

A New & Improved Constitution for Economic Transformation.



A NEW AND IMPROVED
CONSTITUTION

Our Journey Towards a More Perfect Union

This reform is the culmination of a long, non-partisan national effort to strengthen our democracy. It builds upon the foundational work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and successive review committees, reflecting a broad consensus for change that transcends politics. **This is about securing our future by learning from our past.**



- **2002**
End of Civil War / Lomé Peace Agreement
- **2004**
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report
- **2008**
Peter Tucker Constitutional Review Committee
- **2017**
Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) Report
- **2021**
Government White Paper on CRC Recommendations
- **Today**
A New & Improved Constitution

A Blueprint for National Transformation

The new constitution is built on three pillars designed to address the core aspirations of all Sierra Leoneans: stability, opportunity, and a modern, effective government.



Securing Our Peace

Strengthening justice, upholding human rights, and ensuring political stability for a more cohesive society.



Building Our Prosperity

Creating the constitutional foundation for sustainable economic growth, shared prosperity, and human capital development.



Investing in Our Future

Modernizing our governance structures and empowering the next generation to lead Sierra Leone forward.

Pillar 1: Securing Our Peace

Upholding Human Dignity & Equality for All

The constitution now embeds core principles and takes a more assertive stance on fundamental rights.

- **New Foundational Principles:** “Human Dignity” and “Equality” are now included as foundational principles of the Republic.
- **Strengthened Non-Discrimination:** The state’s duty is elevated from “discourage” to “**prohibit**” discrimination on any grounds.
- **Abolition of the Death Penalty:** Section 16(1) is amended to abolish the death penalty, affirming the sanctity of life.

From discouraging... to
PROHIBITING
discrimination.

Pillar 1: Securing Our Peace

A More Just & Accountable Legal System

We are strengthening protections for personal liberty and ensuring accountability for unlawful actions.

- 🔨 • **New Right to Redress:** Citizens are now entitled to “**compensation and a public apology**” for unlawful arrest or detention.
- ✅ • **Prohibition of Torture:** The constitution is amended to explicitly prohibit “**torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.**”



Reduced Pre-Trial Detention

BEFORE



AFTER

Serious Offences

10
DAYS

Other Offences

72
HOURS

Serious Offences

7
DAYS

Other Offences

48
HOURS

Pillar 1: Securing Our Peace

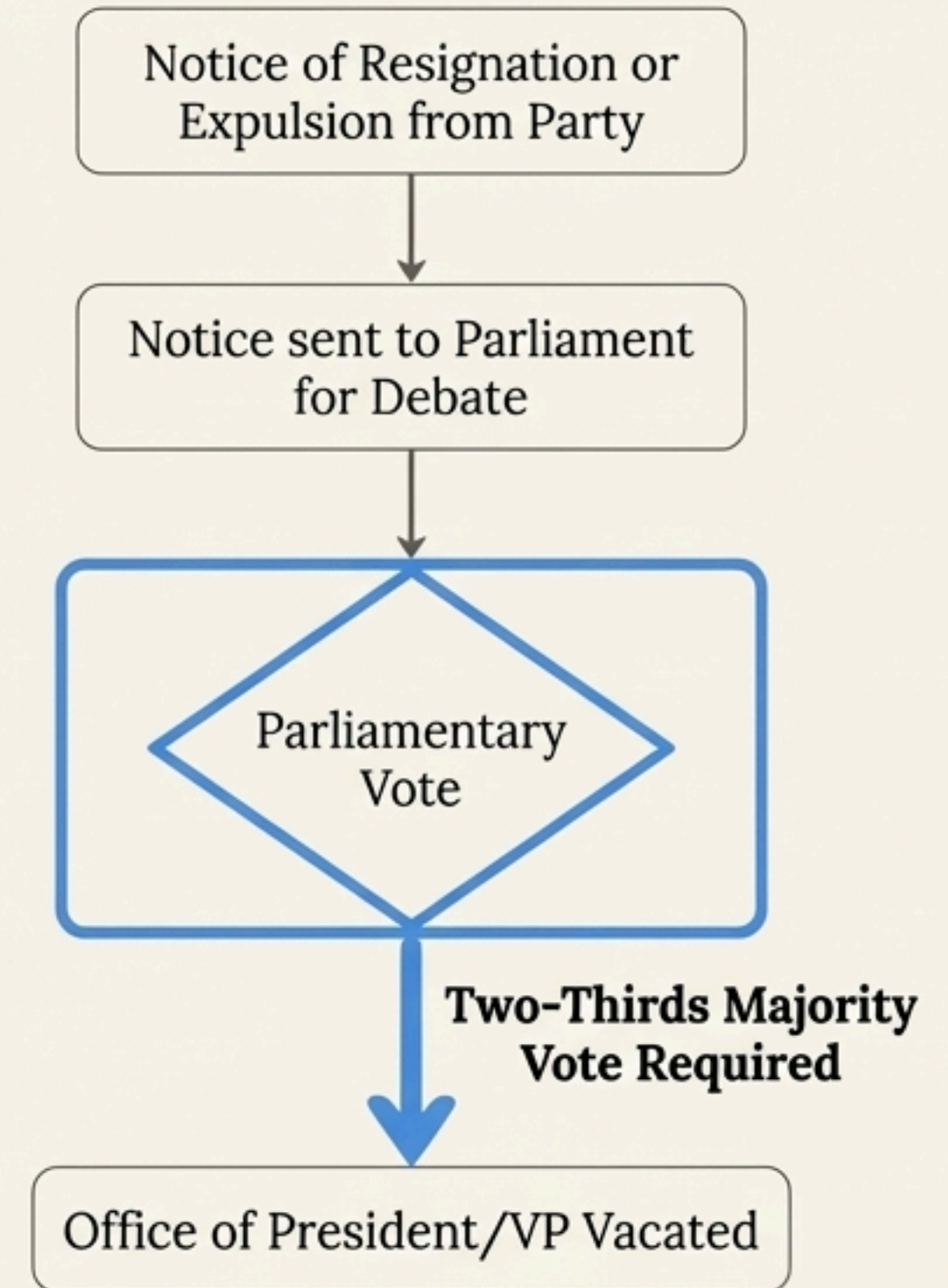
Ensuring Political Stability & Inclusive Governance

New mechanisms are in place to safeguard our democracy and make it more representative.

- **Preventing Leadership Crises:** The process for removing a President or Vice President is clarified. Loss of party membership is no longer an automatic vacancy.
- **Broadening Representation:** The constitution provides for a **proportional representation** system for electing Members of Parliament, ensuring a wider range of voices and parties are included in our national legislature.



A More Stable Removal Process



Pillar 2: Building Our Prosperity



Guaranteeing Economic & Social Rights for a Thriving Populace

For the first time, our constitution enshrines fundamental **socio-economic rights** as an **undeniable commitment** from the State to its people.



Right to Work



Right to Health



Right to Education



**Right to a Clean and
Healthy Environment**

A Stronger State Obligation

**“having due regard to the
resources of the State”**

This limiting clause has been removed from healthcare and other provisions, making these commitments more robust and actionable.

Pillar 2: Building Our Prosperity

Empowering the Next Generation of Innovators

We are transforming our educational mandate to build the human capital required for a modern economy.

- **From Aspiration to Mandate:** Qualifying phrases like ‘~~as and when practicable~~’ have been deleted. The constitution now mandates ‘**free, quality and compulsory**’ education at primary and secondary levels.
- **A Modern Curriculum for a Modern Economy:** The curriculum focus is updated to promote ‘**entrepreneurship**’ (replacing ‘business’) and ‘**civic education**’ (replacing ‘human rights’), equipping students with practical skills and a strong sense of civic duty.



FREE QUALITY COMPULSORY

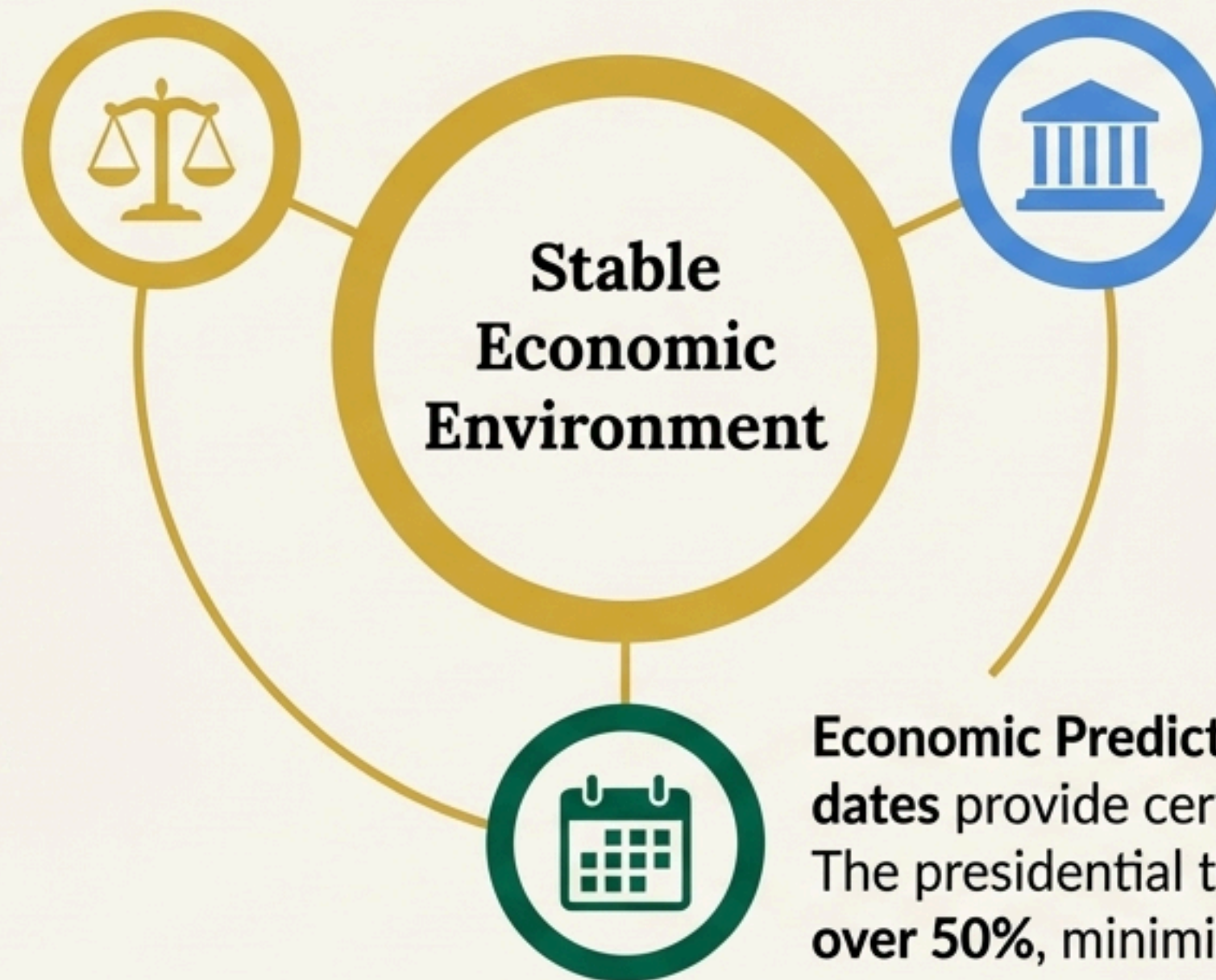
Education is no longer an option,
but a guaranteed right.

Pillar 2: Building Our Prosperity

Modernizing Our Institutions for Economic Growth

Key structural reforms create the stable, accountable, and predictable environment necessary for investment and long-term economic planning.

Recognising ADR will resolve civil and commercial disputes more quickly and cheaply, **helping SMEs thrive and strengthening** peace and cohesion in communities.



Stronger Oversight: Parliament's **oversight powers over the Executive** are strengthened for greater accountability.

Economic Predictability: **Fixed election dates** provide certainty for businesses. The presidential threshold is reduced to **over 50%**, minimizing costly run-offs.

Pillar 3: Investing in Our Future

Lowering Barriers to Leadership for a New Generation

We are empowering Sierra Leone's youth by ensuring age is no longer a barrier to holding the highest offices in the land. This reflects our nation's demographics and our faith in the next generation.

- The age for detention for welfare/education is reduced from 21 to **18** years, aligning with the modern definition of adulthood.



35
18

New Presidential
Age Qualification
(down from 40)

New Member of Parliament
Age Qualification

Pillar 3: Investing in Our Future



Strengthening the Rule of Law Through a Modern Judiciary

A fair and efficient justice system is vital for our future. We are increasing the capacity and independence of our courts.

- **More Transparent Appointments:** The Chief Justice will now be appointed based on the **recommendation of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC)**, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Increased Judicial Capacity

Supreme Court



Not less than 7 Justices

Court of Appeal



Not less than 9 Justices

High Court



Not less than 15 Judges

Our Shared Responsibilities in Building a Better Salone

A better nation requires a partnership between the State and its citizens. The new constitution clarifies the duties that bind us together in our shared mission of national progress.



Satisfy all tax obligations.



Protect and safeguard the environment.



Respect the National Currency and the National Pledge.

A Future Built on Three Interlocking Pillars



Peace

A nation secured by **guaranteed human rights**, a more **accountable justice system**, and **stable political institutions**.



Prosperity

A nation powered by **enshrined economic rights**, a mandate for **quality education**, and a **predictable environment for growth**.



Future

A nation led by an **empowered younger generation**, governed by more **independent institutions**, and anchored by the **rule of law**.

A New and Improved Constitution for Economic Transformation.

Say Yes To Building A More Just, Prosperous,
and Resilient Nation.