

## **A BILL ENTITLED**

### **The Constitution of Sierra Leone (Amendment) Act 2020**

( ) Date of Commencement

Being an Act to remove the disqualification of dual citizens from contesting election as Members of Parliament, prohibiting the election and/or appointment of dual citizens as President, Vice President and Speaker, improving the representation of women in parliament, the reduction in the time required by public officers to resign before elections and the removal of provision causing the Speaker to remove a member who has ceased to be a member of the political party of which he was elected to parliament from parliament.

Enacted by the President and Members of Parliament in this present Parliament assembled.

1. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the inclusion of the words “ provided that not more than two-thirds of the members of Parliament shall be of the same gender” immediately after the words “shall not together be less than sixty’ in section 74(2).
2. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the deletion of the word ‘twelve’ and the inclusion of the word ‘six’ in section 76 (1)(b).
3. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the inclusion of the words ‘including a dual citizen who acquired his Sierra Leonean citizenship by birth’ immediately before the words “(other than by naturalisation)” and by the words ‘provided he is and has been continuously resident in Sierra Leone for the previous nine months immediately preceding the date of nomination’ immediately after the words “(other than by naturalisation) in section 75(a).
4. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the repeal of section 76(1)(a).
5. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the inclusion of the words “other than a dual citizen who acquired his Sierra Leonean Citizenship by birth) immediately after the words “is a citizen of Sierra Leone’ in section 41(a).
6. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the inclusion of para “(c) if he is a dual citizen or a citizen by naturalization or registration” in section 79(3).
7. The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 is amended by the repeal of section 77(k).

### **MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASON**

The object of this Bill to remove the disqualification of dual citizens who acquired their Sierra Leonean citizenship by birth from contesting elections as a Member of Parliament. It ensures that the Constitution of Sierra Leone is in tandem with the letter and spirit of the citizenship laws of Sierra Leone including the Sierra Leone Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2006. The Bill also seeks to prohibit the election of dual citizens to the position of president, vice president and speaker. This is addition to the categories listed in Section 8(5) of the Sierra Leone Citizenship

Act No 4 of 1973. The Bill also seeks to ensure a fairer gender representation in Parliament, allowing public officers to stay in office until six months before the elections and allowing members parliament who leave the party they were elected for to continue to serve as members of parliament.

Hon, Kande Kollah Yumkella  
Hon. Chernoh Maju Bah  
All Members of Parliament

Freetown  
Sierra Leone