

BILL

Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXLXII, No. 8

dated 19th February, 2021

No.



2021

Sierra Leone

A BILL ENTITLED

THE COURTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

Short title.

Being an Act to amend the Courts Act, 1965 to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Courts in civil matters and to provide for other related matters.

[

] Date of commencement.

ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in this present Parliament assembled.

Amendment
of Section 7
of Act No.
31 of 1965.

1. Section 7 of the Courts Act, 1965 is amended by the repeal and replacement of subsection (1) thereof by the following new subsection -

“Civil Jurisdiction “ 7. (1) In addition to any civil jurisdiction which may be conferred upon Magistrates' Courts by any other enactment, every Magistrate Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any cause or matter other than an action founded upon libel, slander, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, seduction or breach of promise of marriage which may be lawfully brought before it and wherein the claim, debt, duty or matter in dispute does not exceed 50 million Leones in value whether on balance of account or otherwise”.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECT AND REASONS

The object of this Bill is to amend the Courts Act, 1965 to -

- (a) increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Courts in civil matters from 5,000,000.00 Leones to below 50,000,000.00 Leones; and
- (b) provide for the speedy resolution of civil and commercial matters at the Magistrate Court.

MADE this *10th day of February, 2021*

ANTHONY YIEHWOE BREWAH,
Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

FREETOWN,
SIERRA LEONE.