



# THE LAWYERS' SOCIETY

## **MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL/FIRST MEETING OF THE LAWYERS' SOCIETY HELD ON FRIDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT T-HALL YORK, PENINSULAR AT 11:00 A.M.**

### **AGENDA**

1. *Opening Courtesies*
2. *Review, Amendment and Adoption of the Agenda*
3. *Background to the absence of the Keynote Speaker*
4. *Presentation of the draft Constitution*
5. *Review, Amendment and Adoption of the Constitution*
6. *Nomination and Election of Returning Officer(s)*
7. *Nomination and Election of Executive/Board of Directors*
8. *President Elect's Maiden Address*
9. *Closing Remarks*

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Opening Courtesies**

Para 1: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m by the Interim President/Chairperson (Augustine S. Marrah) who thanked and welcomed all to the inaugural/first meeting of the Lawyers' Society (LS). Thereafter individual silent prayers were offered.

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Review, Amendment & Adoption Of The Agenda**

Para 2: Upon review of the agenda dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025, the following amendments were proposed and unanimously approved by members present:

- a. *Agenda Item No. 2 - "History and vision of the Lawyers' Society" be removed and replaced with "Review, Amendment and Adoption of the Agenda" on a motion moved by Wara Serry-Kamal and seconded by Julian Cole.*
- b. *Agenda Item No. 3 - "Short Statements by select senior members of the Bar" be removed and replaced with "Background to the absence of the Keynote Speaker" on a motion moved by Osman Jalloh and seconded by Brima Koroma.*
- c. *The Executive also proposed that Agenda Items No.9, 10 and 11 be shelved and discussed at an Extraordinary General Meeting and the same was unanimously approved by members present.*

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Background To The Absence Of The Keynote Speaker**

Para 3: The Chairperson gave background to the absence of the Keynote Speaker, Faith M. A. Odhiambo noting government officials' interference and thereafter requested comments from members present. After thorough deliberations, the following suggestions were made for consideration by the Executive/Board of Directors:



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- a. *Issue a press Release stating the LS position and condemning the actions of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) to stand against critical voices and call the GoSL out unequivocally.*
- b. *Write a letter to the Attorney-General (AG) narrating the conversation between and amongst the AG, the Interim President of the LS and the Keynote Speaker and copy the Keynote Speaker and the Chief Justice.*
- c. *Write an open letter to the President of Sierra Leone and copy relevant stakeholders.*

## **Agenda Item No. 4: Presentation Of The Draft Constitution**

Para 4: The Chairperson presented the draft Constitution of the LS to the general membership and called for review, amendment and adoption of same.

## **Agenda Item No. 5: Review, Amendment And Adoption Of The Constitution**

Para 5: Upon review of the referred draft constitution, the following amendments were proposed:

- a. *The Logo of the LS should be changed from the Law Society to the LS to reflect the change of name.*
- b. *The term LS should be used throughout the document rather than interchangeably with the Law society, for consistency.*
- c. *Suspension of Membership – Article 9(c): amend to conviction of a criminal offence subject to appeals and/or review by the LS Integrity Committee.*
- d. *Executive/Board of Directors – Article 12(v): amend to include “member of any national political party”*
- e. *Include as express clause/article “once a member is appointed to any government position, that member loses his/her position automatically.*
- f. *Committees’ Chairperson should meet the criteria of the Executive/Board of Directors under Article 13(1)(d).*
- g. *The functions of other Executive members should be expressly stated in the Constitution.*
- h. *The Executive should disclose to the general membership any grant or donation made by any Government’s Ministry, Department or Agency and the same should be accordingly reviewed.*

Para 6: After careful review of and amendments to the draft constitution, Members present unanimously adopted the Constitution of the LS subject to the above amendments on a motion moved by Sylvester Elleamor and seconded by Mohamed Tejan.

## **Agenda Item No. 6: Nomination And Election Of Returning Officer(S)**

Para 7: The following two (2) most senior colleagues (male and female) in the hall were nominated and appointed to serve as Returning Officers of the first Elections of the Lawyers’ Society with no objection:



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1. Madam Pamela Davies
2. Ibrahim Sorie Esq.

## **Agenda Item No. 7: Nomination And Election Of Officers/Executive Board**

Para 8: Madam Pamela Davies as a matter of procedure, declared the following Executive positions (as indicated in the Notice of the first AGM) vacant:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. General Secretary
4. Assistant General Secretary
5. Public Relations Officer
6. Treasurer
7. Organizing Secretary

Para 9: Madam Pamela Davies thereafter called for nominations to fill the abovementioned Positions followed by a roll call of paid-up members and voter's slips (with all vacant positions) were issued to members whose names were on the voters' register. The Returning Officers then called for nominations of candidates and the following were duly nominated, seconded and elected to the Executive/Board of Directors:

1. *Charlie Israel Williams - elected unopposed having been nominated by Musa Baretay and seconded by Abdul Hakim Bangura and there not being any other nomination for this position.*
2. *Joy Precious Bayoh - elected unopposed having been nominated by Mohamed Ramadan Gbla and seconded by Boniface Sidiqie Kamara and there not being any other nomination for this position.*
3. *Claude Bhamee Davies - elected unopposed having been nominated by Brisco and seconded by Julian Cole and there not being any other nomination for this position.*
4. *Margaret A. L. Davies - elected unopposed having been nominated by Fatmata Kamara and seconded by Grace Bella Kamara and there not being any other nomination for this position.*
5. *Wara Serry-Kamal - elected unopposed having been nominated by Margaret A. L. Davies and seconded by Jebbeh Kamara and there not being any other nomination for this position.*
6. *Augustine Sorie-Sengbe Marrah - elected having been nominated by Osman Jalloh and seconded by Basita Michael. Ibrahim Brisco Kamara was nominated and seconded but declined his nomination while Amos' nomination was disqualified and there not being any other nomination for this position, as duly elected President.*



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7. There following three nominations were made for the position of Assistant Secretary. However, two of the nominated candidates declined and threw their support to Edward Lassayo who was thereafter declared duly elected Assistant General-Secretary:

- i. Edward Lassayo - nominated by Bangalie Monorma Bah and seconded by Henrietta Kargbo;
- ii. Zackariah Azibo-Kanu – nominated by Sanu Bah and seconded by Peter Allieu; and
- iii. Adrian Kamara Macauley – nominated by Claude Bhamee Davies and seconded by Justin Jonhson.

Para 10: The Presiding Officer, Madam Pamella Davies thanked members for conducting a decorous AGM and presented the Executive/Board of Directors of the LS to the general membership.

## **Agenda Item No. 8: President Elect's Maiden Address**

Para 11: The President elect expressed gratitude to colleagues for unanimously electing him to lead the Society. He pledged his commitment to advance the ideals and vision of the Society and to upset bad governance. He promised that his team would always be dedicated to promoting the rule of law in Sierra Leone and defending the nation's democracy.

## **Agenda Item No. 9 Closing**

Para 12: There being no other business to transact, a motion for the meeting to be adjourned was moved by Charlie Israel Williams and seconded by Joy Precious Bayoh. The meeting was declared closed by the Chairperson at 6:45 p.m.

***Recorded & Submitted By:***

***Confirmed & Approved By:***

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**Margaret A. L. Davies**  
**General-Secretary**

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**Augustine S. Marrah**  
**President/Chairperson**