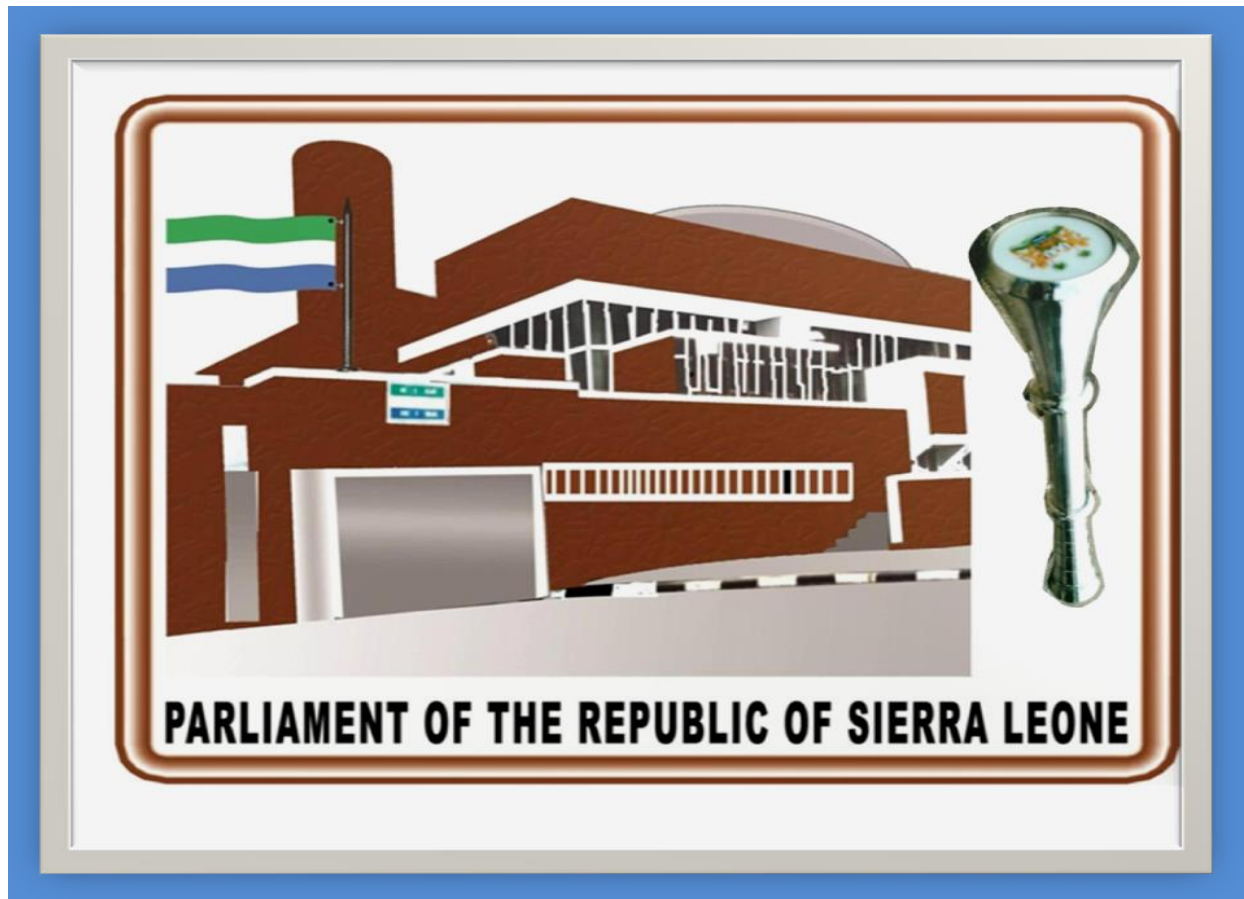


POSL/Dept/Hansard/Vol 1, No.44/29/4/25



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

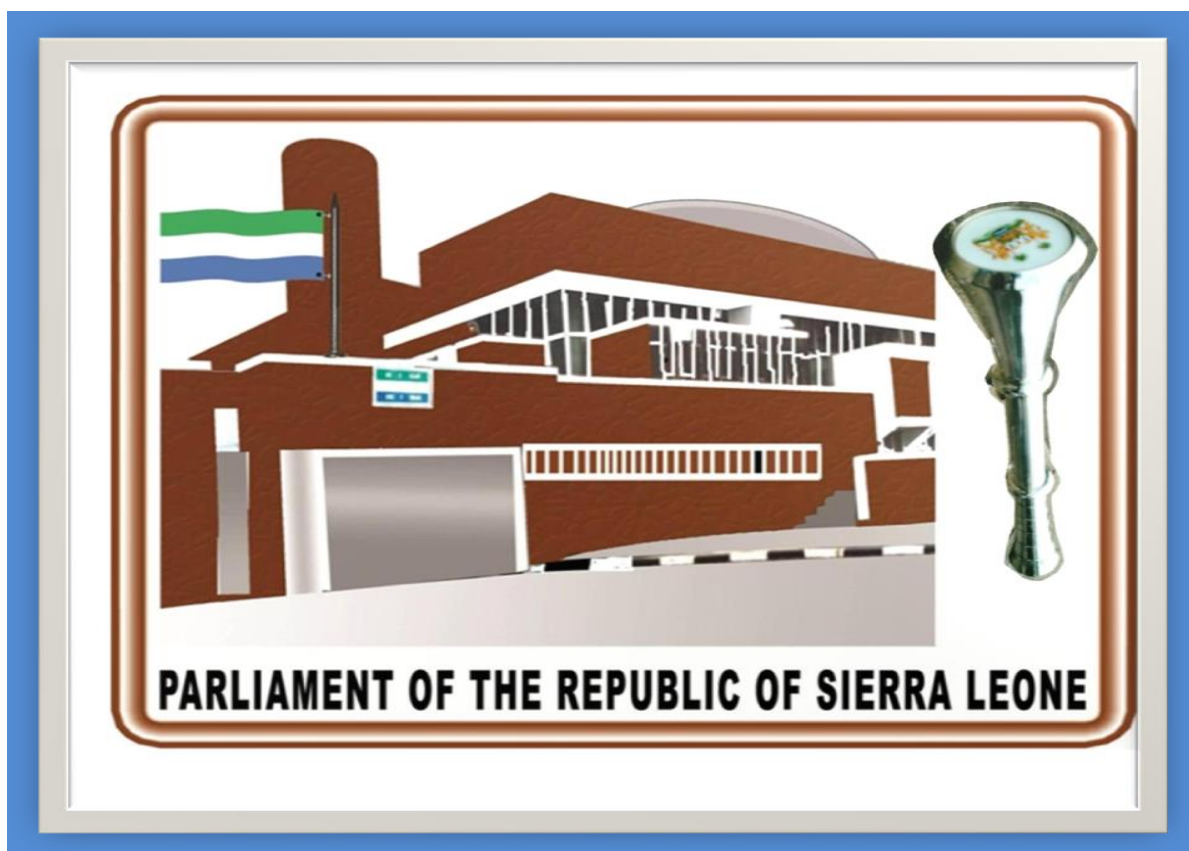
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 29TH APRIL, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 44

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held Tuesday 29th April 2025

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY 29TH APRIL, 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Alimamy Lincoln Bangura, 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]*

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5 [2]

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

HON MATHEW NYUMA: Mr Speaker, early this week, we met in committee room one under your directives, and we made certain resolutions. At that time, The Minister of Finance was not around, but it has to do with our concerns. So for neatness of proceedings, I want to stand on S.O 26[1&2] so that we can meet with the Minister of Finance, Deputy, the leader of the opposition, the leadership, and the paramount Chiefs to discuss issues that has to do with MPs, based on those two provisions under 26 I so move Mr Speaker, so we can engage in the office accordingly. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, of course, I said it in clear terms, even if you did not move that motion. You know, when I say things, I meant them. There is no way I was going to proceed with what I'm seeing on the order paper relating to the Ministry of Finance. We have some bones to pick before we proceed with any document related to the Ministry of Finance, I've said it, and it's good you are making that, application now, there is no way we are going to proceed with any document related to the Ministry of Finance if the issues is sorted out . Any seconder.

HON JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN: I so moved

Secunder: HON. DANIEL KOROMA

[The Motion moved by the leader of government business has been carried]

II. ADOPTION OF RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL, 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, record of votes and proceedings pages, 1 to 4, page 5, Page 6?

HON ABDUL MARRAY-CONTEH: Page 6. Mr Speaker, the third to last paragraph, the Deputy Director Mrs Fatmata Bintu, pronounce that the government motion by the

minister here is stated by the Minister, we should add by the Deputy Minister, because you've already started with deputy minister.

THE SPEAKER: So indicate Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr Clerk, take note page 7, Can a member Please move?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN: I so moved

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I So Second

[Question Proposed Put and Agree To]

[The record of votes and proceedings for Thursday, 24th April, 2025 has been adopted as amended].

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I wish to state again that this House has a problem, very serious problem with attendance. We have a very serious problem with attendance and of course, punctuality. It is becoming worst by the moment. In the circumstances, by next week, I'm going to call a meeting of this entire house in committee room one, so that we talk, we have a conversation on attendance and, of course, punctuality. I think something has to be done. Something definitely has to be done. This thing did not just start yesterday. It's been there forever. It's been there over the last 15 years, we've been here. We have to do something to correct this. So by next week, I will announce the date. In due course, we'll have to go to committee room, all of us, so that we all agree as to what to do, which punitive measures or which sanctions we should put in place to ensure that members attend and on time, because we cannot continue like this. This is becoming extremely embarrassing for the entire house, and we cannot allow few of us to embarrass this House, where Mr Speaker has to come for nearly an hour before we have a quorum. This should not continue. So by next week, I'm going to call a meeting so that we all agree, so that a Member does not say, Mr Speaker is high handed. It was Mr Speaker's decision. We all have to meet and

agree as to what to do going forward. But we cannot continue like this. I've been here nearly one hour for us to get a quorum. Why is that? Why is that? This is becoming extremely embarrassing, and this is something I'm not ready to accept. I know it's has been happening, but we should not make that the culture of this house. This is the people's House I urge Members of Parliament to take their work seriously. You have all been elected by our citizens of this country to work in the interest of this nation, but it seems some of us do not even care as to why we are here. So I think we all need to meet and have a conversation on this and arrive at certain conclusions going forward. Thank you very much. And secondly, Honourable Members I wish to inform you that I had a brief meeting with his Excellency, the President, and last week. And a particular concern came up during our conversation relating to the activities of Committees. I felt a little bit embarrassed when the President himself raised certain issues relating to Committees here, summoning diplomatic missions and summoning private businesses. Five or six, Committees summoning a particular institution at the same time, this is becoming embarrassing to Parliament, so I'm having a meeting with all Committee clerks tomorrow. Mr Clerk we are having a meeting at 11am tomorrow. We are going to lay down certain rules. I mean my good self and the leadership to lay down certain clear rules relating to summoning of any entity to come to Parliament, because if all are not on the same level, some individuals, particularly Members of our staff, are going to end up embarrassing this house. I know as well as you do that some of these summoning are done without even the knowledge of Chairmen, because the Clerks know what they benefit from such by summoning people all over the place. We are going to have a serious meeting tomorrow, the speakership and the leadership. We are going to have a meeting with the clerks of Committees. And I urge every clerk to be present at that meeting tomorrow, because I am ready to set the brightest example after having arrived at certain conclusions, if any clerk send out a letter without the relevant procedure, that clerk will get him or herself to be blamed. I think we need to take some of these things very seriously. We can't be in this house and we see people summoning entities all over the place without check and control. I urge this house not to accept a thing like that. Thank you very much, Honourable Members. At this stage, I

invite the leadership, including the leadership of Paramount Chiefs and the Minister of Finance, to my Chambers for a brief discussion. And Mr Clerk invite the Department of Finance, the Director and the Deputy to be present at the meeting. We'll be back, let's say after probably 15 minutes, this sitting is stood down for 15 minutes.

House Stood Down At 11:15 AM

House Resumed At 11:33 AM

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have just met with the Minister of Finance and I should say that the meeting was successful, and even as I address you, our team are on their way to the Ministry of Finance, and God willing, we will have some positive returns. But we cannot proceed with this document before us, the one that has to do with Finance. Let's know what is happening before we proceed. We cannot just proceed. We cannot just proceed blindly. Maybe it's a trap. So I will urge the leader of government business to do the needful.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I beg to amend the Order Paper of Tuesday 29th April 2025; I moved that item number 4b be expunged from the Order Paper.

Seconder: Hon. Joseph Williams-Lamin

[Question Proposed Put and Agree To]

[The Motion to Amend the Order Paper moved by the leader of government business has been carried]

BILL

The professional Social Workers Regulatory Council Act 2025,

Committee Stage and Third Reading

The Minister of Social Welfare. (Mrs Melrose Karminty)

The House Reverts to Committee

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that part 1 to 6, Clauses 1 to 24 stand part of the bill.

[Question Proposed]

HON. ABDUL S. MARRY CONTEH: Well, it's the bottom part of 19

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that part 1 to 6. Clauses 1 to 24 stand part of the bill as amended.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question is that parts 1 to 6, clauses 1 to 24 stand part of the bill as amended.

[Question Proposed and Agree To]

[Clauses 1 to 24 formed part of the Bill]

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that part 7 to 11. Clauses 25 to 42 stand part of the bill.

[Question Proposed]

HON. ABDUL S. MARRY-CONTEH: Yes, Mr Chairman, it's an issue of punctuation, but we need to get that right in the very first paragraph, 25(1). In the business of social work, we are missing a coma there. The report over sighted that. "The registration, record and register in the register Social Work facilities, organizations and institutions in

the business of Social Work," we should have a comma there the names, addresses and other particulars of them, okay. Comma after social work, yes, because we over sighted.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I don't know, in the same 25(1), Mr Chairman, Why did you remove the ward facilities? Because there is comma just after that. So we need to check your proposal. There is Coma just after that on page 19 clause 25(1), the registrar shall record in the register social work, facilities, organizations and institutions.

THE CHAIRMAN: There's already a coma.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: But he did not make reference to the facilities. So I want to know why they removed the facilities and did not put coma.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Chairman.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: All right, he has just said it's not the first two lines. It has to do the third sentence. Okay, yes, so it's okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that all for page 19? Page 20, 21, 22, 23.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Before you go to 23, I just want to stretch on something from the Minister. Most times public interest is interpreted based on someone's individual opinion. They are asking in page 22 Clause 6 [E].He said the caption, the council may refuse to register an applicant who in the opinion of the council. E, let me know from the Minister, what do you refer in this case under the professional definition that has to do with the speed should not be registered, because it will not be in the interest of the public. Can you please just throw light on this one briefly, so that we cannot have a clause where somebody is going to use to his or her advantage? I just want to know.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Thank you very much, leader. This really has to do with the fact that we are trying to regulate the social sector, and there are going to be things that we need to look into before, for example,

a social worker can get a license, or The Social Work facility or organization. So the issue is, if they don't meet those criteria, because they are going to be set of criteria. If the Social Work facility or organizations do not meet the set criteria, then they will not be registered. That's what it means. So let's say, for example,

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Madam Minister I just want to draw your attention Part 11. In Part 11 colleagues, under the miscellaneous provisions, there are regulations. So if we are now addressing about public interest, some of these things is so loose but we can shape institution and the activities and individuals. So I just want to draw your attention tying that provision to the regulations you have stated. So I wanted you to make commitment because we are having difficulties to judge the fact this public interest attached to the rights of individuals. This is a very professional bill we are trying to enact so someone cannot interpret differently. So I want you to take note of that and make commitment towards these ambiguous clauses that cannot be really controlled at the time for enactment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, are you Okay?

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Yes, I am, sir,

[Clauses 23, 24 and 25 Proposed]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Yes, Mr Chairman, again. We did not see schedule for the payment. But I believe and also draw the attention of the Madam Minister to provision Clause 29(2), the registration shall upon an order for reinstatement under paragraph A of sub section 1, issue a certificate of the registration to the applicant subject to payment of a prescribed fees. Madam Minister, I would like to some clarifications. How do you intend to deal with the prescribed fees? Is it going to come in the regulation or he going to display on the chat board at the different institutions, so that you know what you are going to pay. So I want to know this business, Mr Chairman.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Thank you, Honourable. Yes, we are bringing the regulations because this Act requires, and I

strongly believe that we should have a regulation, and that will be articulated in the regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is not certain,

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: No, is it going to be so let us say in a regulation. We can see before we lay the Instrument. I am saying it's a chat board. For example, if you go to the department responsible for reinstatement, so we see transparency clearly that I have to pay this amount of reinstatement or re registration. Is it going to be displayed on the chat board?

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS. MELROSE KARMINTY): Yes, in fact, the Ministry of Social Welfare, we are working on a service charter. That's how we call it. And this institution, the council, will be one of those places where we will display a service charter. So the service charter will tell you exactly the services they provide and fees as well.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Alright, it is okay. I just need a commitment from her. Thank you.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Chairman, I am not too clear about whether it is going to be a registration or renewal. Can we have that clarification? Because re-registration will not have the same condition as renewal. So which one are we talking about? Re-registration or renewal? It cannot be the same thing. It cannot be the same procedure. Thank you.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): You have to register as a worker, someone running a social work institution, or you want to open it, you have to register. Then after a year, you have to renew your registration. The same goes for the license as well. So you have to register first, and then after a year, you renew.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, maybe for further clarifications, what we are talking about here is reinstatement, open removal. So it's clear that when

you are going to be reinstated, you are going to follow the procedure again. So that's just what this one is saying. It's not complex at all.

[Clauses 25-31 Proposed]

HON. FALLAH TENGBEH: Mr Chairman, still on 25, 31 it reads professional social worker and social work facility organization. I don't know there is some kind of confusion there. I need clarifications.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Yes. Thank you very much. That was covered in the report. In fact, the last line should read a deleted professional social worker, social work facility; organization or institution that is aggrieved by the decision of the Council may within 30 days notified of the removal, appeal to an appeals court. So in the third line, the phrase to remove him has been deleted. And also in the first line, there is a coma between social worker and social worker. And then, of course, on the third line, the word (is) was removed. It clarified in the report itself.

THE CHAIRMAN: 25, 26

HON. PC SALAM MARAH: Mr Chairman. Before you go to paragraph 32 it should be appellant, instead of applicants.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, okay, thank you. That's for 25,26,27,28

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I want the Minister to throw light on this. This a very good example for those who practice professional, be doctors, lawyers, to really have people renewing a license and set the committee to review them. This is a very good practice, in other countries in terms of the value they talk about solicitors, for the Medical Dental Association, they set up a panel. I don't know how fast it needs, five years or annually. This one gives me the real hope that there will be some decency how our professional carry their jobs. So Madam, this is good clause, but I really want you to tell us in this house that renewal of practicing license for a registered professional social worker. The reason I ask you to explain it IS not mandatory may apply to renew his

practicing certificate. How do you really try to institute this when it is not mandatory, is subjected.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Thank you, sir. Well, because there are times people are in a profession, then they want to quit. So if you are in a profession, you want to quit. Maybe you found something else to do, and then you are not bound to renew your license. That is just plain, but if you are going to stay in the profession, then you have to renew your license, because the license gives you the opportunity to practice. So if your license is not renewed, then you are not practicing. And if you want to practice, you must renew, if you want to leave the profession, then you may not license. That is something that is your own volition. You have to take that responsibility to license or to renew your license. Nobody is bound to force you, but if we get hold of you, you are practicing, and your license has not been renewed, then there's a penalty attached.

HON. MATHEW NYUMA: If you go to Clause 35(2). It says the provision on the application for a professional social work practicing certificate shall apply for an application for renewal. But it says a registered professional social worker may apply to renew his practicing certificate. What is the difference here? What is wrong with? Say, shall apply to practice, because it will be consistent with the second clause. I don't want to know. Perhaps you have, professionally, why put it in the bill.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Maybe that's just a matter of semantics.

THE CHAIRMAN: You know, no two words in English are the same, let alone legal words, shall be mandatory or discretionary.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Yes, Mr Speaker, I think because this one has to do with a voluntary thing for the practitioner. So it should not be shall, I may if I want to continue the practice, register with the council if I don't want to It's my volition not to practice again. So it should not be shall.

THE CHAIRMAN: The position actually is that if you don't take the certificate, you cannot practice. So if you want to practice, there is a caveat on you to take the certificate if you want to practice.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: So it's discretionary.

HON ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Chairman, yes, take a second look at it. We're talking about renewal here. If you decide to renew, it's mandatory. You understand it should be mandatory. So you're not talking about the practice if you don't want to renew, yes, then of course, is clear.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, No. Properly put, if you want to practice, then is incumbent on you to renew. But if you don't want to practice, then you don't have to renew. That's the position.

HON ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: So when you look at the content of renewal of practicing, you can only renew, when you want to practice. So in that way, you understand it is the must,

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course. So if you're not interested in practicing, for instance, every year, lawyers take practicing certificate, is incumbent on any lawyer to take practicing certificate if you want to practice, but if you do not want to practice, then nobody is going to ask you for any practicing certificate .

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: So that is why here is not talking about whether you want to practice or not, but it's about the renewal process.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course. So it has to be mandatory. Shall is most appropriate. If you say May, then even if you want to practice is discretionary. Whether you take the

certificate or not, if you say, May, may take a practicing certificate. This means even if you want to practice, you take the certificate. If you don't want, you don't take

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I said differently. This one is renewal. I have been a social worker, a practicing social worker, with a certificate for six years, and every year I renew and I don't want to practice, I don't want to renew.

THE CHAIRMAN: That doesn't mean you can use the word MAY, is still shall. That is, if you want to practice, if you don't want to practice, then you don't have to take it up. Yes, yes, Madam Minister, are we set on that? Are we okay? Are you okay? Yes, that's for 28, 29, 30.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman again, I need a commitment from the Minister. I'm happy that you clarified 35(1), in the interest of people keeping to the profession, not only acquiring the qualifications, but also keeping up to the best practice, to make sure that you're always at your best.

Offences, this is a very critical area Madam Minister, I said, we don't want to Make crime lucrative. Madam Minister, let me draw your attention to critical mess we have now in this country. How do we try to curb social issues? One of our fundamental problems in this country is Social Issue, whether you believe it or not. In fact, if we have lawyers now giving pro bono services, you can make more money than looking for client that hire them so that they can go to the court, or you can get sponsors . The level of issues we have at hand. Most of what we are having now are social issues, whether you like it or not, it cuts across. And the same social issues we have in Makeni, is the same social issues we have in Kenema. And how do we curb them by levying harsh punishment. That's why I'm happy when the Chairman said is mandatory that you renew.

Now coming to the offences, how do we levy this punishment to ensure that there is complete compliance? When you fail to comply with offences, on levy fees. Now just tell us. How do you plan to have enforcement of these penalties so they cannot just be in the Act? How you as Minister or Institution under Section 6(2) of the Constitution,

ensure that these are adhered to. So we can mitigate social issue. We have social problems no matter how you look at it. For example Rape these are social issues that affect children. So how do we deal with these ones?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Thank you, leader. I absolutely agree with you. And our social issues in this country are so many, whether you are coming from the north, south, east, west, we have social issues, and we all know about it. And the reason why we are having a law is to actually address those issues, to help regulate this sector. Because for two years, almost now, in the Ministry, I found out that if we don't have this law as a regulatory tool, the sector will continue to be in shambles. Our social workers need to be regulated. Our social work facilities need to be regulated. Our social work institutions need to be regulated. Because at the end of the day, it is only when we make sure that the law that we make works, that is the time we will have the maximum benefit of what the social work services for the people to benefit from it. So to me, what you're saying is right and we as a Ministry, and of course, this law is going to establish a council. There's going to be a council with a Chairman and a Registrar and other members. And we also have a book. These ones are the ones that are going to work with the ministry to ensure that everything that is articulated in the law here is adhered to the letter. And of course, you will want to ask, What about the monitoring? That is why we are going to train our social workers who will make sure that all of these are being monitored. For example, if you establish an orphanage, you have to know from today, when this bill is passed into law, that you cannot just wake up and go and establish an orphanage. There are set criteria that you have to follow, and if you don't follow those criteria you will not receive your license. You cannot or even register the facility. You cannot open it. If you do, when we find out that we are going to close it. So what this law is doing is going to empower us, both as a Ministry and the council to be able to regulate the sector very well. So we have to make sure we work together. We also, there are law enforcement agencies in this country where necessary. They will come in to support us.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman with your leave, you have not reached 31 yet, I think. With your leave the effectiveness of this law has to do with robust regulation. Let me draw your attention to two of the clauses. The committee did a very good job by recommending some penalties for these social workers. Clause 38, page 30, Mr Chairman, fraud by professional worker.

Clause 41 falsely impersonating a professional worker. So I don't know when you are going to bring the regulations, but please if you can accept that formulation of the regulation of social workers should be displayed at different district level offices. For those who been affected and someone cannot impersonate. The reason why, Mr Chairman, the level of education is a bit low, and even those who are educated, they need to be enlightened. How do you deal with some of these issues? And I don't know how far we have the trauma healing and counselling. I don't know how they are handling that one, but trust me, as I said, the problem we have in society right now is social problems, and if we don't put proposed regulations, this law will not make any sense to anybody. They need to move around to make sure they enforce it. Mr Chairman, there is no law we have in the western world that we don't have in Sierra Leone; we have beautiful laws which we can be very proud of. This very Parliament when they ban us in the harvesting of timber, they ask for regulations. People tend not to respect us but anytime we are on the international platform, people tend to have respect for us. And the regulation we passed in this house and beyond, is the best regulation in the Timber harvest.

They should have not asked her, when are you going to come with this regulation? This law can only be meaningful to us if we have proper regulations. And make a list of what I have said. This is apolitical these are issues affecting us. Mr Chairman, let me tell you something. I don't know if you have data that is the problem, because people tend to talk that you don't have data of addressing social problems .If you don't have data, for district and by locality is a problem in. I took data from UNICEF, when we are talking about the sexual offenses, our sexual abuse, about our young children, especially the girls. Mr Chairman, you can realized that they generated huge data in the

Kenema city. I went there, yes, the truth was that they are a lot of people, children not going to school. You have other social activities that are not decent for our children. So the data was correct. So Madam Minister, I am saying this law can be only be meaningful if you bring this regulation as early as possible. Mr Chairman, I just want to make that clarification Thank you,

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, are you sure you'll be here with the regulations?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Absolutely sure, Mr Chairman....

THE CHAIRMAN: Because the way you responded I think the leader was not certain...

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): No, the regulations will come. I want to assure this house

THE CHAIRMAN: How soon?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: So I think it's a reasonable time. I'm happy she had made commitment that was the end of the year. So the committee will now try to see how best they can work, it has to be based on consultations. If you don't do consultation, you will not have better regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Leader do you want to explain for the Minister. I know you are leader of Government Business

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: when you are standing and making commitments to the third gentleman in the state. It's a problem. So I don't want to push her to the corner, like I know that setting up the councils, they are going to do consultations so that we can have regulations that really give effect to the law

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, Don't worry you have the Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, sir.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Leader of the Opposition.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: For the records, based on the timelines Madam Minister said before the end of the year. But I want her to know that for us, Parliament, our year is session, not like financial year of government. Yes. So I hope when you say before the end of the year, it means before the end of Parliamentary year. Yes, as before the end of our session, yes, and that is July. That was our own year and that's what we prefer before end of our year in July.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Thank you, Honourable Members. Like I said, I want to let members know that that regulation will come, but rightly so, there has to be consultations, like the leader had said, we also have to set up the council so there are things we need to do before we bring the regulations. Social issues are diverse. There are so many players.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Chairman, sorry, Madam Minister, before you get to all of those processes, I think the most important is the bill to be signed, the asset of the president. And you cannot determine when the President will sign. He will have to sign to have gazetted to be formally published as law. Well, once that is done, that is when you can determine and begin to put steps or structures together. So for me, I would want to plead with the chair that will hold it until December and plead with the leader not to take the Parliamentary year, because it will be too short and we cannot make a determination as to when the President will sign.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker Yes, yes, yes.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: We don't just want to prolong this day, but we know in administration, especially for parliaments, we are here to set records. We are here to deliver so there is nothing wrong if we give timelines to Madam Minister. And she said, so we just wanted clarifications. As he said, you cannot determine when President will give his assent, and then December will not even be appropriate. Then timeline will not even be useful. There is no need to give timelines based on his submission. Well, His

Excellency can choose to sign next year, or even 2028 so as far as I'm concerned, it's good we give timelines so to ginger us up. There's nothing wrong if she cannot due to lateness of presidential assent, but it's good to give timelines, as her suggested. You know, I think there's nothing wrong with timelines but the timeline will help her to work better.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Yes, through the chair. I think the understanding is we agree that we must set timelines. But let's take December, instead of July, instead of parliamentary year; let's take the end of the financial year. That's the submission

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister. Go do your work. Be diligent. Go do your work and make sure you come here with the regulations in the shortest possible time, Parliament is in a hurry to see the regulation, because there are several gaps, when once this bill is passed into law, we have several gaps, and those gaps will need to be filled by the regulations to . Please take our Honourable Members at the last sitting, I told you that we are going to have visitors today, our friends from Iran. I told you that they will be here to visit us and to hear from us and hear our stories. Incidentally, they are here, and at this stage, I want you all to recognize their presence. I will start by introducing to you His Excellency, Sadati Amiri, who is the Ambassador, the Iranian Ambassador to Sierra Leone. You are hearty Welcome, Mr. Ambassador. We have the Deputy Head of mission who is Mr Kayvan (KI) Razael, you are welcome, and we have members of the delegation, the chairman of friendship group Honourable. Ara Sheridan, we have the vice chairman of the friendship group honourable Faramarz shahsavari. Don't mind my pronunciation and we have a member of the friendship group, honourable Hadi Qavami. We have two other gentlemen at the back that in this delegation. You are all heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. This is the people's house, and of course, Sierra Leone is a friend to Iran, and we to hope and pray that this friendship strengthens. And of course, we've bilateral relationship for quite a while, and our relationship has been fruitful and beneficial to both countries. We are always happy to have you in this house of parliament, the people's house, and in Sierra Leone. Of course, I know you are beginning to enjoy the nice things of Sierra Leone. So very soon, immediately after this

sitting, I want to have a meeting with you, with the leaders of this house in my conference room. Thank you very much for coming. You are welcome.

Honourable leaders, leaders on both sides and leaders of the Paramount chiefs, you are welcome to a meeting immediately after sitting with our friends in the speaker's conference room. So that we meet with them, and we share stories and nice conversations. Yes, proceed, Madam Minister,

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that part 7 to 11, Clauses 25 to 42 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I heard my colleague on the other side and the Deputy Speaker; we are trying to get a date so that we can get the regulations. I think after we have done the enactment, we now need to look at the constitutional provision of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 Section 106 Sub Section 7. Mr Chairman we should not be in violation of these provisions. We consider ourselves as a different entity of governance, and those constitutional provisions must be added, and we are in consistent breach of that provision. So what we need to do now? Because this is a typical example why do we need to expedite the regulations based on the signature of the President?

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is in breach in this House?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: No, no, no, it's not this house. This house can never be, but we need to work with them. We should be reminding them

THE CHAIRMAN: The Executive....

HON. MATHEW NYUMA: yes, the Executive, you remind them always. I just want us to push and to use this as an example, so that we can get this regulation. Thank you, Mr Chairman...

THE CHAIRMAN: We will invite the Minister here, after a couple of months my question time to us as to whether she's ready with the regulations or not. Yes, proceed.

HOUSE RESUMES

THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MRS MELROSE KARMINTY): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled The Professional Social Workers Regulatory Council Act 2025, having gone through the Committee of the whole House with amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law.

[Question Proposed Put and Agree To]

The Bill entitled: The professional social workers Regulatory Council Act 2025 being an Act to make provision for the establishment of the professional social work Regulatory Council to provide for the regulation of professional social workers. Social Work facilities, organizations and institutions in Sierra Leone, including licensing, registration and discipline and to provide for other related matters, has been read the third time and Passed into law.

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister. Thank you very much you may leave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honourable Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Ethics are kindly invited to a very important meeting today, immediately after adjournment at Committee Room One Parliament Building, signed by the Honourable Marah Thor Thor Sheku Teranah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Lai.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, send out a notice to all the clerks, all Committee Clerks. We have a meeting with all Committee Clerks tomorrow at 11am prompt in Committee Room One. Leaders on both sides of the aisle and leaders of the Paramount Chief. You are kindly invited to be part of that meeting to set the ground rules for Committee work. Please, tomorrow at 11:00 am Prompt, all Committee Clerks, Mr Clerk, ensure that every one of them is properly informed. Every one of them is properly informed, so that if we get anyone absent, then we know the relevant actions to take. Let them be informed properly. Then leaders, you are kindly invited immediately after this sitting to the Speakers Conference Room for a meeting with Iranian brothers.

MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO TUESDAY 6TH of MAY 2025, at 10AM.

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 1:25PM