



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 16th April, 2013.

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PROPOSER: HON. S.B.B DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE ELEVENTH REPORT 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



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 16th April, 2013.

The House met at 10:25 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

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, 27TH
MARCH, 2013**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 27th March, 2013. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Can somebody move that record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 27th March, 2013 be adopted as presented?

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: I so move Mr Speaker.

HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question proposed put at agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 27th March, 2013

Was unanimously adopted as presented

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

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SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE ELEVENTH REPORT 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

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are two Motions. I will first start with the Eleventh Report.

THE SPEAKER: No. I believe we are going to item III.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Yes Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, if you look at item 3, there are two Reports to be presented. That is what I want to call your attention to.

THE SPEAKER: Two Motions under item III?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Where do we see the two Reports? Under the proposition, there is the Eleventh Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Sorry Mr Speaker. You are right Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Eleventh 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 met on Wednesday 27th March 2013 and interviewed one Presidential nominee for appointment as Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Pertinent questions put to the nominee were related to his educational background, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations, public information sought and his vision for a successful tenure of office.

3. SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH, 2013

The following nominee was interviewed:

i. Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh, Proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

Mr Wurroh Jalloh is a Mechanical Engineer who joined the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration as a Nautical Surveyor in 2003. He rose through the ranks to the position of Deputy Executive Director in 2009. In February 2011, he was re-designated Deputy Executive Director and Officer-in-Charge and, in August 2011, he was appointed Acting Executive Director, a position he has held to date. Prior to joining the Maritime Administration, Alhaji Jalloh was a Senior Lecturer at the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, Congo Cross Campus.

Questioned on the issue of "flag of convenience," Alhaji Jalloh deposed that Sierra Leone is operating an international registry because of the difficulty in attracting European ship owners to come to Sierra Leone to register their ships. Off-shore offices have therefore been established to enable foreign ship owners to easily register their vessels with Sierra Leone. The issue of Flag of Convenience, he said, "is about competition. Liberia has been in the business for about fifty years and has over 2000 ships registered. All the American ship owners are registering their vessels with Liberia. Ship owners generally register their ships with countries where taxes are low. Ships are charged on their tonnage, size and type and not on their numbers. Large ships like tankers, cruise liners bring in more revenue than a number of tug-boats."

"The issue of Flag of Convenience in Sierra Leone," he said, "has been fraught with problems that we are currently trying to solve. I have been instructed to review all the contracts entered into by my predecessor with the view of ensuring that the best interest of this nation is factored into those contracts." He admitted that Sierra Leone was generating revenue from the flags of convenience registrations and that such revenue was going directly into the Consolidated Funds.

On the issue of reviewing the Maritime Administration Act, he said, he had always

Planned to review the Act. "While I was Acting Executive Director, I appealed to the International Maritime Organization, (IMO) and they sent three consultants to review the Act and that of the 'Merchant Shipping Act.' One thing I made clear to them was the position of Executive Director. All the Heads of Maritime Administrations in the sub region are Director-General and not Executive Directors." That, he said, would need to be amended in line with other Maritime Administrations in the sub-region. "Provision for Deputy Director in the Act is phrased as 'May' when it should be 'shall' to make it mandatory. All these and others would need to be amended by Parliament."

Alhaji. Wurroh Jalloh promised to work closely with Parliament, particularly the Members of the Pan-African Parliament, to ratify 'the African Charter on Maritime Transport.' "We have already started working on it. 'The African Charter on Maritime Transport,' he said, would be good for the country and we will fast-track it.

4. Recommendation:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominee to be adequately qualified for his proposed appointment and is recommended to the House for approval: Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh, Proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eleventh Report portrays the collective views of the Committee. I therefore move that the Eleventh Report 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.

THE SPEAKER: I suppose we take them singly. We have to take them one after the other. Is that correct Honourable Member?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: If the Speaker so desires. Mr Speaker, I respectfully ask that we take the two together.

THE SPEAKER: Alright. You want to take the Twelfth Report.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, twelfth 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, cognizant of its constitutional responsibility of vetting Presidential nominations for public appointments, met on Wednesday 10th April 2013 and interviewed two Presidential nominees for appointment as:

- i. Director General, Petroleum Directorate;
- ii. Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).

2. Procedure

The Committee strictly adhered to its established procedure of questioning the nominees on wide ranging issues pertaining particularly to their educational background, suitability in terms of character, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally successful tenure of office.

3. SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2013

The following nominees were interviewed:

1. Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo, Proposed Director General, Petroleum Directorate

Mr Raymond Kargbo is doubly qualified as a 'Mineral Geologist' and as a 'Petroleum Geoscientist' with over ten years work experience in the petroleum sector. Mr Kargbo

has worked for international Oil companies, Service Companies and Government institutions in different regions. He has extensively worked with:

- i. BHP Billiton as Regional Project Manager (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea)
- ii. British Petroleum in Angola and both sectors of the North Sea
- iii. Stumberger in Nigeria, Ghana, Mauritania and Benin
- iv. Worked as Lead Consultant and Project Manager in the development of a Deep Sea Port and Oil Services based in Ghana

Mr Kargbo has a wealth of professional managerial work experience. He has served as: 2011 – date, Acting Director-General, Petroleum Directorate, Sierra Leone; 2007 – 2011, Petroleum Geoscientist, Petroleum Resources Unit; 2007 – date, Associate Lecturer, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone; and 1994-1996, Field Assistant, Koidu Holdings (Diamond Mining Company)

Answering to questions on his readiness to assume substantive office as Director General of the Petroleum Directorate, Mr. Kargbo submitted that he was more than ready. "Things were a bit difficult in the acting position as I did not have overall authority. In an acting position," he went on, "there is always something running through your mind that you have to be careful as your position is not yet substantive. I want to assure the Committee that I am prepared and that I will bring on board every weapon in my arsenal to ensure that the Petroleum Directorate is set on a sound footing. I am very much aware that there are lots of challenges and one of these is certainly the management of expectations. There are already programmes that I had started while I was Acting Director General that I am keen to continue. Trust me," he said, "I am up to the task and would not betray the confidence reposed in me."

Mrs Isatu Kamara (nee Bah), Proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)

Mrs Isatu Kamara is an Educationist and a Development Consultant of eminence. She is currently the Training Coordinator and Acting Executive Director of the 'Sierra Leone Opportunities Industrialisation Centre,' (SLOIC) Bo.

Mrs Isatu Kamara viewed her nomination as a call to national duty and promised, on oath, to put service to the nation above all personal considerations.

Recommendations:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to possess the requisite qualifications for their proposed appointments and they are recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo, Director-General, Petroleum Directorate; and
- ii. Mrs Isatu Kamara nee Bah, Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this report embodies the explicit confidence reposed by all Members of the Appointments Committee on the nominees. The nominees have to their credit impressive academic qualifications backed by application and experience that could be relied upon to achieve those national objectives for which the institutions of their appointments were established.

To the nominees, I want to say that with your qualification and experience, this august body is relying on you to live up to your promises, to initiate good policies, to supervise, to control management, to enforce prudent management of resources so as to ensure the attainment of the national objectives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the approval of these nominees by this Honourable House is not an end in itself. There are provisions in the Constitution that empower this House to make a follow-up on their performance, to monitor them and to report to Parliament for necessary remedial action.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twelfth Report is the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twelfth Report 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.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, there are two Motions before the House now. I take the first Motion, Eleventh Report. Any seconder to that Motion?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Speaker I so second.

THE SPEAKER: I now take the Twelfth Report. Any seconder to that Motion?

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I would like to second that Motion as it is on the Order Paper.

(Question Proposed)

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to crave the indulgence of this House to support the nomination of a lady. I think if all the women of this Parliament are here today, they would have been very happy to find Madam Isatu Kamara in front of the Well of Parliament for approval.

Mrs Kamara had been a very wonderful woman in the development of youths in Bo. Most especially those youths who have been aspiring for progress. If we want to talk about the OIC today, which is running right through this nation, one of the brains behind that particular institution is Mrs Isatu Kamara. After Mr Sam Maligi left, she had been there doing her bit in every facet to move that organisation forward and to ensure

that the youths in the South, North, East and West find jobs for themselves. This is because they've gone through better training. If you want to talk about jobs in the mining industries, some of those facilities came from that end, the Bo and Bonthe OICs. And the OIC is also found in Makeni. Therefore, if you have a lady like this coming before you for an elevation to the job of NaCSA, who has been taking the development of this nation to every doorstep, I think it should be a pride for all parliamentarians to see her through. This lady, being an educationist I do believe will bring so much effort to see the developments of Sierra Leoneans. She wants to ensure the development of schools, hospitals and agricultural facilities through NaCSA to our different homes. I would therefore want to crave your indulgence to support her. Let us all come together and approve Mrs Isatu Kamara. I believe if given this opportunity, we are going to be very comfortable with the ideas she is going to inject into NaCSA. That is my recommendation Mr speaker. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. AJIBOLA MANLEY-SPAIN: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to contribute to this debate. My colleague has spoken on behalf of the lady and I want to speak on behalf of the two gentlemen who have been proposed to head the Maritime Administration and the Petroleum Directorate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to know the proposed Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration few years back. I knew he was in the teaching profession and I was practically not aware of his professional qualifications. But from what I have read and having known him for the past few years, I believe that a better choice could not have been made. He has gone through the ranks since 2009. He is young and I know he is energetic. From the answers to the questions put to him, it appears that he knows what it is to head the Maritime Administration. He has promised to walk with Parliament and he says that he has already started doing so.

But Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should caution him since he is a young man. He is going to be exposed to power and wealth. He should be mindful of the recent history of the administration. He should not fall into trenches or snares. He should be

diligent and work in the interest of the country. The very special saying in the press and in politics today is that the youths must take over. He is a youth and I am sure he would want to do well. I want to wish him all the best and I want him to take into consideration that if he fails this nation, history will judge him. I think he would not want to have that in his records.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without hesitation, I would implore you all to accept and approve the nomination of Mr Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh to the post of Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just to go on with the proportionality of the appointments, I want to say something briefly about Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo, proposed Director General, Petroleum Directorate. My interaction with Mr Kargbo has been in this parliament and I believe we have had a couple of pre-legislative meetings, particularly when we were dealing with the Petroleum Act in the past few years. I believe Mr Kargbo can perform well. My advice to him is that, this is a new administration and he is opportuned to lead it. He has the experience overseas and he should bring it to the Directorate. He should also understand that what he begins with will set the pace. If he leads well, then, that would be the basis for the Petroleum Industry in Sierra Leone. I wish you well and I would also ask my colleagues to support his nomination. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRAIMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think if I should say that even the Angels are smiling today because the right people have been nominated to the right places. We were created male and female and I always say when selections are really gender balance, you enjoy it. And I think when the right thing is done, we should praise and appreciate it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think this is one of the best selections I have ever seen here since I entered this Honourable House. Having gone through the recommendations and also seeing the individuals themselves, I have no doubt that they

can perform. I always say that we have always been at the bottom of the least developing countries in the world. And if we want to continue to change that position, we should put the right people in the right places. It is only when we do this that this country will again return to her mother rightful place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to talk briefly about Mrs Isatu Kamara. I am really overwhelmed because as my colleague has already said, Mrs Kamara has invested so much into developing humanity, especially in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone. I have known her for quite some time now. She has been my secret admirer. This is because I always say that when people do the right thing, they should be admired. I don't admire people because of what they are. I admire them based on their performance. I also admire people because of their willingness to share whatever they have with other people. Mrs Isatu Kamara has been like that until 2010 when I made my admiration known to her. Mrs Kamara is not just an educationist at all. She is simple and accommodating. She believes in what she does more than what people say about her. She is an action oriented woman. If I am to recommend her, I think five pages would not be enough. She is a good woman (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I am talking about Mrs Isatu Kamara's investment in humanity, I am simply saying that she is developing the hands that would save this country. She has done so well Mr Speaker. She has taken side in the past with the less privileged and the youths who considered themselves drop-outs. She is taking side with the women, especially those deprived women. If we are talking about women and youths participation in politics in the Southern Region, she is one of the architects. She has been my allied. This is why we need to put the right people in the right places. I am very sure that with this kind of selection, we would have a changed Parliament in the future. But as I was saying, putting the right people in the right places will definitely change this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Isatu Kamara is somebody who believes in action. She has no ethnic and regional divide when comes to responding to the needs

of people, especially the less privileged. I always ask the question, what social action will you have without the full participation of women. This is because if you are talking about social neglect, you are talking about the youths and women. Therefore, somebody who has committed to that kind of commitment in the past is one of the right persons to be put in such place.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to say that if we continue having such nominations in this House, we would definitely be a hopeful nation. The Agenda for Prosperity might succeed. I am saying that if we continue having the right people in the right places, the Agenda for Prosperity would definitely succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh. I also see his nomination as one of the best. This is because the way he handled some human rights issues. He spoke about how other nations, how a country like Liberia has emerged from post-war challenges to making a mark. I think we need to have such young and energetic people, people who are ready to take Sierra Leone to its rightful place. Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that approving these three nominees would definitely be one of the best things we would do as a House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Director General, Petroleum Directorate, Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo. He already knows the challenges of that Department. We are sick and tired of being in queues every two months. We want to see how you can import some of the experiences from other countries to this country. His Curriculum Vitae is very rich. I like it Mr Speaker. It is very rich and I see him as a very young man returning to Sierra Leone at this crucial moment. Your return to this country implies you want to bring the experience and expertise you have mustered over the years. You want to make this nation a proud nation. And I want to tell you now that one of your very first challenges in that Department will be how you will deal with the queues for fuel in the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees we have before us are among the best. Looking at their CVs, their background, they can perform if given this opportunity. They are all very young. I always say that women should be included in all appointments. It is pleasant to see one man one woman. The inclusion of women gives brighter look.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would definitely crave the indulgence of the House to speedily approve these three nominees. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel honoured to be able to say a few words in this particular debates. First of all I want to make a simple comment that we would not hesitate to thank the President for the gender sensitivity of these nominees before us. It shows how much he is committed to the issue of gender equality and the issue of empowering the young people. We have two young people before us this morning. They are well educated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also are impressed by the fact that there is unity in this House. In fact, it cuts across all the reports we've had in this Honourable House concerning Presidential nominations. The House has been united in applauding the nominations of the President. This means that in spite of the differences between the Ruling and the opposition, we are recognizing good things as far as nation building is concerned. We have a common understanding and common interest of recognizing and approving good things for the benefit of this country. And I want to commend this House for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to delve into one nominee, Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo, who is my constituent from Kamakwe. I have known him throughout these years from his childhood. I played a great role in his education. He attended the KWSS, one of the great schools in the North. Actually, I wanted to say a little thing about the KWSS, but I won't. Though that school used to be a great school, but I am of the opinion that is not among the greatest schools like the St. Edwards Secondary

School. But on the other hand, as Wole Soyinka says: *"live the dead some rooms to dance."* Mr Kargbo is a product of the great school in Kamakwe and through the ranks he has proved himself to be a very talented person. He is hard working, disciplined and honest. I think there is enough evidence for that, not only his glowing tribute from the Committee but also his documents did testify that. But over and beyond, he has worked as Operations Director in the Department of Petroleum Resource and worked with his Excellency for nearly five years as Acting Director and later got approval. This shows that even his Excellency the President is satisfied with him. So, we have somebody before us, a very young man who has great potentials to push the Petroleum Industry in this country to a level where we would all benefit. And this I think is very important because our mineral resources, as we have learnt in the past could be a blessing or a curse. Do we have a strong foundation on which the mineral industry is built? That is the question that needs to be addressed. And I think in the last two years, Mr Kargbo has worked very hard. If you go through the Agreements made, especially with the companies that have got blocks of late, you will see that it has a very sound foundation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we cannot be wiser than the President. We are building on the Agenda for Change. We still have issues with the Agenda for Change. So, let us talk about the Agenda for Change before we move on to the Agenda for Prosperity. But what I want to say is that, this time round, we are looking for people with sound intelligence for the Agenda for Prosperity. We are looking for people with sound certification, people with the relevant experience and expertise, with proven records of performance. The Agenda for Prosperity needs people with integrity and sincerity. I think we find all these virtues in Mr Kargbo. I therefore urge this Honourable House to speedily endorse the recommendations of the Appointments Committee. I thank you (*Applause*).

HON. P. C. PRINCE LAPPYA BOIMA III: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to have a say in the approval of these three nominees before us this morning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would start with the lady, Mrs Isatu Kamara, who happens to be one of my subjects. When the Majority Leader was reading about Mrs Isatu Kamara, he said: "she is an educationist." He said it all. Being an educationist, I always love people referred to as educationists. When somebody is described as an educationist, it means what that person knows is in direct conformity with his or her behavior and conduct. There is a positive change on what the person knows about his/her society and that is what Mrs Isatu Kamara is. She has a positive resume or conduct on the society she lives. I happen to be on one or two Boards with her. She has extra energy in working. Sometimes if I say I am tired to work, she would call me and asked: Are we not going to that meeting today? For me, she inspired people to do what they are supposed to do. She has always being with the youths. For OIC to survive up to this time, I think she is the brain behind that. This is an organisation that picks people from nowhere and takes them to somewhere. It is not only dealing with the less privileged Sierra Leoneans, but I think the military can have a take on that. There was a time when the military wanted to construct their own houses. They went to the OIC and they engaged Mrs Kamara. She told them that she would do something towards that. She developed those young men and today they are serviceable to the military of Sierra Leone. She changed that set of people who were fixed in opinion and then, transformed them to something else. Most of them are now masons, carpenters etc. I think she has a very broad perspective of transforming weak minds to strong minds. Mrs Kamara is well educated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Jalloh. Mr Jalloh is another educationist. Mr Speaker, Mr Jalloh has proved to Sierra Leone that he is a hard working man. He is currently using the experiences he has mustered over the years to develop this country. But one thing one must know is that, if you want to know the

person's friendship with you, give him/her money or power. If that friend still respects you as a friend, then, he/she is a friend indeed. If you want Sierra Leone to know what you have learnt, this House is about to give you the power for which the President nominated you. But I think it's time for you to give back to Sierra Leone what I think Sierra Leone deserves from you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to the proposed Director of Petroleum Mr Kargbo. Sometimes I am overwhelmed when I see young people learned. I do admire them because I know what it takes for people to go through education. I know the sacrifices they are making, especially those coming from the diaspora to come and serve their country. But I do see that you have been a man in the field. As a Geologist, you've not only been involved in tapping the rocks and taking the samples to the laboratory, but you have also been engaged in doing what is moving this country forward. I want you to bring to your office what you have learnt from the field. There are lots of soil samples you've been dealing with. Also, you have a lot of samples that you are going to be dealing with in the form of human beings. So, I ask that you transform those ideas you learnt in the field so that we can have an office that will service this country well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish the three nominees that this Parliament is not their enemy. The Majority Leader of the House mentioned that when he was reading the Reports. But if you fail to do your own part of the job, this Parliament would caution you. Don't see parliamentarians as enemies at all. When they knock at your door, please open the door wide for them. Maybe there is something tangible to be discussed with you. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. ALBERT DEEN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, permit me to say thanks to the Almighty God for giving us a leader who always come with positive answers. Since we started approving nominations in this House, Honourable Members of both sides of the ayes are always saying: "*this is the best appointments.*" Coming to say few words from the

nominations before us here today, I want to start with Mrs Isatu Kamara. To be candid enough, I have never met her before. But the name Kamara rings a bell. And I believe she would stand to be a true Kamara. I have no doubt about that. I would congratulate you in advance. I know that few minutes from now your nomination would be endorsed by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo from Kamakwe. I am not from Kamakwe, but the Kargbos are powerful people from Kamakwe. And I believe the President did not make a mistake when he nominated you to serve this country. Mr Kargbo, I want to tell you that you are going to meet challenges in that sector. The issue of petrol in this country has become an unbecoming. And I believe you have been appointed to serve in that capacity. I know that you would be the right person to handle this position. And I know the President in his wisdom thought it fit to bring you in.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh is a brother to me. He hails from the Bombali District. I know him not only because he is from the Bombali District, but Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh is a name to reckon with. He is an engineer. He is not just picked from anywhere; he is a qualified engineer. He is a qualified Mechanical Engineer. Since he joined the Maritime Administration in 2003, I have been visiting him. If I asked what his problem was, he would say: *"I don't have a problem."* And by the special grace of God, what he has been looking for he will find it today. Mr Alhaji Wurroh is a resilient worker. He works a lot. And I believe that being the Executive Director in the Maritime Administration, we would see a lot of positive changes in that Department. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to contribute to the motion before us this morning, the ratification of the nominations of three eminent Sierra Leoneans before us this morning. I will start with the twelfth report that focuses on two nominations; one Director General Petroleum Directorate, and Deputy Commissioner, NaCSA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Petroleum Directorate is very important as it is the one overseeing our petroleum resources like the oil and gas in this country. And this is a very important resource. From experiences with other countries, if properly handled, it can actually transform this nation from poverty to that of prosperity. On the other hand, if it is not properly handled, instead of being a blessing it can be a curse to a nation. We have numerous examples of how mineral resources, particularly the petroleum resources have been a point of controversies in many African countries. In this regard, (in selecting personnel to work in such an important directorate) many factors would have to be taken into consideration. Professionalism is one of the factors that should be taken into consideration. There is also sense of direction and vision. From what we have before us and what was also submitted by the candidate, Mr Raymond Saidu Kargbo, (being a young man but having attained such experience and professionalism within a short span of his life), I think he has been well selected to handle that important institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as he takes up his appointment, I want to draw his attention to a few issues that I would want him to pay special attention to. We have a paucity of professionals in this country on petroleum oil and gas. Therefore, while maybe at the initial stage we would depend on foreign experts, I hope with time we would be able to train our indigenous Sierra Leoneans to take up those positions. This is because if we don't, then, most of our money would be spent on recruiting foreign expatriates and therefore, the capital flight that such employment holds can be very high. When we passed the Petroleum Act, we were made to understand that already a few Sierra Leoneans are out of the country training in various aspects of our oil and gas sectors. I don't know the total number of people that were involved in the training, but I hope that they would be trained enough to come back to this country to work in the various aspects of this important institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most importantly also, I want the young man to work again with Parliament. This is because it is a very technical area. Contracts of this

nature are very technical. Chasing revenues in this sector is also a very technical issue, especially at the parliamentary level with regard to Oversight. We want our Members of Parliament, particularly those in the Mines and Minerals Committee (even though this Petroleum Directorate falls under the Presidency according to the Act), to work with Committee Members. We have had one or two international trainings in Tanzania, under Revenue Watch. During the trainings, Members of Parliament were exposed to how to analyse oil contracts so that we have a very good agreement. But there is high rate of attrition every time we come from elections. I am not even sure how many of those Members in the Mines and Minerals Committee in the last Parliament came back. Therefore, there is need for us to have further trainings on the generality of the Parliament on the petroleum industry, petroleum resources and petroleum contracts. And on how we as Members of Parliament will do our oversight work to ensure that we get a good deal from our revenue. I think this is very important. I want you to pursue it in conjunction with the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. We also have both national and international NGO's that are also on the extractive and oil industries. You can work together to ensure that we continuously provide this type of capacity building for our Members of Parliament so that they can contribute meaningfully to this important institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very recently, Sierra Leone has had some problems with the EITI. This is because of certain lapses. One of these lapses has to do with the transparent way in which we have been reporting our revenue from our minerals. I know that we are getting revenue from our petroleum resources, even when explorations are going on. Again, when we build this capacity, Sierra Leone will become more compliant and we would not have the embarrassment of being named as not been compliant with regard to our EITI obligations. So, I hope that special attention will be paid to it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about a sister to me, Mrs Isatu Kamara, who has been nominated to the post of Deputy Commissioner for NaCSA. I

want to congratulate her in advance for her recognition. A lot has been said about her this morning. I think she has worked well. That is why she is being rewarded with more work. I have no doubt that she is going to transfer the plethora of skills and experiences she has mustered from the OIC to her new position. Again, let me draw your attention to a few issues as you take up this appointment. We want you to pay attention to some of the issues I am going to talk about. The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has been like a sort of development wing, especially in post-conflict Sierra Leone. And we must commend NaCSA for doing marvelous work in this country. Today, everywhere you go in this country you will see the handy work of NaCSA. But there are few concerns that we want you to take on board as you take up this appointment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first concern has to do with the involvement of Members of Parliament in the work of NaCSA at the constituency level. There has been complaint over and over that sometimes NaCSA undertakes projects, either the launching of projects, commissioning of projects or designing of projects with little involvement and participation of Members of Parliament. Sometimes a Member of Parliament sits down without being informed that a project is being commissioned in his/her constituency. That Member of Parliament would be bombarded with phone calls by his/her constituents to ask why that Member of Parliament did not come. Sometimes we are baffled because we have no idea as to what is happening in one's constituency. And it may not be unconnected therefore, that we see a few misplaced projects. As I go round the country, I do see few infrastructural development projects that have been abandoned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to the Rogbere Junction, you will find out that there is a big market in that place that has never been used. There is also a big NaCSA Project at the Mano Junction that has not been used at all. There is also the RTI in Kenema. That NaCSA Project has not been used. Sometimes I do ask myself, why? These projects are not far away from the people, but they don't use the facilities given

to them. Therefore, I ask myself the extent to which the constituents were involved in the identification and location of those spots. Mr Speaker, this would result to wastage of resources. Rogbere Junction is so central that if people were involved in the location of that Market, then, the market would have been located where the women and the young men are selling their produce. They could have bought some houses where the vehicles used to park, demolish these houses, relocate some of those houses and situate the market right in the middle where the buses park. But where the buses do park is far removed from where the market is located. Every time I pass there, I feel disheartened that this is a very big structure that is not in use. Take the Moyamba Junction. Moyamba Junction was well placed and well located and is being used to the fullest. So, these are some of the things we want you to take onboard as you assume this position. In future projects, we want to take onboard all the stakeholders, especially in the designing of those projects so that at the end of the day, it doesn't become a white elephant. I wish you good luck in your new endeavours and I have no reason to doubt that you will not do well in that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to Mr Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh, proposed Executive Director for the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. The Sierra Leone Maritime Administration is an important aspect of transportation in Sierra Leone. And it is very well located in the sense that we can boast of having one of the best natural Marine Resources. Therefore, the Maritime Administration is well positioned to help us benefit from our natural resources. Looking the resume of this nominee, it is very rich. As already introduced, he is a young man. One or two Members of Parliament happened to have taught him when he was in secondary school. Therefore, I am sure he is a young man. But over the years, this young man has pushed himself to where he is. It only takes a strong hardworking, resilient and visionary individual to have moved within such short span of his life to where he is today. And sometimes what we always tell people in career counseling is that, you have to choose you career well. When you choose a career where you don't find a lot of people, but it is a high impact area, you move fast in terms of development. That is what I think has happened to Mr Wurroh

Jalloh. We don't have many specialists of his type in this country. And therefore, there is nothing that can stop him from moving forward to where he is now. We are confident that having acted in that position for some years, with the understanding that he is already familiar with the challenges and issues of that institution, we have no doubt that he is going to surmount those challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are told that even when he was in an acting capacity, he has already started surmounting some of these challenges in that institution. But what is more important now for him is that, he can now surmount those challenges with a lot of confidence. This is because there is always a difference between when you are in an acting capacity and when you are a substantive holder. In an acting capacity, you are always hesitant to do certain things. But today, we are giving you the legal status for you to go on headlong and take those strategic decisions that will move the institution forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to know this young man few years ago. We have been talking about certain unattended issue, the issue of ratifying the African Charter on Maritime Transport. And we have started working with him. This is a very important Charter that should be put in place. There are lots of benefits that Sierra Leoneans could accrue by being a signatory to that Charter and also its ratification. We are working together with him and the Chairman on Transport and Aviation Committee. Let me inform Mr Jalloh that we only have two weeks for us to attend the PAN African Parliament Conference. And what is now important is that, Sierra Leone is now taking the leadership of that Organisation. Sierra Leone is the interim Chair of the Committee on Transport, Energy, Infrastructure, Science and Technology. And we have boasted that we will lead the way by being among the first countries to ratify and deposit the certificate of ratification to the AU Commission. When I was in Ethiopia recently, I did promise that we would set the pace. So, I think we have almost done the ground work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't see any reason why within the next two weeks modalities cannot be put in place for us to have a pre-legislative meeting on the

African Maritime Charter, after which we can ratify it so that when we go to the Pan African Parliament Conference, we would proudly present Sierra Leone as one of those countries that has complied by ratifying the Charter. That would be a big boast for all of us as a nation. That would be your own legacy. You will be boasting that it is during your time (few weeks after you have assumed office), Sierra Leone became signatory and has ratified the Charter. After these deliberations, let us come together to identify the stumbling blocks. If there is no stumbling block, then, I don't see any reason why within the shortest possible time we cannot lay the document here and ratify it.

With these few words Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want in advance to thank the President for his nominations. And I want also in advance to congratulate our three nominees. I have no reason that they have the expertise and they would work by putting the country first. I am appreciative of being given the opportunity to give my comments on these important nominations. I thank you (*Applause*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, personally, I am always excited when I see qualified women being put in positions of responsibility. As I have always said in this Chamber, I really have faith in women puts in positions of trust. I have no doubt that they can work wonders. And Mr Speaker, relying on what the Honourable J. B. Mansaray and the Honourable Gladys Gbappy Brima had said about Mrs Isatu Kamara, I have no doubt that she will succeed as the Deputy Commissioner of NaCSA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us, including Dr Sam Maligi was in Parliament, from 2002 to 2007. And it was said that the Sierra Leone Opportunity Industrialisation Centre was almost synonymous with Sam Maligi III. This was because he did his best. But from what the Hon. J. B. Mansaray has said, I am confident that Mrs Isatu Kamara is really going to continue the good work of Dr Sam Maligi.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I like about people who are qualified for certain positions is that, where they have the requisite qualification, there would be

positive results. I always use the adjectival phrase, 'requisite qualification.' If you go through the document of Mr Wurroh Jalloh, everything that he has done in the process of capacitating himself for that position has been related to Maritime Administration. The same holds for Raymond Kargbo. And as the Minority Leader has said, there is a paucity of professionals in this field. Therefore, all of us should be proud of Mr Raymond Kargbo. This is due to the fact that he has the requisite qualification to work in the Petroleum Directorate. And Mr Speaker, what is of interest is that, I have always said also in this House that I have so much faith in experience.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the two gentlemen, Alhaji Wurroh Jalloh has also served his apprenticeship. He served for over five years as an apprentice to the great Philip Lukullay. The late Philip Lukullay was the Executive Director and Mr Wurroh Jalloh served under him. All of us knew who Philip Lukullay was. And I am sure he has learnt his lessons. That is why I have no doubt that he would do well in that Department.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in the case of Mr Raymond Kargbo, he has also served his period of apprenticeship. He has been there as an Acting Director. Now, he is to be confirmed by this Honourable House as the substantive holder of that position. He did say in his interview that because he was in that acting capacity, he did not have full confidence in himself to do certain things. This is because he always realised that he did not have the full authority to do so. But if approved, you are going to be given the full authority to do your work. And I hope you will perform well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those who have contributed to this motion have also spoken for me and I take the queue from the Minority Leader in her preface. She said that there are three eminent people and indeed they are so eminent. I agree with her. I submit that they are eminently qualified for the positions for which they have been nominated. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

*Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service was
unanimously ratified*

THE SPEAKER: Lady and gentlemen, you are no longer nominees. Your nominations have been approved by this Honourable House. It is now my privilege to congratulate you. But let me say that assuming the office is not the end of it. Perhaps, it is the beginning of the journey. You should know that the expectations of the citizenry of this country are very high, maybe unrealistically high. But you must endeavor to give your best and have it in your mind that you are serving the public. We have lost a bit of politeness from the public of this country. Please, I am appealing to you; try to be considerate and polite in dealing with the public. One section of these Reports says: "*I want to assure the Committee that I am prepared to bring onboard every weapon in my arsenal.*" Please, bring onboard every weapon in your arsenal. I congratulate you once again.

ADJOURNMENTS

*(The House rose at 11.22 a.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 18th April, 2013, at
10.00 a.m.)*