

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

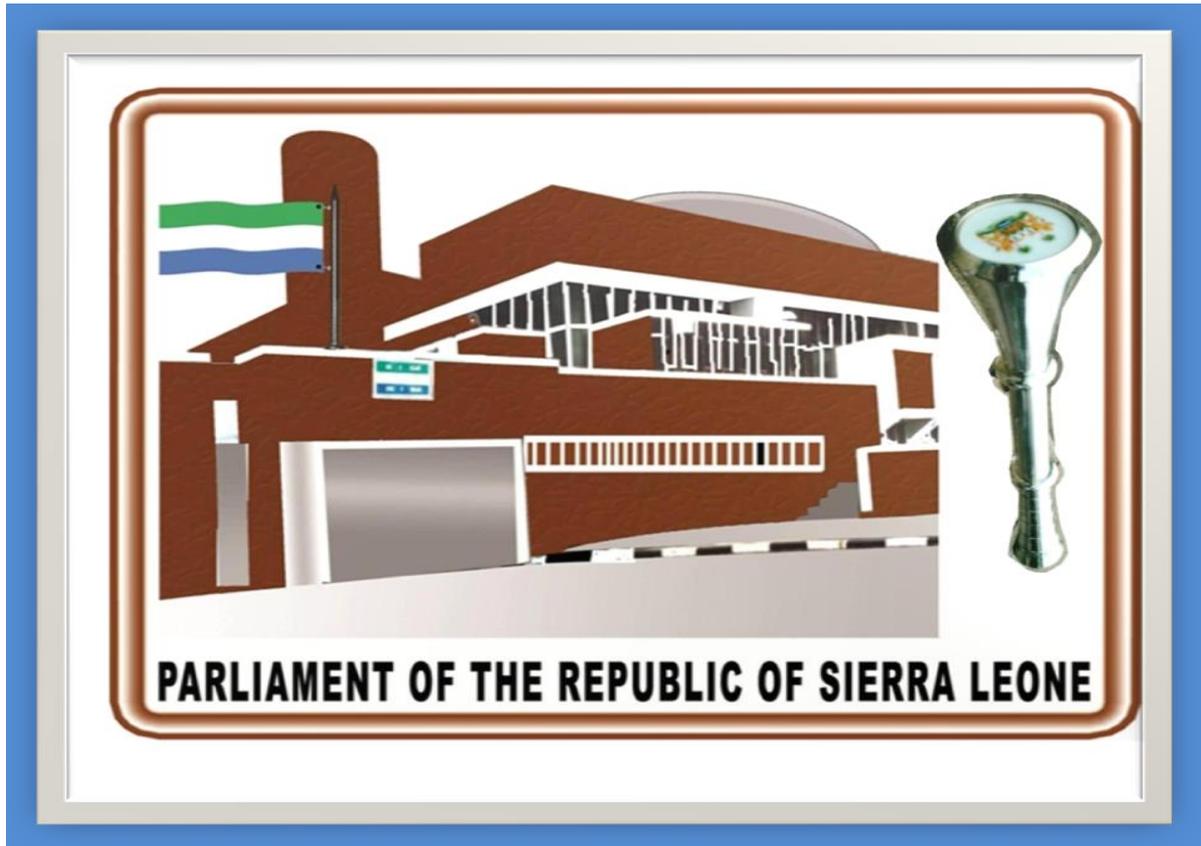
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY, 2015

SESSION – 2014/2015



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Wednesday, 13th May, 2015.

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PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TWELVTH REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

**THIRD SESSION - THIRD MEETING
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

Wednesday, 13th May, 2015.

The House met at 10:00 a.m., in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENATARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH MAY, 2015

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 12th May, 2015. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, I was here yesterday, but my name is not mentioned anywhere in this document.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note of that. Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8?

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, I am seeing Customer Act on Page 7, instead of 'Custom Act.'

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please make the necessary correction. There being no other correction or amendment, can somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 12th May, 2015?

HON. ALIE KALOKO: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 12th May, 2015, has been adopted as amended).

III. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TWELVTH REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the 12th Report of the Third Session of the Committee on the Appointment and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Friday 8th May, 2015 to interview six Presidential Nominees for appointment as follows:

- i. Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency;
- ii. Board Member, National Insurance Company;
- iii. Member, National Standard Council;
- iv. Two Members, National Commission for Privatisation; and
- v. Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

2. Procedures

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedures. Enquiring questions put to the nominees were related to their educational background, track records in pertinent work situation, declared assets, tax obligations and their vision for a successful tenure. Their suitability in terms of character to hold such high offices of State were closely looked into.

3. Fifteen Sitting of the Committee on Friday, 8th May, 2015.

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

- (i) *Mr Charles Merewether Thompson, Proposed Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency.*

Mr Charles Merewether-Thompson is currently the Acting Chief Director and Professional Head in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, with the responsibility to plan, supervise and coordinate the activities of the Professional Arm of the Ministry.

In the interview, Mr Charles Merewether Thompson agreed with the Committee that the fall in the world market price of fuel was not adequately reflected in the pump price on the local market and that has invariably affected the market price of goods and services. He, however, said that the issue could be a subject of a Commission that should be set up by Government. *"It will do this Nation a lot of good if this Committee will commission a study into the matter."*

Mr Merewether Thompson also said that the basic criteria for setting up Petrol Stations were:

- a. the location of Retail Outlet should not be close to a dwelling House.
- b. the handling of bulk Petroleum Product, Petrol, diesel and gas should be contained in specific overhead or underground tanks. Underground tanks will, however, need to be specifically constructed by Engineers of Oil Marketing Companies "to avoid explosion."
- c. There should be fire extinguishers.

(ii) Mr James Ahmed Mahoi, Mr James Ahmed Mahoi, Proposed Board Member, National Insurance Company.

Mr Mahoi is a Trade Unionist and Member of the Education Board, Sierra Leone Labour Congress. Reacting to probing questions, Mr Mahoi said, *"I will work together with fellow Board Members to make the National Insurance Company a credible Company in the eyes of the Public."*

(iii) Mr Solomon Rennie Fofana, Proposed Board Member, National Standards Council.

Mr Solomon Rennie Fofanah is a Lecturer, who has served Fourah Bay College and the University of Sierra Leone from 1977 to date. He is currently the Deputy Marshall of the University. He has also served as Chairman of the University Games and Sports Management Committee and Warden of Students, Fourah Bay College.

Answering to Pertinent questions, Mr Solomon Fofanah said, *"As the Committee may know, Africa has always been a dumping ground for sub-standard commodities because we do not have the mechanisms in place to test these commodities. I wish*

to thank His Excellency the President for providing a piece of land for the Standard Council and UNIDO for providing the testing equipment. If I am approved by this Honourable House, I will enforce standards by testing all goods coming into this country to ensure that quality control is maintained at all times. The people of this country and our youths are dying from expired commodities, particularly drugs and the kind of cheap alcohol flooding the market. Things are coming into the country that are not good for own consumption. The Public should be sensitised to know, appreciate and to cooperate with the Standards Council."

(iv) Mr Osman Abdal Timbo, Proposed Board Member, National Commission for Privatisation.

Osman Abdal Timbo Esq. is a legal Practitioner who is currently serving as Legal Consultant and Adviser, Public Private Partnership Unit, Office of the President, State House, Freetown. Responding to pertinent questions, Osman Abdal Timbo identified two important functions of the National Commission for Privatisation:

- i. to divest or sell Government Assets; and
- ii. to reform Enterprises that are not up to standard.

Osman Abdal Timbo opined that the reason for privatisation is because Government is not a good business entity. Sometimes, he said, it is better to divest or to even go into public/private partnership. *"My role on the Board is to give legal advice and how to go about divesting this property. Also, I will be there to advise on reforms that will give value for money when the enterprise is up for sale. The twenty-four Public Enterprises that are under the Commission cannot all be sold because if we sell them in their present state, the Commission will sell them at a loss. Therefore, we need to reform them, get them to certain level and sell them later."*

(v) Mr Frederick Alfred Jones, Proposed Board Member, National Commission for Privatisation.

Mr Freddie Jones is a Civil and Structural Engineer with over thirty-five years of work experience. He is currently a retainer for structural works, Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure.

Answering to the Committee's enquiry, Mr Freddie Jones said, *"As a Technocrat, I hope to assist the Chairman on technical issues pertaining to both Parastatals and Governmental Institutions. I have had practical work experience in dealing with nearly all of them. As a structural Engineer Consultant, I think I can render my expertise to the Commission for the benefit of Sierra Leone."*

(iv) *Mrs Ayodele Wak-Williams, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.*

Mrs Ayodele Wak-Williams has spent a better part of her working life in hospitality and Tourist Industry in the United States of America and major Hotels in Sierra Leone. She owns and manages her own Company – DELWAK AGENCIES, which specialises in Tourism, Real Estate and Property Management Developer. Mrs Ayodele Wak-Williams was (2001 to 2005) a member of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture with the Oversight responsibility for setting up the Sierra Leone National Committee for Africa Growth Opportunity Act.

Reacting to the Committee's enquiries as to what value she will add to the Sierra Leone Ports Authority, Mrs Wak-Williams said she has observed some serious lapses in the security sector of the Ports Authority. *"If I am approved by this Honourable House, I will endeavor to work with fellow Board Members to up-grade the Security Sector of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority to international standards, equipped with Close Circuit Cameras to surveillance movement within the entire Ports facility. I will ensure that the Administration of the Ports Authority keeps proper records of all transactions."*

4. Recommendations

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointment and are recommended to the House for approval:

1. Mr Charles Mereweather Thompson, Board Member, Petroleum Regulatory Agency;
2. Mr James Ahmed Mahoi, Board Member, National Insurance Company;
3. Mr Solomon Rene Fofana, Member, National Standards Council;
4. Mr Osman Abdal Timbo, Member, National Commission for Privatisation;

5. Mr Frederick Alfred Jones, Member, National Commission for Privatisation; and
6. Mrs Ayodele Wak-Williams, Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twelfth Report is the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twelfth Report of the Third 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 Ibrahim R. Bundu, Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA: Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service.

(Question Proposed)

HON KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have in our midst six Sierra Leoneans whom the President has thought fit to occupy some important offices in various MDAs and has asked this House for their approval. I want to admonish the nominees to consider themselves lucky to have been nominated by the President of this nation. These appointments have been considered by His Excellency the President that among the many Sierra Leoneans who would have been before us, he has nominated six of them to occupy very important positions. Therefore, we expect high level of competence based on your past experiences. I am sure you demonstrated your competencies during the interview. We also expect that you prove more than what you have told the Committee Members. You have to demonstrate high level of nationalism in the performance of your responsibilities. In this respect, you are all challenged that failure should not be your option. We expect that you perform exceptionally well in your new appointments, if this House approves your nomination. Your appointments are in consonance with the President's Agenda for Prosperity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Members of Parliament, we will have the opportunity to oversee your works from time to time through our Oversight responsibilities. In other words, every government institution is supervised by this

Parliament. I want all the nominees to be sincere and honest in the performance of their duties in their respective positions to which they have been nominated. Above all, consider yourselves to be watched by this Parliament because we have the major supervisory role in overseeing the activities of all MDAs.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to endorse the six Sierra Leoneans who have been nominated to in various offices. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice to the Motion in front of us this morning. I want to thank the President for nominating these Sierra Leoneans to serve in various capacities. I think our problem, as a Nation, is not that we lack qualified people to serve in high offices, but putting people in the right places has been our problem (*Applause*). On that note, I want to remind our brothers and sister sitting here that they have a duty to serve the people of this country selflessly.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, a Tonkolilian once said in a letter to his wife, "I have nothing to leave with you. It is not that I was lazy, but I worked selflessly for my country." I hope the nominees will go to their various offices and make a difference. I want to say here that you should not join bad groups to wreck this country. With these few words, I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily approve the nominees before us this morning (*Applause*).

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have an eminent legal comrade before us this morning. It would be improper if I fail to say a word about him. Mr Speaker, I want to talk about Mr Osman Abdal Timbo, proposed Member, National Commission for Privatisation. Mr Osman Abdal Timbo is a very eloquent and a promising young man. He has a promising future that the APC Party can boast of (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I met this young man at Fourah Bay College, whilst I went there to visit the Oradicals. It was from that point I got my political inspiration. I can say here that he is somebody who is very special; and somebody who had worked hard to attain his present status. Therefore, I am kindly asking this Honourable House to speedily ratify his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Fofanah was a lecturer of mine at Fourah Bay College. If some of us could stand here and speak good English today, he has been one of the people who assisted us. Personally, I have not met the other nominees, but I have no doubt that you are all professionals in your respective areas. As the adage goes, 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' I want to inform the nominees that failure is not an option and the expectations of the people of Sierra Leone are very high. During the interview, for example, Mr Mereweather Thompson was very correct when he said that the fall in the international price of petroleum products has not been reflected in Sierra Leone. That is the kind of change we are looking forward for Sierra Leoneans. Changes in the international prices should also be felt in Sierra Leone, but this has not happened in this country. You are going to serve the people of Sierra Leone and the reduction in pump price will not directly go into somebody's pocket.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to disagree with Mr Timbo when he said that government is a bad business entity. Government does not have bad business people; however, government is not one hundred percent business oriented. The interest of government is to protect the people. Therefore, the management of key Institutions should not be left in the hands of private business people whose sole aim is to maximise profit; whereas the sole aim of the Government is to seek the welfare of the people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying that when you leave the management of the entire institution in the hands of private business people, they will exploit the citizens. The business of any government is to protect the interest of the people of Sierra Leone; and as the representatives of the people, we will ensure that government is involved in the management of key state institutions. With these few words, I want to urge this House to ratify the nominees before us this morning.

HON. ALHASSAN JERO KAMARA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I comment on the nominees, I want to make some few clarifications. I want to say here that the price of crude oil has been reduced because if you take the cost of production and transportation of the finished products, you will come to the conclusion that the reduction in the oil price in Sierra

Leone is proportionate to the reduction in price of the crude oil in the International Market. Initially, the price per litre was Le4, 500, but it is now reduced to Le3, 750. As an Economist and a Businessman, as my senior colleague was saying, the sole aim of the business people is to maximise profit. He said that the reduction in the price of the Oil does not reflect the reality in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform my colleagues that the APC Party has many qualified people with potentials and we always make use of them at the right time. That is what is manifested here this morning; and we shall continue to incorporate young people into the governance of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Solomon Fofanah. I met him when I was studying at Fourah Bay College (FBC). He is forthright, honest and helpful to students. I met him at a time when accommodation was a problem; at a time when the facilities at the Campus were insufficient. He provided help and support to many students who were in desperate need of accommodation. It is not a surprise to see that God is elevating him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform Mr Solomon Fofanah that the challenges at the National Standards Council are enormous. As he rightly said during his interview, this country has been receiving expired goods from business tycoons. In Fact, they have the know-how to erase expire dates from those products and sell them to the people of this country. We do not have the equipment to checkmate some of these activities. We all know that what we eat determines how our bodies function. If this is the case, I want to urge him to go there and ensure that standard procedures are maintained at the National Standards Council.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Mr Mereweather. We have had few engagements before, and I know him to be a very honest person. I will also want him to look at the petroleum products that are coming into this country. Some of these petroleum products that are coming into this country are being mixed with ethanol which makes their usage temporal. In effect, they have the tendency to damage our car engines. If we have higher percentage of ethanol in the petroleum products, it causes a lot of problem for the vehicles. If you go to these petrol stations, you will get the smell of ethanol. I therefore ask you to please

make sure that such activities are put to an end. I want you to look into those issues at the Petroleum Agency.

With these few words, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to speedily approve the nominees before us this morning. Thank you very much *(Applause)*.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI (*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*): I thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees we have before us were all interviewed by us in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. I was satisfied because they were properly interviewed and we did well by presenting them to this plenary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a lady among the nominees who has served this country very well. I have known this lady since her college days in Massachusetts and she has excelled in the Private Sector. She has also been serving various government institutions in this country. She has never been dependent on any gender factor. She excels on her own. Frankly speaking, I once told His Excellency the President that one thing I like about him is his sense of loyalty to those who contributed in making him who he is. The President is always looking for Sierra Leoneans who have the capacity to serve this nation. This is a practice and tradition he copied from the late President Ahmad Tejan Kabba. I like the President for that and I want him to continue in that direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, among the nominees is a young Barrister who has been serving at the Private Partnership Institution. He is going to the National Privatisation Commission. According to the report that has just been read, the nominee said he was going to offer legal advice. He needs more than offering legal advice, Mr Speaker. From what you told us during your interview, it appears as if you are an expert in Corporate Legal Services you promised to render to the Board. He is a fine young man and I want to wish him well if this House approves his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have known Mr Leonard Fofanah since his youthful days in Bo. He was a good Bo Town Boy and we belonged to the same

Organisation. He is not only a good socialite, but a well-educated gentle man. I am sure he would do more than well if this House approves his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Petroleum products. I never knew that the quality of petrol available in this country vary from company to company. I did not know that because I thought there was no price competition in this country. In the United States, there are about four grades of petroleum products. The amount of money you can afford to pay determines the grade you can put into your vehicle. Therefore, I want to urge this House, particularly the Committee on Trade and Industry to immediately get the Fuel Companies that are supplying fuel in this country to come and tell the people of this country as to why some of them have the tendency to sell bad fuel to the people of this country.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I want to recommend that this House approves the nominees before us. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking colleague members who made salient contributions about the nominees this morning. The various speakers have also indicated in their contributions that we have done a good job as a Committee. We have four Agencies where these nominees have been nominated to serve:

- a. the Petroleum Regulatory Agency;
- b. the National Insurance;
- c. National Standard Council; and
- d. National Commission for Privatisation (Sierra Leone Port Authority).

Mr Speaker, these are very important Statutory Institutions in this country. This Honourable House will bear me witness that we have been approving Board Members to serve in these institutions. In other words, we have approved many Sierra Leoneans to go and oversee the Managers who are managing these Institutions for good service delivery. The results we have been getting from some of these institutions remain the same. I want to believe that these fine gentlemen and lady will make a difference. This should not be a routine exercise for Parliament. You have been nominated to go there and ensure that positive things happen. We

don't want to see the same issues happening. This is not good thing for us as a country. If we don't move things forward or compete, we will always go to the radio to complain. Presently, the culture of complaining, rather than competing, is the order of the day in this country. Groups like the youth, adults, the Opposition and even the Government will complain. I think it is high time we stopped complaining and focused on competition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about the Standards Council. A very educated personality, in the name of Mr Solomon R. Fofanah, is going to serve in that Council. This is not a novelty because we have also approved highly educated people in this House to serve in those Institutions, but we are yet to see positive results regarding the Standards Council. A country without a standard regulation is a country with diseases and ill-health. This House will agree with me that you cannot take any kind of goods and services to the United States or the United Kingdom without being scrutinised. We have all sorts of products, like cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis sativa, cocaine, etc. These drugs are not good for our youth and even adults. We have 'Shankadas' and other Wellington Distilleries. What our youth are consuming is Ethanol, no matter the name you give it. All this is happening because we are not paying attention to the Standards Council. We have been told that they have been given a piece of land and they have the machines. The Committees on Trade and Industry and Health should make a spot check. You should go there and see those machines if they are working. How many products have they tested? What are the results and what is the follow-up?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to tell you a short story. When the Chinese started their production at Magbas, I was working at the Ministry of Agriculture. One of their staff boasted that he was very strong that he was going to take the raw ethanol and he did. Although he survived, the ethanol he vomited went into flames when fire was placed on it. This is the danger of this substance. For those who have chemistry background, the concentration of Ethanol is so high. If you go to the Ferry Junction, you will hear young men saying S.O 2, 'A de wam di system.' Mr Speaker, this is very serious and we must ensure that we put a stop to

this. Mr Solomon Fofanah is going to the Standards Council and I want him to work with the Committees on Health and Trade.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Insurance Company in this country is a mess. Most of the people who are involved in accidents are insured, but they don't normally get the benefit they deserve. Somebody hit my vehicle and when he came to see me, he said, S. O. 2, 'bo da Pa de na wi all de APC.' Is that the way we conduct Insurance in this country? In the United States, you will want somebody to hit you, so that you will have an Insurance Company to look after you. Our own Insurance Policy is about whom you know. The National Insurance Company is there to regulate this Institution. We have Board Members approved by this House, but our people are still suffering. It is a requisite that before you register a vehicle, it has to be insured. When it is time for these Insurance Companies to pay back, they fail to do so. I want to ask the nominees to go to these Institutions and work hard. I also want these institutions to grow from strength to strength. Insurance is very important for the lives of the people of this country. Look at how much damage these 'Okada boys' are going through. They are equally insured, but nothing to show for it. If you go to the Connaught Hospital or Emergency Hospital, you will see them lying there helplessly. They pay Insurance for their Okadas before they are licensed. Therefore, we are not approving you to go and collect salaries and later ask for a renewal. You have to work hard before this House considers you for a renewal. I want to admonish this Honourable House to pay rapt attention to these Institutions. The people we approve here are the governors of these institutions because they have a responsibility to checkmate the activities of the Managers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the issue of Petroleum, this House will agree with me that most of the Petrol Stations are in the District Headquarter Towns. How can you over-concentrate these stations at the District Headquarter towns, leaving Chiefdom Headquarter Towns and Cities, like Gbinti without a petrol station? How do you explain that? We have people in those areas with vehicles.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Members of Parliament, we have to make a robust follow-up on the activities of these Institutions because at the end of the day it is Members of Parliament whose addresses the people know. They know where we

work and they normally come to us. They don't go to those Managers or the Board members to harass them. When things go wrong, it is the politicians who are always blamed. We should not shy away from harassing these people to ensure that they move these Institutions forward. If something goes wrong, they come to us because we are approving these people. Therefore, we should not relent in ensuring that they move these institutions forward. I want to thank you for supporting our recommendations. 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: Well, lady and gentlemen, I want to congratulate you because your nomination has been approved. In other words, your nominations became appointments only after parliamentary approval. You can now be appointed into the respective positions for which you were nominated.

Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, I can tell you that much as you may claim to know Mr Solomon Fofanah better than I do, but I know him very well. He will tell you that I know him very well. We the Alumni of Fourah Bay College should commend Mr Solomon Fofanah for serving that Institution for so long. He has been serving Fourah Bay College for over thirty five years. His service to that institution has been remarkable. I want to tell Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu that we have many educated people in this country; and Mr Solomon Fofanah is certainly one of them. One thing, perhaps, that may distinguish him from other educated people is that some of us have known him to be a very responsible man. He is very responsible, dedicated and devoted to whatever he is assigned to do. He is going to this Standards Council to give his best. I want to assure members of that Council that they will benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so much has been said about Mr Osman Timbo. I can say it here without any equivocation that Mr Osman Timbo is a rising star in the legal profession. We only hope he will continue to be patient. There is a reward for all those who are patient. I went to the St Edwards Secondary School I like our school Motto. At the time Mr Solomon Fofanah was at the St Edwards Secondary School, I had entered Fourah Bay College, and I was almost coming out of Fourah

Bay College when he left St Edwards. Honourable Members, although I like our school motto, but one particular school motto I admire is that of the Methodist Boys High School. It says, 'Laboramus Expectante.' This means that when you labour, you expect. If you do not get something in reward, then you have not labored well. If you labour conscientiously, you must get the reward. I think some of us are examples of this. You have to be steadfast and conscientious in whatever you do.

Paradoxically, I am sure people are going to benefit from the experiences of the young man. I believe in women because where ever there is a woman, good things must happen. I have no doubt about that, Honourable Members. For the other young man, I wish him well. I have no doubt that you will excel. Congratulations to all of you.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.30 a.m., and was adjourned Sine Die)