



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN



E-mail: sierraleoneparliament@hotmail.com/admin@parliament.gov.sl

12th July 2022

PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT REJECTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 12/07/2022 debated and rejected the bill entitled "The Constitution of Sierra Leone (Amendment), Act, 2022". The bill which seeks to amend subsections (1) of subsection 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991, was not passed into law.

One Hundred and Thirty -Three (133) Members of Parliament present voted against the motion and it was not carried.

The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons of the bill seeks to amend paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of subsection 76 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Act No.6 of 1991) to reduce the period within which a person must cease to be a member, officer or an employee of a commission established under this constitution, the Armed Forces of the Republic, a public officer, or a Public Corporation established by an Act of Parliament, from 12 months to 6 months.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Mohamed Lamin Tarawally, while presenting the bill, said a new paragraph is to be inserted (b) "if he is a member of a commission established under this Constitution, a member of the Armed Forces of the Republic; a public officer, or an employee of a Public Corporation established by an Act of Parliament, or has been such a member, officer or an employee, within he seeks to be elected to Parliament.

He also said the reason for the amendment is to provide political inclusiveness for all Sierra Leoneans to participate in a level playing ground.

Making his submission, the Chairman Legislative Committee Hon. Sulaiman Marray-Conteh said the resignation issue has been a matter of political discussion and urged colleague MPs to discuss the matter base on political inclusiveness.

Chief Whip of Parliament Hon. Dickson Rogers said the Bill should have been before the House long ago and criticized the proposed amendments.

On his part Hon. Agibola Manley Spain petitioned the Minister for presenting the bill and asked the question why now?

Opposition Whip Hon. Hassan Sesay decried the process and said many public servants had resigned their positions before now and asked for 12 months to stand.

Hon. Afeju Maada Kanja asked the AG to explain to MPs the process of the date of nomination and the date of voting before the resignation of a public officer for an elected position.

Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah requested the minister to explain why the need to amend the constitution to shorten it to 6 months, rather than 12 months.

Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara tried to explain the process of nomination and voting and ask for clarification.

Hon. Prof. PC Macavoray Kamgbai Joe said the bill was "pre-mature before the House"

Hon. Osman Wurie Jalloh said the twelve months as prescribed in the Constitution should stand.

Hon Sorieba Turay said allowing public servants to resign within six months will not be in the interest of the state, underscored the point that, they would embezzle money meant for development, and later resigned. The MP requested an extension of two years.

Hon. Josephine Makieue opposed the proposed six months and requested a one-year and six months.

Hon. Dr.Roland Kargbo said in making total inclusion for all, one has to be committed to the process of politics.

In rounding up the debate, Opposition Leader Hon. Chernor RM Bah said he is in support of the previous debaters not to allow passage of the bill into law.

In concluding the debate, Leader of Government Business Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma asked for more clarifications and interpretations of the law and supported previous debaters' stands, not to reduce it to six months.

In another development also, Parliament has continued the debate on the Public Elections Act 2022

The Public Election Act 2022, seeks to repeal and replace the Public Election Act, 2022 (Act No.4 of 2012), to provide for supplementary provisions to sections 32 and 33 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991).

MPs who spoke during the debate supported the Bill for the total inclusion of female participation in politics.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department
Parliament of Sierra Leone
+232784950thirty-five5960/+23278426851/+23278697776