



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THIRD SESSION -THIRD MEETING
TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2015

SESSION – 2014/2015



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PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

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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 Tuesday, 13th October, 2015.

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(A) REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO LOCAL COUNCILS IN THE EASTERN, SOUTHERN, AND NORTHERN PROVINCE IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICT HEADQUARTER TOWNS; AND

(B) REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO KOINADUGU, TONKOLILI, BOMBALI, PORTLOKO AND KAMBIA DISTRICT COUNCILS.



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**

Tuesday, 13th October, 2015.

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

I. PRAYERS

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

[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 THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2015.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 8th October, 2015. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? There being no correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 8th October, 2015?

HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the [parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 8th October, 2015, has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

A. THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House Anti-Corruption Commission's Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December, 2014.

B. THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my capacity as Majority Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (i) the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Vienna dated 24th April 1963;
- (ii) the United Nations Convention of 1954 relating to the status of Stateless persons, signed 4th April, 1997; and
- (iii) 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness signed 4th April, 1997.

C. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my capacity as Majority Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business, I beg to lay on the Table the following documents:

- (i) ISTisna'A Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Islamic Development Bank, regarding the Sierra Leone Community Driven Development Project (Phase ii) for a loan in an amount of \$31,680,000 (Thirty-one Million Six Hundred and Eighty United States Dollars), dated 8th June, 2015.
- (iii) Loan Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Islamic Development Bank (in his capacity as the Administrator of the Islamic Solidarity fund for Development), regarding Gietrenk: Sierra Leone Driven Development Project (Phase ii)

D. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Transport and Aviation communicated to Parliament to defer the laying of his paper to another date.

THE SPEAKER: I hope there is no dissenting view.

IV. MOTION

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- (C) Report on the Oversight Visit to Local Councils in the Eastern, Southern, and Northern Province in the various district headquarter towns; and
- (D) Report on the Oversight Visit to Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Bombali, Portloko and Kambia district councils.

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, before we proceed, I want the Order Paper for today's proceedings to be amended because Honourable Mohamed K. Thorley, who should have seconded this motion is not present at the moment. Also, Mr Speaker, the officials of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development are not here. They have been adequately informed by the Office of the Clerk. I am therefore requesting this Honourable House to postpone this debate to another date.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Majority Leader, what is your take on this issue?

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wanted to ask if the Office of the Clerk communicated this parliamentary proceeding to the relevant Ministry.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us hear from Mr Lamin Yansaneh, the Clerk to the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development.

MR LAMIN YANSANEH (*Legislative Clerk and Clerk to the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development*): Mr Speaker, as the Majority Leader of this House has said, the respective MDA was properly informed and the Order Paper was also attached to the letters sent to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Secretariat and the Local Government Service Commission. In summary, Mr Speaker, they were invited to witness this proceeding.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Lamin Yansaneh, those you claimed to have invited are not here. I hope you are sure of what you have just said. What evidence do we have to indicate that they were duly informed?

MR LAMIN YANSANEH: Mr Speaker, I have a copy of the summon letter and the way-book.

THE SPEAKER: Did they sign the book to indicate receipt of the letters?

MR LAMIN YANSANEH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: In that case, Mr Speaker, appropriate action should be taken by the Leadership of this House and the Administration against those who have committed this crime.

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the precedent has already been set when some time ago the debate on the Report of the Transparency and Accountability Committee was deferred due to the absence of the relevant MDAs in this Chamber. This is why I earlier requested this Honourable House to defer this debate to another date.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we are not acting on precedent, but on propriety. In other words, if there is a valid case for deferment, we can do so.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should not allow this impropriety to continue. Committee reports are vital for the MDAs concerned and they should endeavour to honour parliamentary invitation. Issues raised in Committee reports have to do with the MDAs' respective activities. If they are not here to listen, it would appear as if we are talking to ourselves. Therefore, I want to kindly request that this debate be deferred to another date, as already suggested by the Chairman of the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development (*Applause across the Floor*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, it goes without saying that if these officials are not here, debating the report will be a sheer waste of time. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie's suggestion is not out of place, but as a Parliament, we are very strict in what we do; and in that regard, I always like to give people the opportunity to say what they wanted to say. I would kindly ask here that these people be reminded or another letter be sent to them. However, I want the Clerk to that Committee to first of all verify whether the letters that were sent to them were duly received. Therefore, if the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development is the concurrence of Honourable Members, that particular item on the Order Paper is accordingly deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

*(The House rose at 10.26 a.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 20th October, 2015, at
10.00 a.m.)*