

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS¹

63. Presentation, first Reading and Second Reading of Appropriation Bill

(1) there shall be submitted to Parliament by the Minister of Finance before the beginning of the fiscal year to which it refers a budget which shall include the documents delineated in subsection 23 of the government Budgeting and Accountability Act, (Act No. 3 of 2005).

(2) All proceedings upon the Appropriation Bill subsequent to its first reading, which takes the form of the Budget speech, shall be subject to the provisions of the remaining paragraphs of this Order and of the next five succeeding Orders.

(3) After the Bill has been read the first time, it shall be put down for Second Reading not less than two clear days thereafter and five days shall be allotted for the Second Reading of the Bill. The debate shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Sierra Leone and the general principles of Government policy and administration as indicated by the Bill and its Estimates. At 14.30 o'clock on the last day, unless the debate is concluded earlier, the speaker shall put any question necessary to bring the proceedings on second reading to a conclusion.

(4) For the purpose of this order and of S.O. No. 65 (allotment of Time in Committee of Supply) an allotted day shall be any day on which the consideration of the appropriation bill, whether by the House or in the Committee of Supply, stands as the first Public Business for that day, and on such a day no other Public Business may be taken.

64. Committee of Supply

(1) There shall be a Committee of the whole House to be called the Committee of Supply. The deliberations of the committee shall be in public.

(2) Without prejudice to the mandate of the Finance Committee in these Orders, the Estimates shall upon presentation to the House stand referred to the Committee of Supply and the Appropriation Bill upon being read a second time shall stand committed to that Committee.

(3) To enhance the effectiveness of the scrutiny of Heads of Expenditure by the whole House, the Committee of Supply shall, pursuant to subsection (6) of Section 112 of the Constitution, incorporate a scrutiny by a number of Appropriation Subcommittees formed out of organizing the Membership of Parliament into groups.

65. Allotment of time in Committee of Supply

¹ STANDING ORDERS (REVISED) OF THE SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT 2006

(1) there shall be allotted a maximum of five days for discussion of the Appropriation Bill in Committee of supply.

Provided that if the question on the Second Reading of the Bill was agreed to on a day earlier than the last day allotted for the debate on Second Reading, the day or days thus saved may be added to the days allotted under this paragraph. And the work of the appropriation subcommittees shall be outside this time-frame.

(2) Upon any day allotted under paragraph (1) of this Order no dilatory motion shall be moved, except by a Minister or the Majority Party Leader of the House, upon any proceedings on the Appropriation Bill and such proceedings shall not be interrupted or postponed under any Order.

(3) Mr. Speaker may name the hour upon any day allotted under paragraph (1) of this Order at which proceedings upon any Head of Expenditure in the Schedules to the Bill, or any Schedule or on the clauses of the Bill shall be concluded. If in the case of any Head or Schedule or of the clauses the hour so named is reached before the business concerned is disposed of, the Chairman shall put forthwith any question necessary to dispose of that business

Provided that if in the case of any Head or Schedule the proceedings thereon are concluded before the hour named, the next business may be

66. Procedure in Committee of Supply

(1) Preliminary to the deliberations of the whole House in committee, the Appropriation Subcommittees shall, working together with vote Controllers and their Accountants, examine a series of Heads of Expenditure allocated to them by the finance Committee. This exercise shall include consideration of the policies underlying the Estimates, their structures of priorities, efficient and effective use of both human and financial resources, the constraints of the organizations, the adequacy or otherwise of the financial allocations, and report to the whole House in Committee of Supply.

(2) On the consideration of the Appropriation Bill in Committee of Supply, the clauses of the Bill shall stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule or Schedules, which shall be initiated by the appropriation Subcommittee reports on them.

(3) On consideration of the Schedules, each Head of Expenditure shall be considered with the appropriate Estimates, and any reference in these Orders to a sub-head or an item means a sub-head or an item in the Estimates of the Head then under discussion.

(4) On the consideration of a Schedule, the Clerk of Parliament shall call the title of each Head of Expenditure in turn and the Chairman, following the motion of the Minister in Charge, shall propose the question "That the sum of Le x For Head y stand part of the Schedule". And unless an amendment is proposed under the provisions of the next succeeding Order, a debate may take place on that question. Any such debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and shall not deal with the details of any item or subhead but may refer to the details or revenue or funds for which that service is responsible. At the conclusion of

the debate on a Schedule or a group of Schedules, as the case may be, the Chairman shall forthwith put the question.

(5) When all the Heads in a Schedule have been disposed of, the Chairman shall put forthwith without amendment or debate, the question “hat the Schedule (as amended) stand part of the Bill.”

(6) When the Schedule has been disposed of, the Chairman shall call successively each clause of the Bill dn shall forthwith propose the question “That the clause stand part of the Bill” and, unless a consequential amendment is required to be moved, that question shall be disposed of without amendment or debate.

(7) No amendment may be moved to any clause except any amendment consequential on an alteration in the total sum appropriated by any Head in the Schedule. Any such consequential amendment shall be moved by a Minister only, and may be moved without notice and the question thereon shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate. When the question on the last of any such amendments to a clause has been decided, the Chairman shall forthwith put the question “That the clause as amended stand part of the Bill” and that question shall then be decided without amendment or debate.

(8) When the question upon every clause of the Bill has been decided, the House shall resume without question put, the Minister in charge shall report the Bill (or the Bill as amended) to the House, and following the motion that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law, the speaker shall forthwith put the question.

67. Amendments to Heads of Estimates in Committee of Supply

(1) No amendment shall be moved in the Committee of Supply under this Order, unless one clear day’s notice has been given of it and it has been published in the Notice Paper.

(2) An amendment to any Head of Expenditure to increase the sum allotted thereto whether in respect of any item or sub-head or of the Head itself may only be moved by a Minister who shall signify to the Committee the increase in accordance with paragraph (3) of S.O. No. 52 (functions of Committees on Bills). Every such amendment shall take the form of a motion “That Head be increased by Le..... in respect of sub-head item”.

(3) An amendment to increase a Head whether in respect of any item or sub-head or of the of the Head itself shall take precedence over an amendment to reduce the Head in the same respect, and if it is carried, no amendment to reduce the Head in that respect shall be called.

(4) an amendment to any Head of Expenditure to reduce the sum allotted thereto in respect of any item therein may be moved by any Member and shall take the form of a motion “That Head be reduced by Le..... in respect of or by leaving out sub-head item”.

(5) An amendment to reduce a Head in respect of any sub-head or by leaving out a sub-head shall only be in order if the sub-head is not itemized.

(6) An amendment to reduce a Head without reference to a sub-head therein shall only be in order if the Head is not divided into sub-heads.

(7) An amendment to leave out a functional Head shall not be in order and shall not be placed on the Order Paper.

(8) In the case of each Head, amendments in respect of items or sub-heads in that Head shall be placed upon the Order Paper and considered in the order in which the items or sub-heads to which they refer stand in the Head in the Estimates.

(9) When notice has been given of two or more amendments to reduce the same item, sub-head or Head, they shall be placed upon the Order Paper and considered in the order of the magnitude of the reductions proposed, the amendment proposing the largest reduction being placed first in each case.

(10) Debate on every amendment shall be confined to the item, sub-head or Head to which the amendment refers, and after an amendment to an item or sub-head has been disposed of, no amendment or debate on a previous item or sub-head or that Head shall be permitted.

(11) When all amendments standing on the Notice Paper in respect of any particular Head of Expenditure have been disposed of, the Chairman shall again propose the question "That the sum of Le..... for Head stand part of the Schedule", or shall propose the amended question "That the increased/reduced sum of Le..... for Head stand part of the Schedule", as the case may require. The debate on any such question shall be subject to the same limitations as apply to a debate arising under paragraph (4) of S.O. No. 66 (Procedure in Committee of Supply).

68. Third reading of Appropriation Bill

So soon as the Appropriation bill has been reported to the House, a motion for the Third Reading shall be made by the Minister in Charge. Such motion shall not require to be seconded, and shall be decided without amendment or debate.

69. Supplementary Appropriation Bills

(1) Where, in respect of any financial year, it is found that the amount of moneys appropriated by the Appropriation Act for any purpose is insufficient or that the need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose which no amount of moneys has been appropriated by that Act, a supplementary estimate showing the sum of money required shall be laid before Parliament.

(2) Where in respect of any financial year, a supplementary estimate has been approved by Parliament in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (1) of this Order, a Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in Parliament in the financial year next following the

financial year to which the estimates relate, providing for the appropriation of the sums so approved for the purposes specified in that estimate.

(3) the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall be strictly confined to the matters for which additional expenditure has been provided, and when the question thereon has been agreed to, the Bill shall not be committed, unless the House on Motion so commits for discussion that Schedule, if any, to the Bill, which incorporates expenditure for which Supplementary (contingencies) Warrants have not been issued, and the Question “that the Bill be now read a third time” shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate.

(4) The Minister may cause to be prepared and laid before Parliament estimates of revenue and expenditure of Sierra Leone for periods of over one year.