



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

FRIDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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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 Friday, 1st December, 2017.

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IV. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFY THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2017

[i] POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY; THE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND PLANET SOLAR ENERGY [SL] LIMITED RELATING TO THE 50 MEGAWATTS SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION [25MW] IN MAKARIE, GBANTI CHIEFDOM, BOMBALI DISTRICT AND COMBINED 25 MW IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN KAMBIA, PORT LOKO, KABALA, KAMAKWEI, KONO, MILE 91, MOYAMBA, PUJEHUN, BO, KAILAHUN, BONTHE IN SIERRA LEONE, DATED 14TH AUGUST, 2017

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[B] THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFY THE FOLLOWING AGREEMNT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUE ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2017

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE [GoSL] REPRESENTED BY EACH OF THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD SECURITY [HEREAFTER CALLED "GoSL"] AND KISSY INDUSTRY AND TRADING COMPANY [KITC] SIERRA LEONE [SL] LIMITED ESTABLISHED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT OF 2009 AND REGISTERED UNDER THE LAWS OF SIERRA LEONE WITH COMPANY CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION NUMBER SLO90616KISSY003372, AND WITH ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT KISSY INDUSTRY AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED, OIL REFINERY, QUEEN ELIZABETH ROAD, KISSY DOCKYARD, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE [HEREAFTER CALLED "THE COMPANY"]

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Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 1st December, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:55 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]

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave your indulgence to allow me to make the following adjustment following the laying of papers. I want to add an item III to read as follows:

Third Amendment to the Petroleum License Agreement of European Hydro-Carbon Limited Blocks SI03 and First Amendment to the Africa Petroleum Sierra Leone Limited License Agreement Block SL4A TO 10.

And going to item [b], the Paper is now going to be laid by the Honourable Andrew Victor Lungay, instead of Honourable Mima Y. M. Sobba-Stevens.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you have heard the proposed amendments and I take it that there is no objection. Please have those amendments inserted.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? There being no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017 as presented?

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DAUDA J.B. KALLON: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

A. THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is on his legs.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: It is a point of order, Mr Speaker. I was going to respond to the Majority Leader's proposed amendment on the Order Paper. He said that we should make an amendment on Hydro-carbon SL 4A to 10. We do not have it. How can we amend it?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members that was why I profusely apologised. However, the Papers are now being distributed and they are in your pigeon holes.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, we are about to close Parliament and every amendment or debate has to be very sensitive. We also have to be sincere when making amendments. I would rather ask the Honourable Majority Leader to postpone that to Monday or Tuesday, so that we have ample time to read them. You cannot just give them now and you expect us to go through those documents.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, you do have a point, but I would want to plead with Honourable Members, having regard to the exigency of the situation because Parliament is to be dissolved about a week from today. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, the Paper is to be laid. Normally the expectation is that you must have had it before it is laid, but since he is only laying it and it is not going to be debated, I want to crave the indulgence of Members of Parliament to please accept it. Thank you very much, Honourable Members.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following documents:

[i] The State of Human Rights in Sierra Leone, 2016 Annual Report of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone.

[ii] Public Service Commission, the State of the Public Service in Sierra Leone, 2016 Annual Report; and

[iii] Third Amendment to the Petroleum License Agreement to the European Hydro-Carbon Limited Block SL 02 03 and First Amendment to the Africa Petroleum Sierra Leone Limited License Agreement Block SL 4a to 10.

B. CHAIRMAN, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HON. ANDREW VICTOR LUNGAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, under S.O. 18[6], I beg to lay the following document on the Table of this Honourable:

Report of the African Peer Review Mechanism [APRM] Recruitment Process and the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs.

C. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Transport and Aviation extends his apology to the House and requested me to lay the Paper on his behalf. In that regard, I want to lay on the Table of this House the following document in my capacity as Majority Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business:

Addendum No. 1 to the License Agreement Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal at Queen Elizabeth the II Quay, Dated 24th June, 2015 ["License Agreement"] by and among Sierra Leone Ports Authority [SLPA] and the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry Of Transport And Aviation [GoSL] and National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] and Nectar Group Limited [NGL] Nectar Sierra Leone Bulk Terminal Ltd (NSLBT), Dated 28th November, 2017.

MR HENRY O. MACAULEY [*Minister Energy*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017:

[i] Power Purchase Agreement by and between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Energy, the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority and Planet Solar Energy [SL] Limited, relating to the 50 MW Solar Energy Generation [25mw in Makari, Gbanti Chiefdom, Bombali District and combined 25mw in various locations in Kambia, Port Loko, Kabala, Kamakwei, Kono, Mile 91, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bo, Kailahun And Bonthe] in Sierra Leone, Dated 14th August, 2017.

[ii] Implementation Agreement by and between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Planet Solar Energy [SL] Limited, relating to 50mw Solar Energy Generation [25mw in Makari, Gbanti Chiefdom, Bombali District and combined 25mw in various locations in Kambia, Port Loko, Kabala, Kamakwei, Kono, Mile 91, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bo, Kailahun And Bonthe] in Sierra Leone, Dated 14th August, 2017.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of the House, this project relates to the further provision of electricity, but this time moving towards renewable energy space, where we are trying to encourage more productive and less disruptive energy in using solar and other forms of renewable energy. Honourable Members would recall that my Ministry, under the instruction from His Excellency the President, has sought to electrify all district headquarters towns with small thermal plants and isolated grid. This project would soon commence, but in order to reduce the consumption of fuel and to improve on reliability, we have decided to hybrid these thermal plants with these solar systems which would add on to the grid.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 25mw for Makari, Gbanti Chiefdom, is expected to add to the Bumbuna line because we have been experiencing analytic with hydro power, especially in the dry season, when we always have power shortage. But with this solar PV that would be attached to the 161 line from Bumbuna, it would help to regulate the flow of electricity and help to close this gap.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that this Honourable House ratify the Agreements which I have just read.

[Question Proposed]

HON. KARIFALA S. CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are still continuing to realise the promises of this Government. You would agree with me that even though the provision of electricity in Freetown is substantial, there are several black spots right across this country; and in view of that, the Minister continues to bring Agreements in order to eliminate these black spots. Typical among them is the Agreement we are now debating.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you look at the quantum for Makari Gbanti Chiefdom, it is almost equal to what Freetown is realising; and for that reason, the people of Bombali District are certain for twenty-four hours electricity supply. The concern of these people is that when we have this thermal or hydro generation, there are points wherein we have interruptions and for these interruptions you have a clean energy in the form of solar. We are clearly seeing the blending of energy, the hybrid system. This was what we exactly learnt that energy is to be diversified and we are beginning to realise from the diversification of the energy sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a growth in the expertise in the energy sector by Sierra Leoneans. Whenever we talk about a company designing, developing, constructing and maintaining, this is done alongside Sierra Leoneans and this is almost a new technology in this country. So, when once we continue to approve Agreement of this nature, certainly we will continue to develop the educational sector of this country and the technological aspect of hydro. For example, if Sierra Leoneans accompany these experts in terms of designing and installation, we will gain more experience and the experience will be used to maintain our hydro. We would not be required to be bringing experts outside this country because we already have Sierra Leoneans with the right skills to take up the challenge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for areas like Port Loko, Kabala and Kamakwei, it is left with us, Members of Parliament, to ensure that we get the private sector involvement in the distribution process. These are open businesses and whosoever is involved in it, certainly he will make profit. As Members of Parliament, we have to inform the people in our various communities where the solar will be installed in order to foster their responsibility in terms of taking care of those assets. The Minister can do his job or the implementation successful, but certainly we need our people in various areas to handle these property as if they own them.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to commend the proactive nature of the Minister. I am not surprise because he has been bringing more Agreements geared

towards solving the energy problem of this country. I congratulate you for that and ask you to do more.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this Honourable House to ratify this Agreement for the progress of this country. I thank you.

HON. NAVO KAIKAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am not going to talk about the Agreement, but to say something about the implementation process. This is because it likely that this Agreement would be ratified by us. But I want to state here that I was in Kailahun in January, where the Deputy Minister of Energy went and promised to provide electricity for the people. We should have had electricity by now. I just wanted to remind the Minister about that promise. I was in Kailahun and we even went to the site and he said, 'oh come you guys, we must start work now.' We were promised that by June, we would have electricity. I think things did not go according to planned, but he should have got back to us. I want to urge this Ministry that if this is not going to start on time as the Minister has stated, we need to be informed. It is sometimes necessary to go by your words. I must say that I am very grateful for the solar light in Kailahun. I have got two in front of my dad's house and not in front of my own house. They are working very well, but I want to plead that whenever these projects are brought in Kailahun, you need to involve us, so that we can identify the areas we need to electrify.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not saying that other areas in Kailahun should not be regarded, but you cannot leave the main road that leads to the National Electoral Commission [NEC] Office in darkness. So, you have to involve us, not just the Local Council, but even parliamentarians and the indigenes of Kailahun can identify where those solar lights should be installed. I will take you at your words because we have been promised so many times. This is an election period and who knows whether this is just hype.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agreement presented to us by the Honourable Minister is another step towards moving to the achievement of clean energy as part of our legislative structure in this country. This is why I am very certain that the Ministry of Energy is working in concert with the Environmental Protection Agency in this country because it is so interesting and good to talk about electricity. We know, over the years, that the use of thermal electricity by itself has not been seen as a way of improving environmental development. Therefore, solar energy is one step we can improve on our environment, apart from providing electricity itself. I want to be very certain and I hope that the financial nature of this Agreement has concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. It is important because I have discovered that in some cases, the Minister of Finance complains that there is no concurrence. But I have already investigated that there is concurrence and that is good practice. However, I want to state that apart from us identifying the areas, the Minister has already done so.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very recently, this House approved the creation of new regions and districts. We must conceive to the fact some of these districts are seen very new and need urgent development. I will take Falaba District, for example that needs a whole lot of support from the Government, especially in the areas of electricity and infrastructural development. I was there recently and I discovered that Falaba District is just a beginning point and something has to be done very urgently to improve that area.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want state here that apart from the Falaba District, there are other areas that are being left out in terms of development. For example, my Constituency has not benefitted from any of these developments and I was pleading with the Minister this morning to do something urgently. He has already explained what I ought to do to make sure that my Constituency benefits from this project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the last several days, the very presence of the Minister here is a clear indication that this Government and the people of Sierra Leone are working towards ensuring a system that will provide electricity for many

parts of the country. Few days ago, we spoke about the Ferenbe Project Bumbuna Phase II, as some people may want to call it. That is very good because we are talking about solar lights to make sure that everybody enjoys the benefit of electricity in this country. I am sure that providing clean energy is not surprising to some of us and I want to remind this House that the Minister may come again in this House one of these days to tell us about wind mills. These are also very important components in the development of electricity in a country. The people are urgently in need of electricity.

Without much ado, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is an Agreement that deserves the supports of this House and I am also very certain that the people of Sierra Leone, especially the direct beneficiaries, will be very much appreciative of the efforts of the Minister and the Government of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in adding my voice to what the right Honourable Member on the other side has said, I want to talk to the Minister about areas that have not been given priority in terms of development. I am talking about improving the local content policy by giving opportunities to people who want to improve their skills. In Bo town [towards the highway to Kenema], there is an area called Kanda and some of you may know that place. I have been reliably informed that they have spoken to the Minister about that place. That particular place has been forgotten or has not been given any consideration. And what is more disheartening is the fact that there is a power line from Bo to Kenema. There is a hotel that is being built in that area by a woman, which is a massive investment. She has worked very hard by put everything in place, but there is no electricity in that area. The power lines pass through that place, but the people around that place are not benefitting. In fact, the power cables are over her building. They approached me and asked me to talk to you to see how you could be able to help them. This is because that investment is also going to improve the economy of this country. I am saying because it is the hotel that has the movie centre and a very big hall. The hotel has over hundred bedrooms and it has everything you could think about. So, I want to believe that if those kinds of investments are given the opportunity to run

effectively in terms of providing services, it would not just help the citizens that want to use it, but it would improve on our economic base. So, I am appealing to the Minister and the Ministry to give it some thought. Thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what the Minister has presented to us; i.e., the Power Purchase Agreement for Solar Energy provision would add to the already existing energy supply in the country. This time it is not thermal energy, but solar energy. It means that we are gradually improving on our energy mix, which is the way now all nations are aspiring to get. We have to get several mix of energy supply in this country. We are now talking about thermal, solar and hydro. In other places, you have geo-thermal energy. If you can afford all of them, you are assured of continuous supply of energy, especially going towards clean energy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have been depending on oil, but oil is a non-renewable energy source. Solar energy on the other hand is a renewable energy. When we talk about hydro, we are referring to water; and as long as we have water, we would continue to have hydro-electricity supply. So, Sierra Leone is also in the process of having an energy mix and that is what is in the energy policy. In other words, our energy policy is saying that in addition to thermal, we use the various energy sources. For thermal energy, I think Sierra Leone has over one thousand and more megawatts of hydro. However, solar is inexhaustible because as long as we are having the sun, even in the rain season in this country, we still have enough temperature for us to recharge our batteries or solar panels. This is the right way to go and we see that they are also extending it to other areas that are currently not electrified within the other districts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wanted the Minister to explain the formula used to distribute the 25mw to about eight districts in the country. What are the bases of this allocation?

In the implementation Agreement, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to page 6, the 'right to develop,' it says 'exclusive rights.' That is to say, it is giving exclusive

rights to generate solar energy. Are we saying that we are crowding out other prospective investors of solar energy that may want to come to this country? I am saying this because the more we have generators of energy, the more we will have competition which would bring the prices down. Again, competition would also ensure that there is efficiency in service provision, but it seems as if we are giving monopoly to this generation.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I have not seen in the two documents is the duration of the contract. If you look at Page 7, I am seeing an open ended duration of term. I may be wrong, but I have not seen it at all. I want to know if this is an open ended contract of power generation. Are you saying that they continue as long as it takes them to provide the energy? I want to know, Mr Minister. In your presentation, you spoke about 'closing time,' but if we do not have tenure of duration in these documents, why were you talking about closing time or the closing of the project when we do not know how long that project is going last. These are some of the issues I wanted you to clarify. This generation is what we called feeding tariffs, which means that you generate and sell to the Government at a particular rate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Minister to tell us the tariff rate that is going to be sold into the national grid. This is because it is going to be generated and sold or transferred into the national grid. Feeding tariff is such that the operator is assured of continuous payment of the energy it generates at a particular tariff, with a view to be regularly reviewing those tariffs. I am not seeing that in this document; or is it a semblance of the feeding tariffs wherein you generate and sell? If that is it, what is the specificity of this arrangement? I did not see much in this document. Maybe it is in the document, but I am only seeing this document this morning. I am not saying that the document is not been distributed. Maybe there are things that I did not fully grasp whilst going through this document. However, these are just the few of the issues I wanted the Minister to clarify. As the saying goes, 'energy is the mover and shaker of a country's economy.' No economy is going to move without energy. The SGGs will not be

achieved if we do not have sustainable energy that is clean, accessible and less costly for everybody. So, it is the engine for economic growth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whatever effort Sierra Leone can make to ensure that we electrify our country; it is an effort that is well appreciated. I want to follow the rest to say that energy is needed all over the country. I do not know where we are in terms of percentage access because more people access electricity in Freetown and in few bigger towns. However, **99%** of the people in the rural areas have not been able to access electricity and this is where the issue of renewable energy is going to come because we can quickly electrify our rural areas off grid. But I see that this particular Agreement is from the grid, which means that it is going to be supplied from the grid. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as has been said, the provision of solar energy in the form of electricity is extremely advantageous to both the Government and the consumers, especially those in the provinces. There is a feeling that electricity is only meant for the well-to-do and the few privileged. I want to proffer here that electricity is more needed by even poor families because it gives them an advantage of economising their food. You can afford in Freetown here to open a tin of peak milk and drink all of it if you really want to do that. In the villages, when we open a tin of peak milk, if there is a place where you can keep it like a refrigerator, the family can use it for two to three days. But you have to make sure that you have electricity in your village or community.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, availability of electricity is always advantageous to a whole lot of communities. It leads to economic activities in the villages, communities and provides for good living, improves health standards. If electricity is available, there would be value added to some of our products and that will earn you more money. If you go certain areas in my Constituency, you will see people selling cold water and they are making money out of it. So, this is a very good way of improving and we are extremely grateful to this Government for providing these facilities. We hope that our people will be able to utilise them adequately.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament, we might also want where these facilities are being provided to talk to the consumers that they can only become sustainable if we pay the charges. I am saying this because for every service that is provided, some costs have to be paid by the consumers. If we are receiving the service, then it is also important for us to pay the charges being attached. We have been informed that people are using the facility, but they do not want to pay for it. That is a little bit awkward and we want to tell our people that for you to have continuous electricity, the service has to be paid for.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want this Honourable House to take advantage of this by speedily ratifying this Agreement that is before us. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

AMB HENRY O. MACAULEY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all thank Members of this Honourable House for their very insightful and relevant comments. I crave your indulgence, Mr Speaker, to observe that the level of comprehension of Members of this noble House about electricity is quite enlightened and challenging at the same time. This means that we need to be on our toes in the energy sector. To briefly respond to some of the comments from Honourable Karifala Conteh about clean solar energy, of course that is very correct. He also spoke about the capacity building opportunity in this Agreement and my Ministry followed that path very closely.

In fact, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you may be aware of the Renewable Energy Association of Sierra Leone, which is a collection of Sierra Leonean businesses in the solar space and we have a vibrant partnership with that organisation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Navo Kaikai spoke about Kailahun and the rural ratification delays. I must tender my unreserved apology, but the delays were quite unexpected and it was due to lack of funding. We have been going back and forth with the Ministry of Finance on this particular project. We are almost at the end of that tunnel and this is why I did say earlier in my submission that the project is about to start and this solar projects were hybrid with that project. However, I want to apologise

for that delay. She was very correct when she said that Parliament should be kept abreast of every development, including the reasons for delay of that project. I want to reassure this House that we will make sure that it happens this time. Responding to the comment on the identification of the location, I want to state here that we did involve the local communities to some extent, but her point is noted. We shall make sure that we involve parliamentarians as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo for his comments. Of course his observations are well noted and we are moving towards clean energy. It is a process and I believe that the amalgamation has brought up more regions and districts for us and that has given us more work to do. However, we are not intimidated by the work because we are moving on and there are many projects that are coming into this country. In fact, during a breakfast meeting this morning with World Bank and all of the local banks officials, including the Bank of Sierra Leone, we were discussing a two hundred million project for renewable energy of grid for more of our people, and windmill that you mentioned was discussed. I want to state here that we are about to embark on feasibility studies for windmill. The region identified is prone to the type of wind that is needed somewhere around Bumbuna.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Helen Kuyembah spoke about improving local content. In fact, you would observe that the company is a registered company in Sierra Leone, which is a partnership of local Sierra Leoneans and international company. We will take note of Kanga town as she mentioned and we will look into that issue. We will be there this weekend to see for ourselves. I have also noted the comment on the 33KV line from Bo to Kenema, passing over that hotel. Such customers are economically viable customers and that is noted. But I want to take this opportunity to announce to this Honourable House that through the Ministry of Finance, we have secured **\$54mIn** funding for the complete rehabilitation of the Bo and Kenema network, including the construction of a new transmission line between the two. That project is ongoing and it is funded by DfID and the African Development Bank.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai commented on energy mix, but I believe that the idea is to move more of it into renewable energy, so as to reduce the cost of production of power and the effect can be extended to the customers. Of course, you cannot totally rely on one power source. Therefore, you have to make sure that you mix it. Solar as you said is exhaustible; and in Sierra Leone, we have an average of 5KW power per metre square a day, which is quite good. Your comment about the 25MW in Makari Gbanti is noted. The 25MW is going to be patched onto the 161KV Line; i.e., the transmission line from Bumbuna, so that if Bumbuna power supply is down, it will help to boost the power. It is not going to be used solely for Makari Chiefdom. It is going to be for the entire country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the observations she made are in the implementation Agreement because if you look at the Power Purchase Agreement, most of these specifics are there, including the price and the tariff, which is **1.6%**, including the duration, which is twenty-five years. You will also appreciate that this is a complete development made by the developer, with no contribution from Government. However, what is happening is that the developer needs exclusivity in those areas, so that he can recoup his investments. It does not mean that he has exclusivity over solar projects in the entire country. It is not possible because as we speak, we are also about to start another solar project at Newton; which is about 6MW Solar Pack. That will start next week.

Talking about energy access, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to believe that energy access in Sierra Leone has risen drastically. I do not know if Members are aware that through funding from the DfID, we have erected 54 stand-alone solar lights in 54 hospitals around the country. These 54 stand-alone solar lights are going to be converted into 54 mini grids, so that communities which have never had electricity will benefit. That project is ongoing as we speak. In fact, the President launched the conclusion of the stand-alone solar lights many months ago. Additionally, the stand-alone solar lights will be increased to hundred communities. That is not the only off grid project that is ongoing for rural communities, but we also have the rural electrification

component of the West African Power Pole Project. I want to inform Honourable Members that we have also signed another MoU, which is going to be another 100 villages on stream with solar mini grid. That is the way the technology is going and we intend to take full advantage of it for our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah for his kind comments. Indeed, rural electrification is meant for the poor farmers or poor people. That is why we are going to the field to ensure that they get access to electricity. However, there is another component we are adding, which is a component of revenue generating activity. When we talk about affordability to pay for electricity, we do not target those who are already entrepreneurs. In the first place, we are talking about the constructive use of electricity. I warned some youth the other day when we went to launch the project to make sure that they use the electricity effectively. It is not only to be listening to music and watching television, but they have to use it to create wealth and improve on their livelihoods. This is what we are campaigning for and we also need to develop that crop of entrepreneurs who will use electricity wisely. This is why, in my meeting this morning with the World Bank, I told them when we are designing this project, we should not only look at entrepreneurs who are in the pipe line, but new entrepreneurs we can develop in terms of creating economic activities to enable them use electricity and improve their lives.

With these clarifications, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table the House on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017:

[i] Power Purchase Agreement between the Ministry of Finance and economic Development, the Ministry of Energy, Electricity distribution and Supply Authority and Planet Solar Energy Limited, SL Limited, relating to the 50MW Solar Energy Generation; 25MW in Makari Gbanti Chiefdom, Bombali District and combined 25MW in various locations in Kambia, Port Loko, Kabala, Kamakwe, Kono, Mile 91, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bo, Kailahun and Bonthe in Sierra Leone, dated 14th August, 2017; and

[ii] Implementation Agreement by and between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Planet Solar Energy Sierra Leone limited, relating to the 50MW Solar Energy Generation in Makari Gbanti Chiefdom, Bombali District and combined 25MW in various locations in Kambia, Port Loko, Kabala, Kamakwe, Kono, Mile 91, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bo, Kailahun and Bonthe in Sierra Leone, dated 14th August, 2017.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government motion by the Minister of Energy has been ratified]

BILL.

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MR IBRAHIM MANSARAY *[Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017:

Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by each of the Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry, and Agriculture, hereafter call the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company SL Limited, established under the Company Act of 2009 and registered under the laws of Sierra Leone with company certificate of incorporation number SLO 90616kissy003372 and with its registered office at Kissy Industry and Trading Company Limited Oil Refinery Queen Elizabeth Road, Kissy Dockyard, Freetown, Sierra Leone, thereafter called the Company.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement will culminate in the establishment or operations of the dynamic industry, which will help create jobs for the increasingly high urban population. It will also facilitate domestic intra-regional and international trade. It will create a new factory jobs at various levels of management and technical support. The demand for the palm oil is expected to stimulate expansion in farm size and supply chain networks, thereby improving the living standards of our farmers. The local farmers will benefit tremendously, as they will have a ready market for their products, which before would have had to be exported.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is needed to give encouragement to the Kissy Industry and Trading Company to establish their company in Sierra Leone. The Agreement will help to improve quality of small and medium scale enterprise industries and enhance competitiveness in product, trade promotion, securing the income of farmers and supporting the fight against trade and practices. This will accelerate economic development which must be translated into the operations of the Kissy Industry and Trading Company.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017:

Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by each of the Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry, and Agriculture, hereafter call the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company SL Limited, established under the Company Act of 2009 and registered under the laws of Sierra Leone with company certificate of incorporation number SLO 90616kissy003372 and with its registered office at Kissy Industry and Trading Company Limited Oil Refinery Queen Elizabeth Road, Kissy Dockyard, Freetown, Sierra Leone, thereafter called the Company.

[Question Proposed]

HON. FRANCIS KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agreement, as presented by the Minister, was a very simple and precise. The benefits, as outlined by the Minister, are enormous. For example, he said that the Agreement will help to create jobs in this country. These are things we are looking forward to because we have a number of our citizens who are qualified but unemployed. Therefore, if any Agreement will benefit Sierra Leone in the creation of jobs, I think it is but proper that this House ratify such an Agreement. He also spoke about regional and international trade promotion. Definitely, once this Agreement is effective, there will be regional and internal trade and that will benefit Sierra Leone enormously.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister spoke about the benefits that our local farmers will get; if for example, they bring their palm oil products to this particular industry for processing, thereby adding value to it. That is the problem we have in this country. Our raw materials are being exported and we do not normally add value to them. So, if we can add value at this particular industry whilst we export them, I think that is very good for Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister spoke about how the exportation of these products would benefit the country. That is where we are lacking and many a time we import a lot of finished products into this country. The disadvantage is that we are using foreign currencies to do that. So, if we are going to export our refined products from Sierra Leone, for example, I am sure this country will benefit from it enormously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister spoke about economic development and diversification. I think it will help in that direction. I think this Agreement is a non-controversial and I want to thank the Minister and the other ministries for this document. Therefore, I want to urge this House to speedily ratify this Agreement. I thank you very much.

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Industry by adding my voice to this Agreement. I have read this Agreement, but one thing that impresses me is the fact that at any time an Agreement comes to this Well, I always take a different lens in terms of its provisions and content. This Parliament is always enacting the Finance Act and that is the legal document that instructs Sierra Leone as to how we generate our revenue to finance our development projects. Having looked at the articles of this Agreement, I want to state here that every article is in conformity with the 2017 Finance Act and because of that, I want to say that this is a fine Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Article 5[1] of this Agreement deals with productive activities and I want to state here that the Agreement puts premium on domestic sale of the products. To me, I want to agree with this Agreement wholeheartedly because I

am a Sierra Leonean and I will always want to see institutions in this country working towards benefiting the people of Sierra Leone. So, if an Agreement like this is establishing a company to refine oil and to sell it domestically even before thinking of external sale, it is remarkable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us not forget that year in year out oil and oil products are dumped into Sierra Leone. If a domestic company is coming to refine oil and sell to Sierra Leone, to me it is a very encouraging attempt. I also want to touch on the issue of performance indicator. This is an Agreement... - *[Interruption]*.

[Suspension S.O. 5[2] being 12:00 noon]

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: As I was saying, Article 5[2] also sets itself performance indicators. It is like the parties to this contract, especially set themselves various indicators and this is what holds the company accountable. It is concluded that where the company, within 12 months, fails to be productive, the government can, in writing, terminate this contract. To me, this brings accountability and the government has full control over what this company will be doing. I support this Agreement and I to also call on my colleagues to support it for the benefit of Sierra Leone.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not a controversial Bill and I will not make it so, although I will ask for one or two clarifications from the Minister. What this Bill is doing is what we call beneficiation, in the sense that we should now be adding value to our products in this country. We are producing oil and it is taken out of this country. Therefore, it is high time people who are exploiting our natural resources start to establish industries within the country, so that they will add value; and in adding value, they are not only creating the finish product for us at a cheaper rates, but also creating employment. I want to inform colleagues that any time an industry is being established, you also trigger complementary services. Complementary services will be provided to serve that industry. It is very important because we are going to be processing our crude palm oil into cooking oil.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to know the location of this industry. That is my concern. According to the Minister, it is at Kissy in Freetown. Why Freetown not where the oil itself is coming from? The oil is coming from the provinces and Freetown is not producing oil. Why should we locate the oil industry in Freetown? You should be producing your own oil for us to allow you to have the processing industry here. Why did you fail to start where we have the seat of the crop? We have areas like Bonthe, Matru Jong in the South and Gotree in the East, where they are processing palm oil. We also have oil plantation in the Northern part of this country. I think you should start in one of those hubs or growth centres, instead of Freetown. That is my concern otherwise; this is a very good Bill.

In simple economics, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you leave where the raw materials are located and send the industry far away, you are adding to the cost of production. The transportation used in taking these raw materials to the industries add to the cost of production; and at the end of the day, you add to the cost of the goods that are produced. Good economics says that you locate the industry at the source of the raw material, and not away from it, so that you can sell it at a very reasonable price. It is a good Bill and next time let us try to decentralise it. I thank you very much.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minority Leader has advanced a very good argument about the location of the industry. However, when the Forest Industry was operating in Kenema, one of the arguments against the Forest Industry when they were producing furniture was that the Sales Department was located in Freetown and the manufacturing processes were in Kenema. They had to create a polishing segment in the marketing shop here because when they were bringing the finished products, they were damaged. Therefore, they had to recoup and republish them before they put them out in the market. Of course, I am a farmer and I have over 200 acre of oil palm plantation. I am producing oil in Kenema District. I want to state here that the processing of oil palm into cooking oil is perhaps located in Freetown because of the market potential in Freetown. They are not considering the transportation elements because I think they must have contacted

Pujehun District for the sale of palm oil to them and they have deliberately located it in Freetown, so that they can be centrally located and utilise all the oil products from Mattru Jong and the other places. Oil is not extremely difficult to transport.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very good Agreement and it is only unfortunate that it is coming now because the recouping oil we are now buying as of now is coming from Malaysia and Malaysia took the Masankey palm oil from Njala University and transported it to Malaysia and they are now producing all the bi-products that comes from that oil. It is of course not too late to start now and we hope that the establishment of this industry will encourage all growers to be able to grow and produce more oil. This is because they are now going to be in competition with other local industries that are making soap, so that they can now access all the oil produced in this country. I think this is going to encourage more farmers to go into that industry and it will create not only additional employments, but additional finance for the farmers in the country. We want to thank the organisers of this company and we hope that we will be able to derive lots of advantages from the processing industry. Thank you very much, Mr Minister and I want to urge that we ratify this Agreement as speedily as possible. I thank you very, Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Majority Leader, in relation to the analogy you made, Dr Bernadette Lahai was talking about the advantages and disadvantages of processing the product where it comes from and we are talking about this Forest Industry. The argument was that if the products from the Forest Industry are put together in Freetown, perhaps it will be better because putting them together in Kenema before they are brought to Freetown was not good because of their fragile nature. There were lots of damages at that time, but not all of them were fragile. Therefore, Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai made a very important point.

MR IBRAHIM MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all thank Honourable Members for their contributions. I want to especially thank the Chairman of parliamentary Committee on Trade and Industry for mentioning employment as an important feature of this Agreement for our local famers and regional trade. I also want

to thank the Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally for his contribution. He made mention of the Finance Act and I also want to assure him that what is in this document is also in the Finance Act.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Honourable Members that in the production of these items listed in this document, Government will be generating **\$6mln** annually. The revenue collected from this product in 2016 was **\$3mln**. I want to thank Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai for her contribution in terms of value addition. As a Ministry, we are trying to create a conducive business environment, so that investors will come and invest locally. That is the reason we have passed the Local Content Act to support local industries. We are mindful of value addition and packaging as well. Your point is being noted and we will advise accordingly. We want a situation wherein they will be able to reach to each and every facet of this country. I thank you very much.

With these few clarifications, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 29th November, 2017:

Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by each of the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development, Trade and Industry, and Agriculture Forestry and Food Security, hereafter call the Government of Sierra Leone and Kissy Industry and Trading Company SL Limited, established under the Company Act of 2009 and registered under the laws of Sierra Leone with company certificate of incorporation number SLO 90616Kissy003372 and with its registered office at Kissy Industry and Trading Company Limited, oil refinery Queen Elizabeth Road, Kissy Dockyard, Freetown, Sierra Leone, thereafter called the Company.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government Motion by the Minister of Trade and Industry has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, instead of the next item on the Order Paper, which is 3[a], I would instead take item 3[b] and leave 3[a] for the afternoon.

BILL.

THE NATIONAL SPORT AUTHORITY OF SIERRA LEONE ACT, 2017

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

MR AHMED KHANOU [*Minister of Sports*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'the National Sport Authority of Sierra Act, 2017 be read the first time.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill has been read the first time]

[SECOND READING]

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the National Sport Authority of Sierra Act, 2017 be read the second time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am gratified and with humility honoured to be granted the privilege to take the lead in reforming a sector that has the potential of being the biggest industry in Sierra Leone, giving our youthful population as well as possessing the most cost effective means of addressing the challenges of a burgling population often restive and delinquent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, upon my nomination as Minister by the President of this country to serve as Minister of Sports, I appeared before one of the Standing Committees of this Honourable House as required by the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone for the purpose of vetting my nomination and for subsequent endorsement by the Committee of the Whole House. Appearing before that Committee in March, 2016, I did commit myself to doing things; namely, quieting the noise and acrimony within the Sector, restoring confidence to my Ministry by providing diligent and exemplary leadership, and mobilising all efforts aimed at rehabilitating the Siaka Steven Stadium, which is a major icon of our tolerance disposition and the home of Sierra Leone sporting activities.

Few weeks ago, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we sign an Agreement with the Chinese Government for the comprehensive rehabilitation of that facility and thirdly, institute the necessary reforms that should guide and govern the management and

administration of sports in the country, which should be aligned with our nation's development agenda; i.e., the Agenda for Prosperity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill before you is one of the outcomes of that effort. On assuming office in April, 2016 a team was put together that carried out a performance audit of the sector. The findings of this team are:

- the policy direction did not provide strategic linkages between other sector players, such as health, education, tourism and youth development;
- funding mechanisms were largely government led, in spite of the huge potential from the cooperate market; and
- sporting facilities were inadequate in standards and in numbers with the result that there was problem at both technical and professional personnel, either at the National Sport Council or the Ministry of Sport.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we could not scientifically therefore identify train and positioned talents for international competitiveness to address this malice with a view to aligning our sport development initiatives with the National and Global development Agenda. A nationwide consultation was carried out, culminating into National Sports Development Conference that validated two documents; i.e., the Review of Sport Policy and the Proposed Governance Mechanism, which now translate into the Bill repealing the 1964 National Sport Council Act. The reviewed policy has since been approved by Cabinet and implementation has commenced. We agreed that we should now collaborate with other sectors; i.e., the Ministry of Tourism, which recently concluded a Commonwealth Beach Volleyball tournament in Freetown, which Members of this Honourable House attended.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill makes provision for a Board with oversight responsibilities for three departments; i.e., the National Institute of Sports, Participation and Sustainable Sport Division and a Corporate Affairs Division. The Board is drawn from key relevant institutions and organisations with a Chair appointed as the President. The Institute of Sport will be charged with the responsibility of scientifically identifying

talents, training and nurturing these talents for competitions, and the Participation and Sustainable Sport Division, manages international engagements, checking for fitness, whilst the Cooperate Affairs will manage issues of resource mobilisation, asset development and management. In recognising the importance of funding, this Bill provides for the establishment of a sport funding feature and sources of such funding will surely be legislated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one important provision in this proposed legislation is in Part 4; registration and supervision of sporting institutions. This provision addresses the gaps in the governance mechanism of sports in the country that has actually undermined the integrity of sports; and by extension, this nation. Today, there are over thirty national sporting federations with no national presence, either by representation or activity; but yet, we do present team for international events without authorisation from many entities because no such entity has such authority.

In short, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are the broad outlines of my proposed legislation and I want to entreat this August gathering to discuss the said proposal and advise as its deems fit.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'the National Sports Authority of Sierra Act, 2017 be read the second time.

[Question Proposed]

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to this all important Bill before us. I want to commend the Minister of Sports for his relentless effort in trying to improve sporting activities throughout this nation. As rightly mentioned, we have faced many challenges as a result of sporting organisations that are not registered, but are going overseas to represent our country. These organisations are taking people in different countries; and at the end of the day, they dump these people in those countries. Such attitude has over the years tarnished the image of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since the assumption of office by this Minister, the conflicts that have been taking place within the sporting sector in Sierra Leone has minimised tremendously. He is trying to bring sanity and discipline around the country and he deems it fit to bring this legislation. The parent Act did not cover several areas, but this one is inclusive and it is one of the key elements in trying to find a lasting solution to the numerous problems within the sport sector in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very good Bill and it has no amount of controversy. The only issue I want to bring to the notice of this House is the amount of Board members, which in private discussions with the Minister, has accepted to reduce the number from thirteen to eleven, so that we can have effective and efficient operations of this Authority when this House would have passed this Bill into law.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to enjoy sporting activities as a country. We want discipline in all sporting areas in this country. We also want to compete in the highest standard of all sporting discipline in the world. However, that comes with a good reputation, hard work, unity, zeal and determination to serve under the coat of arms or the emblem of Sierra Leone.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge my colleagues to speedily ratify this Bill. I thank you very much.

HON. EDWARD S. JENGO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice in support of this Bill. You may agree with me that the Ministry of Sports, before this time and even now, is bedevilled by multiplicity of problems. But with the enactment of this Bill into law, it will minimise the problems that are within the sporting field. I have read this Bill page by page and I did not see anything controversial in this Bill. This means that we want to move as a nation *[Applause]*. Sporting activities, especially football is the order of the day because everywhere you go, you hear people talk about football. The question is where are we as a nation? Before this time, people want their children to be doctors, lawyers, but I, Honourable Edward S. Jengo Jnr would want my son to be a serious footballer,

[Laughter]. In fact, I would want him to be like Messi or Ronaldo. I think we need to pay attention to sports in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was impressed with the provisions in this Bill because the language used can be easily understood and that makes this Bill a fine Bill. I want to reiterate here that there is nothing controversial about the Bill. In that regard, I want to call on my colleague Members of Parliament to join the mover to speedily ratify this Bill into law. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. PATRICIA U. DANCAY-BANGURA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to give my support to this Bill and I would like to commend the Minister for this great achievement. It is an open secret that we have heard lots of problems in the past in this Ministry. However, the present Minister has tried to bring some amount of sanity into the sporting arena.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, establishing a Sport Authority is long overdue. No Ministry can do it alone if there are authorities to rely on for support. In other words, if other stakeholders could come and help the Ministry, there will be development in the Ministry of Sports and sporting events will move forward in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for a far too long, the Ministry or the Football Association in particular has had no female league in this country, until few months ago through the efforts of the current Minister. He has brought back the female football league in this country *[Applause]*. I want to encourage the Minister that with the establishment of this Authority, it is also going to encourage more young ladies of this country to play football or participate in other sporting events; i.e., volleyball, basketball, cricket, etc. The women of this country should have equal opportunities as men. In other words, there should be equality in sporting activities and at the same time, yearn for other equal rights in other areas. With the establishment of a Sports Authority, there is going to be promotion of sports internally and internationally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the previous speakers did mention how our young men and women are taken out of this country, but at the end of the day, some

of them are left out there. They left them in other countries without considering bringing them back, thereby smearing the good image of this country.

With the creation of a Sports Authority, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all those who are going to be involved in sporting activities should take licences or should be given permission by the Sports Authority. We are sure that this Authority, once established, will look into many issues in the sports field. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. DR FODAY I. SUMAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to the Bill that is before us. I want to start by recognising the ability and capacity of the Minister to promote sports in this country. He has done so in volleyball and in the female football league and I have no doubt that he is the right person to take football and other sporting activities to another level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one aspect I want to talk about is improving the sporting ability of people in this country. I would like to use the word 'attitude' because I have met footballers, especially during international matches abroad and at home and I have come to the conclusion that enthusiasm and patriotism are lacking in the attitude of Sierra Leoneans and in their approach to sports.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second aspect I want to look at is private sponsorship, which has also been lacking in this country. I would not say totally lacking, but it is lacking in this country and unless private sponsorship comes into play, it will be difficult to develop sports beyond the amateur level. The Minister knows that some of us are in the position to encourage and mobilise good-will people abroad to invest in the sports. We have those contacts and we will be willing to put them at the disposal of this Minister. We have tried to do that in the past, but we failed woefully because the people involved then were interested in other things than in promoting the sports.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge my colleagues to speedily pass this Bill into law. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I wanted to make a very short statement. For me, football in

Sierra Leone has gone through series of hurdles. There should be an Authority by law that will ensure command and control, and give some semblance of political will and authority. I am saying this because whatever you say, you can never detach the State from sporting activities. However, what we are seeing today is a situation wherein different sport fields want to conduct their activities totally independent from government's interference. But again, it is the government that subsidizes these institutions and there must be some semblance of control. In other words, there must be some link that makes these institutions accountable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, government represents the people and the people of this country must have a say in how their sporting disciplines are run. Therefore, if an Authority is going to be established to serve as central coordinating unit, we should not belabour on the point. I strongly support that we pass this Bill into law, so that we can have an Authority that will oversee all sporting disciplines in this country. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very good Bill because it seeks to put a coordinating institution together, so that all the sporting activities in the country are coordinated in a way that everybody is represented or in a way that we meet our international obligations. But also, sports should be for development. In other words, sports bring people together it is that single entity that brings people together even in a country where there is fighting between political parties or between ethnic groups. This is because when all of them are watching sports, it does not matter who you are or where you are, they are reacting to the same issue. So, for countries that have come from war, we are using sports to promote development, reconciliation and to reintegrate the society mentally, economically and socially.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to agree with those who have spoken before that for quite some time, sport lovers have not enjoyed sport in this country because it is marred with a lot of controversies, especially football. Football is one area that where you have many fans because people love football. They want to see football grows, but

what has happened is the misplacement of the sport in this country. You do not know who is in charge or who is not in charge. Today, when you open the radio, you will hear the Sierra Leone Football Association fighting with the Minister of Sports, who is doing everything. In that regard, you do not really know what is happening and that has even discouraged a lot of fans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not only about football because we also have tennis, volleyball, etc. and we should also look at those sporting events that are also underdeveloped. When I was in secondary school, I played Bird-meeting. Today, I do not know what has happened to Bird-meeting. Tennis was a sport that I played because I am somebody who did not like to come into contact with my opponents when it comes to sports. That is why I do not love football because I do not want to come into contact with my opponent. However, I like tennis and Bird-meeting.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not like football because of the terrible accident I witnessed. When we were little kids, one of our friends was kicked on his stomach while playing football and he eventually died. He was an active young boy and since then, football became my enemy. It is something that usually scares me because it always brings those sad memories. Even when I was in secondary school, I played volleyball, Bird-meeting and tennis because these are games that keep the other players away from me. In fact, these types of games do not remind me of the shock we had on that sad day. However, this is a good thing and we are happy that the Minister is establishing this Authority in order to put all sporting activities under umbrella, so that there will be coordination and Sierra Leoneans will reap the benefits of these sporting activities internally and externally. We do not have any problem with this initiative, but we only hope that this Authority will not be another burden to us. We do not want another Authority that will be fighting with the Minister or the Ministry, or the Minister is fighting with the Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we hope that the provisions in this Bill will be thoughtfully implemented, so that there is harmony and coordination. We want enjoyment in all sporting activities in this country. Unfortunately, my daughters will not

be doing sporting activities now, as the Honourable Edward S. Jengo wanted his boy to be Messi and all of those things but we are happy to just sit down and watch sport and see Sierra Leone grow nationally and internationally. I am very particularly concerned about implementation because that has always been the problem in this country. Again, the role of the Ministry has to be very clear; the role of the Authority has to be very clear; and the roles of the subsidiary bodies have to be clear. The question is what is the relationship between SLFA and this Authority? Their roles have to be clearly defined, so that we will be in a better position to know how they all relate to each other. We want to see harmony and unity within the sporting field. When we come to the Committee Stage, I will propose few amendments. For instance, I do not like the name 'Participation and Sustainable Sport Division.' I am saying this because sport division is sport division and it is you that will make it participatory or sustainable. I do not know where you get that nomenclature from, but whether you took it from outside or not, there should be a Sport Division that will ensure that there is sustainable sporting activities and effective participation. You have used these adjectives to establish the Division, but we do not know where that is coming from. We will look at it when we come to the Committee Stage, otherwise this is a very good Bill and we give it all our support and blessing. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to thank all those who have spoken in favour of this Bill. We have agreed that since there is no controversy, the Bill itself is not controversial. I want to support and thank all those who have contributed and I want to call on my colleagues to quickly approve the passage of this Bill into law. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR. AHMED KHANOU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I took note of the compliments made here by the numerous speakers on the matter before us, particularly the recognition of the efforts of the Ministry in reforming the sector and resuscitating the female and other leagues around the country. Somebody mentioned private sponsorship and that is why we are proposing that we pass this Bill into law because there is an article in this Bill that talks about the

establishment of a sport fund, whereby we mobilise the corporate sector into mobilising resources.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I took note of the fact that the attitude of our athletes in it itself is questionable because they have not been identified scientifically and nurtured elsewhere in the world. And this is done through sporting academy and in the absence of which, we are now proposing the establishment of a National Institute of Sports, where the young Edward S, Jengo will be collected and taken through pastoral care at the Institute. This will not in any way result in a drop out or on account that he is leaving school for a sporting prowess.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody spoke about the relationship between the Ministry and other sector players. Honourable Members, this is the first of several efforts aimed at reforming the sector. We should first of all start with establishing the Authority that will result in the establishment of other regulatory frameworks.

The relationship between these and several other sporting associations and that of registration are clearly defined in this Bill. When you comply with the laid down regulations, you will be issued with a certificate of operation that will allow you to go about sporting activities. This is because the Ministry's role or Authority's role will merely be supervisory and control, so that you maintain the integrity of not only the sports, but the integrity of this nation. We want a situation wherein if you are allowed to go out in the name of representing this country in international sports, you fly the green, white and blue and not yourself. If you bring this into disrepute, it becomes a burden to the State and it becomes an integrity issue for the State.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank Honourable Members for their invaluable contributions. I therefore move that the Bill entitled, 'the National Sport Authority of Sierra Leone be read the second time. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, although this is going to be looked into, perhaps more carefully, I thought the point raised by Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai could have

averted to it. You could elaborate on that when we come to the Committee Stage, but Part VI talks about the National Institute of Sports, Participation and Sustainable Sport Division. Why all these qualifications?

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Speaker, that is deliberate because sport is not just limited to competitiveness for the health of a nation, but you can use mass sport for social messaging like awareness raising on breast cancer or HIV/Aids. You can use that because that is one avenue you can mobilise ten or twenty thousand people at one-go and educate them. That is why we say mass sport. Sustainable sports refer to getting people to be competitive; and at the same time, they should be involved in sport for their basic health.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to].

[The bill entitled, 'the National Sports Authority of Sierra Act, 2017 being an Act to establish the National Sports Authority of Sierra Leone for the promotion, encouragement, development and supervision of sports and sporting activities in Sierra Leone and provide for other related matters has been read the second time]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we are now adjourning the House for lunch and we will continue with the Committee Stage after lunch.

[The House was adjourned for lunch at 12:55 p.m. and resumed at 2:40 p.m.]

[The Deputy Speaker, Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah, in the Chair]

[COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING]

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO ITSELF COMMITTEE]

Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, Clauses 1 to 22 proposed

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, Clauses 1 to 22 do stand part of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we go page by page. Page 1?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 1, under the short title. It says: **"Being an Act to establish the National Sport Authority of Sierra Leone for the Promotion, Encouragement, Development and Supervision of Sports."** Mr

Chairman, when you promote, are you not encouraging? To me, promotion is one form of encouragement. I am just asking, Mr Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, the two words are slightly different. Page 2?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Page 2, line 4.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, Page 2, line 4 of what? Are you referring to Clause 2?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Yes, Mr Chairman. We should make correction to that Clause.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Lamin Yansaneh, please make the necessary correction. Page 3?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, the Minority Leader will like this amendment because I want to look at gender issue. Paragraph J of Sub-Clause 2 of Clause 3.

THE CHAIRMAN: Two persons, one of whom should be a woman. Honourable Member, your point is accepted. Mr Lamin Yansaneh, please take note of that.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, we were talking about the composition of the Board and the number of members of the Board. As it is, the number is thirteen. With the private discussion I had with the Minister, he has accepted to reduce it to eleven. One of the recommended categories to be expunged is the two persons.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, thirteen [13] is a good number, so we proceed. Page 3? Page 4?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman I want to look at Sub-clause 3. We usually have statutory members and those to be appointed from the open as Board members. Therefore, that Clause has to be rephrased. It should read, 'The Chairman and other members referred to in Paragraph J of Sub-section 2 of Section 3...' Those are the two people, but they are from the open, unlike the others who are statutory members.

THE CHAIRMAN: Noted, Honourable Member. It makes a lot of sense. Mr Clerk, please take note of that.

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, the two identified persons are further defined in Clause J [1&2]; i.e., persons engaged in non-Olympic Sports. The second one is drawn from tertiary institutions.

THE CHAIRMAN: In that case, you have to recommend them to the President for onward appointment.

MR AHMED KHANOU: I take note of that, Mr Chairman.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, even though we have qualified people, as long as one of them is a female. Is that what it means?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what we have agreed on, Honourable Member. There are many women in Sports we will be looking for them.

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, the thought for J [1&2] is that we want to ensure that sport is made a very big spectrum. It is very difficult to manage, but we want to involve the tertiary institutions. We cannot say the Universities should send representatives because it will clog up the Board. Therefore, we are limiting ourselves to Sports, Health and Management professionals in the Universities. They can either come from Milton Margai, COMAHS, Fourah Bay College or Njala. Gender is one, but this is definitive. Like the other statutory members, I was thinking if they are nominated from this structure, they become automatic members.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Mr Minister. They cannot.

MR AHMED KHANOU: I take note of that, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: We know the Chief Education Officer or the Solicitor-General, but we do not know those two people. We will want to see them and please take note of that.
Page 4? Page5?

HON. FRANCIS KOWA: Mr Chairman, my concern is the selection of the Board Members. Looking at the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Inspector-General, we are looking at their engagements. If they are to be appointed as

Board Members, how often will they be available to attend Board Meetings? These are people with busy schedules, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted. We go to Page 5.

HON. FRANCIS KOWA: Mr Chairman, I am still on Page 5, Paragraph 4. We are still looking at the quorum at any Board meeting. In other words, the quorum at every Board meeting should be seven members. I think seven is too much. Why not five, Mr Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are correct. Mr Minister, I am sure you will accept five. You know how difficult it is to get these people to attend meetings. So, five is still good for the quorum.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page 5, Clause 5[1] states: **"The Board shall meet for the despatch of its business at least once every two months."** I think it is better we say 'every three months.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, two months is fine. Meeting in every two months is good. If we give them three months, they will not be meeting until three months. Two months is not bad. Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Any more on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. FRANCIS KOWA: Mr Chairman, Paragraph 11 1[a] states: **"A member of the Board shall, as the case may be, elect one of their members, to act as Chairman."** I think it should be one of their members if I am right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted. Page 7?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, 11[1] states: **"If absent from Sierra Leone for a continuous period, exceeding three Board Sitings..."** I am suggesting also that Clause 11 [1] [b]. We should delete the phrase, 'from Sierra Leone.'

THE CHAIRMAN: We changed it to six months. Page 8? Page 9?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Paragraphs 'G' and 'H.' They are not consistent with the sentence. It says: **"The Authority shall have responsibility to..."** There is complete mismatch. If you check 13[1], 'the Authority shall have responsibility to a, b, c and then...'

THE CHAIRMAN: What are you suggesting, Honourable Member?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I do not even know what to suggest, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What they want is for the Authority to be responsible and take care of the facilities of the Authority.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: To 'control' facilities of the Authority. We have to add 'control' before 'facilities of the Authority.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Not just control, maybe they want to 'maintain and control.'

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: 'Maintain and control' is apt.

THE CHAIRMAN: To 'control and maintain,' but 'H' does not make sense.

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, I am truly sorry because I do not have a soft copy of the draft with me here, but I cannot comment on Clause 'H.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, are we in agreement? Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, you make sure you insert the proposed amendment with Mr Lamin Yansaneh. Page 9? Page 10?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page 10, Paragraph 'K.' I think we have to delete the article 'an.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, please delete the 'an' for consistency. Page 11?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 11, Clause '4.' The establishment of the Sierra Leone Anti-Doping is not under Section 20. It is under Section 22 on page 14.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anymore on Page 11? Page 12?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page 12, Clause 17[1]. It should end with the word 'Determine.' It reads: 'the Board shall determine, after consulting with the Minister...'

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 13? Page 14?

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, Clauses 1 to 22 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 Clauses 1 to 22 form part of the Bill as amended.]

Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8, Clauses 23 to 36 Proposed

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8, Clauses 23 to 36 stand part of the Bill.

CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we go page by page. Page 15? Page 16?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Sub-clause 2, the first words of the second and third lines state, 'the Registration of Sport Institution and then Clause 27[b].

THE CHAIRMAN: Please take note of that. Page 17?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, I want the Minister to say something about the title of the Bill, 'Participation and Sustainable Support Division.'

MR AHMED KHANOU: Honourable Member, the strategic initiative and focus for the Sport Authority will be to deliver key programmes; i.e., provide funding and technical assistance to Sporting Organisation and establish a nexus amongst other relevant sector players in the country's youth development Agenda and making the collaboration alignment effective within the Sierra Leone sporting sector. To this end, these departments are created. The focus of the Participation and Sustainable Sport Division will be providing specialist support to sports and other sectors and build the capability and capacity of national sporting organisations and their delivery.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Division will also concentrate on collaboration with national sporting organisations and other relevant partners to develop and

implement comprehensive participation plans, coordinate all funding arrangements and compliance with sports sector partners, community sports through school programmes and international sports departments.

Like I mentioned earlier, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I would refer you to your initial comment, where you talked about encouragement and promotion. You promote sports for competitiveness, but you encourage others to participate in sports for their basic well-being. For competitiveness, sustainability is important and that is where coordination of funding partners outside of Government comes in. I want to state here that collaboration forms the broad spectrum of the Board drawing from various other sectors that are very relevant towards the development of sports in the country.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Minister. Madam Minority Leader, are you satisfied?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: I am satisfied, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 18? Page 19? Page 20? Page 21? Page 22?

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8, Clauses 23 to 36 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 5, 6, 7 and 8, Clauses 23 to 36 form part of the Bill as amended]

[THE HOUSE RESUMES]

MR AHMED KHANOU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, 'The National Sport Authority of Sierra Leone Act, 2017, having gone through the Committee of the Whole House with some amendments be read the third time and passed into law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled, 'The National Sport Authority of Sierra Leone Act, 2017' being an Act to establish the National Sport Authority of Sierra Leone for the promotion, encouragement, development and supervision of sporting activities in Sierra Leone and provide for other related matters has been read the third time and passed into Law]

BILL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE BILL ENTITLED, THE FOOD AND FEED SAFETY AUTHORITY ACT, 2017

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SANITATION

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE]

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you going to read the entire report? Please read the entire report, but you have to do it quickly.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the 7th Report of the Legislative Committee, 5th Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled, 'The Food and Feed Safety Authority Act, 2017 presented to Parliament on Friday, 1st December, 2017.

1. Introduction

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the 6th Report of the Legislative Committee, 5th Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled, 'The Food and Feed Safety Authority Act, 2017 being an Act to provide for food and feed safety in Sierra Leone, to ensure the safety and quality of food and feed in order to protect the public against health hazards, promote fair trade practices in food and feed, and to provide for other related matters.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having gone through the second reading, The Bill was committed to the Legislative Committee for scrutiny pursuant to Standing Orders 51[1]. Subsequently, the Committee met on Monday, 6th November, 2017 in the Speaker's Conference Room, Parliament Building, with the following objectives:

[i] to scrutinise the detailed provisions of the legislative proposal after second reading in the House;

[ii] to ascertain the constitutional and legal implications contained therein; and

[iii] to report to Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders [SO] of this Honourable House.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in attendance were the Minister of Health and Sanitation and officials of the Ministry and representatives from people who made meaningful contributions.

2. Recommendations

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinised the Bill line by line and clause by clause, recommends the following amendments to the House for approval:

1. Part I – deals with the preliminaries. On the short title of the Bill, we have to delete the word 'Authority.'
2. The long title was amended to read: **"Being an Act to provide for food and feed safety in Sierra Leone, to ensure the safety and quality of food and feed in order to protect the public against health hazards, promote fair trade practices in food and feed, and to provide for other related matters."**
3. From the definition of the word 'advertisement' to the word 'food stuff' be approved;
4. The definition 'feed business operators' be amended to read 'food and feed business operators.' Also, insert the word 'food and' before the word feed on the penultimate line;
5. The definition, 'feed business' be amended to read 'food and feed business;'
6. The definition of the word 'feed safety' to be approved;
7. The definition of the word 'food' be amended to read; food means any substance or product used as food or drink whether processed, partly processed or unprocessed for human injection order than drugs. These include:
 - [a] water;
 - [b] chewing gum;
 - [c] addicting, which is intended for use in the composition or preparation of food; and
 - [d] any substance intentionally incorporated into the food during its manufacture preparation or treatment.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the purpose of this Act, food does not include life animals unless they are prepared for placing in the market for human consumption, plants prior to harvesting, medical products cosmetics, tobacco products and narcotic drugs.

8. from the definition of the word 'food addictive' to the word 'official certification' be approved;
9. in the definition of official control, the word 'non-compliances' is amended by deleting 's' to read 'non-compliance;'
10. to define the words 'novel foods' to read, 'novel food,' which means food or food ingredients that have not been previously used for human consumption to a significant degree;
11. to define also the words 'primary production' as 'the production, rearing, growing of primary production, including harvesting, milking and farm animal production prior to slaughter. It also includes hunting and fishing, and the harvesting of wild products;
12. from the definition of the word 'package' to the word 'verification' be approved; and
13. to define the words 'placing on the market' as 'the holding of feed or food for the purpose of sale, including offering for sale or any other form of transfer, whether free of charge or not and the sale, distribution and other forms of transfer;
- 14.2. Part II – Establishment of Food and Feed Safety Authority and that Clauses 2 - 4 be approved. That Clause 5 be amended as follows:
 - [a] Sub-clause 2, Paragraphs 'a,' 'b,' 'c,' 'd,' 'e' and 'f' be amended by adding the words 'not below the rank of Director;'
 - [b] that paragraphs 'g' and 'h' be deleted and replaced with the following:
 - 1 representative from Consumers appointed by the Minister; and
 - 1 representative from the Manufactures.
 - [c] that Clause 6 be approved;
 - [d] that Clause 7, Sub-clause 2 be amended by deleting the words 'if present;'
 - [e] that Clauses 8 –12 be approved;

[f] that Clause 13 be amended by deleting one of the repeated words 'be amended;'
[g] in Sub-clause 1, we delete the words 'from Sierra Leone' and also by deleting the word 'months' after the word 'three' and replacing it with Board sittings.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I had a second thought later about this amendment based on our past experience that this month, if we are replacing it with three Board sittings instead of 3 months, it will not work considering the fact that Board meetings are usually held on a quarterly basis. Therefore, if you say three Board sittings, it is going to be almost at end of the year.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will do that when we come to the Committee Stage.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I will go over that amendment. In Sub-clause 1, we delete the words 'from Sierra Leone' and also by deleting the word 'months' after the word 'three' and replacing with Board sittings. The word 'three' before the word 'month' on the last line be amended to read 'six.'

Sub-clause 1[b] be amended to read: 'in the case of a member, the Chairman shall have another person appointed into the Board subject to this Act.'

Part III – Functions of the Authority. I want the side notes to be amended by inserting the word 'the' before the word 'authority.'

Clause 14, Paragraph 'q' be amended by inserting the words 'and feed' immediately after the word 'feed.'

Part IV – Administrative Provisions be approved.

Part V – Financial Provisions

that Clause 20, sub-clause 1[b] be deleted.

Part VI – principles of food safety be approved.

Clause 24, Sub-clause 2 be amended as follows:

Paragraph 'd,' be amended to read:

`adopt measures to manage the risk to prevent and solve the hazards of food and feed productions, taking into account the results of the risk assessment and the options of scientific or any other Sub-committee

New Paragraph `e` and `f` be inserted to read:

Paragraph `e`,`take prevention and control measures to reduce, eliminate or avoid a risk to help from the consumption of food;` and

Paragraph `f`,`ensure that appropriate prevention and control measures are applied at the point in the food and feed supply chain, where they can be most effective in reducing or eliminating the risk.` Therefore, Paragraph `e` is now Paragraph `g.`

That Clauses 25–29 be approved.

Part VII – Food and Feed Trade Requirement

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that wherever the word `licence` appears in the Bill, it should be replaced with `sanitary certificate.`

8 Part VII - Food and Feed Safety Requirement

That Clause 35 be amended as follows:

- a. Sub-clause 6 be amended by deleting the word `no` before the word `evidence` and by deleting the word `unsafe` and replacing it with `safe;`
- b. Sub-clause 8, the spelling of the word `taking appropriate` be corrected to read: `taking appropriate;` i.e., by separating the two words.

Clause 36 be amended as follows:

[a] the side notes be amended to read: Food and Feed Safety Requirement;

[b] Sub-clauses 1 and 2 be amended by inserting `food and` at the start of the sentences.

That Clause 37 be amended by deleting the words `ensure that` and replaced with `supervise.`

That Clause 38 be approved.

That Clause 39 be amended as follows:

[a] the side note be amended by inserting the words 'and feed immediately after the word 'food;'

[b] that a Sub-clause '6' be inserted to read: 'a food and feed business operator shall develop and implement a system of control of food safety plan within its operation based on HACCP principles and the result of checks and tests shall be kept in accordance with the food safety plan of the company, taking into consideration the food safety plan itself and the shelf-life of the product.'

That Clause 40, the side notes to be amended by inserting the words 'and food' immediately after the word 'feed.'

That Clause 41 be approved.

9 Part IX - Inspection and Certification be amended to read: 'Inspection and Imports Certification.'

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that wherever the word 'certification' appears in this section of the Bill, it is replaced with the words 'export certification.'

10. Part X – Enforcement of Food and Feed Safety Requirements be amended to read 'supervision and enforcement of food and feed safety requirements.'

That Clause 52 be amended by inserting a new Paragraph 1 to read: 'giving official warnings, fines, obligation to temporal storage, destruction of food and feed, revocation of licence, closure of specific part of production, entire production and the business.'

11. Part XI – Facilities, Equipment, Transportation and Communications

1. That Clause 54 be amended by deleting the word 'have' and replace it with 'make use of.'

12 Part XII – Food and Feed Safety Scientific Committee be approved.

13 Part XIII - Offences and Penalties.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, although the Legislative Committee has been recommending penalties for offences, the Committee believes that because of the

extreme importance of Food and Feed related issues, both fines, lower and upper levels and imprisonment should be discussed in the Plenary

15. Part XIV - Miscellaneous Provisions

That Clause 84 be amended by deleting the figures '101' and replacing with '110.'

3. Conclusion

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee having scrutinised the Bill entitled, 'The Food and Feed Safety Act, 2017 recommends these proposals to the House for approval. The report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee. I therefore move that the House pass the Bill entitled, 'The Food and Feed Safety Act, 2017 through Committee Stage, third reading and into law.' I thank you for your attention.

The Report was signed by Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Parts I, II and III, Clauses 1 – 14 proposed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, those areas in the report have been amended and we do not need to go over them, except we disagree with the report.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts I, II and III, Clauses 1 – 14 stand part of the Bill

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we go page by page. Page 1? Mr Chairman if the Legislative Committee, Page 1 is not always numbered.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 1 reads: "**Being an Act to provide for Food and Feed Safety in Sierra Leone to ensure the safety and quality of food and feed...**" I would have thought that Clause is amended to read: "**...ensure safe and quality food and feed...**" It reads better this way than 'the safety and quality of food and feed.' However, it is left with the Minister, maybe it is semantics. Let us see whether that does not change the sentence or the meaning or anything. Let us hear what the Minister has to say about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Minority Leader is saying that 'instead of 'to ensure the safety and quality,' we should say, 'to ensure safe and quality.' Well, those of you who are expert in the English Language, you have to come in and contribute. For me, 'safety' seems to be broader than 'safe.'

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: I am just saying, but if it is okay, I have no problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: The impression I am getting from this is that it is broader. In other words, the word 'safety' goes beyond what 'safe' means.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to know from those who are expert in the English Language. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, do you want to say something?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman. I think it will do no harm if it stands as it is. "... to ensure the safety" means you are ensuring safety and quality of food and feed. The reverse also makes no difference.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, both sentences are correct.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: In that case, let us leave it as it is. Honourable Members, anymore on Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, I want to look at Page 11, under the composition. The last time we held the debate here, I did raise the issue to the Minister. If you go to Paragraph 'g' we have FAO and 'h' has WHO. I suggested to the Minister that when it comes to food security and safety WFP is importing food into this country. They are very pivotal in terms of food availability. I did suggest that we add WFP, but the Minister said that these international organisations do not like to be included in our Acts.

THE CHAIRMAN: But we have two there already

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman that was the answer he gave me. But then we already have the FAO and the WHO, which are international organisations.

These organisations are always around when it comes to issues relating to food. They are always in the World Food Summit Committee that is held every year in October in Rome.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, what are you suggesting?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, I wanted to know if FAO is representing the other two organisations; IFAC and WFP, particularly in this Bill. That is my first question. The second question is that what is the role of Civil Society Organisations in the Authority? I also wanted to see two persons representing Civil Society Organisations, 1 of which shall be a woman whose work relates to food and feed safety in this country. These are the concerns I am putting forward.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minority Leader, somebody was saying that you are the most qualified to serve in that capacity.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, this is not a laughing matter. Besides, I am not a Civil Society activist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, I am sure you have heard the Honourable Member.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, let us hear what the Minister has to say to these suggestions.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as the Honourable Member of Parliament did say, the issue of the international organisations did come up in the first and second readings and my contribution was exactly as she stated. This is because it is out of experience about these international organisations. They were saying that they do not mind working with national institutions, but their institutions should not be included in our law books.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, let us go straight to this point. Are you asking this House to expunge Clauses 'g' and 'h'?

THE MINISTER: Yes, Mr Chairman. That was what we did and we replaced 'g' and 'h' with representative from the consumer groups; i.e., Civil Society, and a representative

from the manufacturer groups. We have to remove all international organisations, but that does not mean that they do not have a role to play. We can consult them and I am sure they will be happy to give their technical supports to the institutions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted, Mr Minister,

MR MINISTER: thank you, Mr Chairman.

[Suspension of S.O 5[2] being 3:00 p.m.]

THE CHAIRMAN: So, we are in agreement that Clauses 'g' and 'h' should be replaced with 'the consumer [Civil Society] and manufacturer group; one of whom shall be a woman.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: In that case, what will be the total number?

THE CHAIRMAN: They were ten, but we are now having eleven. I hope we are in agreement. Eleven is more appropriate because is an odd number. Before this time, it was not an odd. You can go ahead and count them. Page 12? Page 13? Page 14? Page 15?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page 15. I want to look at Clause 13[1], the third line, which says 'continuous period exceeding three months...' I believe someone's absence should not be pegged on the time, but rather on the frequency of meetings. This is because we can have three months without meeting. We suggested that the word 'month' be replaced with the words 'Board meetings' It should now read, 'for three Board sittings.' If you have 'three month sittings,' then the implication will be different because the normal time for Board sittings is on quarterly basis. If we say 'three Board sittings,' it is almost for the whole year before penalties can be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: But there are instances wherein emergency meetings may come up and the Board will sit maybe ten times a month. So that will not also be fair to the Board.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: In that case, we maintain 'three Board sittings.'

THE CHAIRMAN: No! I am saying that there might be an instance where they will have three Board meetings or sittings in a week in case of emergency.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: But assuming all things being equal, the standard is quarterly. It is four times a year and that has always been the case.

THE CHAIRMAN: But things are not always equal. Therefore, we have to make room for inequality.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I suggested for two Board sittings. If we see sense in putting board sittings in a place of months, then it will be at least two Board sittings.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Honourable Member. Your point is not convincing.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Well, we now have two suggestions; therefore, we have to agree on one before we go the other point. If the first point makes sense to replace months with the number of Board sittings to determine the absence, then... - *[interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: That point makes sense, but we are saying that they might have three Board sittings in a week in case of emergency. But you cannot use a week to send somebody out.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Are you talking about Clause 13[1]?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Honourable Member.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Well, Clause 13[1] is not talking about the number of Board sitting. Clause 13[1] is talking about the absence on filling of vacancies. It is not talking about the general Board sitting because it is saying that 'where the Board and or a member of the Board dies, resign or is removed from the office or is absent from Sierra Leone for a continuous period exceeding three months...' So, I am saying that this is not talking about sittings of the Board. We have to look at the clause that is talking about Board sittings and the quorum for a Board to hold meetings. If we do not have Board sittings, then we should have a sub-clause to talk about Board sittings. But this is not Board sitting. I cannot see where we have Board sitting because we have

meetings of the Board. Clause 7[1] states: **“The Board shall meet to discuss any business at least once every six months.”** The clause is already in the Bill and it is talking about Board sittings and this is where the amendment should come. This is the issue and we can go back to Clause 7[1] because that is the clause where the amendment should come from and not from Clause 13[1].

THE CHAIRMAN: Clause 13[1] is good and I will take ‘once every three months.’

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: So, 13[1] can be amended to read ‘once every three months,’ instead of ‘once after every six months.’

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct, Honourable Member. Page 15? Page 16? Page 17? Page 18? Mr Minister, please move.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1, 2 and 3, Clauses 1-14 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]

[Parts 1, 2 and 3, Causes 1-14 form part of the Bill as amended]

Parts 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 15-29 proposed

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 15-29 stand part of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, Page 18? Page 19? Page 20? Page 21? Page 22? Page 23? Page 23? Page 24? Page 24? Page 25?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 4, 5, and 6, Clauses 15-29 stand part of the Bill as presented.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 4, 5, and 6, Clauses 15-29 form part of the Bill as presented]

Parts 7, 8, and 9, Clauses 30-51 Proposed

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 7, 8, and 9, Clauses 30- 51 stand part of the Bill

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we go page by page. Page 25? Page 26? Page 27? Page 27?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, after I have gone through Clauses 30-34, I noticed a gap. It says Clauses 25-29 approved and then Part 7 says 'food and feed safety requirement.' It reads: **"Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that wherever the word license appears in the Bill, it is replaced with safety certificate."** It even goes to Part 8 and Clause 35. In that case, what happens to Clause 30-34?

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, it means those clauses are approved.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: But we have been saying that this 'clause has been approved.'

THE CHAIRMAN: In that case, let us amend the Report accordingly. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, please take note of that. We are on Page 27.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 27, Clause 33[1]. I thought we have amended that clause when we were amending the subtitle. We said that wherever we see the word 'export,' we replace it with the word 'import.' Mr Chairman, I hope I am correct. We said food and feed exported should comply with requirement and other regulations we have set. When you come to Clause 34, it is the same thing. What is happening to that?

THE CHAIRMAN: They added all other regulations because that should fall under requirement as well.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: That is what I am saying, Mr Chairman. Why are we having it here?

THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe you suggested it, but they should not add it here. The side note should not be too long.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: No problem, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Madam Minority Leader. Page 27? Page 28? Page 29? Page 30? Page 31? Page 32? Page 33?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 33. I think we have added a new sub-clause 6 and it is in the Chairman's report on Page 4. Mr Chairman, have we used it before or this is the first time we are using it? If this is the first time we are using it, then we have to get the full meaning of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: That has to be spelt out clearly in the acronym in a parenthesis. It has to be that way. Thank you very much, Madam Minority Leader. Page 34? Page 35? Page 36? Page 37? Page 38? Page 39? Page 40? Page 41? Page 42? Page 43? Page 44? Page 45? Page 46? Page 47? Page 48? Page 49? Page 50? Page 51?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 7, 8, and 9, Clauses 30-51 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

Parts 7, 8, and 9, Clauses 30-51 form parts of the Bill as amended]

Parts 10, 11, and 12, Clauses 52-62 Proposed

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 10, 11, and 12, Clauses 52-62 stand part of the Bill

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, Page 50? Page 51? Page 53? Page 54?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Page 52, Clause 54[1]. I do not understand the rationale behind replacing the words 'the Authority shall make use of...' Why did we replace the words 'the Authority shall make use of?' If you can make use of something, why can't you have that something?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Minister, I think we have passed that stage and you were present. It reads: **"The Authority shall make use of laboratories for the purpose of analysing food and feed samples."** The Authority is being empowered here to make use of the laboratories and we have passed that stage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, what the Minister is saying is that if the Authority wants to own a laboratory, can they do that or not? If they want to invest in laboratories, this will not stop them.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It does not stop them and I know that, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Therefore, the Authority shall have or make use of laboratories. In other words, they can own and at the same time they can use other laboratories. So, you rephrase it properly. Page 53? Page 54? Page 55? Mr Minister, here you do not get too excited, otherwise the Members of Parliament will get offended. Page 56? Page 57? Page 58?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 10, 11, and 12, Clauses 52-62 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 10, 11, and 12, Clauses 52-62 form part of the Bill as amended]

Parts 13, and 14, Clauses 63-84 Proposed

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 13 and 14, Clauses 63-84 stand part of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, as usual, we go page by page. Page 58?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: As stated in the report, we need to put our thoughts together. There are a lot of controversies on the penalties, starting from Clause 63.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you report it? Is it captured in the Report?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why do you want to take us aback? If it is captured in the Report, then we look at the Report.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: What I said in the Report was that the Committee decided to leave it for plenary discussion because of controversies and inconsistencies.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next time do not waste our time. You should have finished it there.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Clause 63 reads: "A Food and Feed operator who fails to ensure stages of production, processing and distribution within the business under his control that food and feed to be placed on the market, satisfy the requirement of this Act and any regulations meant under it, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not less than Le50mln and a further fine of Le500, 000 for each day the offence is committed." The first problem here is that there is no room for custodian sentence.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, what are you suggesting?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I want us to include 'custodian sentence.' It can be either, or both.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, what is the consistency?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: If we agree on **Le50mln**, it is going to create a problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am seeing ten years, Honourable Member.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: The other problem is that the clause only states the lower limit not less than without mentioning the upper limit. Not less than is good that way. The other issue is the 'custodian sentence.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us look at the alternative because if you cannot afford to pay, you must pay a price.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: We can suggest the number of years and I want to suggest 'five years.'

THE CHAIRMAN: We have here one year and the other clause talks about ten years.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It is an extraordinary inconsistency with the same **Le50mln**.

THE CHAIRMAN: There must be a reason for that.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, the first two sentences of Clause 63 are very odd. 'A Food and Feed business Operator who fails to ensure at all stages of production....' We should remove the word 'that' before the words 'food and feed' and

bring it in the first sentence to read: **"A feed or food business operator who fails to ensure that at all processing..."** It makes sense that way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where did they use the word 'that?' I don't have it here.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: It is in the third sentence. I am saying the word 'that' should be brought after ensure in the first sentence to read: **"A food and feed business operator who fails to ensure that..."** Then in terms of the penalties, let us go back to the definition of who is a food and feed business operator. The definition is on Page 3. Can the Minister tell us the category of food and feed business operators? Does it include people like the petty traders or the woman who is manufacturing S.O.2 "ogiri or yebeh" for sale? If that is the category of food and feed business operator we are talking about, I think we are mistaking here because when you put all her business together, it is not even up to **Le300, 000**. How can you fine poor woman the sum of **Le50mln**, who is just using maybe ten cups of benni seed to produce her ogiri for sale? I do not know whether you have in mind a particular category of food and feed business operator. Let the Minister tell us which category they are talking about.

THE MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The definition is very clear as to who is a food and feed business operator. We have a legal person responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this Act are met within the food and feed business under their control. For instance, a peddler who sells roast meat is responsible to ensure that the roast meat he or she is carrying is well covered and protected from flies. If he or she does not do that, then these penalties apply to him/her. That is why we suggested that the wordings in the fine should be rephrased to a fine not more than **Le50mln**. However, I do not think whether the Magistrate will look at a petty trader and fines him/her **Le 50mln**.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, the Magistrate does not have the power to fine **Le50mln**. That is why we think of a fine 'not more than' as against 'a fine not less than' **Le50mln**.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, the way and manner our petty traders are handling food in this country is very appalling. These petty traders do not even package the food they sell to the public. But again, it means that we have to provide them with the necessary trainings on how to package their food.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have made your point and it makes a lot of sense. Let us have a solution to this issue. The Minister is suggesting that we use the phrase 'not more than,' so that the Magistrate could even impose a fine of **Le 20,000** or **Le 50,000**. Again, when a Magistrate is imposing a fine, he should look at surrounding circumstances. He should not just fine people vaguely.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Mr Chairman, I strongly believe that we need to separate the categories of people who are willing to do business. For our local people doing business, I think we need to set up a category wherein they meet certain required standards. And for those manufacturers, be it companies or otherwise, we need to set high standard for them, so that they do not mess up the food market. That is my opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, I have told you that whenever you are coming here you should be coming with your draftsmen. It seems they are on holidays. They should be here.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, the standard is in line with what the Minister suggested that when making fine provisions, you consider not exceeding the top limit. This is common in most of our laws; and by so doing, the Magistrate or as the case may be can impose the most appropriate fine base on the circumstance surrounding the offence. The Magistrate can even impose a fine of **Le 10,000** because of the use of the phrase, 'not exceeding.' However, if you say 'not less than,' it means that lesser offences are not provided for in the event of any breach of the law.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we still have 'not exceeding' as the limit. We can adjust the figure, but we should use the phrase 'not exceeding.' Mr Chairman, even the

roast meat seller can also commit an offence on a daily basis. So, those daily offences are being address by the definitions.

THE CHAIRMAN: These are for corporations.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I am saying that you can arrange those issues... -
[Interruption].

THE CHAIRMAN: I was expecting this to have come in the regulation because it has to be tied with it.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Chairman, when the draftsmen were preparing this document, I did not think they had in mind 'fry-fry' and 'ogiri.' But it is coming to the fold and I want to agree with Honourable Dr Sesay when he said that we have to make clear the difference between judges handling issues relating to Coca-Cola for example, and a those handling 'fry-fry.' This means that there is great need for us to now begin to look at the difference between these two people. The Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai made a very good point because the people are very poor and do not subject them to fines they cannot afford to pay; otherwise, you are not solving any problem. But it should also be made very clear that manufacturers are expected to produce quality products that befit international best practice. Therefore, they must also find a way of disciplining them in the event they decide to break the law. Therefore, there is need for us to divide between those big manufacturers and the petty traders who are just trying to earn a living. To us, it is very important. It is true that some of our petty traders are very careless about how they handle food like 'fry-fry,' but it is also very clear that the big business companies are the once who will be committing those offences which will attract our attention. Therefore, I want to agree with the Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai that we separate these two.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I do not know whether the Minister contacted the Freetown City Council because they also have bye-laws that talk about the behaviour of market women in Freetown, in terms of what they should sell and the quality of food they should sell. I am sure the Minister would explain to us. But the thrust of the

argument was that we should separate the two; i.e., those who are selling food like like coco cola, star beer, etc. and petty traders who are doing business to earn a living. This is very important to us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, are you aware of the bye-laws the Honourable Member was talking about regarding those peddlers who deal with food?

THE MINISTER: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you seen them before?

THE MINISTER: Well, I have not seen them yet, but am aware of the existence of bye-laws.

THE CHAIRMAN: On that note, may I suggest that for those petty traders whose capital is below **Le 50mln** be left with that outfit for now? Honourable Members, I am just asking a question. I am making this suggestion because if you look at this Bill, it seems as if they are targeting large manufacturers. Clause 81 talks about closure and they did not consider the people we are now talking about, except we have a specific Clause that will deal with that specifically. In other words, if you look at part that deals with offences and penalties, they are targeting large manufacturers. So, I want to suggest that we have a clause that will specifically deal with the category we are discussing now.

THE MINISTER: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I maintain that the law is the law, regardless of the status in society. The definition of food and feed business operator is very clear. That roast meat peddler you are talking about is a food business operator who is involved in food business. The owner of Roaster is a food business operator who is involved in the business, likewise the owner of the Saint Mary's Supermarket, etc.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, what you are saying is correct, but unfortunately you are not a lawyer. You are a medical doctor. If you check the law books, you will see the categories of offences. Wounding and wounding with intent is separate, but both are wounding offences. The law is the law, but it considers categories. Offences might be

the same, but the punishments are different. We have misdemeanours and felonious offences. So, we agree that the roast meat peddler is dealing with food and Saint Mary's is dealing with food, but the level and categories are not the same. That is what we are discussing now.

THE MINISTER: You are right, Mr Chairman and that is why I suggested that we rephrase the wording of the fine to say upon conviction, you are liable to a fine 'not exceeding.' We have competent judges and magistrates in this country and they can temper justice with mercy. This happens on a daily basis because I have not seen a judge in this country or a magistrate fining a peddler who is carrying **Le 10,000** roast meat the sum of **Le 50,000,000**

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, your point is noted. Honourable Members, what is your position? Let Parliament decide because I have looked at the entire section. To me, the peddlers were not considered when drafting this Bill.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I am humbly suggesting that we delete this provision in the interest of progress, so that those provisions will be addressed by statutory instrument in their regulations. All the categories will be considered in the regulations, otherwise if you go through these offences, you will not feel like conceding, but there are a lot of inconsistencies.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you bring this up when you were having the pre-legislative hearing?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: We brought it up, but it was controversial and we had lots of disagreements on the issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: But again, the challenge here is the implementation of the Act. If we are going to wait for the regulations, then it means it cannot be implemented, except the next Parliament. I think we should have a clause that will cater for these people. They could be fine to the value of the market and not the amount stated in this document. But we have to do something, otherwise this Act will not take effect until after March.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: We are talking about food and feed safety and when you look at the consumption habit and pattern of Sierra Leone, most Sierra Leoneans eat from the informal petty traders who process food on a daily basis. How many Sierra Leoneans are getting their food from the supermarkets? It is the informal sector that is moving the food, especially businesses dealing with food. Mr Chairman, when these women are selling palm oil, they mix the 'Masankay' Palm Oil with red palm oil. For every five gallons of red palm oil, they usually add one gallon of 'Masankey' palm oil. Therefore, we have to be very careful about these traders.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minority Leader, you are just overstating your point. They are more than **95%** of them in the market. We should have a separate clause for them.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Let us define their category.

THE CHAIRMAN: And Parliament has to take a decision, otherwise it is better we send this Bill out until next year.

HON. CLAUDE. D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to go with the proposal of the Honourable Deputy Chairman in terms of the penalties and offences. It is not immediate and I am sure the Ministry wants this document to start some amount of work. I want to believe that when the next Parliament is fully reconstituted, the regulations, offence and penalties would be brought under Statutory Instruments that will further strengthen the document. We do have here the Finance Act to support the Budget, which normally comes very late. In order to fast-track this Document, we need to take into consideration all these issues we are now discussing. If we send this document out and start all over again, I am afraid we will not get it till the next Parliament.

THE MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I am very happy with the manner this debate is going. It reflects the fact that you are the people's representative and the vast majority of the people are poor. It makes very clear and that is where you are coming from. However, I want to make a suggestion that we rephrase the

statement to read, 'upon conviction, you are liable to a fine not exceeding, maybe one-tenth or half or three quarters of the annual turnover of the business, so that you cater for everybody.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Mr Chairman, I want to support his suggestion. We have to insert a clause that will deal with group of people because there is no way you can determine the turn-over of somebody's business. It is very difficult for you to do that. I strongly believe that we insert a separate clause dealing with women who are petty traders, but they are in majority in the food chain. We need to coin a clause to look into that. That will be the process to address this issue.

CHAIRMAN: Madam Minority Leader, are we in agreement that we have a separate clause?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: I am in agreement because without penalties, then this Bill is useless. We also have to learn from the previous work we have done. In all previous works we have done, we have penalties and offences. The Bill will be revisited, so that we have a clause dealing with our petty traders. When you are guilty of an offence, it is the value of that business at that time. If a woman is carrying a tray of 'Akara' cake, but she fails to cover it properly, you have to value the cake and if it worth **Le50, 000**, then that will be the offence, Mr Chairman. For the turnover, you will never know your turnover. When you are found guilty, you value the food and then you impose a fine. That means a small petty trader has a smaller fine and the manufacturing industries will have bigger fines. I think that is the only way we can resolve this issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, the big industries have been catered for in this Bill. All we need to do is to cater for those who are not within this category.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Then let us have Clause 63[1&2]. Clause 63[1] will be looking at the big manufacturing companies while Clause 63[2] addresses the small petty traders.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable member, I think Clause 63[1] should go for the petty traders and Clause 63[2] takes care of the rest.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Chairman, in as much as I agreed with the Minority Leader who has come up with a strong and acceptable statement, I would also want to be reassured that when the Draftsman was putting this document together, they did not consider petty traders as operators. They had in mind big business people as operators. Let us find another word to replace operator for the petty traders. You cannot tell us that somebody who sells 'ogiri' is an operator. For somebody who understands a little bit of English, you cannot call those people operators. We must find another word for the petty traders. I want to agree that those who sell beer and other commodities fall under the category of operators. We have to separate these two categories, so that it makes sense. We have a separate definition for those who are big manufacturers and another for the petty traders. But again, the petty traders are not operators.

THE CHAIRMAN: The word 'operator' is not even defined in this Bill. It is only captured under Clause 63. So, Clause 63[1] should not use the word 'operator.' I agree with you. I want the Minister and the Committee to do something about this issue. They will draft something and show it to you. This should stand to confirm that it is in isolation with those in Clause 63 [2] and the rest. It must stand alone. Do not forget, we also agreed that Clause 63 [2] should also make provision for custodian sentence.

Honourable Members, under Clause 64, we have ten years or fifty million Leone as well for the sale of unsafe food or feed. It will be captured separately. Clause 63 [2] will not apply to Clause 63 [1].

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I am suggesting five years, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Okay. Page 59? Page 60?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: There are lots of problems.

THE CHAIRMAN: Tell us what the problems are.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: For Clause 64, the fine remains the same and there is a `custodian sentence and the other fine also remains the same, but no custodian sentence.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please look at the side notes. The type of offence deals with selling of unsafe food. Page 60? Page 61? Page 62? Page 63? Page 64? Page 65? Page 66?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 13 and 14, Clauses 63 to 84 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 13 and 14, Clauses 63 to 84 form part of the Bill as amended]

[THE HOUSE RESUMES]

MINISTER: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, 'The Food and Feed Safety Act, 2017' having gone through the Committee of the Whole House with some amendments be read the third time and passed into Law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled, 'The Food and Safety Act, 2017' has been read the third time and passed into Law]

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, with your permission, I want to bring this announcement to Members that we have a Pre-legislative session immediately the House is adjourned. Members are kindly asked to attend.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O. 23 to inform this House that the road from Bo to the Sewa Bridge at Koribondo/Bo Road is being cut off at Gerehun. The diversion is through the township into somebody's private compound. That person has made it her business to block the road. The person is also collecting money and even abusing those using the bypass road.

THE SPEAKER: I want the Chairman of the Committee on Works or his Deputy to take note of that, otherwise the Majority Leader should act speedily. This is serious and I want to get feedback by Monday. The issue should be communicated to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] for speedy solution.

Honourable Members, I thank you very much for your support and hope that we are ready for next week. Like what happened in 2012, we are going to have intense sittings next week.

ADJOURNMENT

*The House rose at 4.35 p.m., and was adjourned to Monday, 4th December, 2017 at
10:00 a.m.]*