

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

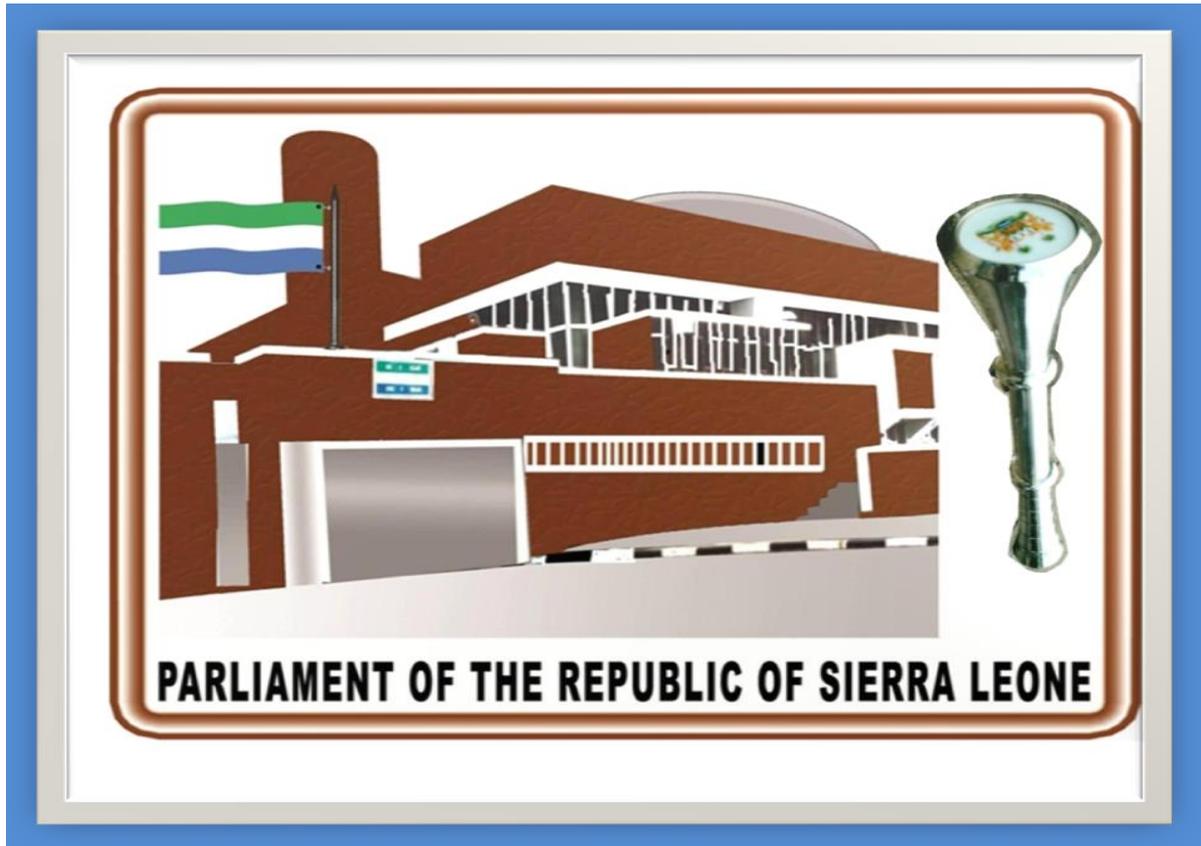
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION-SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014**

*SESSION – 2013/2014*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

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**VOLUME: II**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.

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THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

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

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**SECOND SESSION—SECOND MEETING  
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.**

*The House met at 10:15 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.*

**I. PRAYERS**

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

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

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S. O. 5(2)*

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU** (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker to amend the Order Paper to introduce a new item that has to do with Laying of Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Where will you have it inserted, Honourable Member?

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** It will be inserted under item III. Thus, item III becomes item IV and item IV becomes item V.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I hope there is no objection. The Majority Leader has asked that the Order Paper be amended to include a particular item, i.e., Laying of Paper. Mr Clerk, please take note and amend the Order Paper accordingly.

**II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go to the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2?

**HON. DAUDA JOHN BENSON KALLON:** Mr Speaker, the name Honorable Dauda John Benson Kallon is not on the list and we were on Oversight assignment with the Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 4?

**HON. HENNEH RADDER:** Mr Speaker, page 3. I was also on an Oversight assignment.

**THE SPEAKER:** Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? There being no other amendment can somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2014?

**HON. ALIE KALOKOH:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. MABINTY K. SILLAH:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

*(Question proposed put at agreed to)*

*(Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 was unanimously adopted as amended)*

### **III. PAPER LAID**

THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU** (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my capacity as Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, I beg to lay on the Table the Revision of Salary and Allowances of the Ombudsman (*Applause*).

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

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** 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.

#### *1. Introduction*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, alive its parliamentary responsibilities, met on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 and interviewed five Presidential nominees for appointment as:

- i. Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- ii. Resident Minister, East;
- iii. Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission;
- iv. Board Member, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority; and
- v. Member, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission.

## *2. Procedure*

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Probing questions put to the nominees were related to their educational backgrounds, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure of office. Unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices were very closely scrutinised.

### **3. FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014**

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

*i. Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo, Proposed Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone*

Mr Kargbo is a professional Economist and Management Executive with over 35 years work experience in areas involving economic and social development, particularly in addressing issues related to Public Financial Management and Structural Reforms, Expenditure Control and Management, Revenue and Tax Policy Administration, Macro-economic Policy and Promoting Macro-economic Stability. He has a broad knowledge and experience in setting out the national development perspectives and agenda, as well as in facilitating their implementation.

Also, Mr Kargbo has a wealth of experience in developmental banking, development aid administration, economic policy research and economic advisory services. He has extensive exposure and understanding of central bank operations, particularly its supervisory, fiduciary, oversight functions and its functions as the Government's Banker.

Mr Kargbo has established effective collaborative working relationship with both multilateral and bilateral agencies such as the EU, World Bank, Saudi Fund, BADEA and ADB etc. and has developmental and operational contact and strong working relationship with International Agencies working in Sierra Leone, such as Action Aid, World Vision, and ADRA etc.

Reacting to inquiring questions, Mr Momodu L. Kargbo said that he viewed his nomination as a challenge. He said that he was going to take with him the same principles and discipline with which he had always handled state matters. "People may not know this, but I spent my early years in the army and that was where I became grounded in discipline. Discipline leads one to become very strict about details. My professor, Dr. Park, once said to me 'young man, the devil is always in the details' and I have come to believe that."

Reacting to further questions, Mr Kargbo admitted that if approved, he was certainly worried about the vacuum he would be leaving behind in the Ministry of Finance. *"... Because when I took up the job of Deputy Minister and later as Minister of State dealing with expenditure issues, I found out that the specifics of the job were not conceptualised and institutionalised so this disaggregation, the lack of continuous coordination, these gaps are taken advantage of by people. Over the period, I have been trying to institutionalise them. I have not completed that bit of the work because I would have come out with some leaflets to guide the process. I am hoping to engage my Minister, so that I could link up with my successor to continue the work to a conclusion and to formalise the job."*

*ii. Mr Maya Kaikai, proposed Resident Minister, East.*

Mr Maya Kaikai is an entrepreneur per excellence, an investor with successful business enterprises in Kailahun and Kenema Districts. Also, Mr Kaikai has executive work experience in a number of major hotels and companies. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lauwa Resort Hotel, Sierra Leone and the Proprietor Kailefa Construction and General Services. Mr Kaikai was recently appointed Board Chairman of the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation.

In his response to a question put to him, Mr KaiKai said, "I am taking up office at a time when the East is beleaguered by a very serious problem of Ebola epidemic. My first role is going to be to ensure that I work with all stakeholders to fight against this deadly Ebola disease."

Mr Kaikai humbly admitted that his predecessor, the late Mr William Smith was a unifier, who worked collaboratively with all to maintain peace and harmony in the

East. "I promise to take off from where he left for peace and tranquility in the Eastern Province."

*iii. Mr Hamid A. Kamara, proposed Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission*

Mr Hamid A. Kamara is a veteran Civil Servant who joined the Service in 1969 and rose through the ranks to the position of Senior Permanent Secretary. In Provincial Administration, Mr Hamid Kamara served as Assistant District Officer in Kailahun District and Moyamba District. He also serviced as District Officer in Bonthe District, Pujehun District and Kenema District. He has also serviced as Provincial Secretary in the Southern Province, Bo; and the Eastern Province, Kenema. He has held Permanent Secretary positions in the following Ministries:

- i.* Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- ii.* Ministry of Works;
- iii.* Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and
- iv.* Senior Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry.

Mr Hamid A. Kamara promised to draw on his wealth of experience and to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Commission.

*iv. Mr Albert Ojo Ulric Collier, proposed Board Member, Electricity Distribution & Supply Authority*

Mr Collier is a highly motivated and entrepreneurial Human Resource/ Administration/ Corporate Relations Professional, with over twenty years HR Administration and company secretarial experience. He has experience working for a world class multinational with proven track records in Human Resource Management and Strategic and operational level, corporate relations, governance and social responsibility management, general administration and company secretariat functions.

After a brief sojourn at the Bank of Sierra Leone as a junior Banking Officer, Mr Collier joined the Sierra Leone Brewery Limited in 1990. He rose through the ranks

to his current position as Human Resource Manager/Company Secretary and Corporate Social Responsibility Manager.

Reacting to inquiring questions, Mr Collier said that as a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, he believed he would not be working alone to provide answers. *"I believe in working as part of a team."* The team has already been selected. I believe we can work together to ensure that we distribute and supply electricity to this nation.

v. *Mr Abdul Pa-Bamp Yorneh Kamara, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Electricity & Water Regulatory Commission*

Mr Kamara is an Electrical Engineer who joined the National Power Authority in 1983. He rose through the ranks and retired in 2010 as Acting Corporate Planning Head. Mr Abdul Pa-Bamp Yorneh Kamara has proven competence and ability to carry out power project management to ensure quality and timely completion of projects. He promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Commission.

#### *4. Recommendations*

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:

- i. Mr Momodu L. Kargbo, Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- ii. Mr Maya Kaikai, Resident Minister, East;
- iii. Mr Hamid A. Kamara, Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission;
- iv. Mr Albert Ojo Ulric Collier, Board Member, Electricity Distribution and supply Authority; and
- v. Mr Abdul Pa-Bamp Yorneh Kamara, Member, Sierra Leone Electricity & Water Regulatory Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourteenth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fourteenth Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

**HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I second the motion.

*(Question Proposed)*

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to register my support to the report of the Appointments Committee. Mr Speaker, the appointment of the nominees before us, especially the proposed Bank Governor, gives us hope in the sense that there is reward for hard work, diligence in service, patriotism in the execution of our duties, honesty in the work and discipline in the service. Mr Speaker, every Member of Parliament here present has a statement about the proposed Bank Governor because he has been a friend of this House. He has been in this House countless times to defend Government's Agreements with development partners. Mr Speaker, what I would like to say to the proposed Bank Governor is that, as a former soldier and a disciplinarian, we want to see that discipline being implemented in the office of the Bank Governor, because nothing can take this country forward in the absence of discipline in financial management.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people want to see this country move forward and the only way we can move forward is when, we as Sierra Leoneans, are prepared to be disciplined in the execution of our job. If Sierra Leoneans are prepared to be patriotic in their work, then we can move this country forward. So, I want the proposed Bank Governor to go out there and do more for this country. Mr Speaker, when this man was the Deputy Minister, he waited patiently to be elevated and today, he has been elevated for his hard work. This is an example for every Member of Parliament. I want every Member of Parliament to be hard working, both in our Committees and in this Chamber. We have to take our parliamentary work very seriously. We have to do our work with some amount of seriousness, discipline and patriotism.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Residence Minister, East. Mr Speaker, when the vacancy occurred, I said in my quiet moment that this must be the time for Kailahun District. We have done the same for Kenema

District (*Applause*). This is what we have done for the people of Kailahun District. We say gone are the days when you will just sit down and decide. Let people be paid for what they do. Mr Speaker, we need not say much to the people of Kailahun District because we have given them a lot of opportunities. We have now given you a Minister for the Eastern Region. I want you to accept and appreciate us as a party for what we have done. To the other nominees, I want them to know that failure is not an option at all. The people are waiting to see how you can perform your constitutional functions. As a party and as a Government, we must deliver and you have been chosen among the 6 million people of Sierra Leone to help the President. I want you to know that this Parliament will call you back to give account of your stewardship. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here with humility and confidence to recommend to you the proposed Bank Governor, Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo. His nomination can be a little bit controversial, but let me say this with authority that good leaders are found to be economists. In other words, very good leaders are economists and dictators are people with legal backgrounds. This is what we have seen in the person of Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo. The President made no mistake in nominating him to serve as a Bank Governor. There is no success in a country without a very strong economy. Therefore, we need somebody with the type of experience he has in order to move this nation forward. Please, do not allow anybody to fool you in terms of telling you that politics is all about bread and butter. If you have the right set of people who can move this economy forward, then the people can vote you as many times as you want to be in power. I believe when you have the right set of people in the right position, you can be voted in without any iota of doubt. You don't need a Christiana Thorpe to rig an election (*laughter*); you just need the right set of people in the right position. Mr Speaker, it is against this backdrop I am telling you that one of the finest appointments made by the President is the Bank Governorship (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my previous expose, I said that Mr Momodu Kargbo is a very good example Members of Parliament and Ministers can emulate.

Why was he so extraordinary? I said he was the only Minister then who drove himself in his own private car, whilst everybody at that time wanted a brand new vehicle. He served with humility and therefore, my only regret is the gap he is going to create in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Mr Speaker, I was not present during the interview, but he said to the Committee that his appointment would create a big gap in the Ministry. I hope, in the wisdom of His Excellency, he will find a good replacement. It's going to be a very difficult job to replace him because the difference here is going to be great. He is somebody who would approach the issues practically.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other problem is that, his appointment is going to delay the disbursement of our Constituency Development Fund (CDF). That is the difference, Mr Speaker. Therefore, we are looking for somebody who will be a friend of Parliament; somebody who can understand the issues of the Parliament; somebody who can move swiftly on our behalf and make things happen. Mr Momodu Kargbo, if I was present in the interview, I would have told the Committee to withhold your appointment.

However, Mr Speaker Honourable Members, Mr Momodu Kargbo has a herculean task to perform as Bank Governor. Everybody in Sierra Leone, especially the business community, has been exploited. The Dollar currency is gradually gaining prominence over the Leones. This takes me to one of the mobile companies in this country, Celtel. These mobile company operators are telling us that their rates have increased to Le675 because the dollar rate has increased. We are not dealing with dollars in Sierra Leone. I want the proposed Bank Governor to know that our currency is the Leone and that is why I want him to take the challenge, so that he will pay all our transactions in Leones and not in dollars (*Applause*). This is one of the stringent micro-economic policies and I believe in his fiscal discipline. I also believe that he will bring policies that will benefit every Sierra Leonean.

Having said that Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to talk about the philanthropist, Mr Maya Kaikai, proposed Resident Minister, East (*Applause*). I asked myself the question, who can match Mr Juana Smith? However, the appointment of Mr Maya Kaikai has provided the answer. Mr Speaker, for those of us who are

coming from Kailahun District can attest to the fact that Mr Maya Kaikai has done his bits in Kailahun. He has a very big investment in Kenema District. He also has many friends in all the Districts and in all political parties. That is the type of leadership we are looking forward to these days.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Maya Kaikai started a good job at the Transport Authority. I hope other people will copy from him. Your focus should be on Sierra Leone. I want you to help every Sierra Leonean with big dreams. Mr Speaker, to the other nominees, I know very little about them, but I want to say that failure is not an option. I believe the President, in his wisdom, knows that you are up to the task. Please, do not disappoint this Honourable House Let us work for a better Sierra Leone. With these few words, I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily ratify these nominees. I thank you very much for your attention (*Applause*).

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not as happy as I was during the last appointments because of the gender imbalance in today's appointment. I am very concerned about the gender parity in this country. The last appointment was 50/50, but this one is 100% for the men (*Undertone*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Mr Momodu Kargbo, a friend of Parliament. As a Parliament, we are going to miss him very much. We are going to miss him in the sense that as I have spent my life in this Parliament for the past years, I consider him as one of the most articulate and respectful Ministers we ever had. He has been a very good friend of Members of Parliament. Previously, he was dealing with figures and papers, but now, he is going to manage the moneys of this country. He is going to be the sole custodian of this country's money. I want him to take note of the saying that 'money is the root of all evil.' Knowing him to be disciplined, I believe he is going to instill discipline in his new position, if approved by this House. The concept of attitudinal change is all about self-discipline. Now that Mr Momodu Kargbo is going to manage the money of this country, I believe he is going to continue with the same trend in his previous office. Some people found him to be very difficult because he wanted to maintain standard and his own integrity. I hope he will continue to maintain his integrity, in as much he is a presidential nominee. I

want to say that he is not going to represent APC. He is going to represent the people of this country. Mr Speaker, I want to inform Mr Momodu Kargbo that the CDF is his baby. I want this to be his first assignment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next person I want to talk about is Mr Maya Kaikai, whom I have known for a couple of years. He has been an honest gentleman and an illustrious business man for a long period. Nevertheless, I want him to know that he is no longer the business man I used to know, but a representative of the people in the East. The former Resident Minister was a unifier and I will continue to say it. Mr Speaker, although Mr Smith was often called APC Smith, he was found in all the political parties. His door was always opened to all Sierra Leoneans. In the same token, I believe he is going to continue in that direction. Please, I don't want you to go and start a different assignment, but go there and toe the line of your predecessor. If you do this, you will surely succeed. We are proud of you because I believe, as a young man, the youth are also proud of you. It's just a matter of changing the driver, but we are all under the same umbrella. We are all one country and one people. You promised us that your first assignment is going to be the fight against the Ebola disease. I want you to know that Ebola is another war; a war that you cannot even hear the gun shot, but you can see corpses. You are going to serve the people of this country and not a political party. Please, go and serve this nation diligently. The Government is going to use the taxpayer's money to take care of you. I wish you well and I want to urge my colleagues to please approve these nominees. I thank you.

**HON. MUSTAPHA BRAIMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard a senior colleague Member of Parliament saying that politics can also be local. All politics are local and I have heard the fine sentiments expressed about our nominees this morning. I personally know some of these nominees before us. I have worked with some of them in different capacities when I was a broadcaster in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Resident Minister, East, Mr Maya Kaikai. Mr Maya Kaikai and I come from the same Chiefdom, district and region. Mr Maya Kaikai is nominated at a time when this country is under the siege of the Ebola epidemic. In his interview, he acknowledged the fact that the

Ebola virus in the Eastern Region is killing our people. I want to inform this Honourable House that I have lost 6 people in Pendembu this morning. That is what is recorded this morning. I am talking about this issue before the Paramount Chief of Kailahun District. Ebola is a very serious issue in this country and you are coming at a time when it is at its highest peak. I want to encourage you to examine two critical issues in this campaign. The most talked-about logistics and incentives for nurses are yet to be seen. If you go to Kenema treatment center, you will see people lying in their urine without care. Mr Speaker, this is a very big challenge you must fight to address. A colleague of mine went there yesterday and was crying on the phone because of what he saw there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are certain issues from which we cannot be exonerated. I'm saying this because the book of Proverbs 1:7 says: "*The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.*" Also, our people cannot be exonerated either. I have some fear to say this, but I just have to say it because there is no sincerity on the part of those who are implementing government programmes. I want to inform the proposed Resident Minister that the denial syndrome is still conspicuous amongst our people. This is one of the challenges you are going to face with in the discharge of your duties. I was almost beaten on Thursday in a village called Ngehun. The people in that village told me that anybody who talks about Ebola would be dealt with. The Chairman of Kailahun District Council was there. Please, we want you to work very hard, in terms of letting our people know that Ebola is real and not fairy tale.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another issue I want to let this Honourable House know about Mr Maya Kaikai is that, he is a fine gentleman. I have been with him for a while. You are now placed in a very high position in the Kailahun District, in the Eastern Region, where you have authority to make decisions. He has to be very careful in whatever decision he wants to make. I want to say here that there are four sections in my constituency, starting from Luawa Chiefdom. Mr Speaker, it will interest you to know that there was a Paramount Chief who refused to contest the elections in that Chiefdom. He was not working in the interest of the people and the people said that they would not allow him to be reinstated. However, he was

reinstated, despite the pressure, chaos, confusion and uncertainty. Therefore, I want to advise that you use your power judiciously. I want to assure you that those who would be trying to go up the ladder for fear of coming down you will meet some of us very active. There has been a protest that they don't want that Chief. I want you to make the Chief understand that you are not going to be shepherd animals, but people who have conscience; people who can reason well; and people who can appropriately choose between good and evil. If that situation continues like that, there will be anarchy in that Chieftdom. I only pray to God for His protection and wisdom. I encourage you that because you have the authority now, use the wisdom of God to handle that situation. We want Gau to be a peaceful place and I will stand by you in every capacity to bring peace into my constituency. Everybody from Kailahun District knows that Gau is a trouble area.

Mr Speaker, the problem emanated from the fact that there are those who are controlling the people. You are trying to get the things you wanted and you have got one of them. Let us ensure that peace is restored in that Chieftdom. Our people deserve to live peacefully and work hand in gloves with the Chief. The Chief should not impose himself on the people because he is a Chief. If you work hard with the people, you will enjoy your Chieftaincy. I will join you to do anything that can bring peace in the Chieftdom. I am always disturbed with what is happening in that Chieftdom. We have to use the new position that you shall soon get to bring lasting peace in that region.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the other nominees are fine gentlemen. I wish everybody well in his new position. I want to encourage all of us to accept these nominees (*Applause*).

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am going to be very brief. Mr Speaker, for us the Paramount Chiefs, our hearts are at rest because we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. As somebody rightly said, it is going to be very difficult to replace one of the nominees in the position he has been serving. It is going to be difficult, but if his transfer is going to ensure a flamboyant economy in this country, he should be transferred. Similarly, I want to caution that when a good leader goes away, it is always difficult

to find a replacement. According to our Standing Orders, we should not use the President's name to influence the House. I am not choosing his name to influence this House at all, but this is the fact I'm saying here. I want to say that those who are intending to come after Dr Ernest Bai Koroma should be ready for the development that is going on in this country. We expect other leaders to emulate the example of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, in terms of ensuring the development of this country (*Applause*). It is always difficult to replace a good leader like the present President (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, I will spend the whole day to talk about the good qualities of the current President. In a nutshell, whosoever intends to replace Dr Ernest Bai Koroma should be ready to be a hard worker and not a joker (*Applause*).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Benneh Bangura, the fact that the Honourable Paramount Chief is in green, does not anything (*Laughter*).

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the admiration I have in my mind for this President is very great. Here is a President who is serving his last term and yet, he is working assiduously to move this country forward. The reason why I am saying this is that, all the nominees presented to this House this morning look gentle to me. I have said in this House that perceptions differ from person to person. I think anyone who wants to replace a good leader should be hard working, articulate, honest and a team builder. I am of the opinion that the President is gradually preparing Sierra Leoneans to take responsibility, in terms of developing this nation and ensuring the prosperity of the people of this country. Our role, as paramount chiefs, is to advise the Government of the day. And Mr Speaker, I think that is why the people are always feeling that we belong to the Government in power. I want to inform this Honourable House that we don't belong to any political party, but we belong to the Government of the day to give our constructive pieces of advice. We are advisers to the President and to the Government. Therefore, I want to urge this House to speedily ratify these nominees. Thank you very much.

**HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to add my own voice to the nominees before us this morning. I will start my intervention with Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo, whom we commonly

called the friend of Parliament. Everybody in this House, if given the opportunity to talk, will say good things about this gentleman. I'm sure the Honourable Ansumana Jaia Kaikai will say good things about Mr Momodu Kargbo. He has not only been 'a friend of Parliament,' but a brother to all parliamentarians. Mr Momodu Kargbo has transformed the Ministry of Finance and I'm sure he will bring tremendous transformation in the banking industry. There are so many issues surrounding our banking industry. I am sure he is aware of those issues with the commercial banks in this country. The interest rates are very high, especially for small business enterprises. I am talking about the loan interest rate. Also, the mortgage interest rates are very high. I used to charge dollars for my houses, but if you care to know, my tenants are no longer paying dollars, they are paying in Leones.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the proposed Bank Governor to ensure that our constituents are given loans at a low interest rate. Loans are given to the Lebanese and most of them have fled with our monies. We have Sierra Leoneans who are genuine business people in this country, but could not get loans from our banks (*Applause*). We need to lower the interest rate for our business people. We are faced with unemployment challenge as a Government. The unemployment rate is a global issue and not a national issue at all, Mr Speaker. As a result of this, most of our constituents are now business people and some of them do not have the capital to start a business, thus, they turn to the banks for loans. Mr Speaker, it will interest you to know that some of them will even give their houses as collateral. Mr Speaker, because of the high interest rates, some of them have lost their homes. So, I want to appeal, on behalf of the people of this country, to look into this issue very seriously. We want a low interest rate for the small business people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Maya Kaikai. About two months ago, Mr Maya Kaikai was in this House for approval. He was here to be approved as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation (SLRTC). Indeed, this is the appointment we were anticipating for Mr Maya Kaikai. We are hoping that as a party and as a Government, you will win more souls for the APC party in the East (*Applause*). We want to win more people and as my colleague on the other side has rightly said, Mr Maya Kaikai is a unifier. Mr Maya Kaikai cuts

across party lines. As a government, we are confident that he will bring more people for us from the East. To the other nominees, much has not been said about you, but your qualification and experience have said it all. We know that the President has not made any mistake in nominating you to serve this country.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily ratify the nominees before us. I thank you (*Applause*).

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI (*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to the ratification of the motion before us. The Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has done its work and it is now the responsibility of the whole House to make comments on the nominations we have before us, including that of the Bank of Sierra Leone. Ratifications of this nature are very important to the people of this country because the Bank of Sierra Leone, being the head of all other banks in this country is very important to us. Our financial policies are going to be managed by Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo, if this House approves his nomination. Therefore, such a nominee must be somebody who has outstanding economic qualities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Momodu Kargbo is a gentleman who has surgeon with us in this House in his capacity as Deputy Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policy. I participated in his interview and I am of the opinion that he is qualified enough to occupy that seat. However, I have certain observations I must make known to everybody. Success in a fiscal policy does not easily translate into future successes in the implementation of monetary policies, but I am sure, as an Economist and the Bank of Sierra Leone has enough researchers that would give (if approved by this House), the nominee the necessary wherewithal, including solid research support. Mr Speaker, I have been watching the qualitative policy implementation of the bank and the Ministry of Finance. Thus, he is aware of it but he gets clearance from us, if this House approves his nomination. He would be there as Governor, making sure that the policies that he has been following should also serve him well. He is going to serve as reference point as far as the implementation of our monetary policies in this country is concerned. I will urge you to also pay acute attention to the value of our currency. In the last ten days, the world market

has not been kind to our local currency. I want him to take note of that because he should go well prepared to work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that the Treasury bill and the bond rate have improved a lot in the interest of the monetary policy in this country. It is trying to make sure that Government eases itself out of the quantitative policies that had been followed in the previous years. It has yielded actual gains for the economy of this country and the Government. It has helped in reducing public debts. However, Mr Speaker, the interest rates that are charged by the commercial banks are very high. We are quite aware of the fact that the mortgage market in this country is not developed; therefore, the commercial banks are taking advantage of this situation by charging 20% for loans that Sierra Leoneans take from them to even do home repairs. To me, that is hustling and the Bank of Sierra Leone must come up with prudent policies. I hope when Mr Momodu Kargbo would have become the Bank Governor, he would be able to bring down the interest rate. I want him to convince those banks to bring down interest rate to the barest minimum, so that the people of this country will find it convenient to do business with the banks. The interest rates are extremely high and the microcredit sector has not been properly regulated at all, Mr Speaker. I have not seen where the Bank of Sierra Leone had actually come up with any policy in terms of regulating the microcredit issue of this country and it is within the purview of the Bank of Sierra Leone. Therefore, I expect the Bank of Sierra Leone to come up with prudent policies that will be in the best interest of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying this because in my constituency, several people had to change addresses. I am sure that has happened across the board in this country. People had to change addresses because of the way they are being hunted. They cannot pay their bank loans because of the interest rates levied on them, due to the un-supervisory nature of the activities of the microcredit industry in this country. If you are approved by this House, we want to ensure that this industry is properly regulated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I participated in interviewing Mr Collier and Mr Hamid Kamara, successful cashew-nut farmer in Kambia District. I was also satisfied

with the engineer nominated to serve in the Water and Energy Commission. We interviewed all of them and I was satisfied with their responses. I want to briefly talk about Mr Maya Kaikai. I want this Honourable House to know that Mr Maya Kaikai, if approved by this House, will become the Resident Minister in the Eastern Province. He is a good man and his pedigree is one that cares for this country. If you have a fine gentleman like this, be rest assured that he will perform exceptionally well. Mr Speaker, the man who took care of Mr Maya Kaikai was Prof. Septimus Kaikai. I wish all of us will be grateful to him because he served this country well. In the same token, he has brought up somebody who has served this country previously and who is about to be elevated to the position of Resident Minister in the Eastern Province. I pray that he emulates the examples of the man who brought him up, Prof. Septimus Kaikai, an eminent Sierra Leonean.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this House to speedily approve these nominees before us. I thank you (*Applause*).

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, two Economists spoke this morning from the other side of this House. I want to thank everybody who spoke for the kind sentiments expressed this morning. In her contribution, the Honourable Veronica K. Sesay was very worried about women not being nominated. We all agree that we want to involve more women in all appointments, but it is also un-African for us to give women certain positions (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Bank Governor, Mr Momodu Lamin Kargbo. According to the Deputy Minority Leader, he said that the Bank of Sierra Leone is the bankers' bank. Your predecessor was a very principled man and nominating you to serve in that capacity was no mistake. We have known you for a long period and we believe you are going to do better.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Mustapha Braima spoke about the Ebola. All of us have agreed here that Ebola is a national issue. It is not only a national menace, but a regional threat. It is in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. We can be infected easily because of proximity of these three countries. Mr Speaker, all

I want to tell Mr Maya Kaikai is to ensure that he puts up a national posture in the fight against the Ebola epidemic. The office he is going to manage is a national office and that is why he is here to be approved by this House. I want to tell the nominees to make sure that they put up a national posture, so that they don't betray the confidence we have bestowed upon them. Thank you very much *(Applause)*.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*(Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been ratified)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Gentlemen, it is now for me to congratulate you and wish you well in your new positions. Mr Momodu Kargbo, every Member of Parliament says you are a friend of all of us. Now that there is an eager expectation with regards to the implementation of the CDF, we hope at this very time and for that matter at this material time, you will demonstrate that friendship to them. I wish you well and thank you very much *(Applause)*.

**V. BILL:**

TRADE MARKS ACT, 2014

SECOND READING, COMMITTEE STAGE

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(CONTINUED DEBATE)

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Minister had, in the second reading of the debate, made his presentation. I will now put the question.

*(Question Proposed)*

**HON. AJIBOLA MANLEY-SPAIN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to this debate. Mr Speaker, during the pre-legislative hearing of this Bill, we got series of responses by the Minister, Registrar of Companies, Administration and Registrar General. Members of Parliament were not actively involved and as a result, they did not ask questions. Members of Parliament were also unable to comments on the Bill. Well, might be

either we do not understand the nature of the Bill before us or we are happy with what was presented to us. To me, I was very happy with what was presented to us by the Minister and the Registrar General.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is undoubted that there is a need for the passage of this new Bill into law. We are currently under an Act that was passed in 1960. Mr Speaker, as it has been with this Parliament, many other Bills that were passed into law in those days have been repealed and replaced by new Bills. Honourable Members, it is in line with what is happening in the world that this Bill, the Trademark Act, 2014 is before us this morning for ratification. There is a need for us to pass this Bill into law because of the benefits it is going to usher to this nation and the business people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a trade mark is a mark, a sign or logo which a person who has created or discovered or produced a certain good or service can use to protect his discovery. The reason for this is that in the world today, if you do not find ways to protect what you have discovered, there will be some sort of chaos and there will be no reward for your work, because when you produce or discover product and you fail to protect it with a trademark, somebody somewhere will try to benefit from it without your knowledge. In other words, somebody will infringe on your right. For example, if Mr X is selling Aromatic Coffee, which he chooses to call Bassoon Aromatic Pure Coffee, and somebody else decides to produce the same brand he chose to call Bassoon Pure Coffee and leaves out 'Aromatic,' this means that if you are in a hurry to buy the Bassoon Aromatic Pure Coffee, you might buy the wrong brand. This is what is known as passing-off. Your right can be infringed also by somebody using the same label which you are using for your product. Mr Speaker if we do not have a registry where these marks are registered, then there would be chaos in the business world. People should be rewarded for what they have created or discovered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the above preamble, it is quite clear that we should pass this Bill into law. I am in support of the passing of this Bill into law. However, I had a meeting with the Minister and the Registrar-General that there is more work to be done on this Bill, so that we get a Bill that will pose no problem in

the future. I have always said that as Members of Parliament, we should always try to ensure that we do a clean job, so that when we leave here, we are satisfied that we have passed good Bills. We don't want Bills to be referred to us or after we have passed them somebody comes up with certain problems about the Bills. I have also discussed this Bill with my Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Committee. There are certain areas we believe we would have to work on. At the end of this debate, I shall move a motion for this Bill to be committed to the Legislative Committee. I want to assure you that if it is committed to the Legislative Committee, we will eventually have a better Bill. In other words, we would have looked at the Bill properly and make the changes that we feel necessary. They are not few, but quite extensive. Most of the changes we want to effect are found in clauses 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 36, 47, 48 and 55. Thank you very much.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH (*Deputy Speaker of the House*):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution might be briefer than the previous speaker. It is very important for us to have a Trademark Act, particularly those that were done before 1960 to be brought in line with contemporary laws in the world. Registrations of marks are very important, Mr Speaker. I am sure that in this very Well, we may have people who are desirous of protecting their marks and you may also have people who are involved in designs. I used to see some of them. I wonder if they are still in this country. But Mr Speaker, I will give you a simple scenario. I'm sure all of us do remember the mobile company named zain. Presently, it has been renamed as Airtel.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, was it first called Celtel?

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** It was first called Celtel and later called Zain. But before they could change the name to Zain, there was a serious legal tussle in our courts. At that time, we do not have good laws like the ones we have now. It was very difficult for the Sierra Leonean to have protected his mark. There was a gentleman along Siaka Stevens Street, who operated under the name 'Zain.' They were supposed to have compensated him heavily before they could have registered that mark in Sierra Leone, but he was paid pittance because the laws we had in

Sierra Leone, which we are about to change now were not sufficient enough to have protected his rights.

Mr Speaker, some years ago, all of us knew Levi Trust Jean in Australia. It was a Jean Company because the mark was registered by a young Australian fellow at the age of 16. In fact, before Levi was registered in Australia, they had to pay him over a million dollars. We have many Sierra Leoneans who are doing very well in their businesses. I want Members of Parliament to know that Mr Hamid Kamara was here this morning and he had made his mark in the cashew trade.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, Honourable Ajibola Spaine spoke about 'Aromatic Coffee' scenario. A lot of passing-off is going on within Sierra Leone. You even have people whose trademarks are registered in quote. But because the laws are not as strong as she would want them to be, she has found it very difficult to protect some of these marks. Mr Speaker, some of the people who are importing fake products, using similar marks from Asia or other parts of the world are affecting our international trade in Sierra Leone. I am saying this because if you are importing something from the United States, somebody will go to China and import similar products, using the same marks, but the content are definitely not of the same standards. All these are issues that this Bill seeks to address. I will join the Chairman of the Legislative Committee in assuring him of our support. I believe that this Bill is a bench mark and as a Parliament, we should endeavour to support good practices, so that we get good laws. I thank you very much.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that sometimes you may be difficult to convince, but I want to join the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and the Deputy Speaker to commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee. This is because we believe that our principal role, as a Committee, is to ensure that we enact good laws, laws that are devoid of mistakes and other problems. We need laws that will address the real issues, as the Minister and the Legislative Committee intends to do now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having gone through this Bill page by page, paragraph by paragraph and clause by clause, we have discovered a lot of

inconsistencies. It is our duty to correct those inconsistencies and we believe that this time is not enough for us to do a thorough job. We need time to sit as a Committee. There are lots of jurisdictional problems in this Bill that we need to rectify. In fact, there are also problems that have to do with the non-existence of certain laws that are being mentioned, which we need to enact before this Bill. Therefore, I want to join the Chairman of the Legislative Committee and the Deputy Speaker in committing this Bill to the Legislative Committee, so that we will have more time to examine the pros and cons of this Bill. I thank you very much.

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI:** I thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was a little bit lost because I thought we had finished. I think the reason why the debate has not been lively is because it is a regulatory Bill and at such, the concept of it is not political. Mr Speaker, this is a Bill, if passed into law, would replace the original Bill that was passed during colonial times. The bottom line is that, as far as this Bill is concerned, there is not much about it, than to further modernise it and make legal inputs that will stand the test of time. The Legislative Committee Chairman was trying to convince us to commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee. The question is, can such a Bill be passed in this House without going to the Legislative Committee? Yes, but if we do that, we will become the laughing stock. I think we would have passed an incomplete law. I will urge that we do what has been suggested by the Chairman of the Legislative Committee, in compliance with the Standing Orders 51. I thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Thank you very much. Mr Speaker Honourable Members this is one of the Bills that I want to commend the Minister who is piloting it for his hard work. Apart from the pre-legislative hearing, he has also endeavoured to provide us with the necessary literature for our reading. Therefore, I want to encourage Honourable Members that their understanding would be better realised if they read these two documents. I hope Members of Parliament saw them in their pigeon holes. With this, Mr Speaker, I want to also recommend that we commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, what I want to tell you is that, I have a voluminous book. It is a 'dictionary of law' since I came to Parliament. I have always been

reading that book and I have been reading about trademark, but if the Honourable Ajibola Spain had said to me what he had to say this morning about trademark, there would have been no need for me to read that book on trademark. This is because I'm sure, all of us are being educated by what he has said, endorsed by the Deputy Speaker. So, Honourable Ajibola Spain, pursuant to what you have said, would you like to move your motion?

**HON. AJIBOLA MANLEY-SPAIN:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Orders 51... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry, Honourable Ajibola Spain. Mr Minister, before this Bill is committed to the Legislative Committee and having heard from Members of Parliament, do you have anything to say?

**THE MINISTER:** No, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled: "The Trademark Act, 2014," be read the second time.

*(The Bill entitled: "The Trademark Act, 2014" has been read the second time).*

**HON. AJIBOLA MANLEY-SPAIN:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Orders 51, I move that the Bill entitled: "The Trademark Act, 2014," be committed to the Legislative Committee. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*(The Bill entitled: "The Trademark Act, 2014" has been committed to the Legislative Committee)*

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** I stand on S. O. 23, to draw your attention to an issue we should not appear to be paying the attention it deserves since the outbreak of the Ebola virus in this country. Members of Parliament have cooperated in their own way and in various ways with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and other concerned authorities committed to the intensification of the awareness raising programme of the deadly Ebola epidemic. We have nothing outside the entrance to

this Parliament of what other public institutions have done in terms of the positioning of the chlorine bucket and sanitizers. I would, at this point, appeal to the Leadership of this House to provide this building with chlorine buckets and sanitizers. I am saying this because as politicians, we are really vulnerable. Therefore, I want to use this opportunity to appeal for the provision of these facilities. I thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY (*Clerk of Parliament*):** Mr Speaker, in connection to what Honourable Frank Kposowa has said, we have contacted Mr Bassie Turay to provide us with chlorine and he has asked us to send our medical personnel to collect the necessary supplies.

**HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA (*Chief Whip*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Airtel charges have changed from unit to Leones, but it seems as if we now pay more than before. I want to call on the Committee on Information and Communications for the attention of Airtel to explain better to this nation the transformation of the unit to Leones. The people of this country deserve to know and understand whether we are paying the same amount or we are paying more.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want the Chairman of Information and Communications to take note of this issue.

**HON. BENNEH BANGURA:** Noted, Mr Speaker.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*(The House rose at 2.00 p.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, at 10.00 a.m.)*