

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

A Weekly Parliamentary Report of
Parliamentary Network Africa



Promoting Open Parliaments Across Africa

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INTRODUCTION

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In this Alert we bring you a summary of events that happened between Monday, May 07 to Friday May 10 2024, which include the Speaker of Parliament's assurance statements to Members of Parliament, MPs congratulatory messages to the Speaker and committee sittings.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker's Statement

The Speaker of the Sierra Parliament, Rt. Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, on May 07, assured and thanked Members of Parliament for the confidence reposed on him in electing him to lead Parliament.

"I was not elected by the SLPP Members of Parliament alone, I was elected by the SLPP Members of Parliament, the APC Members of Parliament and the Paramount Chief Members of Parliament", he categorically stated and went on to say, "I am one of the most popular Speaker".

The Speaker thanked all Members of Parliament for electing him. He assured MPs that he would not take them for granted. "I am going to respect your opinions", he maintained. He expressed fervent hope that the House of Parliament would be united. "I am not going to spare any effort to ensure that we are united as a House", he vehemently stated and went on to say "We will do the work of our people".

The Speaker reaffirmed to Members of Parliament that they would treat matters including welfare of Members of Parliament with the utmost seriousness. He used the moment to dilate on the pressure MPs encounter including projects implementation for their people with their meagre salaries

and hence they must be respected.

"The people of Sierra Leone must sympathise with Members of Parliament", he revealed and reiterated that MPs are forced to spend their money on their people.

He explained the constraints MPs go through to provide support to their people.

The Speaker asked all Members of Parliament to unite henceforth to treat matters relating to their welfare.



Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas
Speaker of Parliament

"As a House, we need to push a national conversation around Members of Parliament", he informed and went on to say, they need to push something that the citizens themselves would be engaged to fully understand the circumstances of MPs and Parliament. He said that Members were the most indebted people and many compatriots do not know how they live. "We go all out, we take loans to satisfy the needs of our people", he maintained.

Contrary to what others are saying that he did not get the two-thirds, the Speaker strongly expressed that he was elected by 128 MPs and that in itself and as a matter of facts and figures is more than two-thirds, given the current mathematical equation in respect of the representative configuration of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, assembled.

News source: Parliament of Sierra Leone

MPs statements

Members of Parliament from both sides of the political aisle on May 07, commended and congratulated both the Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas and his Deputy, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh on their recent elections to positions of trust.

The Acting Leader of Opposition, Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma assured that the opposition would always work with the speakership of Parliament and underscored the importance of dialogue within the House. He also called on the new Speaker and his Deputy to see the need for the debate of the Auditor General Reports.

"We want to see the speakership who respect the opposition and also free speech by opposition MPs",

In concluding the debate, the Acting Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie commended the Speaker of Parliament for rising through the ranks from a Member of Parliament, Deputy Speaker and now Speaker of Parliament. "The two of you are representing the young people of the Republic, if you failed, you have failed the people of Sierra Leone and I want you to succeed and you will succeed", he said.

"With the support of the Speaker and the Clerk, Parliament would rise again", he called on the speakership to control the environment of Parliament. "Make this Parliament enviable and also make it the supreme legislative body of Sierra Leone". He concluded.

The deputy leader of government business also called for swift investigations into the Clerk of Parliament issue.

Committee Sittings

The following parliamentary Committees had engagements with various stakeholders on issues of national interest:

May 10

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on information and Civic Education visited the Government Printing Department at their head office, in order to ascertain their operational activities and other related matters.

May 09

The Parliamentary Committee on Appointments and the Public Service interviewed two presidential candidates for various positions of trust on Oath.

The Presidential Nominees were:



1. Edmond Sylvester Alpha - Electoral Commissioner Southern Region



2. Hon. Manso Dumbuya - Chairman Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports and Harbour Authority

CONCLUSION

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PN Africa will always keep you updated on happenings in and around the Parliament Sierra Leone.



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