



# PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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## PRESS RELEASE



### ANHUI PROVINCE DELEGATION STRENGTHENS TIES WITH SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT

Zheng Hong, Vice Chairperson of the Anhui Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in the early hours of Friday the 5/12/2025, led a high-level delegation to the Parliament of Sierra Leone, where they met with Rt. Hon. Speaker Segepoh Solomon Thomas Esq., to deepen bilateral relations between the two nations.

The delegation's visit, described as a courtesy call, focused on fostering collaboration in technology, trade and governance. Zheng Hong began by thanking the Speaker for the warm reception, noting that the Anhui Province seeks to expand its over 50-year friendship with Sierra Leone through structured exchange visits.

"We invite you to plan a visit to Anhui," he said, "so we can explore ways to enhance economic and technological cooperation, particularly in artificial intelligence and innovation."

Zheng Hong highlighted Anhui's achievements, including over \$60 million in import-export trade in 2024 and emphasized the importance of local-level partnerships. "Mutual support between our regions

is key to advancing shared development goals,” he added, and called for regular exchange visits between the Sierra Leone Parliament and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

The delegation then presented an official letter inviting Speaker Thomas to visit Anhui, in respect of formalizing the invitation.

In response, Speaker Thomas welcomed the delegation with a red-carpet, and outlined Sierra Leone’s governance structure. He said the country is mapped with 16 electoral districts. He added that Sierra Leone operates a multiparty democratic system, but only the two dominant political parties are represented in Parliament. He continued that the composition of the Sixth Parliament is 81 for the ruling beach, 54 for the opposition and 14 Paramount Chiefs, totaling 149 Members of Parliament.

He explained that the country used a proportional representation system established by law, with MPs serving their districts, and noted landmark legislations passed by the Fifth Parliament, such as the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Act, that mandated a 30 % quota for women in governance.

Speaker Thomas underscored the enduring China-Sierra Leone partnerships since 1971, and affirmed that Sierra Leone consistently aligns with China on UN and other world matters. He requested training opportunities for MPs and parliamentary staff, saying, “We seek knowledge sharing, especially in technology and modern governance, to better serve our people.”

The meeting concluded with mutual pledges to strengthen ties, including possible study tours and joint initiatives and a presentation of gift to Mr. Speaker.

The delegation’s visit is seen as a step toward deepening economic, political and cultural collaboration between Anhui Province and Sierra Leone Parliament, thereby leveraging decades of diplomatic friendships.

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