

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

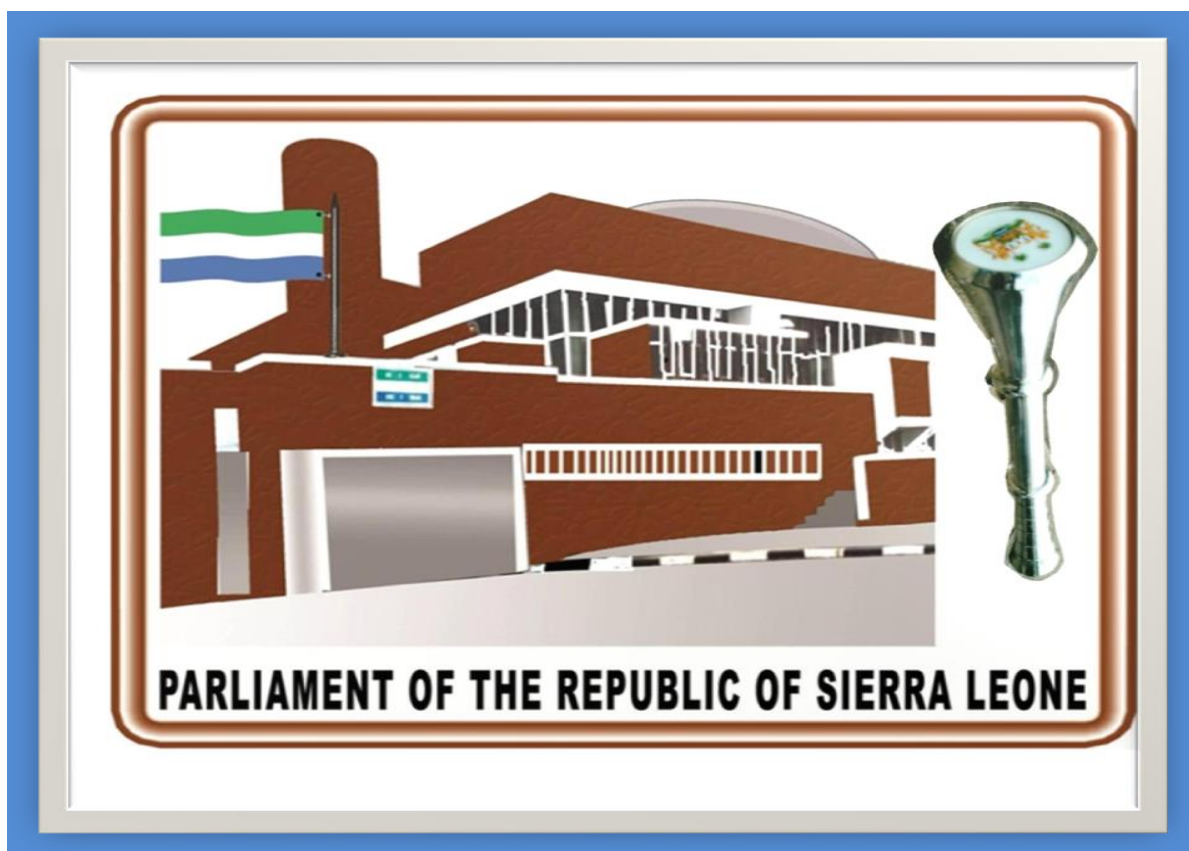
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 3RD JULY, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2025

III ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

IV SWEARING IN OF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

[THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE]

V PETITION

VI LAYING OF PAPER

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE AND
KISSY INDUSTRY AND TRADING COMPANY [KITC] SIERRA LEONE [SL]
LIMITED DATED JANUARY, 2025**

VII BILL

THE CHILD RIGHTS ACT 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Deputy Director II Mrs Bintu Fatmata Weston 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]

II. THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 1ST JULY, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings and as usual we skip pages 1-4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? And page 10? Can a Member please move?

HON. ABDUL KARIM BANGURA: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. ADAMA BANGURA: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 1st July, 2025 has been adopted]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to heartily welcome our brothers and sisters back in the Well because this is where they belong. Let me also take this opportunity to recognize the diligence of the following Members of Parliament who were in the Well before Mr Speaker entered. I urge you to continue along this line, it is very good for your image, for your integrity, for this House, and the people of Sierra Leone. Let me start by mentioning names of Honourable Members. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba, Honourable Brima Mansaray, Honourable Umu Pyne, Honourable Alpha Jabbie, Honourable Amie M. Moriba, Honourable Maraima Ella Goba, Honourable Abdulia Karim Kanu. Honourable P.C. Alhaji Musa Bamba Jalloh III, Honourable P.C. Haja Fatmata Bintu Meama Kajue, Honourable Memunatu Jalloh, Honourable Alhaji Abu Kemokai, Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu, Honourable Lucinda Finda Kelly. Honourable Members, I insist that we clap for them, it is very important that they are here in time.

Honourable Members, it is for the public to know so that whenever somebody gets up in the morning and starts writing against MPs not coming to Parliament on time; of course they will know that these people are excluded. Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh, Honourable Daniel Fornah, Honourable Beatrice Maya Kangbai, Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura, Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina, Honourable Mabinty Alice Taylor Bangura, Honourable Rugiatu Kamara, Honourable Fatmata Sarah Soukenah, Honourable Mohamed Tarawalie Fofanah, Honourable Kenewah Fallah Tengbeh, Honourable Mariama Zombo, Honourable Wuyata Songa, Honourable Neneh Lebbie,

Honourable Jawah Sesay, Honourable Sylvester Arnord Maxwell Boima, Honourable Foyor Tholley, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, Honourable Charles O. Abdulia, Honourable Rugiatu Tarawalli-Mussaffa, Honourable Jibrila Sur Moijueh, Honourable Abdulai kamara, Honourable Tamba Kellie, Honourable Abdul Karim Bangura, Honourable Sarty Banya, Honourable Christopher K. Vandj, Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, Honourable Ishmael Sankoh Yillah,

Honourable Princess Kadie Daramy, Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu, Honourable Abdul S. Marray Conteh, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, Honourable Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara, Honourable P.C. Alameen Kanneh, Honourable Emilia Lulu Tongi, Honourable Bashiru Silikie, and Honourable Paul Samba Conteh.

Honourable Members, I urge you to continue in this line. Please make sure that you are here against 10 A.M. and of course, I urge the Clerk to make sure that these names are included in the record of Votes and Proceedings for future reference.

IV. SWEARING IN OF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO THE 3RD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE, ACT NO. 6 OF 1991

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in conformity with the certificate of election submitted to the Office of the Clerk by the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, I hereby declare that Honourable Abu Bakar Fofana has been duly elected as Member of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

[HONOURABLE ABU BAKARR FOFANAH HAS BEEN DULY SWORN IN AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT]

THE CLERK: I present to you these two working documents, the Standing Orders and the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Fofanah, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election. As a matter of fact, you are expected to serve this country diligently as a Member of Parliament. You are welcome to this House. This is your House. You are not a stranger here. We expect you to be in this Parliament on every sitting either before or at 10 A.M. prompt. Of course, you just heard me reading out the names of those who were here before I entered. So please be diligent in your service, not only to this House, but to the Republic of Sierra Leone. I now urge you to occupy the seat previously occupied by your predecessor. Thank you very much, and you are welcome.

V. PETITION

HON. P.C ALHAJI MUSA BAMBA FORAY KULIO JALLOH III: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Orders 17, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a petition on behalf of the people, landowners, and traditional authorities of Damsumuha, Samaia and Dehami Chiefdom in Tonkolili and Koinadugu Districts. My name is Honourable P.C. Alhaji Musa Bamba Foray III of Sambaia Tonkolili District. I rise today in my capacity as a Paramount Chief Member of Parliament from Tonkolili District and the lead petitioner in the matter before us to formally present the matters contained in the public position duly submitted to the Office of the Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 17 and the dictates of the Rules of Procedure.

This petition is supported by a cross-section of concerned citizens and rightful landowners of Damsumuha, Sambaia my Chiefdom where Kasafonie is and Dehami Chiefdom is rooted in the constitutional rights afforded the people to express grievances and seek redress through their elected representatives. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the petitions are as follows:

One, that Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone accept, recognize, and respect the collective and unanimous resolved of the people and tribal authorities of Damsumuha, Sambaia, and Dehami Chiefdoms to enter into a valid disagreement with Gento Group of Company.

Two, that Parliament recall, and we are admissible declared nor and void, the Sierra Leone Mines, and Mineral Development, and Management Cooperation [Minerals and mineral related assets, Regulations 2024, Statutory Instrument No. 11 of 2024].

Three, that pursuant to Standing Orders 17 and 75 [A] the Public Petition Committee investigates the SLMDMC's engagement with the landowners.

Four, that Parliament convenes a special hearing involving stakeholders and community members regarding the Kasafonie iron audit project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in presenting these petitions, I urge this House not to view this petition as a Motion against the Government, but rather as an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolves in addressing our respective Chiefdom concerns through legitimate, lawful, and democratic means. I respectfully submit these petitions to the consideration and pray that the House acts with wisdom, fairness, and urgency on the matter as presented before the House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay the Petition on the Table of the House for the consideration of the Public Petition Committee. I thank you Mr Speaker, and Honourable Members.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order on S.O. 17. I was expecting a brief statement based on Standing Orders 17 but he has taken a lot of time to explain. The format is so clear under S.O 17[2] 'a Member presenting a petition shall confine himself to a brief statement of the parties' which he has done although he went so extensively. Under S.O. 17[3] we now ask the Member to move the Motion if he wants the Petition to be fully read. Let me read that provision. 'All petitions shall lie upon the Table without question put, unless a Member when presenting a petition move for it to be read, printed, or referred to the Public Petitions Committee. In making such a Motion, he shall state concisely his reasons'. He has not moved the Motion Sir. Let me go further to S.O. 17[4] which says 'no debate shall be permitted on such Motion nor shall any other Member speak upon, or in relation to second such Motion fully, after which the question thereon shall be put forthwith'.

THE SPEAKER: He moved that the petition be read and I granted him that permission which he has done but it is now for us to go for a Secunder.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: He did not need to ask you for a Motion now.

THE SPEAKER: No, he cannot lay it or he cannot make any statement without my permission. He asked for permission and that permission was granted.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Has he moved the Motion?

THE SPEAKER: That is what he has done.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: He has moved the Motion?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, that is what he has done.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. JAWARD SESAY: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put, and Agreed to]

THE SPEAKER: You may now lay the petition on the Table.

HON. P.C ALHAJI MUSA BAMBA FORAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay the petition on the Table of this Honourable House for the consideration of Public Petition Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members of the Public Petition Committee, we would meet on Monday at 2 p.m. prompt to deliberate on this particular petition and if possible we invite witnesses. We would meet in the Speaker's Conference Room.

VI PAPER LAID

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MR IBRAHIM ALPHA SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following paper:

An Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company Sierra Leone Limited, dated January 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister you may leave, I thank you.

VII. BILL

THE CHILD RIGHTS ACT, 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

[THE HOUSE RESOLVED INTO COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we stopped at Clause 25, Madam Minister, what have you got for us today relating to Clause 25?

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I bring you greetings. Based on the advice and discussions and engagements that we have had with this Honourable House of Parliament, we have made some modifications into the Clause. So if you permit me, I may want to read what we have here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Thank you Sir. The suggested text says section 21 'protection from all forms of violence'. 21, 'a child shall not be subjected to physical violence, including torture, other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which

dehumanizes or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of a child'. 21 [2], 'no female child below the age of 18 years shall be subjected to cutting or renewal of the genitalia or reproductive organ, except for legitimate medical purposes'. Legitimate medical purpose refers to any medical procedure carried out by a licensed medical practitioner which is necessary for the prevention, treatment or management of a recognized medical condition in accordance with accepted standards of care and practice as outlined in national and international medical guidelines, complying with the World Health Organization, International Classification of Disease and the International Classification of Violence against Children.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have crossed that. We are on 25.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Exactly because 21 is replacing 25.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we are going strictly with the Bill. Let us go strictly with what we have before us.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Yes in the Bill.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, already there had been recommendations from the Legislative Committee. They have given us two options which the Minister wants to defend so that we accept either of the two options. So you still have an opportunity Madam Minister to convince us on the now proposed 23 which used to be 25. That is what the Chairman is asking that you convince us before going further.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Mr Chairman, for further clarification on the part of the Minister, what she read was previously 21 and is now 19, and we have already moved beyond that. And it was only for us to bring a penalty for that which I think we did. That was very clear.

THE CHAIRMAN: So we are going to deal with 25 in the Bill which is now 23.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Okay Sir, thank you. Okay, so let me read as it is in the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on let me guide you. The previous 25 reads, 'a person, court or other authority shall not involve a child in the participation of harmful practices including early marriage, child betrothal and female genital cutting.'

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Mr Chairman, for further clarification that was expunged at the Legislative Committee. So it was against that backdrop that we brought in two other options.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes and both options were rejected.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Absolutely, it was for her to bring another option.

THE CHAIRMAN: So what other options do you have? We have gone beyond that. You just tell us what you have now.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Chairman, I think Clause 25 now Clause 23, there is nothing to convince about the word genital cutting. We agreed that we expunge that so there is no other provision that should replace that option to this. So we either vote on the proposal or we expunge.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on please. Proceed Madam Minister, we will come to that.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, from the Report that was brought together by the Legislative Committee when Clause 25 was expunged, we however, agreed at the Legislative Committee meeting that we go with these options. Option one; 'no child shall be subjected to collective violence'. Option two, 'it shall be an offence for any person, group or authority to perform, assist or facilitate any procedure that intentionally causes harm or alteration to the body of a person under the age of 18, including, but not limited to [A] the removal, cutting or damaging of any organs that is typically associated with productive or sexual functions'.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, they rejected those two. Do you have another?

DR ISATA MAHOI: Yes please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Bring the other one.

DR ISATA MAHOI: The ones that I have are the ones that I have just read Mr Chairman.

HON. ABDUL MARRY S CONTEH: Oh, Mr Chairman...

DR ISATA MAHOI: Let me go ahead and read again Sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes please.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Protection from all forms of violence. 'A child shall not be subjected to physical violence, including torture, other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which dehumanizes or injurious to the physical and mental welfare of a child'. Two, 'no female child below the age of 18 shall be subjected to cutting or removal of the genitalia or reproductive organ'.

THE CHAIRMAN: That one is similar to the one that was rejected.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Chairman, with all due respect, I think on this Clause, we have taken our position and any other amendment or means of convincing us will not work. Hence, there is the word removal or alteration of any part of the body, or genital mutilation that cannot exist in this Bill.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Unfortunately, we have not been present for the past immediate sittings, but before then, I was a Member of the Legislative Committee that sat on this Bill. And by way of substitution to these words that are unacceptable to us now we proposed to Madam Minister that it is a form of rite of passage. The use of the phrase rite of passage encompasses all of that and it is acceptable. Rite of passage exists in every sphere of life, even in the school, from primary school to junior secondary, you sit NPSC. It is a rite of passage. From Junior Secondary to Senior Secondary, you sit BECE and it is a rite of passage. So even in life, from childhood to adulthood, you have to go through rite of passage. I was very active in the formulation of this particular phrase so in my quest to help Government to

conclude this very good Bill which is the Child Right Bill, apart from this section 25 it is the best Bill for our children. So I did my best to make sure we get over this thing. I have forgotten it but I have so many copies. I have a very good copy that encompasses all these words into a rite of passage. And you can agree with me that all these words that you are saying encompass rite of passage, and if we use rite of passage that cannot be unacceptable but at the same time as long as it is not below the age of 18 then you cannot be subjected to that rite of passage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which version do you have now?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Unfortunately, we are just coming now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: If we have been attending up to this very moment we would have put this to an end.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Child Right Bill came up in your absent.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Just for clarifications since we adjourned the last meeting concerning the Child Rights Bill, we are only meeting on this and nothing has happened.

THE CHAIRMAN: Since the Committee worked tirelessly on this particular Bill, if we cannot get any other option, then we go by the suggestion of the Committee.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Can I suggest that we meet once more?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, let us pass this Bill today.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: What is the suggestion?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member was not here but we have passed through that process where we are stuck now.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have not met in this Well on this particular Bill since they left about 2 weeks ago.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We met Sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: In their absence?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, and we were waiting for them to come and vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We met and took all the decisions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes I recalled.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, we were stuck at section 25 and the Legislative Committee which you are part of recommended two options to us. One option should read, 'no child shall be subjected to collective violence, or it shall be an offence for any person, group or authority to perform, assist or facilitate any procedure that intentionally causes harm or alteration to the body of the person under the age of 18 including but not limited to A and B.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Leaders on both sides, Members of the female Caucus, the Legislative Committee and the Paramount Chief Caucus, let us meet for 10 minutes in Committee Room One.

THE HOUSE STOOD DOWN AT 1:20 P.M

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 1:30 P.M

THE CHAIRMAN: Can we proceed? What do we have now Mr Chairman?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Mr Chairman, we have two options presented this morning 21[1] and 21 [2]. 21[1] reads 'a child shall not be subjected to physical violence, including torture, other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which dehumanizes or is injurious to the physical and mental welfare of a child, this option is acceptable. 21 [2] is not acceptable at the same time, the other previous options presented by the Committee under Section 23 options one and two are also rejected. So what we have here accepted is 21 [1] but again, I just want to remind this

House that 21[1] is already in the Report as Clause 19 with that exact rendition that I have just read. Thank you Mr Chairman.

HON. BERNADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: Mr Chairman, I move that we adopt the rendition read by the Chairman and accept it in Clause 19 and I move that Clause 23 in the Report be rejected.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: We proceed, yes Madam Minister.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts one to five Clauses one to 46 form part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, put, and agreed to]

[Parts one to five, Clauses one to 46 form part of the Bill as amended]

[Parts six to eight, Clauses 47 to 116]

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts six to eight Clauses 47 to 116 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the remaining part or half of page 19? Page 20? Page 21? Page 22?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, in our last meeting we amended some parts of this document and we completed the entirety of the document. I noticed you are starting it again afresh. Are you capturing what we have ended in the last minute Sir? Because we completed the entire document and we only stopped at 25 so that we would wait for our Colleagues to be here and vote. We are not going to start all over because we have amended and debated it. And if we are starting all over again that means the decisions we took are not captured.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on, we did not complete.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We completed Sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We went as far as Clause 46 that is for parts one to five, Clauses one to 46. We wasted a whole lot of time on parts one to five. We stuck a pin at 25, Leader are you paying attention? How can we move and come back to that level? Probably you are confused with this one and some other Bills that we dealt with. Page 22? Page 23? Page 24? Page 25? Page 26?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I do not want to waste unnecessary time. Of course, because of the cut off period I am a bit afraid to just be quiet. Of course, I participated in the Committee Stage and we agreed to expunge Clause 53 entirely.

THE CHAIRMAN: And that is in the Report not so?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Well, since I have not been involved in the latest proceedings before now.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we have not touched anything relating to the Report.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: 23 expunged?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes it is in the Report. Page 26? Page 27? Page 28? Page 29? Page 30? Page 31? Page 32? Page 33? Page 34? Page 35? Page 36? Page 37? Page 38? Page 39? Page 40? Page 41? Page 42? Page 43? Page 44? Page 45? Page 46? Page 47? Page 48? Page 49? Page 50? Page 51? The upper part of 52? Yes, Madam Minister.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts six to eight, Clauses 47 to 116 stand part of the Bill as amended.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, hold on Madam Minister, yes Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes Mr Chairman, it is in relation to Clause 78[1].

THE CHAIRMAN: Where is the Chairman?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: It says 'a child in conflict with the law shall not be subjected to capital punishment for life imprisonment without possibility of healing'. And we all know that capital punishments are no longer part of our law books, so I want us to expunge it from any law that we make as a Parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, and you so move not so?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KARGBO: Yes, I so moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any Secunder?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I so second.

[Question proposed, put and agreed to]

[Motion is carried]

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts six to eight, Clauses 47 to 116 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed]

[Part Six to eight Clauses 47 to 116 form part of the Bill as amended]

[Part 9 to 15 Clauses 117 to 174 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill]

DR ISATA MAHOI: Honourable Members, I move that parts 9 to 15 Clauses 117 to 174 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: The remaining half of page 52? Page 53? Page 54? Page 55? Page 56? Page 57? Page 58? Page 59? Page 60? Page 61? Page 62? Page 63? Page 64? Page 65? Page 66? Page 67? Page 68? Page 69? Page 70? Page 71? Page 72? Page 73? Page 74? Page 75? Page 76?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Mr Chairman, just for the record because I see you are watching at page 76. If you look at the Report from page 74 the whole of part 14 that one was expunged from the Report because it has something to do with decentralization, Local Councils, and Ward welfare committees.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, we go by the Report.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY S. CONTEH: Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 77? Page 78? Page 79? Page 80? And page 81?

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 9 to 15 Clauses 117 to 174 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed]

[Parts 9 to 15 Clauses 117 to 174 and the Schedule form part of the Bill as amended.]

[The House resumed itself]

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister, please report on the Bill.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Mr Speaker, I report that the Bill entitled: The Child Rights Act 2025 having gone through the Committee of the whole House with some amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the Third Time and passed into Law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister, you are a warrior indeed and you have made this nation proud.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We appreciate your effort and you have done extremely well. Thank you very much.

The Bill entitled the Child Right 2025 being and Act to repeal and replace the Child Rights Act 2007 Act No. 7 of 2007 to make provisions for the promotion of the rights and responsibilities of children and the obligation of the State to provide for such rights as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and to provide for other related matters has been read the Third Time and passed into Law.

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister, you may leave.

DR ISATA MAHOI: Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, there was a slight administrative problem during the time of forming all the Committees according to the administration, and the Public Petition Committee was not included among other Committees that we passed in this House. That was a very grave mistake. I thought I saw something like the Public Petition Committee, but they said that it was not part of the other Committees. I hope that administrative error is not committed again, but in the circumstances Honourable Members, I hereby announce the following Members who are Members of the Public Petitions Committee, the Right Honourable Speaker, Segepoh Solomon Thomas, as Chairman, Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, Member, Honourable Bashiru Silikie, Member, Honourable Abdul Kargbo, Member, Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, Member, Honourable P.C Haja Fatmata Meama Kajue, Member, and the co-opted Member is Honourable Jawa Sesay.

[Question Proposed, put and agreed to]

[Names of Members of Public Petition Committee approved]

HON. HINDOLO GEVAO: Mr Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I announce to this House that my son was brutally murdered, allegedly, in a certain House at Brookfield, Beckles Lane. And report has it that my son's mother is the third in that particular House the Police and the public know that. Mr Speaker, I want to let the public know

that we the Members of Parliament, particularly, might be targets to certain murder because yesterday, while we were in church, laying my son to rest, this is what a member of the public wrote on Sierraloading. S.O. 2 "E go wan make nasty say, because e daddy nar MP nar dem dae nar power." I will say the Inspector General of Police is doing his best, the Leader of Government Business and cross section of the Leadership attended the funeral yesterday. The Inspector General of Police has assured that the investigation is moving on speedily. Arrests have been made and he is asked that I personally continue to be in touch with him. It is a sad state of affairs. Mr Speaker, to say the least, because this morning when coming to Parliament, the head of Cyber Unit in the Sierra Leone Police confirmed to me another gruesome murder last night where two persons were killed at Goderich. And following up again, the day before yesterday a young Fulla lady was killed at Mambo. Mr Speaker, you will not follow what is happening in a particular area because I have been affected in the past two weeks or in the past two months. On the 8th of May, Mr Speaker, my own brother that I grew up together with was also killed in a murder incident. Somebody gave him poison in rice flour and he died in three hours. I laid him to rest on the 8th of May and just in June again, my son's life has been taken away brutally.

Mr Speaker, I want to implore you so that the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Inspector General to meet with the Leadership because we need to talk to them so that something could be done. Mr Speaker, if you visit the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner at the Connaught Hospital, they are doing three autopsies on a daily bases and it shows that it was a deliberate gang murder because the Medical Examiner's report says that his skull was broken. He was shot on his neck, all of his ribs were broken, his liver, his kidney, his spleen as a result of kicking, beating and the like. It has been a very difficult period for me and my family, and I want to say thanks to the entire Members of Parliament of both sides because they participated and really sympathized with me as a Colleague. They have stood with me, the Sierra Leone Bar Association has actually stood with me and we are all ensuring that justice be done.

Mr Speaker, I have an audio here a woman sent to me whose son was killed in a year and who had bought a ticket for her son to travel to America within that period they killed him. And this is not only a loss to me and this Parliament, this son of mine benefited from the President's proclamation in this House that everybody interested in the STEM program will have free university tuition. He took advantage of that, went to the university and got a second division first class in chemistry and he was now lecturing at Fourah Bay College in the Chemistry Department. He had also got a scholarship from the Government to go and pursue a master's degree in Hungary, just waiting for a ticket to fly out and he was taken away from us. So like I said, we are all working for this country. No father should be seen laying a son to rest in the way I laid my son to rest yesterday. Thank you Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this is a very sad moment for this House, a very sad moment for me particularly I never knew.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, it is also a surprise to us on this side and on behalf of the Opposition we want to extend our sincere condolences. It is heart breaking you have to be a man to be able to accept this. We really felt it and this is a warning shot to every Member of Parliament because we all have our families and we should ensure that our families are properly protected because target on one will be target on all. So Honourable Member please take heart, if we had known we would have attended the funeral yesterday and Mr Speaker modalities should be put in place to protect our families. We pass laws here and we do not know who we hurt during the process so I am sure protecting our families is a priority. I want to thank you for the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Gevao, I never knew and I want to believe most Members of Parliament never knew, otherwise we would have been there. We sympathize with you as a House, and we urge you to take heart, and we will go all out to ensure that the proper thing is being done by the Sierra Leone Police. Mr Clerk, please invite the Inspector General of Police to come and meet with the Leaders of Parliament including

Honourable Gevao on Monday at 1p.m prompt. We are sorry about that Honourable Gevao.

DANIEL B. KOROMA: We have earlier written that, the Public Petitions Committee meets on Monday.

THE SPEAKER: Yes at 2 p.m.

DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay at 2 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: But we can meet with the IG at 1 p.m.

DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Let us do that at 1 p.m. because most Members since Monday is not a sitting day, most Members will come later in the day and not really any time before 12 p.m. Honourable Members, it is my advice today that, as Honourable Members, you take care of yourselves and your family. You know whatever we do here, and whatever we say here, we have crazy people all over the place you do not know whatever you say here might be hurting somebody else. So please Honourable Members, I urge you, and I advise that you are watchful. Please be watchful over your very lives, and the lives of your children or members of your family, is a passionate advice from the bench to you.

HON. JULIANA ALIMATU FATORMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my heart is bleeding for Honourable Gevao for what he has went through. It is not really good for Honourable Gevao to be going through such drama. I remember in my own case, I just woke up one morning and I saw Soldiers and Police around my house. I asked what is going on? They said come down and sooner I went down these street boys were in my house, ravaging my things. I remember this Parliament sent some thousand of Leones for me to buy an engine for my car. All those monies, my sister's ticket money, even the iPad for this Parliament, and so many things were taken away, and your intervention made it easier for me a little bit, because when you called, you said I

should stay in the house. I think that was a good thing for me, because I was under the rains. I was so disgraced, because I am Honourable Member, and that was the statement I heard from one of the Police men for the community to be afraid. How long are we going to be like this? We do not have security.

THE SPEAKER: Do you know the particular Police Officer?

HON. JULIANA ALIMATU FATORMA: Yes, they said he works at Ross Road. That was his statement even when the Leader of Government Business called to speak to them, they rejected him. They refused until I got you on the line. So those are the things we are going through as Honourable Members and even in the area I am not safe because if a Policeman in the area will be telling me that is the smallest one I have seen, so I wonder what is the biggest one that is coming behind this. So this is worrisome for Honourable Members and you need to do something for us.

THE SPEAKER: Please provide all the relevant details to the Clerk of Parliament. Let us see how we can bring that Police Officer here. Please give all the relevant details to the Clerk of Parliament.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, there was a common practice in the 5th Parliament that is not obtaining now even in the 4th Parliament for those who were in the 4th Parliament. There is no common Whatsapp forum where Members from all political parties are part of in this 6th Parliament. I am sure that is why we have a lot of things that are happening that are not to the knowledge of us. So I want to plead to the two Whips to ensure that they constitute a Whatsapp forum that has all Members of Parliament so that we can use it. Mr Speaker, also, I sympathize with the Honourable Member. I saw the videos and I asked myself the inevitable question a Member of Parliament can be humiliated this kind way, what the ordinary people would say? For Police to interface with a Member of Parliament, they must have sought the expressed permission of the Speaker. They do not have any right to tamper with a Member of Parliament without the permission of Mr Speaker. So that should be established and Members of Parliament should have some form of immunity. She was molested.

THE SPEAKER: That is going to be taken care.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I am sure it should be enforced that no Member of Parliament should be molested or inferiorated. No Member of Parliament should be disgraced and if the law has problem with any Member of Parliament the Speaker must be notified, so that the immunity of that Member of Parliament is lifted so that the Law takes its course because Members of Parliament should be protected. We do a lot of things here. There are times we make Laws here that are against citizens of this nation for the interest of this nation, and not everybody will be happy with our job. So in a bid to protecting our offices and our job, in the interest of this country and in the interest of our electorates, Members of Parliament must be protected and the immunity of Members of Parliament must be protected by this House Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I totally agree with you Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and in fact, in our meeting on Monday at 1 p.m. that is going to form part of the topics we are going to talk about with the Inspector General of Police. Honourable Members, especially the Leaders, please make sure we come down very hard to explain this particular situation to the IG and let him commit himself to taking certain actions relating to Members of Parliament.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, two weeks ago, I watched a telecast which was authored by the IG, the Director General of NCRA and of course, the head of the Office of National Security on which they gave deadline that effective 31st of August they are going to mount checkpoints to make sure that they conduct search for the possession of National ID Card mandatory. Mr Speaker, we all know in Section 18 of our Constitution of Sierra Leone, which is an entrenched Clause; the right to freedom of movement is a fundamental rights for all Sierra Leoneans. That is why the only time, even when we are faced with pandemics or when we are faced with national issues, the President will have to invoke section 29 for the State of Emergency to be invoked and approved by Parliament. That is the time that particular provision will be infringed and so therefore Mr Speaker section 15 of the

NCRA Act is very clear. It is mandated for that particular Authority to establish offices which are permanent, which should be functional continuously at Chiefdom, District and Regional levels. We all know that as we speak, 80% or 90% of Chiefdoms have not been constructed with offices of NCRA to make sure that ID cards are issued in our Constituencies; we have never talked about the cost here. Mr Speaker, attempting to make the possession of ID cards mandatory, considering the cost or the economic situation and considering the dictates of section 18 of the 1991 Constitution, it will be a breach of the fundamental rights of citizens. And so therefore I call on this House to make sure that we call to book those particular authorities, the ONS, the IG and the head of the Office of National Registration Authority to make sure that they put on hold that particular announcement they have just made because we believe it will not be in the interest of this country and the people of course they are representing. Thank you very much.

HON. RUGIATU MUSTAPHA: Mr Speaker, I want to espouse on the security aspect for Members of Parliament. I am also a victim, but for the grace of God they could have killed me. They destroyed my property and destroyed my solar panels in my house. I had to replace 11 bundles of zinc for my house. They shot inside my compound and almost killed me. We need security. I wake up in cold at night. We do not deserve it. What we are doing is trying to add value to this country and to our people. There is no reason why we should be targeted. We are looked as if we are foreigners in our own Constituencies. If it was not for the grace of God and for connections, I would have had nothing left. They burnt down my jeep and if my vehicle was a petrol vehicle, the whole house would have been burnt down with over 50 people in the house. Something should be done about our safety and that should be taken very seriously Mr Speaker, because we do not deserve what we are getting. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA: Mr Speaker, I want to talk about two issues. One happened in 2020 and the second happened yesterday. In 2020 Mr Speaker, I was arrested as an MP, brought to the CID, forced to sit down on the floor and handcuffed.

I was told by the Police that the Speaker then Dr Abass Bundu had given them the permit and lifted my immunity to allow them to investigate without even hearing my side of the story. I spent up to 1 month in custody, 9 days at CID and some weeks at Pademba Road and two years in court only to be let free. Mr Speaker, when there is a report about an MP; it is fair for whosoever is in charge to hear from the MP. I suffered, my family suffered, and my supporters suffered because there was an allegation against me and nobody called to listen to my side of the story. Yesterday on my way to town, I was feeling pain on my left leg and I was going to meet my Doctor and there was a traffic jam around Old Road Kissy Terminal. I called a Police woman to talk to her to allow me to move but a Military man came to my vehicle very angry. He told me to shut up and close my mouth. He even came very close to me as if he was about to slap me. I just avoided him and drove away. That man wanted to slap me and he was drunk.

THE SPEAKER: So he was drunk?

HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA: Yes he was drunk so I just avoided him and drove away. The IG should come here so that we discuss some of these challenges we are facing as MPs. We are not protected. Now I understood why there was a time when an MP had to slap a Police Officer. He so annoyed me, so I just ignored and drove away. So that is my experience yesterday Mr Speaker, so we need to be protected. Thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, there is something very important that I want to attract your attention and similarly the attention of Colleagues here. There is what they have referred to as citizenship by investment in which people are out of the country just by applying and paying certain amount of money they could be made citizens of Sierra Leone. I have seen a video of that and I have seen a lot of write ups about that. I just want to attract the attention of this House that anything that has to do with citizenship, the Constitution is the authority over citizenship and that cannot be done without the expressed approval of this House. So if there is any skill anybody is engaged, that has

not been brought to this House for approval, we want to advise that they desist from it and bring it to the attention of Members of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, I know that is illegal. We do not have that anywhere in our books. It is totally illegal and I do not think we should even entertain that kind of talk. We need to engage the CIO on that because it is totally illegal.

HON. AMIE M. MORIBA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, you were talking to us about taking care of ourselves and our families. Yesterday, I saw on social media a woman who goes to Prince of Wales pretending to sell water but that woman sells Kush to the school children. So these people who produce Kush in this country are now using the women who go to those schools to sell Kush to our children and these children are vulnerable. So I want you and this House to bring this to the notice of the Ministry of Education and the Principals of schools who are allowing these women to go and sell in their schools. It has been a norm. Even when you make breakfast for your children or lunch to take to school, they will still go and buy from those women and those women are now being used to circulate harmful substances to our children and that is why there is so much increase in violence in this country. We really have to stand up so that we can minimize the rate at which our children are killing themselves. They stab each other because they are drugged and also the sale of Tramadol is not monitored. That one should be looked into because there are certain drugs you should not sell without prescription more so Tramadol. You can try your best at home but you do not follow your children to school. Now we are seated here and all our children and grandchildren are in schools and we do not even know what is happening to them. Please Mr Speaker, I am asking you to bring this to the attention of the Ministry of Education so that they can talk to these Principals to be monitoring those women who are taking those markets to schools to sell to our children. Also, please let us have our ID cards. Some Policemen cannot even read the MP number plates we have on our vehicles. So let us have our ID cards apart from the MP number plate. Thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I know the Deputy Leader of Government Business is not here who also happens to be the Chair for Works Committee. Mr Speaker, if you are living in the East part of Freetown and in the morning to come to town the traffic is just another thing altogether, and this is because of the road between Ferry Junction to Up Gun. That road is not just messy but it is almost becoming a dead trap. And the interesting thing is, the bad road is right on top of the main bridge leading from the East by the Bomeh itself. That is where the road is so messy. And just few years ago, because of this same situation on the right hand part the bridge collapsed and we saw what happened then. People lost their lives during that occasion and as a nation if we still continue to look at the same thing happening just at the middle of where the bridge is, the place is becoming almost a swamp and it is not far from SLRA. It is not far from big cement factories in that area and yet still nobody seems to care at all. It is causing a whole lot of traffic for us in the East and it is a concern.

HON. P.C ALAMEEN KANNEH: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this debate. The world is such a volatile place, but we seem to be overlooking a lot of things. Terrorism is rife all over the world. Nobody knows where some crazy person is going to strike, whether for ideological reasons or whatever reasons. So I think we should always be alert. We should be proactive, and we are targets as Lawmakers. So I think we need to be very proactive even regarding beefing up security within the precinct of Parliaments. It is very important that we increase alertness to whatever threats. We should not wait until something drastic happens before we start taking action. A lot of things have happened and we just think they should happen as they are, but I think we need to take these things very seriously. We are a target for whatever reason, by either the public or even around the international community. Secondly, I also want to note that our personal security at our homes is very important. We can be offered all the privileges that we have been offered, but if our lives are at risk then it becomes very difficult for us to perform our functions without fear or favour, and we are here to perform those duties

the people have sent us here to perform without entertaining fears. As a result of this, I have some measures I think I want to recommend for us to strengthen our security measures within this building, including enhancing surveillance and improved access control. I also ask that we provide Members with resources and support to enhance security at their homes, including financial assistance for security systems at their homes. I am also asking that we establish well dedicated team to evaluate threats, assess their credibility and recommend appropriate protective measures. We should also try to develop and regularly update emergency response plans for various scenarios including active shooter situations. There are other considerations such as communication protocols for staff to follow during emergencies. Let us do not wait until things crop up before we start scrambling for solutions and lastly, to raise public awareness about the importance of respecting elected officials and the need to refrain from inflicting violence and intimidation on them. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I assure you that on Monday, I will bring to the notice of the Inspector General of Police all your concerns and I will get him to make a commitment to this House regarding your security and the respect you deserve especially from Police Officers.

Honourable Members, I have to inform you today that our substantive Clerk of Parliament Honourable Umar Paran Tarawallie is on leave and we have Mr Gilbert Bosco N'bay acting as Clerk of Parliament. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO THURSDAY 10TH JULY 2025

AT 10 A.M. PROMPT

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 2:30 P.M.