

MR. SPEAKER, HONOURABLE MEMBERS

I. Introduction

Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that the Bill entitled “An Act to provide for the services for Sierra Leone for the Financial Year (FY) 2010 be read for the first time”.

2. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, 2009 marks the first year of the effective implementation of our second Poverty Reduction Strategy - the Agenda for Change. The Agenda for Change draws out a defining path towards a brighter and prosperous future for all Sierra Leoneans. It details a shared strategy and priority areas of intervention for achieving economic growth and human development, and how these twin objectives can be achieved during the period 2009-2012.

3. The Agenda for Change prioritized the provision of affordable urban and rural energy, enhanced agricultural productivity, road adequacy, affordable health care, education, water and sanitation services, as the compelling elements for achieving sustained high economic growth, quality jobs and overall improvement in the welfare of the common man and woman in Sierra Leone. The Agenda for Change is also firm on the critical importance of building and sustaining an enabling environment of good governance, rule of law, peace, security and macroeconomic stability as preconditions for effective realization of its varied objectives and activities.