



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2025**

*SESSION – 2024/2025*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

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

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

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**TUESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Alimamy Lincoln Bangura, read the prayer]*

*[The House met at 10:05 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. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4 and start with Page 5? Do you have any amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? And Page 9? If there is no amendment or correction, can a Member please move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 as presented?

**HON. IDRIS S. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. PRINCESS K. DARAMY:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 has been adopted as presented?]*

**III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, immediately after this sitting, I kindly request for a meeting with the Leadership of the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] in the House. There is a meeting scheduled immediately after this sitting and it is very important. I urge every Member of the Leadership of the SLPP to be present at that meeting. I should state that I am quite impressed with today's attendance, unlike the previous adjournment dates, where I had to wait for one hour before achieving a quorum. I was here for less than five minutes, and we had got a quorum. So, I thank you profusely for heeding to my call at the last adjourned date. However, some Members are still not here in time. Like I said, we are going to have a meeting where we are going to discuss sanctions for non-compliance. We would all agree on what the sanctions should be because even though I made the call, some Members are still out of the Well and their seats are still empty. I will begin to call the names of those who do not come to Parliament on time for the attention of the public. I want their constituents to know that these are the people they sent to Parliament, but they do not attend parliamentary sittings or they do not even come in time. So, when it is time for elections, the people will know who to send to this House. I will begin to call their

names, even if they give them symbols, the people will reject them. Thank you very much, Honourable Members, for coming.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, normally we do not need to make comments on your announcement; but I have to talk on behalf of my colleagues. Mr Speaker, last week, I told you that we still have these lower-level elections and we thought it would be hard to tell people why MPs are now coming to work. It is already written on the wall. We have the lower-level elections and it is survival of the fittest. We still have some MPs in their constituencies, trying to get their feet on the ground. I think that is why we are not getting many Members here.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Chief Whip, you should not even say that.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** No, Mr Speaker, I have to.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Chief Whip.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** You should not be saying that, please.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I agree with you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do not say that please. We are directly in the face of the public and in the face of the gallery. Please, do not even say that. Maybe we can discuss that in Committee Room 1 and not here.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sorry for amending the Order Paper very late for obvious reasons. Mr Speaker, for obvious reasons, those in possession of the Bill can testify that something is fundamentally wrong; but hereafter, we are going to engage the Minister to discuss the things that were omitted, so that we can find possible ways of addressing the problem. I can update you and my colleagues in Parliament. I am going to expunge item V from the Order Paper, which has to do with the National Country Planning Act, 2024.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honorable Members, this is a further announcement to all Committee Chairmen. We will be having a meeting on Thursday immediately after the sitting in Committee Room 1. Please endeavour to be here because we have to discuss very

important matters. Please inform those who are not here today to endeavour to attend. I thank you.

#### **IV. PAPERS LAID**

[A] THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

**MR MOHAMED RAHMAN RADO SWARAY** [*Minister of Employments, Labour and Social Security*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following paper:

Agreements and Schedule of Conditions of Contract for Development and Hosting of a Unified E-resident and Work-permit System between the Ministry of Employment, Labour, and Social Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Sierra Leone Immigration Department and Contract System Limited, dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

[B] THE MINISTER OF TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

**DR HAJA RAMATULAI WURIE** [*Minister of Technical and Higher Education*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers:

[a] Agreement on the Cooperation with regard to the Creation of the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land use, dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Lomé, Togo.

[b] Additional Act to the Cooperation Agreement Establishing the West African Science Service Chapter on Climate Change and adapted Land use [WASCAL], dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Lomé, Togo.

[c] Constitution of the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and adapted Land use [WASCAL] Text adopted by the 1<sup>st</sup> WASCAL Council og Ministers on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Lomé, Togo.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Leadership of the Sierra Leones People's Party will be meeting in my Chambers immediately after sitting, including the Clerk of Parliament. I will be meeting the Leadership of the APC tomorrow. I have a meeting with the APC at 5:00 p.m. There is a meeting of all Chairmen of Committees on Thursday, immediately after sitting.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not relent on this and I am also calling on your office regarding the recent West African Senior School Certificates Examination [WASSCE] saga that has taken another level. We continued to ignore the situation of our kids, who will be our future leaders. The people bestowed their confidence in us as Members of Parliament to always represent them effectively. There will come a time when the citizenry of this country will lose their confidence in us

as representatives of this nation. I have raised this issue in this Well for three consecutive years and we have not done much as a Parliament to resolve this matter. As we speak, there are students who will be omitted from taking the WASSCE, but Government has already paid for them. They are about 100,000, but they have been omitted from taking the exams. This is because WAEC has already printed the register of those that will be taking the exams. Some pupils have moved from one school to another; and the tradition is that when you move to another school, you should be captured under the BRS. When some of those pupils whose names were in that list would have died, some would have moved to other schools and these pupils are now over 100,000 who will not take the exams at all. This situation is affecting almost every Member of Parliament in every corner of this country. We cannot ignore some of these sensitive issues; we cannot keep quiet, as representatives of the people, and allow them to go through these pains without inviting the Minister of Education to come and tell us what the situation of our kids is. They are the future of this nation; we cannot continue to ignore them. We are putting the parents under undue pressure, and it is a problem affecting us in our communities. If you do not know about it, please ask your principals in the various schools in your constituencies, they will explain to you the painful thing they are going through.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just imagine that somebody has prepared for an exam from Senior Secondary School one [SSS1] to SSS3, only to go to the exam hall after being given a BRS and all of the sudden you were told not to take the exam because your name did not appear. S.O [2] we nor bin see u name. The police will be there to harass them to leave the examination centers. We cannot continue to push our kids to that extent. If there is a problem, let the school authorities pay for the cost and not the parents. We should not subject them to such horrible situations because of our negligence as leaders. This is pure negligence on their parts. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, who is the Chairman of the Basic and Senior Secondary Education Committee? Mr Chairman, you have heard the Honourable Leader. What do you have to say?

**HON. ALPHA M. JABBIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have heard what the Honourable Member from Kambia has said. I am sure two to three days ago, this matter was dispelled off by WAEC as well the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education [MBSSE]. The issue about BRS they are talking about is fake BRS. If there is anybody with a genuine BRS, the name of that person will be reflected on the approved list from the Ministry to WAEC and that list is posted in all examination centres for every school. The list of approved candidates by the MBSSE, whose BRS have also been prepared, are usually posted in those examination centers. So, if the Honourable



Member has got complaints, let the kids take their BRS to the school authorities or to the Ministry of Education and that will be taken care of. There are many fake BRS being manufactured by crook school leaders in order to tarnish the image of the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, as well as this Government. Mr Speaker, this is my submission.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, when I listened to the Chairman of the Education Committee, he is speaking from what he has been told; he is not telling us what he has got from his independent research. You are quoting what they said on the social media. We are talking about issues affecting over 100,000 pupils. We tend to believe rumours or public notices issued by WAEC or the Ministry of Education. This is a House of facts, Mr Speaker.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Leader presented this matter to you and I think he should wait for you to make a ruling on it; he should not keep echoing the issue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Abdul K. Kamara, please prepare question time for the Minister to be here at the next adjourned date, which is on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The only way we can address this issue is to get the Minister to come here and explain to Parliament. Where is Mr King, the consultant? Mr Clerk, please invite the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to be here at the next adjourned date. We want him to come and explain to the public about what is happening with the WASSCE exams. Please get the Minister to come and explain to the public and Members of Parliament will be free to ask relevant questions. I thank you very much.

**HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O [23]. I stand here on behalf of the Committee on Employments, Labour and Social Security. As you can see, I have an award presented to the Committee on Labour. I have to present it here publicly in the Well of Parliament. This award was presented to the Members of the Committee on Labour by the Ministry of Labour. So, on behalf of the Committee and by extension the coopted Members, Parliament of Sierra Leone, this is the first time the Ministry of Labour organised a three day conference on Labour and an Award Night. This is the award we have worked for, Mr Speaker. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** So you want to lay the award?

**HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA:** No, I want to present it to Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA:** Where should I put it?

**THE SPEAKER:** No, take it to the Leader.

**HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA:** I thank you. I will present it to the Speaker later.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, a round of applause for the Chairman.

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** I think what we have just witnessed here is a manifestation of what women can do when given positions of responsibility.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, Honourable Members.

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** I think we must commend her for her dedication to duty. Of course, we all know that the Committee on Labour has been very effective in its oversight functions and it is not a surprise for receiving this award because we know her to be very hard working. She has headed many Committees and what she has just been recognised through the awards from the Ministry of Labour is of no mean standing that it has direct relation to what she has been known for. Please continue to make the women of this Parliament proud. On behalf of the Leadership on this side, we are very proud of your achievement and please continue to make us proud.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, this is the third time I am bringing this issue here. I hope and pray that it will be resolved. In my constituency, there are two to three small-scale mining companies. They are in violation of the NPPA Act that we enacted here. There is a provision in that Act which states: **"The operations of the company should not be hazardous to the mining communities where they exist."** Again, even for the public disclosure, there are risks and mitigation measures. One of those risks could be dust pollution and the mitigation measure is dust suppression. However, I was coming from my constituency yesterday and I nearly ran into motorbikes coming from the other end because there were eight 40ft trailers plying along that route. That road is very narrow and I almost had an accident. I had to call the Local Unit Commander [LUC] and reported this matter. The leading small-scale mining company is the FS Mining Company. I have raised this issue here severally, but no action has been taken. You promised to take action, but nothing has happened. It is dangerous for the lives of our people.

**THE SPEAKER:** What is your complaint, Honourable Member?

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** The complaint is that they are plying that route, by failing to suppress the dust. The dust is all over the place and it is affecting the motorbikes riders, the vehicles and the people who are doing their businesses along that route. A document was presented to the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the National Minerals Agency [NMA] that they should do dust suppression on the roads where they are undertaking their mining activities, but they are not doing that at all. They are plying those routes on a daily basis without doing the needful. These are small-scale mining activities. Mr Speaker, the havoc they have caused is more than the

dividend Government is receiving from them. This is against the Act we enacted here and the people in those places are not happy. I am representing them and my voice should be heard in this Well as their representative. I want to bring it to your attention for the third time. This particular Company should be called to book in order to address this issue. It is very hazardous for our people.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is all right, Honourable Member. Are you done?

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, I am not done. I want the media to carry this information as well.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** You are not speaking to the media, Honourable Member.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** I have brought this issue for the third time now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu, you are addressing the House and not the media.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, this is a burning issue and this is the third time I am bringing it here. We should take action now. These mining companies are benefitting themselves.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do you have any issue with those companies other than what you have just presented to us?

**HON. MUSTAPH M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, to be honest, I do not have any other issue apart from this concern.

**THE SPEAKER:** Have you brought it to their notice personally as a Member of Parliament?

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** I do not know their address. The Chinese are unable to speak English and their interpreters are not always around.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, it is all right.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Speaker, this is painful.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is all right.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I understand the pains of the Honourable Member from Moyamba. I am sure we have the Chairman of Environment. This matter is extremely serious; it is affecting the people of Moyamba. Of course, there is no way NMA or the Ministry of Mines could give mining licenses without EPA's approval. I believe they should have done due diligence. EPA should have done public disclosure; but having said that, I would encourage the Committee responsible for the Environment and the Committee on Mines to summon EPA, the Ministry and those mining

companies. They should come and explain to them, and the Committees should report to this House. This is because the Member of Parliament is representing his people and he has brought this concern for the third time, which means it is extremely very hazardous for the people and their livelihood. So, I encourage the Committee on the Environment and the Committee on Mines to do a joint oversight on this matter and report to the House, so that we can take a decision as a Parliament. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let me tell you my problem with some of these complaints. We have Parliamentary Committees to deal with everything that is happening in this country and some of these complaints are expected to be directed to these Committees. They direct their complaints to these Committees, but no action is taken. When colleagues have issues in their various districts or constituencies, it for them to raise those concerns here; and when these concerns are raised, it behooves the Committee to address these concerns, but nothing is happening. Complaints are made to Committees, but nothing is happening at all. It is just a matter of inviting the relevant parties and caution them what they should do; and if possible, present a report with the relevant recommendations to this House. I am sure when once the House adopt the recommendations, they become law and those recommendations will be sent to the relevant MDAs for action. Complaints are directed to these Committees, but nothing is happening and that was why out of frustration at one point in time, I formed the Public Interest Committee. I was looking at some of these issues only for some Chairmen to say that Mr Speaker has taken our powers, but they are not doing anything. They are very conscious of their roles as Chairpersons or Deputy Chairpersons of these Committees. These complaints are expected to be addressed by you; but because you failed to do your work that forced me to form that Committee. Do you think I would like to sit as Chairman of the Public Interest Committee to be addressing concerns you should be addressing? You are not doing anything, but you keep saying Mr Speaker has taken all our powers from us. You are concern about your powers, instead of your duty. I want the Chairman of the Committee on the Environment and Chairman of the Committee on Mines to address this particular concern. He has raised this issue several times and you should have addressed this matter long since. Why did you fail to address this issue? This is just a matter of you summoning these companies to appear before you and raise these issues. I am giving you a month to address these issues.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, a month is too much. Two weeks is okay.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, I am bending backwards to give them a month, so that they can address this particular issue, otherwise I will take over and address it myself. This is

because like I often say, all Chairmen of Committees are representing me. You are all representing me; and that is why if I noticed that you cannot do your job, I will take over the matter. So, the issue of Mr Speaker taking your powers is not tenable at all. You are the one taking my powers and if you cannot perform that duty, I will be forced to address these concerns myself.

Honourable Members, the other day I summoned a lot of companies and they came here. The issues were addressed amicably. If you summoned any Company, but they refused to come, it is your responsibility to bring it to my notice, so that we can sign a warrant for the arrest of the Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of that Company and brought to Parliament. This is because we should do the people's job; we should address the concerns affecting our people. If we are in this House and doing nothing to address the concerns of the citizens of Sierra Leone, then why are we here? So, I want the Chairpersons of the respective Committees to treat this concern very seriously.

Honourable Members, regarding the concern raised by Honourable Abdul K. Kamara, we are going to bring the Minister here to answer certain questions. I want to encourage Members of Parliament to prepare their questions and give them to the Clerk before Thursday. Mr Deen Rogers is here to assist you frame your questions. He is an expert in that area and he is willing to assist you. We do not allow the Minister to be here and then you want to raise questions via voting. You cannot raise your questions via voting when the Minister is here. You would have prepared your questions before the Minister comes here and those are the questions that will be asked on Thursday. So, please take note of that. Thank you.

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for the passion you have demonstrated on the issue raised by the Honourable Member from Moyamba. Indeed, I am sure many other Members have similar concerns, but normally, the S.O 23 in question does not fully cover them because that provision is very clear in terms of raising issues. Those issues must not be controversial, but this is an important issue. Of course, the Standing Orders make provisions for such issues as well. S.O 19 is crucial and I think we must effectively use it as a Parliament. Parliament, all over the World, almost every sitting a Minister will be invited for questioning and that is a promise you gave to us, Mr Speaker. We believe that you can make this particular S.O very effective and active and lively, so that we can have the opportunity to interact effectively with Ministers on their policies. I am sure that is the only way we can hold them accountable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you raised the issue relating to parliamentary Committees. I think all of us, as Leaders, including yourself, have a role to play. We have seen many Committees that have gone on oversight, they have written reports

and even tabled same in Parliament, but those reports are yet to be debated. The Standing Orders mandate Parliament to table and debate these reports, but not a day has been set aside for the debate of these reports. I am sure we have not been effectively doing our job because the debates on parliamentary Committee reports are the bases upon which the concerns and recommendations made during the oversight engagements could be taken as a reference point to make informed decisions. I think you should consider summoning a bipartisan meeting, specifically the Business Committee, so that they consider including Committee reports on the Order Paper for debates.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree with you, Honourable Member.

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, because we are acting in proxy, each time we sit as Chairmen we do not only sit as ordinary Members, we sit in proxy of the Speaker. So, whatever we arrive at Committee level and there is a report to the effect, that report has to be given out. This is why MDAs do not take us seriously because after our oversight activities, we make recommendations, but those recommendations are shelved without any action; and because we are not taking action, this has encouraged MDAs to take Parliament for granted.

**THE SPEAKER:** I totally agree with you; you are totally right.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGER:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I want to wholeheartedly support the suggestion made by the Honourable Member from Mile 91. I think it is high time we began to debate some of these reports. This is because as Chief Whip, I have read some of those reports submitted to me. There are some relevant issues being raised in those reports and if they are debated, we will be able to come up with suggestions. When Committees go out on oversight, they usually present their reports, but we have not been debating them at all. I am sure that is why some Chairmen are not even bothered to lay their reports. Mr Speaker, the moment we start debating these reports here, every Committee will be fighting to bring their report. You set up a Committee with instructions regarding a certain journalist. I am sure that report is out and it left with us to debate same.

**THE SPEAKER:** Has it been laid here? Who is the Chairman of the Ethics Committee? Where is your report? You have not laid it? Mr Deen Rogers, are you here? Please make sure the said report is laid.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGER:** Mr Speaker, thank you. I have read my own copy of that report. It is a very rich report. I want to thank the Chairman of the Ethics Committee very much. I was copied in my capacity as a Member of that Committee and Chief Whip

of this House. I want to thank the Honourable Member from Mile 91 for making that suggestion. I hope you will give us that opportunity for our reports to be debated?

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Mr Deen Rogers, make sure at the next adjourned date, we have that report on the Order Paper. We have question time for the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. In view of what has been discussed by the Leader and the Chief Whip, I would encourage the Clerk to ensure that when responsibilities are given to Committees with timeline, you remind the Business Committee, so that these Committees that have being given these responsibilities report here before the timeline elapses. Mr Speaker, you would agree with me that whenever responsibilities are given to Committees there are timelines attached. This is why the Clerk should inform the Business Committee. The Business Committee has taken note of this and we will ensure that Committee reports are laid and I will report to the Chairman of the Business Committee, who is the Leader of Government Business, to slate a particular day to debate these reports. We have to discuss these reports and take decisions where necessary. I will encourage the Committee on Works to meet immediately after the meeting with the Speaker. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will not take further S.O 23. Honourable Members, some weeks ago, I told all Chairmen to inform their Clerks to do some concept notes for the attention of the Leadership for Committees to proceed on oversight. I want to restate that if your Committee has some relevant issues to look at on oversight, please get your Clerk to do the concept and submit same to the Leadership. Please submit them to your respective Leaders. For the SLPP Chairpersons, you have to submit yours to the Leader of Government Business; for the APC Chairpersons, submit to the Leader of the Opposition and the same for the Paramount Chiefs. We want to know what you want to go and oversee; we want to know what oversight you want to go and do; we do not just get up and start distributing funds to Chairmen. Please write a two or three pager concept notes and give it to your leadership for onward approval before funds are allocated. We want to ensure that your Committee goes on oversight. I told you to do this about three to four weeks ago. I think only one concept has reached my table. I do not want you to say Mr Speaker is dishing out funds for certain Committees, leaving out other Committees. Please submit your concept to your respective Leaders for approval, and for onward submission to me for vetting and approval.

**HON. MASSAY N. ARUNA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join Honourable Aaron A. Koroma for appreciating our sister, Honourable Rebecca Y. Kamara for representing not only this Parliament, but the women of Sierra Leone and

the country at large. I am sure this is not her first time; she has always been there to represent Parliament and the Women. On behalf of the Female Caucus, I appreciate you so much. I thank you and may the Almighty God bless you.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Female Caucus, Women power, do not worry I am with you. Yes proceed Honourable Member.

**HON. YUSIF MACKERY:** Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for adding your voice to this particular issue bothering on both the Chairmen and the MDAs, including the companies. I also sympathise with my colleague, Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu. Fortunately, he is part of this Committee. Today is my first time to get this burning issue. Secondly, all issues concerning the environment will be addressed as soon as I get the report. We are going to take action as soon as applicable. Last week, one of our colleagues was also having problems with one of the MDAs. I called the MDA and we reversed whatever decision they wanted to take against him. The Leader is my witness. So, I want to assure you and the Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu that we are going to do the needful. Mr Speaker, I thank you for your concern regarding parliamentary Committees.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Yusif Mackery, you have spoken well, but I give a month to address this issue. Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu if this issue is not addressed, please remind me after one month.

**HON. YUSIF MACKERY:** Mr Speaker, I will do that before one month.

**HON. PC. THOR THOR SHEKU TERENAH T.N.K FANKOLAI MARAH III:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a little bit in doubt about my Committee. I am sure most of the Members of the Ethics Committee are not regular and punctual. The last time we summoned a meeting and it will interest you to know that only one Member came for that meeting and this is very serious. We should have done this matter relating to the journalist long time ago, but the Committee Members are not turning up for meetings at all. Secondly, based on this education issue, I thank God the Chairman of the Committee on Education came from Falaba and **90%** of the Secondary Schools in Falaba District are not going to take their WASSCE exams this year.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** We have invited the Minister.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, the Minister will be here.

**HON. PC. THOR THOR SHEKU TERENAH T.N.K FANKOLAI MARAH III:** Mr Speaker, since this Government came to power, we are getting a lot of protocols concerning these public exams and some of the areas are very remote areas. We cannot get good communication signal in some of those areas, such as Kulor Saladu, Morifiduku, Nehya Chieftdom. The Ministry of Education in Falaba District is understaffed



and the inspectors of schools are not many. They cannot take information from the Ministry to the schools because they are understaffed. I am in doubt because the Chairman of the Education Committee is from Falaba District. This is my concern.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is all right Honourable Paramount Chief. The Minister will be here at the next adjourned date to address all our concerns.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, in that vein, I will encourage the Honourable Paramount Chief to work with the Clerks and prepare his questions for the Minister. Mr Speaker, with that being said, I want to personally congratulate the Honourable Osman A. Timbo of the APC for declaring his intention for the position of flagbearer for the APC and he is one of us in this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Oh yes.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** He has declared his interest.

**THE SPEAKER:** He did that on Labour Day.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Yes, he is one of us and we wish him well. Please accept our congratulatory sentiments for your declaration. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** In case you succeed, do not forget your colleagues, do not forget easily; know that we have all being here.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 11:55 a.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]*