

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

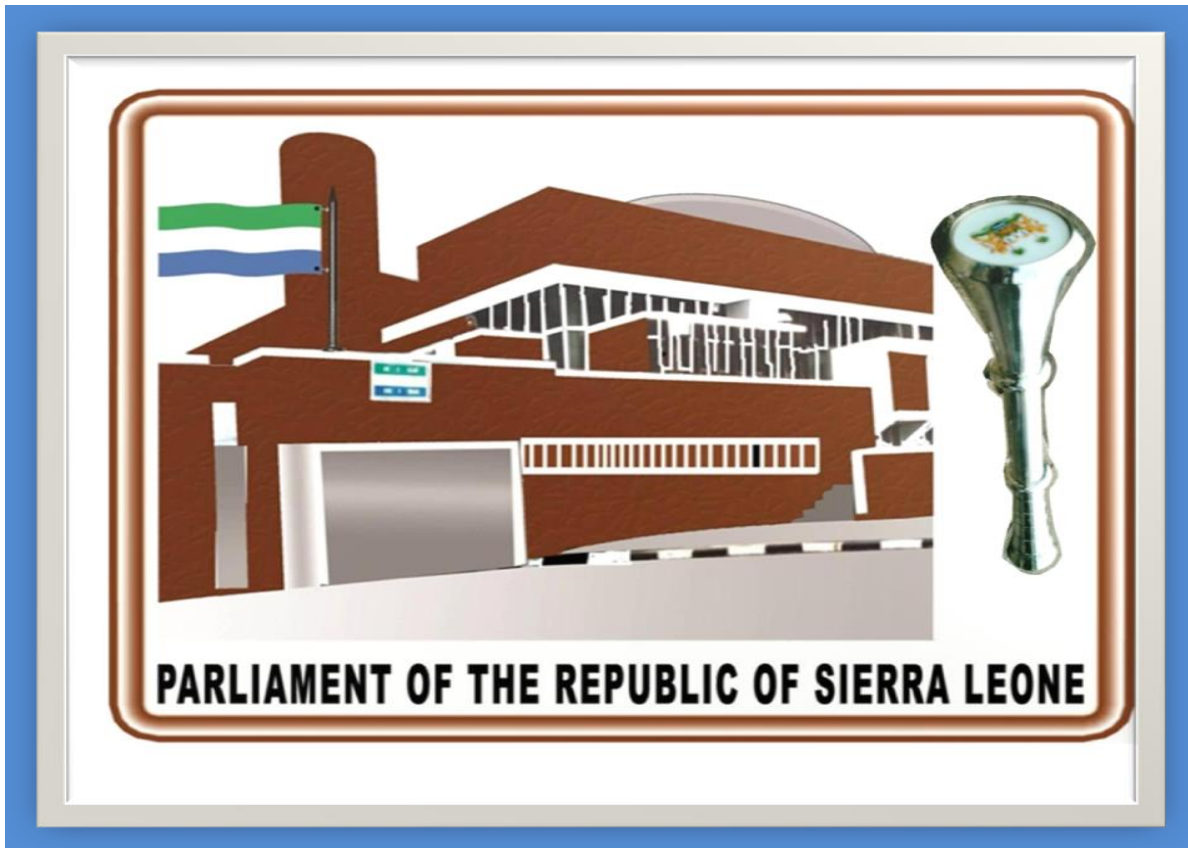
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 20TH JULY, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY 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 Thursday, 20th July, 2017.

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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**

Thursday, 20th July, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Lamin Yansaneh, Read the Prayers].

[The House met at 10:30 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF [*Deputy Majority Leader*]: Mr Speaker, I would like to amend the Order Paper on item III [a], Laying of Paper by the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The Deputy Speaker being the presiding officer for today's sitting, I will suggest that I do the laying of paper on his behalf.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Mr Deputy Majority Leader of the House. I am sure there is no objection to that suggestion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 18TH JULY, 2017

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? There being no amendments, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017 as presented?

HON. AMADU M. KANU: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following document:

THE AUDIT SERVICE SIERRA LEONE – PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON YOUTHS IN DRAINAGE CLEARING PROJECT BY THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA *[Minister of Transport and Aviation]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following documents:

[I] THE SIERRA LEONE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY [MEDICAL LICENSING] REGULATIONS, 2017

THE CIVIL AVIATION ACT, 2008 [ACT NO. 2 OF 2008]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 55 OF 2017

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 75 OF 2017

THE SPEAKER: What are you standing on, Honourable Member?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move a motion that the Statutory Instruments and Regulations that have just been laid before this House by the Minister of Transport and Aviation be debated.

THE SPEAKER: Are you moving a motion or you are giving a notice of motion.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am giving a notice of motion. I will be doing a formal write-up to the motion.

THE SPEAKER: I hope you take into consideration that this Parliament is desperate to go on recess. You have to do it speedily if you meant what you have just said.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

[C] THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

RTD MAJOR ISHMEAL SENGU KOROMA [*Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs*]:

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

[I] AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND NETPAGE [SL] LIMITED, DATED 11TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

[II] AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT OF 11TH FEBRUARY 2014 [THE AMENDMENT] BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND NETPAGE [SL] LIMITED, DATED 3RD AUGUST, 2015.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister of Internal Affairs, you are required to wait, so that you see what is happening.

GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE SPEAKER: Mr Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources, I hope the officials of the water resources are around otherwise we would have to skip that item.

MR FODAY B.L. MANSARAY: *[Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development]:* Mr Speaker Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following agreements which were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017.

[I] SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND [SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR THE THREE TOWNS WATER SANITATION PROJECT] SUPPLY AND PROJECT ID NO: P-SL-E00-007, GRANT NO:2100155034566, DATED 25TH MAY, 2017; AND

[II] SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND [ON BEHALF OF THE TRANSITION SUPPORT FACILITY] [SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR THE THREE TOWNS WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT] PROJECT ID NO: P-SL-E00-007, GRANT NO: 5900155011851, DATED 25TH MAY, 2017

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you may wish to recall that it was the African Development Bank that co-financed the original three-towns water supply and sanitation project together with the OPEC Fund for International Development and the amount for that first phase of the project was **\$62mln**. Despite early setbacks, especially due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus disease, the project has been successfully completed. However, despite the attainment of about 184 kilometres of

distribution network, there are still large areas of the three cities that are not covered by the distribution system and this has led to more time spent by women and girls in fetching water. It is therefore in the interest of the nation to have this supplementary agreement in order to provide improved access to safe water supply services in the cities of Bo, Makeni and Kenema through the rebuilding of the existing infrastructure and improving sanitation in schools, health centres and other public places like markets and motor parks and [2] to enhance the institutional capacity overall operational performance and long term financial viability of the Sierra Leone Water Company, [SALWACO] through institutional reforms and capacity building.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this supplementary Agreement is for an amount of **\$1mln**. In actual fact the total amount of the supplementary funding is **\$15.15mln** and **\$13,015,000** has already been approved by this noble House. What is before you for approval is the additional amount of **\$1mln**. Of the supplementary amount of **\$15.15mln**, the Government of Sierra Leone will contribute **\$1mln**.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the resources from these grants are meant to extend the network of water connections in the three cities that I have named, target additional households as well, and create opportunities for employment for an estimated 120 youths that have already been trained as plumbers. Refresher training will also be provided to sharpen their skills, and resources will be utilised to facilitate improvement of vocational skills and support the youth groups in setting up small business geared towards the water utility industry. Start-up tool kits will be provided and immediate income generation opportunities offered through framework contracts with SALWACO for the necessary water distribution network maintenance and water supply connection services. At least, 240 additional long term jobs are expected to be created through this initiative. The additional activities will also enhance the projects effectiveness and impact in terms of job creation with particular focus on youth employment, including women. All of these activities will be undertaken by SALWACO and of course in cooperation with the Youth Commission.

With these clarifications, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017:

[I] Supplementary Protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Fund [Supplementary Grant for the Three Towns Water Sanitation Project], Supply and Project ID No: P-SI-E00-007, Grant No: 2100155034566 Dated 25th May, 2017; and

[Ii] Supplementary Protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund [on behalf of the Transition Support Facility] [Supplementary Grant for the Three Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Project] Project ID No: P-SI-E00-007, Grant No: 5900155011851 Dated 25th May 2017. I thank you very much.

[Question Proposed]

HON. SUALIHO M. KOROMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise this morning to contribute to the ratification of this motion before us. As the Minister has just said, these supplementary protocols are going to provide not only facilities for the water sector, but it is going to bring into the youths sector; i.e., the National Youth Commission. The Ministries or Departments will collaborate in order to achieve the desired results.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the Minister said, this is going to create 140 jobs for the youths of this country, male and female youths Mr Speaker. However, I would want to advise the National Youth Commission and SALWACO or the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure that the selection of these youths for the proposed training is done in the communities that will be ready to go for this training. SLOIC and the Polytechnics are mentioned in this document. We do not want to see a situation wherein we select youths from communities and after spending money on them in terms of training, they refuse to go and practice as plumbers in those communities. I know that most of them

will prefer to come back to Freetown and loiter around the streets to say 'bra u bɔbɔ de oh.' Let us look for those youths who are in need and are willing to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I may also want to thank His Excellency the President for giving us the right leadership in the water sector; i.e., the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources. Fortunately, the Minority Leader of this House nominated me to serve in that capacity and not the President.

THE SPEAKER: Well, you know that it is a chain work.

HON. SUALIHO M. KOROMA: I know, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have approved a number of grants and loans for the water sector. This is because we have a very good leadership in the water sector. Mr Speaker, the Director General of SALWACO initiated the discussion for the need to look for resources to train the youths in the water sector, particularly in terms of connecting houses and doing basic maintenance and repairs on the water facilities. The result of that discussion is what he has transformed to something that is going to be viable for the youths of this country. So, I want to congratulate and thank them for their hard work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that this Parliament should not be left behind. Section 118, Sub-section 7 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone gives power to this House to approve loans, grants and gifts. In other words, loans, grants and gifts must be presented to this House for approval. Again, Section 93[3] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone allows Parliament to monitor these institutions in terms of scrutinising how those donations, grants and loans are being utilised. For the past few years, this House has approved loans and grants relating to the water sector, but the Committee on Water Resources has not been able to go and superintend the implementation of those projects. Therefore, I want to request from the Ministry of Finance to support the various parliamentary committees, so as to enable them function effectively. Parliamentary Committees should be supported, so that they can go on oversight to monitor the utilisation of those resources ratified by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without much ado, I want to call on this Honourable House to quickly ratify this motion before us because it is going to support the water sector. As I have always said, water is health and health is wealth. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your permission, I would like to introduce myself not because this is my maiden speech, but I state here that I am Honourable Lahai Marah [Nyakor]. I was known to be from Koinadugu District, but now I am from Falaba District. The Minister of Finance is the only Minister we have from that District

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please go to the motion we are debating.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, the Three Town Water Project is one of the most successful projects in this country. I am a Member of the Water Resources Committee and I want to call on colleagues Members of Parliament to kindly support this Agreement. The Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources and the Minister of Finance have succinctly explained the benefits of this Project. It is important because 120 youths have already been employed. The extra funds will help to retrain them and to improve on their skills, so that they would be independent individuals. The Project is expected to employ in the long term 240 youths, including women. Also, it will help to improve sanitary facilities in public places like markets, schools and health centres.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we went on oversight, we visited the Three Town Water Supply Project in Makeni, Bo and Kenema. The Committee observed that it was a very good Project. I must say kudos to the Director General of SALWACO for a job well done. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for giving young people like us the opportunity to showcase our talents.

Having said those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am calling on my colleagues Members of Parliament to speedily ratify this Agreement. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. ABU JAJUA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to lend my voice on the document before us this morning. All of us know that water is life and no amount of money for its availability is too big. I want to quickly talk about the purpose of this Agreement; i.e., the employment of 140 youths and to call the attention of the Ministry of Youths Affairs, SALWACO and Ministry of Water Resources to ensure that those enlisted for the training are youths in those localities. Again, we have to sustain those facilities in those localities. I want to inform Members of Parliament that we do not have technical people in the field of plumbing in Sierra Leone. For instance, few years ago, when I was serving as the Quality Assurance Manager for the construction of Marampa Processing Plant, we requested for plumbers, but we could not get them in Sierra Leone. We had to go to Ghana, Senegal and even Australia to get them. This is because a lot of our plumbers are old or they have travelled to other countries. So, this is a wakeup call and we need this particular facility and knowledge in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources in thanking His Excellency the President for the support he is giving to the water sector. I want to remind him about the promise he made when he visited Segbwema few months ago for us to get sustainable water supply in the township of Segbwema.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on this Honourable House to speedily ratify this Agreement. Thank you very much.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Agreement before this House speaks volumes of Government commitment to salvage the problems of the citizens, especially in crisis situations. Mr Speaker, for the past few years, one of the areas of criticism of this Government has been the insufficiency of water supply, especially in the capital city and in some regional headquarter towns. Pictures of rubbers are being circulated in the social media around the World. Sometimes we get telephone calls from friends, asking us what is going on in Sierra Leone. Today, however, with the swift intervention of the APC led Government of Dr Ernest Bai

Koroma, we have stopped seeing the proliferation of these pictures being circulated on social media.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is a grant to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone. I would want to allay the fears of colleagues who were admonishing the Ministry of Youths Affairs and the Ministry of Water Resources in terms of the selection process. In other words, they raise a concern about the 120 beneficiaries and the long term employment opportunity for 240 youths. I would like to state here that when it comes to regional consideration in projects that are being handled by the Ministry of Youths Affairs, I think the Minister in charge is one of the most nationalistic thinking Minister that we ever had in that Ministry. This is because there was a project at Ministry of Youths Affairs; i.e., 'Street Cleaning Project.' The Ministry of Youths Affairs employed young people across the country. The employment was not only limited to Freetown or Western Rural District, but they took this Project across the country; vis-à-vis, Moyamba, Mile 91, Makeni, and many other places.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement is going to extend the current facilities we have in this country. However, I want to caution the workers in those facilities to make sure that they perform their functions as expected. Some of the employees are going to be stationed in the provinces and we do not want a situation wherein those employees will abandon their posts and go to big towns. If that happens, it is a disservice to this nation. If Government is spending millions of dollars to improve the water sector, I want to urge those officials to perform their jobs effectively and diligently.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the grant is very good for this country and I want to urge my colleagues to speedily ratify this Agreement. Thank you.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a laudable Agreement. I heard people mentioning here that this particular grant will provide jobs for the youths of this country. I was expecting the Chairman and the Minister to have given us the present status of the Three Town Water Project. We have been on this for quite a while and a lot of moneys have been poured into this Project. We want to know

the present status of the implementation process in terms of what we have achieved and how much we need to finalise that Project. These are relevant information required.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Francis Kaisamba, you have the support of Honourable Kuyembeh.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much. In Kenema, for instance, a lot of questions have been asked with regards to the Three Town Water Supply Project. In fact, a lot of water pipes have been installed, but there is no water running through those pipes. These are relevant questions we expect the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources and the Minister to clarify some of these issues. Somebody said it is free, but these are moneys meant for Sierra Leoneans. It should be used judiciously and we need to know some of these issues because millions of dollars have been allocated for that purpose. As a Parliament, we should be accountable and we have to be very careful how we ratify these Agreements or loans in this country. A lot of allegations have been heaped on this Parliament. The people out there are saying that Parliament is just ratifying whatever comes to Parliament. As the people's representatives, we have to be careful because whatever we do here should be in the best interest of the people of this country. That is really the bone of contention and I want the Chairman and the Minister to tell us the present status of the Three Town Water Supply Project. Thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have before us a Supplementary Protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank for a supplementary grant for the Three Town Water Supply and Sanitation Project. We also have the Protocol and I must state here that the contents of the two documents are similar and the project execution is also similar. I want to say that we will always continue to need water as long as our population is increasing; as long as we create industries that will need water; and as long as we want to improve on the utilities in every household especially goods and sanitation to

improve the living conditions of the citizens of this country; etc. Therefore, even when we shall have left this Parliament, we would still have documents coming to this Parliament requiring improved provision of water.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, water is one of the goods that we call ubiquitous because they are everywhere and they will never be provided in the quantity that is required because every minute of the day, water is required. For example, when a child is born, that child will add to the recipient and customer of the use of water. So, water is important for the existence of living things. What we should be looking at when these documents come to us is the operational aspect of the provision of water. We should be looking at the proper management of water. Again, we should also look at personnel management who will be at the helm of providing water. Also, we should be looking at the monitoring mechanism to ensure that sufficient water is provided. That is our business in this House, either as a Parliament or as a Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are happy that the youths of this country are going to be one of the major beneficiaries of this Project. This is because in the provision of this water, we need middle level manpower to be trained, so that they will be able to provide and maintain the water systems. In this document, we have already been told that 120 youths had been trained and they would continue to be provided on-the-job training facilities. In the not distant future, another 240 will also benefit. I want to echo the pieces of advice that has been given by both sides of this House that in the selection of those that would be trained, we have to look at equity. I would want to add here that we also look at gender parity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I read the document that 120 have already been trained, one would have loved to know how many of them are women. It is very important because when we talk of youths in this country, we have more female youths than males. If you go to the just concluded census reports, you will see what I am talking about. We need answers to these concerns. If we have less females that are already trained out of 120 youths, then we should go further and start asking why? In fact, we have not been told about the basic qualifications needed for these people to

qualify to be trained. I am sure we are not looking for people with first degrees in Engineering or people with master degree. Maybe we are looking for those with basic primary education who will be able to be trained within the shortest possible time to understand and maintain the water system as and when the need arises. And if that is the situation, then we would have enough female youths in the country to qualify.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Minister to respond to some of the questions. I need information to be provided for these concerns. If he does not have the information now, I want to remind him that this is the information we want to have in future in terms of training and skills acquisition. We want to ensure that there is equitable distribution of these facilities when it comes to gender in the selection process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is very important that the technicians are selected in their localities; i.e., selecting people who are living in those communities. This is because they have their families there and the likelihood is that when they are trained, they would stay and work in those communities and will not think of leaving those places. I am saying this because we have seen instances wherein people were trained and after their trainings, they leave for other places. In other words, as soon as they have improved on their value and marketability, they migrated elsewhere. So, they live a vacuum and the needed personnel to continue to service those systems are not sometimes available.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the selection criteria should pay attention to the residences of those that should be trained. If it is within a particular locality in Bo, let us try as much as possible to select people who live and work in that community. With their families living together, there is very little tendency for them to move to other places. The same will apply to Makeni and Kenema. Again, it is important that the trainees get the incentives for them to continue doing their work. This is because if we train them without giving them the tools to do their work, the objectives of this Project will not be achieved. We should try by all means to give them minimum incentives, so that they will continue to live and provide vital services to the

communities. These are some of the issues we will look at as a Committee and as a Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, water is something we will continue to talk about. No money is too small and no effort is too big for us to provide water because water is an essential aspect of everybody's life. When we talk about Energy, water is even key to that sector. The absence of it is a problem and too much of it is also a problem. We need water for Agriculture, especially in Africa where Agriculture is rain fed. We also need water for domestic purposes and also for industrial purposes. So, no effort is too small or big and no money is too plenty or small.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minister for bringing this supplementary protocol to us. If it is ratified by this House and once the project will continue to roll out, our business as the Committee here is to really go out and find out whether in fact the provisions in this document are met. As already mentioned, have to ensure that the selection process is open and fair, taking into consideration the local content policy. We want those who are living in those localities be given a fair chance. I thank you very much.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, may I seize this opportunity to thank each and every Member of Parliament who have contributed to the ratification of this grant. We need to do some clarifications. I heard the Minority Leader talking about the selection of youths for the new training. I must make it very clear that this additional loan will not be providing training for new sets of youths, but will be empowering the 120 youths who have already been trained. They will be given the necessary support like start-up kits, so that they will set up small businesses and become more empowered within the localities. What I have just said is on Page 11 of this Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minority Leader also talked about equity in the selection process. I want to believe that the Minister will respond to that concern... -
[Interruption].

THE SPEAKER: Probably you cannot confirm that because the implementing Ministry is the Ministry of Water Resources.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: I thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The benefits of this grant are enormous. As we heard from various speakers, it caters for the creation of jobs, capacity building for young people, support small businesses by giving them start-up kits, rebuild the existing infrastructures and improve sanitation in schools, health centres, markets, motor parks, etc.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other speaker spoke about the status report. If he was listening keenly to the Minister, he did mention that the first phase has been completed, but we needed additional network lines. Therefore, we need money and that is why, with the wisdom of the Chairperson of the Committee on Water Resources and that of the Director General and other stakeholders, they came up with this idea. This is why we are here to ratify the said grant, so that we will get more money for those additional network lines. So, I want to allay the fears of Members of Parliament from Bo that water will soon be pumped to each and every locality within Makeni, Bo and Kenema.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to caution officials of Water Resources in the area of monitoring. We have seen, in the past, implementers will complete a project and then in less than two months, everything will go down and the project will go back to square one. A vivid example is the project in the Western Rural; i.e., the Solar Powered Water Services. If you go there today, you will see that they are no more working going on there and we have called on the Minister of Water Resources to get those contractors and see how those jobs could be redone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the beneficiaries, I want to strongly advise that we take politics out of the utilisation of this service. If we take away politics in the utilisation of this service, then we will definitely benefit from it to a very large extent. For example, we have the Kambia issue, which after the completion of that project, but because of one or two hiccups, the sustainability of that project was a problem. And I want to state here that sustainability is key in the implementation of every project. I

want to also call on the Ministry that before the commissioning of this project, a sustainability strategic plan should be set up, so that after the contractors would have gone, they will continue to enjoy this facility. They will not come again to Government to continue to repair worn out equipment, but at least the Committee that will be set up for sustainability will see how best this is achieved.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on every one to speedily ratify this Agreement. I thank you very much.

MR FODAY B.L. MANSARAY: [*Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank all the Honourable Members who have intervened in this ratification process. We have taken notes of the views expressed and I think the interventions revolved around three issues. The first one has to do with the criteria for the selection of youths or technicians. The second issue is the monitoring aspect by Parliament and the present status of implementation of the First Phase.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start with the present status of implementation of the First Phase. According to the information at my disposal, I have been told that the First Phase of the project has been completed in the three cities. What is outstanding is the distribution of water to the different households and I am sure that will be taken care under the Second Phase. With regards to this information, we have SALWACO represented here and I would entreat them to come up with a detailed report on this budget for the consideration of the Committee on Water Resources in Parliament. They deserve to get all the information available.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with regards to the monitoring by Parliament, this is valued addition and it is very important to us. Once we get oversight activities coming from Parliament, those oversight activities will help to improve the implementation of the project. For me, monitoring is an important ingredient of project implementation and this brings me back to the suggestion that was made on Tuesday. I want to assure this Honourable House that we, in the Ministry of Finance, are ready at all times to co-operate and collaborate with Parliament. During negotiations for loans and grants

either within the country or outside the country, the inclusion of Parliament is a tremendous value addition and we will try to respect that and I want to leave that assurance in this Well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, certain matters have been brought up and I would suggest here that SALWACO should submit that report to the relevant Committee in Parliament. Since I am not provided with the ratio of women to men, as well as those that have been trained, I will urge SALWACO to provide that information to Parliament.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of qualifications for those that will be trained is also essential. Parliament will want to know the minimum criteria that were used in selecting people for the training. I cannot agree with the House more when they mentioned that we should select people who are ready to work and that is also related to selecting people from the target areas because if we bring people from outside, there is a tendency for them to AWOL after sometimes. So, I agree with you and I am sure SALWACO has taken notes of that.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in training people, they should think of people coming from the locality and also getting people to stay on the job is a bit difficult. Some of us could still remember that immediately after the war, mobilisation and rehabilitation exercise was introduced and a lot of youths were trained and given state-up kits. Mr Speaker, it will interest you to know that most of those youths sold their start-up kits, instead of embarking on what they have been trained to do. So, I think sensitisation of the youths or people to be trained under this programme, has to be intensified by SALWACO. I agree with that suggestion as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody made mention of the right incentives to be given to people to urge them to stay. That suggestion is linked to the sustainability of this Project. These are all important for the project to succeed. So, I hope SALWACO has taken notes of all those suggestions; and at the end of the day, I would urge them to submit this type of information to Parliament.

With those few clarifications, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this House on Tuesday, 18th July, 2017:

- supplementary protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Fund [Supplementary Grants for Three Towns Water Sanitation Supply Projects] supply and project ID No: P-SL-E00-007, Grant No:2100155034566 dated 25th May, 2017; and
- supplementary protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund [on behalf of the transition support facility] [supplementary grants for the three towns water supply and sanitation project] project ID No: P-SL-E00-07, Grant No: 5900155011851, dated 25th May, 2017

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government Motion by the Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has been ratified]

VI. BILL

THE SIERRA LEONE METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY ACT, 2017

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA *[Minister of Transport and Aviation]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017, be read for the first time.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[SECOND READING]

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the bill entitled, the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017, be read for the second time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Meteorological Department was established during the colonial days and its functions are to track weather patterns, represent Sierra Leone at permanent world meteorological organisations and also to inform the public about weather patterns in the country. In the past, the Department has been known for its dilapidated building at Charlotte Street, which does not befit the status and role of that organisation, particularly taking into consideration the fact that issues relating to meteorological or weather patterns and climate issues have taken centre stage worldwide. Sierra Leone is a signatory to the historic Paris Accord that was signed last year and the leader of Sierra Leone's high powered delegation to that historic conference was no lesser person than His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. This shows how much premium and attention is paid to meteorological and climate change issues. In Sierra Leone, we have seen the effect of issues relating to meteorology, affecting the lives of our ordinary people and in some cases even threatening the lives of our ordinary people. This is due to the fact that Sierra Leone is about the only country in the entire West African region, if not the whole African Region, that still has the Meteorological Department instead of an Agency which is the international best practice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, there are lots of benefits; both financial and technical benefits that we are not benefiting from because we have not effected the necessary legislation for us to benefit. Even in terms of cash for a mission control, we are not benefiting from this and some of them run into millions and millions of dollars and the moment we establish or graduate this Department to an Agency, the United Nations has expressed its willingness to help us finance possibly even the construction of a Sierra Leone Meteorological House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is therefore imperative and I am appealing to this House that it is high time that something is done. It is already long overdue and we are behind in terms of transforming what we still have as a Metrological Department into an Agency. The Bill that is before this House has several parts. Part 1 is the interpretation. Part 2 is the establishment of the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency as against the

department, the setting up of the Board, the tenure of members, meetings of the Board etc. Part 3 deals with the functions and powers of the Agency. Part 4 deals with the administrative provisions and part 5 deals with the financial provisions. Part 6 is miscellaneous.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017 be read the second time.

[Question Proposed]

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to one of the most responsive and non-controversial Bills; i.e., the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017. The Minister has done justice to this Bill by making a very short summary presentation of this Bill to this House. We had a pre-legislative briefing yesterday and the content of this Bill was explained to colleagues Members of Parliament. I want to fully register my appreciation to Members of Parliament for their overwhelming support and responsiveness to the presentation made yesterday by the technocrats from this Agency. Today, under the speakership of this Parliament and my leadership as Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Aviation, this House is about to make history again by transforming an eighty year old Department to an Agency. I will also like to thank colleagues Members of the Transport and Aviation Committee for their inputs. They worked very hard in terms of providing their oversight functions and making recommendations to this House. In December, 2016 we presented a report to this House which was tabled by my very self and one of the recommendations we made was: **“Considering the constraints and vital role of this Department plays in global climatic network, the Committee therefore recommends that the transformation of this department to an Agency with an autonomy to generate revenue, be self-accounting and taking full control over its operations be expedited by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation.”** I now want to thank the Minister for adhering to our recommendation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister spoke about climate change. It is rather unfortunate that Honourable Jusufu B. Mansaray is not here, but he was the first

Member of Parliament who stood up in this House and articulated eloquently about climate change. We know the importance of climate change and like you said, Sierra Leone is one of the signatories of 195 countries of the Paris Accord.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to kindly ask this Honourable Members who were at the pre-legislative briefing who unequivocally supported this Bill yesterday continue to do so, so that we can pass this Bill and transform this 80 year old department to an Agency. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

HON. KOMBOR KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a very strong member of the Transport and Aviation Committee, I stood up this afternoon to support this Bill... - *[Interruption]*.

Suspension of S.O. 5[2]

HON. KOMBOR KAMARA: I am in support of this Bill for couple of reasons. I must start by commending the Minister for learning from this Committee and from this Parliament. He was told that before policies are being implemented, they have to come to this House for ratification and that is why he is here. I want to thank him for bringing this Bill to this House for ratification. Hopefully, this House raised some concerns during the pre-legislative hearing and a lot of issues were discussed. Again, some corrections were also made. So, with the pre-legislative hearing we had yesterday, we should not waste time here to ratify this Bill. Let me make these couple of observations and I want the Minister to take note of them. During the raining seasons, we experience massive flooding around the cities. This Agency should be charged with the responsibility of forecasting the weather condition. If you forecast the weather condition, we will be in preparedness to alert areas that are prone to flooding. Secondly, we must stress the issue of emission because smoke comes from rotten exhaust pipes, which is also responsible for climate change. Vehicles must be examined for invincible smoke [not to talk of those with visible smoke], so that they will not contaminate the atmosphere.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill is very good and we must support it. I thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

HON. NICHOLAS KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief. Today is a historic day for the Aviation Industry, especially for the Minister of Transport and Aviation. I want to draw the attention of my colleagues Honourable Members that since the Meteorological Department was divided into two sectors, it remained less important. We have a sub-unit and the Airport Authority was running a private Meteorological Unit. We already have a sub-unit within the government sector. That makes the Department less important in this country. If this Ministry had thought it necessary to change from Department to Agency, it is in place and we need to support that move wholeheartedly. The reason we need to support it is that the Malaysian Airline had an accident and it was linked to bad weather. The Department is less instrumental and when we talk about an Agency, we are talking about bigger entity that can accommodate international flights. When we talk about meteorology we should link it with flights.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am in support of this Bill and I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily support the ratification of this Bill.

HON. FRANCIS E. KOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a contribution to the ratification of the Bill that is before us this morning, but I will be focussing on the Maritime domain. It is very paramount to pay attention to our waters when we are talking about the weather condition. If we can have an effective Meteorological system in this country, then I want to believe that we will minimise lots of sea accidents. We have local fishermen who are traversing to neighbouring countries. Over the years, lots of disasters have happened as a result of bad weather. However, with the creation of this Agency, I want to believe that we will curtail lots of issues that are affecting the Maritime domain.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are also talking about the air condition signals. It is very paramount and if we have an effective Agency to coordinate within and around the airspace for safe landing and departure, as we are expecting our airspace or even the air area to have more flights coming into the country, it means that we must have

the capacity to handle such situations. Having an Agency of this nature in place is of course very important for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are going to ratify this Bill today, but I must state here that when this Agency comes into full operation, we must keep within its dictates in order to ensure that other users are benefiting from laurels this Agency is going to bring. Over the years, Agencies have been created and after a while, they stood on their own and today they are having lots of issues. Some have become moribund whilst others are incapacitated. Today, we are seeing the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] having so many environmental issues. Companies have been clamped down and it is a loss of revenue to this country. So, I want to that when this Agency shall have been established, those that will be placed to run the affairs of that Agency should work towards ensuring that their regulations and policies are within the confines of what is in this document.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to advise here that this Agency should work for the people of this country and deliver as expected. My constituency has been affected for the past two years as a result of water disaster. If we were informed earlier, communities like the Kroo Bay and Susan Bay would have prepared for those disasters that were happening in those places. Therefore, I am encouraging them to always ready to inform us about upcoming weather condition in future, so that we could make better preparation to avoid these disasters.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minister for bringing this document to this House. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Water Resources and I am also a member of that Committee by extension. I want to encourage the Chairman to continue extending that privilege to me. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to create an Agency for the Meteorological Department is a very good venture taken by the Minister of Transport and Aviation. It used to be a Department, but the Bill before us is proposing for the establishment of an Agency. I hope the Agency will stand the test of time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are very excited for the Meteorological Department to be transformed into an Agency and it is our responsibility as Members of Parliament to do the correct thing; so that when it is transformed into an Agency, it should be able to stand the test of time. We should not be over excited to the point that we create laws and few months or years later, we will not be able to sustain the Agency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have gone through this Bill and I definitely want the Department to be transformed into an Agency. However, there are lots of lacunas in this Bill. We should not be over excited at all. This Bill, if passed into law, it would have to place the Meteorological Department. I know most people because of excitement do not have the Bill with them here. They just want it to become an Act. If you go to Clause 3[2], it talks about the Board. In the first place, this Board is an institutional representation. Again, if you go to 'J,' we are talking about just a member who is not from any of the institutions mentioned above and he/she should be appointed by the Minister. I still believe the Minister should recommend to the President and the President does the appointment.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Clause 4 talks about the tenure of Board members. It is stated that the Chairman and other members of the Board shall hold office for three years. The reason I am saying this is that when you have institutional representation, you do not have time limit for them because these are people who are going to be permanently holding these offices in their various institutions who should be on this Board. If you are saying institutional representation should be time bound, it means that even when that person is still occupying that office, you are now saying that after three years, he/she should be relieved or reappointed. Let assume he continues to be in that office for more than ten years.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, every appointment to the Board must be approved by this Parliament. The Bill says only the Chairman has to be approved by this Parliament. I am saying every appointment to the Board, including Board members, must be approved by this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to Clause 5[9], it says: **“The Board shall cause minutes of all its meetings to be taken and signed by the Chairman and kept in proper form.”** The reason why I highlighted this is because if you go to Clause 3[K] on Page 4, it says: **“The Director General as ex-officio shall be the secretary to the Board.”** I still believe that the Secretary to the Board should be responsible to take minutes, sign it and present it to the Board.... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: This is a standard clause. The Director General [DG] is equivalent to the Managing Director [MD].

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Clause 11[2] says: “In case the Chairman is not able to perform his duties, whether or not he has... - *[Interruption]*.”

THE SPEAKER: Clause 11[2] is on Page 7.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: That clause says: **“Where the person is appointed as Chairman or as a member to fill a vacancy, he shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the previous Chairman or Member as the case may be.”** Mr Speaker, I want to state here this is an Agency and if the Chairman or any Member of the Board is not able to do his/her duty because of resignation or he has travelled, he should be appointed by the President and this Parliament should approve his nomination and his tenure should start from the day he or she is appointed. The clause is saying that he is going to be appointed without reference to this Parliament and he is going to serve for the remaining period of the person who is not able to perform his duties... - *[Intervention]*.

THE SPEAKER: No! It is not saying that.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me read it out loudly.

THE SPEAKER: I have read it myself and there is a presumption that for you to be a Chairman or Board member, procedures must be followed. So, it is not saying what you have just said.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, part 3[12] says the Commission will be responsible to do the activity of climate change. This is very good, but I want to advise here that we should not be thinking of removing that function from EPA and bringing it to the Meteorological Department because we should not have an Act that will have problems with the EPA Act. We already know that there is a Climate Change Department and the EPA has been handling that aspect. We should now try to see how to synchronise the two Acts together, so that we can repeal the Act that gives EPA the mandate to undertake activities relating to climate change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Administrative Provisions is in Part 4, Page 1. Clause 15[1] says: **"The Agency shall have a Director General who shall be appointed by the Board upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall be consulted with the Minister determined."** Mr Speaker, it should not be appointed. The Directed General should be recruited. He or she should be recruited and not appointed. I am saying this because if you go to Clause 2[a], it is stated that you should have a Master Degree in Meteorology or a Master Degree in Applied Meteorology and Climate. Again, Clause 17 [2] states that the Agency shall have two Deputy Directors. The Deputy Director Generals shall have formal qualification and experience in Administration or operations as the case may be. Mr Speaker, the Deputy Director General [in the absence of the Director General], is going to act as Director General.

HON. BENNEH BANGURAH: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the essence of having a pre-legislative hearing is purely what my colleague on the other side is doing now. We had a pre-legislative hearing yesterday, where issues with such magnitude were discussed. He was there, but he chose to say nothing on what he is saying now. We unanimously agreed yesterday to dot the 'Is' and cross the 'Ts.' For such issues to come up again today is a ploy to delay the process. I think that should not be encouraged by this House. I therefore ask that we wait till the Committee Stage. What we are doing now is the Second Reading of this Bill. My colleague on the other side is beating the gun. So, I want you to intervene, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON. BASHERU SIDIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Sometimes when people are talking sense, you have those who do not know what to say and those people should learn to listen.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, withdraw that statement.

HON. BASHERU SIDIKIE: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is Parliament and we are the representatives of the people; and because we are representatives of the people, it is only in this Well that we can cross the 'Ts' and dot the 'Is.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was talking about qualification. According to this Bill, a Master degree in Meteorology or Master Degree in Applied Meteorology and Climate is required. When you come to the deputies, it is stated that the Deputy Director Generals shall have formal education and experience in Administration or Operations and as the case maybe. I was saying that in the absence of the Director General, Deputy Director General is expected to act as Director General. So, they should have the same qualifications. If the Director General is not available, the Deputy Director General should step in his/her shoes and should have the same qualification. I am of the opinion that both the Director General and Deputy should have the same qualifications and we should not set different qualifications for the two positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Speaker of this House, the Honourable Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya always say, to manage an institution does not necessarily mean you should have a Master Degree in the related field, but you should have the necessary experience to manage that institution. There are other departments that are professional departments in that same institution. Therefore, if you are now narrowing down to a Master Degree in that field, you are going to narrow down the chances of Sierra Leoneans with the required experience. This because we know a lot of people who have not studied Meteorology, but they gained lots of experience over time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reason I am bringing this issue is because if you go to Clause 18, it states that 'the Agency shall have the following departments or Administrative divisions. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is nothing about Human Resources Department... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, there is Finance and Administration.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, there is Finance and Administration.

THE SPEAKER: It is covered under that, Human Resources

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: And there is nothing about Procurement. Mr Speaker, you know now that the whole world is gearing towards... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the Finance and Administration will take care of all that.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, it used to be the order of the day and because of emerging development of the world, we are now creating these departments gearing towards the welfare of their staff. Nowadays, we also have department dealing with procurement issues and that is why emphasis is laid on procurement. We should not just have an Administration and Finance dealing with Human Resource or Procurement issues... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: There will be Managers and Units under the supervision of Directors.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my Honourable colleague from the other side said that yesterday I was at the pre-legislative hearing and that is correct... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Have you finished with your submission?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I am still contributing... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Go to the Bill.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I am still contributing. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this Honourable House it is our right as Honourable Members of

Parliament to pass this Bills, but I want to appeal to all and sundry to commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee for thorough scrutiny. I am saying this because we should be seen making laws that will stand the test of time and we should not do so in a rush. In other words, we should not be in a haste to make a law that will not stand the test of time. We should not be making laws that will warrant us to come again within a short period for amendment. Therefore, I am appealing to this House to commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee, so that they can do proper scrutiny and bring it back to us in the shortest possible time. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM PARTEH BAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to join the chorus to make my contribution on this Bill. This is a public Bill and if this Parliament passes this Bill, it becomes an Act of Parliament. There are procedures for us to create an Act. In that regard, I am sure I would have ample time to discuss this Bill during the Committee Stage.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to start by expressing my thanks to the Government and the Minister for bringing this Bill that geared towards transforming the Meteorological Department to an Agency. The Minister talked about Climate Change and I am the Acting Chairman of the Committee on Lands, Country Planning and the Environment and had the unique opportunity to be part of the delegation that went to Paris during the CAP 21, what we are describing today is part of the Paris Agreement. With the creation of this Agency, it will help to predict the weather condition and determine the kind of weather conditions we would be expecting. We are seeing other countries like America talking about hurricanes and tsunami. But if this Agency is established and equipped, they can predict the weather patterns that will come within stipulated time and that will save lives. So, this Bill is very important and I think it is very straight forward. If we do not do this, we are doing injustice to our children and their children yet unborn and posterity will not judge us kindly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as it is always said, the weather or the climate does not need us but we need them. We have to make sure that we do the right thing to protect our environment. In my own constituency, for instance, there are lots of

activities on deforestation, which is also affecting our environment. We are seeing sea levels rising as well. We are also seeing how our coast line has been overwhelmed by seaweeds. The establishment of this Agency will help to elevate the strongest challenge we are faced with. My colleague from Lungi, the Deputy Chairman of the Transport and Aviation Committee talked about an Aircraft accident. Indeed, within our airspace, if we have the right technology, we can prevent air accidents by having this Bill.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to urge this Honourable House to expedite the passage of this Bill into law. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, may I state by way of making brief introduction to this brief presentation that something is missing that deserves congratulations. Mr Speaker, here is the Minister who is in a worry to change the face of the Ministry that was facing dilapidation. For that I congratulate him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Meteorological Science is important in our effort to save the planet. It is important because it is a combination of many aspects that have to do with the elements that constitute the globe. Therefore, for us to attempt to modernise the Department of Metrological Department in Sierra Leone to an Agency, we must be seen taking a brave move to address the issues that have to do with Climate Change to save the lives and improve the status of our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was in Trinidad and Tobago some years ago when the issue of Climate Change became extremely topical at the time the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair made a very eloquent statement suggesting that if we all sit carelessly, disregarding those elements that are parts and parcel in saving the World, we may one day sit down and discover that some island have actually disappeared. Indeed, there are Islands, Maldives and others may disappear in the next 20 years simply because we did not make enough efforts to save those Islands. In bringing about a new development in addressing the Meteorological base of our country, I believe that we are not only talking about those aspects that have to do with

wind movement and measuring it, it is important for us to be able to measure wind movement and this was one thing this Department was doing. We now think that we should come out with a modern system to ensure that even if we purchase a satellite or use satellite facilities, we modernise the measurement of wind movement. This is because we all know that this can cause disaster. We have already discussed the issue of desertification in this Parliament and we also know that the movement of wind has to do with desertification.

However, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that over the years, precipitation is an important aspect in making sure that we survive as a people. Precipitation will include rainfall, snowfall, etc. But we must also have the technology that will make it possible for us to measure precipitation. We saw it years back, when a young man at Musaia wherein rainfall was measured and the information was disseminated at Njala Training College now Njala University College. Rainfall was measured and the information was disseminated, Mr Speaker. And at Lungi, rainfall was measured, but with the new technology, I think we can do better than we did in the past.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was doing my dissertation on Geography, I went to the Department and my friends helped me in terms of providing the information about what was happening to our Climate Change and the climate regime in this country. But the fact of the matter is that it is so important for us to take certain things into consideration. For example, Agriculture is very important for our people for their sustenance. But if we have a system that can inform the farmers about the movement of winds and rains that in itself will help the farmers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should also look at the marine component of this topic and we know that even the lives of our people should be saved. We should have a system that could inform the fishermen about the movement of water and what we should do to make sure that the vessels are moving on safe waters. This is very important and Meteorology is as an important component of the development of this country and this is why we are changing from a Department to an Agency, so that it is

made more useful towards the development of this country. And I am sure that this Bill must have gone through Parliament for a start, which means that it is also a Government policy. This clearly shows that whenever we make policies in this country, they would make sure that they are consistent with the interest of the people of this country. As we are hoping to gravitate from a Department to an Agency, we take into consideration modernising the Agency in order to ensure that when a plane is about to come to Sierra Leone, we are very certain that the information available to the aircraft is such that the aircraft can land safely in this country. We also want to be certain that we modernise the system to such an extent that when sea crafts come to this country, the owners of the aircrafts are very certain that their crafts are safe. This one of the important things we have been talking about, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, at the Pre-legislative hearing yesterday, one or two issues were raised about the qualification of the Director General. This Bill is insisting that it should be a holder of a Master Degree. I agree with that proposition. Education is very important, but we also believe that experience is equally an important component in handling such a very important topic. So, some of us believe that even though a Master Degree is useful in this regard, a BSc. in Meteorology is also important with 10 years experience. So, I would suggest here that a Master Degree with 5 years work experience is acceptable or a BSc. Degree in Meteorology with 10 years work experience is also acceptable. I am sure at the pre-legislative hearing that was held yesterday, we all agreed on that point.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all agreed yesterday that there is no controversy in this Bill. We are merely attempting to improve on the Meteorological status of this country. We have looked at the Science of Sierra Leone, the background of Sierra Leone and we have seen this country deteriorating in many areas. Somebody was talking about desertification; and that the environment is collapsing. For us to be able to address most of these issues, we should also be certain that we have a Meteorological System that is modern and can address these issues and disseminate information to the members of the public. It is very important and the media comes in

to disseminate information. Information gathered by the Meteorological Agency should be aired on radios and televisions, so that the people know about the movement of the water, wind, and the precipitation status of this country. This is very important for us as a nation. Mr Speaker, may I also state here, as a matter of joke that somebody went on radio and television in those days and said to the public that there will be no rain for the next six months because that was the beginning of the dry season. Interestingly, the very afternoon there was huge rainfall in Freetown. That means the information was not reliable and not correct. We only hope that this hardworking Minister will begin to talk to agencies elsewhere for us to have access to modern systems of gathering information relating to Meteorology.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those of us who are geographers, we are interested in topics of this nature and I also want to state here that before I take my seat, it may be necessary for us to decentralise the modern gathering of information relating to Meteorology. We should have an office in Bo, Makeni, Kenema, and perhaps Portloko now being a capital for North-Western Region. I am saying this because gathering information is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of my colleagues attempted to raise the issue of the Airport. If we must guarantee the usage of an Airport in modern times, then Meteorology and the information gathered for the purposes of the users of the Airport must also be seen as very important. This is why I will plead with the Minister for the Lungi Airport to be given priority. We also want to make it very clear that the Maritime Administration in this country becomes a very important component in gathering information relating to meteorology. To us, this is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think this Bill makes a lot of sense and it is consistent to the development of this country. It is also consistent with our partners' participation as members of the global family in our effort to protect the world from climatic conditions. To us, it is very important. In fact, the Minister said that our President was a signatory to the Paris Agreement. Well, we may have heard that some Heads of States do not believe in the Paris Accord, but to us the Paris Accord is very

important and our President is very sensible and intelligent man and whenever he appends his signature to any document; it is always in the interest of this country. With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much. I therefore exhort that we ratify this Bill into law. Thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the topic is very important and very relevant; i.e., the establishment of the Meteorological Agency, Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were in primary school or even in secondary school, we used to have a small meteorological station, wherein if you are studying Geography after a rainfall, you would be taken out to put into practice the things you learn in your Geography class. For example, when it rains, you go out and you measure the rainfall because you have something collecting the rain and then you go out to measure the wind speed or the wind direction. We used the wind gauge that shows the direction to the North, South, East and West. This was around 30 to 40 years ago. Time has changed and things are no longer as simple as they used to be. Maybe that was how our Meteorological Department was formed because it has to move with time and within the context that it was established. Today, however, we do not need a Meteorological Department because it has outlived its usefulness. In other words, it has been overtaken by technology; i.e., ICT and global issues of Climate Change. So, this is why we must move with the times. As signatory to the Paris Agreement, Sierra Leone was among the first few countries to ratify the Agreement on Climate Change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we are doing now is to implement some of the provisions that this Parliament ratified sometime back. It is no longer simple as it used to be because we need a Meteorological Agency [not just any Agency or an Agency that could be equated to that of America or Paris or in other advanced countries], but we should be taking the first few steps as one of the developing countries. This is because our very existence is to a large extent dependent upon the accurate predictability and consistency of the work of the Meteorological Agency. Today, advanced countries have satellites and other equipment to forewarn coming events. Most of those natural

phenomena that took place did not just happen overnight. There were signs and those signs were as a result of long years of study of the atmospheric condition to the extent that if those signs and symptoms appear, then with some high level of predictability, you will know that 'a' or 'b' is likely to happen. And as a result of that warning, the department responsible will put all necessary modalities to an extent that sometimes they evacuate people in disaster prone areas. If it is going to be a tsunami, earthquake, flood, typhoon, or any other natural disaster, the necessary actions are taken to forestall loss of lives and properties. This is because if you do not do take those remedial actions, then the resources used to address a disaster sometimes is even more than when you prevent them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we are doing today is putting in place preventive mechanisms by having modernised Agency that will ensure that they accurately predict the weather. We may not be using satellite, but at least we would have expert that will study those data over a long period of time to enable them predict accurately what is going happen next. Recently, in Marrakesh, a whole day was set aside for all experts in the World to discuss issues relating to meteorology and its impacts and how it relates to climate and other sectors, be it Agriculture or Health. For instance, if the sun is hot for a period of time, you would be able to predict what sort of diseases are going to be triggered that have been dormant for many years. You can be able to predict what sort of epidemiology can be used either in health or in Agriculture and types of diseases and pests that are likely to occur if the sun is too hot over a particular temperature.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you can inform the Agriculturists to take the necessary precautions. So, we are not talking today about adding 1 and 2, but Science. That is why when some were arguing that we do not need somebody who is specialised in Meteorology, I shook my head because you cannot bring a Linguist and put him or her as the Director General of a Meteorological Agency. In other words, you cannot bring a Linguist who has nothing to do with medicine to become a surgeon specialist. We have to train people to become specialised for the institution they are

working for. I agreed that if it is a Master Degree, then it has to be backed by experience. If it is a first degree, then we must also agree that that first degree must also come with a number of practicing experience. But we cannot bring somebody who has no knowledge in meteorology and climatology to lead a climatology or meteorological station. I think that will be a misnomer. We will be putting square pegs in a round hole or round hole in square pegs.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agency is important and he who leads that Agency must be a professional, a technocrat and must have the specialised knowledge and skills about climatology or meteorology. This is because he or she is not working in Sierra Leone alone, but will be working with the same specialised professionals in specialised institutions out of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we come to the Committee Stage, we will look at some of the issues very carefully. But the establishment of this Agency is important and anybody who is placed at the top of that Agency must be a professional within the profession, so that he or she could also represent Sierra Leone adequately and effectively in and outside the shores of this country when it comes to meteorological. We must also equip our universities in terms of upgrading our meteorological department, if at all we have one. I know that when we were in the university, the Geography Department used to handle that issue; but today, we are talking about modern Geography and we should have specialised department with trained and specialised lecturers, so that they will train and give the requisite training to our students. This is not only going to be for Freetown, but we must have meteorological stations with other countries in order to provide accurate information we could use to forecast our development, be it in Agriculture, Marine, health, etc. So, we need them all over the country, not only at district level, but even at sub-district or chiefdom levels. We need them at those levels, so that they can gather data and send to the superstation that will analyse the data before it is put out to the public on a daily basis. In other words, the public will be adequately informed about the atmospheric condition. This is very important, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the establishment of this Agency is in place and we need it because we have to be at par with other countries. We also have to implement the provisions in the international agreements that we as a country append our signature to. This is because at the end of the day we are assessed using a scale on which we would know how far countries have gone in the implementation of some of those international agreements. So, this is just one of those yardsticks that Sierra Leone would be measured. We would be asked if Sierra Leone has upgraded her Meteorological Agency. Do they have the requisite personnel? Do they have the requisite tools to be able to predict accurately, especially the nuances of the Climate Change that is becoming a big problem? If we have an up-to-date data, we will be able to predict the floods that are taking place in Sierra Leone months before they occur, so that we can evacuate our people. We are not doing this presently because we do not have the requisite information. This is why the Government is always paying the price after the damage has been done. It has social, political and economic implications. Therefore, it is better we put more money into preventing those disasters than reacting to their damages. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA *[Acting Majority Leader of the House]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank each and every Member of Parliament who has contributed to this Bill on the second reading stage. However, I want to use this opportunity to specially thank the Committee on Transport and Aviation, especially the report they tabled in this Parliament. Again, I want to thank the Minister of Transport and Aviation and the Ministry for implementing the recommendations of this Committee. This act of cooperation is sending a message to other parliamentary Committees to follow-up on their previous recommendations. We need to see that our recommendations at the Committee levels are implemented by the various ministries, departments and agencies. I say kudos to the Committee on Transport and Aviation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, lots of issues have been raised, but I am sure when we go to the Committee Stage, we would address them. I want to start by looking at the EPA and the new Agency that is about to be established. The activities will be

different this round. The EPA came about as a result of the effects of unprotected environment. The Agency will be giving daily report on the changes on climate. So, the activities are quite different. They can work as inter-agency partners and move on, but the issue of Climate Change is different and we need to note this as a body.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank each and every one for contributing to the debate. And as the Minority Leader did say, we are doing justice to our international obligations. We are doing justice to our country and to the people we represent. We believe that this Bill is of essence and we need it as a country. So, I want to implore on each and every one to do our level best when we come to the Committee Stage to ensure that we improve this Bill for the best of mankind. Thank you very much.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA [*Minister of Transport and Aviation*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank all of you for this lively and informed contributions that have been made. Firstly, if we are here today discussing this Bill, it is because we are all affected by Climate Change. It affects our lives and I thank the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Transport and Aviation, Honourable Alpha Babatunde Lewally of Fourah Bah and his Deputy, Honourable Nicolas Kamara. He lives at Lungi and he is a representative of Parliament from that area. I would also like to thank the other members of the Committee, individually and collectively for their support and interest in this issue that is so topical to the World; i.e., Climate Change.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Member from Lokomasama, the Honourable Kombor Kamara for his contribution. I want to assure him that issues relating to flooding and emission are being addressed by my Ministry as we speak. I want to also thank Honourable Francis Kowa for his contribution on Meteorology and Maritime.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Bashiru Silikie raised series of issues and those issues have been noted and they will be acted upon for the benefit of all. Honourable Ibrahim Parteh Bah re-echoed issues relating to the tracking of weather

patterns and the effects on life and transportation by land, sea and by air. Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo also made meaningful contributions on this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whenever you hear Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai speaks, even if you are educated, you might want to go back and study. She is so articulate and intelligent. No matter how complicated the issue is, when she speaks, you would want to listen. Thank you very much Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai. She summed everything up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Meteorological Department was established 80 years ago, during the colonial days. This means it has outlived its usefulness because it has been over taken by modern technology; i.e., ICT. In the past, our people were using archaic and out-dated methods to collect information on weather patterns. During her contribution, she spoke about qualifications. Indeed, you cannot put a square peg in a round hole. For example, the Director General, whose requirement is a Master Degree is going to represent Sierra Leone as a permanent representative in the World Meteorological Organisations. And when you go to such fora, you have to be sure of what you are talking about, otherwise you will not only embarrass yourself, you will embarrass your country and your Government. So, it is necessary to have people who are qualified.

For the past three years, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have been extending the tenure of office of the Director of the Meteorological Department because we did not have a replacement. We have been searching for one within this country and outside through our embassies but we were unable to get one. As we speak, we have two young men whom we have trained. In fact, we sent them to study in the past two to three years and they have obtained the relevant degrees and they are back. We are also training more as a way of putting a succession plan. Therefore, I want to assure the Honourable Bashiru Silikie that we are preparing ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also note the fact that we have to equip our universities in this technical discipline. We have to include them in the curriculum of our

universities, so that we have the requisite personnel, equipment and technology to compete globally.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda for his contribution. He has made it clear that the functions of the EPA and the Meteorological Department are clear cut. They do not overlap at all.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017' be read the second time.

[Question Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017 being an Act to establish the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017 in place of the Department of Meteorological and to provide for other related matters has been read the second time]

[COMMITTEE STAGE]

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO A COMMITTEE]

Parts 1 and 2, clauses 1 to 11 proposed

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 1 and 2, clauses 1 to 11 stand part of the Bill.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 1? Page 2?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page 2, Clause 1, under the 'Interpretation of Climate Change,' second to last line and on that line second to the last word. It is not too clear what that exactly means when they say leading to extreme 'climb events.' Do you mean climatic events?

THE CHAIRMAN: Climatic is the correct word. Honourable Members, anymore on Page 2? Page 3?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Page 3, Clause 3[2][g] says the Executive Director Sierra Leone Environment Protection Authority. I am not saying it is wrong, but I want to be educated if there is an institution with that nomenclature.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sure it is a mistake. Please have that corrected.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I think it should be Environment Protection Agency [EPA] instead of Authority.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, I am sure we are in agreement. Page 3, the third to last paragraph should read 'Environment Protection Agency and not Environmental Protection Agency. Mr Minister, the Honourable Member is correct.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: The Honourable Member is correct, but the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation should be part of this team. I am just being informed that he was originally part of it, but it was deleted.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: So, are you saying that should be added?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Yes, Honourable Member.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: This means that the number will be even.

THE CHAIRMAN: The number is still eleven. It is only now that the number is odd, but before now, the Director General was not a member of the Board. Honourable Members, are we all together that we now add the Civil Aviation Authority to make it eleven? It is better we insert [i] because we have the Airport, EPA and Maritime. It is better that way so that 'I' becomes 'J.' So who is going to represent the Civil Aviation Authority?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: The Director General, Civil Aviation Authority.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 4?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 4 is a continuation from Page 3; i.e., one member with extensive knowledge and experience relevant to the functions of the Agency appointed by the Minister. We are proposing that it should be two members so as to have an odd number.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will not because with two members added, it will become twelve members instead of eleven.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: So, already what do we have? We have already added the Director General.

THE CHAIRMAN: For now, we have eleven after adding the Director General.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Well, what we want to propose... - *[Interruption]*

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: It is twelve because from 'A' to 'K' is already eleven. If you add the Director General, it is twelve.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is impossible, Honourable Member. 'K' is Secretary to the Board not a Director and that makes it eleven.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, I am still on my legs on 'I.' We want to make a proposition that instead of one member, we make it two members and that will give us an even number. But we need an odd number and in that regard, can we make a proposition for three?

THE CHAIRMAN: Will thirteen not be too large for the Board?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, out of the three, at least two should be women with the relevant experience in climatology, appointed by the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: Two women?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: What is wrong with that, Mr Chairman? This is not the first time that we have had such provision. If you look at the Local Government Service Commission, three out of the four that the President appointed were women.

THE CHAIRMAN: That was not in the Act and it was as a result of the President discretion.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: No! It is in the Local Government Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: That three of them were women?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Yes, Mr Chairman. Three of those that sit on the Local Government Service Commission were women. It says four should be appointed by His Excellency the President and three of them shall be women. So, what I am saying is that it is not the first time... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: When was that Act passed here?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: The Local Government Act we passed here in 2004. Look under the establishment of the Local Government Service Commission and it tells you that of the four that the President appoints, three should be women. So, what I am proposing is that two out of the three that the Minister shall appoint should be women.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, you want the number of the Board to be thirteen.

HON. BERNADETTE LAHAI: Yes, Mr Chairman. That is an odd number.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: In support of that, Mr Chairman if you look at the other members to the Board they are institutional representatives, in most times, you do not get them to such Board meetings. But if you have three committed Board members to support the works of the Director General and the Chairperson and others will form a quorum, then definitely when you set sub-committees and these people will head those sub-committees, it will make the work very easy for this new Agency. So, I am totally in support of the Minority Leader that we have two women out of the three

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Honourable Members, we also have to look at the cost implication here. We have a lot of Agencies with many Board members.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sitting fees are paid to those who attend.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Indeed, Mr Chairman, but there is a cost involved here and the burden is going to be on the Consolidated Fund. So, we should be thinking seriously to reduce the number of the Board members of these Agencies.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, the Agency will be looking at issues relating to Climate Change and it is not a cheap thing at all. We need a functioning Board. Sometimes when you constrict the Board, you have problems in terms of having

a quorum. If look at all the Agencies we have established and even the attendance in most of those Agencies, you will find out that women attended meeting more than men. If you take your time to crosscheck the records, the attendance at those meetings is higher for women than men. We are not looking at the cost involved. Mr Chairman has said when you do not attend meeting, you will not benefit from the sitting fee. Mr Chairman, adding one more person will not in any way affect the Government's purse as compared to the effects of not having an effective Agency Board. If those disasters occur as a result of ineffective Board, the effects will adversely tell on the Government's coffers.

On that note, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am pleading that the two should be women. There are times when we form these Agencies, if you do not make that concession, sometimes we may end up having an all-male membership and we are talking about efficiency when it comes to human resource in this country. Women form over **52%** of the population of this country and let us also try to utilise their expertise and skills when it comes to some of these issues. That one member is not going to kill the Consolidated Fund and is not going to make this country poorer. I am convinced that if we put efficient and effective women, it is going to make the Board more efficient in the running that Agency. It is a plea I am making to this Honourable House. Please, Honourable Members, the one additional person is not going to bankrupt Sierra Leone. Let us look at the positive aspect of this one additional person than the financial aspect of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The addition you are proposing is two and not one.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, there has been in this Parliament when we have established Agencies with Boards that are even more than this number.

THE CHAIRMAN: The last time you frown at it.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, at least for any rule there is an exception and let this be the exception.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I know our Minority Leader is very much passionate about women, but if you go through the Board, we should not lose sight of the fact that women are now moving through the civil service cadre. There will come a time when we will have too many Permanent Secretaries who are women. Now, if you go through the Board, you will see that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation is a woman. Let us assume that we have many Permanent Secretaries in these line Ministries, you will find out that those Permanent Secretaries will be sitting at those Board meetings. Today, we are advocating for two more women to be on the Board. The one is not going to disadvantage any woman. We can still encourage the Minister to recommend the one member to be a woman because as the Chairman said, the Minority Leader has been vocal in saying we should not have an enlarged Board in some of these Agencies. We want to narrow down the membership of the Board to eleven and we would encourage that the one representative should be a woman.

Again, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to state here that the Minister should not have that authority to appoint Board members.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us first finish with the issue under consideration, Honourable Member. So, are we in agreement to add the two?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman and Honourable Members. I would support an additional two women for four reasons. It is true that we have difficulties in having institutional members to attend Board meetings. Permanent Secretaries in most Ministries belong to three or four Boards. In my Ministry, for instance, we have eight Parastatals and the Permanent Secretary is represented invariably in each of those Parastatals. So, on every occasion, we had to be looking for somebody to attend these meetings. I would wholeheartedly support that decision to have two women.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I would like to take the queue from my boss, His Excellency the President, who is the President in the history of this country who has recognised women more than any other President. Therefore, I would like to

support also the representation of two women on this Board. On the issue of funding, the UN and other international bodies are so passionate about the issue of climate change that they are prepared to sub-vent these Agencies and give financial support at all times. Finally, climate change has become so tropical issue worldwide. For example, Sierra Leone's delegation to the Paris Climate Change Conference was 42. So, if we have a Board of thirteen members to address issues affecting climate change and for all of the reasons that have been advanced, I would support that and we should accept to include two more women representatives on the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we have heard from the Minister and Madam Minority Leader. I am sure Honourable Bashiru Silikie was also moving towards your second part; i.e., the appointment should be done by the President on the advice of the Minister, subject to the approval of Parliament. That is where he was moving towards, Mr Minister. Again, because the Director General cannot just be appointed by the Minister, particularly so when we are insisting that they must have the relevant knowledge and experience.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, sometimes when we stress about the relevant experience and knowledge, we think that we do not have women in this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: No! We are now talking about the procedure, Honourable Member.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: The procedure is that the President nominates to Parliament on the recommendation of the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, Sub-clause 3 should also be rephrased to read, 'the Chairman shall, on the advice of the Minister and subject to the approval of Parliament, be appointed by the President. Mr Clerk, make sure you do that with the Law Officers Department. All the contents are embedded, but it must be rephrased.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: In Clause 4, I am proposing the Chairman in 3[2][k] shall hold office for three years. 3[2][k] is referring to the three members to be appointed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just say the Chairman and members appointed.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: The Chairman and members appointed under Sub-section 3[2][k] shall hold office for three years and be eligible for reappointment only once.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Clerk, do you understand? 'J' is now 'k.' So, the Chairman and those members appointed under 'k' are those that are subjected to 4[1]. I hope you understand? Honourable Bashiru Silikie, your fears are now addressed. Anymore on page 4?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Page 4, Clause 5[2]. The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board. The phrase 'if present' should be there. We have said it over and over that they are always committed.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is for emphasis not tautology. In any case, let us take it out. Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 5?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Page 4 5[2] the Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board if present... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I hope you were following up.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I want to recommend on the last sentence that members present shall 'select' not 'appoint' a member from amongst themselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has to be 'appointed.' Page 5?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKE: Page 5 [3] says, 'A minimum of three members of the Board may by notice in writing sign by them request the Chairman to summon a special meeting of the Board for such purposes as may be stated in the notice.' Mr Chairman, since the number of Board members has been increased, we should also increase the quorum to six for any meeting of the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any more on Page 5?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much. It has been corrected.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, there is a suggestion. Page 6?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Page 6, Clause 11[1]. It says, 'where the Chairman or a member of the Board dies, resigns, or is removed from office or he is absent from Sierra Leone. I am looking at the words 'from Sierra Leone.' As long as you are absent, whether you are in Sierra Leone or not if you are absent you are absent.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are right, Honourable Member. So, you want the words from Sierra Leone to be removed. Indeed, when you are absent, you are absent.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Page 6 [10] says, 'the Chairman and other members of the Board and any person co-opted by the Board under sub-section 8 of Section 5 shall be paid such remuneration fees and allowances approved by the Minister. To me, I do not want to give the Minister such powers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, this is also one thing we are having serious problems with. Apart from the Chairman and the three Board members, these Permanent Secretaries are all paid from the Consolidated Fund and for them to received remunerations equivalent to their salaries is absurd and it is almost equivalent to double duping because you get these Permanent Secretaries sitting in ten Boards collecting allowances almost equivalent to their salaries. We are not talking about those who are not employed within the service. I am talking about the Permanent Secretaries and Director Generals. This is something we have to look at because you should not collect salary twice from the consolidated fund.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, we agree on that, but let me tell you something. If these Permanent Secretaries are not compensated enough, they will send their junior staff to attend those Board meetings. And whenever they sit, the Managing Director dominates. He does not understand and he cannot even go back and report. That is why most of the Boards are not functioning because immediately the Permanent Secretary sees it, he/she will say, S.O. 2 "you call da borbor yanda make e go dae." So, either we remove them or we compensate them handsomely. Sometimes these civil servants cover-up for their fellow Permanent

Secretaries and I have been a member on several Boards and I know why the Boards are not effective in this country. It is because they put civil servants on those Boards, they could not oppose their fellow civil servants at the Ministry of Transport and Aviation. He would sit there and show no concern and will even support... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, Honourable Paramount Chief. Mr Minister, we have observed that some of these Permanent Secretaries are members of several Boards and they are receiving huge sums of money.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, they cannot sit in five or six Boards because sometimes these meetings clash. I will give you an example in my Ministry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, what we are saying is very simple. We are not saying that this is happening in your Ministry, but we have laws and we are referring to the laws that we have in this country. So, if they do it in-house using their own mechanism, it is not for this Parliament. If you want to send your deputy secretary to the Board, you can do that but it has to be official. These are things we will be looking at in future. So, let us go back to the subject under discussion.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I am saying that the Minister should not be given the authority to determine such allowances and remunerations for the Board. I am recommending that... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure to be followed and let the Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Finance tell us.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Chairman, I think there is a procedure on setting fees. The procedure is that Ministers set up fees for Boards and nobody else. It cannot be the Accountant General or the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary is part of the Board. For the past years, the ministers approve or recommend sitting fees for Board members and nobody else. It cannot be His Excellency the President or the Speaker of this House. It cannot also be the Committee on Finance. So, let us go with

the tradition; i.e., the Minister to set up the fees and allowances for Board members. I can only say that if the Minister is given the privilege to set up these fees, I am the Chairman of the Finance Committee and I am very conscious of what is coming out of the Consolidated Fund. So, I am expecting the fees to be reasonable. We have a lot of work to do and Government has a lot of responsibility. For example, the monthly pay role is a must and it has to be paid on time. So, the Board members of these Agencies can only receive those sitting fees if they attend meetings. Thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNAFDETTE LAHAI: This is just for my education for all the Boards. We know that every Board has a Chairperson and then apart from the Permanent Secretaries, we have those that are directly appointed that sit on those Boards. Do we have a uniform fee?

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, do not even finish the question. The answer is no. this Parliament has a lot of work to do. These are things we should be looking into Mr Chairman of the Finance Committee.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: It is high time we have a uniform fee across all Boards. This is because sometimes you find out that in some Ministries, some Boards are remunerated whilst others are not. There should be standardisation.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, Honourable Member and I have just called the Chairman of the Committee Finance to take note of that.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: We have to look into it and I would also want to comment here. It depends on the relevance of the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Finance Committee Chairman, all Boards are Boards and they are relevant.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: It cannot be the same strength, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: All Boards are Boards. This is something you have to look into as a Parliament. We would be asking you questions. All of them must be effective the same way for the State to function.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, the Chairman of the Finance Committee was saying that it has been the normal practice. I have been in this Parliament there have been recommendations for the increments on the allowances of the Board of National Social Security Insurance Trust [NASSIT]. The Chairman knows about it and that document was brought to this Parliament for ratification. In other words, the Chairman of the Finance Committee said that it has been the normal practice for the Ministers to determine such allowances and remunerations for Board members. I am saying that we were in this Parliament when recommendations for increment on the allowances of Board members for NASSIT were tabled in this Parliament for ratification.

THE CHAIRMAN: Even the Independent Media Commission [IMC].

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: I think the Honourable Member from Bo is missing the point here. What we are talking about is setting up sitting fees by the Minister. Now, in the event they want an increment, they go through the Board and the Board would then refer to Parliament for review. I am saying that the original fees have to be set up by the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: The point is noted we go on. Page 7? Page 7?

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: The Chairman of the Finance Committee keeps repeating that the Minister sets up allowances. I am saying that it is not really the Minister, but the Board and the Minister approves. Boards set up these allowances.

THE CHAIRMAN: But that is what the section says.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: I am saying that the Chairman continues to say that the Ministers set these allowances.

THE CHAIRMAN: Indirectly, yes because if he fails to approve, it is not set. Page 7?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 1 and 2 clauses 1 to 11 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]

[Parts 1 and 2 clauses 1 and 2 form part of the Bill as amended]

Parts 3, 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 12 to 28 proposed

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 3, 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 12 to 28 stand part of the Bill.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 7?

HON. HASSAN SESAY: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to refer to Section 12, Clause 12, Sub-section 2 [a & b], where it states that advise Government on all aspects of meteorology, climatology, climate change and other climate related issues. And 'b' says develop Government policy in the field of meteorology, climatology, climate change and other climate related issues. I wanted to draw the attention of the Ministry to the fact that although the Chief Whip did point out earlier that the work of the Meteorological Department defer from the EPA, but I am saying that the Agency should work in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, so that there will be no conflict of interest in terms of what we approve in this House. I wanted to make that observation.

HON. BAHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, in line with what the Honourable Member from Tonkolili said, I said it in my presentation that we should not have an Act that is having problem with the EPA. We should try to tidy up the two Acts because when we talk about climate change, if you read Clause 12, sub-section 2 [a-d], it gives a lot of powers and those powers are also executed by the EPA. So, we should now compare the two Acts and see how best we can tidy them up. This is because we do not want to see a situation where we have passed this Bill into an Act and few months later, we begin to have problems.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I will continue to say it and I will stand by it that the issue of climate change in the aspect of Environmental Protection Agency and these Agencies are two different activities. Marketing in banking is different from marketing in agriculture. They are the same words, but the activities are quite different. I said that issues relating to climate change

under the EPA are as a result of the effect of unprotected environment. And this Agency is responsible for the daily reporting activities on the changes in climate. So, they are two different activities.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, we have to be very clear about the relationship, the cause and the effect because if we understand the cause and effect, then that will help us to delineate the role of EPA and this Agency. The Agency is dealing with the technical and scientific aspect of the weather through the collection of data, forecast, prediction and everything. EPA on the other hand is dealing with how to protect the environment, so that those environmental factors that affect and help to speed up climate change are minimised. For example, when you cut the vegetation, you are removing the natural sink, but the EPA will ensure that you stop the cutting down of trees. When you are constructing a road or house, you come up with those mitigating factors help to address environmental issues and not to affect the environment; which in turn will not speed up climate change, either by increasing the Co2 in the air. The EPA is dealing with prevention, adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change. We should look at the causes and the effects and see where they come in. This is the way I see it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I am sure we are in agreement.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Something different to support that. They are not the same, but the wording. In my opinion, I would also support the fact that they are not the same but the phraseology here maybe is the cause... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Give us a suggestion.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: My suggestion is that, we say 'advise the Government on all aspects of meteorology and climatological related issues.' This is because climatology is different from climate change. The study of climatology or the meaning of climatology is different from climate change. No sooner you add climate change to climatology, then the two functions would overlap. I think that is the problem and I

agree that they are completely different. So, if we rephrase it this way; i.e., 'to advise Government on all aspects of meteorology and climatologically related issues,' then I think that will serve us better. Adding climate change is confusing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we should not get too excited. Let us go back to the definition on Page 2. It says, climatology is defined as the study of the climate systems and we have listened to what Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai said that the function of the EPA has to do with the environment and climate change has to do with the cause and effect. The Honourable Member is now saying that climatology encompasses the study of the climate itself. That is what Honourable Daniel B. Koroma is saying.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: As the Deputy Chairman did say that the two are different; i.e., the EPA and this Agency, I believe it should remain as it is. These are two different institutions.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: I think it should remain as it is because for you to know that there is climate change, you must first of all study the weather patterns. For example, at the new International Airport at Mamamah, we have been studying the weather patterns for the landing aircrafts for the past three years. You have to study the weather patterns for thirty years to know that it is having an effect on Climate Change. They are not divorced at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: So basically you are still saying that it should remain as it is?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman. Let it remain as it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, is there any objection to that? If there is no objection, then we proceed. Any more on Page 7?

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: I do not want us to create a parallel function here. Page 7, Clause 'b' reads, with your leave, Mr Chairman... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, we have done with Clause 'b.'

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: We have not, Mr Chairman. We were talking about Clause 'a.'

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Honourable Member. The issue was based on Clauses 'a' and 'b.'

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: Just for the records, Mr Chairman. It says, "**Develop Government Policies in the field of Meteorology, Climatology, Climate Change and other climate related issues.**" My concern is not to create a parallel functions. This is for the future, Mr Chairman. The EPA and this Agency should not have any conflict. That is the concern, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the conflict, Honourable Member?

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: My submission will be to develop Government policy in the field of Meteorology. That is where I will want it to stop.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, we have been told by the Minister that Climate Change goes beyond the EPA. That is what we have been told. The EPA is as a result of the Climate Change. There are many other areas that have to do with Climate Change. The EPA is just one dealing with the environment. The Minority Leader has also spent a lot of time in explaining the other areas that cause Climate Change that is outside the remit of the EPA.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I want to agree to amend Clause 'b' to read, 'advise Government instead of 'develop.' I will say advise Government on Policy in the field of Meteorology, Climatology, Climate Change and other climate related issues.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sure we are in agreement with that. Page 8? Mr Minister, thank you very much for that brilliant explanation.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Page 8 [f], lines 6 and 7. We have in bracket IMO. It should be WMO, which stands for World Meteorological Organisation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any more on Page 8? Mr Clerk, I hope you are taking notes.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, I am still confused about Page 7. For me, I wanted to add something very simple. When you say advise Government on all aspect of Meteorology, Climatology, Climate Change and other Climate related issues, we are not just talking about the present situation. Mr Chairman, we have many illiterate Sierra Leoneans who may not understand what Parliament meant. Twenty to thirty years from now, EPA would want to say we have been given this privilege to do 'A' and 'B.' I will rather say 'advise Government on all aspects of Meteorology, Climatology and other climatic change related matters that will affect...
[Interruption]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, I wanted to put it to a vote, but nobody stood up. Can I put it to a vote now?

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: No, Mr Chairman. I have not finished yet. If you put it to a vote when I have not convinced my colleagues, I am going to lose, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, we have to move forward.

HON P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: I know that time is against us, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, we have to move forward. When that time comes, we will encourage the younger ones to amend.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: If we leave Climate Change and the EPA as they are, there will be more confusion in future.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 8? I am sure the Minister will be very careful in dealing with the EPA because the President supervises that Agency directly. Page 8?

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: Again, Mr Chairman, I want to clarify something for the records on Page 8, Clause 'j.' It says, 'keep in an appropriate and safe achieve all meteorological, climatological and climate change data. The question is what does the EPA do?

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, even Parliament can keep data on climate change. There is nothing stopping us from doing that.

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: Alright, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anymore on Page 8? Page 9?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Page 9, Clause 'n.' I see the inter-governmental panel on climate change.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are correct, Honourable Member. The 'N' is UNEC and it is specifically on the environment and not on climate change. It says, **participate on behalf of Sierra Leone in the activities of relevant...** And UNEP means United Nations Environment Programme. That is not Climate Change Programme, but environment. Honourable Members, please look at it very carefully and do not be excited.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, sometimes you can be invited to attend trainings, workshops, seminars and other related activities, and that could not mean you are part and parcel of the Institution.

THE CHAIRMAN: For others, it is a must because they are part and parcel of all those institutions. Honourable Members, do we have the Bill with you? Are we looking at [n]?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, when you look at the history to where we are today, you trace it first of all to the world conference. You know that in UNEC World Conference, we came up with the framework convention and other frameworks. If you are saying that participating on behalf of Government in UNEC means they are usurping the role of EPA, this is not the issue. The EPA, as well as Meteorological Agency, can be invited to participate in the UNEC Programmes because they are inter-related. Climate Change provides environmental disasters and speeds up environmental activities. Let us just say in other relevant related organisations like UNEC, etc.

THE CHAIRMAN: Exactly, Honourable Member. Mr Minister, are we together?

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Accepted, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: In that regard, we delete UNEP. Anymore on Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? There was a suggestion by the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, Page 11, Clause 15[1] says, “**The Agency shall have a Director General who shall be appointed by the Board upon such terms and condition after consultation with the Minister.**” I want it to read thus, ‘The Agency shall have a Director General who shall be recruited rather than appointed.’ They should not have a Director General appointed, but recruited by the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: Appointment is employment. Recruitment is too vague, Honourable Member.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, if you say appointment, the Board can just sit and appoint anybody, but in the case of recruitment, we put qualifications and experience. I believe it should be recruited like what we have in other Acts. I read this in tandem with other Acts. I have so many Acts and I have done my research. I recommend that the Director General should be recruited.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, your point is noted.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Clause 15[1] should read that Director General should be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of Parliament. Clause 15[2] says, no person shall be appointed a Director General unless he has:

[i] a first degree in relevant field of study, plus ten years’ experience; and

[ii] a Master Degree, plus five years’ experience and [b] stands ‘proven ability in Public Administration and Management.’

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: When you say a degree, you can have a Bachelor Degree and a Master Degree, these are all degrees you are referring to. So, you will have to qualify the degree.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: First Degree or Bachelor Degree.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, the point is a Bachelor Degree with ten year experience; and a Master Degree with five year experience.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, the first part says the President should appoint the Director General. There have been precedents in this country where there have been problems between the Board and the Director General because they are both appointed by the President. Let us stop that practice and do something different this time round. When it comes to the National Telecommunication Commission [NATCOM] and other institutions, we have the Director Generals who is not directly answerable to the Board. My recommendation is that let us give the power to the Board to recruit the DG, so that the DG will take instructions from the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what is now happening at NATCOM, Honourable Member. It is the Commission that recruits the DG and not the President. Honourable Members, there are two suggestions. The first one says the appointment should be done by the President, subject to the approval of Parliament and the other suggestion is that the Board should do the appointment after consultation with the Minister as stated here. I think the way it is written here is very good.

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: I want to encourage the House to accept 15[1] as it is.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sure the House will agree with you.

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: Mr Chairman, Clause 2 says, 'no person should be appointed as a Director General.' I think it should read, no person should be appointed as Director General....'

THE CHAIRMAN: This is fine. Anymore on Page 11? Honourable Paramount Chief, any more on Page 11?

HON P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, we have not addressed Section 13[a]. It is very important. When you look at those lands, they can do anything on those lands. We have so many sacred lands in this country...
[Interruption].

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, this Parliament cannot talk about those lands. It is above us. Let them decide whether they want to go in or not.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARRO SANKA III: They might it is wrong to consult the local and traditional leaders. We have a two tier system in this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are correct, but there will be no conflict. That is not for the laws. Anymore on Page 11? Page 12?

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: Mr Chairman, let us look at Page 12, Clause 18[a]. I will like to recommend for an addition of 'f.' You have the Aviation Metrological Department, Agro, Marine, Hydro and also the Financial Departments. Taking into consideration Clause 12[2][e], I also like to recommend a National Weather Forecasting Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it not covered by one of them.

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: It is not, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I have just been informed that weather forecast is embedded in all of these. Let us leave it as it is.

HON. PATRICIA DANKAY BANGURA: Mr Chairman, I want to suggest a Technical Department that will have the capacity to make sure the weather pattern is followed and disseminated to the people of this country on a daily basis. That department will take care of the Data, Archiving and also serve as ICT Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted, Honourable Member. They will look into it in future.

HON. DR MITCHEL SHO-SAWYERR: Mr Chairman, Page 12, Clause 17[2] states, 'the Deputy Director General shall have formal qualifications and experience in administration and operation.' Mr Chairman, I want to add that the 'relevant area.' The area of qualification should be included.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: In support of that, I am suggesting that not only relevant field, but the Deputy Director General should be of equal experience to the Director General because in the absence of the substantive, he/she is expected to

perform the same responsibility. So, it should be of equal qualification and we have done the same to most of the Bills we have passed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, there is a suggestion that the Deputy Director General should also have the same qualifications as that of the substantive.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, what I am about to say is somehow different from the suggestion of the Honourable Member. I want the Deputy to have a Bachelor degree in the relevant field, plus seven year experience and then a master degree, plus three year experience for the Deputy Director General.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minority Leader, are you in agreement with that?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Yes, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, let us just take the National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT]. They have the Director General of NASSIT and two Deputy Director Generals. The one is in charge of operations and the other is in charge of administration. What I know is that they have been in that institution. They must have experience in that institution. They cannot have the same qualifications like the Director General.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minority Leader, I know you are trying to make a point, but they are in agreement with you. It is just that the number of years for the Deputy is slightly reduced.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: They cannot have the same qualifications as that of the Director General.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, you are in agreement with them?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: If we are going to put qualification, it should be lesser, but they must be recruited within the field.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, if somebody has a master degree but he/she is willing to accept the position as Deputy Director General, I think he must be given the chance. However, if we limit it now, they will say they are overqualified.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, I want to thank you very much. Mr Clerk, please take note. So, if the person is over qualified, no problem. Any more on Page 12?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, Clause 19 says, the Secretary and other staff of the Agency shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the terms and conditions set up by the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is the standard provision, Honourable Member.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I believe it should not be the Board. It should now be the Director General's responsibility to recruit staff of the Agency rather than the Board. The Board is responsible to put in place policies and recruits the Director General. It should be the DG's responsibility to recruit staff of the Agency, rather than the Board. And for the general administration of the Agency, it should be the DG's responsibility and that include the recruitment of the Deputy Director General.

THE CHAIRMAN: The DG cannot recruit Directors.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: That is what 2 says, Mr Chairman. The secretary and other staff of the Agency shall be appointed by the Board. That is why I recommended earlier that we have a Human Resources Department and a Procurement Department.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Honourable Member, please read three again.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please read it again.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: The Agency may delegate to the DG. Mr Chairman, this is optional. It means they can do it on their own or delegate. This is the administrative function of the Agency and the Board has no control. Now, the DG should report to the Board. The Board is responsible to set up the criteria and hand it over to the DG. The DG is the head of administration.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the secretary is the DG.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, the secretary is the DG.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I tend to agree with that argument for the Board to appoints the Secretary and other Directors, but members of staff are appointed by the Director General with the approval of the Board. We can take out other staff here.

THE CHAIRMAN: But the Directors will have to be appointed by the Board.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Normally, the Directors are nominated by the Minister to President.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, the Directors we are referring to here are the Directors who are going to be in charge of these Departments.

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Okay, Mr Chairman. You can take out the other staff.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we have to be very careful. There are departments which are man by these Directors. We are not talking about Managers or heads of units. We are talking about Directors and those Directors must be appointed by the Board. The other staff who are below the level of Directors can be appointed by the DG.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, that was why in my presentation, I said we should have a Human Resource Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Honourable Member. There is a department for administration and you cannot create too many directorates in this Agency. Honourable Member, your point is overruled.

THE CHAIRMAN: Directors are to be appointed by the Board. They have to be in charge of the departments. Honourable Members, we have to be very careful. We are talking about Directors. The other staff will be handled by the Director General. We cannot set up too many departments because this is a new Agency.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, considering the kind of Board for this Agency, they are busy people. I am sure that is where three [3] comes in. For Clause 2,

I am sure they are referring to the secretary and Director and for the lower cadre... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have to spell it out. You will have to say the Secretary and Directors.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: If you read 3[a], the Agency may delegate to the DG the power to appoint such grade or category of staff as the Agency may require.

THE CHAIRMAN: Therefore, let us agree on Clause 19[2], which has to do with the Secretary and Directors of the Agency. If you go to Clause 3 the word 'may' is too flexible. So, can we say that the Board shall delegate because we have to come to a conclusion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us first of all agree on Clause 19 [2]. Let us use the word 'shall' instead of 'may.' We have to come to conclusion to say 'shall delegate.'

So we proceed?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, the reason why we are struggling with this this Act is because in broad spectrum, it provides... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: What are we struggling with, Honourable Member?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I will suggest that we have the Secretary and other Directors appointed by the Board. And for other staff, if we have the Human Resource Department established, it will take care of that... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please Honourable Member, do not take us backward. Anymore on Page 13?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I think this Bill is our Bill and I am suggesting here that after Clause 'b,' we include fees. This Agency will have to need funds. Clause 28[2] reads, 'notwithstanding the generality of Sub-section 1, the Agency may make regulations for the purpose of imposing fees and charges for the issuance of licences under this Act.' So, this is giving power to the Agency to make regulation to charge fees. This will be more certain... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Clause 'C' will cover all of that and 'c' is fine. Anymore on Page 13?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Page 14, Clause 24[3]. The Account of the Agency under Sub-section 1 shall not be later than three months instead of two months at the end of the Financial Year.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sure you are right and we are in agreement with that suggestion. Anymore on Page 14?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, the same for 25[3]. The Minister shall lay copies of the Annual Report before Parliament within three months.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Honourable member. Three month is for the financial statement and the annual report should be between four to six months. Anymore on Page 14?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I want to look at Clause 26, which says, 'the Financial Year of the Agency shall be the same as the Financial Year of the Government.'

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 3, 4, 5 and 6, clauses 12 to 28 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 3, 4, 5 and 6, clauses 12 to 28 stand part of the Bill as amended.]

[THE HOUSE RESUMES]

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled 'the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017' having gone through the Committee of the whole House with some amendments, be read the third time and passed into Law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled 'The Sierra Leone Meteorological Act, 2017 being an Act to establish the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency in place of the Department of the Meteorology

and provide for other related matters have been read the third time and passed into Law].

MOTION OF THANKS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S. O 23. On behalf of Chief Augustine Senesie Musa, my late father and our family, I want to thank all Members of Parliament and Staff who stood by us during our moment of grief. Your support at all levels was very highly appreciated and we thank you. God bless you for standing on our side. I hope that you will continue to pray for my 97 year old father who has passed away.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to extend my appreciation to the Speaker, who is not here, but he asked this Honourable House to observe a minute silence on the day he presided on behalf of my father. My family greatly appreciates that. I thank you very much and God bless us all.

HON. IBRAHIM PATEH BAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O 23. I would have brought this up last Thursday about a sad event that took place in my Constituency. A house was overwhelmed by fire which resulted in the death of six of my constituents. I was in the mortuary at the Connaught Hospital to support one of the survivors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the people that died in that house was a lady who was seven months Pregnant and due to the magnitude of the inferno, she had what I will describe as untimely delivery. I did promise my constituents that I will raise it in this Honourable House and to the President. I am pleased to note here that I had an opportunity to have an audience with the President last Tuesday evening and he asked me to convey his sympathy and condolences to my constituents. Also, due to that incident, the House was demolished despite the efforts made by the neighbours. I also want to appeal to my colleagues and all well-meaning Sierra Leoneans, even the fourth estate to see how best we can support that family and reconstruct the house. I thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

*[The House rose at 2.55 p.m., and was adjourned to Friday, 21th July, 2017 at 10:00
a.m.]*