



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

# PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013

*SESSION – 2012/2013*



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

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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 Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

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**I. PRAYERS**

**II. CORRECTIONS OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE, 2013**

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THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

## Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

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**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.**

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

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The Speaker, Hon. Justice Abel Nathaniel Bankole Stronge, in the Chair].*

The House was called to Order

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I would like to make an amendment on the Order Paper with respect to item III. Because of the technical difficulties we have been having with the photocopying machine, I want item III to be deferred to a later period. And that, item IV takes the place of item III and item III to take the place of item IV on the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I believe there is no objection to the proposed amendments.

## **I. CORRECTIONS VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013**

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we have with us the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1?Page 2?Page 3?Page 4?

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker Page 4, item II, no. 14. My name is written under absentees for yesterday, but I was present Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Mustapha Braima

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** No Sir, Honourable Sahr Tengbeh Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you go over that again Honourable Member?.

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** I am referring to Page 4, item II, No. 14

**THE SPEAKER:** Number 14? No. 14 is Tholley Mohamed. Did you say item II, no. 14?

**HON. TENGBEH SAHR:** Mr Speaker No.14 appeared twice. I am referring to the second no. 14, Honourable Sahr Tengbeh.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have seen Roman figure II. Is that what you are referring to? No. 14 is Honourable Tholley Mohamed K. Mr Clerk, there are two errors now on the Order Paper. Mr Clerk please stand. Mr Clerk, who is responsible for this? Can you please stand up?

**MR CYRIL F. KING (Principal Table Clerk):** It is not me Mr Speaker. Mr Anthony C. Kamara is responsible for Votes and Proceedings Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Who is Mr Anthony C. Kamara? I don't see Mr Anthony before me. The only person I see whenever we are in this Well is you. There are two errors you have to correct. The first one is the duplication no. 14 and the second one is Honourable Sahr Tengbeh is placed under Honourable Members who were absent. He is saying that he was present. Do you want to challenge him Mr Clerk?

**MR CYRIL F. KING (Principal Table Clerk):** Mr Speaker, the necessary corrections will be made.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Sahr Tengbeh, the necessary corrections will be made. Page4? Page5? Page6? Page7? Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 be adopted as amended?

**HON ALIMAMY G. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON DR AIAH DABUNDEH:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

*(Question proposed, Put and agreed to)*

*(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 was unanimously adopted as amended).*

### III. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**MR MOMODU KARGBO** (*Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013:

*(i) Loan Agreement for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2013; and*

*(ii) Loan Agreement for the Fourah Bay College Development Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy to be here this morning to pilot these two Loan Agreements. Let me also announce that for this package to complete, another Agreement is being negotiated which will give a holistic picture of what it is all about at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. It is so important that even the Financial Secretary, who hardly leaves his office, is here today with us. The Accountant General and the Head of the Multi Donor Department are also here. These are people who hardly leave their offices to attend outside functions. They are here with us this morning. I think it is not due to the fact that they attended the Fourah Bay College (I did not go to Fourah Bay College but my passion is so high), but I think it is because of the significance that the first College in the sub-region is going to be given a facelift. We are beginning to address the plethora of problems of that institution. And

this is what we are here to discuss today. We want to revisit Fourah Bay College and see what we can do to upgrade its fallen standards.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we talk about Fourah Bay College nowadays, the nomenclature, "the Athens of West Africa" is no longer heard. Fourah Bay College used to be the "Athens of West Africa." Indeed, it is an indication that something seriously has gone wrong along the line. We need to start to remedy the situation as soon as possible. This is why we are here to discuss. And I pray that this House will ratify these two Loan Agreements. We should take them seriously. We all know that Fourah Bay College came into existence in 1827. And we started awarding degrees in 1876. It was affiliated to the University of Durham in England. Through nationalism, independence and assertion of our sovereignty, we delinked and became the University of Sierra Leone of which Fourah Bay College and other colleges have evolved. And now, we have a University of Sierra Leone. No matter what you say about the University of Sierra Leone, the notion of Fourah Bay College always supersedes. Surprisingly, we have the same praise, pride, the same notion with the Makerere University in Uganda. As a young man growing up at the time, these were the two colleges that were in the forefront.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, over the years, the population grew rapidly, education spread and more people became ready to go to the University. And so, they did. Unfortunately, planning and forward thinking probably was not put in proper perspective. What happened? The infrastructure and other facilities failed to grow. They failed to match the growing demands of a young nation wanting to join its ranks among other nations to make a name. Students' enrolment continued to increase, but there was no proportional increase in the facilities in the University. An attempt was made during the period of the National Provincial Ruling Council (NPRC) to do some rehabilitation of Fourah Bay College and that was all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, most of us seated here are parents. Most of us are paying school fees for kids who are going to attend Fourah Bay College in the



future. Our ladies and gentlemen who are students of the Fourah Bay College always come to us to complain to us that even though they pay for computer facilities, they don't have access to those facilities. They even complain about their ID Cards not being given to them after they have paid for ID Cards. It was towards the end of the Semester they will be given ID Cards. I think most of us seated here have heard those complaints. Students are always complaining about pamphlets. We have also received stories of gorilling in the rooms. All these are continuing indications that we need to address the issues of Fourah Bay College. Now, we are going to start. We are starting to invest and improve on what is available. We are starting to rehabilitate, upgrade and bring Fourah Bay College to a standard that we are going to appreciate. This is first component. We are going to add more facilities in that institution. But much more importantly, we are going to provide teaching and learning materials, equip the laboratories with equipment, chemicals, etc. which are needed in the University for the Students to carry on their experiments. We want to produce scientists that will propel this country in the future. This is what this Project is all about Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are therefore talking of two funding institutions, the OPEC Fund for Development that has offered us an amount of \$13 million and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa is providing \$8 million. And as I said, that is not the end of the story. Another funding is now being negotiated with the Saudi Fund to the tune of \$12 million. Mr Speaker, \$8 million from BADEA is about 21% of the Project, OPEC Fund \$13 million is about 35.47% of the Project and Saudi Fund, which is now being negotiated, is \$12 million which is about 32% of this Project. The total Project Cost is \$36.65 million. \$36 million is being made available for Fourah Bay College alone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government of Sierra Leone that is championing this course, and for whom this Agreement is so important is contributing \$3.6 million, constituting 10% of the total Project cost.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the specifics and details of this cost? As I said, the OFFID Grant is \$13 million which will come as an Interest Rate of 1% per annum and an additional 1% Service Charge to cover administrative expenses for the implementation of the referencing Agreement. This is to be paid twice annually on May 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> of every year. The Grace period for this Loan is five years and the repayment period shall be for twenty years. For the BADEA Loan, which is \$8 million, constitutes 21.83% of this Project. The Grace Period is ten years and the repayment period is twenty years with forty semi-annual instalment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Project is very important to the Government and we are so guaranteed that this funding would come. Government has not waited but has already started working on this Project. As I speak here, a working group that will eventually constitute the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) has been set up. Advertisement has been made for Consultancy Services to be defined and detailed the specifics of the Project so that we can have a fine figure at the end. This has been put into effect. Regardless of the situation, this is a Project that we are going to push forward. The Project consists of Civil and Ancillary Works. This means we are going to rehabilitate the educational and administrative buildings, students' hostels and Lecturers' Quarters. Probably, this will cover about an average area of 47,000 square metres.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, expansion works for four buildings: students' hostels, two building each, including two classrooms and lecture halls are part of this Project. We are also going to rehabilitate the water supply system in the campus. Everybody knows Fourah Bay College campus has problem with water supply. This is going to be dealt with this time and hopefully comprehensively. And for us who drive through the College, we notice the deteriorating condition of the roads. The roads within the Campus are very deteriorating. Again, these roads are going to be rehabilitated, and we will install solar lights as much as possible to cover Fourah Bay College Campus. This is the first component Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second component is going to cater for laboratory equipment, furniture, administration and provide additional buildings. We will construct the buildings to accommodate our students. And of course, as I have already said, a working group has already been set up that will transform to the PIU. This would need to be supported because they are the key people in the implementation of this Project. Vehicles, computers and office space are being provided for. To put all these into perspective, the consultancy services are going to be available.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the package that is available and as I said, it is going to be three funding agencies. What we are discussing here today are the two funding agencies. The final Agreement will come soon. I will want to make reference to the situation of the Matotoka/Sefadu Road. When I came here to present the first component of the Matotoka/Yeyi Road, there was a lot of backlash you were not sure of. But I was able to come back here and present the amount for the next portion of the road the Sefadu/Yeyi Road. I will like to emphasise that the Project is \$36 million. The fund that is available now is \$12 million. I want to assure this House that in another month, I will be back here to finalise the funding agency. On that note, Maybe, as a Sierra Leonean, and as a parent or as a politician or Minister (whom because of that position gets involved in paying school fees for kids in the University), this is a Project that we need to look at. What happened to the "*Athens of West Africa?*" That is a question that we need to dilate on. That is a question that we need to reflect on. We are bringing in these facilities like new equipment, new buildings etc. We are also going to repair the old buildings. But is it going to be a shadow? Is the same thing going to happen? Is another Minister, maybe twenty years from now going to stand here and begin to plead to the people who will be in this House that we need to rehabilitate these buildings? Is it not a continuum of repair and maintenance? Is it not a continuum of our work, our houses, our offices and therefore Fourah Bay College? I think these are the underlying issues that we have to look at in these Arrangements before us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, two days ago, I was listening to the radio when the Principal of Njala University was complaining that the lecturers are residing in the students' hostels. It was on radio Mr Speaker. Can we maintain standards in that proposition? Can we draw a line between lecturers and students? Let us look at these Agreements. And as we look at this Loan, we need to go beyond the motion and look at the issues behind this motion. And with that, I would like to call on the Education Committee of this House and the Committee on Works to monitor the implementation of these Projects. This is their Project Mr Speaker. I think they should be intimately seen to be involved in these Projects. Their oversight functions should be seen in these Projects. We cannot repair our facilities and allow them to go down the drain. This will cost more money. The money we are using to rehabilitate, if we have maintained those buildings part of the portion of that money could have gone to creating more buildings and more facilities for the university.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I once again move that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013:

*(i) "Loan Agreement for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2013; and*

*(ii) Loan Agreement for the Fourah Bay College Development Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2013." I thank you.*

*(Question proposed)*

**HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members; I hope you had a good night sleep. Before us is the second loan Agreement.

Yesterday, one Agreement was ratified. I know it is part of our responsibility. There is a second one today before us for the expansion of Fourah Bay College and the development of the entire campus for education as far as these Agreements are concerned. There seem to be two or three parts to these Agreements. Obtaining the loan is one part, implementation is another issue. There is also the issue of monitoring and evaluating these Loan Agreements. The Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has made it very clear in inviting the Committee on Education and the Committee on Works and of course, without any doubt the Committee on Finance for us to look into this aspect. But the question is how serious are we? How sincere are we? This is meant for the development of the people of this country and more so for our students who are the future leaders of this country. How serious are we Mr Speaker? We have to take some serious steps for us to be able to accomplish our objectives. Are we going to use the same process where loans had been ratified and perhaps, implementation moves slowly or the Project does not exist at all? Our experience as Members of Parliament we have seen all of that. But I am sure for these particular Agreements which cover the future of our children. No Member of Parliament will tell me that he/she does not have a relative in Fourah Bay or in Njala University College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, few years ago, the Government undertook the expansion or the rehabilitation of the Njala University College. The rehabilitation of the Njala University cost the Government of Sierra Leone approximately \$ 8 million. Today, we are faced with the cost of rehabilitation and expansion of the road leading to that University. That road valued \$ 36 million. But now let us deal with the \$21 million that we have. That is the serious aspect of it. We want to see some attractions. Maybe, with the use of this fund, we can see so many attractions at Fourah Bay College. When the lecture rooms had been modified, there will be some attractions in that University. The laboratories are going to be expanded. The equipment that they will provide to this University is going to ensure that the University functions again. All we are asking as

Members of Parliament here is that, we want communication to flow between the Minister of Finance and the recipient of these funds ...-(*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to be able to work in partnership to have things move forward. We have to have a common understanding and a level playing field so that when they receive these moneys, we also make sure that implementation takes place and supervision goes on by the respective Committees. I want to take cognisance of the fact that before us today we have both the Majority and the Minority Leaders who attended the Fourah Bay College. I am sure they are more than willing to give their support to this Loan Agreement. Many of us here are also willing to support the ratification of this Agreement. My 'Komansɛ' (in-law) from Kono also attended that institution. I am not going to call names here because many of us here have been to Fourah Bay College. I am sure this House will be in support of ratifying this Agreement. But let us make sure that we work together as a nation. We are to be seen in order to effect a change. We must be able to effect a change. Mr Speaker, \$21 million is not a small amount of money. It is a lot of money. When converted into Leones, we are talking about billions of Leones. We don't want this money to be wasted at all. We want to see these monies put into good use. We want our children that are attending Fourah Bay College reap the benefits of this fund given to us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure I was going to ask the Minister of Finance but he has said that the cost of the Project is \$36 million. Let us start with the \$21 million. My only worry here is the consultancy fee. Consultancy fee for the Project normally is too extravagant. Sometimes it takes more than one quarter of the fund. That is my worry. When a consultancy fee takes almost a quarter of the Project, it leaves you with very little amount for you to manage. We have to be able to negotiate effectively with the so-called consultant to reduce the cost of the service they provide to see whether it is cost effective or not. The cost cannot exceed the benefit. When the cost exceeds the benefit, it worries me as an Accountant by profession. Therefore, we have look to look into this aspect and come up with a very reasonable amount for the consultant.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance mentioned about the solar lights that will be installed. We have seen some improvement in the area of electricity in the country. We have to do some extensions also to our universities. It is a new idea in my opinion. We have to provide lights for these students to be able to walk freely without fear in their respective campuses. We have to improve the movement of students within the campus areas and to provide security for them. The security system has to be strengthened to protect these new items that this Project is going to procure. Let us look into the security aspect as well. That is another area I believe the Minister wants to look into again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know that Fourah Bay College used to be the "*Athens of Africa*" but there have been some hiccups along the line. And we are not responsible for that at all. We don't have control over that. Human beings do experience hiccups from time to time; and so institutions. But I think we must pay great attention to our colleges. Education is the future for every country. Education is the engine for development. Education is what we need for us to be seated here as Members of Parliament. I want to believe that if you are less educated you will not be able to represent your people well. You might stop at the entrance or sit in this Well without making any effective contribution. We have to support this Agreement. I therefore call on Members of Parliament, particularly Members of the Finance Committee to support and approve this Loan Agreement. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand here with humbleness and humility to make a contribution on the Loan Agreement for the expansion and rehabilitation of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, is this your maiden speech?

**HON IBRAHIM PATEH BAH:** It is Mr Speaker. I am very pleased for the first time to speak in this Honourable House. Mr Speaker, I represent Constituency 92. Fourah Bay College is in my Constituency. Today, I can stand here and talk because of the

education I received from my parents. I think we have a duty to make sure that we enable our youngsters get good education. We live in a very competitive world wherein if we have to compete with the outside world, we have to make sure that we empower our youngsters to have quality education. The Fourah Bay College we use to know then is not the Fourah Bay College we know today. When I went round to do my constituency work, I saw Fourah Bay College not the way I used to see it. I used to visit my elder brother at Fourah Bay College when he was a student. What I am seeing today is different from what I used to see.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Government and the Ministry of Finance for securing this Agreement from the Arab Bank for Development Africa and the OPEC International Development Organisation. The University of Sierra Leone has to be rehabilitated and expanded as the Minister has said. The question I was going to ask the Honourable Minister was whether this Loan Agreement covers transportation. Mr Speaker our youngsters are struggling to get up to Fourah Bay College because of lack of means of transportation. Students need to have an enabling environment that is conducive to do their work. Without this, the quality education we are craving for would not be realised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage all Honourable Members to ratify this Agreement. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. SHEKU BAH AMANI SANNOH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Sheku Bah Amani Sannoh, representing Constituency 112. I am politically known as Amani.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is also your maiden speech Honourable Member?

**HON. SHEKU BAH AMANI SANNOH:** This is the second time I am speaking in this Well Sir. It is not my maiden speech. However, I am very much privileged to make a statement regarding Fourah Bay College. Indeed, I am an Engineer from Fourah Bay College and anything regarding Fourah Bay College I will give support in this House. I



will be the first person to make contribution not by way of moral support, but giving a kind of verbal support so that we can speedily ratify this Loan Agreement. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is once said that elderly people speak in parables whereas wise men speak in proverbs and quotations. If that is the case, I will want to butt in with a quotation from Albert Heinz Stein. He did say: "the most important people are those born with the desire of making their community, their country and the world a better place" (*Applause*). Being that my Constituency covers Juba Barracks, I would want to use the Military complement to first and foremost salute the President of this country, who is no less a person than His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma and equally say thanks to our wonderful Minister of Finance for bringing forth this wonderful Loan Agreement regarding Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me reminiscence my stay at Fourah Bay College. I am sure the Deputy Speaker Present here, who used to be my colleague at Fourah Bay College, knows exactly what the constraints are. I chose not to say "*Athens of West Africa*" when I was in Fourah Bay College because of the dipping disturbances or the problems we were going through starting from my first day in Fourah Bay College. When we woke up in the morning to fetch water, you would see students scrambling here and there as if we were at war. That was very much saddened regarding the courses we were pursuing. As an Engineer, I had to attend classes very late as a result of going down to Mount Aureol Terrace to fetch water. We were very much constrained Mr Speaker. Now, if you hear from the Minister of Finance, he mentioned that there will be adequate water supply.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister also mentioned street lights in the campus. If we wanted to study in those days at Fourah Bay College, we had to use the daylight. If you don't study during the day, then, you have to use most of your money buying candles, which was reserved for 'gari.' But now, we are talking about street lights. I just want to plead that those street lights you talked about spanned on to Kamanda Farm so that students going to Kamanda Farm to read during the day or night can access it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister also talked about computer facilities. Well, I happened to be a member of the Education Committee, Committee on Works and the Committee on Communication. If we want to have a better internet system in the campus, then, those of us in the Committee on Communications must provide the necessary oversight functions so that our students will make use of those facilities. As we all know, we are now talking about E-learning wherein the lecturer can be in his office and talks to the students using the computers. I want to take my leave Mr Speaker so that we speedily ratify this Loan Agreement. I thank you very much.

**HON. ANDREW V. LUNGAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The debate has just started. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the ratification of this Loan is far late but I will first of all take this opportunity because I wanted to say this yesterday but I did not catch the Speaker's eyes to thank the Minister of Finance and the Government for bringing these Loans. This one particular Loan I would like to talk about, that is, the Loan for Fourah Bay College. Mr Speaker, I had the opportunity in 1962 to go to Fourah Bay College from St Edwards Secondary School. But as it happened, I chose to go to London. Right now Mr Speaker, I regret having done that. I should have gone to Mount Aureol. This is because all the dilapidations that Mount Aureol has gone through from 1962, when I was not there would not have happened now (*Laughter across the Floor*). I have confidence in saying that because when I went to London on Cabin 64 M.V Aureol, I was not impressed at all for leaving Fourah Bay College. When we went there for Matriculation, servants were in white dresses to serve at the table. But look at what has happened from that time to now. I contested for the Presidency of this nation in 1996 under the ticket of the Social Democratic Party (*Applause*). There are some among the Honourable Members here who can recognise me very well. The student then invited all political leaders to a debate. We went to Fourah Bay College. During the debate, I was accused for coming to jump the queue straight for the Presidency; instead of coming to serve first as an Honourable Member by some eminent political leaders. I will not call names for now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when my time came to debate, I said to the students that when I left the shores of Sierra Leone, I visited Fourah Bay College and at that time students had to sit on the tables to be served by professional caterers. But compared that time to 1996 when I was there to campaign to the students to vote for me as President of this nation. Students in 1996 had to take a bag of rice on their heads to go and cook. Was that the development that took place in my absence? So, I appealed to the students and said if that was only my guilt, then, it was right and proper for them to use their good judgement and vote for me at that time. And Mr Deputy Speaker I won that debate at that time (*Laughter*). Let us face it Mr Speaker. It is a serious matter. These monies the Minister of Finance has managed to ask for the rehabilitation of Fourah Bay College is a pittance. The last time I went to Fourah Bay College was about two to three months ago. When General Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria was about to be given an Honorary Doctorate Degree, I was fortunate to be part of that occasion. We went there and to be honest with you that was the time I actually had the opportunity to look round the College to see its present state. It was very pathetic Mr Speaker. My plea is not for the ratification alone. If you look round this Well, nearly every literate person in this Well had gone to Fourah Bay College or has had something to do with Fourah Bay College. Each and every one of these past students should contribute Le1, 000,000 to rehabilitate this institution. They should chip in and add to this Loan. This is because the Sierra Leonean Government should not be the only one providing these facilities. The Government has been doing its bits. What about these past students? These past students should be in the position to be proud of this institution. This is the College that has given them the opportunity to come and talk for this country. Let them help in terms of upgrading the standard of Fourah Bay College. They should be proud of this university. This is the university that is going to put us in the lime light of the world. This is a world of technology. Students should not clamour for one computer. In London, children at the age of 7 and above have computers for themselves. What about our students in colleges who are above 25 years? They should be computer literate. There is no second way about it. We are in the world of computer. The students that are presently in the campus and those

aspiring to go there should have the opportunity to access computers. The Loan, as I said Mr Minister is timely. But all these big men and women that have benefitted from this university should assist in terms of rehabilitating this university. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH III:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am talking as an old man with experience. If I did not see this day before my death, I would have gone to hell (*Laughter*). I am happy that there was no delay. In fact, I want to say thanks to the Majority Leader for changing this item from four to two. To be candid Mr Speaker this particular Loan should be speedily ratified. I am also grateful to a Member of Parliament in this Well who pleaded even yesterday on behalf of Fourah Bay College. I did not enter any university, but my teacher once said "*put first thing first*." I don't know where he took that quotation from. But if you do not "put first thing first," you will always loose. You will always fail Mr Speaker. You will not achieve your goals at all. "*Put first thing first*" so that you can succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am with the feeling that there is light at the end of the tunnel for success (*Applause*). I want to tell the two political parties represented in this House today that God really decided their fate that they should be here the way they are today. I don't know how to call it. These people said they are driving us towards Prosperity. Others said that if you are going to Prosperity, you have to take "*New Direction*." If we are united, we Paramount Chiefs are strongly behind you to push you forward, and if you have taken this new direction, you are really going to land at Prosperity (*Applause*). To be candid Mr Speaker, this is one of the best directions taken for us to achieve the "*Prosperity*" that we are all fighting to achieve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, something happened yesterday and I was present when it happened. I really wanted to speak because I saw that God is really leading us to a better position and a better future. I went to certain universities when I visited America. Each university I visited, people praised Fourah Bay College. Everywhere you go, the name Fourah Bay College is widely respected. But if you go to Fourah Bay

College today, the situation is very pathetic Mr Speakers. I take my children to Fourah Bay College School every day. At times I had to stop at the Model Junction to take one or two students to the campus. And when you get to Fourah Bay College, you hardly know if that is Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was a small boy, we used to go to Fourah Bay College. It is not as it used to be at all. In fact, I told my small boy that if Government could allow me to rehabilitate one building for my own children to occupy it while in college, I will be very glad. This Loan is being negotiated by the new Minister of Finance. I want to say thanks to the President for choosing such a Minister with such initiative (*Applause*). To me, we should not waste time on this at all. Let us ratify this Loan. Before I sit down, I want to warn that the students that we are negotiating for today are going to be part of the payment process. They are the people that are going to pay in different perspective and in different category. What I mean here is that some of them will be President tomorrow, Members of Parliament and some will serve in different capacities to repay the Loan that we are negotiating to rehabilitate that College. With this, I want Honourable Members of Parliament to know that we are all one in this Agreement. We should act as one in this Well. Forget about all other things. Our children are suffering in Fourah Bay College. We the parents are also suffering. Perhaps, this rehabilitation and expansion will reduce the cost on parents. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH (*Deputy Speaker of the House*):** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe as former student of Fourah Bay College, and having heard the Honourable Member who was unfortunate not to have attended Fourah Bay College, it is but prudent that I add my voice to this debate. I also happened to be a member of the University of Sierra Leone's Court. Mr Speaker, I want to take my own debate from a different angle.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about this Loan. This Loan Agreement focuses on infrastructure, learning equipment and repairs. I want to take

the angle of indiscipline and lawlessness in the campus (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, everyday you talk with people, whether in the university or elsewhere, they will tell you that they need money to do this. Do we need money to do everything? There are certain things which money will and can never do. And those are the things which we will make sure that this Loan is used for and used properly. We are talking about expanding the infrastructure. Are we expanding it to attract quality or quantity education? Are the students who have been attracted by the university have the capacity to be the future leaders of this nation? There are many questions we need to ask ourselves and eventually give answers as well. Mr Minister, when Honourable Members talked about loan yesterday, you referred the question again to them. It is true that we have our Oversight responsibilities. But Ministers and other officials keep crying that we are witch hunting them. They always say that they are being audited or investigated by this Parliament. Ministers and other officials should be receptive and be ready to accept Members of Parliament. We want them to do this with open hands to ensure that these Oversight Functions are performed effectively. Hiding information and the saying that they are being witch hunted will not allow Members of Parliament to do their work effectively. It is a shame Mr Speaker. But I have to say it out. Looking at the Audit Report 2011, Fourah Bay College and University of Sierra Leone was unable to provide Financial Statements for them to be audited in 2012. It is a shame Mr Minister. It is unfortunate that the Honourable Paramount Chief is not here. He is the Deputy Chairman of the University Court. These are things we have been talking about all the time. I am sure that the President has fought very hard, through the Minister to ensure that we attract these loans. But are we going to throw them again into the dust bins? These loans must serve their purposes. We should be putting up new buildings for staff and students. We should rehabilitate the lecture halls and buy new equipment. We need these computers for the students; otherwise we would not be able to solve the problem. We must make sure that we are sincere with what we do. Lecturers and Administrators in the university should do what is right and the students must also respect the rules and regulations of the university.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance asked about what happened to the "Athens of West Africa. "That is the million dollar question. All of us know the answer. We should ensure that we do the right thing. But if we continue to condone wrong doings at Fourah Bay College, we will not be in position to put smiles on ourselves and the students. We must ensure (not just as Members of Parliament but as citizens of Sierra Leone) we monitor whatever resources that are put in the university. We must ensure that these resources are utilised prudently (*Applause across the Floor*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, attitude to work should be a key to the success of the university. There is no way Sierra Leone will succeed if we do not have students who are educated and educated properly. There will be a time when we will not have the Andrew Lungays or the S.B.B. Dumbuyas around. But we still need people like them. If these people are gone, people with their capacity must be around to replace them. It is unfortunate that Honourable Andrew Lungay lost the debate in 1996 at the Fourah Bay College. It is unfortunate Mr Speaker. I want to encourage all of us to ratify this Loan Agreement. I thank you for giving me the floor (*Applause*).

**HON. MOIWAI MOMOH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy to contribute to this debate on the Loan Agreement for the rehabilitation and expansion of Fourah Bay College, especially for some of us who were fortunate to have gone through that university. People use to call us "*Fourabite*." Thirteen years ago, during my surgeon at Fourah Bay College, we decided as students to attack some people who were encroaching on the lands of Fourah Bay College by burning down their make-shift and drinking booths. The geographical feature of Fourah Bay College was given to us as students. We wanted to take the laws into our own hands. But some of us who were students studying Sociology with sociological eyes were able to see society and to say no. The land of Fourah Bay College is not resourceful to Fourah Bay College alone, but resourceful to people who are utilising it. It should be utilised in order for it to become a resourceful land for the Fourah Bay College Community. Today, we are about to ratify a Loan Agreement for the rehabilitation and expansion of Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I use to argue with some Government officials and colleagues that the persistent students and lecturers strikes at Fourah Bay College are not the makings of the Minister of Education, but that the Minister of Finance is contributing greatly to it. Now, the Minister of Finance has stepped in the right direction to remedy the persistent strikes in the university. When I picked the Loan Agreement document from my pigeon hole, I shared the idea with some of the lecturers who have been persistently on strike action at Fourah Bay College. They told me that the Government has taken the right direction. One of the reasons for the persistent strikes at Fourah Bay College is really the shelter and welfare of lecturers. It is really pathetic to visit some of these students' hostels and the dwellings of these lecturers at Fourah Bay College. They see themselves as being neglected. We have certain birds and other animals that are very careful about their dwellings. They do not care much about what they eat. They believe that God can provide. They leave early in the morning but they come well fed. The dwellings of people are very much important. The Ministry of Finance has decided to take the right direction to rehabilitate and expand Fourah Bay College. The Ministry is now going to utilise the land. Very soon, the persistent strikes at Fourah Bay College will actually be dealt with. So, it is really a crown on the head of the Minister of finance to have taken this right direction. I will also say to my colleagues here to hastily ratify this Loan Agreement so that we get this Loan disbursed for that particular purpose. I want this money to be judiciously used to benefit the college and Sierra Leone as a whole. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

**HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here as a product of Fourah Bay College. With great sentiments, particularly when reference is made to the University as it used to be the "*Athens of West Africa*," I am not going to dwell much on that because much has been said about that. I only want to say that Fourah Bay College has done justice not just to this nation, but to the world at large. What I mean by this is that, everywhere you go, let's start even with Sierra Leone itself, within the confines of this Well, Fourah Bay College is very eminent. Outside this Well, within the Public and Private Sectors and everywhere in this country, Fourah Bay



College is very eminent, meaning that the product of Fourah Bay College are everywhere and are doing excellent jobs. Suffice it to say that it is really important that we are asking all Members of Parliament to ratify is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take most of the breeds of Fourah Bay College; probably we had a Professor at Fourah Bay College, Professor Joko Smart. Professor Joko Smart used to say: "*We are the Durham Breed.*" We are the people who people think we know and indeed we do know. That basically was just to say that there was quality education at Fourah Bay College. And I do in my honest and sincere mind still believe that there is still quality education at Fourah Bay College. I know that the structures are falling apart and probably processes have not been followed and things are not happening the way they should. Chinua Achebe says things are falling apart. But thank God we have got to the point where we are pulling all of them back together. I just wanted to say to the Minister of Finance and to those that are going to implement this Project that one of the things I would really ask the Government to focus on is quality rehabilitation and expansion. This is because we do have a lot of expansion programmes in the country. But the issue here is quality of the work. And quality means durability and sustainability. When you rehabilitate something, you need to have in mind that we are doing this so that it lasts long. I want to crave the Minister's indulgence on this to ensure that while monitoring the execution of these programmes, quality rehabilitation and expansion should be emphasised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other thing is sustainability. We can rehabilitate quite well today but what happens two or three years to come? However, if we focus on monitoring, evaluating and maintaining the structures and the systems we put in place, we will be sure of sustainability. So, if we are all saying here that Fourah Bay College has gone down the drain and things did not happen, it is probably because the little bit here and there that we had done to make patches did not continue because it was not sustained. So I would really ask the Minister to ensure that sustainability is emphasised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Speaker said that this is a shame. And I am saying it in those words that it is a shame for all of us who call ourselves breeds of Fourah Bay College that we cannot in our own little way help to remedy the situation at all. Development is not just about donors sponsoring your programmes. It is not just about Government Funding. It is about collective responsibility. And so, if we stand here like what I am doing now was due to the knowledge I accrued from Fourah Bay College. I am proud of being a breed of Fourah Bay College. I should be proud here today contributing to the development of that institution (*Applause*). And as such, I want everybody in this House, including our colleagues and friends out there to pull ourselves together to ensure that positive things happen. We should not just be talking because we want to talk. Let us work together for the betterment of this country.

On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I crave your indulgence to please ratify this Loan Agreement. Thank you (*applause*).

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (*Minority Leader of the House*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is no accident that I am speaking after my colleague behind me. Mr Speaker 34 years ago, Honourable Mrs Helen Kuyembeh and I enrolled in Fourah Bay College in October, 1979. And we spent four years together as roommates.

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! Please listen Honourable Members. Thirty four years ago some of us were not around (*Laughter*).

**HON DR BERNADETTE LAHAI:** You will be surprised when I said thirty four years ago because we have carried ourselves very well. The Honourable Helen Kuyembeh and I shared four memorable years as roommates from Latie Hyde to Beethoven. Those were good days and they were days that once in a while I want to go through memory lane. As a village girl, I looked forward to entering Fourah Bay College. I grew up in the township of Tongo Field, where we had a lot of holiday makers from Fourah Bay College to that township. You would want to sit near them talking about Mount Olympus as they used to call it or Mount Aureol. That motivated some of us and the

urge that one day we will also want to visit the famous citadel of learning. In 1979, when we gained admission into Fourah Bay College, Fourah Bay College was beautiful. It had at that time structures that we call today modern. In fact, if I am not mistaken, it had one of the tallest buildings, the Kennedy Building where lectures were held and where some lecturers' offices were located.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me say to our visitors that we welcomed the first entertainment. We will not welcome any further entertainment from them.

**HON DR BERNADETTE LAHAI:** Mr Speaker in those days, the hostels were well kept. We had twenty four hour running water and we had choice between hot and cold water. In the three dining halls, Solomon Caulker Hall, Davidson Nicol Hall and Bai Bureh Hall, we had choice of meals. Those were balanced diet meals. At times when people are provided with some of these things, they take them for granted. There are times if we thought the meal was not good, we would take samples of the meal and took it to Professor Emeritus Eldred Jones, who would immediately summoned the cooks to improve on the quality of the meals. The classrooms were well furnished with modern furniture. Every student had a chair and a desk. The lecturers were prompt in class and they lectured very well. All the reference books were in the Library and every department had departmental library. When it came to recreation, we had good days because we had our sports field at Kortright.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a few weeks ago, during the recent Convocation of the University, I went to witness the Convocation of my two daughters who graduated from the Economics Department. There were more graduates, more parents than the sitting accommodation could hold. It was very chaotic to the extent that all the Masters Degree students were asked to take shelter in one of the classrooms to give room to the under-graduate. The Masters students came at the Amphitheatre.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we talk of quality education, it is made up of several variables. The physical infrastructure is one variable, which is what this Loan

Agreement is going to address. We will rehabilitate the existing infrastructure, but at the same time we will construct new infrastructure either for lectures, for students or lecturers' accommodation. We also have to take into consideration the laboratories, the library and everything that will be needed for effective learning to take place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the environment within which people learn has much to do with the internalisation of what they are taught. If the environment is good, it can add to the quality of product we get from our universities. If you are learning in a clean environment, in a beautified environment or hygienic environment, that will add to the intake of students in those universities. The reverse is not the same. Today, we are happy that Fourah Bay College is going to be rehabilitated and expanded. Some of us are grieved whenever we go to Fourah Bay College to see the condition of the College. And as and when opportunity have presented to us, both in and out of this Parliament, we have advocated that this Agreement is very important. Fourah Bay College was regarded as the citadel of education in West Africa. Let that glorious name be brought back to what it was in those days. And what we are doing today is adding or fulfilling those aspirations. So, I want to thank the Government, particularly His Excellency the President for this venture. I want to thank the donors who have thought it fit to provide this Loan for us. And we hope and pray that we will execute this Project according to how it should be executed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we execute this Project, certain issues have to be given serious attention. Mr Speaker the issue of maintenance, which we find on page six and page seven of the Loan Agreement by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa is very clear. Mr Speaker, Page 6, Section 4.04 is very clear on the issue of maintenance. We will be obliged to maintain the Project's construction and equipment and that, the University of Sierra Leone will make available the required finance to maintain the Project's construction. This is very important. There is a maxim which says: "*A stitch in time saves nine.*" Sierra Leoneans lack maintenance culture and as a result of that, what would have cost us Le1, 000,000 if we had taken the appropriate steps at the material moment, is now going to cost us billions of Leones.

We are now going to spend one hundred or two hundred percent of the original cost. But it is not only the University that has this responsibility. The students will be using these facilities. They too have the responsibility to ensure that the property are well cared for. It is their property as long as they are using them. But they also have the moral obligation to ensure that they use them and leave them in the same good state for those coming after them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know what used to happen. As students of Fourah Bay College, we had a dance at the Mary Kingsley Hall. We ended up fighting and in the process and we damaged the glasses, chairs, and the desks. In the hostels, we quarrelled. We were not mindful of the fact that others would have to use these facilities at all. Mr Speaker what I am trying to say is that, the responsibility does not only rest on the Administration of the College, but it also rests on the students who will be using these facilities. They should use them as if it is their own personal property. Use them as if the money they used to procure these property is coming from their pockets and purses. Indeed, this is a Loan. We may be using it now, but forty years to come they will be the ones paying for these facilities. After we shall have joined our ancestors, our grandchildren will be the ones that will be paying for these Loans. Therefore, you can do well to ensure that you use these facilities cautiously. The students should not deplete the value of the property at all; even when their children and grandchildren pay for them. In fact, they will be happy that their mothers and fathers used those facilities but left them for them to use.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other issue I want to talk about centres around procurement. Pages 14 and 16 are very clear on the issue of procurement. It says there must be competitive bidding and the Consultant Services for preparing a detailed designed, tender document and supervision of the Project. Procurement is very important here because this is a Loan that we have to pay. We must go through the procurement procedures as it is stated in this Agreement and in accordance with the Procurement Act we have in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want this work to be given to the right people with the right expertise and the positive attitude. I say this because after the war, when Njala University was rehabilitated, a lot of money went down the drain. I go to Njala University every now and then because my husband lives and work there. I look at the finishing of the dwelling houses for the staff and the lecture rooms. They used very cheap materials to the extent that even before some of those buildings were occupied, some of them have been falling apart. And that brings me to the issue of Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight. We have three Committees here: the Finance Committee, Committee on Works and the Education Committee that will provide the Oversight role. But outside of these three Committees, we also have other entities that will also provide those Oversight functions. Fourah Bay College is situated within a constituency. I am happy that the Member of Parliament has spoken. It does not matter whether he is a Member of any of these three Committees. He has a moral obligation to also make sure that the correct things are done. Therefore, he can mobilise and sensitise the communities within his constituency to also ensure that the right thing is done. But for us the alumni, we have a responsibility as well. We can no longer leave it in the hands of the Administration or with these three Committee Members in Parliament. That is our University. We are proud of Fourah Bay College. We are what that University has made us to be. And therefore, we also have an obligation to ensure that when the rehabilitation is going on, we can ask the Administration from time to time or the PIU as to the progress of the work. Nothing will stop us from doing that. We have to be going there in groups to visit the site. We have to ensure that the correct things are done. We have the right to put our observations on paper and share them with the requisite entities so that the correct things are done. The Civil Society also has a responsibility in this regard. Let them also as the voice of the voiceless, and as non-state actors take a lead role in ensuring that the right thing is done. We cannot leave it to the Ministry Finance or to the Ministries or this Parliament alone. Fourah Bay College is Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone is Fourah Bay College. And as such, we all have a responsibility to ensure that we monitor the implementation of this Project. This is not a Grant at all and

even if it was a Grant, that is no excuse why it should not been used for the purpose for which it is being used judiciously and effectively.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Contractors should be monitored very well. They are very important in this work. Is it going to be pre-financed? What will be the modalities? I am saying this because we have seen Contractors who were given money for a particular job but at the end of the day, they made away with the money. What has happened to them? We don't want Fourah Bay College to fall victim of some of these briefcase Contractors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those who have spoken before me said that we need not to waste time but to immediately go on and ratify this Loan. Yes, but these are things that we need to know. Those students at Fourah Bay College who are here today is a big manifestation of the interest they have in the institution. But I want to admonish them that they too have a role to play in ensuring that quality work is done. Nothing will stop them also from doing their own monitoring and evaluation and bring the lapses to the attention of the Administration. That makes them responsible students. Mr Speaker, this is the day that we all should be proud of as 'lovers of wisdom' (*Philosophers*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, quality education is an equation. What we are doing is providing the enabling environment. But there is even an equally important variable into that equation. It is the staffing. We can have good lecturer rooms and beautiful environment, but if we don't have a motivated staff, if we don't have a satisfied staff, if we don't have a staff that works, then, this beautiful building we are trying to put up, this beautiful environment we want to refurbish will be meaningless. The Ministry of Education and alumni should ensure that the Senior Staff Association in Sierra Leone are satisfied. Their conditions of service have to be adequately and appropriately addressed once and for all so that they can do their work. The best motivation will add to the equation of quality education. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

**HON S. B. B. DUMBUYA (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I graduated from Fourah Bay College about forty-five years ago. Mr Speaker, I cannot agree more with the Minority Leader when she said that effective learning takes place only in an environment that is ideal. That is incontrovertibly true. It is true because where there is lack of the best environment, quality education is at a discount. Mr Speaker, when some of us were at Fourah Bay College, Jollof rice and salad were a certainty. But today, it is not only there, but rare or almost non-existent. That is indeed lamentable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are many of them who say Fourah Bay College is now a shadow of what it used to be. Some say Fourah Bay College is now an eyesore. This is the case because when you go to Fourah Bay College, where-ever you care to look at there is marked or in fact, there has been marked deterioration in almost everything. There is also systematic dilapidation of the structures. And where this is the case, it means that this institution can no longer accommodate the growing number of students. That is why there is need for rehabilitation and expansion. That is why Mr Speaker I would call on Members of Parliament to support the Agreement of this Motion. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Minister, you may like to comment on any of the issues raised.

**MR MOMODU KARGBO (*Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think during my presentation, I did say that the Loan which I was asking Parliament to ratify which is my main purpose here is one part. But it is the story behind and what we have heard throughout this period are the stories behind this Loan. Speakers have been expressing everything as far as this Loan is concerned. We are talking about capacity building all the time. We are talking about Management, Management and Management. I think this is the essence of what has been said today. We in the Ministry of Finance will do our best to ensure that this Project is implemented to the latter. I would like to call the attention of the House to reflect on what the Honourable Deputy Speaker and also the Honourable



Minority Leader have noted. I think these comments of being Fourah Bay College alumni they have formed has more to it. I think we all need to go out there and in our own offices to find out how to deal with them. I think some of them were disturbing. That is the truth Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make one or two clarifications that are very important. According to the records that we have, the Consultancy Services which was the concern of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, the budget is \$1 million for a total project of \$36 million. Consultancy Services are not expected to cost more than \$1 million. But I also want to clarify one thing Mr Speaker. There is always some confusion when the money comes to the Ministry of Finance. The money does not come to the Ministry of Finance over night. There is a process we follow. I would like to draw Members' attention to the BADEA Loan Agreement. I would like to call the attention of Members of Parliament to the general conditions of the second part of the Agreement. There is a section called "*General Conditions*" in the Agreement. Mr Speaker, if you turn to Page 5, there is Article 5 from 5.01 downwards. It shows the withdrawal process which we must go through for the release of the funds. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is the core arm and it comprises of officers belonging to all the Ministries concerned. They really guide the implementation of the Project. And they together by a process issue certificate of completion to the Contractors. It is this Certificate of Completion that is sent to the donor and they pay directly to the Contractors. Hardly, any money of this type comes to the Ministry of Finance. I thought it was important to make that clarification. This particular Loan does not cover transportation. In the budget of Fourah Bay College, Government is already picking up the tag for rehabilitation. Government is already picking up to repair electricity and the water system. It means there is some slack in the budget. And that slack should be used to put together transportation system for Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these were the clarifications that I wanted to make and in conclusion, I once again move that this Honourable House ratify the following

Agreement which were laid on the Table of the House of Parliament on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013:

*(i) "Loan Agreement for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2013; and*

*(ii) Loan Agreement for the Fourah Bay College Development Project between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2013." I thank you.*

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Mr Minister. You may leave now. I would urge all those of our visitors who want to leave now to leave peaceably and orderly.

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA

**HON. ANDREW LUNGAY:** Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to make a correction. Mr Speaker I know that the Report is quite correct, but I refer you to Page 9

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 9 of what Honourable member?

**HON ANDREW LUNGAY:** Page 9 of the Report and Page 13.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, with respect to you. The Report has not yet been read.

**HON. ANDREW LUNGAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I will raise that up later.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I would want to ask one of the Clerks at the Table to please ensure that no Presidential nominee at this point is allowed to enter the Chamber. We don't approve a Presidential nominee in absentia. It is not our tradition. You must be physically present in this Well. But I have been told that there is something of a communication gap which has been resulted in some nominees not being present here today. My intelligence is that, there are only two and I also know that frantic efforts are now being made to call some of them on the phone. We cannot allow them to come as long as we have started. Please make sure no one of them enters.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, with respect to you, I don't think we can prevent anybody entering Parliament as long as you are peaceful and law-abiding. As I indicated to you, just ignore those who are not here. Deal with one if it is one, but if it is two, you deal with the two.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** As the Honourable Speaker pleases. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations:

*Introduction:*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 and interviewed eight (8) Presidential nominees for appointments to the following positions:

- i. Board Chairman, Managing Director and Board Members, Sierra Leone Cable Limited;*

- ii. *Board Members, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority;*
- iii. *High Court Judge; and*
- iv. *Minister of Transport and Aviation.*

### *Procedure:*

The Committee consistently followed its established procedures and put inquiring questions to the nominees pertaining to their educational backgrounds, track records in relevant work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their plans and visions for a successful tenure.

*NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013.*

The following nominee was interviewed:

- (i) *Mr Saa Kpulun, Proposed Board Member- Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Representing the Ministry of Transport and Aviation;*

Mr Saa Kpulun is a renowned Civil Servant with many years of experience. As part of his contribution to the Sierra Leone Civil Service and National Development, he has served in the following capacities: 2010 – Date, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Aviation; 2009 – 2010, Secretary, Professor Gbamanja Commission of Enquiry; 1998 – 2008, Executive Secretary, National Commission for Social Action; 1994 – 1998, Permanent Secretary in various MDAs; 1977 – 1993, Serves in many Administrative capacity including that of Deputy Secretary.

Responding to probing questions on his views about the Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Kpulun said that the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002 with the mandate to serve as a regulatory body for the safety of the Airline Industry, make rules and issue out licenses to aircrafts operating in the country.

Answering to further questions on the safety of helicopter operations in the country, he assured Members that the Authority has trained personnel to inspect and certify any aircraft before its operation in the country. *"We ensure that there is certified worthiness inspection and assurance that all necessary safety gadgets are on board before any aircraft is registered and licensed,"* he added

(ii) *Mr Lahai Momoh Farmah, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Civil Aviation Authority, Representing the Law Officers Department*

Mr Lahai Momoh Farmah is a well-known legal professional in the Law Officers Department and has held the following positions in that Establishment: 1991, State Counsel; 1996, Senior State Counsel; 2004, Principal State Counsel; 2006 , Head, Civil and Commercial Division; and 2007, Notary Public.

Responding to the question as to what he would bring to the Civil Aviation Authority, he noted that it is a requirement that his Department gets a Member to be on the board and stated that his role would be providing legal advice in the various activities of the Authority within its powers and authority.

Responding to further questions as to whether the Civil Aviation Act requires amendments, the nominee responded in the affirmative, adding that the Civil Aviation Act of 2008 emerged as a way of devolving the Aviation Sector from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and not much was done at that moment. He added that certain portions of the Act need consideration for amendment.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, I note that the Majority Whip is not here, neither is the Deputy Majority Whip. Can somebody stand in for these people having regard to the time?

**HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON:** Mr Speaker, being 12:00 p.m., I move that S. O. 5 (2) so that the Business of the House may continue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. SHEKU SANNOH:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Counter Motion?

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Speaker, with your leave I now proceed with the Fifteenth Report of the Twentieth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. The following nominee was interviewed.

(i) *Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma, Proposed Minister, Ministry of Transport and Aviation*

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, is this is a special dispensation?

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Incidentally Mr Speaker, Mr Balogun Koroma is a manifestation of the "*Four for Four.*"

**THE SPEAKER:** Actually I was referring to the clapping in the gallery. It is normally not allowed here.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** It is not allowed at all Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Alright take note of that please.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Speaker before I proceed, I would like to offer an apology to Mr Balogun Koroma in case I did not pronounce his name the way he pronounces it. I will offer this apology because when I was a student in the University, there was a Leonard Fofanah. He contested the election but the case is presently in court. Hopefully, he will join us on this side. I was corrected by Professor Koso Thomas that the name is not pronounced as Leonard but '**LEnad.**' As a student of English then, and being so knowledgeable in phonetics, I went straightaway to check. I found out that some of these names have their origin in English names. The English people

pronounce Leonard as LEnad. I will therefore pronounce it as the dictionary will pronounce it. Leonard Balogun Koroma (*Laughter across the Floor*).

Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma is a prominent and astute political figure and has served in the Sierra Leone Civil Service for over eighteen (18) years. He commenced his Civil Service career in 1976, immediately after completing his undergraduate studies at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. He worked with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) across the country, including but not limited to the following: 2007 – 2009, Minister of State, Office of the Vice President; 1991 – 1992, Chief Elections Officer, Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone; 1989 – 1991, Deputy Secretary and Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Fisheries and Forestry; 1978 – 1988, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Power and Ministry of Transport and Communications; 1976 – 1978, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and Provincial Secretary's Office, Bo. He also served as Press Secretary to Late President Siaka Stevens within this period.

In addition to his Civil Service career, Mr Koroma during his sojourn at the United States of America (USA) from 1994 to 2006, worked with the American Airlines in Virginia and the Aero link Transportation at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. More recently in Sierra Leone, he was the National Coordinator of the 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Celebration and the All Peoples Congress National Elections Coordinator for the 2012 elections.

Responding to the question as why he should be approved by the Committee, Mr Koroma opined that he was before the Committee as a nominee of His Excellency the President. He added that he had worked for Sierra Leone and had served the country and people. In response to further questions as to what value he would add to the Executive Arm of Government, the nominee said that the Executive executes policies and having a President that is development oriented, he needs people who can implement, and "*I have a record of implementation*" he asserted.

Reacting to the question on theft and negative perceptions of activities at the Lungi International Airport, Mr Koroma said that the airport in any country is a gate way to that country and that security is paramount to every airport in the world. He considered the incidents at the Lungi International Airport as a security breach which has a negative effect on the country and that strong action must be taken following the investigations. He considered such issues uncompromising, adding, *"heads must roll if need be."*

Mr Koroma said: *"No country has developed without a robust transportation system, if I am confirmed as Minister of Transport and Aviation; I would ensure that my Ministry puts measures in place to revolutionize transportation system in this country, starting with the road network."* He told the Committee that he was quite aware of constraints people faced in going to places of work including university students and school children and that Government had to find a way to get enough buses for university students and school children to avoid the hustle of using *"okadas."* He considered this a priority and proposed what he called *"a rush hour"* transportation service in the morning and evening hours to ease the plight of people once confirmed, adding that public-private partnership could help in this area. He assured the Committee that he would collaborate with the Maritime Administration and other stakeholders to ratify the African Charter on Maritime Transportation which would be treated as a priority, agreeing with the Committee that Sierra Leone has a lot to benefit. He concluded that he was cognizant of the fact that if he failed to deliver he could be summoned back to the House to answer.

### *Recommendation:*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential Nominees to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and are recommended to the House for approval, with the exception of those that have not made themselves available for this presentation:



- (i) Mr Saa Kpulun, Proposed Board Member- Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, Representing the Ministry of Transport and Aviation;*
- (ii) Mr Lahai Momoh Farmah, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, representing Law Officers' Department; and*
- (iii) Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma, Proposed Minister, Ministry of Transport and Aviation.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports portray the collective view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the First 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 S. B. B. Dumbuya, Chairman.

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I second the motion read by the Leader of this House.

*(Question Proposed)*

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has done its job and has presented its Report to this Honourable House. I therefore have no doubt in my mind that what is left for this House to do is to give its approval to this Report and to the work this Committee has done. Mr Speaker, what this Committee did was based on the appointments which were made by His Excellency the President. It was left with the Committee to re-examine the merits and demerits of those appointments. The three eminent Sierra Leoneans who have appeared before us here have satisfied the Committee's criteria and we have no doubt that they represent the very finesse of Sierra Leoneans to hold the positions they have been nominated for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Saa Kpulun has served this country for over thirty years in very respectful positions. I think for him to go as a representative of the

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation to serve on the Board of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority is merely adding to his exemplary status and his technical know-how to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Lahai Momoh Farmah's expertise in Law would help in the Civil Aviation Authority in carrying out his work. And as you heard from his own explanation to the Committee that it is time we begin to look at some of those Acts that have gone to set up our various Commissions, Civil Aviation being no exception to this. I have no doubt that his contribution in that regard will bring our Civil Aviation Authority up to date and of modern standard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would rather want to deviate from my English Professor who will want to call Leonard. I would rather call him Leonard by the Sierra Leonean standards because that is what we know him for.

**THE SPEAKER:** What about the Kono standards Honourable Member? *(Laughter)*.

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA:** Kono is part of Sierra Leone Mr Speaker. I am using that standard to call Leonard Balogun Koroma. Not the way my Leader calls him. Mr Leonard Koroma is no mean name in this country. It is a household name and this is amplified by the large number of Sierra Leoneans across the field who have come to see him through this exercise. One of the greatest days in my life sitting on that Committee was yesterday. The Committee Room was full beyond capacity. There were no sitting places for people who have come to witness the hearings of Mr Koroma. And I asked myself why this was happening to the Committee for the first time. I think the question is again being answered here. As I look around this Well, it is full beyond capacity. All shades of people have come to see Mr Koroma through. I think the President, in this case has made no mistake in appointing him as our new Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. I have every reason to believe that he would add more to that Ministry. He will implement more proactive programmes that would make our Civil Aviation as well as Ministry of Transport very proactive to the needs of the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Koroma has admitted that he is also in sympathy with our teaming students who troop every day from Model School to Fourah Bay College. I hope what he told the Committee out there will come to pass. This is because he is a great implementer and I have no doubt that he will implement that promise which he had made to the Committee. On that note Mr Speaker, I would carve the indulgence of this House for us to give our blessings for these nominees to be able to take up their positions. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON MABINTY K. SILLAH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here this afternoon to congratulate all the nominees being nominated into their various Ministries. I have no doubt that these nominees will be an asset to this Nation. I have no doubt that these nominees will also be agents in promoting the *"Agenda for Prosperity"* (Applause).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to single out one particular nominee among these nominees. He is no other person but Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma. I would like to support the Majority Leader for saying that this man is truly a real manifestation of the *"Four-for-Four."* I have known Mr Balogun...- (*Interruption*).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, for the benefit of those who do not know. What is *"Four-for-Four?"*

**HON. MABINTY K. SILLAH:** Mr Speaker S.O (2), Four-for-Four was a campaign strategy employed by the APC during the 2012 Presidential, Parliamentary, Mayoral and Local Councils Elections. This strategy was employed to tell the electorate that the APC was contesting for four positions: Presidential, Parliamentary, Mayoral and Local Councils. It was also known as "Αηπα Αηπον," (i.e., everything has finished).

**THE SPEAKER:** That is the meaning of Four-for-Four. please proceed Honourable Member.

**HON. MABINTY K. SILLAH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I have known Mr Balogun Koroma for the past ten years. He is a very hard working gentleman, reliable and trustworthy. I have no doubt *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, don't be distracted.

**HON. MABINTY K. SILLAH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I might be the third wife *(Laughter)*. Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that Mr Balogun Koroma will move this nation forward. I therefore urge this Honourable House to please support His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma so that all these nominees are approved. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, least you are in any doubt, I am disposed to favour female Honourable Members today.

**HON. ABI KALOKO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think I will not do justice to myself if I do not stand up to give my own contribution to the approval of this gentle and handsome man. He is a hardworking man whom I believe if I stand here today in this Well... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Don't leave any of these adjectives out.

**HON. ABI KALOKO:** Whom I believe if I stand here today in this Well has been an inspiration, motivation and have encouraged me to come and participate in Politics. Having said that, I believe this man was a friend to my late husband. They shared the same desires in terms of building this nation. Thank you very much Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma, commonly known as Logus Koroma. This man is a man whom I believe will work so hard to meet the expectations of people in this country. I believe he will transform the "*Agenda for Change*" to the "*Agenda for Prosperity*." Today, I am asking this Honourable House that we all support the "*Agenda for Prosperity*" laid by His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma in approving all the nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity today to say thanks to Mr Koroma for giving me the courage I once lost. I thought I have ended my world. I

thought without my husband there was nobody to support me. But you came forward and you gave me the support I needed then. Thank you very much Mr Koroma. I may not go further because it sounds so emotional to me. I want to thank you very much and I believe that you can do it again. Please keep up the good work. Don't listen to what people say about you. Always try to do what is good for this nation. Thank you very much.

**HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it used to be a phenomenon in this Well that the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of this House usually say this man has been my school-mate, this man had been my mentor, this man had been my college-mate or my student. Today, it is my first day to see a school mate of mine who was a senior to me when I entered Secondary School. That person is somebody who had been the architect of the "Four-for-Four" which is dragging Sierra Leone here and there. Here and there means the Four-for-Four is good for some people and not good for others. What I want to do here is to thank the President because he is a man of conscience and a man of wisdom. He always compensates those who work hard. And as you all know, Leonard Balogun Koroma has worked for the APC and has worked hard. He played a great role for the reelection of the APC into power. Few minutes back, the Majority and Minority Leaders told us that the parliamentary Gallery was full of students from Fourah Bay College. I said no. My dear Leader, the crowd you see are supporters of the APC and supporters of the man who is nominated by the President, Mr Balogun Koroma. He fought for the reelection of APC in 2012. He had been a strong pillar under His Excellency the President to fight us on this side and took power from us (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, each time I see somebody compensating others for their good works, I stand on this side of the House to say thanks to that person. I am glad that today, that person has done his job again. He has given another strong pillar to carry Sierra Leone forward. I have questions here to ask. Mr Balogun Koroma, you fought for the Four-for-Four so that the APC will come back to power. This time you are going to represent Sierra Leone as a Minister. The Ministry you are going to manage is

one of the industries that every Sierra Leonean will want to pick a job from. That is, the Transport and Aviation Ministry. We have series of problems lingering in that particular Ministry. When you want to get license for your vehicle, you spend days to get a license. You want to get 'Okada' license, it takes days. We have Wardens on the streets asking for these licenses. Your first assignment is to go to Road Transport and tell them that our people want fast business transactions in this country. The Committee on Finance will go there one day and pay them a visit. Before this time, we used to pay Le45, 000 for Number Plate. Today, we are paying Le100, 000 for Number plate. Please, the Four-for-Four is playing around. And you are coming again as a great fighter. This time your fight is not going to be partisan at all. I want you to fight as a Sierra Leonean. Reduce the poverty rate in the country. The Transport Industry is the area where our brothers and sisters who have not been privileged to go to Universities are getting their living. The Transport Industry is one area where families get food to eat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first assignment of Mr Koroma is to look into that Industry. Honestly, on this side, we will always appreciate good work. On this side, we will always give you the support because we want this country to forge ahead. Ministerial jobs are not partisan issues. You have the Minister of Defence sitting by you. When the country is secured, we must be proud of him. And if you come to the Minister of Industry, definitely we are proud of you. We have lived in the same compound at Takoradi. I consider you as a brother. You are an APC and I am SLPP. But what is paramount here is that both of us are Sierra Leoneans. Few days ago, I was in a team with the Minister of Works. We saw Sierra Leoneans moving with him. We must be proud of that Mr speaker. This is because when Loans are approved here, they are not Loans for APC; they are Loans for Sierra Leoneans. This is because both of us are coming together to approve these Loans. And some of these Loans are not going to be paid until forty to fifty years, when some of us will not even be in existence. The problems of Sierra Leone are not only for the APC.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, be careful of the head of Honourable Rado Yokie (*Laughter*).

**HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY:** Mr Speaker, honourable Members, when we talk about development or the progress of Sierra Leone, honestly, it is not the progress of you on that side; it is a progress for all of us. Today, what are we doing here? We are approving Ministers together. When the Speaker shall propose the question, all of us are going to give our positive responses to it. This means that we want the progress of Sierra Leone. We have always supported APC on that side because they are in the majority. We have always supported development for Sierra Leone. And we are here again to support you because we believe you can do it efficiently. But please, be warned. If you fail in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the "*Four-for-Four*" will no longer exist. Be warned. If you fail in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, I will stand here again to quote our Majority Leader of this House who has branded you as the architect of the Four-for-Four, which is now negatively affecting some parts of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Kpulun. We know you very well to have always excelled in all the areas you have taken appointments. Please help the President. Take your expertise to him again. Make sure the Transport Industry moves forward because there are people in this country who strongly rely on that Ministry for their survival.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to our brother who has been a Prosecutor. Today, he is moving as a Board Member to another level. Please take the right judgment. This time he is not going to be in court. You are going to sit with people who will decide issues that deal with Sierra Leone. In this light and for all of you around the Gallery, the Four-for-Four is for all of us.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you are addressing me please.

**HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY:** My vehicle's registration number is 444. Each time I drive that car, people call me "*Four-for-Four*." I do ask myself why? They say Four-for-Four is negatively affecting us. My dear brother and senior colleague in the Yengema Secondary School, please make sure that the idea of "*Four-for-Four*" in the Transport and Aviation Industry works positively. Make sure we get our licenses on time. Make sure people are not charged for things that they do not do. Make sure that monies are not collected illegally. When I wanted to license my vehicle, I was given ticket which I did not know what it was all about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will therefore recommend and request that we approve these gentlemen whom the President believes can do better things for Sierra Leone. And we as Sierra Leoneans do believe that they can do better for this nation, otherwise, posterity will judge them. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**HON. ISATA KABIA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for this opportunity. I want to assure the Honourable Members across the Floor that anybody who fights for the APC is fighting for Sierra Leone. This Government is for every Sierra Leonean. So, I want to assure you that the fighter sitting in that seat, our proposed Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation fought for the APC on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone. It has been proven. It has been seen and it has been felt from all corners of this country. This Government is about change and development. This morning, we ratified a loan for Education and somebody from that side said it was too late. It is never too late. I think it is timely that this particular issue can happen under this Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposed Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation is a man of strength, a man of great character and I think the support he has been receiving is great. These people are here not just to support the proposed Minister, but to support this particular Government as well. The issue of Transport and Aviation has been in the back bench for so many years. As the Acting Director in the office of the Diaspora says that in 2009 we brought in the first professionals, the first technical head



in that Ministry. So, if the new Board Member, Saa Kpulun is talking about Civil Aviation checks, it is because we brought in the expertise in that Ministry to undertake those checks. In 2005, the ICAL Report revoked International License in Sierra Leone. Since 2005, there were series of corrective actions recommended that were never taken into consideration. Not until 2008 when we brought in two professionals in that Ministry and those items were auctioned under the APC Government. We are now in a position to request to renew our ICAL License because of those particular actions. And I am sure that under this new Minister, we will succeed in completing the process to get our ICAL License back. What that means for Sierra Leone is that, the area of Tourism that we are crying for because of the beautiful landscape, all the areas that we want visitors to see will be more likely be seen when our tickets to Sierra Leone are reasonable. We want to meet international standards, especially when the route to travel to Sierra Leone is less cumbersome. We have taken on the facilities that need to be structured to ensure safe travel arrangements; and when the Ministry of Transport and Aviation takes its rightful place in the "*Agenda for Prosperity*." I want to thank His Excellency for nominating Mr Balogun Koroma to serve in that Ministry. I also want to thank the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, which is a non-partisan Committee. That Committee has both the SLPP and APC Members of Parliament for the purpose of approving the architect of the "Four-for-Four." I am saying this not because he is an APC Minister, but because he is the right person to take that particular Ministry to where we want to see it. Thank you.

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (*Minority Leader of the House*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having been here since 10 o'clock and having from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> carefully and seriously questioned the Presidential nominees before us to be approved, and having listened to the sentiments that have been said about the three nominees before us, I will be brief in my submission. The nominees, having read the Reports have given us insights into the task ahead of them and their vision for the various institutions they have been nominated for, particularly with regards to Mr Farmah whom we were in Fourah Bay College. I have seen him over the years in the

Law Officers' Department working very hard to attain the position he currently attained. I am sure his appointment to serve as Legal Adviser in the Civil Aviation Authority is no mistake; and we hope that the Minister would work with him to ensure that the necessary amendments to the legal provisions of that Institution are brought here as fast as possible for necessary action.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have seen from yesterday and today in terms of support for Mr Balogun Koroma speaks volume of who he is and what he stands for and his contribution to not only the APC but also to the nation as well. We can only wish him well. The Ministry of Transport and Aviation is a very important Ministry and it is very strategic. His success will depend on the cooperation of everybody here. I only hope that the crowd that I am seeing up gallery will give him chance to do his work. This is because if one-fourth of that crowd decides to visit him every day in his office, he will not be able work effectively and efficiently. And I am sure that after here, he will be signing the performance contract with the President. Therefore, in as much as the support is there, you can only support him also and continue to support him if you give him enough time to do this work for which he has been appointed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of course Mr Kpulun has worked in many institutions and his appointment is a secondment to the Civil Aviation. We hope that his long years of work experience will benefit that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with those few words, I want to in advance wish the three nominees good luck and success in their work. The only difference I see between this appointment and what we have done before is that, for the first time we are approving nominees without a woman. In subsequent appointments, we want to see the face of at least a woman. This will help us to achieve the Pillar Eight of the "*Agenda for Prosperity*." I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader before you proceed, the indicative in no uncertain ways that they are getting tired.

**HON. S.B.B. DUMBUYA** (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): That means incidentally Mr Speaker I have been denied an opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** And that was meant for you (*Laughter*).

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Speaker, I would endorse the nominations of Mr Farmah and Mr Saa Kpulun. Mr Farmah is a veterans Lawyer. All of us know who he is. He is a senior man in the Law Officers' Department. There are those of us who have been in contact with him on many occasions and he is a very good man.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave Mr Speaker I will just want to read what his Principal then, Mr Baylor said about Mr Saa Kpulun in 1967. "*Mr Kpulun as Head Boy of the school he carried his duty with responsibility and satisfaction; a very matured and able student.*" Mr Saa Kpulun has been described by his Principal, Mr Max Baylor, a celebrated man in those days and one of the greatest Principals that this country has ever had in our schools. He said at that time when he was a student that he carried his duty with responsibility and maturity. I want to assure you that even up to this time; this man has been displaying the big responsibility and maturity. And I want to let this House know that Saa Kpulun is one of the finest Civil Servants we have had in this country. I am proud of him. I am sure he will serve this country well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me turn to Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma. I would want first to make a clarification by way of an assurance to my very good friend, Honourable J. B. Mansaray that this man, commonly called Logus had friends all over the country and in every part of this country his friendship cut across all barriers. He is not and never a tribalistic man at all. You can be sure of that Mr Speaker. I think there has been abundant manifestation of this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma is a popular and respected name in many circles in this country. He is popular because of his warmth and amiability. He is highly respected on account of his principles and uncompromising

stance on many issues. Mr Balogun Koroma is a passionate defender of what is right, what is proper, and what is correct. For Mr Balogun Koroma, impropriety at any level is one of his pet aversions. That is one of the things he does not like. This is a learning forum and I am teaching people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Balogun Koroma has served this country in many capacities. And what you will want to know in each of these is that, not only has he proved his mettle but because of the remarkable way in which he had acquitted himself. Mr Speaker, because of the remarkable way in which he has carried out the multiplicity of duties assigned to him, he succeeded in making a name for himself as one man whose achievements have been phenomenally prodigious.

Mr Speaker, for those of us who know 'Logus' as he is popularly known, I want to tell this Honourable House that this man is renowned for having a tremendous capacity for hard work. And not only a tremendous capacity for hard work, but he has a big appetite for having things done. That again has been demonstrated many a time. Mr Speaker, Mr Balogun Koroma has excelled himself in many areas. For instance, his accomplishment for the many years he has been in the service of this country is a catalogue too bulky for me to discharge by enumeration here because of the time. But Mr Speaker, two most recent events do come to mind which all of us know of. That is, the last 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary Celebrations and the last Parliamentary/Presidential and Local Council Elections.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the case of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations which indeed was a magnificent success as it turned out to be if this should happen, much of the credit must be given to Balogun Koroma in his capacity as the National Coordinator of that Programme.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the 2012 Elections, I agree he was the National Coordinator of the APC, but in the process, he interacted with other parties. And if therefore the Election was organised to such perfection, the role played by Mr Balogun Koroma was stupendous. Mr Speaker, the announcement of Mr Leonard Balogun

Koroma both in the Print and Electronic Media has been greeted with wide excitement and in some cases with irresistible celebration. This is testament of one fact. It simply shows that Balogun is a man of the people. He likes people and he is reciprocally liked and loved by them. I elaborate likes and love. Please listen to me. Like by men and love by women (*Laughter*). The one reason for this Mr Speaker is because of his pleasant and decent disposition. Another reason is on account of the facts that this man has carved an impressive record. He is a result oriented type of person who has succeeded in all the ventures he has undertaken, both at national and international levels. Mr Speaker, the "*Agenda for Prosperity*" has been proclaimed by His Excellency the President and now there is eagerness on the part of everybody to see it materialised. That is why Mr Speaker I think the appointment of somebody of that caliber and orientation of Mr Balogun Koroma is propitious. Mr Speaker, I say so because the success of this programme is contingent on the commitment, devotion and determination of State Officials. And for a man like Balogun Koroma for whom success in anything has become something of an obsession, I hasten to say and I am going to say it categorically clear that the appointment of such a man to head a key Ministry like the Ministry of Transport and Aviation means that this Ministry is going to witness a dramatic transformation that would help considerably to provide all the ingredients necessary for the realisation of the "*Agenda for Prosperity*."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this world, things don't happen in a vacuum. If they have to happen, somebody has to make things happen. Somebody must be instrumental for it. Somebody must make things happen Mr Speaker. And at such a time when we are so desperate for this country to develop, it is good to have somebody with endowment of Mr Balogun Koroma to be a Cabinet Minister to help the President succeed in his Agenda not for Prosperity only, in his Agenda for the transformation of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my very good friend, Honourable J. B. Mansaray did avert to certain things that are very true. Logus, you might be confronted with a lot of problems, Particularly the Sierra Leone Road Transport Authority, the Maritime, and the

Sierra Leone Airport Authority. But believe you me I want to assure Honourable J. B. Mansaray that and everybody in this House that this man is equal to any challenge in this world. He will surmount all of them. With these remarks Mr Speaker, I commend Mr Leonard Balogun Koroma as worthy in every considerable way to fill the position for which he has been nominated by His Excellency the President. I support his nomination. Thank you *(Applause)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question to you, I will urge Mr Clerk to have at least twelve or six dictionaries around. It is necessary for us to follow certain contributions *(Laughter across the Floor)*.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*(Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service was unanimously carried)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Presidential nominees, I want to congratulate you for your approval. I have known Mr Farmah very well in my latest field of endeavour. He is an accomplished Lawyer in his right and I have no doubt he will succeed.

I have not known Mr Kpulun until I saw him in one of the offices occupied by the female clerks of this Parliament. And I stopped to say hello to him and he introduced himself. When I heard the name, that name took me back to a senior prison officer, a Mr Kpulun who used to be in Law Courts Building almost every day in another field of endeavour in which I was occupied. I can assure you that Mr Kpulun has an admirable background.

In the case of Mr Balogun Koroma, I have struggled to restrain my emotions. I have known Mr Balogun Koroma about fifty years. When I heard from an Honourable Member of Parliament that he was a classmate of Mr Balogun Koroma, I will urge that Member of Parliament to treat me with some respect. On a serious note, I have known Mr Balogun Koroma for years. I knew him as a boy. I knew his family very well under

pleasant and unpleasant circumstances. It is a pleasure for me today to witness this occasion. I feel highly honoured. And I pray for those who have passed away to be granted rest. I congratulate all of us.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*(The House rose at 1.05 p.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2013)*