change actions, as enshrined in the SDG Goal 13, which requires urgent action towards climate change mitigation and Sierra Leone is also a signatory to that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on Honourable Member. Let me inform Members of the Parliamentary Commission, there is a meeting immediately after this sitting.

**HON. ALHAJI YUSUF MACKERY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company is credible on what they have and what they are intended to do. This Agreement has two phases, phase one which started from 2023 to 2031 and phase two from 2032 upwards. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this project intends to invest for phase one \$29 Million and also entered into agreement with community stakeholders, community members, land owners, families and also the central Government represented by the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company is intending also to do plantation with fast growing species. Mr Speaker, Sierra Leone has eight types of forest. We have the mango forest, the natural growth forest like the Gola Rain Forest, the secondary forest, the Swamp forest, Woodland forest, tree crops and plantation forest. So today we are talking about plantation forest. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this project is intending to plant trees at a minimum of 1000 hectares per year and 1000 hectares will give you a minimum of 1 million trees per year. And for each operation, they will also employ not less than 1000 people mostly women. There was a time we visited one of the operation sites in Moyamba District wherein we saw so many women. I would have loved to see Members of the House like Honourable Nenneh Lebbie because there were so many women we saw attached to this project in Moyamba Junction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company has a fair share. This is the only Company that is going to share 30% to the beneficiary communities. This is very laudable. Mr Speaker, this project would give the communities 30% of what they generate, and also they have something they called incremental shares. This will happen when there is an increase in carbon credits, \$60 increment they will also increase 10% to shares that are meant for the community, when it goes up to 90% then the community will also get

30% when there is an increase of carbon credit at international market. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company also values our local Laws. They are only taking 30% of community land because you and I know there are some Companies Mr Speaker, they acquire all the lands and there is no other land for the community to even get wood. But this Company only acquire 30% of community land even to encourage agricultural activities and other livelihood activities that can also make sure the community enjoys the benefits. Another thing here Mr Speaker, this Company also encourages community members to do other skills when we visited the Company. Mr Speaker, it will be surprising to know that 80% of management positions are Sierra Leoneans so meaning they also respect the local content policy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the intention of this Company is very clear with the following objectives. Firstly, they want to restore degraded areas in those communities, and also across Sierra Leone. Secondly, they want to also make sure they guarantee high integrity of carbon credit. This carbon credit, Mr Speaker, you will soon know because it values more than diamond. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Company is also to enhance biodiversity protection. Our ecosystem is gone because of forest degradation, because people do not think for the future and if we fail to take action now Mr Speaker, generations yet unborn will suffer. So this is the time for us to take action on our natural resources. Mr Speaker, this project will also provide and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this project will also bring in foreign exchange which is also good for our economy. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of time, I want to kindly ask Honourable Members for us to ratify this Agreement. Thank you very much.

**HON. P.C ALAMEEN KANNEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this very important issue. Of course, the Chairman's explanation is so explicit that you actually do not need somebody to help you to understand it. I want to start by thanking the Minister of Environment whose dedication to motherland is exemplary and his commitment to ensuring that our environment is safe is second to none. I as a traditional Leader, I have worked with the Minister for many

years now, and I know exactly how dedicated he is to the task that he has been given. Under his watch we have seen that a lot of initiatives have cropped up, including the protection of Sierra Leone initiative, wherein 30% of the land of this Country has to be reforested, and it aims at combating deforestation and degradation, biodiversity loss and overfishing. So that means we are not just talking about the land mass, we are also talking about water bodies. He has also ensured, for the edification of those who are not aware, that we now have the first World Heritage Site in Sierra Leone, the Gola-Tiwai Complex, which has put us on the United Nations map, and it has become a place that has huge potentials as a tourist destination. Of course, there are a plethora of other achievements he has made, which I cannot enumerate here today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are a very vulnerable Country when it comes to climate; we have a very fragile ecosystem. Our land mass is small, and it seems as if we are going towards pessimistic prediction, because our population is growing exponentially, and it seems not to be catching up with the resources that we have. So that means we need Agreement like this to help us ameliorate some of the negative impacts of climate change, whether anybody believes it or not, we are going towards an iceberg, and if we are not careful, as a planet and as a Country, we will hit the iceberg before we know the consequences of hitting an iceberg and that is why it is essential that we plan. It is essential that we take a multi-disciplinary and multi sectoral approach to ensure that we safeguard our environment. Of course, it behoves all of us in this House, because when we talk about the Government essentially all of us know we are talking about us collectively, the Executive, the Judiciary and us to ensure that we protect what we have because all of what we are talking about including the Companies we are talking about, our schools, our businesses cannot survive in a vacuum. They survive; if at all our environment is safe.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want us to observe things that are going on around us as we sit here. We have the Western Area Peninsula National Park, and we know exactly what is happening there. We are sleepwalking our way towards a situation where the future becomes untenable and we should all open our eyes wide. The President, I

know him we have met on several occasions, and he is somebody that is very passionate about the environment. But if you look at the Western Area National Park, you could see that in spite of the efforts Government is making, some of us who are in highly placed positions are still taking environmental issues with a pinch of salt. Houses are mushrooming in the place, charcoal burning is rife, mining, and mining is going on there in most of these places, and we seem to be turning a blind eye.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we will be doing this nation a disservice if we decide that we are going to sit by and see things going the way they should not, and that is why I am saying that there is a lot of carbon financing all over the world but everybody that comes here including our partners are looking at this forest the Western Area Peninsula as an example of our commitment to ensuring that we are serious about protecting our forest. If it becomes an eyesore, I think it will be very difficult for us to attract carbon financing, and that is why we should take it with utmost seriousness as a House that is catering for the needs, not only for the present but for the future of this nation. Of course, it is also important that we look at this Agreement not only within what is presented to us, but as I know the Minister, he is somebody who is very meticulous about what he does. I have often reminded him that the weakest link of our collaborative efforts to protect our environment is the community. It is not clearly defined. We just say communities and they are not resourced and there are a lot of things, the paraphernalia that is necessary to ensure that we the foot soldiers in the communities are able to maximize the potentials that we have. We do not have those tools. And that is why an Agreement of this nature should clearly look at the stakeholders to know exactly what their responsibilities are, and you give them those responsibilities to ensure that they have the requisite resources.

Mr Speaker, the second thing I would like to bring to his notice is that if we are talking about forest reclamation, let us also not be oblivious of the fact that there is always a positive and negative impacts of preserving forest on local communities. So let us do a social impact assessment to ensure that we are able to ameliorate those negative effects of the forest on communities and amplify the positive effects. Of course, another thing I

would like to bring our attention to is that we are talking about reclaiming lands for reforestation, bringing back lost endemic flora and fauna. But in spite of all of what we are talking about, if we look at the rate at which logging is being perpetrated, we will just be wasting our time because you plant 1000 trees, then in a couple of years, you see that they have got 2000 trees to be exported. It is like our efforts will be going in vain if we do not monitor how timber logging is happening and what the benefits are to the people. Rainforest Builders have proven that they could work collaboratively with different sectors, including research institutions like the Njala University, and other MDAs. So I think this is a milestone. It is important that we use this as a stepping stone to greater successes in the future. And therefore I also add my voice to this Honourable House to ratify this Agreement without any more ado. Thank you very much.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is a special day for the people of Wunde Chiefdom and other Chiefdoms where this intervention is taking place. On that note Mr Speaker, I want to convey a special thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and also the investors, Rain Forest Builder Limited Sierra Leone. I sympathized with my Colleagues from the Western Area whereby they complained that they were not involved in their activities in their own area. I want to humbly share with this House that on several occasions I have been invited by the Rainforest Builder to be part of their program. And on three occasions, I endeavoured to be in their two town hall meetings, and when they went to a consultative meeting at community level, I was part of it, and I want to share with this House also that our family land, which I am one of the principal leaders of the land was released to Rainforest Builders to be their headquarters at Bayama where ceremonies were done in order for them to have a sound footing in their investment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Paramount Chief was talking about the charcoal burning. It was gradually taking over their place, even though extensive engagements were done with the member of the Council, the Councillor there and the Paramount Chief. But sometimes when people are desperate, they are really desperate

for money, there is nothing you could do to stop them. But with the intervention of Rainforest Builder, with the multitude of people I saw when I visited them, I felt very good in my heart, and I hope that this will continue from strength to strength, so that the employment facilities that have been unfolded in that part of the Country will be shared equitably. Because the reason being is that some people have volunteered on behalf of their families, and they have given their land for them to do investment and this is not a short term investment; it is a very long time investment.

Mr Speaker, I have so many displaced people in my Chieftdom especially those who ran away from Sahn Malen they have no place to live. They have been crowded right in that place. But unlike this venture, it is only 30% of the land that they will take to cultivate, unlike other areas, they have taken a greater percentage of the land and for all these periods we have met with them, I have been craving to have this document. I have been invited to their office, but I agreed not go there because I want to have a term of reference. As you know, my attitude in this House, I am very cautious of what I participate in and what I do not participate in because of my background. You know, I did not go to under 'mango Tree University', but I went to United Kingdom, so I have to be very careful what I participate in.

Mr Speaker, I want to talk about the employment of the community members and the economic benefits of the carbon credits that we want to generate in that part of the Country. This will be credence to Wunde Chieftdom and other Chieftdoms like Tikonko and so the people of that part of the Country, if they reference me, I have a document now to share with them. Like I said Mr Speaker on page 23 bullet number 2, they talked about the exchange control investment promotion. With your leave Mr Speaker, it says that all inflows and outflows of foreign exchange shall be done through the banking system in compliance with the above Act. And maybe, if I was to be specific, I will say through the Central Bank because we have had difficulties with the other banks. You know, fraudulence activities have taken place but in our Central Bank, we have never heard such thing about any fraudulence activity. Couple of years ago; I had an intervention with an institution, they never issued out cheque and they were only carrying money in 'Ghana

must go bag', meaning I became fictitious about the activities because I did not see them dealing with bank but in this particular Agreement, it is clearly stated especially on page 23 that the inflows and outflows have to go through the banking system.

On that note Mr Speaker, today I have a tangible document, and Mr Minister, I want to say thank you, and also to Rainforest Builders that are here in this building. From time to time, we will call upon you, and especially the promise you have made in this document for employment for our people. We are people's advocates. We advocate for them. We are there always to share their views and we are easily accessible because the people do not pay to see us. Since I came back, I have only one telephone number, 076626735, I used it on WhatsApp. When I want to go to bed, I put it on flight mode. But minus that, I am always with my people, so we are here to represent them. Thank you very much.

**HON. AARON ARUNA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have an opportunity as representatives of our people to take climate actions very seriously. It goes without saying that our Constituents that we are representing here are largely involved or engaged in carbon emissions, whether through charcoal burning or firewood cutting or selling of trees. As this maybe which are all actions that have negatively affected our environment, or even us that think that we do not use charcoal, but we are all car owners, we are also emitting carbon dioxide which is also affecting our greenhouse gases. Mr Speaker, we have an opportunity to take a concrete climate action as a House and as a Parliament. We will not be planting the trees, but what we can do as a House is to make sure that we support Legislations that gear towards promoting climate actions that strength our climate conditions.

Mr Speaker, having a company that intends to plant a million trees in a year, it shows that in seven years, they would have planted at least a tree for every Sierra Leonean, which for sure is something very good, we have to commend them Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker more particularly, I want to commend the Minister and when I speak Mr Speaker, I am speaking from a practical point of view. I am also providing Parliamentary representation on related investments. But I think the content of this Agreement tells you that the Minister acted in good fate, and he prioritized the interest of Sierra Leone above

investors. That is why I am happy when the Chairman of the Committee, of course, he proved that he actually read the Agreement. He was very thorough and it should be a call for other Chairmen that anytime a Bill or an Agreement is brought here you should be on top of it and that is exactly what the Chairman has showed. He took control of the Agreement.

Mr Speaker, when you look at Clauses 2 to 9 it is a novelty. It has never been in any of the Agreements, wherein we have 30% of proceeds. They also have very favourable conditions which I want to commend the Ministry and I want to say that this Agreement should be as a textbook example for other investment. Possibly you can even call for review of existing Agreements like Marrow and other Companies because this is good. Marrow has 5% share of profits and very soon, we will be going to review that Agreement for which I will engage you so that we have an Agreement that actually favours the interest of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, almost every Agreement we have ratified here will always carry a Clause. They will tell you that we are investing \$20 Million in five years, and \$30 Million in five years. It is based on this particular investment portfolio that they intend to invest that Government is given the tax breaks or tax waivers or tax holidays to these investors for the Ministry to actually monitor these investors as to whether within the five years given to us or containing in the Agreement whether within those five years they have actually invested the amount stated in the Agreement upon which waivers have been granted.

Mr Speaker, I think one of the actions as a Parliament we have to take beyond is oversight. We have the Transparent and Accountability Committee which could be an effective Committee in ensuring that this Clause, or some of these Clauses are actually followed through up in this Parliament. In other Parliaments they have Committee on Implementation. When you go to Ghana, they have Committee on Assurances. In other words, they follow up on any detailed Parliament agreed on. So if you are having \$29 Million which the Company is proposing to invest, and this is based on this investment that the Government is proposing to give all of these breaks, whether in GST, whether in

withholding taxes or other forms of taxes. Mr Speaker, it is but fitting that Parliament, or any other accountability institution follows through as to how this \$29 Million is actually impacting the growth of the Company.

Mr Speaker, most of the jobs these Companies are creating like 100 local community employees' salaries; it will even be lesser than just a single expatriate that is working for those Companies. So we want to propose here that we should give jobs that improve the lives of our people. You have jobs that Sierra Leoneans are capable of doing. When you go to these Companies, you see foreigners doing those jobs for which we have Sierra Leoneans who are even more capable to perform than foreigners and even when they are of the same level. When you have an expatriate manager, Mr Speaker, when you look at the discrepancies in their salaries, it is so huge, sometimes they can even double or even triple the salaries of a local employee of the same level. I am sure that is an injustice to Sierra Leoneans. We must look into that to ensure that priority should be given to Sierra Leoneans as stipulated in the Local Content Act; the priority should be first the locals. That is why, possibly we might also be considering the amendment of that Act, because local is key. Every project will have people that are mostly affected, like for this project, people in Moyamba District and Bo will be more affected. People that are adversely affected by the project should be first considered before we can consider people outside the Districts. So I want to call on the Ministry of Labour or maybe the Committee on Labour to look into this, to ensure that jobs that Sierra Leoneans can better perform are given to them and when those jobs are given to them, let them be fairly paid.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, contract management is another thing. You could pay your surface rent. You could pay your 30% but we want to see that local content is implemented not just selectively. Mr Speaker, it does not only mean that local content only talks about employment, but even in terms of awards of contract, that is how you build communities. We want to see that when an investment enters in a particular community, the impact should be measured by how much life is transformed after five to seven years. Mr Speaker, by the businesses, by the amount of investors you build, if you can even train youth groups to form construction Company and start to give them some

contract jobs, by the time they do it one to two times, they will become credible and competent Contractors to do every work you may want them to do. By so doing the money they are paying them will not go out of Sierra Leone but it will just evolve within the most affected communities. Mr Speaker, even when they want to do sand mining instead of them giving these things to locals like the Paramount Chiefs or MPs, or maybe youth leaders or Mammy Queens, they bring people from Freetown who are not even close to sand mining. How can you bring somebody from Grafton who will be buying sand in Tiama, then you are operating in Tiama? Why not use a contractor in Tiama where sand can be easily access that is what we want to see when we talk about contract management.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the carbon credit, I want to note this for the Minister, when you look at the competition of carbon credits, mostly it is not only considering the trees that are being planted by these Companies. You and I know that we have community forest. We have our secret societies that are seated in our communities and all of these forests, even the trees the people are planting in their verandas or in their compound of their houses Mr Speaker, these are all emitting credit. So when once we come to competition of carbon credit, sometimes it is better that we also consider the component of credit that constitutes community forest, that constitutes those secret societies or those ceremonial bushes or forests that have been conserved by the community, so that we can ensure that the community has a fair share of the sales of carbon credit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said, we are a responsible Opposition, and all of us when there is an effect of climate, it does not choose who you are, whether you are APC or SLPP or PDP, it will affect every Sierra Leonean. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is against this backdrop and on behalf of my Leader, I want to holistically support this Agreement, because we believe that all of us owe it to nature. We owe it to our next generation to preserve this environment because if we do not Mr Speaker, we risk losing the future of this Country. And so therefore we have the responsibility to make sure that whatever that comes here that gears towards promoting our environment, Mr Speaker,

if you want that to be today, we on this side will say we want it now because we believe Government is continuity. We brought Marrow Investment and other investments but today Marrow Investment is planting 1.5 Million trees a year, so if another Company is planting a Million trees and on an average we plant around 2.5 Million trees a year. That is a concrete climate action we are taking as a nation which you must all embrace as Sierra Leoneans.

On that note, Mr Speaker, I want to call on Colleagues to quickly and speedily ratify this Agreement with alacrity. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Acting Leader of Government Business, please do not address us as Fidel Castro used to address the UN General Assembly for seven to eight hours. And on one particular day he came up and said, today I am going to be very brief and he did five hours. So please because immediately after this one, we are standing down the House to go and have a brief meeting and come back or maybe to adjourn. So please you can summarize.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for bringing this Agreement to this House. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement will be covering Bo and Kenema Districts. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a good Agreement as being said by the Opposition when Government Ministers bring Agreement and Opposition Party supports it, I think we are obliged as a Ruling Party to just say thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to concentrate myself in the area of tax exemptions. I have advised the Minister and other Ministers to carefully look at the tax exemptions that they give to Contractors. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are in need of resources as projects are being delayed because NRA is not able to raise much and when we see Agreement of this nature is coming to this House with a lot of exemptions it is worrying Mr Speaker but for the purposes of this Agreement we will let it go. Mr Speaker, if you look at the waivers that have been granted we hope that the Committee that is responsible for Environment and the Committee responsible for Finance will have to do due diligence as the project advances. Make sure these provisions are

respected. Do not use these provisions to do your own personal business because we have passed so many Agreements in this House which we have granted so many exemptions and institutions used those exemptions for their own benefits. They now import business that they use on commercial bases rather than doing it for the projects that the duty was granted for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the entirety of the Agreement, I noticed money that will be accruing is going to be deposited in Chiefdom Development Fund, but it has not stated who manages it. Mr Speaker, I was faced with a situation in my Constituency where monies that were deposited in the Chiefdom Development Fund as a major representative and the Councillors who are principal representatives, but some of these monies are being utilized without them even knowing. So today we are also seeing money that will be deposited into this fund and there is no straight or clear cut person that will be using them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy that we are restoring degraded forest. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they should not just be for the forest let us go to our mining sites. Mr Speaker, I am coming from Baoma Chiefdom a lot of mining sites have been degraded and there is no means of rehabilitation. The people go there, they do their mining, they leave the holes, and it is unbearable that at the end of the day these lands after mining are not usable because there is no proceeds and there are no policies to rehabilitate these lands.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the Honourable said in this Parliament we ratified the Marrow contract. Today, Marrow is planting 1.5 Million trees, and they are even manufacturing plywood. But Mr Speaker the irony is that we have plywood being manufactured today but the price is skyrocketed rather than the price going down. It is the other way around. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, even for iron rod today iron rod is being manufactured here and instead of the prices now being reduced, we are noticing there is an increase in price. Mr Speaker, I will encourage the Committees responsible to make sure that when once this Agreement is passed and Rainforest

Builders starts manufacturing, we would enjoy the benefit in the reduction in the price of plywood and other woods they will be producing.

Mr Speaker, let me particularly talk to the Committee of Trade Chairperson. We have passed in this Parliament, a lot of Agreements and especially for the iron rod, today if you notice; we used to buy iron rod at 12,000 Leones or 13,000 Leones per ton but today it is 18000 Leones per tons. But our argument was the ones that were bringing were substandard and expensive. If you are now manufacturing it, and we have given you a lot of tax waivers, you should now manufacture the exact specification with a reduced cost instead of increasing the cost. That is why we are craving so that we have our own local industry, but our local industry should be reducing cost rather than increasing cost.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on Acting Leader of Government Business and Madam Chair that is for you. I want you to be reaching out to these industries. Reach out to them. Bring them, if possible, take your Committee to them, ask relevant questions and tell them to reduce these prices, please. Thank you very much.

**HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY:** I will bring them because the last oversight we went there, but this time, we will invite them here.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, it is not just visiting them or bringing them but make sure they are together. It is not just the Committee on Trade even the Committee on Transparency. We should be having joint Committee meetings here. Mr Speaker, the Committee Chairpersons who have held these positions for quite some time now has got a very good relationship with these people that they cannot even do their oversight. So let us have joint Committee meetings now for instance on this case, we have Committee on Trade and Committee on Transparency to look into this matter.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is that true that you are struggling because of the friendship?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** I will never struggle you know me now. Mr Speaker, we want at the end of the day, when we have an increased in the production of plywood because with Rainforests and with Marrow, Rainforest will be planting 1 Million trees and Marrow

is already planting 1.5 Million trees so 2.5 Million trees being grown here and all of them will be producing plywood. So Madam Chair, in the next one year plus, we want to see a massive reduction in Plywood in Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** At this stage I recognize the presence of Honourable Kushan Sesay who came to visit.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not just about plywood and iron rod. Mr Speaker, I was not even given the opportunity to have a say when we were doing the JOLAKS Agreement.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me again recognize the presence of Honourable Thollie I know he is one of us.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, for the JOLAKS Agreement also they are producing a lot of other stuffs that should be imported. Please, Madam Chair make sure you work with the Committee so that they reduce their prices because we have given them a lot of tax waivers.

**THE SPEAKER:** Acting Leader of Government Business, I will have to stop you after one minute because you know we have summoned the IG to be here on something very important and he is being here ever since so please summarize.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** With that being said Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join the Chairman who has read this Agreement and has convinced us to pass this Agreement into Law. I want to thank the Acting Opposition Leader who has contributed based on his experience with Marrow and all the Members of this House who had wanted to contribute. I want to encourage the Committee responsible for Environment, please, we are passing this into Law, make sure you do due diligence, make sure you follow up with the Minister, make sure you follow up with the institution and report back to us. We will be asking necessary questions. Mr Speaker, I want to remind you that the Committee on Appointments is not just Committee on Appointments but it is Committee on Appointments and Public Service. So they call in public officers, the Ministers and other public officers to account to us on. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** So Mr Minister, one minute.

**MR JIWOH EMMANUEL ABDULAI:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 27th January, 2026. Long term partnership Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Rainforest Builder Sierra Leone Limited, dated 24th September, 2025.

***[Question Proposed]***

**[Government Motion by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has been ratified]**

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Minister, you may leave. Acting Leader of Government Business, please move for the amendment of the Order Paper for the deletion of the remaining items.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that Item C on the Order Paper be expunged by the Minister of Transport.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]**

**[Motion for amending of the Order Paper by the Acting Leader of Government Business has been carried]**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

1. I am directed by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission to notify all Commissioners that the Commission will hold its first meeting for 2026 on Tuesday, 10th February, at 2 P.M. in Speaker's Conference Room, please endeavour to attend and on time. Sign, Nancy Jalloh, Director PCSO.

2. All SLPP Members of Parliament are invited to a very important meeting immediately after sitting in Committee Room One. Sign, Honourable Matthew S. Nyuma, Leader of Government Business.

3. Members of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation are invited to an urgent meeting on Tuesday 10th, February 2026, in Committee Room 1 immediately after the sitting of Parliament to discuss the sessional work plan of the Committee and other pertinent issues. Sign, Honourable Mohamed Bangura, Chairperson.

4. The Chairman of Committee on Labour, Employment and Social Security is inviting all Members to a very important meeting immediately after sitting at Committee Room 1. Sign, Esther M. Bangura, Clerk.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**THE HOUSE WAS ADJOURNED TO TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**AT 10:00 A.M.**

**THE HOUSE ROSE AT 2:05 P.M.**