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**PRESS RELEASE  
18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**

### **PARLIAMENT RATIFIES 10 (TEN) NOMINEES & TWO AGREEMENTS**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, has on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 unanimously ratified the fourteenth report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, including 10 presidential nominees, amongst whom were three former Members of Parliament; for various high offices geared towards the development of the country.

The following presidential nominees were approved through a collection of voices:

- I. Hon. Sanie Sesay – Board Chairman, National Insurance Company;
- II. Hon. Marie Yansaneh – Member, Sierra Leone National Shipping Company;
- III. Hon. Charles H. Kalawa – Board Member, Sierra Leone Shipping Company;
- IV. Alhaji Bai Lamah Munu – Chairman, National Commission for Children;
- V. Mrs. Ayodele E.O Cream-Wright – Board Member, National Insurance Company;
- VI. Mrs. Virginia R. Kamara – Board Member, Road Maintenance Fund Administration;
- VII. Mr. Saidu Kebe – Board Member, National Insurance Company;
- VIII. Mr. Abdulai Barrie – Board Member, Sierra Leone National Shipping Company;
- IX. Mr. Lawrence Quaku-Woode – Board Member, Sierra Leone National Shipping Company; and
- X. Mr. Albert Borbor Mansaray – Board Member, SIERRATEL

Prior to approving the nominees, after MPs had cautioned that failure was not an option, and eulogized former Members of Parliament for their new appointments, that President Koroma being a former MP, has proven that indeed there is life after Parliament, and called on him to consider others who are waiting to be appointed for other national assignments.

In rounding the debate, Hon. Ansumana J. Kaikai, acting Minority Leader described the nominees as qualified and fine, and alluded their nominations to a good song to which many are dancing to the drummers; and encouraged them to go to their original places after the dance had ended.

Acting Majority Leader, Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah, in concluding the debate reacted that the dance has only started and would continue “ad infinitum”, and was particularly glad for the praises that were being heaped on the nominees. He referred to President Ernest Bai Koroma as a nationalist who draws employment from every region of the country.

These nominees who have been approved by Parliament will enter their official duties after they have taken and subscribed to an oath that will be administered by President Koroma.

In another development, the Parliament of Sierra Leone on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 ratified two major agreements relating to revenue generation, and maximum security at Queen Elizabeth II Quay, and the Sierra Leone Airports Authority respectively.

In presenting both agreements for ratification, the Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mr. Balogun Koroma said among other things in a marathon and detailed exposition that the two agreements would yield immense benefits for the country such as additional revenue generation; maximum consumer benefits; and protecting the gateway of the country from security threats with the installations of close circuit cameras by the Westminster Aviation Security Services Limited.

Hon. Nicholas Kamara, the host MP for the airport said that he was gratified, and noted the importance of both agreements for the development of the country. He called on the Minister to note CSR, and pleaded that 10% of revenue generated be given to Sierra Leone Airports Authority, being the host.

Hon. Umar Paran Tarawally said that he was happy to lend his voice to the ratification of these agreements. He said that the intents and purposes of the agreements were to increase security; revenue for the State; confidence building; and re-branding the image of the country. However, he expressed dissatisfaction for bringing agreements late to the House for ratification; after they had already been implemented. This he said was in contravention of Section 40(4) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. He ended that he would have moved a motion otherwise, had it not been for the goodies embedded in those agreements.

Hon. Chernor R. M Bah, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, said that the amendment to the Bollore agreement should be reviewed before full implementation; and spoke about the need for agreements to be reviewed at most after a period of five years; because times and circumstances do change. He said that he was encouraged to note that privatization comes in with a lot of revenues; but advised that the Minister should inform his colleagues to update Parliament annually on the progress of those privatizations.

Hon. Patricia Browne described both agreements as good for revenue generation and security. She also said that these agreements would encourage international airlines to do business with Sierra Leone. She furthered, that comparatively fees

that are charged at the airport are a bit higher than others in the sub-region; and called the attention of the House that the agreements could be reviewed annually.

Hon. Ansumana J. Kaikai, the acting Minority Leader said among other things that the agreements were before the House to be either ratified or rejected. He said that those agreements have come as a result of the expansion of our economy that has warranted the use of both berths at the Quay. He narrated his experience at the airport when there were security lapses; and told the House that all fees; and tax levies must be ratified by Parliament as provided by law.

Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah, the acting Majority Leader of the House, said that Parliament needs to decide whether to throw the “bath water and the baby” or decides otherwise relating to the late submission of agreements for ratification. He described both agreements as good for the development of the country with a lot of advantages; and told the Minister to inform his colleagues that agreements be ratified before implementation.