

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

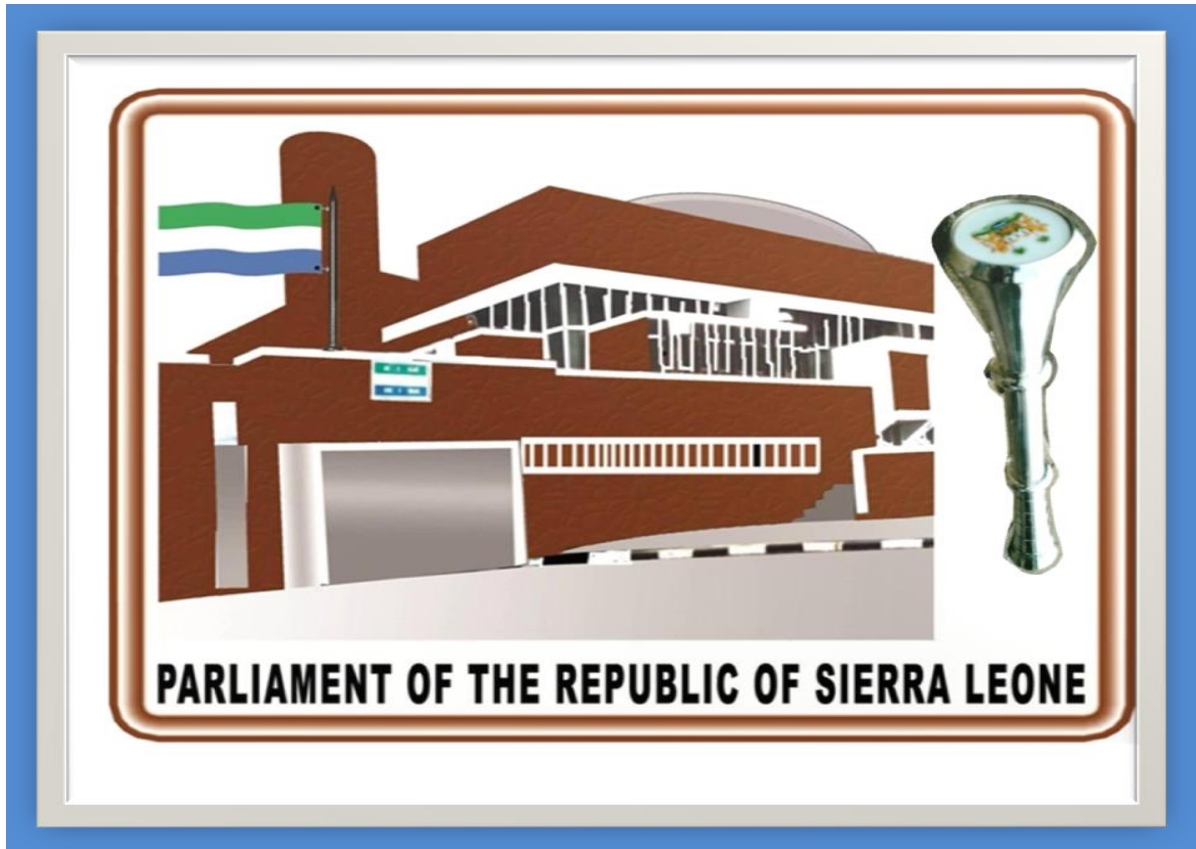
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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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 on Wednesday, 1st March, 2017.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2017.

III. SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

[THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE]

IV. LAYING OF PAPERS

[A] THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN SIERRA LEONE, THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, 2015.

[B] THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE [MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY]
WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION [WTO] TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT [TFA].



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 1st March, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:24 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. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this House to amend the Order Paper to accommodate an item, under the Minister of Trade and Industry. I want to add 'C' on the Order Paper, so that the Minister of Finance would lay the Loan Agreement between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Sierra Leone Produced Marketing Company. I want that item to be inserted on the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Speaker, I hope everybody has a copy of the said Agreement.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, that is the amendment as suggested by the Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business. I take it that there is no objection. Mr Clerk, please take note of that.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2017.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 21st February, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? 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 Tuesday, 21st February, 2017?

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DR MICHAEL SHO-SAWYER: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 21st February, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE

HON. IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SESAY [Clerk of Parliament]: With your leave, Mr Speaker, may I invite the Honourable Rose Marie Bangura of Constituency 066, Tonkolili District, to come forward and subscribe to the oath as a Member of

Parliament. I want to invite the leaders to join in the swearing-in ceremony. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I now swear-in the new Member of Parliament. Honourable Rose Marie Bangura subscribed to the oath of allegiance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now handover the following documents you would need to perform your duties as a Member of Parliament:

- the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991,
- the Standing Orders of the Sierra Leone Parliament;
- the Parliamentary Service Act of 2007;
- officials of Parliament you need to know; and
- the parliamentary prayers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Parliamentary Service Commission to which the Right Honourable Speaker is the Chairman and also doubles as the Speaker of Parliament, I want to welcome and congratulate you. I now hand you over to the Whip of the House to take you to your seat. Thank you *[Applause]*.

IV. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN SIERRA LEONE, THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, 2015.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the State of the Public Service in Sierra Leone, the Annual Report of the Public Service Commission, 2015 *[Applause]*.

[B] THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE [MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY] WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION [WTO] TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT [TFA].

CAPT. MOMODU ALLIEU PAT-SOWE *[Minister of Trade and Industry]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Government of Sierra Leone [Ministry of Trade and Industry] World Trade Organisation [WTO] Trade Facilitation Agreement [TFA] *[Applause]*.

[C] THE MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DR PATRICK CONTEH *[Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a Loan Agreement between the Ministry of Finance and Economic

Development, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Sierra Leone Produced Marketing Company *[Applause]*.

[V] MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU.

SECONDER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Second Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, alive with its constitutional obligation of vetting and approving of appropriately qualified candidates for appointment to public offices, met on Tuesday, 21st February, 2017 and interviewed five presidential nominees for appointment as follows:

- i. Chairman, Political Parties Registration Commission [PPRC];
- ii. Board Chairman, National Revenue Authority [NRA];
- iii. Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC];
- iv. Member, National Tourist Board; and
- v. Member, National Standards Council.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency with its established procedure. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to hold such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. Third Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 21st February, 2017

i. Hon. Justice, Patrick O. Hamilton, Proposed Chairman, Political Parties Registration Commission [PPRC]

Hon. Justice Patrick O. Hamilton is a Legal Luminary who has spent his entire working life in the Judiciary. He joined the Law Officers Department in 1977, and through hard work and dedication to duty, he rose through the magisterial ranks to the position of Principal Magistrate. 1993 – 2000. Thereafter, he was promoted:

- i. High Court Judge, 2000-2004;
- ii. Justice of the Court of Appeal, 2004-2009;
- iii. Member, Judicial and Legal Service Commission, 2007-2009;
- iv. Justice of the Supreme Court, 2009-date; and
- v. Commissioner, Law Reform Commission, 2010-date.

Responding to the inquiries of the Committee, Honourable Justice Mr Patrick Hamilton assured the Committee that he had read through the “Political Parties Registration Act” and was quite au fait with the primary functions of the Chairman as provided by the Act. Questioned on his neutrality and impartiality in the execution of his functions, Honourable Justice Mr Patrick Hamilton said, **“I am going to be as neutral and impartial as I have always been in the judiciary. I will give independent and fair decisions if approved by this Honourable House.”**

On the burning issue of political parties defaulting to submit audited financial reports to the PPRC as required by law, Hon. Justice Mr Patrick O. Hamilton opined that the ‘Political Parties Registration Commission Act’, has provisions for the annual submission of the audited reports of political parties’ finances to the Commission. **“What remedy is needed in the future,”** he said, **“Is the penalty for defaulters. There is no provision for penalty in the Act. I cannot see the Political Parties Registration Commission, for now, improvising punishment where the Act has not provided any. That is why Political Parties are delaying in submitting their audited financial reports. I think that is an issue that the ‘Law Reform Commission’ will have to look into with a view to making amendments to the Act in question. I am of the**

view that there must be a penalty where Political Parties fail to forward their financial statements. The fact that they are not funded does not mean that their account could not be looked into. If I obtain the blessings of this Honourable House, I will take a look at these and other issues to strengthen the Act. The PPRC is a novelty in our political history. It is growing and a growing baby needs to be nurtured properly. Where there is need, we will seek remedy to have the fault corrected. I promise to do my best if I am approved by this Honourable House to be the Chairman of the PPRC.”

ii. Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh, Proposed Board Chairman, National Revenue Authority

Mr Jalloh is a practicing Lawyer with a wealth of experience in private, public as well as information practices. He has acquired an excellent track record of working in varied roles that include drafting of legal documents, human right work, company law, criminal law, project development, management and implementation. He has recently been engaged to provide policy guidance and legal service to a number of institutions that include Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority, Independence Media Commission and the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. Outlining his strategies to booster revenue generation Mr Alpha Jalloh said that a target has already be set by his predecessor to collect **Le3.7tln** in the current Financial Year. **“The good thing is that the necessary foundation has already been laid and I intend to build on it. There are, however, a few grey areas that I want to look into, particularly to reduce corruption and guard against wastage within the organisation, so as to maximise revenue collection. I would also want to look into the informal sector and with the corporation of my team of Board Members we may be able to explore the possibility of generating maximum revenue from that sector. Being a Lawyer, he said, “I might also want to see how we can consolidate all the many but scattered laws dealing with the National Revenue Authority into a new NRA Act to enhance administrative efficiency and revenue generation.”** Mr Alpha Jalloh

promised to work to the best of his ability to ensure quality service delivery and enhance revenue generation for Government.

iii. P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Cooperation

P.C. Gbumbu Clark Kallon is the Paramount Chief of Jawei Chiefdom, Kailahun District, from 2002 to date. He has previously worked as a dispenser in a number of hospitals in the country. Reacting to the Committee's enquiry, P.C. Musa Gbumbu Clark Kallon assured Members that he has obtained a copy of the Sierra Leone Roads Transport Cooperation Act. **"My duties, as a Board Member, are well spelt out in the Act and I intend to stick to that and to implement the law as provided in the Act. I plan to work collaboratively with colleague Board Members to develop good policies that will assure the public of a safe reliable, affordable and sustainable transportation system in Sierra Leone."**

iv. Mr Eldred Collins, Proposed Member, National Standards Council

Mr Collins started life with a noble profession of a classroom teacher. He has also acquired a lengthy work experience in construction companies in the Republic of Liberia. Responding to probing questions Mr Eldred Collins called for hard work unity and cooperation among Board Members to develop policies to ensure that the Standards Council adhere to and enforce quality control and international best standards for both local and imported products.

v. Mr Emmanuel B. Pratt, Proposed Member, National Tourist Board

Mr Pratt is a trade unionist of no mean standing and currently holds the following positions:

- 2009 to date, General Secretary, Media Union;
- 2010 to date, Sierra Leone Labour Congress, National Youth Coordinator; and
- 2016 to date, Sierra Leone Labour Congress, Public Relation Officer.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Pratt deposed that His Excellency the President has nominated him in recognition of the roles he had been playing in the youth wing of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress. **"If we have a good natural minimum**

wage and an employment policy to date, it was because of the pivotal role and selfless sacrifices some of us played to achieve them.” On the same issue of development of the tourist industry in Sierra Leone, Mr Pratt said, **“I intend to do my best to lobby and work with social partners to showcase tourist potential of Sierra Leone to the outside world.”**

4. Recommendations

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and they are accordingly recommended to the House for approval.

- i. Hon. Justice Mr Patrick O Hamilton, Chairman, Political Parties Registration Commission;*
- ii. Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh, Board Chairman, National Revenue Authority;*
- iii. P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon, Board Member, Sierra Leone Roads Transport Cooperation [SLRTC];*
- iv. Mr Eldred Collins, Member, National Standards Council;*
- v. Mr Emmanuel B. Pratt, Member, National Tourist Board;*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Second Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Second Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I so second.

[Question Proposed]

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this House has a lot of confidence in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting presidential nominees. I would urge Honourable Members to read the Committee’s report in order to see what transpired during the course of the interviews we conducted. I happened to have been there myself and I took active part in scrutinising the nominees before you. We interviewed five nominees by the Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, following the death of the late Tola Thompson, the erstwhile Chairman of the Political Parties Registration Commission, a lot of sceptics were wondering as to whether His Excellency the President would be able to come across another candidate that has the same type of qualifications that the late man had before he died. The qualifications I am not only talking about the academic or legal qualifications he had, but the neutrality and professionalism he demonstrated in the course of discharging his official duties. This position is an extremely sensitive position, particularly at this point in time when we are about to go into elections. I believe every Member of Parliament wanted to see who would succeed the late Justice Tola Thompson. Whether by coincidence or design, the President in his wisdom nominated Honourable Justice Mr Patrick O. Hamilton to step into the shoes of the late man. The sceptics are now silent because this nomination has put silence to all the queries they were advancing. I want to believe that this House is confident enough about this presidential nominee who is now before you for approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the course of the interviews, the Committee asked him how neutral he would be in the present position, especially when we are about to go into elections. Mr Speaker, I had to quickly answer on behalf of the candidate and I told Committee members that having appeared before Justice Patrick O. Hamilton in the murder matter and where he disabled himself to preside over my matter because of some political interference, I told him that I knew him and he would be independent and neutral in the discharge of his duties. Of course, if you go through his documents, you would see how he gradually rose through the ranks. He has held prominent positions in this country. Those positions cannot be held by any mean man. We must, therefore, congratulate him and wish him well for what he has demonstrated in his life. I hope, when he goes to the Political Parties Registration Commission, he would equally do well there. I want to wish him well and I hope this House would speedily approve his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to go to the next nominee, who is a legal luminary as the Committee report states, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh, proposed Board Chairman, National Revenue Authority. He is a qualified Lawyer and he has a

number of years to his advantage. As he himself told the Committee, his work has already been reduced by his predecessor, who had laid the very strong foundation for the NRA and he promised to merely build on that foundation.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the position that Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh has been nominated to is a very sensitive one and very important because this country is dependent on the NRA for the resources that Government uses to develop this country. That is the NRA is responsible to collect revenue on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone. In recent times, the NRA has been doing extremely well in terms of providing resources to the Government to spend for the development of this country. This nominee combines not only intellectual ability, but youthfulness on his side. I want to believe that he would do very well in that position.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to give the Floor to other Members of Parliament who may want to contribute. I want to urge this House to speedily approve them so that they can go and do their work. There is no doubt that we are not expecting any failures because that is definitely not the option why the President has nominated them. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to start by thanking the President for being so kind to certain people. Some few months ago or years ago, when I first saw the Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah from Kenema coming down the steps, he was leaning on walking-stick and now you can see him standing alone and even shinning. I want to thank the President for rewarding certain people in this country *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with the nominee for the PPRC, Justice Patrick O. Hamilton. For some of us who have been in and out of the court system, the name Justice Hamilton rings a bell in this country. Like what Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah has said, he is somebody with very stuff character. He has always been neutral and we expect him to continue in that direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Commission. The Commission is very important and Justice Patrick O. Hamilton's predecessor and team did a tremendous job. I am just asking him to maintain and build upon that

foundation laid by his predecessor. That team has been a very good team and if we are enjoying relative peace today in SLPP, we owe that to the PPRC. Justice Patrick O. Hamilton has a very good track record, but I want to remind him that we have rules and regulations governing the operations of that Commission that are yet to be gazetted. I am asking him that if this House approves his nomination, that should be his first priority because we want to conduct the flag-bearer elections as soon as possible. That is the only thing that is holding us back.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh. Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh and the Deputy Speaker were my juniors at Fourah Bay College. I am proud to state here that these were my boys at Fourah Bay College and I am very proud to see them growing. I am very much impressed with his responses to the Committee. He said they are charged with the responsibilities of mobilising revenue, so that this country can move forward. He acknowledged the fact that there are seepages in the system, but he promised to ensure that they screw those leakages. I want to say kudos for that acknowledgement. However, he would have talked about how we have been overtaxed. Therefore, we are not looking forward to a new tax system anymore, but rather broaden the tax revenue. If people are overtaxed, then there is no need for new taxes. We are overtaxed as a nation and we have to ensure that we close some of the seepages within the system.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, as an economist, do you feel we are overtaxed at the moment? If that is so, there is no necessity as an economist?

HON. FODAY RADO YORKIE: Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that we need to increase the tax base or improve on them without introducing new taxes. Like he said, we need to screw those seepages within the Economy. If we do that, it would help us move this country forward. I want to wish him well if this House approves his nomination. Please bring more innovations into the NRA. The person who was chairing that institution has done extremely well, but with your qualifications, I know you will get better results because two heads are better than one. Your promotion and that of the Deputy Speaker are litmus tests for the younger generation. The Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah is doing very well here.

The young people are people I can rely on because the likes of Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah and many others in prominent positions are doing very well. When I heard Honourable Alimamy Kamara this morning declaring for the flag bear position of the APC, I said my younger brother is also in the race.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Roads Transport Cooperation [SLRTC]. You are coming from Eastern part of the country and you are expected to go and improve the Transport Sector. For the past few years, you have seen how the pump prices have increased, yet the price of Government transportation remained relatively the same. We are looking for more innovation so that Public Sector can compete with the Private Sector. I am one person who is suggesting for the privatisation of that Cooperation, so that they can compete with the Private Sector because we are charging minimal prices. The maintenance cost is so much that you cannot compete with them. If not, some people will say **S.O. 2 'ay den don buy boku bus don den park en di money nor de for repair dem.'** Therefore, I am asking you that you bring that kind of innovation into the Cooperation. When you charge minimal prices, those funds are not enough to fund maintenance cost and at the end of the day, you will have to incur debts. We should not be oblivious of the fact that these buses are on loan and we should not, in anyway, allow them to park and be abandoned. You are charged with the responsibility to pay for those vehicles in the future. Therefore, I want you to introduce this as a new technology or innovation in the Cooperation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Eldred Collins, proposed Member, National Standards Council. Looking at your background, you have done your own bit and I would want a situation where you introduce some amount of discipline to that Council. You used to be very strict and I want you to introduce that into the Standards Bureau.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I always tell people is that if you buy a tube of paste in the Supermarket and later go to Kissy Road for the same tube of paste, there is a difference in the price. You know the difference? What is made for Africa is completely different from what is made for America and yet they are the

same toothpastes. Therefore, we also have to strengthen our standards in terms of meeting certain standards before bringing goods into the Country. For me, as an Economist, toothpaste is toothpaste. If I am going to buy cheaper, then there must be a substitute. Why is it that the Colgate Paste from America has better quality than the same Colgate Paste that is bought directly from China? I am suggesting here that the standards should be the same. With that kind of background that you have, you can also introduce this kind of innovations into that sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know the Trade Unionist, Mr Emmanuel B. Pratt, proposed Member, National Tourist Board. I know that Trade Unionists are difficult people, but they bargain for the general interest all. He said that he has been one of those in theory, who has helped with the minimum wage rate. I am saying in theory because not everybody is paid the minimum wage of **Le500, 000**. There are lot of people who are still being paid **Le200, 000**, or **Le300, 000**. Therefore, it is still in theory. It would only become practical when every other Sierran Leonean is paid **Le500, 000**. Well, with your background, we also hope that you will introduce these innovations into the Trade Union Sector.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am asking that this Honourable House approves the nominees before us. I thank you very much.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am still wondering about the statement made by the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, when he said that we were his boys at Fourah Bay College.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, the fact remains that he was your senior at Fourah Bay College.

HON. CHARNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, there is one secret that cannot be told in this House and I will discuss that later. Mr Speaker, what I want to add to what the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie has said is the fact that what he said about the APC is a testament to what the APC can do for those who have sacrificed their resources not only for the party but for the country. The Honourable Foday Rado Yokie should also join us if he wants.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure I know all the nominees before us this morning. I will say very little of Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton because as you can see from the report, he was Principal Magistrate up to 2000 and I have known him before then. So, throughout his sojourn in the Judiciary, I have known him in the Magistrate Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. So, I have so much to say about him, but not today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the gentleman from the Labour Congress, Mr Emmanuel B. Pratt, is an Edwardian like the Speaker of this House and I want to believe that he will deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh, proposed Board Chairman, National Revenue Authority. He was a senior Edwardian to the gentleman from the Labour Congress. I have known Mr Muctarr Jalloh for about thirty three years. The man seated behind him, Mr Yillah was also with us. The three of us have lived together since 1985. We entered the St Edwards School the same year. In fact, we also entered University the same day and we also entered the same Chamber. We eventually formed our own Chamber afterwards.

THE SPEAKER: Okay you talk about Mr Yillah. Sit down it would appear that there are few Edwardians here and this is where I want to interrupt the Proceedings to recognise Mr Alieu B. Kanu, the Chairman of the Independent Media Commission [IMC]. What I want you to know, as I once said when this man was presented, this was the one man who used to beat me in class in some subjects. He used to beat me in History and there were times when he would beat me in English and Latin. These were my two best subjects. We used to have a very powerful debating team and if we did not have him whenever we wanted to debate, believe you me, we were sure to be defeated. At that time, Mr Allieu Pat-Sowe was our junior and Honourable Benneh Bangura was our junior. I would also like to introduce Madam Haja Kala-Kamara, who also attended the St Edwards School. She was one of the most brilliant pupils I have ever taught in my life at the St Edwards School.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am happy for you to have confirmed that Capt. Momodu Pat-Sowe was your junior. I also have juniors also in this Well. I am saying this because the former Chairman of the

National Revenue Authority [NRA], Mr Borbor Kabba was my junior and the Honourable Francis Kowa was my junior as well. So, I also have juniors in this Well. You also said that the Chairman of IMC used to beat you in some subjects. I want to say that Ibrahim Yillah used to beat us in most of the subjects.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know Mr Jalloh very well that talking about him will result in writing a whole book. I am the only person who can stop him from doing what he wants to do. His mother is here and his father knows. I want to believe that Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh will perform excellently if approved by this House. I know him to be a result oriented young man. Where there is a foundation he has no option but to build on it.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, we used to call Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton as 'POOH,' but he has omitted the other 'O.' I am sure he is going to be a very good Chairman for the PPRC. Therefore, I want to encourage this House to support the nominations of the President, so that they can go to work as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

HON. MOIWAI MOMOH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Today is another memorable day for this House because we have prominent personalities before us who have been nominated to serve in various positions in the state. Amongst these personalities seated in front of us is PC Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon II. Mr Speaker, please allow me to give a brief background of PC Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon II. He is the son of Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon, the first who also came from a ruling house. The history of Jawei remains incomplete if the name of his late father is not mentioned as one of the founding fathers of Jawei.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon II is before us for approval. He is one of the old Bo School boys. Having got his education from Bo School, he joined the medical team and he spent greater part of his life at the Dr Kobba's Clinic at Mobai, where he got a wealth of experience in medical practice as a Dispenser. During the outbreak of the civil war in 1991, he did not actually abandon his people. He went to the jungle and served his people. He was not a fighter, but more or less a defender of the lives of his people. Those wounded in action were treated by the present P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon II. He did very well at that

time. He was very brave and above all, he stood and fight with his people. At the end of the civil war in 2002, he came to Kenema and opened his Clinic in order to continue to render his services to his people. When it was time for them to declare for the Chieftaincy, he went back and his people compensated him and was voted overwhelmingly as their Paramount Chief in Jawei Chiefdom, Kailahun District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the outbreak of the deadly Ebola Virus Disease [EVD], he did not also run away. All the regulations that were issued in order to fight the virus came from his experience, together with his colleagues Paramount Chiefs. He was the first to accept the fact that the EVD had entered Jawei Chiefdom. I stood by him and we fought together. We did not abandon our people. He has a good inter-personal relationship with his people and he is very much revered in that Chiefdom as one of the great rulers of Jawei Chiefdom. So, if he is before us today for parliamentary approval, I will also ask my colleagues to join me in order to speedily approve his nomination. I know he will do extremely well. The only thing he needs to do is to team up with his colleagues section and sub-chiefs for the development of that Chiefdom. Again, we would want him to work with colleagues Board members. We believe in team work because the 'I did this' should give way to the 'We did this.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it will be an injustice if I take my seat without saying a word about the Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton. I know him very well. He has gone beyond the level of knowledge. He has wisdom like his predecessor, the late Justice Tola Thompson. The wealth of experience he has got from the Judiciary would be judiciously used to make that particular Commission functions well. I want to inform him that the position he has been nominated to serve is not a child's play at all. We know that you are above it, but you have to be very conscious and au fait with the structures that rule our social world. We have the political, social, spiritual and economic structures. Of these four, the most powerful structure is the political structure. It is external to us, but its cohesive power [if you are able to withstand it without coercing you to change your character], you will maintain it for life. I want you to be conscious of that fact. Do not be carried away or be scared by the conflict of political parties. We live in a social world and we are

human beings. Conflict is not always negative. It yields dividends. We do not want destructive conflicts. You could recall Georg Frederick Hegel, a German Philosopher, whose epoch of development was based on three dialectics. He said in every given society there is always a thesis of the status quo. And after several years of adhering to that status quo, one or two people will come together and perhaps question the validity of the status quo and that will lead to an antithesis, either we have to change or go by it. People must question the status quo. George Hegel also said that there should be no destruction, but negotiation should be embraced. You come a little bit and the other party comes in to negotiate and meet at a common point. The new produce that will come out of the negotiation is a synthesis.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want the nominee to be scared about the inter and intra conflicts within political parties. You are going there to manage those conflicts and I know very well that you will overcome at the end of the day. I said it is not a child's play. I would have really stood by you had the Deputy Majority Leader not actually informed this House that the quotation in this document came from you and indeed it is your response. So, I want to advise all the other nominees before us this morning to serve Sierra Leone. You have to leave your private interests, prejudices and passion affections and take Sierra Lorene as your first priority. I thank you very much.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am going to be very brief. It will be an anomaly if I did not participate in this debate to recognise these presidential nominees. One of them is my nephew, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh. I want to inform this House that his father literally brought him up. Unlike what the Deputy Speaker was going to suspect; i.e. the childhood of Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh, I am going to take a different approach. What is very important is the fact that from his childhood days, he believed in going through the processes of life and this was why even at the St Edwards School, he was a scout. Not many of you were scouts in your school days and they had good reasons to be scouts because they wanted to train themselves. He went to the St Edwards Secondary School, which many people hold the view that it is a good school. However, I cannot state here that it is the best school, but he left that school with laurels. Again, with the amount of pressure being

piled on him and his father being an intellectual with a two master degrees, he had to imitate his father that he should be educated enough to be part of the system of intellectuals in this country. So, when he told me he was going for a second degree in Law, I asked him if he were not over-educating himself. Well, I know that he is going to perform well in this position he has been nominated to serve if this House approves his nomination. I know all my nephews and I brought most of them up. Sometimes Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh loses his temper, but after a short while, he composes himself. Luckily for him, his two other brothers have always been around him to put him under control. However, he is an intellectual and very hardworking.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Leader made the point that Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh has not only been nominated to serve in the capacity of Chairman of the NRA, he has also served elsewhere, including being a member of Board of Directors for the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. He also served at the Independence Media Commission and a practicing lawyer. Therefore, the President made no mistake in nominating him to this very important position *[Applause]*. He is going to an entity that has already made a name for itself. If you talk about the NRA in Sierra Leone, there are people who would always say that it is a good institution. I hope that as he is about to join the NRA, he would add substance to an already successful entity. I want to congratulate him in advance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton. Hamilton is a household name in the corridors of Justice. He is well-known figure in this country. I want to assure Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton that this side of the House would not give him hard time. We have good reasons for saying so *[Applause]*. Elections are around the corner and there are people who believe that these elections are going to be historic. I want to inform him that his participation in the electoral process will also give us an opportunity to give him more marks. I am sure he will perform exceptionally well and we will give him good marks. Therefore, Mr Speaker, this man has performed remarkably well in this country. I simply believe that the President made no mistake in nominating him to this very important position. He is going to take over an office that may be of great challenge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about P.C. Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon. He is a great friend of mine and he did give me a goat at one time. His nomination by the President of this nation as Board member to the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation is deliberate. I will say so because we have developed the road system from here to Segbwema. That road is a first-class road, which is now being enjoyed by citizens of that part of the country *[Applause]*. The President thought it fit that one of them is made part of Road Transport Corporation in order to ensure he seeks the interest of the people in that part of the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Eldred Collins is my good friend and at one time he had the potential of becoming the President of Sierra Leone *[Applause]*. Even though he did not win the presidential elections he contested at one time, but that did not debar him from being a Sierra Leonean. I want to congratulate him and I am very certain that when he goes to the Standards Bureau, he will perform well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to plead with my colleagues here that consistent with the statement made by our Majority Leader, we approve these nominees before us. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. DR MICHAEL SHO-SAWYER: Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to believe that each and every nominee would perform very well. My contribution is going to focus on one nominee. I will not go into St Joseph or St Edwards Schools as I did the last time when we were approving the Chairperson of National Commission for Privatisation [NCP]. I did that the last time because the Chairperson of the NCP went to the St Joseph Secondary School after he left St Edwards. But this particular nominee I want to talk about was my senior.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, was that so? I am asking him because I know he was talking about Borbor Kabbah. It was something that used to happen in our days.

HON. DR MICHAEL SHO-SAWYER: I know that he followed your footsteps and am not sure whether Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh followed your footsteps. However, the Deputy Speaker said different thing, but I will leave that out. Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh we normally called 'Alpha Wet' is a good friend of mine and also a mentor. He was

one of the people who encouraged me to contest the parliamentary elections. In fact, his entire family encouraged me and provided moral and financial supports. Therefore, if I am here today, he is one of those people that influenced and supported my candidature.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh is a core member of the Western Area Winning Team. In other words, he is one of the members under the leadership of Mr Momodu Allieu Pat-Sowe, Minister of Trade and Industry, that the forty-nine out of forty-nine Councillors and twenty-one out of twenty-one parliamentary seats in the Western Area were brought to the APC [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh is a diligent and determined young man. From what I have learnt, he always succeeds in whatever he decides to do. I want to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, for nominating this young man to serve this nation. A musician once said S.O. 2: Ernest, if you gi wi good road, wi go call you bomba; Ernest, if you gi wi light, wi go say u na Moses. But continuously, the President is empowering the young men and women of this country. When we talk about succession plan, no country can develop without proper succession plan. This is exactly what the President is doing in terms of preparing, training young people by putting them in positions of trust. I believe he is going to perform extremely well, if this House approves his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those who may not know, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh is also a member of the All Walks of Life [AWOL] Organisation. The Deputy Speaker of this House is also a member of AWOL. Mr Speaker, I want to assure this House that Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh is going to continue where his predecessor left off. I also believe that he would do more than what his predecessor has done. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to first of all thank the President for nominating eminent personalities to various positions of trust. I have confidence in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. I am sure the nominees must

have been properly scrutinised to fit into the various positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to specifically talk about the proposed Chairman for the PPRC and the PPRC as an institution. The PPRC is provided for in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and created by an Act of Parliament in 2002. If you read the PPRC Act of 2002, its functions are very clear; i.e., registration of political parties, regulating their conducts in terms of complying with the national constitution, political parties constitutions, etc. However, these functions have been a little bit missing for quite a while as far as I am concerned because the image of the PPRC has been dented. I am saying this because there are officials in the PPRC who usually take sides or favour certain groups of people or individuals in conflict resolution. A very good example is that of the SLPP conflict that was taken to them. I want to underscore here that their mandate is to mediate in conflict whenever approached and they should always demonstrate some amount of neutrality. In other words, they should not favour any particular group or a faction within a political party.

To buttress that point, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a letter written by the Acting Registrar, Madam Zainab Moseray on the 22nd December, 2016. She stated in that letter that they would gazette certain rules and regulations because there was no quorum to do so. A quorum, as provided for in the PPRC Act, should be three members with or without the Chairman. The three Commissioners could choose, on an ad-hoc basis, one of their peers to act as Chairman and they can take decision. The lady in question stated that clearly in the letter and on the 20th January, 2016, when the status quo remained the same, there were only two Commissioners. The third Commissioner, who was nominated by the Sierra Leone Bar Association, was sworn-in by the President on the 23rd January, 2016. The Acting Registrar wrote the letter on the 20th January, 2016 on the directives given to her by some Commissioners of the PPRC to take certain actions or to give directives to an institution like the NEC to take decision when they failed to form a quorum. To me, that was a violation of... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Sit down, Honourable Member. You seem to be wading into irrelevant issues.

THE SPEAKER: The appropriate provision in the Standing Orders is invoked.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, I will deviate from that, but the point I want to make is that the proposed Chairman is going to face huge challenges if this House approves his nomination. If approved, he has to keep an eye on certain people working at the PPRC because they are partisan motivated. They are not neutral in dealing with certain issues. For instance, during the conflict within the SLPP, we came to realise that those officials were not neutral. They were secretly supporting other individuals or groups.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other thing I may want to state here is the fact that I have read the PPRC Act severally and there is no part in that Act which states that the PPRC should conduct elections for political parties. Again, those officials went to districts like Kenema and Kono and conducted the elections.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: With your permission, Mr Speaker, you have guided the Honourable Member to restrict himself to the Standing Orders, but he seems to be drifting away.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: I will not drift again, Mr Speaker. I was only trying to lay the basis upon which I wanted to base my contribution.

THE SPEAKER: The Speaker has spoken and you have to listen to avoid being stopped.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of the proposed Chairman to the importance of the PPRC. The PPRC is so important that it is provided for in the 1991 Constitution of this country. We will not allow this institution to fail because of the mind set of certain people working for the PPRC. Therefore, when you go there, you have to display some amount of neutrality and impartiality. When you were interviewed, you told the Committee that you would remain neutral. Nobody doubts your pedigree and impartiality and that was why you rose through the ranks in the Judiciary. We may want to see those thoroughbred and characters you have acquired being displayed at the PPRC. Please

be focused and do not allow any group of people to sway your ability to perform. Issues relating to political parties are very important and are no child's play. If issues relating to political parties are not handled with care, more problems are bound to happen. We may not want that to happen in Sierra Leone. I thank you very much.

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would have left this Chamber unfulfilled if you had not allowed me to say a word or two because of the interventions of some people. Lots have been said about the nominees in front of us.

THE SPEAKER: With the leave of Honourable Members, I would like to introduce two very important people in our midst: Justice Robert, who is the Justice of the highest court in our country; i.e., the Supreme Court [*Applause*]. We also have Roland Wright. I chose to call him Roland Wright with the 'Mr' because I taught him when he was a small boy. He was a very brilliant boy. He went to Fourah Bay College and when he came to join us as a teacher, he had the temerity to even challenge us that taught him simply because he studied philosophy, forgetting that those of us who taught him had read philosophy before him. He was a very controversial boy.

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with those few remarks you made about those personalities, I would now turn my attention to one of the nominees here seated in front of us, Honourable Justice Mr Patrick O. Hamilton. Honourable Justice Mr Patrick O. Hamilton is a man I have known for a very long time. This is why I am very happy about where he is going to find himself in the next few days. I have known him to be a man of integrity. Without any iota of doubt, I want to state here that if this House approves his nomination, it means the President has sent an Ambassador of integrity to the PPRC. We are all looking forward to excellent performance, which he has always exhibited in his previous places of work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton is a patriot. He was one of those young lawyers who sacrificed a lot for this nation and he did that at a time when lawyers in the Law Officers Department were clamouring for greener pastures. While his companions were enjoying in the cool and cosy of their respective offices, he was languishing in most of the mosquito infested areas in

Kenema District. I used to see him in Kenema with his body being lacerated with mosquito bites. I will tell you that Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton is a mixer. His friendship knows no boundaries; and any time he went to Kenema, he used to have more baskets of food stuffs. It shows that he is friendly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton that the responsibilities he is about to undertake are very herculean. I am sure you have listened to what other Members of Parliament have said about the office you are going to occupy. That office is very important to peace and national development. Earlier in this debate, I was advised by my nephew, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah, not to say anything about Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh. I know the Deputy Speaker of this House and Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh. They are two young men who from their very beginnings promised to be successful people and also promised to be scholars. I can tell you that they are also very good at performing roles which is to say that this Parliament and the rest of Sierra Leone will not be disappointed in having Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh as the administrative or political head of the National Revenue authority. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, with your leave, I would like to recognise the Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General John Milton. Whenever we see military people, Lieutenant John Milton, there is always a feeling of trepidation. I do not know why he is here, but I want to recognise him.

HON. SIDI M. TUNIS [Minority Whip]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to first of all thank the nominees before us this morning and to assure everybody that we on this side will not give Honourable Justice Patrick O Hamilton any hard times. We are almost **90%** done with our peace process, whereas the other side of this House has just started with more than 21 flag bearers. As we are approaching elections, I will call on you to exhibit the kind of integrity that you exhibited during your tenure as Justice of the High Court in the Judiciary. When I was going through the Committee's report, there is a sentence in that report which I looked at severally. With the leave of Mr Speaker, it reads: **"I am going to be as neutral and impartial as I have always been in the Judiciary."** This is very important and it is not just important for us... - *[Interruptions]*.

S.O. [5]2 Suspended

HON. SIDI M. TUNIS: He went further to state that he would ensure independence and decisions would be taken fairly, if approved by this House. That is also very important, Mr Speaker. I want to call on this House to support all political parties in this country. You have a very strong and dependable staff that you will be working with at the PPRC. They are very dependable considering the fact that there are so many issues within political parties these staff are expected to handle. For instance, when the SLPP was going through challenges, they used their offices to ensure that there is peace in the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP] and by extension peace in this country. I want to thank them for their efforts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second person I want to talk about is Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh. To me, he represents success amongst the youths of this country. This is not his first appointment. He has proven beyond all reasonable doubts that the youth of this country can perform if given the chance. Apart from being a very successful lawyer, he has done extremely well in all the appointments he had over the years. Some of us are so proud of his success and I am sure most of the youths of this country would be looking up to him as a role model.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh is not only going to man the NRA as a Director, but he would be expected to provide legal advice to the institution. With the leave of Mr Speaker, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh said, **"I might also want to see how we can consolidate all the many but scattered laws dealing with National Revenue Authority into a new NRA Act to enhance administrative efficiency and revenue generation."** It is only somebody with vision that will think about something of this nature. Well, I want Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh to know that this House will take him by his words. Forget about us as a party we will always give you support. I am a member of the Committee on Finance that you will be working with. I want to assure you that we will give you all the support you need, as long as that support is in the interest of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about PC Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon by my colleague Honourable Member, Honourable Moiwa Momoh. However, I want to remind you that the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation has over 100

buses; and during the last budget presented to this House, allocation was made for the procurement of more buses. Please work with your colleagues to ensure that those buses are properly managed. I want you to also ensure that we have good buses going to Pujehun District. The only bus we have in Pujehun is very old. We will not have to drive our vehicles if there are good public vehicles in that part of the country. We will leave our vehicles here and join any of those buses. The road between Bandajuma and Pujehun is under construction. We will soon have a tarred road leading to Pujehun.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Eldred Collins, proposed member, National Standards Council. He is a good friend of mine, even though his CV is very short. I will not go into the details of what has happened before, but you are my friend. You are also a good friend of the President. Please, I want you to use the energy and initiative to transform the National Standards Council. As a former Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Industry, I can tell you that there are lot of problems this Council would have to encounter and you should be very vigilant in terms of addressing those issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with Mr Emmanuel B. Pratt, proposed member, National Tourist Board. Tourism has just witnessed a tremendous change since the appointment of the Mr Sidi Yahya Tunis. He has done extremely well as Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Positive transformation has taken place in that Ministry and I want to entreat you to work with the other Board members for more accolades. If this House approves your nomination, go there ensure that there is continuity in terms of the rapid development within the Tourist Sector. I want to assure this House that the rate at which Mr Sidi Yahya Tunis is transforming that sector is unprecedented; and very soon Sierra Leone would be a major tourist destination.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on every Member of Parliament to approve these nominees. I thank you *[Applause]*

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU *[Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business]*: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to thank all those who spoke about the nominees before us

and the various institutions they would be managing. You have approved the Committee's report, I am sure it is only left with the question to be put in this House, so that we would be vindicated by what we did as a Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without boring this House, we have nominations for the PPRC, NRA, Transport, Tourism and Standards Council. These are very important institutions as far as governance is concerned. For the nominee who is going to the PPRC, his tasks are enormous in terms of bringing all political parties together. His role is to ensure that these parties conform to the rules and regulations that establish them. He has to make sure that they comport themselves before the presidential and parliamentary elections slated to take place in March, 2018. I want you to note that elections, in every part of the world, have their own attendant difficulties. As Chairman of the PPRC, you are going to encounter a lot of challenges. In such situation, we are expecting you to be steadfast because you also have people from this House who would be vying for different positions. We know the law and know how to go about it. Please make sure that if somebody from this House is going as flag bearer, you must put your house in order.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that revenue is very important for the growth and development of every nation. We want to applaud the efforts made by the NRA. The NRA was collecting billions of Leones; but today, we are talking about trillions of Leones. I am sure, with that strong foundation, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh would double those efforts for that institution to be collecting quadrillions of Leones. I am not an economist, Honourable am I correct to say you graduate from trillion to quadrillion? Therefore, Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh has a herculean task ahead of him. He has identified some of the areas he would be looking at if this House approves his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about PC Musa Ngombu Kla Kallon, proposed Board member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Cooperation. Sierra Leone is already going through a lot of challenges in terms of transportation. However, one of the areas Government is supporting is the improvement of roads in the country. Government has already provided hundred buses to add to those that

have been in existence. We want you to ensure that we have about five hundred buses as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know that tourism is one of the areas we should be generating revenue. The Tourism Sector is also meant to sell the image of Sierra Leone to the outside world. I was very proud when the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the 13th Regional Meeting was held in this country. A lot of the Europeans and West African colleagues were very impressed. They have known Sierra Leone to be a station for amputation. Few years ago, Sierra Leone was known to be an Ebola centre. In spite of those ugly incidences, when some of them visited this country last week, they went with an impressed notion about this country. We took them through the Lumley Beach. We also took them to one the renewable energy stations at Sussex. Some of them told us that that was the first time they were driven for more than eight miles along a beach. So, I am sure the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs is doing very well. I want to appeal to them to continue with that pace. If this House approves your nomination, please have it in your mind that Sierra Leone needs money to maintain those wonderful sceneries those visitors saw before they left.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are losing billions of Leones as a country because of weak standards. In our Joint Parliamentary Assembly, we have trade agreement, but since we are not benefiting, we are dragging our feet to sign that agreement because our standards of the production system does not allow us to export our fish to Europe. We have provision in that trade agreement to export everything, but Sierra Leone cannot meet the standards contained therein. That is why we have enacted the National Standards Council to look into some of those issues, so that we can export majority of what we have in this country. If you look around the city today, especially in our remote areas, there are a lot of substandard products. In the course of desperation, our people are going for those sub-standard products because they are very cheap. Today, we are seeing the Chinese in our communities, including the Chiefdoms to retail their products at a very cheap price. I want Mr Eldred Collins to take note of these developments.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to associate myself with all the kind sentiments expressed by Honourable Members about the nominees before us. I want to remind the nominees that failure is not an option. When some of us shall come to power, we do not want to meet any problems. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: It is my turn to congratulate the nominees on behalf of Parliament. The Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo talked about Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh's childhood days and how he helped to bring him up. I would regard Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh as my son. There is a saying that states, 'like father, like son.' According to William Wordsworth, one of the greatest poets, he said that 'the child is father of the man.' If you know Mr Alpha Muctarr Jalloh's father, you would not be surprised. As far as I am concerned, he is one of the learned people we have in this country. That aside, we used to admire his father, Mr Abubakarr Jalloh. He used to be a very brilliant man. For some of us, he was a role model and we always wanted to be like Mr Abubakarr Jalloh. However, he was too conscious of the fact that he was clever. The difference between him and his son is that his son is very calm, but Mr Abubakarr Jalloh was too much of a radical somebody. He was too much of a revolutionary. Honourable Members, even if he happens to be more educated than his father that should not ring a bell because it is in the gene.

Honourable Members, for those of us who have known Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton would attest to the fact that this is somebody whose name is synonymous with the law. He devoted all his time in law. One assurance I would like to give all of you is that Honourable Justice Patrick O. Hamilton is a man of honour. He has demonstrated that over the years and he will continue to exhibit that characteristic. I wish you well *[Applause]*.

Honourable Members, on behalf of the leadership of this House I want to congratulate our new Member of Parliament, the Honourable Rose Marie Bangura. She is now a parliamentarian and she is very eloquent. You now have to divest yourself of many things that you used to do before which perhaps were considered

unpalatable because you are now an Honourable Member of Parliament. As a Member of Parliament, you have a responsibility, not only to your constituents, but to the country as a whole. And as a Member of Parliament, you have three main functions to perform; viz-a-viz, legislation, oversight and representation. You must be seen to represent your people. Your time may be short, but I can assure you that it is going to be pregnant, particularly when we are approaching another election. I wish you well.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 12:05 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 7th March, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.]