

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

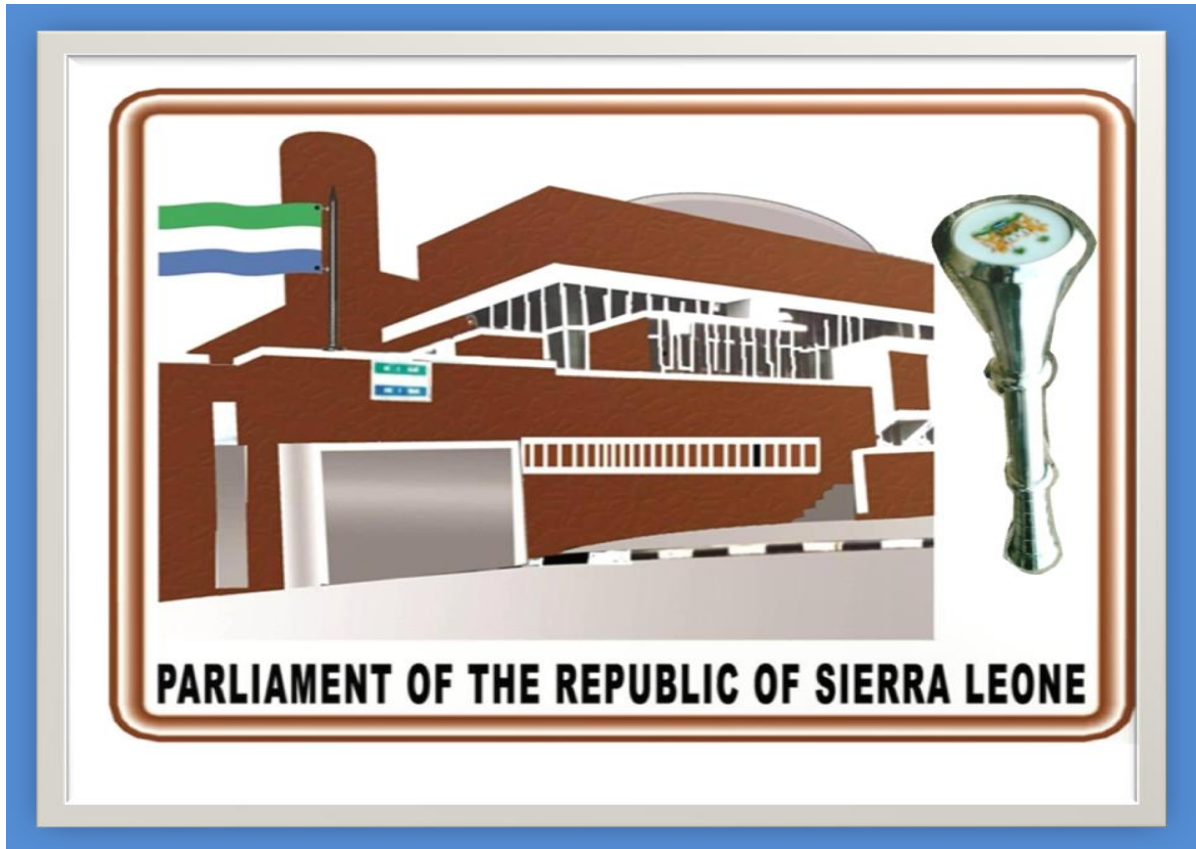
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017**

*SESSION – 2016/2017*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 19**

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First Meeting of the Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament  
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

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## **Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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### **FIFTH SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Sulaiman Sesay, Read the Prayers].*

*[The House met at 10:20 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].*

*[The Speaker, Hon. Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya, in the Chair].*

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S. O. 5[2]*

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> AND WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, with leave of the Majority and Minority Leaders and with the concurrence of the House, I want to take liberty of this situation to recognise the presence of my boss, the Honourable Justice Cowan. The Honourable Justice Cowan was Speaker in the time we were in Parliament. If I am Speaker today, I owe part of the knowledge to him. Justice Cowan, you are duly recognised.

Honourable Members, we go through the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. We go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? There being no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 as presented?

**HON. PATRICK L. M. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I so move

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. BENNEH BANGURA:** I so second Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 has been adopted as presented]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? There being no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 as presented?

**HON. KEMOKOH CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Wednesday, for 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 has been adopted as presented].*

### **III. PAPERS LAID**

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH** *[Majority Leader of the House and Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Education]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I

beg to lay on the Table of the House the following documents:

[I] REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ON ITS FOLLOW-UP OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE PROVINCES, FROM SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> TO SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016.

[II] THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ALLEGED CONNIVANCE OF THE TWO PRINCIPALS [JSS & SSS] OF THE ALBERT ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL, BERRY STREET, FREETOWN IN THE OPENING OF SALARY BANK ACCOUNTS FOR NON-EXISTING TEACHERS.

**HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY** *[Clerk of Parliament]:* With the leave of Mr Speaker and the indulgence of Honourable Members, I beg to lay before this Honourable House the following documents:

[III] REPORT ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA BY A DELEGATION FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE FROM 19<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016.

[IV] REPORT ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA BY A DELEGATION FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE FROM 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016.

Mr Speaker, with your leave, I conclude on S.O 18[7]. Both reports are financed by the UNDP through the Parliamentary Assistant Coordinating Office [PACO]. The benefits for the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO] are

tremendous and cannot be over emphasised. Therefore, I want to encourage all Honourable Members to read these Reports carefully. I thank you, Mr Speaker

#### **IV. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

PROPOSER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

SECONDER: HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fifth Report of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, Third Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominees.

##### *1. Introduction*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, cognizance of its constitutional obligation of vetting and approving of appropriately qualified candidates for appointment to public offices met on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and interviewed seven Presidential nominees for appointment as follows:

- i. Ombudsman;
- ii. Director-General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority;
- iii. Deputy Director-General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority;
- iv. Executive Director, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency; and
- v. Three Members of the Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone.

##### *2. Procedure*

The Committee maintained strict consistency with its established procedure. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to hold such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

### *3. Fourth Sitting of the Committee on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

#### *i. Melron C. Nicol-Wilson, Proposed Ombudsman*

Mr Melron Nicol-Wilson is a private Legal Practitioner and Managing partner of the Nicol-Wilson and Co. Malaika Chambers [2008 – date]. He has served as a lecturer in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, [2003-2011] and as Director, the Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Sierra Leone. [LAWCLA] He also served as Defence Counsel and Case Manager in the Special Court for Sierra Leone [2003 – 2007]

Responding to the Committee's inquiries about the functions of the Ombudsman, Mr Melron Nicol-Wilson said that "the main function of the Ombudsman is to ensure fairness and legality in public administration." He assured Members that he was well prepared for the job and would carry out his functions as provided by law.

Questioned on any previous experience he may have had about the work of the Ombudsman, Mr Melron Nicol-Wilson said, "when I completed my legal studies, I went abroad for post-graduate studies in law. I did my Master's degree, specializing in Human Rights Law and Constitutionalism from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. I also pursued another Master's Degree in International Criminal Justice and the Law of Conflict in the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. I then returned to Sierra Leone and worked as Defence Counsel and Case Manager in the Special Court of Sierra Leone. While I was working in the Special Court, I was commissioned by the Department for International Development [DFID] for a consultancy job that required a blue-print for the effective functioning of both the Office of the Ombudsman and the Legal Aid Board. I did feasibility studies specifically in four countries: South Africa, Namibia, Malawi and Ghana. The report I wrote was used in the setting up of the Legal Aid Board of which I was the first Coordinator. I have also written articles on the role of the Ombudsman in the protection of Human Rights. In the course of my professional pursuit, I was also the Director of the Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance [LAWCLA] which was a Human Rights Institution. In view of the foregoing I have acquired experiences and skills that have



adequately prepared me to work as Ombudsman of the Republic of Sierra Leone,” he said.

*ii. Mrs Ing. Memuna Kumba Jalloh, Proposed Director-General Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]*

Mrs Jalloh is a professional Civil/High-way Engineer with over 24 years of work experience, 22 years of which were spent with the Sierra Leone Roads Authority. Ing Mrs Kumba Jalloh joined the SLRA in 1991 as a pupil engineer and rose through the ranks to her present position as Director-General in July 2015. Her long service at the SLRA has earned her a wealth of experience in:

- i. the preparation of feasibility studies, tender documents, and engineering design;
- ii. conducting, collecting and analysing transportation and traffic studies data;
- iii. Knowledge of the various donor requirements, World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union, etc.;
- iv. research experience in traffic and transport engineering, design and construction of highway schemes [roads, culverts and bridges];
- v. contract management skills; and
- vi. working knowledge of road database management and analysis.

Answering to probing questions, Mrs Memuna Jalloh said, **“We are working towards the establishment of a good relationship with our partners, the ‘Road Maintenance Fund Administration’ and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. In anticipation of the approval of this Honourable House, we are already working on the first hundred days in office action plan” to get rapid results from the tripartite relationship.**”

Questioned on the importance of a good working relationship with her Deputy Ing Mrs Jalloh said, **“Management is a psychology. I have managed my husband and my home for twenty-six years and I know what experience I have gained. I want to assure this House that I can manage my Deputy because we have had a long and good working relationship before and we have always respected each other. For a good working relationship to continue to exist, I believe I would need to respect him, maintain an effective and**

**open communication, allow him to speak his mind and make his own proposals. We will thereafter brainstorm on them together and come to an amicable conclusion,”**

Reacting to further questions on the rehabilitation of major trunk roads in the provinces, Ing Mrs Jalloh said that she was a member of the team that did the feasibility studies and assessment of all trunk roads in the country. **“But because of the austerity measures announced by Government, the trunk roads under construction have had to be prioritized. Our team is however working according to the annual work plan to ensure that every major trunk road is overlaid,”** she said.

*iii. Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo, Proposed Deputy Director-General Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]*

Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo joined the SLRA in 1993 from the Ministry of Works, where he had previously served as Executive Engineer [1989-1993]. Through hard work and dedication to duty, he rose through the ranks to his current position as Director of Maintenance [2015 – date] responsible for all road maintenance work nationwide.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries about the need for a good network of roads in the country, Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo said, **“We at SLRA are aware of the concerns of this Honourable House that the current road network nationwide needs to be improved upon. With our accumulated knowledge and experience, we promise, as a team, to ensure that international standards would be maintained in road construction and maintenance nationwide.”**

Answering to further questions on his contribution to national service in the area of engineering, Dr Ernest Sahr Gbembo said, **“All sixteen ferries currently operating in the country were designed and constructed by me.”** He added that several bridges in all the regions, including the Mabang Bridge were also designed by him.

Addressing a major concern of the Committee relating to the relationship and compatibility in the work place, Dr Gbembo assured the Committee that he was

willing and ready to serve as a Deputy to Ing Mrs Memunatu Jalloh and to help her achieve the set objectives of SLRA and the nation as a whole. **"I am prepared to serve as her Deputy. I believe in women and I can work under her,"** he said.

*iv. Brigadier-General [Retired] Daniel Yapoh Sesay, Proposed Executive Director, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency*

Retired Brigadier Daniel Sesay joined the army as a Cadet Officer in 1977, had a long and brilliant military career from which he retired as Brigadier-General in 2011. Since retiring from the army, he has been engaged in short term consultancies as:  
[a] Rapid Response Coordinator, National Ebola Response Centre [NERC]; and  
[b] Community Engagement Officer, President's Delivery Team, Bo District.

Reacting to the Committee's probing questions, the retired Brigadier said that drugs and crime were related and the youths of this country, the age bracket that indulges in the use, misuse and abuse of drugs need to be protected for the future of this country. **"I promise to do my best to minimize the production, importation, sale, use, misuse and abuse of drugs and its related crime in the country,"** he said.

*v. Rev. Dr Usman Jesse Fornah, Proposed Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone*

Rev. Dr Usman Jesse Fornah is a renowned Minister of religion, who has served the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone for twenty-five years. Starting as a Pastor in a number of local churches, he was appointed National Director of Youths and Young Adults of the Wesleyan Church [2004-2006]. He also served as District Superintendent of the Makeni Wesleyan District 2006-2009. He was appointed National Secretary and Director of Administration of the Wesleyan Church. He is currently the African Area Coordinator, Global Partners of Wesleyan World Mission, North America [2012 – date].

Responding to questions on how he will ensure that the rights of women are protected, Rev. Dr Usman Jesse Fornah said, **"I will do all that is within my power to ensure that we go by the law as prescribed by the relevant Acts**

**and all other instruments designed to protect women and girls in the country,"** he assured.

*vi. Mr Rashid Dumbuya, Proposed Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone*

Mr Rashid Dumbuya is a practicing lawyer, a lecturer of Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, an international Human Rights advocate and Public Defender. Mr Dumbuya is currently the State Prosecutor, Anti-Corruption Commission and provides consultancy services to a number of public and private institutions. The local papers have referred to Mr Rashid Dumbuya as the **"youngest appointee to the Human Rights Commission."**

Addressing the issue of protecting women and girls, Mr Rashid Dumbuya described as laudable, the giant steps taken by Sierra Leone to sign the Africa Charter and the Maputo Protocol. **"But we still have challenges relating to reporting under that framework. With my expertise in International Human Rights Law, I will be partnering with my colleagues in Human Rights activism and the staff of the Commission to ensure that we meet our reporting obligations under that framework,"** he said.

Sharing his innovative plans to advocate for the rights of women, he said, **"One unique innovation I want to introduce is for the Commission to embark on interest litigation which, has not been tested although the Act has provisions for it. Interest litigation can be pursued through the courts particularly in situations where women's rights are being threatened. It will ensure that the courts enforce the rights of women."**

*vii. Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, Proposed Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone*

Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor is a practicing legal professional with national and international work experience. She has also served as:

- i. Assistant Corporate Secretary, National Revenue Authority [NRA] [2008-2013]; and
- ii. Deputy Master and Registrar, Sierra Leone Judiciary [2006-2008].

Grace is a highly motivated person with vision, enthusiasm and a thirst for success. Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Ms Grace Coleridge Taylor said, **"Personally, one of my greatest concerns is the Human Rights position of women and girls in Sierra Leone. I promise to work to the best of my ability to make an improvement in that area. I intend to work closely with colleague members of the Commission; and if I receive the blessings of this Honourable House, I will bring to book all perpetrators of Human Rights abuses,"** she said.

#### *4. Recommendations*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and they are accordingly recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson, Ombudsman;
- ii. Ing Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh, Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority;
- iii. Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo, Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority;
- iv. Brigadier[Rtd] Daniel Yapoh Sesay, Executive Director, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency;
- v. Mr Rashid Dumbuya, Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone;
- vi. Rev. Dr Usman Jesse Fornah, Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone; and
- vii. Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, Member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Third Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Third Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah, Chairman.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the fine Sierra Leoneans we have before us were interviewed by the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service and I was part of the Committee that exercised that right to interview them as a way of finding out whether they were suitably qualified for the

positions they have been nominated to serve. I would not bore this House with a long speech on their suitability because that has already been said by the Majority Leader of this House when he was presenting his report.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your permission, I would only ask that I talk a little on these nominees who are before us for approval. Mr Speaker, before doing that, I want to remind them that their nominations to the various positions were not done by President on the basis of a payback. Their nominations were done on the basis of merits. It is therefore the hope of this Honourable House that those merits would not be disappointed by way of failure to deliver. I also want to remind them that you are not the only suitable candidates from amongst a population of 7.2 million Sierra Leoneans. It is only that your luck has come to pass that you have been nominated to the respective positions you are going to occupy if this House approves your nominations. Therefore, you are now being challenged in very serious terms that this country needs delivery of service at a very quick pace. I hope, if approved by this House and finally giving the blessing by His Excellency the President, you would begin to deliver.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that you owe it a responsibility to this Parliament to ensure that you report your stewardship and failure to do so will be met with serious consequences from this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as already stated by the Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, these nominees are suitably fit to manage those offices they have been nominated to serve. For the young man who has been nominated to serve as the Ombudsman for this country, he is taken off from a veteran Lawyer who had sat on the Bench for many years with distinction. He had built the bases upon which the Ombudsman Office is now operating. It is my hope that Mr Nicol-Wilson would continue to build on the gains made by the erstwhile Ombudsman. In his interview, Mr Nicol-Wilson said: **"The main functions of the Ombudsman are to ensure fairness and legality in public administration."** I need not say more because you have said it all. We hope that you would continue to exercise that fairness and legality that you have committed

yourself to the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. If this House approves of you, I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to nominees; i.e., Ing Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh, Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority; and Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo, Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority; who are going to man our highways, I have very little to say to them because they have already challenged themselves. You have been in this for too long and there is no need to remind you of your sacred duties to maintain our highways. The only appeal I want to make here is to ensure that at the quickest pace to connect Kono District with Kailahun District. This is of paramount importance because that road used to be the only link between Kono and the rest of the country. I want the two nominees to ensure that the road from Koidu City running through Gandohun to Bunumbu and to Segbwema is done quickly. I am making a pleading on behalf of the people of Kailahun and Kono Districts to be fully connected. As we speak, the only means of transport is the 'Okada' system in those highly productive areas. Those areas are the backbones of this country's economy and if you want us to benefit from our produce, please ensure that the road is properly constructed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I go to those who have been nominated to serve in the Human Rights Commission, I want to talk briefly about Rtd Brigadier Yapoh Sesay. He is now going to face a very serious challenge in the area of drug enforcement. Drug is now an international problem; and in this country, drug-taking is now affecting our youths. Please sir, I want you to use your military experience to ensure that proper mechanisms are put in place to control drug taking by our youths. I have no scintilla of doubt that you would not disappoint this House and the nation. If you are approved by this House, I want to wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to the nominees who have been nominated to serve on the Human Rights Commission. To the Reverend gentleman, you have had so much experience and I am sure even though you are not a Lawyer, but you would ensure that the rights of women are protected. The two young Lawyers who are going with you have made it very clear.

Mr Speaker, like I was saying before the comments came in from my back I want to continue to appeal to the young Lawyers who are going to join this Commission to ensure that they do exactly what they promised at their interviews.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me conclude by wishing the nominees before us a productive tenure of office if this House approve their nominations.

**HON. AJIBOLA MANLY-SPAIN:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here the seconder of this motion went through everything that one would have liked to say so I am going to limit myself to the people that have been nominated whom I have known personally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whenever we have this as an item on the Order Paper, I try to read and from what is said by the nominees you can guess and come to the conclusion as to their fitness and how they would manage those positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out the nominee for the position of Ombudsman and two nominees to the Human Rights Commission. I am very pleased for the nomination of Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson. I want to take the credit because I have been his god-father. When he was born, I was chosen by his parents to be his god-father.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, only the Honourable Ajibola Manly-Spain and some of us are competent to talk about Tukimaru here.

**HON. AJIBOLA MANLY-SPAIN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, from what Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson has said, I just want to state here that despite his youthful looks, he has the experience and qualification to act as Ombudsman. We are hoping that he would do well and that he would stay in the office for a long time. The Speaker mentioned Honourable Justice Cowan. Well, I do not know why he is here, but I think he is here to give confidence to the new nominee and I believe that the nominee will take the opportunity to be consulting him when he takes office. I am saying this because undoubtedly, Honourable Justice Cowan is the most experience person that has sat in that office and he has developed the office to what it is today.



Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to move to another very important personality, Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, proposed member, Human Rights Commission. I have known her for a long time and I know her qualities as a person and as a lawyer. We interacted more in 2006 and 2008, when she was Deputy Master and Registrar. Going to the Human Rights Commission, one must be guided by one's heart because there you will display your love for humanity and your ability to fight for the downtrodden.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you read the report that has just been presented to us, you will find out the answers provided by Mr Rashid Dumbuya, proposed member, Human Rights Commission. He expressed his determination to do what is right for the people of this country. Human Rights is an area that is new in our Law and he is a lecturer in that subject. He has been one of the pioneers of human rights issues in this country. It is usually said that Law has nothing to do with morality. I believe that in the area of human rights, Law and morality go together. They cannot be separated and I am therefore asking Honourable Members to accept and ratify the nominations of these three members to the Human Rights Commission.

With regards to Rtd Brigadier Daniel Yapoh Sesay, proposed Executive Director, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, I must say that I know him also and I spent a lot of time with him about twenty years ago. I believe he will deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with Ing Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh, proposed Director General and Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo, proposed Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Safety Authority. I must say that they should bring us hope. This is a change in the old order. New people are coming in to carry the flagship of the present Government; i.e., the construction of roads. I must state here that I expect them to bring us positive change in this country. The change in the sense that will be done a little faster. I am emphasising this because I am going to appeal to them to look at my Constituency. In my Constituency, certain roads have been selected to be constructed in 2013. Work started in 2013, but it was only the drainages that were constructed. Therefore, I am pleading to these nominees to look at Constituency 106, starting from Regent Road, Sackville Street, Ambrose

Street, etc. These are areas located in the middle of Freetown, but those roads are terrible.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would implore this Honourable House to ratify these nominees. I thank you very much.

**HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:** Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am want to thank you for giving me the opportunity as the only female Member of Parliament on the Committee on Works, Housing and Infrastructure. Therefore, I am very happy for this opportunity to add my voice to the nominees before us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start my intervention with Ing Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh. Mr Speaker, I want to inform this House that I have done a lot of research and I came to the conclusion that President Koroma has empowered women more than any other Head of State in the sub-region [*Applause*]. I can also state here that no Head of State in the Sub-region has empowered the young people as much as President Koroma has done [*Applause*]. I want to congratulate, in advance, Mrs Engineer Memuna Kumba Jalloh for this enviable appointment. She is another general nominated by President Ernest Bai Koroma to serve this country. Her nomination is a clear indication to show that this President is committed to empowering the women of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Engineer Memuna Kumba Jalloh is over-qualified for this position. She has worked through the ranks as Deputy Director-General. She did very well for her to now be elevated to the position of Director-General of the SLRA. Well, we are happy for her appointments to serve in that capacity. The female parliamentarians are very happy for you and as the saying goes, 'to whom much is given much is expected.' There are lot of potholes in Freetown at the moment. As soon as you take up office, we would want you to address those potholes issues. The potholes along Goderich Street, Ross Road, Up-Gun Turn-Table, where my Constituency is located, are deadly. These are major concerns, but if this House approves your nominations, I am sure within your first ninety days in office, we will see those issues being addressed. We are happy that we have more women in this Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the International Women's Day celebration, the Head of UN women declared President Ernest Bai Koroma as champion of women in Africa. You would agree with me that President Ernest Bai Koroma is indeed champion of women in Africa [*Applause*]. I am sure, before the end of his tenure, we will continue to see more women in positions of trust. Therefore, we are asking all the women of this country to go out and register in their numbers because President Ernest Bai Koroma is determined to promote the course of the women in this country. He will continue to do more for the women of this country. We have seen the appointment of more women to positions of trust in the last few months.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have two women of substance being nominated by the President. We have another woman, Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, proposed member, Human Rights Commission. I am not discriminating my senior. I am just saying the truth and I am here as a woman to represent the women of this country. If women are in front of us, I am obligated to talk on behalf of these women. We have seen women in positions of trust and they have been doing well in those institutions. In other words, we have seen how they have performed in their various institutions. I have no doubt that my sister Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor will perform as expected. We are proud of you, we are happy for your nomination. We want to congratulate you in advance and wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Rev Usman Jesse Fornah of Wesleyan Church. The Rt Rev Usman Jessie Fornah hails from my Chiefdom, Gbendembu Ngowahun Chiefdom. I must state here that the Rev. Usman Jesse Fornah has been playing a pivotal role in bringing the Landorgor people together of which I am proud for being a Landorgor woman. He has been playing active role in ensuring that the Loko people of this country are united through religious messages sent to them. He played a very crucial role when we were fighting the most deadly disease in this country; i.e., the Ebola Virus Disease. He has been very active in ensuring that we get rid of the deadly virus from this country. For this reason, we want to thank him for his good work and I want to encourage

him to continue to preach the word of God to our people. Please continue to unite the people of Gbendembu Ngowahun Chiefdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to also talk about the proposed Deputy Director-General of the SLRA, Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo. He has done tremendous work at the SLRA. Your Member of Parliament is sitting next to me, and I hope he will be given the opportunity to say something about you. The people of Allen Town appreciate you and I want to thank you on their behalf for all the supports you have been providing them. I hope to see the two of you work together to ensure that the Agenda for Prosperity is realised in terms of infrastructural development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the two young men, Melron C. Nicol-Wilson and Rashid Dumbuya, they are fine gentlemen. President Ernest Bai Koroma is doing well for the young people of this country and the young people have lived up to the expectations of the President. I am sure you will do likewise. You are very young and I want to wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to wish Rtd Brigadier Daniel Yapoh Sesay the best in his appointment. On that note, I would ask my colleagues in this Honourable House to speedily ratify the nominees before us. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I see that so many people want to contribute and I would try to accommodate as many. I am therefore constrained to invoke S.O [38] to allow Members to talk for only three minutes.

**HON JUSUFU B. MANSARAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, women are moving and the President seems to be very concerned about the women of this country. He is of the opinion that as mothers, they will do their best for this nation. Although Madam Memuna Kumba Jalloh is yet to start her job, but the potholes along the highways are already getting closer to Freetown. I am not talking about Koribondo, but the highway from Bo to Freetown. I do believe that the hundred days she spoke to us about during her interview will be followed as promised.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at the road from Koribondo to the interiors; i.e., from Koribondo to Blama and Sumbuya. According to your curriculum vitae, you have got a lot of experience and I want to personally believe that you and Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo will not disappoint the people of this country. I want to state on this side that we are always in support of the infrastructural development of this nation. We are part of it all because we started it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, Honourable Jusufu B. Mansaray, people would say, S.O [2] 'u don pɔyl ɔl tin.'

**HON JUSUFU B. MANSARAY:** Mr Speaker, we are proud of you here today as a Speaker and as a father because to 'thysself be true.' This is an adage you have taught us. If that is the case, we as a party are part of whatever developments that are taking place in this nation. In other words, we are a party to every development that is taking place in this country. We have always supported the regulations; we have always supported the ratification of Bills you bring to this House; and we have always supported the loans and grants we approved here. The road construction that is currently ongoing is good and some of us are happy to be part of it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am one of the Members of Parliament who always talks about my own Constituency in particular and Bo District. I do not want to compare how these roads are being constructed, but I would want to state here that there is room for improvement in the road sector. I also want to inform Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh that the potholes along the highway from Bo to Freetown are many and she must do something within the one hundred days in office. I want to appeal to her to make it a point of duty to get the road from Freetown to Bo repaired. Normally, vehicles along the highways are running at high speed and there should be no obstacles along the way. The potholes have the tendency to damage vehicles and cause accidents. Therefore, please do something to remedy this situation. You have a very good Deputy, Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo and we hope that both of you will work in the best interest of the people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to briefly talk about the proposed Ombudsman, Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson. He promised to dispense justice. The former Speaker of this House has always been there, doing the right thing. You are

going there with a lot of experiences. Therefore, we want you to make sure that the right thing is done for the benefit of Sierra Leoneans. That office is not a political office and we expect you to treat all and sundry as equal. There should be no feeling for the SLPP or the APC. Please look at Sierra Leone and not political parties because if all of us look at Sierra Leone as a whole, this country will move forward at a faster pace.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes I do not want to talk about issues relating to Human Right because there are many human rights abuse in this nation. The Rev. Dr Usman Jesse Fornah is a God fearing man and he has been in the Church for a very long period. This time we want you to look at what is happening in issues relating to the rights of the people of this nation. If this House approves your nomination, we would want you to ensure that the rights of Sierra Leoneans are preserved. There are issues in this nation that are not properly handled. I cannot say them now because I am limited by time. I want those who have nominated to the Human Rights Commission to make sure that they prove to this nation that their nominations are worthwhile. Forget all party politics and serve this country in the best of your ability. That is the only way this country will move forward.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to approve the nominees before us. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I noticed that some people frowned at what Honourable Jusufu B. Mansaray has said. Please, Honourable Members, I want you to stop politicising national issues. I also want to appeal to all of us that when you occupy a public office, you have to serve the public, irrespective of whether the person belongs to the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] or the All People's Congress [APC], particularly where the individual is a Member of Parliament. Members of Parliament go to these offices not to beg, but to perform their functions. They perform three key functions; i.e., legislation, oversight and representation. They go to these offices to talk to some of you that serve in these positions for their constituents. You have to forget about party politics and focus on the general good. As long as the individual is a Member of Parliament, he or she has to be accorded that respect and I want the nominees to be mindful of that.

**HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to commend the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service for this wonderful job. Seated before us this morning are four categories of nominees; i.e., the office of the Ombudsman, the SLRSA, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the Human Rights Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the importance of these offices cannot be over-emphasised. I would like to start with the office of the Ombudsman. Mr Speaker, the role of the Ombudsman has been explained and it is known to us. What has happened today is injecting new blood into that office. History has it that this is the first time that a very young, dynamic, handsome and legally minded young man is going to serve that institution in that capacity. This is a clear indication to show the President's commitment to the young people of this country. I want to congratulate him in advance.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I have always advised Members not to congratulate until after parliamentary approval. That is why Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma is always guided through the use of the phrase, 'if you are approved.' The moment you begin to congratulate them is like giving them the impression of a foregone conclusion and it is not.

**HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker you cannot live by the bank of the river and wash your hands with spittle. This is a House of intellectuals, and above all, we learn from each other. I am going to rephrase that statement to suit my own situation. Mr Speaker, we cannot coexist with the Director-General of SLRSA and drive on bad roads. In other words, if the proposed Director-General of SLRSA is approved by this Honourable House, she is my constituent. Therefore, I want to remind her about the road from Goderich to Funkia. That road is a death-trap. I want to draw your attention to that road and it is a very important road.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw your attention to the third category of the three offices; i.e., the National Drug Law Enforcement Commission. The proposed nominee to this office, Rtd Brigadier Daniel Yapoh Sesay is a genuine Brigadier. The emphasis has to be on the word 'genuine Brigadier.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Dauda Kallon, I do not want you to be too emphatic on that issue because we have the Lawyers here. There are those of us who studied Philosophy in the University. The moment you begin to lay emphasis on 'genuine Brigadier' the implication is that there are some Brigadiers that are not genuine.

**HON. RTD BRIG. KOMBA E. S. BOYA:** Mr Speaker, if I am given the chance, I want to state from a professional point of view that a Brigadier is a Brigadier. There is no adjective attached to describe a Brigadier. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Dauda Kallon, do you get that? A brigadier is a brigadier without any qualification. Please take note of that.

**HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON:** Mr Speaker, having been under your mentorship for four and half years, I am now better placed to know what is genuine and what is fake. Mr Speaker, you have said to this Honourable House a number of times that 'to thyself be true.' If you have somebody spending thirty-five years in the army and that person eventually becomes a Brigadier and later retired, and another one who just spent six years in the army, but was fortunate to be proclaimed as Brigadier, Mr Speaker your earlier statement cannot be untrue.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker, I am getting the debates very interesting. The fact here is there are some Honourable Members who have spent twenty years in this Parliament and yet you have Honourable Members who are just six or seven months old who are better Members of Parliament than those who have spent twenty years here. I can pride myself that I have spent only nine years here and you can rank me as one of the best Members of Parliament. Therefore, it is not a matter of age, but the intelligence of the individual. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Dauda Kallon, stop being unnecessarily controversial.

**HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON:** Mr Speaker, there is no better way to advise me on this issue than what you have done and I want to thank you for that advice. Mr Speaker, I made reference to the issue of drug abuse in this country. That was why I said that having a genuine Brigadier would help to ensure that issues relating to drug abuse are addressed. Again, there is a need for us, as the people's representatives, to bring to his notice [probably he knew, but has not placed much



emphasis on that]; i.e. the proliferation of different brands of alcohol in sachet. For instance, we have 'Pegapack, 'boxer,' 'boy-pikin,' 'officer, etc. Mr Speaker, the reason is because these alcoholic drinks have a higher percentage of alcohol as compared to those imported from other countries. This has contributed significantly to the action of young people to be causing mayhems in this country. Therefore, as a young person myself, I want to ask Rtd Brigadier Daniel Yapoh Sesay to pay special attention on this issue if this House approves his nomination. We should put our hands on deck to save the lives of people in this country.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no better way to say that the nominees before us are divided into two categories; i.e., the youths and the elderly.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have promised myself not to contribute on any nominee being nominated by the President to this House because if we take the economic situation in Sierra Leone, there is no way we cannot measure those who have been nominated by the President and approved by this House in terms of performance. It is very difficult to track their performances and that is why I have decided not to contribute on any presidential nominee. Majority of those nominated by the President and approved by this House have not only disappointed the President, but even Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have been in this House almost every week to shower praises on presidential nominees, but when given the chance to go and perform, they end up disappointing us. Usually, some of them involve in corruption and some perform poorly. However, there is a brother amongst the nominees who is a performer. He is a friend to me and I have followed him for so long. I have no option, but to support him because I have seen his handiwork. He is not my biological brother, but he is a brother from the Sugar Island and the Situation Room. The 'Situation Room' is a place where you can find young professionals like lawyers, teachers, and some of us are politicians.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have politicians from both sides of the aisle in the 'Sugar Island.' The person I am referring to is Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson, Aka 'Nicol.' I have been following Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson from 2001, a period during

which the situation in Sierra Leone was very difficult. Most of our brothers and sisters went to seek refuge in other countries, including Honourable Alhassan Kamara, who went to seek refuge in Australia, but there were those who were in this country, including Mr Melron C Nicol-Wilson, yearning to come back to Sierra Leone. Upon his return, he spear-headed the formation of an organisation to help young people and those who were disadvantaged. Having gone through the ranks in the legal profession, I have no iota of doubt that Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson appointment is going to be a success story to the young people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes in 2001, most professionals had not wanted to practise their legal profession in this country. In fact, most of them travelled to other countries. Majority of them were in the university, but they did not finish their courses before they travelled to other countries. However, Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson and others were here helping the poor people, whilst others were in other countries washing plates and taking care of old people *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when such people are giving positions, we have no option but to support them. These are the kind of appointments we need from the President not those that will come and fail the people of this nation. Several Boards have been dissolved because of inefficiency and ineptness of people to perform. We want to see professionals who act professionally in public offices. I am very convinced that we have brothers from the 'Situation Room' who are here today to support our brother, Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson. We are very convinced that he is going to perform and he will develop the office of the Ombudsman from where the legal luminary, Honourable Justice Cowan has left it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to the SLRA. We have two professional heads who are here to seek this House's approval. I am very concerned about the road agreement that was given to the Chinese between Wellington and Masiaka highway. The pace at which the construction is going is a clear indication that the Chinese are ready to tax the people of this country. This is the only country that has the only available road leading to the city to be used as toll road. It is under construction and the people are going to be taxed for using it. There is no optional mechanisms being put in place and this road that is under construction is a toll road

and it is going to be very expensive. For instance, every truck will be charged the sum of **Le 500,000** per passage. That is very correct.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, with your permission, I want to encourage my younger colleague Honourable Member to advise himself and keep to the Standing Orders of this House. This is an agreement that was ratified by this House for which this House takes responsibility. Therefore, it is not something that we should be discussing here today.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, please be advised; otherwise I would rule you out of order for being irrelevant.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, as you always say 'to thyself be true.' I was just addressing the two heads of the SLRA. In my four and half years in this Parliament, I believe it is going to be very difficult for all of us to go again to our people and ask for their mandates because some of the laws we pass in this House are not favourable at all. Sometimes when some of us stand here to say the truth, others tend to politicise issues of national interests.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about the Human Rights Commission. We have three people being nominated to that Commission. We all know that there are lots of human rights problems not just in the Government sector, but in the private sectors. We are hoping and praying that those who have been nominated to that Commission will perform if this House approves their nominations. We want to reduce some of the excesses of the human right abuses that are happening in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know all the nominees before us, but I hope they will not disappoint us. I did not mention some of you because I do not know you. However, I want to inform you that many of your colleagues have disappointed us and this nation. I am praying that you will not disappoint us and this nation. If this House approves your nomination, please go and do the work that is been given to you and make sure you do it effectively and efficiently. I know your nomination was as a result of the fact that you are Sierra Leoneans and not on the basis of you being an APC member. I thank you.

**HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of time, let me straightway go to the nominees. I am very proud to say to this House that I was one of the students that benefited from Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson when he started lecturing Human Rights Law at the Fourah Bay College, [FBC] University of Sierra Leone. At that time... - *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Alhassan Kamara, were you not in Australia then?

**HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA:** No, Mr Speaker, I was not. Mr Speaker, I have colleagues here who were with me at the FBC, some are clerks in this Parliament and others are observers of this approval. At that time in 2001, the Honourable Member from Bo was just doing his Access Course at the Njala University *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Alhassan Kamara, Honourable Bashiru Silikie Knew that you were going to say what you have just said.

**HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, he did not have the university requirement to go to FBC.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please withdraw that statement.

**HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA:** I humbly withdraw, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson is like an elder brother to some of us, particularly when I was a student. He is one of the young people who motivated us to further our studies overseas. Mr Melron C. Nicol-Wilson used to check on me very frequently on Saturdays. Whether you were offering Human Right Law as a module or not, you would want to be present in his class. Like all other speakers have mentioned, he is a role model to most of us and he is a man I have confidence in. I am pretty sure that he will execute his functions as the Ombudsman beyond our expectations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move to another brother, a man whom I usually call Rashman; i.e., Mr Rashid Dumbuya, proposed member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone. He is a man who is very personate about human rights issues in this country. He also personate about helping people in this country. I think he is one of the fittest appointees to that office *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, Mr Rashid

Dumbuya is hardworking and forthright gentleman, a man whom I trust. I am pretty sure that he will do what is expected of him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have another Director added to the battalion of Directors created by His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma; a woman who has made us realise in the Eastern part of Freetown that we must be captured under the immense road constructions offered by the President and this government. I am pretty sure that Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh, proposed Director-General, SLRA, will execute her duties as the Director-General of the SLRA with distinction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move quickly to my constituent and an uncle, a man who has helped so much in developing the Allen Town Community, Dr Sahr Ernest Gbembo, proposed Deputy Director-General, SLRA. Mr Speaker, each time you call on this man, he is always ready to help. Whenever there is a problem in his community, he is there to render his assistance. I am very happy to see him elevated to the position of Deputy Director-General of the SLRA.

To other nominees, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, especially the Rtd Brigadier Daniel Yapoh Sesay, I want to state here that drug issue in this country is eating the young people of Sierra Leone. Therefore, we must intensify and re-energise our efforts to ensure that we deal with that menace in this country. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**HON. NAVO KAIKAI:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to say few words. I don't know any of the nominees, but I am going to zoom in the women because I will be doing a disservice if I failed to say something about those two wonderful women. From what I have read, these two women are suitably qualified for the positions they have been nominated to serve. However, we all know that for a woman to attain such position, they must have struggled through the ranks in their offices because men are always given preference when it comes to promotions more than women. Therefore, I am very proud of these women because they must have worked harder to get to these positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I love what the Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh said when she was interviewed. With the leave of Mr Speaker, she said: "**Management**

**is a psychology. I have managed my husband and my home for twenty-six years and I know what experience I have gained. I want to assure this House that I can manage my Deputy because we have had a long and good working relationship before and we have always respected each other.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Navo Kaikai, if I should ask, how many years have you managed your husband?

**HON. NAVO KAIKAI:** Mr Speaker, I have managed my husband for thirty-two years.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is great, Honourable Member.

**HON. NAVO KAIKAI:** Mr Speaker, I got married at the age of twenty-one and I am still married to the same husband. Mr Speaker, because of the fact that Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh has been managing her husband and children for twenty-six years qualifies her for the position she has been nominated to serve. I am very proud of her and they are not going to work in isolation. We have had a woman as Director General of the SLRTA, Mrs Sarah Bendu. Therefore, I have no iota of doubt in your ability to perform. I know that you will do a good job in making sure that our roads in this country are given facelift. I want to thank you for the road leading to Kailahun District. I was not there when the road was handed over, but I want to thank the the President for constructing the road from Kenema to Pendembu and for commissioning the one from Pendembu to Kailahun. I saw the Pendembu/Kailahun Road last week, when I was coming from Kailahun just to make sure that what they have said is happening. I want to say thank you for that.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know whether Mrs Memuna Kumba Jalloh has been to Kailahun, but I was telling your colleagues that the Kailahun Road has been constructed, but there is a blind curve around my vicinity. I have started talking to one of your engineers in Kailahun. If we do not have speed bumps on that road, accidents are bound to occur frequently on that road because the main road from Kailahun, through Pendembu to Methodist School is not done. Therefore, they are using that road as a by-pass and it is very dangerous. In fact, when I was there few weeks ago, an accident happened right in

my presence and it worries me because it leads to the school as well. So, I hope you will take this concern on board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, let me come to Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, proposed member, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone. I do not know Ms Grace Coleridge-Taylor, but it pleases me when I see women being appointed to positions of trust. I hope more women will be nominated to serve in similar capacities because it is an inspiration for girls in this country to work harder. Women are still lagging behind because our education system does not promote women as best as it could. And if you are in these positions, I hope you are not just going to limit to your professional areas, but you become mentors and encourage other women and other girls to work harder as you have worked to get to these positions. I hope this House will not deny you this privilege to serve your country in the best way you can. I know you will not disappoint us, as Honourable Bashiru Silikie was saying. It pleases me when I see women being nominated to these positions. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI** [*Acting Minority Leader of the House*]: I thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having listened to what has been said about the nominees, especially by the last speaker, I have to say to this House that what I heard at the hearing did confirm that a lot of those who appeared before us are good citizens of this country. I have to say this because I did not say it when they appeared before us, especially the nominees who, if confirmed, would be the Ombudsman. I have to warn him and to let him be aware of the fact that the shoe that he is about to wear is a very big one and is being occupied by a legal minded person, a Lawyer and a Judge in this country. He later became the number three man in this country when he was Speaker of this House. The man he is about to succeed had carried out that duty diligently. We must appreciate the fact that he chaired the most recent Commission that reviewed our Constitution. So, if you are going to occupy such an office, you must tighten your belt in making sure that the people of this country receive the best services they need. I also want to warn that the people of this country and the international community are monitoring the way you would execute your duties if this House approves your nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 146 of the 1991 Constitution of this country and the Act that created that office as a result of Section 146 of the Constitution of this clearly stipulates the duties of the Ombudsman. You being a Lawyer, if you occupy that office, the people of this country expect you to fully carry out your duties. I have no problem with your nomination. We on this side will be watching you because we want to ensure that justice at the Ombudsman office is done to those who are qualified to receive such services. If this House approves your nomination, you have to be careful the way you will be executing your duties. We expect you to be efficient and effective in that office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also have before us nominees for the positions of Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director being nominated to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority. I have no problem with them during the interview because we interviewed them and I am pleased to report to this House that I am satisfied with them. For Brigadier Yapoh Conteh, I have to state here that he deserves the additional accolade for him to be appointed to serve as head of the Drug Enforcement Agency. I say so because I knew him when he was an officer during those difficult times, a period when this country needed strong men. He was one of those available in making sure that peace is achieved.

*Suspension of S.O. 5[2] being 12:00 noon*

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as far as Brigadier Yapoh Conteh is concerned, he deserves it, and this country expects him to carry out that office diligently and effectively.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Human Rights Commissioners. We previously ratified the nomination of quite a few Sierra Leoneans to serve in that Commission. I want to personally thank God because we had a strong man who was occupying the Ombudsman office. Therefore, the issue of human rights in this country, in collaboration with that establishment, i.e., the Human Rights Commission, those duties were well performed. I want to remind all of you to work together. You must consult each other, so that justice is done to all sectors and to the people of this country.



On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on this House to approve these nominees. I thank you.

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH** [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me don't hide my discomfiture because in all the contributions that I have heard, no congratulatory messages were paid to me. Mr Speaker, you would recall that this was the very first meeting I presided over as the substantive Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. I acknowledge the fact that I am still in the learning process and I am happy and encouraged by the congratulatory messages the nominees have received. Somebody said they went through a very thorough examination and that examination was presided over by my humble self.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Majority Leader, though belated, but I would like to convey the sentiments of Honourable Members to you by congratulating you for your work well done.

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, like you have seen in this report, the interviews were detailed and exhaustive and Members of that Committee elicited a lot of information from the interviewees. That is the reason why we were able to do a thorough job. The nominees have heard the comments, congratulatory messages and admonitions from Members of Parliament and the public about the positions you are going to be occupying immediately this House approves of you. I want to also say that the positions you are going to occupy carry a lot of responsibilities and duties, and failure is not an option. We expect you to do your very best in the discharge of your duties. During your interview, you promised to do what is good for the people of this country. Like I told you in the interview, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has powers to recall and to evaluate your performance when you go to those offices as and when they feel that you are not doing your very best. I hope we will not come to that situation because we are confident that the President has had a lot of inspiration and confidence in you. I merely want to wish that you will succeed in the various offices because we have no doubt that you are eminently qualified to serve in those positions. Again, we have made no mistake in the interview; and in the same spirit, I want to recommend

to this House to approve your nominations. I am happy about the spirited debate that has followed and the various contributions we have heard from the Members of this Honourable House.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask that we approve these nominees seated before us this morning. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been ratified]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Parliament, I want to congratulate all of you and wish you well. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make. Due to the appointments of Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah and Honourable Hassan B. Sheriff, there has been a reconstitution of the Committee on Appointments and the public Service. In the case of Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah, when he served as Chairman of the Committee that interviewed these people, there was nothing wrong or illegal because by then he was already the Deputy Majority Leader of this House and ipso facto, the Deputy Chairman. So, in the absence of the substantive Chairman, he simply steps in to serve as Chairman. That is correct and perfectly valid. However, we are now trying to regularise the situation. Honourable Leonard S, Fofanah is now the Chairman and Honourable Hassan B. Sheriff, who was not a Member of this Committee, is now the Deputy Chairman. In that regard, the membership of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service is as follow:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Leonard S. Fofanah   | <b>Chairman</b>        |
| 2. Hon. Hassan B. Sheriff    | <b>Deputy Chairman</b> |
| 3. Hon. Dr Bernadette Lahai  | Member                 |
| 4. Hon. Ansumana J. Kaikai   | "                      |
| 5. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah    | "                      |
| 6. Hon. Patrick L. M. Kargbo | "                      |
| 7. Hon. Abie Kaloko          | "                      |
| 8. Hon. Mabinty H. Bangura   | "                      |
| 9. Hon. Claude D. M. Kamanda | "                      |
| 10. Hon. Benneh Bangura      | "                      |
| 11. Hon. Gladys Gbappi Brima | "                      |
| 12. Hon. Amadu M. Kanu       | "                      |

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| 13. Hon. Komba E. Koedoyoma                | “ |
| 14. Hon. Jusufu B. Mansaray                | “ |
| 15. Hon. Habib Munda                       | “ |
| 16. Hon. PC Joseph Alie-Kavura Kongomoh II | “ |

These are now the Honourable Members that make up the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. And because of that, the membership of the Committee on Selection has been adjusted as follows: The Speaker, Hon. S.B.B. Dumbuya is Chairman and Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah, being the Deputy Speaker, is now the Deputy Chairman. Then the Membership now includes Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah and Honourable Hassan B. Sheriff. We have to go according to our rules I will now put the question.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Committees as announced by the Speaker have been adopted]*

**HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, it is with great pleasure to announce in this House that the Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, Madam Diana Finda Konomanyi has approved some Members to provide portions of land to all Members of Parliament. In fact, before I made this announcement, she has committed herself to providing those portions to every Member of this House by June, 2017. We are apportioning lands right now in certain areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very good news and that is why I want to share it with Members of this House. It is good news because it is the first time in the history of this Parliament as Chairperson on the Committee on Lands to be given this strong assurance. My Deputy Chairman and I have worked hard with the Ministry of Lands to ensure that Members of Parliament are provided with portions of lands. This is something we should be happy about and we are going to ensure that those lands are provided to every Member of Parliament. We have sent the list to the Ministry and we have allocated areas to be allotted to Members. We cannot put all Members of Parliament in one area. There are some Members who wanted lands around Yams Farm, some wanted to be at Kerry Town and at Hill Station. I just want to assure Members that all of us would get our pieces of land. I want to commend the Minister because she is working relentlessly to ensure that Members of this

Honourable House are provided with lands during her tenure as Minister of Lands. Just be rest assured that you have a very hard working Chairperson and an abled Deputy Chairman who would ensure that you get your land. I want to thank the Minister very much and her team for this gesture.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask Members of the Committee on Lands to meet immediately after sitting in Committee Room 1. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I must apologise that this time around we are having a very short Easter break because of what we have in our plate. We have so much to do, but I hope Members would not mind. I want to announce to you that the 'Finance Bill' is already in circulation and I take it that every Member has got a copy. On that note, there is going to be a pre-legislative hearing tomorrow on the said Bill.

**HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF:** Mr Speaker, I have not been advised by the Clerk of Parliament relating to the pre-legislative hearing scheduled to take place tomorrow.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, because of the urgency of this Bill, I would advise that we have a pre-legislative hearing on it tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. The 'Finance Bill' is very important.

**HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF:** Mr Speaker, I would make sure I convey the message to the Ministry of Finance.

**THE SPEAKER:** Tell the Ministry officials that the pre-legislative hearing will be tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

**HON. B. HASSAN SHERIFF:** Okay, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Deputy Speaker and Honourable Ajibola Manly-Spain, make sure you are there.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 12.25 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 10:00a.m]*