



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 11th JULY, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 11th July, 2013.

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OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE)**

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday, 11th July, 2013.

The House met at 10:05 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

[The Legislative Clerk, Mr Lamin Yansaneh, Read the Prayers].

[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

HON. SONGOWA BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that S.O 5(2) be suspended so that the business of the House can commence.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHAJI SERAY DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker I so second.

II. SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE)

The following newly elected Members subscribed to the oath as Members of Parliament:

Aaron Aruna Koroma; and

Salieu Osman Sesay.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am sure there are some Members who would want to say something about the newly elected Members of Parliament. But we have to proceed with the Order Paper for now.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Majority Leader, do you want to welcome the new Members of Parliament?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Indeed Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, with the concurrence of other Members of this Honourable House, I want to take this opportunity in my capacity as the Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business to welcome our new Members of Parliament who have just been sworn in as Honourable Members of Parliament. One thing that I would like to let them know at the very outset is that they are Members of the APC. But Mr Speaker this is a Parliament, and in Parliament, we are all one and the same people (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want them to know that Parliament is a fraternity. You are not only on the side of the APC but also on the side of the SLPP. This is because we all belong to the same family. Once again Mr Speaker I welcome them warmly into this House.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Mr Majority Leader. Whilst I call on the Clerk to present the relevant working documents to them, I also want to add that they are now occupying the seats of Honourable Alimamy Kamara and Honourable Dr Mathew Teambo. Therefore, we are expecting much from them. We all know who were Honourable Alimamy Kamara and Honourable Dr M. Teambo in this House. I want to inform you that the Majority Leader encourages people who perform well in the execution of their duties. We hope that you would learn from those you have succeeded. You should not run away from them at all. Continue getting your mentorship from them and the Majority Leader of this House.

III. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 9TH JULY, 2013

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 9th July, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. ABIE KALOKOH: Page 4 Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, my name is on the list of Members of Parliament that were absent. I was absent with excuse Mr Speaker. I did ask for permission from somebody.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member whom did you call?

HON. ABIE KALOKOH: I called the Leader of the House Sir.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker she did call but the Leader never communicated that to the Clerk of Parliament. I beg for that Mr Speaker.

HON. MUSTAPHA BRAIMA: Mr Speaker Page 4, under the heading: '*the following Honourable Members of Parliament were absent with excuse.*' We have two numbers bearing the same name. Number 4 and 5 bear the same name of Honourable Jengo Edward S.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Any more on Page 4?

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Yes Mr Speaker. In the case of Honourable Jengo and Gladys Gbamoh Gbappy, I don't know why the Whip on this side had not reported to you or to the Clerk of the House. But they did take permission from the Leadership of the SLPP. I just wanted the House to take note of that.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member. Page 5? Page 6? If there is no more amendment can someone move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 9th July, 2013 be adopted as amended?

HON. ALHASSAN JERO KAMARA: Mr Speaker I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALLIEU BADDARA MUNU: I so second Mr Speaker.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

**Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 9th July, 2013 was
unanimously adopted as amended**

III. PAPERS LAID

(A) HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA, MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION'S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following paper:

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION'S 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

(B) THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

SIERRA LEONE PETROLEUM LICENCE AGREEMENT –BLOCK 10A-10 NIMA HOLDINGS (SL) LTD

SIERRA LEONE PETROLEUM LICENCE AGREEMENT –BLOCK 10B -10 – A-Z PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (SL) LTD

SIERRA LEONE PETROLEUM LICENCE AGREEMENT – BLOCK 7C – 10 – A-Z PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (SL) LIMITED

MR FRANKLYN B. KARGBO (Attorney-General and Minister of Justice): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following documents:

- (a) Sierra Leone Petroleum License Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and NIMA HOLDINGS in respect of BLOCK 10A-10 off shore Sierra Leone.
- (b) Sierra Leone Petroleum Licence Agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and A-Z PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (SL) LTD in respect of BLOCK 10B -10 off shore Sierra Leone.
- (c) Sierra Leone Petroleum Licence Agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and A-Z PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (SL) LTD in respect of BLOCK 7C – 10 off shore Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have with us this morning, the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie who had called on the House since last week to bid farewell to the place where he believes is his if not first but his second home. He is here today to say goodbye to us and ask for our blessings so that his future endeavours will be as successful as his parliamentary life. In that case, I want to use my authority and allow him for two minutes to say few words to this House. After that, I will give the Minority and Majority Leaders 2 minutes each.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, because of the seniority of Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie, I would want to appeal to this House that he uses the podium to deliver whatever he has to say.

THE SPEAKER: In two minutes.

HON. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM SORIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for giving me what I refer to as an exceptional privilege and opportunity for speaking in the Well of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on Monday, 8th July, 2013, I took formal leave of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma at State House as a process of my departure to assume my new position as Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the European Union and to the Kingdom of Belgium with multiple accreditations to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of France, the Dutch of Luxemburg and the Holy Sea. I am also taking formal leave of this Honourable House, out of the profound respect I have for you Honourable Members and the respect I have for this Honourable House and in appreciation of the role this Parliament has played in shaping my thoughts and in making me what I am today. My appointment as Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the EU is a direct recruitment from this Parliament. And I would be going to Brussels as a representative of this Parliament (*Applause across the Floor*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to renew my pledge to continue to work in a committed manner towards the enhancement of the Sierra Leone

Parliament in several and varied ways. I want to reassure this Parliament that I will continue to be one of your members and represent you in the countries of my accreditation, not only as an Ambassador of Sierra Leone, but as an Ambassador of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to use this opportunity to welcome any one of you to your Embassy in Brussels, including the very residence of the Ambassador. For Members of Parliament who are representing this Parliament in the EU/ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, consider the residence of the Sierra Leone Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Mission to the EU's residence as your own residence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the EU, I have a statutory engagement with this Parliament in the framework of the ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and in the Committee of Ambassadors that execute the agreement known as the EU/ACP Development Cooperation, under the Cotonou Convention 2000-2020. The ACP Secretariat in Brussels is the Home of 79 countries that constitutes the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States that monitors, evaluates and implements the decisions of the Council of Ministers for the framework cooperation for the EU/ACP Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to mention the importance of Sierra Leone's representation to the EU. What is this country benefitting from the European Union? As a nation, we are getting direct budgetary support from the EU in the tune of 15%. And when you take all the other projects being funded in the country by the EU, We had something like 35%. Also, because of our EU relationship, 85% of all the trunk roads we have in this country are being funded by the EU, and very shortly Mr Speaker, before the end of this year, there is going to be a bid for the Bo-Bandajuma and Moa River Roads. This is going to be a 78 million dollars project.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie, you should be rounding up Sir.

HON. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM SORIE: There are also the EU funds. The project is going to start for the construction of three new bridges; the one at Mabang, the Mabalay Bridge, and the Moa River. The EU is our largest trading block. Mr Speaker, whenever the integrity of our territory is threatened, we get security support from the EU. We have 370 million Euro for the incoming 11th European Development Fund for Sierra Leone. I am sure that fund will be used to take the present road from Kenema to Pendembu and the Pendembu-Kailahun Road. This is what the European Union means to us. As I speak Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me thank you again for such a wonderful privilege. Though I would be missing this Parliament, but I am going also for this Parliament. I will make sure that whatever comes from Europe, Sierra Leone Parliament will be considered. I will go in for training programmes for Members and staff of this Honourable House. I would want to see in my area of accreditation the Parliamentary Friendship Association between this Parliament and the Parliament of the Republic of France. I would also want to see the same between the Sierra Leone House of Parliament and the Parliament of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The same applies between the Sierra Leone Parliament and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium and that of the Parliament of the Duche of Luxemburg. Mr Speaker I would make sure a healthy friendship between this Parliament and the Vatican City in Rome. Of course, this Parliament should have a way of reaching the Pope in the Vatican City.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this Parliament to solicit your support for the Brussels Embassy, whenever you are in Europe please make it a duty as Members of Parliament to call on the Embassy in Brussels. It is your Embassy and you will be assured of VIP treatment. God bless Mr Speaker, God bless Members and staff of Parliament. God bless the Republic of Sierra Leone. I thank you. Good-bye to all
(Applause).

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI (Deputy Minority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to say farewell to a colleague of mine, who has served in this House for 26 years. I am referring to the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara. The

Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara represented the Kambia District in this House heartily. The Hansard of this House will subscribe to what I have just said. This is because when you go through the Hansard records, you would discover the contributions of the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara in this Chamber. Mr Speaker, those on the other side of this Honourable House would like to emulate the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara. I urge all of them to please emulate the example of Honourable Ibrahim Sorie. I want all of you to go to the library of this House and read his works so that you will serve the APC better.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for six years, Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara served the People's Democratic Party (PDP). The PDP was in coalition with the SLPP and for us in the SLPP we enjoyed and appreciated him most. This was because those were difficult moments in this country. When this country was about to fall apart, Honourable Ibrahim Sorie was one of those citizens who stood up and even took our case to the United Nations. He was in fact interviewed on Cable News Network (CNN) TV Station. As a true Sierra Leonean, he had done what a true Sierra Leonean is supposed to do for his country. He is an Honourable gentleman this country can be proud of.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I came to Parliament in 1996, the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara had already served in this House for 10 years. And believe you me Mr Speaker he was a teacher. He was a beacon of light to be followed. Today, the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara is saying farewell to all Members of Parliament, just like what Honourable Members in the House of Commons and other Parliaments have done before. In US Congress for example, Lord Man Baton and Churchill have done the same. Honourable Ibrahim Sorie, you are living us, but you are with us in spirit. Having been honoured by the President and honoured by this Honourable House (in appreciation of your contributions to Parliament and the effective Parliamentary practices that you carried here), this House is now giving you that which you deserve. That is, as Honourable Member of Parliament emeritus. The only other Sierra Leonean

who has served this House longer than you was the late Paramount Chief Jaia Kaikai. He served this House for 32 years. I thought you were going to chase him. Though you tried to chase him, but he still served this House more than you did.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want all of us to appreciate a brother of ours who has served this Honourable House and who is leaving to serve this country in another capacity. On that note, I thank you Mr Speaker and my colleague Honourable Members of Parliament.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have known Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie for over 40 years. We met in Fourah Bay College but he and Honourable Komba Koedoyoma were my juniors (*Laughter*). And when I said they were my juniors, if you want to know more about me, please ask Honourable Ibrahim Sorie and Honourable Komba Koedoyoma.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie Kamara and the Honourable Eric Komba Koedoyoma lived in the same house at Liverpool Street for about 5 years. We did everything in common (*Laughter*).

THE SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, the Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya said they did everything in common when they were in the university. Shall we allow him to dilate on that statement?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker the Honourable Komba Koedoyoma seated quietly over there 'was a man' (*Laughter*). And Mr Speaker, I want this Honourable House to know that in the first wedding of the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie to his late wife, I was one of those who arranged that relationship. And when I engaged my own wife, Honourable Ibrahim Sorie and Honourable Komba Koedoyoma proposed toasts on that day. This showed our close relationship.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I would want this House to know is that, Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie, Commander of the Republic of Sierra Leone (CRSL) is an

achiever. If the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie makes promises, I can tell you that he would fulfill such promises. I know him very well. When we were in Fourah Bay College, if Ibrahim Sorie says S. B. B. Dumbuya, between this time and this time (S.O.2) “ar go mek sure dat ar achieve dis,” indeed, he did succeed in that. That is Ibrahim Sorie. As we all know the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie, he talks big, he equally does big things. So, these promises he has made here today, I have no iota of doubt that he is going to fulfill all of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of this Honourable House, I wish him well and I believe he would really succeed in carrying out his duties effectively and efficiently. Mr Speaker, when the Honourable Ibrahim Sorie Kamara said with multiple accreditations, some people did not understand. As Ambassador emeritus, when you talk about multiple accreditations, he is going to be stationed in Brussels, but at the same time he is an Ambassador to the countries that he has named. That is what he is going to do. Honourable Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie Kamara, I wish you well.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am sure I would be making a mistake if I fail to wish the Honourable Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie Kamara success in his new office.

ADJOURNMENTS

(The House rose at 10.45 a.m. and was adjourned until Friday, 12th July, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)