

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

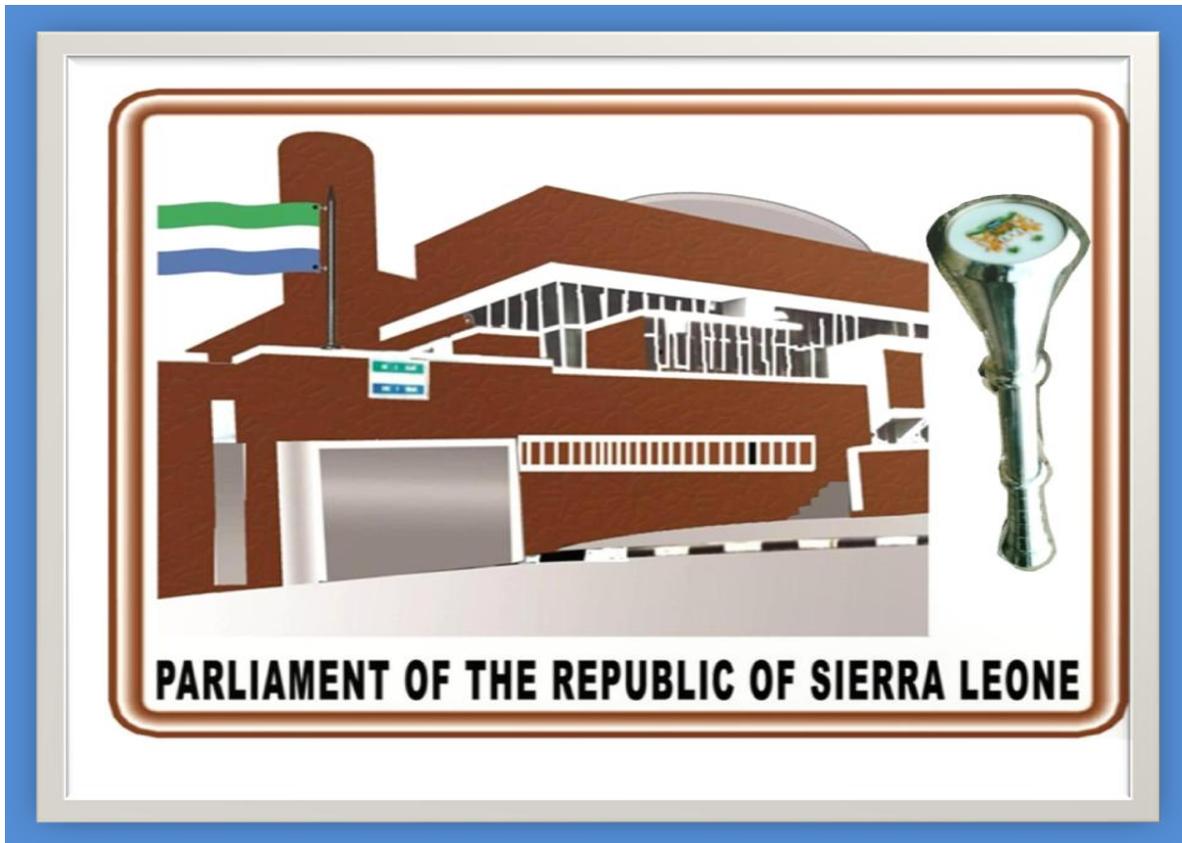
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2026

SESSION – 2025/2026



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held on Tuesday, 24th February, 2026

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GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

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[B] SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SA/SP. 4/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES DETERMINING SLOT ALLOCATION AT AIRPORTS IN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.

[C] SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP.5/02/12 RELATING TO THE COMMON RULES ON AIR CARRIER LIABILITY IN CASE OF ACCIDENT IN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.

[D] SUPPLEMENTARY ACT A/SP.10/02/12 RELATING TO COMMON RULES ON THE APPROVAL OF AIR CARRIERS OF ECOWAS MEMBER STATES.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2026

1. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Ms Yeama Mamie Musa, read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:05 in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 17th February 2026. As usual, we shall skip Pages 1-4 and start with Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? If there is no correction or amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 17th February 2026 as presented?

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHAJI CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 17th February, 2026 has been adopted as presented]

THE SPEAKER: At this stage, let me briefly invite the Leader of Government Business, the Minister of Finance, Clerk of Parliament and the Minister of Transport and Aviation to my Chamber. I also want to recognise the presence of some eminent personalities we have in our midst this morning. I would start with Ambassador Alhaji Fanday Turay, Minister of Transport and Aviation; Dr Edward Taylor, District Chairman for the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party; Eddie Hindolo Hanson, Deputy Mayor in Borough of Camden London, the first man from the Africa heritage who has become the Deputy Mayor in Borough of Camden in London; Mr Kenei Lamin, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Chief Minister of Sierra Leone. You are all heartily welcome to the House of Parliament.

III. AMENDMENT OF ORDER PAPER

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to amend the Order Paper of the House with regard to the Laying of Papers by the Minister of Finance to incorporate additional nine Agreements to make it ten Agreements as mentioned below:

[i] Public-Private Partnership agreement for the design and construction of the Lungi Hotel, congress center and Presidential villas and the operational management of the Lungi hotel by and between the government of Sierra Leone and FB group Uluslararasi Yatirim Ve Dis Ticareth Anonym Sirketi dated 16th February, 2026

[ii] Financing Agreement [additional financing for harmonising and improving statistic in West Africa project] between the Republic of Sierra Leone and International Development Association.

[iii] Loan Agreement for Financing the Republic of Sierra Leone's Contribution in the Capital Increment of the Africa Solidarity Fund between Republic of Sierra Leone and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

[iv] Financing Agreement [Sierra Leone Water Security and Wash Access Improvement Project as Phase 1 of a Multi-phase Programmatic Approach Programme] between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association.

[v] Grant Agreement amongst the Republic of Sierra Leone and Africa Development Bank and Africa Development Fund [as Executing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility] [Multinational: Scaling-up Investment and Technology Transfer to Facility Capacity Strengthening and Technical assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in Africa LDCs [AFLDC-2]

[vi] Facility Agreement Dated 27th November, 2025 between the Republic of Sierra Leone as borrower with the Arab bank for Economic Development in Africa [BADEA] as lender-Financing the Import of Rice and Food Product of Arab, Africa, or International Origin to the Benefit of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

[vii] Least Development Country Fund Grant Agreement [Third Additional for the West Africa Food System Resilient Programme [FSRP] Phase 2 Project] between the Republic of Sierra Leone and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Countries Fund.

[viii] Programmed Agreement amongst Secretariat of the Mano River Union and the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone and Africa Development Bank and Africa Development Fund [Regional Component of Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programmed –Phase IV.

[ix] Loan Agreement Construction of Bauya-Benducha Road Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Arab Bank for economic Development in Africa dated 15th January, 2026.

[x] Livestock and Livelihoods Development Programme [LLDP] Loan Agreement between the OPEC fund for International Development and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

I so move that Item IV of the Order Paper be amended.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Order Paper has been amended]

IV. PAPERS LAID

A. MINISTER OF FINANCE

MR SHEKU FANTAMADI BANGURA *[Minister of Finance]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following Papers:

[i] Public-Private Partnership agreement for the design and construction of the Lungi Hotel, congress center and Presidential villas and the operational management of the Lungi hotel by and between the government of Sierra Leone and FB group Uluslararasi Yatirim Ve Dis Ticareth Anonym Sirketi dated 16th February, 2026

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[x] Livestock and Livelihoods Development Programme [LLDP] Loan Agreement between the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

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

V. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR REX BHONAPHA [*Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 16th December 2025:

[a] Supplementary Act A/SP 3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on liberalisation of Market Access to Ground Handling Services in Airports of ECOWAS Member States.

[b] Supplementary Act A/SA/SP. 4/02/12 relating to the Common Rules Determining Slot Allocation at Airports in ECOWAS Member States.

[c] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Air Carrier Liability in Case of Accident in ECOWAS Member States.

[d] Supplementary Act A/SP.10/02/12 relating to Common Rules on the Approval of Air Carriers of ECOWAS Member States.

[e] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to Common Rules on Tariffs Applicable to Passengers, Freight and Mail for Air Transport within, from and to ECOWAS Members' States.

[f] Supplementary Act A/SP.3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Compensation to Passengers in the event of Denied Boarding, Cancellation or Major delay of Flight in ECOWAS Members' States.

[g] Supplementary Act A/SP.8/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on the Conditions of Access to Air Transport Markets in ECOWAS Member States.

[h] 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.

[i] Supplementary Act A/SP.11/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Aviation Security in ECOWAS Member States.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Economic Community of West Africa States [ECOWAS] Authority of Heads of States and Governments of their 65th Ordinary Sessions submitted on 7th July, 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria, understood the need to make air transport more accessible and affordable by reducing the cost of air travel to support the regional integration agenda, specifically in Paragraph 17 of the Communiqué states:

“The Authority raises concerns about the high cost of air travels in the West Africa region, which is seen as one of the highest on the continent, and its attendance impact on the development of tourism, trade and free movement of persons and services. The authority directs air transport Ministers and Civil Aviation Authorities of member states to work with ECOWAS Commission, to implement the ECOWAS common policy on aviation charges, taxes and fees with the aim of using air transport to expedite economic development and deepen the regional integration process.” In response to the call of the Authority of States and Governments, ECOWAS Commission convened the meeting of the Director General and Senior Officials of Civil Aviation Authorities of member states from the 5th to 7th November, 2024.

Also, to recommend concrete measures for the effective implementation of the ECOWAS regional common policy on aviation taxes, charges and fees for the consideration of the meeting of Transport Ministers on the 8th November, 2024 in Norman, Togo. The meeting also considered the report of the ECOWAS experts meeting on the draft harmonised regional regulation to implement the ECOWAS Supplementary Act. The uncommon rules for aviation security of ECOWAS member states was adopted by ECOWAS authorities of heads of state and governments on 17th February 2012. The main objectives of the experts meeting were:

- ❖ to recall the current economic regulations and related safety and security status and challenges of the air transport industry in the ECOWAS region.
- ❖ to sensitise member states, airlines and stakeholders from ECOWAS common policy on aeronautical charges and taxes, and the regional guiding aviation security regulation.
- ❖ to endorse the regional strategy for the gradual elimination of nuisance taxes, charges and fees on air transport services and tickets; and

- ❖ to endorse the draft aviation security regulation and the implementation framework for aviation security recently validated by the expert of member states.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after a comprehensive deliberation by the experts, it was agreed that ECOWAS Commission should:

- a. ensure the timely adoption of regional strategy on the gradual reduction of taxes and charges, the regional harmonised regulation on aviation security and the ECOWAS Supplementary Act relating to the common policy on aviation charges and fees;
- b. collaborate with the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union, the ECOWAS Bank for Investments and Development, the African Development Bank, the West Africa Bank; to assist member states, secure concessionary grants financing for the improvement of and maintenance of aviation infrastructure; and
- c. facilitate facilities and services. This could be incentive mechanism to encourage member states who comply with the new harmonised strategy to reduce the cost of air transport.

Following the deliberations by the experts meeting, various recommendations were proffered, which were agreed with by ECOWAS Ministers responsible for aviation. Accordingly, Member States are required to:

- a. ensure the timely adoption of the regional strategy on a gradual reduction of taxes, the regional harmonised regulation and aviation security and the Economic Community of West Africa States [ECOWAS] Supplementary Act related to the common policy on OKEA taxes, charges and fees;
- b. work towards reducing the cost of aviation fuel and eliminating customs duties and lease aircraft acquisition and spare parts importation as a means of ensuring a holistic implementation of the strategy; and
- c. follow up on the implementation of the need aviation security action plan at the national and regional levels and put in place the regional institutional arrangement and disseminate the adopted aviation security regulation on the respective member states and related aviation services.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreements, which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 16th December 2025:

[a] Supplementary Act A/SP 3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on liberalisation of Market Access to Ground Handling Services in Airports of ECOWAS Member States.

[b] Supplementary Act A/SA/SP. 4/02/12 relating to the Common Rules Determining Slot Allocation at Airports in ECOWAS Member States.

[c] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Air Carrier Liability in Case of Accident in ECOWAS Member States.

[d] Supplementary Act A/SP.10/02/12 relating to Common Rules on the Approval of Air Carriers of ECOWAS Member States.

[e] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to Common Rules on Tariffs Applicable to Passengers, Freight and Mail for Air Transport within, from and to ECOWAS Members' States.

[f] Supplementary Act A/SP.3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Compensation to Passengers in the event of Denied Boarding, Cancellation or Major delay of Flight in ECOWAS Members' States.

[g] Supplementary Act A/SP.8/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on the Conditions of Access to Air Transport Markets in ECOWAS Member States.

[h] 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.

[i] Supplementary Act A/SP.11/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Aviation Security in ECOWAS Members States.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members the question is, that is Honourable House hereby ratifies the following agreements, as stated by the Minister, which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 16th December, 2025

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: After the Chairman of Transport, then we round off.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation for piloting the ratification of these Treaties and Protocols. These protocols were signed on the 3rd February 2012 and virtually, all of them were signed in 2012. I am shocked that in the introductory remarks of the Deputy Minister, he did say these protocols when ratified, have the proclivity to reduce the cost of air tickets. The question is why do we have to wait all this while? Sierra Leoneans have been suffering from the high cost of air tickets since 2012. It is only now that this document is brought here for ratification. I am sure this should be something we must call the attention of the Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are lots of Treaties, Protocols and Agreements that are sitting in the various ministries. Some Treaties have even been signed in the 80s and some in the 70s. Our governments, whether successive or current, normally make very little effort to make sure these Agreements are ratified to positively impact

the lives of our people. This Treaty is a classic example. We are rated among countries with the most expensive air tickets. So, if we have such Agreements or Protocols, which the Minister said would reduce the cost, I do not know why he was not in haste to make sure we ratify these Agreements. The Agreements before us are not controversial. Besides, we believe Sierra Leone is a strategic member of the ECOWAS Commission; and as a result, if we have Treaties that emanate from ECOWAS, it is important that this Parliament ratify these Treaties for the sake of regional integration; and if possible, we domesticate these particular Protocols.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we look at the features of these Protocols, there are many issues that Sierra Leoneans have been grappling with and one of them is the issue of compensations. We all know that Sierra Leoneans are among the most accused travelers. There are some flights that are subjected to delays maybe two to three hours and nobody will even talk about compensating you as a result of these delays. All of us have been victims in one way or the other. So, we have a Treaty that gives clear guidelines and assurances that when there are delays above three or four hours for a distance of two thousand, five hundred kilometers [2,500km], you can even ask for claims or compensations. I am sure this is something we need to look into.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when these Protocol Agreements are before us and if we do not do the required legislation to domesticate these Protocols or make sure they have the enforcement capacity, trust me the Protocols can just be there for the records without any enforcement. This means they will not even impact the people we are representing. So, we want to call on the Minister of Transport for them to provide a clear road map as to how they intend to roll out these Protocols. These Agreements are not controversial, but we believe that any Agreement we ratify here must impact the people we are representing. The Protocol Agreement also talks about liberalisation of our aviation sector, which is also fine. If we liberalise our aviation sector, we will have more flights coming to this country. Mr Speaker, even when more flights are coming to the country, we also have challenges in our airport. Our airport is relatively small with very little aprons. Therefore, when we are looking for these Protocols, let us make sure we ratify Proposals for investments. Therefore, I want to suggest that the Ministry of Transport and Aviation should attract possible investments opportunities to make sure that we expand the capacity of our airport.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Protocols talk about security and security is not contentious. It is something we should not argue about at all. We all know that we must be protected whenever we are onboard a flight. However, when you look at the status of our airport as compared to other countries, I cannot say we lack security, but we are literally lagging behind with regard security. Inasmuch as we want to sign and

ratify these Treaties, we should also consider the security aspect. We still have situations wherein the things that are meant to protect cannot be protected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the features in this Agreement are necessary only if we ensure adequate investments in the aviation sector in terms of oversight over the regulatory body; i.e., Civil Aviation. Research shows that among the countries in Africa, almost **30%** of the issues related to airlines are subjected to delays and there is also another research which says not up to **10%** of those passengers have been exposed to adequate compensation. This is not only happening in Sierra Leone, it is happening in all Africa countries. However, Sierra Leoneans have suffered for too long because we have not domesticated and even ratified these Agreements. So, it is my belief that when we ratify these Agreements, make sure you bring legislations that will give effect to these Protocols. Please educate the citizens, so that they will know their rights with regard compensation claims in the event there are flight delays or cancellation of flights or a situation where issues emanate from the airline carriers.

On that note, Mr Speaker, I believe these Agreements are not controversial and I want to urge this House to quickly ratify this Agreement. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Mr Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, before the construction of the new airport, we have ratified many Protocols. We also created the space that befits the standards compared to other international airports, especially the space that accommodates lots of passengers. Like what Honourable Aaron A. Koroma said, the first phase of this Agreement talks about liberalisation within West Africa of the air transportation system. In Articles 2 and 4 of this Agreement talk about the scope and the scope emphasised on the liberalisation of the air transport system between Sierra Leone and Central African Countries. In terms of the abnormalities they experienced regarding access to planned management, this is where we have problem.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on Page 15 of this Agreement, the Honourable Leader made a salient point with regard the signatories of these Treaties being signed in 2012, but they have not been brought to this House for ratification till 2026. If we do not ratify these Agreements, it will have no effect on us. With the leave of the Speaker, Article 4 states:

“Knowingly, the report of the Third, Fourth and the Fifth meetings of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation in West and Central Africa noted some discrepancies in national rules and regulations concerning slot allocations, denied body, ground handling, approval of airline accidents, rules of competition and exemption issues by the member states in West Africa and

Central.” These are the points that emanated from the discussions in respect of Civil Aviation in West and Central Africa during the Third, Fourth and Fifth meetings related to some discrepancies that occurred within the air transport system. As a House, we need to look at some of these issues very critically. This is exactly what Honourable Aaron A. Koroma said. There are certain things where we are being disadvantaged as a Sierra Leoneans when we are traveling out of the country at different airports. So, we should domesticate regulations that will protect our own citizens. How do we implement it? We do have agencies within the country and that is how the issue of liberalisation of the air transport system comes in. This is because when you liberalise, you have to harmonise the rules and regulations. If the passengers who are travelling within West Africa are being disadvantaged, and the Heads of States decided to sign to these Treaties, we the Members of Parliament should domesticate it and we should put in place mechanisms how to handle some of these issues. We should mitigate some of these discrepancies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to Article 4 of this Agreement, it is talking about the modalities of aviation. This tells us what we should do as a nation; what modalities we need to put in place, etc. The Minister mentioned environmental problems. In fact, the scope is talking about liberalising access to ground handling and marketing in West African Region. So, this whole Agreement talks about how we can liberalise the ground marketing in West Africa and how we can access the ground marketing in the region. If you have read this Agreement, you would have realised that the ground handling in the air transport system is a big issue. Therefore, when they raise the issue of discrepancies, they are still referring to some of these issues. This is why we should put modalities in place in dealing with some of these issues. They have also included Central Africa in the Agreement. Thus, Article 4[2[a] states: **“Major states shall ensure that activities of service providers at an airport, subject to an approval issued by competent authorities.”**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this means you cannot just give facility if issues relating to service providers cannot be handled properly. If you do not give this to competent authority, this is where we are going to be. That provision is saying that the criteria for granting and approving must refer to sound financial situations, technical capability, access according to the task to be carried out and sufficient insurance coverage. The criteria shall also refer to the safety and security of facility, aircraft, equipment or persons, as well as environmental protection and compliance with the relevant social legislations. That is where the words of Honourable Aaron A. Koroma come in to say issues of compliance need Regulations for domestication of these Treaties, Protocols and Conventions. I am just reiterating what he said and that resonates with what I am trying to say. If you go to the other part of the Agreement

that has to do with slot of the aircraft transport system, there are many issues around that area and because of that, the heads of states have signed to these Treaties, or Protocols. Therefore, it is our responsibility to domesticate them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the area of domestication as stated in Article 4 is very important because it will help you on how you can deal with some of these service providers and this will be done based on competence and compliance. In the case where these things are not done properly, we should bring institutions that provide checks and balances, so that service providers can be held accountable when it comes to issues of disadvantage and delays. Mr Speaker, I could remember when my luggage got damage at the airport, I had to use my own position of trust to coerce them to answer to the damage and that should not be the case. There should be a platform where complaints are channeled and that body should be able to handle such issues properly. The question we normally ask is whether these service providers are competent enough to handle those issues. This is because issue of ground handling of luggage at the airport is a big issue in terms of air transport system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to restate that these Agreements are not controversial. The only issue we have is enforcement and domestication of the regulations that we have to put in place. Once these are stated in the Agreements and signed by the Heads of States, we can go ahead to domesticate the rules and regulations. In fact, the other Agreement that is coming up after this, which is currently with the Legislative Committee has to do with regulations that will ensure enforcement of the Agreement for it to be ratified in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, oversight responsibilities are very important and service providers should know their rights in terms of the sensitisation that should be provided in the airport. It is important for you to display a Billboard that will inform the people about the place where they should channel their complaints. Source of information is important. If you go to other airports, there are areas where you can report issues of such nature. The Ministry has to protect the citizens from such embarrassment. Traveling by air has a lot of embarrassments, Mr Minister. So, we should ensure proper grand handling and put in place regulations that seek to protect everybody, whether citizens or non-citizens, as long as you are within Africa and the Central Africa, once you have signed to these Treaties and Conventions, we have to make sure these Regulations are domesticated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this Agreement, we have seen that the ECOWAS Parliament has ratified part of this Agreement we have signed. In line with what Honourable Aaron A. Koroma said, we still need to do some legislations to domesticate these Treaties. We need to pick out some of these issues and address them. The

Chairman of the Transport Committee should ensure proper oversight on these Treaties. On that note, the Agreement is very good and as I said earlier, when we wanted to deliberate on the new airport, we ratified many Regulations at that time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you for your contributions towards these Agreements. However, we should make sure that the Agreements are in line with the global standards in terms of aviation. Thank you very, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, please respond quickly.

MR REX BHONAPHA [*Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members. I copiously took note of the issues raised by the two Leaders in the House and I share similar sentiments. I want to start with the comment made by the Leader of Government Business, especially the one that has to do with the special legislation that will give potency to these Agreements. I want to assure you that I am being guided in this process. Again, the comment made by Honourable Aaron A. Koroma regarding the expansion of the airport is in place. During the inception period of building the airport, we were very concerned about what to do and that is why if you look at the two wings of the airport, we left a lot of land space for that purpose. The size of airports is determined based on the inflow of passengers. We are making development and the Parent Agreement itself. Mr Speaker, with the operators of the airport, we took into cognizance the fact that our airport is very small as of now, or the passenger volume is very small, but it will get better as we go along the line. In addition, I want to thank both sides of the House for the sentiments being expressed so far. To me, these are sentiments of optimism that Sierra Leone will do better.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 16th December 2025:

[a] Supplementary Act A/SP 3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on liberalisation of Market Access to Ground Handling Services in Airports of ECOWAS Member States.

[b] Supplementary Act A/SA/SP. 4/02/12 relating to the Common Rules Determining Slot Allocation at Airports in ECOWAS Member States.

[c] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Air Carrier Liability in Case of Accident in ECOWAS Member States.

[d] Supplementary Act A/SP.10/02/12 relating to Common Rules on the Approval of Air Carriers of ECOWAS Member States.

[e] Supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to Common Rules on Tariffs Applicable to Passengers, Freight and Mail for Air Transport within, from and to ECOWAS Members' States.

[f] Supplementary Act A/SP.3/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Compensation to Passengers in the event of Denied Boarding, Cancellation or Major delay of Flight in ECOWAS Members' States.

[g] Supplementary Act A/SP.8/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on the Conditions of Access to Air Transport Markets in ECOWAS Member States.

[h] 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.

[i] Supplementary Act A/SP.11/02/12 relating to the Common Rules on Aviation Security in ECOWAS Members States.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Government Motion by the Minister of Transport and Aviation has been ratified]

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

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT

[1] Members of the Female Parliamentary Caucus are respectfully informed that there will be a brief meeting at the Members lounge immediately, following the adjournment of today's sitting. This meeting will address important matters that require your attention and participation. Your prompt attendance will be highly appreciated. Signed; Honourable Bernadette Wuyatte Songa, President for Parliamentary Female Caucus, Parliament of Sierra Leone.

[2] The official laying in State Ceremony of Honourable Mariama Ella Goba, former Member of Parliament, representing Kenema District, will take place on Thursday, 26th February, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and the official laying in State Ceremony of Honourable Sahr Dunnoh Tengbeh, former Member of Parliament, representing Kailahun District will take place on Thursday, 26th February, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. at the State Hall of Parliament Building. Honourable Members of Parliament and mourners are encouraged to attend and on time.

ADJOURNMENT

*[The House rose at 11:50 a.m., and was adjourned to Wednesday, 25th
February, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]*