

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

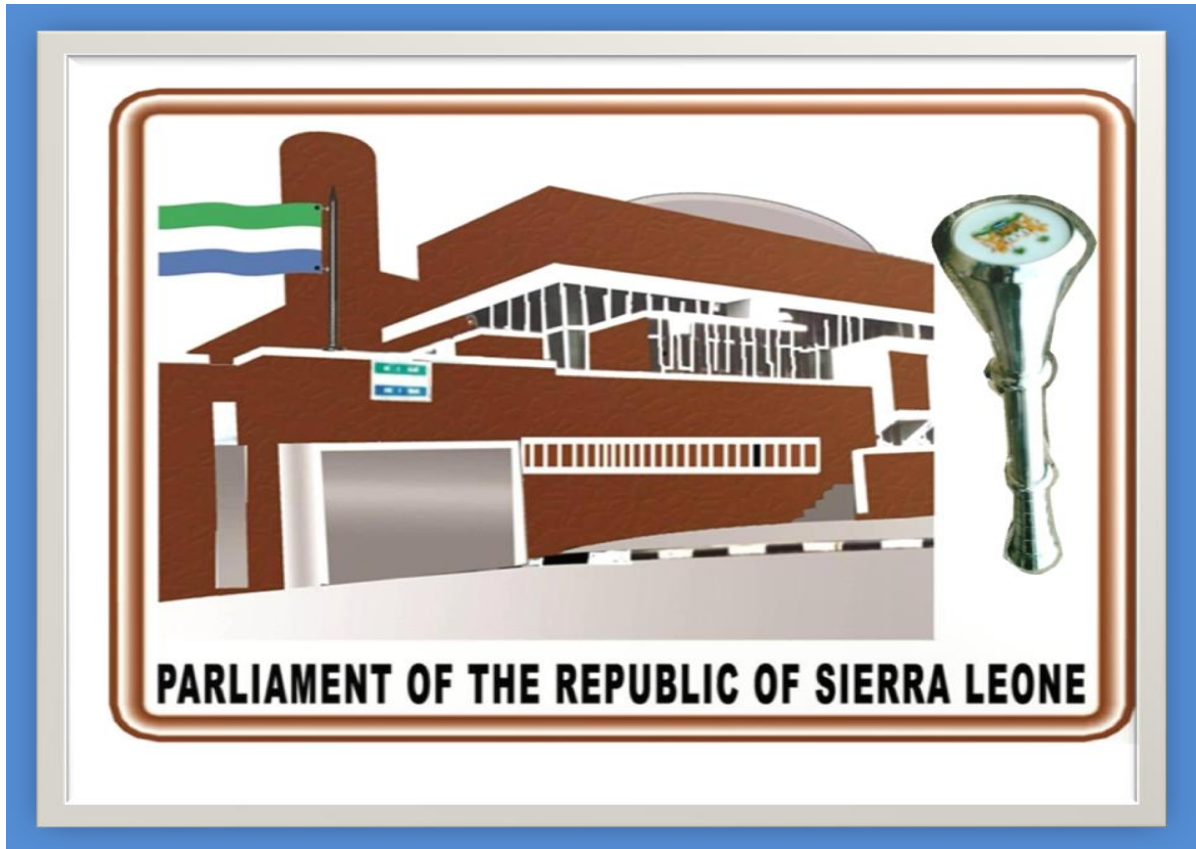
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

*SESSION – 2016/2017*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 47**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

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

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

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**FIFTH SESSION – FIRST MEETING  
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:37 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].*

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

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S. O. 5[2]*

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3?

**HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I was absent with excuse. You know I was absent due to illness.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, I can attest to that. Honourable Rosaline J. Smith, if you are still not well, I can allow you to be absent. Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no other correction or amendment, would someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 as amended?

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. AMADU KANU:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 has been adopted as amended]*

**III. PAPERS LAID**

[A] HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH** *[Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the Report of the Activities of the Office of the Ombudsman for the year 2015/2016 *[Applause]*.

[B] HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

LEADER OF DELEGATION

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I crave your indulgence in accordance with S.O 18, preface the laying of those reports with a brief statement. I stand here this morning to lay on the Table of this House, two reports of the ACP-EU meetings held this year. The first Report is about the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 32<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ACP-EU. The two meetings were held in ST Julian, Malta.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, both sessions were crucial, not only for the delegation and the Parliament of Sierra Leone, but also for the country as a whole. The reason is that it was during these sessions I was nominated and elected as ACP President and co-President of the ACP-EU-JPA. The ACP group comprises seventy nine states all of them save Cuba are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement, which binds them to the European Union. Forty eight countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, sixteen countries from the Caribbean and fifteen from the Pacific in the EU group make up twenty eight countries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this means that an MP and a citizen of Sierra Leone is at the helm of affairs of the seventy nine ACP countries and also jointly at the helm of affairs of the twenty eight EU countries at the ACP-EU-JPA. This is happening for the first time since the creation of the ACP-EU partnership agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second report emanates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional meeting of the ACP-EU-JPA, held in Vanuatu. It is exclusively meant for ACP members from the ACP Pacific Region and the EU members of the JPA. This meeting was chaired by me as Co-President of the JPA and you would recall that the Parliament of Sierra Leone also hosted, with the help of the Sierra Leone Government, the 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of West Africa this year.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Vanuatu was the first official function I performed as a co-President. Therefore, I would like to thank members of my delegation for the role they played for me to achieve this success. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Finance and the National Authorising Office for always being supportive to this delegation. Sincere thanks and appreciation is also extended

to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Clerk of Parliament for their consistent support to the delegation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the ACP Joint Parliamentary delegation, it is my privilege to lay on the Table of the House, the following Reports:

[i] Report of the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly [PA] and the 38 Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, held in St. Julian's Malta, from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017; and

[ii] Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting [Pacific Region] of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017.

[C] HON. SULIAMAN MULUKU SISAY  
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

**HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August... - *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry Honourable Member, for the records, the Order Paper has nothing relating to Honourable Sulaiman M. Sisay. Could we have that corrected please?

**HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I spell my surname as S-i-s-a-y.

**THE SPEAKER:** You should have taken note of that, but you did not say anything.

**HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Energy visited various sites in the Southern and Northern provinces where mini-grids at various community centres were installed. This is in line with the President's Agenda to provide renewable energy throughout the 149 Chiefdoms in this country. Our visits to these two provinces... - *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, please lay your paper on the Table.

**HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also wanted to...  
*[Interruption]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Sulaiman M. Sisay, please lay your paper.



[D] THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**MR MOMOH VANDI** [*Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic*

*Development*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following documents:

[1] Articles of Association Africa 50 - Project Finance

A special status financial company with an authorised share capital of Three Billion United States Dollars [**\$ 3,000,000,000**] and an issued share capital of six hundred and thirty-two million, two hundred and twenty-three thousand United States Dollars [**\$ 632,223,000**], adopted by the General Assembly of Shareholders on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015;

[2] Articles of Association Africa 50 - Project Development

A special status financial company with an authorised share capital of Five Hundred Million United States Dollars [**\$ 500,000,000**], and an issued share capital of seventy three million, seven hundred and ninety-one thousand United States Dollars [**\$ 73,791,000**], adopted by the General Assembly of Shareholders on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015;

[3] Financing Agreement [Additional Financing for the Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project and Amendments to the Original Financing Agreement] Between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association, Dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. [Credit Number 6078 and Grant Number 53-50sl].

[D] THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

**MR ARROW BOCKARIE** [*Deputy Attorney-General and Minister of Justice*]:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following documents:

The Nomination Fees of Presidential Candidates, Members of Parliament, Members of Local Councils and Village Headmen Order, 2017

The Public Election Act, 2012 [Act No. 4 of 2012]

Statutory Instrument No. 115 of 2017

**HON. FREDERICK S. SOURIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 25 to give a notice of motion for the Instrument that has just been laid by the Attorney-General to be debated.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is there any particular area of concern?

**HON. FREDERICK S. SOURIE:** The whole document, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay. It is a notice of Motion. Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, you wanted to say something?

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI [*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this document that has just been laid on the Table requires to be looked into properly by Parliament. Therefore, I want to move beyond my fellow Member of Parliament on the other side. He has given a notice of Motion, but I want this House to know that I would go further by saying that this document be debated by the House under the relevant Standing Orders. In addition not only given notice under S.O 25, I move under a dilatory Motion of Standing Orders 34 that this document be debated by Parliament before the expiration of the twenty-one days because this document is dead on arrival.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** I second that Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, as parliamentarians, let us please understand that a Motion that is not seconded is not a Motion [*Applause*]. For a Motion to have legality and efficacy, it must be seconded and this particular Motion has been seconded. Honourable Navo Kaikai, please stand. Honourable Navo Kaikai, I do not see much of you. If I do not see you often, there has to be an explanation why you are not around otherwise you will lose your seat as a Member of Parliament. Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, please advise her.

**HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI:** I will do so, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Mohamed N'fah Alie Conteh, you have heard what Members of Parliament have said. Mr Deputy Attorney-General, I hope you are with us.

**MR ARROW BOCKARIE:** Loud and clear, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, have you engaged the Deputy Minister of Finance with regards to what will happen tomorrow? I have a feeling that this meeting should take place today. There has been no word on that.

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH** [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: Indeed, Mr Speaker we decided to hold the meeting immediately after adjournment today.

**THE SPEAKER:** Today?

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Rosaline J. Smith, you wanted to say something?

**HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:** Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O 23. Yesterday the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] joined the world over in celebrating World Ozone Day. And as a nation, we need to know the effects the Ozone Layer has on us. Yesterday was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Protocol 1985/87 respectively. A lot of people might want to know what ozone is. Ozone basically is a special form of oxygen with a chemical component that atmospheric scientists will refer to as O<sub>3</sub> which is formed in the region between mother earth and the sun's atmosphere.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after receiving the invitation, I did a lot of research on what is meant by ozone. In our homes, we have refrigerators and air conditioners. We do not know the effect of these equipment to the human race and what ozone is doing to our plants, the environment and human beings. I also want to highlight the steps the EPA has taken in addressing the depletion of the Ozone Layer and its effect on Sierra Leone. The Launching of the programme yesterday was very educative and I have asked the EPA to extend that knowledge to us as Members of Parliament and to the general public because when we had the August 14<sup>th</sup> disaster, lot of people pointed fingers at EPA about what EPA has been doing in combating Climate Change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, yesterday's celebration workshop meeting was an eye-opener for me. In the SGDs 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> you will note that Government has paid considerable attention to the issue dealing with Climate Change and climate

action. I learnt from that meeting that EPA has secured equipment from the National Revenue Authority [NRA] to detect refrigerators and air conditioners that are not ozone friendly. They are now at the Ports and at the borders. Whenever people are bringing those refrigerators and air conditioners into the country, they test them to see if they are ozone friendly. I also learnt yesterday that ozone is causing... - *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Rosaline J. Smith, you are no longer under S.O. 23. So, you stop at that point.

**HON. MOSES JORKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our people in the villages and in Sierra Leone generally are suffering greatly. In early May this year, if my memory can serve me well, we debated the CHO Bill in this House, which was on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. I was made to understand that this Bill was not signed by His Excellency due to the advice of the Minister. Mr Speaker, I want you to know that this Bill was just not championed by a Member of Parliament who is also a CHO. This programme was debated bitterly on the table of the Minister and other dignitaries of the health sector and he allowed this Bill to come to Parliament. I see no reason why he should advise the President not to sign this Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, what you are saying is not S.O. 23. The Deputy Minority Leader of this House has been repeatedly calling the attention of the Business Committee because Members of that Committee are not meeting. Make sure you meet regularly. With regards to the last paper that was laid this morning in respect of the nomination fee of National Electoral Commission, not only has a notice be given for it to be debated, but there has been a Motion to the effect. The Motion was also seconded and it should be debated. Therefore, endeavour to have it on the Order Paper latest by next week.

**HON. BENNEH BANGURA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, there is a rumour going on around the metropolitan area or even beyond on certain issues. I was out of the country for couple of days and when I came back, I looked on my phone and with the leave of Mr Speaker, I want to read and it says: "**Honourable Benneh**

**Bangura the people's Honourable has been endorsed by many youth of all corners of this country 'Munafa,' as he is commonly known, is one of Sierra Leone most outstanding Honourable Members among others in the Sierra Leone House of Parliament."** Mr Speaker I do not see this as me declaring for such a high position. I know nothing about this information. Therefore, I want to make it known that this is not in any way coming from Honourable Benneh Bangura. I thank you.

**HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with all due respect to my Honourable colleague, I do not see the contents of that text he just read to us as being indicative of somebody saying what he has just suggested. I would urge my Honourable Member of Parliament to understand the context and at least contact the person and say thank you for recognising him.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** I stand on S.O 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here to say thanks for recognising me as you have not been seeing me. It shows that I am important in the eyes of Mr Speaker. Let me take this special opportunity on my very behalf and on the behalf of my party, the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party [SLPP], to thank the Leadership of the All Peoples' Congress [APC]; i.e., the Secretary General and the Deputy Chairman and Leader of the All People's Congress Party, who were with us few days ago during our Convention. I want to thank all those who were watching us over there because we were having series of calls from our colleagues. I want to thank you and to say that our Convention was peaceful and everything went on well.

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]:** Mr Speaker, I am sitting here as the Minority Leader and somebody wants to coup me. This is broad day-light coup d'état. If I am absent, I will agree but not when I am seated here. No coup. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have given her permission to continue [*Applause*].

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you my abled Minority Leader. You see, this is how it should go and this is what is known as democracy. I think under S.O 23 is just a preamble. I believe that my abled Honourable Minority Leader will get up and say something. That was just a preamble.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would have loved the Minister of Finance to be here to listen to this. Since he is not here, I know the Clerks will have to do justice to that. Since we are almost coming to the end of our session, I will also want to implore the Minister of Finance, through the Committee on Finance to start processing our gratuity because whenever it comes to money matters, there are always delays. This is the benefit for all of us here. We need our moneys before we leave this place. I just want to send this message loud and clear to the Minister of Finance, through the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, to start processing our benefits because time is not in our favour. With that, I want to thank you all. We are all friends because we one people and one country. We will support you during your own Convention since you have supported us during our own Convention. I want to say thanks to everybody.

**THE SPEAKER:** I believe it is okay. She has said what she wanted to say. I am sure she has spoken on Honourable Benneh Bangura's behalf.

**HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Member from Moyamba for the sentiments she has expressed on behalf of the Leadership of the SLPP. We are delighted by the expression of those sentiments. I am encouraged to say that is how 'democracy' should work. We should not be fighting one another on the streets. Having elected their officials, I wish them well on behalf of the APC, and I hope they will go to the Leadership Elections so that they can have a successful flag bearer election, a person who will lead their party to the next General Elections. When our own Convention starts, we hope we will welcome them to participate in our ceremony. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 11:57 a.m. and was adjourned to Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.]*