

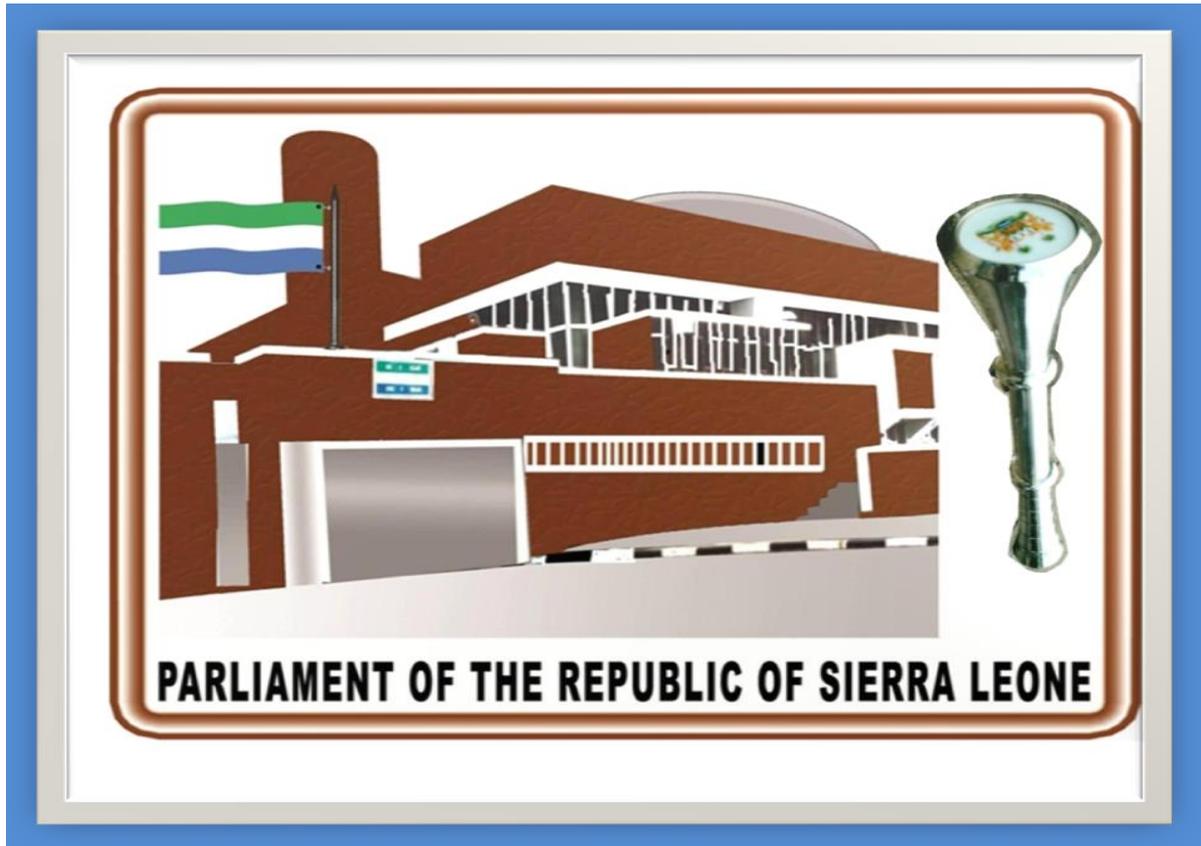
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
ON THE P RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING
FRIDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY 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 on Friday, 20th January, 2017.

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PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT WE THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HERE ASSEMBLED WISH TO THANK HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, FOR THE ADDRESS HE SO GRACIOUSLY DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OPENING OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2016.

DAY]

[FOURTH ALLOTTED



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

Friday, 20th January, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:30 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 Honourable House, giving the enormity of issues we are about to undertake in this Parliament and to suspend the relevant Standing Order that talks about the five allotted days for the Presidential debate for this House to end today, so that other very urgent and important businesses of this House are carried out. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[S.O. 8[2] suspended to guillotined the Presidential Debates]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2017.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 19th January, 2017. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no amendment or correction, can somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 19th January, 2017 as presented?

HON. KUSAN SESAY: I so move, Mr Speaker.

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 Thursday, 19th January, 2017 has been adopted as presented].

III. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today being the last day of the presidential debate, I will give five minutes to every debater.

HON. DR FODAY I. SUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you for this opportunity. For the past four years I have been in Parliament, I have not been lucky to contribute to this very important debate. I want to remind this Honourable House that my Constituency was a new addition to the APC in Parliament. That Constituency was taken away from the SLPP, which used to be the only Constituency in Kambia District for the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to go back to what I wanted to say if I had caught the Speaker's eye in 2013. If I had been given the opportunity in 2013, one of the issues I would have loved to talk about was infrastructural development in Kambia District. We used to travel for eight hours from Kambia to Freetown. Each time our people travelled for eight hours, the journey was so gruesome that they had to spend another day to rest before transacting any business. Is that not worth saying thanks to the President who did that job? I think we should thank him for providing such facility in that part of the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in addition to the major roads from Freetown to Kambia, we have many feeder roads within the district. These feeder roads have facilitated the evacuation of agricultural produce from the district to Freetown. This is very important because most of the products they bring to Freetown are perishable commodities. In those days, when we did not have feeder roads, goods spoiled before they were brought to Freetown. I have been particularly asked by the women to say a big thank you to Mr President for those roads. They could easily take their produce to Freetown without the delays they used to experience. So, the road network has been a very good development for us. These roads are also contributing to the economy of this country.

It is in the same light, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to appeal to Mr President that for another important road from Madina to Kukuna, which is about seven miles. I believe that road should be part of the road network from Kambia to

Kamakwei. It is a very important road leading to the border crossing point with Guinea. Most importantly, that road passes through many towns, where people meet weekly to transact their business. It is commonly called 'Luma.' Comparatively, the 'Luma' in Madina and Barmoi have the characteristics of international bazars. We have traders coming from Guinea and Guinea Bissau. We do believe that if that road is made part of the road network in the district, it is going to contribute to our economy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a very important policy that has led to wealth creation in most villages; i.e., brining community banks closer to the people. The President mentioned it in his Speech, under 'promotion of the private sector.' You do not need to be an economist to know that the private sector is the locomotive for a country's development. In developed countries, governments employ less than **10%** of the workforce. In Sierra Leone, the reverse is the case because we depend on the government to provide employments for us. With the development of the private sector, especially the Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs], more jobs have been provided.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the community banks in my Constituency are very instrumental in terms of providing microcredit to many young people. They have asked me to extend their sincere thanks to Mr President. I have been giving microcredit to my constituents. For instance, in December, 2013, I provided the sum of **Le40mln** to majority of the women in four Wards within my Constituency. These funds were lodged at the Kamasasa Community Bank. I would not bore you with the details, but I would like to inform this House that there is no Ward in my Constituency where the women could not boast of more than **Le40mln** I have invested. For example, Basia is a small town with less than five thousand people, but the women have saved **Le50mln**. Mr President, I want to once again say thanks and to also encourage you to continue to promote the private sector, especially the community banks.

Having said those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we should realise the efforts of a hardworking and committed President by thanking him for

these developments. I see no reason why we should not say a very big thank you to the President. I thank you very much, Mr President.

HON. PC BRIMA VICTOR SIDI KEBIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start my contribution by bringing out some issues for people to know. We will keep on educating people as long as we are here, so that we make our final curriculum for the future. If people cannot identify between good and bad, they will never be able to distinguish between the two. In a civilised society, they do not need to tell you that you are civilised. If you send your son to bring or to do something for you, you should have the courtesy to say thank you my son for doing this for me. But people are finding it very difficult to say thanks to others. Maybe we should not blame others because I have this feeling that civilisation did not affect everybody. There are some who can neither adjust nor adhere to basic principles of civilisation. For some of us who have travelled out of this country and have seen how civilised societies behave, we are very different. In fact, some of us have started practicing politics in the days of Siaka P. Stevens. That was the time I became a Paramount Chief and I have the necessary experience. During the time I became Paramount Chief, some of you were in the primary schools. We are still in politics without any blemish.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what the President is presently doing or has done is what every good citizen expects from a good President. In this country, there is a standing record we have never had in this country. In other words, we have never had a President who has worked so hard as President Ernest Bai Koroma. It is a matter of must to say thank you His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Thank you very much and we appreciate all that you have done for this country. We have seen leaders who have created some indifference between areas they got votes and areas they were never voted for, but President Ernest Bai Koroma is not that type of leader. When it comes to developing this nation, he knows no boundary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the area I come from, Pujehun District to be specific, few people voted for Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. However, that district has benefited so much from his efforts. The Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai and Honourable Sidi M Tunis can testify to that. Today, we have street solar lights and

paved roads within the township. The infrastructural development in Pujehun District is awesome. We have one of the best hospitals and the District Council structures are in place. There are other developments that are going on in Pujehun District. Mr Speaker, why are these Members of Parliament seated in this Well deceiving their people by telling them the wrong thing? I want to appeal to the leadership of this House to ensure that debates of this nature are broadcast live on television, so their constituents see the type of people representing them.

Nevertheless, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have admiration for few Members of Parliament. For instance, two days ago, I admired an opposition Member of Parliament who contributed like a matured representative of his people. Some Members of Parliament are just here to criticise unnecessarily. Well, those who condemn others every day will end up condemning themselves and that is what is happening now. The people of Sierra Leone are not in your hand-made pocket that you can just dip your hand at any time. They want to see things happening in a very positive manner and these are the things that are going on today. Would you expect me to have a leader that cannot walk around in the sub-region? It is not possible, Mr Speaker. I would not have a leader who is not allowed to go to the United States. As a Paramount Chief, we speak the truth. I am on oath and I should not lie at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today's politics is not benefitting majority of some politicians. This is because they take good things to be bad. They do not want to tell their people the truth. Mr Speaker, if I were on live TV, I would have told this nation, especially the people of Pujehun District, what this Government is doing for us as Members of Parliament. For instance, if you look at Members of Parliament's salaries, nobody on the other side of this House would like our people to know the truth about what we are getting here as salaries. They usually tell their constituents that they are not well paid. You are not getting money? What do you mean? If you are getting well over **Le15mln** per month, is that not a huge sum of money? If you are given a house rent, which is also a huge sum, why are you refusing to praise the President? Perhaps, some of you have never received such amount before, or even after here, you will not receive that amount in your lifetime. Why are you condemning the President? When we started this Parliament, we used to receive

Le50, 000 as sitting fee. Today, all of us are rushing to queue in the Account Office. Why are you refusing to appreciate the effort of Mr President? If God is blessing you, but you tell people that you are not receiving any blessing from Him, he will take away the little he has given you. You should always learn to praise those that deserve praises.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that we have also received Ebola funds, Constituency Development Funds, Medicare, etc. No matter how small it could be, we have received those moneys. We also have duty free concession and we have transport allowances. I am saying all these things because some of us are not going to come back to this Parliament. Some of us have served for a very long time and we want to give chance to other people. However, if I want to come back as a Paramount Chief Member of Parliament, you will see me here again. I don't need to be a praise singer before considered for a party symbol. I do not need to go and beg anybody. I have never contested election because my colleagues have confidence in me.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say that the people of Pujehun District appreciate what the President is doing for them. We have no hesitation to tell the President that he deserves thanks and I wish to thank him on behalf of the people of Pujehun District. As long as some of us have been able to identify good people who can help in nation building, we would always be there to help them if they need our assistance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure this House that not all the people of Pujehun District are on the other side as people may think. Some of us want to forge ahead and we are no longer ready to go backward. It is not going to be a Mannah Kpaka type of politics, wherein people come and make praises. We are all born there, but then we need to move ahead and see other areas where we need to born-again. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. SUALIHO M. KOROMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise this morning to thank His Excellency the President, for his Speech he graciously delivered in this House. I want to state here that Dr Ernest Bai Koroma is a good President. He has positive vision for this country and I am very happy for

that. I want to remind this House that Sierra Leone is a blessed nation because having the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba, who was also a good President of this country, is a blessing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2007, His Excellency the President delivered his first Speech in this House. In that Speech, he mentioned a number of policy issues. Some of the issues he promised to address have still not been addressed. It is not because he is a weak President, but the failure of this House to take the Executive to task. The President good vision for this country, but we have not been able to help him achieve that vision because this Parliament is failing to hold the Executive into account. On Paragraph 12 of the 2007 Presidential Address, the President said: **“Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, democracy goes well beyond the electoral process, the separation of powers between the Executive, Parliament and the Judiciary create a system of checks and balances that enhance transparency and accountability.”** The President was trying to tell this nation that there must be checks and balances and separation of powers among the three organs of government. This was his first speech delivered in this House. Has Parliament been able to do that diligently? The answer is no. There are many policies pronounced by the President that Parliament has not been able to achieve.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President said on Paragraph 15 of the 2007 Speech: **“Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the assumption that Sierra Leone has remained backward as a result of bad governance maybe true, but it is also the fact that in spite of indiscipline, both in the private and public sector, have equally undermined the possibilities for our nation’s development.”** That is true because we are still experiencing indiscipline in the public sector. Every year, the Auditor General lays her reports in this Parliament for the attention of the Public Accounts Committee [PAC]. The Public Accounts Committee usually recommends, but these MDAs are not implementing the recommendations of the PAC. Therefore, Members of Parliament have a lot to do in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about the health sector. In this current Speech, the President thanked the people of this country and the Government during the Ebola scourge. He thanked all and sundry defeating the Ebola virus. To me, I always equate Ebola to poverty because I am of the assumption that the Ebola disease brought a lot of poverty to this nation. The economy of this country was on good footing when Ebola struck and then we experience series of setbacks. As a resilient nation, we came together to fight the deadly disease and we came out victorious. Parliamentarians can also come together to fight poverty and ensure the prosperity of this country. We can fight poverty if we embark on robust implementation of Government policies. You do not have to be an APC or SLPP supporter before you fight for the success of this country. Parliamentarians are the most accredited people's representatives; therefore, we must ensure that their welfare is guaranteed. As Members of Parliament, we must ensure that we support the health sector. There are very good policies for the health sector and we must ensure that those policies are implemented.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the Free Health Care Programme, which is one of Government's flagship projects, there are good policies that have never been fully implemented. I want to believe that 2017 is supposed to be a year of reflection. We should be able to reflect on what the Government has promised in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, etc. We should also be able to reflect on what the President has promised to provide this year. What are the challenges and successes we have made over the years. We do not represent ourselves in this Parliament and governance is about the people. I want to remind Honourable Members that Parliaments serve as conduits for development in every country. Therefore, we owe this nation a duty we are expected to perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to quickly talk about Agriculture. In 2007, the President did say in Paragraph 71 thus: **"This would greatly reduce the \$44mln annual rice import in our country."** Mr Speaker, if you systematically look at the 2017 Budget Speech, we are still using between **\$250mln** and **\$300mln** to import rice. If Government is saying that **\$44mln** was so much for the importation of rice in 2007, what have we done in the Agriculture sector? What has

happened to mechanised farming? What has happened to 'tractorialisation?' We have not been able to achieve that policy at all. As a Parliament, we should sit and reflect on what should be the way forward. It is our responsibility because in 2007, we were using **\$44mln** and the President confirmed it in his 2017 Speech. Today, as current we are using more than **\$250ml** to just import rice which is our staple food. We should look at that policy to see the gap.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us also look at the Local Content Policy. The President in his wisdom also highlighted issues relating to the Local Content Policy in Paragraph 38, but this Honourable House was able to establish the Local Content Agency through an Act of Parliament. Mr Speaker, I want to say that we are not encouraging our local businesses to get microcredits from the commercial banks, in order to enable them do their businesses in this country. What is happening now at the current market is that the international businesses have completely been able to eliminate the local businesses because of the high interest rate. I want this House to call on the Minister of Finance and the Bank Governor to look at that area very seriously. I have been alluding to the Kenya scenario. In Kenya, the Minister of Finance and the Bank Governor ensured that the interest rate dropped to 1 digit. In Sierra Leone, our interest rate is between **26%** and **30%**. If you are competing with an international business, they would prefer to get money in other countries at **5%** interest rate for a very long period, maybe for six to ten years. If they come here to do their businesses, you will not be able to compete with them. In that regard, they will definitely eliminate you. Thus, I want to call on this House to ensure that we call these people, so that we can find ways of encouraging or protecting our local businesses.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to end my contribution with the Water Sector I have many issues to discuss, but because of time, I would like to thank the President for mentioning Climate Change in his Speech. According to the Speech, Climate Change poses a major threat to water sector in this country. Sometimes ago, we laid a report in this House that contained many recommendations, but we have not been able to achieve anything on those recommendations. The President, in his wisdom, set up a Presidential Task Force at State House to look at issues

relating to Climate Change. However, it has been very difficult for us to meet with that team and find ways of demolishing structures erected on water catchment areas. In fact, it has also been very difficult for the Minister of Lands and members of the Presidential Task Force. I want to call on the Leadership of this House to strengthen its powers, so that we could be able to effectively monitor the situation. We could call the Executive to subject them to our oversight activities. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to thank his Excellency the President, for the Address he so graciously delivered to this House on the 15th December, 2016.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, governance is a continuity and it spring from a tabular rasa. It doesn't grow in a vacuum. As we give thanks to His Excellency the President, we have to be mindful of the fact that there have been leaders before who have laid the ground work. Again, we have to be mindful of the fact that what the President is doing and what he has done is a foundation for his successors. We have to be aware of these facts. The President has done a lot in terms of building new institutions and strengthening those he met. In other words, he has established new institutions and consolidated other institutions he met before he became President. When the Honourable Member from Constituency 030 was talking about the electricity, I am sure he had in mind that there have been some proposals to change the phase of Freetown, which used to be darkest city in the world. It was not taken from a vacuum, because when the President went to Bumbuna, he saw the progress made on the Bumbuna project. In fact, the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was mindful of what they have done and when on Thursday, 15th November, 2007, he said in his handing over notes thus: **"Mr President, I understand you have visited Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project and have seen the state of progress for yourself in the mid time measures to further improve the electricity situation in the capital city are currently in progress."** So, development is continuous is not taking in a vacuum.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were elected to this House in 2012, the President expressed concerns over few issues when he was addressing this House

on the 14th December, 2012. We have a responsibility, as the people's representatives, to look at the achievements we have made and how to overcome some of the challenges we are facing. The President talked about the distribution of wealth for the prosperity of the people of this country. In Paragraph 2 of the 2012 Address, the President spoke about the challenges of ethnic divide in the political landscape of this country. He further entreated all of us to join him in the journey for national prosperity. To me, improving basic social services for communities and guarantee private investments are all important for the development of this nation. These are some of the things we should focus our attention to. Have we been able to overcome these challenges?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I represent Constituency 079, in the Bauxite and Rutile mining areas. Believe you me Mr Speaker, if you go to these places, you will not believe that after fifty years, people are still living in squalor. I don't know whether we can say we have achieved these corporate social responsibilities which the President was talking about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is one area that is almost forgotten – Bonthe Island. In fact, Members of Parliament from that part of the country are also left out, but I want to state here that Bonthe Island is part of Sierra Leone and should equally benefit from the national resources of this country. Bonthe Island is the biggest Island in West Africa. When Mr President was in this House, he was concerned about Bonthe. In fact, we worked together and I consulted him when our own side wanted to De-municipalised Bonthe. I did not support that and consulted members of the opposition and together with the President. We thought it fit that Bonthe remained a Municipal. So, I am sure that the President has Bonthe in mind. We have to invite him to Bonthe to go there and see what is happening. What we call the waterfront has collapsed and there is no paved street. The G-Mark Company contracted to pave some of the roads in Bonthe Island went there and dug trenches. They also left exposed iron rods all over the place and people are wounded on a daily basis

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the Order Paper, we have the 'Motion of Thanks

to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Today is Friday; and as a Muslim, time is of the essence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Paramount Chief from Moyamba said it all yesterday, he highlighted many areas in his Speech. He came to the conclusion that everything he said was the truth. To me, he has said it all because everything in this Address reflects the truth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not accidental to stand here this morning to thank His Excellency the President. Any time an Honourable Member catches the Speaker's eye, before he/she starts speaking, he/she thanks the Speaker. What about thanking the President who has done so much in the Health, Education, Infrastructure, Agriculture, Energy Sector, etc. Mr President, you deserve thanks and I want to personally thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people of Constituency 055, which covers parts of Kafu Bullom, Lungi and Loko Massama in the Port Loko District, they have asked me to convey their sincere thanks and appreciations to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, for a job well done. The road from Ferry to Conakry Dee is in progress and is located in my Constituency. My constituents are very happy for that development. I have travelled all over this country and I want to report here that most headquarter towns have been developed by this Government. He deserves thanks, so that he would do more for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have heard so many sentiments raised by Members on the other side. I want to tell them that it is easy to destroy a house but very hard to construct a house. Your position there is to demolish a House, but not to construct it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the area that touches me, as far as this Presidential Address is concerned, is the ICT. Nothing is said here with regards to ICT development in this country. Please correct me if I am wrong. The President, in his own wisdom, has contributed immensely in that particular area even in the area of bringing the Fibre Optic in this country. The Government has spent a whole lot of money, including the World Bank. If I am not wrong, we are talking about a hundred million dollars. So, I think it is worth mentioning in this Address. I want the whole

country to know that the President has done so much in that regard and I want to thank him very much.

With those few words, I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. SHEKU B. SANNOH: Thank very, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. Mr Speaker, please allow me to construct my debate on the foundation built by Richard Steel. He once said: **"Whenever you commend, add reasons for doing so. It is this which clearly defines the reason from abrogation, distinction, approval, commendation from a man of sense to that of the flattering of sycophants and admiration of fools."** Mr Speaker, because I am a man of sense, I want to thank His Excellency the President for constructing the road that leads from Sheriff Drive to Juba Hill. That road is very important because on the 8th May, 2002, the people of those communities suffered brutally from Foday Sankoh and his men for repelling Foday Sankoh when he was pulled out from his residence. The people of Kaningo Community, Hamburger Eaves, Cane Stick and its environs suffered the brute of S.O [2] 'broke os,' i.e. house demolition simply because the then government had wanted to relocate or compensate a militia group called Kamajors. I want to thank His Excellency the President for restoring hope, trust and electricity to those communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before this time, my Constituency used to a medical facility with a capacity of fifteen beds. I will also thank His Excellency the President for constructing an ultra-modern hospital, which is a five storey building hospital. That hospital would have theatres with modern medical equipment. On behalf of the people of Constituency 112, I want to thank the President for constructing that ultra-modern hospital in my Constituency. The indelible works of the President for constructing the Atlantic at Juba Road will enable my constituents and other people along the Peninsula to cruise comfortably.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in one of the phrases used by Richard Steel, he talked about flattering of sycophants. Yesterday and during a couple of debates we have heard in this House, a particular Member of Parliament from Bo District wanted to talk about something he had no idea of. He was talking about funds allocated for the construction of a kilometre road. By way of educating that Member of

Parliament, road construction goes with specification. You cannot talk about pricing without knowing the stabilising agent. Stabilising agent, in this sense, could be Upnix Asphalt; it could be Foam Bitumen; it could be portable concrete cement; etc. *[Applause]*. This is engineering and only Engineers know what I am talking about. I would have loved the Member of Parliament to have told this House that the road he was talking about was either a three-lane or four-lane road, which has pricing effects and even the concrete they would be using. These are some of the factors we consider when we want to talk about road construction and these are the factors we consider when we want to determine pricing in road construction.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President very much.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us subscribed to oath and we are here as representatives of our people. To say thanks is good, especially when someone has done good things. You should say thanks and nobody forces anybody to say thanks.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start my contribution with Paragraph 1 on Page 1. It says: **“On becoming President in 2007, I vowed to move this country forward, to transform its roads, improve electricity, invest more in education, health and improve Sierra Leone’s reputation as a peace-loving, democratic and resilient nation.”** The President vowed to move this nation forward. Mr Speaker, whenever somebody vows, the vow is between the individual and his/her God. He went further to mention roads, electricity, education, health, etcetera. I am representing the people of Constituency 085; and if I should say thanks, I should give justifications before doing that. My thanks should come from the people of Moyamba to Moyamba Junction.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry Honourable Member, by the very heat of the argument, are you saying that if so much has been done for the entire country, nothing is done for Moyamba?

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: That was why I said I should say thanks to the President for the road I have benefited from. We are going to benefit from the road because work has started. However, I have been saying here that the road in

Shenge, Constituency 085 to be specific, is still stuck because of funds. The contractors have failed to go and inform the President that the promise he made for the construction of the Shenge Road is almost becoming impossible because of lack of funds. I want to send a message to Mr President that the promise he made for the Shenge Road is still imperceptible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about democracy and peace. Sincerely, if Members of Parliament on this side sneeze, the others on the other side will catch the cold because we are here as one people and one country. We are here as brothers and sisters and the President is the father of this nation. Therefore, if there is a problem in this country, I believe his intervention is needed to put the situation under control. When the Ebola Virus struck this country, the President called on everybody to provide the needed leadership in fight against the virus. We did not say that because we are in opposition, we should leave the fight to the ruling party. We fought the battle together and at the end of the day, all of us emerged victorious. If there is a problem within the opposition, I want to believe that he should mediate for the sake of peace.

THE SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Member, please sit down a while. Honourable Members, it is my conviction that what she is saying is important. Please continue.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: As a father of this nation, we are expecting him to say something because if there is fire in the neighbourhood and you failed to help in putting it off, it will explode and even extend to others. I want to believe that the impasse within the opposition in this Parliament could be resolve with the help of people in the governing party. I am saying this because anytime there is a problem within the rank and file of our leadership, there are people on the other side who are always saying insightful statements. When the President was in this House as the Minority Leader, we used to go to his office and sympathise with him each time he came from court.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you made reference to me being part of the opposition then; but if you want to hear from me, the SLPP Members of Parliament were provoking us all the time; although that is no excuse why you should be provoked now *[Laughter]*.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there lies the problem in those days when people were seeing Honourable S. B. Marrah or other people, everybody was running. Mr Speaker, you are telling me now that Members of SLPP used to provoke you, I cannot deny that but I am not convinced at all. I am saying this because each time Dr Ernest Bai Koroma returned to his office, we used to visit him. There was no intimidation or provocation from SLPP Members of Parliament. I want to remind this House that 'one good turn deserves another.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those on the other side are not helping the situation. We are expecting much from the leaders and we are also expecting the Paramount Chiefs to work towards ensuring maximum peace in this House. Therefore, I am asking the President to intervene in this matter. He went to Gambia to help them resolve their problem, leaving his own problems here. The opposition in his country is divided and he is expected to help in ensuring peace within our party.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what I like and cherished most is the truth. I am not speaking here as Speaker, but the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai is here to testify that what used to happen here was what we called 'the normal Parliamentary banter;' i.e. you cause noise, provoke, not with any hostility just to make fun with each other. We used to enjoy that fun because there was no hostility. It was too healthy, Honourable Members. Whenever the Honourable Serry Kamal and other dissidents came to the Well, they would say 'court rise.' The Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai can testify to what I have just said. However, what the Veronica K. Sesay has said is really in place.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: To buttress what the Speaker has said, there was a day when after the court sitting, the Honourable Edie Turay was running for his life and I had to take him to his office. Therefore, please sympathise with us *[Laughter]*.

HON. ALFRED BRIMA KATTA: Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have known the Honourable Alfred Brima Katta to be a very peaceful and decent man. However, he is becoming very revolutionary of late.

HON. BRIMA ALFRED KATTA: Mr Speaker, I have been and I will always be peaceful. Once again I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important constitutional mandate. It is our business to say thanks to His Excellency the President and it is his duty to come to this House and address the people's representatives because it is a constitutional requirement. Therefore, I want to thank him and his team for putting this document together.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President said that 'the going is tough,' which means in our local palace S.O. [2] 'e don tranga.' The President said that in Paragraph 2 and we on this side will respect what he said. He is the father of this nation he has put priority on Agriculture, Fishery, Education, Energy, etc. The implementation of the aforementioned sectors is ongoing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at economic growth in this country. We have problem with our economy because it is dwindling. The economy of this country has dwindled from **41%** to **21%**. This is why the President has told us that 'the going is tough.' That statement simply means that we need to put hands on deck to support Mr President in achieving his dreams for this country before he leaves office. The question is how are we going to help Mr President? He spoke about the price of iron ore that has plummeted and the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic. For the Ebola virus, it is now forgotten and we hope that nothing of sort will happen. I think we have to start looking at areas we have control over; like agriculture, fisheries, etc. We have the resources to make sure that things work well for the development of this country. As Honourable Suahilo M. Koroma said, Parliament has a responsibility to monitor these MDAs, so that this economy is revived. Mr Speaker, if this is not done, it is a shame to this Government. This has nothing to do with politics; it is about nation building. If we respect what the President has said, let us work together for the furtherance of this nation.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I made a statement about sporting activities last year, especially those relating to sports. Today, we have the Ministry of Sports, but the President has again refused to talk about sports. An Honourable Member from the Western Area, who is the Deputy Speaker of this House, defended him. Nothing on sporting activities is mentioned in this Speech, but huge sums of

money are allocated to that Ministry for sporting activities. This is a very serious concern and I want to believe that something would have been mentioned in this Speech. Sierra Leoneans are very interested in sporting activities. There is a Parliamentary Football Team in this House that has been playing with Ministers of Government. The youths of this country like sports and we should encourage sporting activities in this country. Whenever these international matches are playing, the youths used to go to these cinemas to watch those matches. Some of us know the laurels sports can bring to a country. A lot of donors are providing funds for sporting activities. The President should have said something on sports. Sporting is one of the means through which the youths are put under control. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA [Chief Whip]: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to thank His Excellency the President, for a Speech he graciously delivered on Thursday, 15th December, 2016.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, indeed it is very clear that this year's Presidential debate is not as tensed as expected and that is why some of us have decided to stay aback. However, we must thank the President for what is actually happening; not only in our Constituency, but the district. I come from the Western Rural District and I will try very hard to represent the District as mentioned by the Honourable Member from Constituency 093.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start with the readiness and willingness for elections. The issue about elections has been a topical issue, but the people are failing to understand the necessary provisions in the 1991 Constitution. In view of that, I want to refer this House to Sections 39 and 77 of the 1991 Constitution of this country. Section 77[A] and [J] talk about the dissolutions of Parliament and then 'Resignation or Death of a Member of Parliament. Section 39 [1-2] states that 'not less than six months when Parliament is dissolved, elections can be conducted.' People are talking and asking about the consultation. If you go to Sections 42 and 43 that deals with the Presidency, they talk about three months. In that regard, we are caught within three and six months for the election date. That brings in the consultations people are talking about. We must tell the public that the President is

willing and ready for the elections to be conducted. If you go to the 2017 Budget, you will find out the Budget is tied to the Presidential Address. According to the Budget, Government has allocated about **Le322bln** to the National Electoral Commission [NEC]. The question is what more do you want to hear about Government's readiness and willingness for the elections? Government has also allocated over **Le180bln** to the National Civil Registration Authority. What else do you want to hear about the readiness and willingness for the elections? Government has allocated **Le3.5bln** to the Political Party Registration Commission [PPRC] to even take care of issues relating to the SLPP. What else do you want to hear about the readiness and willingness for the elections? Government has also allocated **Le2.4bln** to the National Commission for Democracy [NCD] to educate us about elections. What else do you want to hear about the readiness and willingness for election?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the fastest growing district in Sierra Leone, the Western Rural District. I am saying this because of the massive developments going on in the Western Rural District. Today, people from the Western Urban are rushing to the Western Rural District. In fact, others are coming from Bo, Kenema, Pujehun, and other areas to the Western Rural because of the massive developments that are taking place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am proud to inform this House that the new District Health Medical Team has been constituted for the Western Rural District. This has never happened in the history of the Western Rural District. Therefore, we would have our own medical doctors in the Western Rural. Other Members of Parliament have spoken about the 100 beds hospital for the Western Rural and the establishment of the Teaching Hospital at Kerry Town. I must add that more developments have taken place, like the the extension of EDSA cables to Lumpa.

With those few words, I want to thank you very.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI [*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to acknowledge and to also thank His Excellency the President for carrying out his constitutional mandate by gracefully delivering his 9th Speech, from 2007 to date. The President did not struggle to draw

the attention of this House to all the achievements he has made during the past nine years, but what he failed to acknowledge in his Speech is the solid foundation upon which his administration met in 2007. However, it is okay because the people of this country know the truth.

THE SPEAKER: This is very interesting in the sense that whilst others are saying porous, he said solid [*Laughter*].

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: The people of this country are quite aware of the fact that there was enough and this country was on its way to greater achievements by 2007. All the infrastructural developments we are now enjoying have already been planned, and the government and people of this country have started the implementations of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper [PRSP] I and II. Mr Speaker, we were on the verge of developing this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I agree with the fact that President Ernest Bai Koroma took over the reign of power from the late President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, may his soul rest in perfect peace. I don't have much to elucidate on as far as infrastructural developments are concerned. We all know that Rome was not built in a day and there is no way a country can be developed in nine years. There is no way that proper development can take place in few years, and there is no economic theory where you can spell out success in economic development when you have growth before development. Development has to come before economic growth; therefore, the economic growth that we are enjoying today, including salaries of Members of Parliament was because a solid foundation that was laid. As far as I am concerned, all of us should be fair with those who elected us into this office. The people of this country elected us to Parliament to represent them, in terms of carrying out the functions that would better their lives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I listened to the Honourable Member who moved the motion of thanks to His Excellency the President, Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo. His exposé were simple, straightforward and to the point. We on this side have done our bit, but we still have to wait for the President to deliver his final speech and it is in response to that speech I will personally thanks him for having done a job that he has done for the people of this country. The President did not

have much of a choice other than to carry out all development plans that the donor community worked with the previous Government. The donors helped us in ending the war and the end of the civil war opened windows of opportunities for the developments we are seeing today. They never let us down in the last nine years because we are on course, the course that was laid in 2002.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the problems we have in this House is the refusal of our colleagues to read history books in order to acquaint themselves with what has happened in this country. Reading history books would have allowed them to know our joyful and tragic past. Let me go to a historical piece of information that was released by the British Government last year. The Confidential British Cabinet Report, dated 23rd March, 1967, it states: **“The Commonwealth Secretary said that the situation in Sierra Leone was uncertain. It appeared that the Governor General had acted prematurely after the last general election in asking the Leader of the All Peoples Congress [APC], Mr Siaka Stevens to form a government. At that stage, the results of the general elections were not available. Mr Siaka Stevens’ party had 31 seats returned and the Sierra Leone’s Peoples Party [SLPP] under the leadership of the previous Prime Minister, Sir Albert Margai had 27 members. However, one electoral result has still to be declared and the 5 of the remaining 7 independent members have since declared their support for Sir Albert Margai’s party. It seems unlikely therefore, that Mr Siaka Stevens would be unable to form a government, more particularly if account were taken of the votes of the 12 Paramount Chiefs in the Legislature. Since then, these were likely to support Sir Albert Margai.”**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my reason for bringing this up is because historians have usurped the political history of this country. We have no qualms, but we have to give credit where credit is due. You cannot cry over spilled milk. The water has passed under the bridge long time ago, but I want to take this opportunity to ask the President to return the property of the late Sir Albert Margai to his family because he had returned Kabasa Lodge to the family of the late President Siaka Stevens. The late President Kabba, in his wisdom, returned the SLPP building to the

SLPP and he also returned the Marine Building to the APC. Therefore, I am pleading that the late Sir Albert's property be returned to his family.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want every Sierra Leonean to note what I have just said and I want what I have said in this Well be part of the records of this House. For SLPP, our disunity will once again take from us the chance to form the next government and that was what cost of the power. Therefore, I want to appeal to those who are aspiring to become the flag bearer of the SLPP to provide a serene atmosphere so that we will have a flag bearer that is loved by everybody. Those who have anger or any form of disagreement should come together and reunite our party. The SLPP was a united party. We were a united party. Honourable Veronica K. Sesay would attest to the fact that when we went for the convention, we did not fight but danced. What has gone wrong with us? I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, on that emotional note I will now ask the Leader to respond.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after the President delivered his Speech on Thursday, 15th December, 2016, I was called upon to receive and lay it on this Table for the attention of the House. I did that and we are deliberating on it today. Therefore, it is my humble duty from the onset to thank all of you for doing justice to this Address. Some of you were very objective, whilst some of you were being subjective.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of our colleagues asked for permission to speak from a nationalistic point of view. I want to follow that queue and that is why I will be addressing you today as 'fellow citizens.' I am not going to give any detailed comment on most of what he has said in this House. He has educated the nation; he has educated our colleagues; and he has contributed immensely for the development of this nation. I want to give the President his right title; i.e., His Excellency the Right Honourable Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Some of you have been calling him Ernest Bai Koroma or President Koroma. His right title has to carry the name Honourable because he is still a Member of this House. Fellow citizens, on Page 12, Paragraph 58 of this Speech, the President made some nationalistic

statements. This is because he touches on every one of us. With the leave of Mr Speaker, it reads: **"Integrity should not only be displayed in public offices; integrity should be exemplified in our relationships because it's a driver of employment, growth and success. When hard working compatriots in the diaspora send money to start businesses, build houses or support their communities, do not squander it. Working with integrity with their money will create more jobs and encourage them to create more opportunities in the country. Work creation depends on working diligently when employed by international investors or national businesses. The availability of jobs does not only depend on opportunities government create, they also depend on work ethics, discipline and integrity of individual citizens."** That is a very nationalistic statement because a very great philosopher once said: **"when you lose your wealth you have lost nothing; when you lose your health you have lost something; but when you lose your integrity, you have lost everything."** That is the premise upon which I want to tie the President's statement and to make brief comments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no supermarket or bank that somebody will go and loan or buy integrity. You can go to a bank when you need money; you can go to the pharmacy when you need medicine to recover your health; you can go to the World Bank as a country to seek for a loan or a grant to develop your country; but you cannot go to any of these institutions to buy or ask for integrity. You have to build your integrity. Specifically, the President mentioned public officials and the citizens at large. We are all witnesses to our acts and activities as public officials; private and ordinary citizens. From the public perspective, we have both administrative and professional civil servants in this country. Let us examine their acts in their offices and ranked them. If these public officials, who have been entrusted with the fate of this country, have integrity, I don't think Sierra Leone would be labelled as a corrupt nation. What are they doing? That is food for thought.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at our educational system, all of us are commenting on the educational value of this country. Today, we are all bowing

our heads because of what is happening with our educational system. We have teachers and lecturers who are contributing to the downfall of our educational system. I use my high school education to almost reach where I am. I went to the university very late. I would not boast of having the persuasive eloquence like those with PhDs, but I believe I am educated. I want to thank the then teachers and lecturers who displayed some amount of integrity. Today, I refer you to the reports of parliamentary Committee on Education and the deposition of the Minister of Education in this Well. He exposed our lecturers and teachers in this Well. This has impacted negatively on our children. May God help this nation. I deliberately borrowed the word 'fellow citizens' because this is very passionate to me.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us know our constituents; our brothers and sister; our compatriots, etc. If you go the hospitals, there is no need for me to lament the dubious acts perpetuated by our doctors, nurses and other health professionals. The Free Health Care is confronted with serious challenges because of the dubious activities of our medics.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want talk about the Army and the Police. Do the forces have integrity in this country? They are enlisted to serve in the Army or the Police; they are provided with all equipment pertained to their job and they are expected to deliver. Why are you using those equipment against the government that provided them to you? Do you have integrity? I believe the answer is no. The Ministers are approved in this House for and on behalf of our people. I always enjoy the admonition we lavish on them, but when they leave here, we will have to question the integrity of most of them. Do they have integrity? Members of Parliament are here for a purpose. The parliamentary prayer clearly spells out what we should do as Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President also spoke about the private sector, including those who have registered businesses like contractors and suppliers. It is only people who lack integrity are behaving the way they do. A particular commodity is sold in the general market for **Le5, 000**, but because you are supplying it to Government, you are asking for **Le50, 000**. Well, the Ministries officials and the suppliers lack integrity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the typical example his Excellency gave is that we don't have any reason to go to America. In other words, all of us should not go to America, Europe or Asia. If a family member is blessed with the opportunity to go to Europe and decided to send money to start a business or to construct a building, the President is calling on us not to squander that money. Most of our brothers and sisters used to take snapshots and send the photos. They are giving fake information to let you believe that they have done what you asked them to do. That is why everybody is fighting to go abroad. If the moneys our brothers and sisters are sending are put into good use like the Mexicans, believe you me our brothers and sisters would have been encouraged to send more money. Investors will come and invest in this country if our people stop the 419 game. In Krio, we call that 'olop' [seize]. You are destroying this nation because those whom you deceived would not allow that to happen for the second time. This is the integrity His Excellency the President was talking. If we anchor our acts and activities with the plea of Mr President, this nation will definitely return to its glorious days within a twinkling of an eye.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to passionately thank His Excellency the President for giving us this lecture. I would endeavour to print that statement and even go to the radio or television to elaborate on it because time is not on my side here to provide more explanations. This message is worth disseminating to our people because it will heal the menace of corruption, deception and misrepresentation of every Sierra Leonean. I thank you fellow Sierra Leoneans *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the concluding theme of the Majority Leader is "Integrity" and he has sounded eloquently philosophical. I hope we have taken that in good part. I want to commend the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai for acceding to the extra two minutes. I would have extended the contribution of Ansumana J. Kaikai by a minute or two, but I was moved by his emotion.

Honourable Members, the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai is the most senior Member of Parliament here. When I came to this Parliament in 2002, he was my senior because he had been here since 1996. Sometimes senior parliamentarians

tend to bully their juniors. However, he found it very difficult to bully me because I was his senior in school. So, he always yielded to me and I have that regard for him to this day. I thank you very much Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the debate itself has been very lively, but I also want to make it very clear that a few days from today, the final agreement for the completion of the Pendembu/Kailahun Road will be signed. That means by the end of next year, you can drive directly from here to Kailahun nonstop. I brought up this point to further explain the fact that the President is the President of Sierra Leone. He sees himself as a Sierra Leonean.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President emulated his present administrative style from the late Siaka Stevens. To travel from here to Conakry took people very close to five days because you had to use two ferries and sometimes people took eight days, especially during the rainy seasons. We are a government that is progressive. Today, through the efforts of our party and Siaka Stevens, you can drive straight from here to Conakry and come back to Freetown.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the President assumed office in 2007, he emphasised the need for us to change our attitudes during the day of his inauguration. I listened to him very carefully, I asked myself a question, how are we going to change our attitudes. Within three weeks, he set up the Attitudinal and Behavioural Change Secretariat for the purposes of changing our attitudes. Today, we have the Secretariat very functional

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, good governance is consistent with the thinking of the President and that is why he asked us to put together a structure to promote open government initiative. Mr Speaker, because our President is not like other Presidents who would assume office and leave without legacy, this is a President who is going to leave legacies behind.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Chairman of the Committee on Information spoke about the ICT. The telecommunication sector has been improved drastically and that is why we have been listed as one of the most developed countries in the area of ICT. It is not because we have landed the submarine cable from France to

Freetown, but because we have also landed the terrestrial cable in Conakry and Liberia, even though we are ahead of those two countries. So, this is one of the things that bring development in a country. If you read the President's manifesto, you will discover that the President has achieved a lot of the things he promised to do for this country. If he said he was going to construct a road, he will construct the road before he leaves office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when he spoke about the ring road, which is one of his aspirations, he was thinking about the Kambia/Kamakwei/Kabala/Kono/Kailahun Road. We have almost achieved **45%** to **50%** of that project [*Applause*]. Those who have not travelled extensively would be encouraged to travel, so that they can see what the President has done in this country. I listened to one of the debaters and I was shocked when he was complaining about the road between Kenema and Kailahun. I travelled to Segbwema a few days ago and I was able to return and passed the night in Bo. This is how easy and quickly you can now travel.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to respond to the issue on separation of powers. Questions have been asked why the Office of the Attorney-General and that of the Minister of Justice have still not separated. Well, people need to wait until the draft of the Bill comes to this House and that will be the time you would know that the President is a President who keeps to his words.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have bipartisan legislature, which presupposes that all of us should work together for the development of this country. Let us be very honest and fair in our presentations. If the President has achieved laurels in this country, for goodness sake let us say so. When President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was President of this Republic, we praised him where he succeeded and nobody stood up to criticise him. I say so because I was a journalist and I know what we said about him. Let us explain and understand the human nature of President Ernest Bai Koroma. When President Ahmed Tejan Kabba fell ill and was hospitalised at the Choithram Hospital, President Ernest Bai Koroma visited him on a daily basis. The President did not bother whether he was SLPP or not. He knew that a Sierra Leonean had fallen ill and he must respect the fact that late President

Ahmed Tejan Kabba contributed to peace and the restoration of democracy in this country. Above all, when President Kabba died, President Koroma played a major role to make sure that he was given a state funeral. We also insisted that other heads of states come to Sierra Leone to be part of the whole process. In fact, a one-time Vice President, who contested against our President, was flown to India through the help of President Ernest Bai Koroma and I was part of that convey. Again, when the Honourable Frank Kposowa was making his statement here, he appreciated the President for helping him survive the ailment that struck him. This is a President who does not care about tribe or political affiliation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state that I am very appreciative of the fact that you gave me the opportunity to contribute. I also want to thank the Leader of this House for giving me the opportunity. The Leader of this House is very progressive. I really do not want a one-on-one with the SLPP because I know the causative factors. However, the SLPP made too many errors and because they made those errors, they have now found themselves on that other side of this Well. The Acting Minority Leader made a suggestion that we did not win the elections in 1967. In 1967, Bubuakei Jabbi and I were in university. We know that elections were fiercely contested and everybody knew that the APC won those elections. But what was also very important was the fact that the new Prime Minister was stopped from occupying his Prime Ministerial seat.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved 'that we the Members of Parliament here assembled wish to thank His Excellency the President, for the Address he so graciously delivered on the occasion of the State Opening of the Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament, of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, in the Chamber of Parliament on Thursday, 15th December, 2016 be ratified.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of the thanks to his Excellency the President Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for the Address he so graciously delivered on the occasion of the State Opening of the Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament, of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, in the Chamber of Parliament on Thursday, 15th December, 2016 has been carried].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Basiru Silikie, you have to read and understand the Standing Orders. You should not only read, but understand what you are reading. I would appreciate it if you do that. It is provided for in the Standing Orders and it is traditional. If it was not done in the past, it was simply because people did not want to do it, but it is a requirement.

Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai was a very good historian when he was in school. When he was making his contribution, he tried to recall what happened in 1967. I was in the sixth form and I knew everything that transpired, but I wonder whether Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai was correct. The records are there.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, the document I made reference is a British Cabinet Report and it was kept secret for 40 years and has just been released for public consumption. It is available in the archives.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, in logic, we have what we call 'argumentum ad hominem,' which is a fallacy. It does not necessarily mean that because Ansumana is a Professor in history, therefore whatever he says about history is correct. No, it is illogical and fallacious.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 12.30 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 24th January, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.]