



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN
Tel: 232-076-615187
E-mail: admin@parliament.gov.sl



PRESS RELEASE
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PARLIAMENT APPROVES SIX PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Tuesday 20th October approved the 21st Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service covering six Presidential Nominees to serve in pertinent offices of the State.

The following presidential nominees were unanimously ratified by the House through a collection of voices:

- I. Mr. Augustine Sahr Tutu – Member, Public Service Commission
- II. Mr. Hamid Abdul Kamara – Board Member, SALPOST
- III. P.C Alameen Kanneh – Board Member, SALWACO
- IV. Mr. Buffy Batham Bailor – Board Member, Road Maintenance Fund Administration
- V. Mr. Francis Hinga Lahai – Member, NPPA
- VI. Mr. Fayia Musa Tucker – Member, Board of Trustees, NASSIT

Before the ratification of the motion, Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma described the six nominees as suitably qualified and had no doubt in their skills and abilities to perform in the various institutions to which they have been nominated.

He also underscored the need for the revival and resuscitation of the moribund postal services (SALPOST).

Hon. Claude D. M Kamanda also described the nominees as a Sierra Leonean breed that has caught the eye of President Ernest Bai Koroma to serve the State. He said that NASSIT funds belong to the people because of their contributions to the scheme for retirement benefits. He called on the House to invite NASSIT to update MPs about their activities, especially investments and the utilization of the peoples' funds. He also said that people want development after ebola and called on Road Maintenance Fund to release funds immediately for the construction of the Waterloo township roads.

Hon. Jusufu B. Mansaray also expressed fear about NASSIT's investments, returns and benefits to retirees. He also spoke on the need for feeder roads to be improved nationwide and emphasized that NASSIT be invited to Parliament for better education on its investments.

Hon. Patricia Browne said that the nominees were chosen by President Koroma and the Committee on Appointments had done due diligence in vetting and scrutinizing them prior to approval. She praised "Kortor" Hamid Kamara for raising the profile of Sierra

Leone in the export of cashew nuts. She also said that feeder roads that have links to major roads should be fixed and called for the enforcement of procurement rules and procedures.

For Hon. Jariatu K. Smith, Mr. Bailor's skills would be an added advantage to the maintenance fund administration. She said that in less than two years, roads which CSE constructed in her Constituency have gone bad, with a lot of potholes. She furthered that civil servants who had reached the retirement age are refusing to proceed and therefore denying young and innovative graduates the opportunity to fill those positions. Also, she said that the postal services should be revived and advised NASSIT to change their investment strategy.

Hon. Moiwa Momoh eulogized, in recalling his experience with P.C Kanneh at FBC, and described him as trustworthy, honest, and a reservoir of academic knowledge.

The Minority Leader, Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai spoke about the importance and functions of the various institutions. She also dilated on the need for the revival of the postal services, the need for access to clean and safe drinking water, visible roads, to curb leakages in procurement, and the need for pro-poor NASSIT investments for ordinary Sierra Leoneans.

Rounding up, the Majority Leader, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu said among other things that big NASSIT investments are not yielding the desired benefits. He also said that Sierra Leoneans are building gigantic houses that are difficult to be managed once they are in a state of financial quagmire. He also noted that contributions to NASSIT should be used to the advantage of the contributors by constructing retirement homes for those who had worked and contributed to the development of the country.