



PARL NEWSLETTER



PARLIAMENTARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER (OCT 2025)



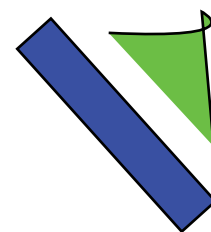
TOP NEWS

**PARLIAMENT
CONCLUDES
DEBATE ON
PRESIDENTIAL
SPEECH**

**SPEAKER THOM-
AS WARNS CIT-
IZENS AGAINST
UNPATRIOTIC
BEHAVIOR**



PREPARED BY
PPRD/ PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT
Parliament of Sierra Leone



SHEKU LAMIN TURAY

Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

Parliament of Sierra Leone

Foreword

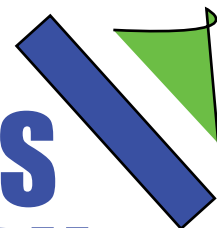
The Parl Newsletter is a strategic initiative aimed at disseminating timely and credible information from the Parliament of Sierra Leone to cater for the information needs of our various audiences in light of accurate, reliable, dependable and quality information from the Parliament of Sierra Leone. They include information relating to plenary, committee meetings, inter-parliamentary delegations, bills, loans, grants, and agreements ratified by the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

GROUP OF FOREIGN INVESTORS MEETS WITH SPEAKER THOMAS AND UNVEILS PLANS TO INVEST IN SIERRA LEONE



The architect of the GO-FOR-GOLD Program, Stephen Barnes, alongside a group of foreign investors from countries such as the United States, Germany, and India, paid a courtesy visit to the Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas in his office on October 27, 2025. The investors expressed profound interest in investing in Sierra Leone, citing the country's open-door policy and friendly populace.

Speaker Thomas welcomed the delegation and commended their good intentions. He assured them that Sierra Leone is open to genuine investors and that the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic is committed to enacting progressive laws that protect both Sierra Leoneans and investors. The Speaker also guaranteed that the Parliament would support and ratify agreements that bring investments to the country, providing



PARLIAMENT TRAINS PRESS GALLERY ON PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Wednesday 22/10/2025 in Committee Room One, Parliament Building provided a day's training for members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery on the theme: "Enhancing Parliamentary Journalism for effective democratic governance".

In his keynote address, the Clerk of Parliament, Karmoh Conteh, reaffirmed that he had tremendous regard for the press and that he had always been a friend to members of the press. He described the press as an instrumental tool for holding Parliament accountable. He encouraged the media to report within the laws governing the practices and procedures of Parliament. concerns about the gap between advertised 4G/5G services and the reality in many rural communities. He confirmed that many communities are still operating on outdated 2G and 3G networks. He called for stricter enforcement of service standards



PARLIAMENT DEBATES PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH (FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

The Parliament of Sierra Leone Monday 13/10/2025 commenced debates on the speech of His Excellency the President he so graciously delivered on Thursday 7th August 2025.

Commencing the debate, the Acting Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie highlighted the significance of the speech delivered by President Bio. He asked colleague Members of Parliament to look at the speech in good faith and be objective in holding the government accountable. 'In this chamber, we don't speak as SLPP or APC, but we speak as Members of Parliament representing the people of Sierra Leone' and went on to say, "our business is not only to criticize but to also provide solutions for the people of Sierra Leone". He urged colleague MPs to be sincere and nationalistic in their contributions to the debate. The Leader added that education should be the bedrock for the development of the nation. On health, electricity, economy, employment and other sectors, he said the current government has done more than any government in the history of Sierra Leone.





PARLIAMENT CONTINUES DEBATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH (2ND ALLOTTED DAY)

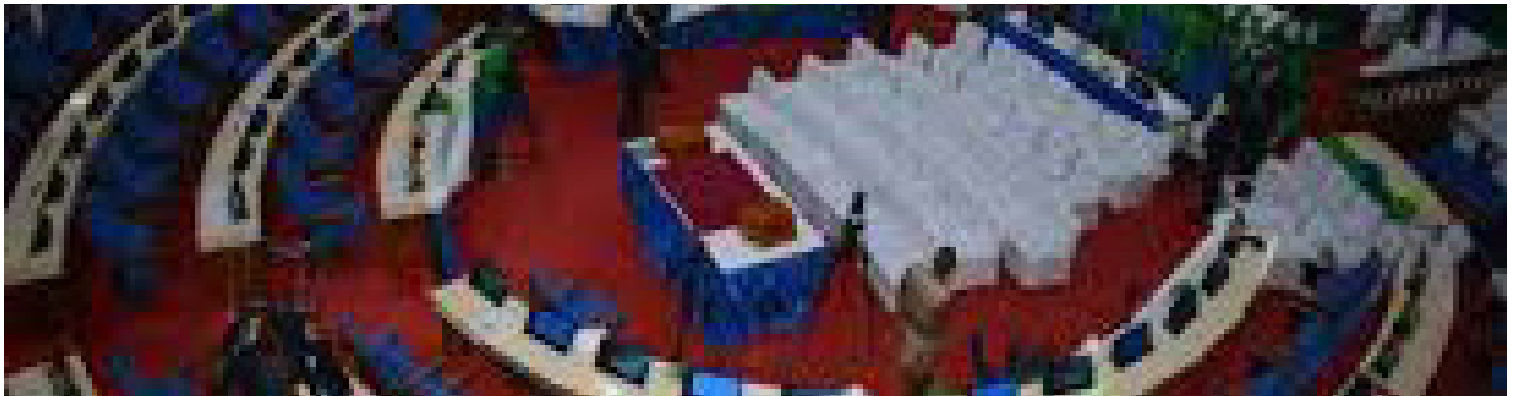
The Parliament of Sierra Leone, on Tuesday 14/10/2025, continued debates on the speech of His Excellency the President Julius Maada Bio, which he so graciously delivered on Thursday 7th August 2025. Whilst denouncing previous debaters, Hon. Ambrose Maada Labby from Bo District eloquently explained many achievements of President Bio. The MP elaborated progress made in education through the Free Quality Education program, the expansion of health centres, electricity supply, and dam construction. Hon. Yusuf Mackery from Bo District urged MPs to avoid divisive rhetoric and acknowledged the government's efforts in road infrastructure and agriculture.

PARLIAMENT CONTINUES DEBATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH (3RD ALLOTTED DAY)

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, on Wednesday, 15/10/2025, continued debates on the speech of His Excellency the President Julius Maada Bio, which he so graciously delivered on Thursday 7th August 2025.

Continuing the debate, Hon. Lucida Kellie from Kono District underscored government effort on "Feed Salone" and the 5 Big Game Changers in light of collective support. She advised the government to develop certain steps to achieve food self-sufficiency. According to her, timely assistance to farmers, support to farmers beyond political lines amongst others would improve agriculture. She urged the government to look into the Koidu Holding saga, relative to addressing the welfare of retrenched jobless compatriots. The MP asked the government to construct an economically viable road and complete the construction of the university in Kono.

PARLIAMENT CONCLUDES DEBATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH



Continuing the debate on Thursday, 16th October 2025, Hon. Hawa Conteh from Koinadugu District expressed concerns over the deprivation of Koinadugu and Falaba Districts of good roads, health care, and other facilities. She appealed to President Bio to provide them with good road networks in order to support food security. “Sierra Leone can never achieve food security if roads in Koinadugu are not fixed,” she stated and denounced the system of education, and recommended for WASH facilities in schools and also asked President Bio consult former President Koroma for “wisdom” Rounding up the debate, the Leader of Opposition, Hon. Abdul Kargbo explained the importance of the State Opening in concurrence with thanks to the President. According to him, this year’s state opening, the President only explained what his government had done but did not talk about the challenges. previous debaters and assured the House of constructive criticisms and support to the government.

Concluding the debate, the Acting Majority Leader of Government Business, Hon Bashiru Silikie, predicated his speech on nationalism. He categorically stated that President Bio is a visionary leader relative to his education project. “President Bio is a parent,” he revealed and explained

MDAs RESPOND TO CONCERNS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Following concerns raised by Members of Parliament, during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for the speech he so graciously delivered to Parliament on Thursday 7th August 2025, representatives from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government were requested to come forward and respond to concerns, issues and questions raised by Members of Parliament on Thursday 16th October 2025.



PARLIAMENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO HON. ERNEST DURA KOROMA

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, on Friday, 17/10/ 2025, paid a glowing tribute, opened and signed the book of condolence during the official lying-in-state ceremony of Hon. Ernest Dura Koroma, former Member of Parliament, representing Tonko Limba, in Kambia District at the State Hall of Parliament.

The lying-in-state ceremony attracted a bipartisan political solidarity between the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and main opposition, All People's Congress (APC). The deceased was a patriot who transcended political boundaries.



PARLIAMENT PAYS LAST RESPECT TO THE LATE HON. AGNES FEIMA KOBBA



The Parliament of Sierra Leone, on Thursday 16/10/2025, paid tribute, opened and signed the book of condolence during the official lying-in-state ceremony for the late Hon. Agnes Feima Kobba, representing Kailahun District at the State Hall of Parliament.

Pastor Francis A.M. Mambu offered prayers and blessed the book of condolence during the ceremony.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES 15 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

The First Report of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, chaired by the Acting Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie has, on Wednesday 15/10/2025 approved fifteen (15) presidential nominees for the development of Sierra Leone.

The following presidential nominees were approved by Parliament

1. Mr. Stephen Mustapha Swaray, member Board of Directors Bank of Sierra Leone.
2. Ing. Dr. Albert Fode Director General, Sierra Leone public Transport Authority
3. Mr. Christian N.Ngombu Esq Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority
4. Mrs. Zorah Efua Beryl Anthony members board of trustees National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT)
5. Mr Umar Fuad Bawoh, Member National Youth Commission
6. Mr Foday Conteh National Youth Commission
7. Mr Stephen Godfrey Swarray,

member of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA)

8. Mr Emmanuel Delwyn Pratt national social security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees (NASSIT)

9. Mr Sheik Dyphan Abass Massaquoi Member, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority Board (SLRSA)

10. MS .Ibnatu Nat Kanu. Member National Youth Commission

11. Mr Abdul Kabba Kargbo Member of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) Board

12. Mr Swakata Sannoh Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Airports Authority (SLAA)

13. Mr Lamin Bangura Member, National Social Security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees (NASSIT)

14. Mr Moses Henry Kamara Member , Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLCAA)

15. Mr Samuel Yusuf Tarawally Member, National Youth Commissions.

SPEAKER THOMAS WARNS CITIZENS AGAINST UNPATRIOTIC BEHAVIOR

At the commencement of the First Allotted Day for the presidential debate on the speech, which was graciously delivered by H.E. President Julius Maada Bio on the occasion of the State Opening of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, the Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas Esq., on Monday 13/10/2025, admonished the nation by calling on citizens to behave responsibly, especially in handling and using social media. The Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas urged Sierra Leoneans to put on the lenses of patriotism and nationalism compared to other countries.



PARLIAMENT MOURNS LATE HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, on Thursday 30/10/2025, paid tributes, laid wreaths, opened and signed the book of condolence during the official lying-in-state ceremony for the late Hon. Helen Kuyembeh, former Member of Parliament representing Bo District.

Rev. Reginald Collier was the City Chaplain who offered prayers for the late Hon. Helen Kuyembeh.

Giving the purpose of declaration, the Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, Sheku Lamin Turay, told distinguished mourners and family members that Hon. Helen Kuyembeh was an eminent public servant, a legislator, activist, and a former Member of Parliament representing Bo District. He also underscored that the deceased was a good debater and a motherly figure.

In his tribute, the Majority and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Nyuma, said, death is an unavoidable encounter that everyone has to face. He described the late MP as someone who was committed to working for her people and promoting the interest of the State. “She served a purposeful and meaningful life,” he said. Hon. Nyuma used the occasion to encourage leaders and politicians to be united in order to serve the interest of the country.



SPEAKER INTRODUCES NEW CLERK OF PARLIAMENT



The Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas Esq., on Monday, 13/10/2025, officially announced and introduced Mr. Karmoh K. Conteh to the plenary as the new Clerk of Parliament, following his recent appointment by President Julius Maada Bio, in line with provisions inscribed in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Addressing the Hon. Members of Parliament, Speaker Thomas recognised and praised Mr. Conteh for his experience in parliamentary work, and highlighted his previous roles as Director of the Department of Legislative Services and had also worked with multiple committees as a Committee Clerk. He also heaped praises on the new Clerk of Parliament for his astute and proven track records in light of performance, effectiveness, and efficiency in service delivery.

SIERRA LEONE TAKES 5TH POSITION IN AFRICA OPEN PARLIAMENT INDEX WITH 72.40% SCORE

The Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, under the astute and result-driven leadership of the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Segepoh Solomon Thomas has scored 72.40% in the Africa Open Parliament Index.

The Sierra Leone Parliament scored 53.64% for transparency, 48.64% for civic participation, and 38.64% for public accountability, resulting in an overall score of 72.40%.

This placed the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone in 5th position, ahead of Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. among others.

South Africa leads the chart with 79.69% taking 1st position, Ghana 77.60% taking 2nd position, Kenya 73.96% and Zambia 73.44% placing itself 4th position in front of Sierra Leone.



THE CLERK OF SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT ELECTED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AT THE 6TH ANNUAL



The Clerk of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Karmoh K. Conteh represented Sierra Leone, and given his eloquence and sound knowledge in parliamentary administration was overwhelmingly elected by his peers as the First Vice President of the Association, during the Sixth Annual Conference of the Association of Clerks and Secretaries General of African Parliaments (ASGAP), held at the Pan African Parliament (PAP) in Midrand, South Africa.

The conference, which officially opened on 27th September 2025, brought together Clerks and Secretaries General of Africa Parliaments from across Africa to strengthen collaboration and enhance the role of parliamentary institutions in Africa's democratic governance

PARLIAMENT COMMEMORATES CYBER SECURITY MONTH

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has, on Tuesday 7/10/2025, joined the world in commemorating Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Cyber Security Awareness Month is an international initiative that educates everyone about online safety and empowers individuals and businesses to protect their data from cyber attacks. In an event organized in Committee Room One, Parliament Building, Head of Cyber Security Unit in Parliament, Mohamed Lebbie highlighted the significance of cyber security awareness aimed at protection of data and prevention from threat actors. He said that Parliament, as the custodian of lawmaking, is standing at the forefront in the fight against cyber attacks. Lebbie cautioned staff from using unidentified links, which often lead to hacking, stalking, and phishing. Lebbie also urged staff to verify the authenticity of links before opening it for purposes of safety. “This month is dedicated to fighting cyber attacks and creating awareness for not only parliamentary staff, but also for the people of Sierra Leone,” he said. He ended by saying cyber criminals are attacking thousands of people across the world and that staff should be mindful of using the internet. He also advised staff to regularly change their passwords using numbers, letters, and symbols at least every 3 months in order to prevent potential cyber attacks. “Changing your passwords will discourage cyber attackers from hacking your system. People should refrain from joining all kinds of WhatsApp groups and unverified links on social media as a means of preventing them from cyber attacks

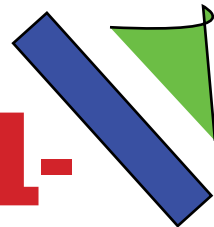


PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE PROBES PEE CEE & SONS AND SUNBIRD BIOENERGY



As part of its ongoing oversight visits, the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Food Security, chaired by Hon. Sallieu Osman Sesay, on Thursday, 9th October 2025, visited two major agribusiness operations: Pee Cee and Sons Onion Farm in Lokomasama, Port Loko District, and Sunbird Bioenergy in Bombali District.

The purpose of the visit was to ensure how these companies are working in line with the government's agenda relating to its feed Salone initiative, and also to do a follow-up on agreements that were ratified by the Parliament of Sierra Leone mainly for compliance with established rules and regulations.



WFD ENGAGES MPs IN MALE ALLYSHIP REFLECTION & LEARNING SESSION

As part of efforts to promote women's empowerment and gender equality, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) on Thursday, October 30, 2025, organized a Male Allyship Reflection and Learning Session at the Conference Hall of the New Administrative Building of Parliament in Freetown.

Welcoming participants, the President of the Parliamentary Female Caucus, Hon. Bernadette Wuyatta Songa, said the purpose of the session was to reconnect, reconstruct, and sustain initiatives that promote women's empowerment. She emphasized that the work of the Female Parliamentary Caucus was focused on advancing gender equality and inclusive governance.



EDITORIAL TEAM

Sheku Lamin Turay- Chief Editor- Director of PPRD
Augustine Samba -Principal Public Relations Officer
Sulaiman Bah- Principal Public Relations Officer
Mohamed Sesay - Information Officer
Moses Lukulay-Public Relations Officer/Graphics Designer

CONTACTS

**+23278495023/ +23276625960/ +23278426851/ +23278697776 /
+23277473804/+23275710747**



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE