



Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL)

.... fostering human rights through accountability

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PRESS STATEMENT

CARL-SL calls on Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone to expedite the Constitutional Review Process.

The Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law – Sierra Leone (CARL-SL) wishes to commend Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone for sustaining the country's constitutional review process, which represents one of the most significant democratic reform initiatives since the adoption of the 1991 Constitution.

As an organisation committed to promoting constitutionalism, good governance, accountability, human rights, and the rule of law, we believe that a modern, inclusive, and people-centred Constitution is fundamental to strengthening democratic governance, protecting fundamental rights, enhancing institutional accountability, and consolidating sustainable peace and national development.

CARL-SL was among the many civil society organisations that actively participated in the ongoing constitutional review process by preparing and submitting a comprehensive position paper containing recommendations on key issues. We commend Parliament for providing citizens, civil society organisations, professional bodies, development partners, and other stakeholders the opportunity to contribute to this important national exercise.

In that regard, we appreciate the announcement made by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament on 23rd July, 2026 that Parliament will commence debate on the Constitutional Amendment Bill next week. We further welcome the Speaker's assurance that the Legislative Committee has received and reviewed position papers from a broad range of institutions and individuals, including the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law – Sierra Leone (CARL-SL), and that these submissions will be given due consideration during the parliamentary debate. This update is encouraging and demonstrates Parliament's commitment to advancing this important national reform process through an inclusive and consultative approach.

While we welcome this significant progress, we respectfully encourage Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone to sustain the current momentum and ensure that the constitutional review process is concluded within a reasonable timeframe. Constitutional reform is necessarily a careful and deliberative exercise that requires broad consultation and consensus-building, however, its timely completion is essential to maintaining public confidence, preserving the momentum generated through extensive citizen participation, and delivering a modern constitutional framework that responds to the governance aspirations of the people of Sierra Leone.

We further urge Parliament to honour its commitment to give careful consideration to the numerous position papers and recommendations submitted by Sierra Leoneans and institutions across the country, as affirmed by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament. These submissions reflect the aspirations, concerns and expectations of citizens regarding the future constitutional governance of our nation and should meaningfully inform the outcome of the constitutional review process.

Now is the time to conclude this important national review process. Sierra Leoneans have participated in good faith, submitted their recommendations, and expressed their aspirations for a modern and progressive constitution. We therefore urge Parliament and the Government to complete the process without unnecessary delay and to ensure that the final Constitution reflects the voices, rights, and aspirations of the people.

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