



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 21st March, 2013.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday, 21st March, 2013.

The House met at 10:07 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

SUSPENSION OF S. O. 5(2)

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 19TH
MARCH, 2013**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 19th March, 2013. We go through page by page as usual. Page 1? Page 2?

HON. DAUDA KALLON: Yes Mr Speaker Page 2. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member, Dauda Kallon attended the session on the said date and by the record with me here my name is not on the list.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please make the necessary correction. Thank you Honourable Member. Are there more corrections on Page 2? Page 3?

HON. HENNEH HASSAN RADDAR: Mr Speaker, Page 3, number 65. I want the name Hassan to be added.

THE SPEAKER: Where do you want us to insert 'Hassan' Honourable Member?

HON. HENNEH HASSAN RADDAR: Page 3, number 65.

THE SPEAKER: Where do you want Hassan to be added after Raddar?

HON. HENNEH HASSAN RADDAR: Mr Speaker it should be 'Raddar Henneh Hassan'

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, make the necessary correction. Page 4?

HON. EDWARD S. JENGO: Page 4 Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have seen my name under Honourable Members of Parliament who were absent. Mr Speaker I was present Sir.

THE SPEAKER: What number is that Honourable Member?

HON. EDWARD S. JENGO: Page 4 Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: What Number?

HON. EDWARD S. JENGO: No. 8 Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member. Any more on Page 4?

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Benneh Bangura was absent with excuse; but my name is somewhere else.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note.

HON. NICHOLAS: Mr Speaker my name is placed under Honourable Members who were absent; but I was present Sir.

THE SPEAKER: What are you saying Honourable Member?

HON. NICHOLAS: I was present Sir. But my name is placed under those who were absent.

THE SPEAKER: You were present on the said date?

HON. NICHOLAS: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any more on Page 4? Page 5? Page 6?

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Page 6 Sir. My surname is misspelt Sir. I am not 'Kamara.' I am Kamanda,

THE SPEAKER: Are you referring to Page 6?

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: Yes Mr Speaker. I am referring to sub-heading: "*The following Members contributed to the debate.*"

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 7? If there is no further amendments can someone move that record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 19th March, 2013 be adopted by the House with the various amendments made?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ABIE KALOKOH: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 19th March, 2013 was
adopted as amended

III. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE ANSUMANA JAIA KAIKAI

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE NINTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA *(Majority Leader of the House)*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Ninth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations:

Introduction;

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013 and interviewed one Presidential nominee for appointment as "*Special Adviser and Ambassador-At-Large.*"

Procedure;

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Inquiring questions put to the nominee pertained to his educational background, track record in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and his visions for a successful tenure.

FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH
MARCH, 2013

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominee was interviewed:

Prof. Monty Patrick Jones, proposed Adviser and Ambassador-At-Large.

Professor Monty Patrick Jones, a Sierra Leonean by nationality, is the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the Chairman for the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR). He was awarded the prestigious World Food Prize in 2004 in recognition of his discovery of the genetic process to create the New Rice for Africa, (NERICA) which gives higher yields, shorter growth cycles and more protein content than its Asian and African parents. He was the first African to be honoured with this highly regarded prize. In 2010 he became the first recipient of the Niigata International Food Award.

Professor Jones has spent the past 24 years working in international agricultural research, starting as a scientist and working his way to his current top leadership position at continental and global level. His celebrated work on NERICA has made it possible for countries in West, Central and East Africa to increase rice production thereby increasing their household food security and enabling them to cut back on expensive rice imports. He has published more than 100 scientific papers and articles.

As the Executive Director of FARA he has been instrumental in mobilizing political support at the highest level for increased investment in African agriculture to improve its productivity and ultimately its impact on the 60-70% of Africans who depend on this

sector for their livelihood. As the Chairman of GFAR, he is leading a global effort to reform the global agricultural research system in order to improve its effectiveness and accountability.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution towards improving food security in Africa, Professor Jones has been honoured with numerous other awards, namely the 'National Order of Merit of Cote d'Ivoire' conferred on him in 2001 by the President of that country and the insignia of the 'Grand Officer of the Order of the Rokel' conferred on him in 2004 by the President of Sierra Leone. He has also received four honorary doctorate degrees- *Philosophia Doctor (Honoris causa)* from major universities in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sierra Leone and South Africa. Time magazine named him among the 100 most influential people in 2007 and in 2010 the University of the Free State in South Africa appointed him to serve as an Extra-ordinary Professor.

In his interview, Prof. Jones submitted that he was a true Sierra Leonean. He informed the Committee that he was the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, "a body that coordinates and facilitates agricultural research for the development of the continent as a whole and, a body that also links Africa Agricultural Research for development with the international community. In most cases, I represent Africa at the international scene as far as it relates to agricultural research and development. Today I stand as the Chairperson of the Global Forum for Agriculture (GIFA). So in effect, it's not just coordinating research for Africa but coordinating global agricultural research for development.

All of these, I believe is very important not just for Africa, not just for the world, but particularly for Sierra Leone because, I and other Sierra Leoneans working with me in Ghana always ensure that Sierra Leone benefits from whatever projects we embark on."

Recommendation:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominee to be suitably qualified for his proposed appointment and is recommended to the House for approval: Prof: Monty Patrick Jones, Proposed Adviser and Ambassador-At-Large.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ninth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Ninth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya, Chairman.

HON. ANSU KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to second the motion

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed)

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must deep heartedly say thanks to His Excellency the President for calling home people like Prof. Monty Jones. And with your leave Mr Speaker, I want to add to his name that he should be called Prof. Monty Patrick Nerica Jones *(Laughter)*. This is because Sierra Leone and Africa as a whole is boasting of the Nerica Rice is due to Prof. Monty Jones' hard work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is sending signal to many Sierra Leoneans that wherever we find ourselves, let us do the best we can. If you are a carpenter, make sure you do your work well. This is because you will be called upon one day to serve this country. Prof. Jones has been called upon to advice the President, especially in the area of agriculture. This country should be able to feed itself if only we embrace ourselves. I personally want Professor Monty Jones to take up that challenge that within

the years to come Sierra Leone should be seen exporting the Nerica Rice to other countries. We have fertile soil in this country. And I believe the weather is within our reach.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words I want to implore each and every parliamentarian here present to endorse and affirm the nomination of His Excellency the President. Prof. Jones is a man to be reckoned with. And I believe he will take Sierra Leone as far as agriculture is concerned to another level. Thank you.

HON. PATRICIA BROWN: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, someone like Prof. Monty Patrick Jones being proposed as Adviser and Ambassador at Large does not come as a surprise to me and may be to this country. Mr Speaker, someone like Prof. Monty Jones is well sought after all over the world and our President did not make any mistake to quickly act and grab someone like Prof. Monty Jones.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this country has a lot to benefit in the area of research, with particular reference to rice, which is our staple food in this country. It is high time we went back to where we were before in this country. Before now, Sierra Leone was able to export rice and the Nerica Rice was championed by Prof. Monty Jones. I think we would probably go back to that era in our time. As for me coming from an area where our farmers are rice producers, I am very happy that the President made this appointment and I am praying for this House to speedily approve Prof. Monty Jones as Ambassador and Adviser to the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people in my constituency are mostly farmers. Rice farming is their major work. My constituency has the only Rice Research Station in this country. The Nerica Rice is already a household name in the Kambia District. This is because people are engaged in it. And we are trying to move from subsistence farming to farming that we call medium scale farming that our people can really benefit from. We should no longer depend on subsistence farming. And with research we could really move forward and make this country one of the countries that would probably export

rice to the sub-region. The Rice Research Station is helping the farmers not only in my constituency but in the whole district and the country as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the farmers in that district are constantly informed how to double their capacity or how to double their yield in rice farming. So, with this appointment by the President, I think it is a welcoming appointment for the whole nation. We as Members of this House should not even take much time in debating this appointment. We should gladly and wholehearted approve Prof. Monty Jones as proposed by the President. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to be back.

THE SPEAKER: You are welcome Honourable Member.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Unfortunately Mr Speaker, I was not here to see you taking up your maiden role as Acting Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Please proceed to the subject under discussion.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, I think you should not guide me. Let me congratulate you on assuming your new role Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Please proceed.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Prof. Patrick Monty Jones, proposed Adviser and Ambassador At-Large is a very eminent personality not only in Sierra Leone but the whole world. Mr Speaker, following the statements made by those that have spoken before me, his nomination was no mistake at all. When we talk of agriculture or food production not only in this country, we think of Prof. Monty Jones. If you count the first ten researchers in the world, I am sure Prof. Monty Jones is among the first ten this country can be proud of. This is pride for all

Sierra Leoneans that we have our own son of the soil, a brother and an uncle who has worked very hard to gain that recognition. Rice is our staple food in most part of Africa. Nowadays, rice is gaining momentum all over Africa. Mr Speaker, for this nation to have a breakthrough in the area of rice research and to provide us with such duration that is adaptable to the many ecological zones not only in Sierra Leone but in Africa, and to be highly sought after is a big breakthrough in the history of rice research in Sierra Leone. Therefore, we are lucky that he has been nominated so that he would represent us in Sierra Leone as our Ambassador, particularly when it comes to agriculture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are very happy about this nomination. Prof. Monty Jones has a very rich Curriculum Vitae (CV) and like other eminent Sierra Leoneans, Prof. Monty Jones has worked in almost all the CGIAR and he is well known in all the Agricultural Research Centres in the world. I am not surprised that he is currently with the Chief Executive Officer of FARA. FARA is one of the new organisations that have been developed out of our quest for improved agricultural delivery and productivity in Africa. And no doubt FARA is also making its mark in the international map when it comes to research. And what is good about the whole issue is that as a result of Monty Jones' position in that organisation, I am sure a lot of Sierra Leoneans have been incorporated in many places. This is because during the last Parliament, members of the Agriculture Committee did participate in the FARA workshop through the invitation of FARA and some of our members went there. When they came back, they were full of praises for the work that FARA is doing. Therefore, we can only entreat Professor Monty Jones to continue to make sure that Sierra Leoneans are always among the many candidates for the work that FARA is doing. It is also important that parliamentarians, particularly those in the Committee on Agriculture be invited from time to time to take part in most FARA activities. And I have no doubt that Monty Jones will bear this Committee in mind.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we will be beating a dead horse if we continue to hold on the ratification of the appointment of Prof. Monty Jones. I am sure he needs to go back to FARA, in Ghana to continue the good work he is doing, not only for Sierra

Leone but for everybody. His appointment is now going to add a new aura to the work that he has already been doing. This is a very high position and we hope that by this appointment Sierra Leone is going to benefit enormously from agricultural investment, particularly in research.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform Prof. Monty Jones that we have established SLARI. The SLARI needs to complete the operationalisation of the other components. This is because agriculture is a holistic system approach. We need the land and soil components to be fully operational. We need the tree crop component to be fully operational and working. We also need the livestock to be fully operational and working. We hope that through your new relationship with His Excellency, and with the outside world that SLARI would be given enough resources to be able to establish the remaining sectors so that our agriculture could be improved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate Prof. Monty Jones in advance for another accolade due to his hard work. The reward for more work is hard work and we wish him good luck as our new Ambassador At-Large. We hope that by this appointment, Sierra Leone would go to another level. I thank you very much.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I want this Honourable House to know in the very first place is that Prof. Patrick Monty Jones is an Edwardian. We were all in school together in those days. But of course he was my junior in school (*Laughter across the Floor*).

Mr Speaker, Monty Jones was in class with people like the Hon. Ansumana Jaia Kaikai, he is his classmate, Benneh Bangura was one year senior, and on behalf of our most senior Edwardian here, the Honourable Brimah Conteh, I congratulate Monty Jones for being an eminent Edwardian that he has posed to be.

Mr Speaker, Prof. Monty Jones is both a national and international celebrity. If you heard me in my report from what I have read about him, I think this is testament to this fact. In the field of agriculture, he has been universally acclaimed a hero; his

service to humanity through this discipline has been immeasurable. Mr Speaker, the many honours that have been bestowed on Monty Jones are recognition of his monumental achievements not only in the area of agriculture, but also in the field of academia in generally. Mr Speaker, the intellectuals I admire are those who give freely from their rich pond of knowledge for others to benefit from. Mr. Speaker you would agree with me that, this is precisely what Monty Jones has been doing by the many publications that today stand to his name. And deservably so, Mr. Speaker, because as a reputable intellectual once said and I quote: "He who learns and makes no use of his learning is a beast of burden loaded with books."

And as Lord Hume of Britain said: "*A learned man who imparts his knowledge to others must be esteemed as a benefactor to mankind.*" Mr Speaker I will go over that. Please take note Honourable Members. This is your forum for learning. "*A learned man who imparts his knowledge to others should be esteemed as a benefactor to mankind.*"

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is what Prof. Monty Jones is. Mr Speaker, already Prof. Jones by his extraordinary exploit has made Sierra Leone proud. Mr Speaker, I therefore have no reason to believe that as Ambassador At-Large he would not add an additional glory to every Sierra Leonean by doing more marvelous things. I have no doubt about that Mr Speaker. It is in this spirit and with this very strong conviction that I wholeheartedly commend Pro. Monty Jones to this House for his approval.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

*Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service
has been ratified.*

THE SPEAKER: Professor Monty Jones, a lot has been said about you. The Majority Leader has just said few of the things that are expected to be said about you. And one thing which is clear in what both the Majority and the Minority Leaders have said is that, as Sierra Leoneans, we are expecting more from what you have done, not just

because of the position that has been given to you by His Excellency the President, but because of the capacity we know you have. We want you to utilize your talent for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans. I wish you well and congratulate you on behalf of the rest of Members of Parliament.

IV. BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2013

Being an Act to authorize expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for the Services of Sierra Leone for the year 2013.

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

THE HOUSE REVERT TO COMMITTEE STAGE

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report of the Sub-appropriation Committee 1, of the Committee of Supply on the Appropriation Bill, 2013. First Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

1. *Introduction*

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 111, Sub-section 3 and Sub-section 6 of Section 112 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and Standing Order 64 (3), Parliament committed the examination of the under mentioned budgetary Heads of the Bill entitled "the Appropriation Act 2013", to the Appropriation Sub-committee 1.

2. HEADS (including all sub heads thereto)

Vote	Division	Vote Description	Total Sum Voted
129	00	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development ...	11,580,000,000
401	00	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security ...	24,500,000,000
116	00	Parliament ...	10,081,200,000
130	00	National Revenue Authority ...	51,643,500,000
206	00	Sierra Leone Police ...	58,400,000,000
110	13	Sierra Leone Insurance Commission ...	400,000,000
110	14	Local Government Commission ...	104,000,000
138	00	Statistics Sierra Leone ...	4,646,000,000
139	00	National Commission for Privatization ...	800,000,000
121	00	Audit Services ...	3,400,000,000
107	03	Eastern Province, Kenema ...	510,000,000
123	00	Public Service Commission ...	440,000,000
205	01	National Registration Secretariat ...	600,000,000
404	02	Meteorological Department ...	480,000,000
418	00	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute ...	2,600,000,000
411	00	Road Maintenance Fund ...	40,839,000,000
302	00	Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports ...	3,780,000,000

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for Local Councils, the Appropriation Bill presents the totals of all the devolved programmes but it does not indicate the respective allocations to which every Local Council is entitled or provide the formulae for such

computations and this hindered proper scrutiny during Sub Appropriation Committee hearings. The Committee conferred with the Local Councils assigned thereto and had to do with the direct transfers tabulated in Annex 7, Page 40 of the Budget Statement of 2013, presented to Parliament on Friday, 21st December, 2012. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as part of the Schedule of the Appropriation Act 2013, under Vote 701 00 and 01 for grants and devolved functions to Local Councils, the following heads are reported as allocations for the Local Councils mentioned below as captured in the Government's Budget Statement of 2013. The figures do not include indirect transfers in respect of examination fees to WAEC for NPSE and BECE, procurement of textbooks, teaching and learning materials and school fees subsidy.

701	01	Makeni City Council	3,457,781,875
701	01	Port Loko District Council	4,529,856,784
701	01	Kenema District Council	2,640,009,314
701	01	Kenema City Council	3,420,616,204

3. Procedure

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sub Appropriation Committee (1) maintained strict consistency to traditionally established procedures of scrutinizing Heads of Expenditure. The Committee sent out questionnaires to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) assigned to it, for detail information relating to the 2012 and 2013 budgetary allocations and expenditures. Pursuant to S.O. 66(1), Vote Controllers and their Accountants were summoned to come along with their vote service ledgers and other accounting documents pertaining to revenue and expenditures of their MDAs for examination, to ascertain the efficient and effective use of both human and financial resources, the constraints of the MDAs and the adequacy or otherwise of their financial allocations.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sub Appropriation Committee (1) comprised the following Members:

1. Hon. Kamanda Claude Daniel Melville - **Chairman;**
2. Hon. Osho-Williams Bliss Eugene - **Deputy Chairman;**
3. Hon. Bangura Benneh;
4. Hon. Bangura Ibrahim Martin;
5. Hon. Bangura Mabinty H.;
6. Hon. Banya IV Pc Mohamed Sama Kailondo;
7. Hon. Boima IV P.C. Prince Lappia;
8. Hon. Boyah Komba E.S;
9. Hon. Braima Mustapha M.;
10. Hon. Braima Samuel H.;
11. Hon. Brown Patricia;
12. Hon. Turay Thomas Dr. Mark;
13. Hon. Bundu Songowa;
14. Hon. Fofana Amadu;
15. Hon. Conteh Kerifala Sheku;
16. Hon. Conteh Kemokoh;
17. Hon. Dabundeh Aiah Dr;
18. Hon. Dumbuya Alhaji Serray;
19. Hon. Torto Augustine Bockarie; and
20. Hon. Alie James N.D.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Committee Members absent were:

1. Hon. Fartoma Sahr;
2. Hon. Fawundu Senesie; and
3. Hon. Fawundu Dauda D.

Clerks in attendance were:

1. Karmoh K. Conteh, Clerk In-Charge;

2. Mohamed Ngevao; and
3. Mary Kowa.

4. Objectives

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, without prejudice to the provisions of S.O. 66 (1), the Sub-Appropriation Committee probed with the objectives of finding out:

- the absorptive capacity of the various MDAs to prudently manage and utilise their budgetary allocations and other resources;
- whether the expenditures of the MDAs in the last fiscal year conformed to established financial rules and regulations;
- the strength and weaknesses in budget preparation and performance with the view of improving on the appropriation process;
- justification for any increase or decrease in the allocations for 2013 Financial Year; and
- whether budgetary resources were equitably distributed.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before delving into the details of this report, I wish to thank and commend the Leadership of Parliament, but more especially the Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee for their efforts in organising the Sub-Appropriation Committees and coordinating activities within the limited time frame. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, my appreciation in this direction is contingent on the fact that the budget came in late and that Parliament was overloaded with other activities. This time constraint was further exacerbated by several breaks which posed serious constraint to the in-depth study of the estimates and the timely execution of our mandate. With this background, it is now my pleasure to present to you on behalf of the Members of Sub Appropriation Committee 1 the Committee's observations, findings and recommendations.

5. General Observations

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the course of the budget scrutiny, the Sub Appropriation Committee observed certain common features cutting across the budgetary allocation and expenditure patterns of several MDAs. Below are some of the major general observations to which the Committee wish to draw the attention of this House.

- a. except for some MDAs like the Ministry of Finance, Agriculture and the Road Maintenance Fund Department, the budgetary allocations to all the other MDAs assigned to the Committee are inadequate. The Committee observed that the allocations made by the Ministry of Finance to most MDAs are far below the ceilings they had provided to these MDAs during budget call circular. This somehow indicated to the Committee that the Ministry of Finance had not done realistic budget forecast. This Committee was of the opinion that with a nine month (January to September) budget history to bank on, the Ministry of Finance should have avoided giving unattainable ceilings to MDAs which created a lot of unnecessary expectations and demands;
- b. it was also observed that the Ministry of Finance could not release the fourth quarter allocation for some MDAs in 2012 financial year. More seriously, many Vote Controllers complained of the Ministry of Finance's rejection of vouchers from the MDAs for that quarter. Whereas the Committee acknowledged the constraints on the budget, it maintained the view that the Ministry of Finance could have endeavoured to release part of these funds or otherwise, clearly notify the MDAs. The Committee noted that Parliament had approved these allocations and are therefore entitlements of the MDAs;
- c. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee further observed a high rate of poor documentation of expenditure activities by most MDAs. The Committee agreed that Oversight Committees in Parliament should implore this as a priority on their respective MDAs;

- d. another observation made by the Committee was the level of lateness of MDAs in attending Sub Appropriation Committee hearings. Except for the Police and Audit Services Departments, all other MDAs (including the Ministry of Finance) that were assigned to the Committee either came in late or were absent on the days for which they were slated. Some complained of receiving the forms late but was proven by the Committee from the Way Book that it was the recipients of these forms at the MDAs who did not treat them urgently. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Leader and Head of Government Business in this House has repeatedly echoed that MDAs, this time round, must treat Parliament with all seriousness. I will be very pleased if Parliament and its Oversight Committees follow up on all recommendations submitted by all Sub Appropriation Committees;
- e. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, it was also observed that the Ministry of Finance undertook expenditures on behalf of some MDAs and charged these on their votes as expenditures undertaken by the MDAs without notifying them. The Committee maintained that this action obstructs prudence in financial management and the Ministry of Finance must discourage such practice. Similarly, the Committee was abhorred and dismayed to unearth variances in the actuals reported by the Ministry of Finance for 2012 Financial Year in the Parliamentary Copy of Details of Expenditure Actuals for 2011 – 2012 (Pink Ledger) with the actual and voucher ledgers of the MDAs. Whereas the Committee at first considered this as a misappropriation on the part of the MDAs, upon conferring with the Ministry of Finance staff and during the scrutiny of the allocations of the very Ministry of Finance, the Committee observed that it was the Ministry of Finance that failed to indicate the real actuals. The Team from the Ministry of Finance submitted the explanation of having computed the actuals of transfers to MDAs from January to September 2012 and projected expenditures for October, November and December, which as they reported are still in the IFMIS process. Whereas this Committee accepted this explanation in the milieu of constraints in preparing the next budget, the Committee considered this contrary to Paragraph 5 of the Appropriation Act 2012 and Paragraph 5 of the Appropriation Bill 2013. This discrepancy was noted for

the following MDAs: Ministry of Finance, National Commission for Privatization, Public Service Commission and Eastern Province, Kenema. The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Finance should present the actuals and any projections as they are; projected expenditures not utilised at the end of the Financial Year, in line with Paragraph 5 of the Appropriation Acts cited, should lapse and must be reported by the Ministry of Finance in the following Financial Year; and

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee also observed that two Ministries assigned to the Committee have been divided into two but this does not reflect in the estimates. The Committee recommended that where such subsequent division of administration of the Ministry precipitate increase in allocation, this must be brought to the attention of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the above narrative is a general feature of how the budgets of the MDAs under the Committee's purview were implemented in 2012 financial year. It is the wish of the Sub Appropriation Committee in Committee of Supply in Parliament to now make known to this House certain specific concerns raised about the budget performance of the MDA's assigned in 2012 and how they would fare in the 2013 budget year.

6. Specific Observations and Findings

129 00 – Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is in charge of the country's economic activities, especially that of macroeconomic and budgetary performance, with the view of enhancing an appreciable correlation between revenues and expenditures. The Committee observed that the Ministry is capacitated in terms of staffing to achieve this end and this also reflected in its budgetary allocations.

The Ministry of Finance in 2012 FY had a budget ceiling of Le 16,648,500,000 but after making a budget submission of Le 22,531,000,000, the Ministry ended up receiving a

total allocation of Le 21, 912,599,696. This excluded donor support for the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Unit (IPFMRU) which totalled up to \$ 4,814,974.66. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the voted allocation for the Ministry for 2013 Financial Year is Le 11,580,000,000 but with a budget submission of Le 24,784,100,000.00 it may not come as a surprise if the Ministry end up expending more than it's voted allocation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, while the Committee observed that based on the activities of the Ministry the current allocation is somehow inadequate and that there are tendencies for the Ministry's expenditure to outweigh allocation, the Committee considered as hardly acceptable for the Ministry to execute any extra budgetary expenditures for itself and for any other MDA without parliamentary approval as established by law under Section 111, Sub-sections 3 and 4 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and S.O. 69 of the Sierra Leone Parliament. Based on the above, the Committee recommended that the Committee on Finance invigorates its oversight role of the Ministry of Finance to ensure adherence to legal, transparent and accountable budget formulation and execution process.

401 00 – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security is cardinal in the Government's Agenda for Prosperity and key to achieving the aspirations of food security and sufficiency for the people of Sierra Leone. The budgetary support to that Ministry reflects these aspirations.

With a budget ceiling and submission of Le 26,842,700,142 in 2012 FY, the Ministry reported to have received Le 26,368,205,377 from the regular budget and Le 5,868,999,858 from supplementary budget of Government in the same FY 2012, totalling up to Le 32,237,205,235. This amount excluded a donor support received by the Ministry in the same 2012 FY in the tune of Le 92, 969,000,000. In 2013 FY the Ministry made a budget submission of Le 24, 500,000,000, which is approximately 3.7% of the total budget of Non Salary and Non Interest Recurrent Expenditures, and the

same amount has been voted as allocation in the Appropriation Act, 2013. The Committee recognised the effort of the Ministry of Finance in meeting the Government's aspirations for agriculture in its allocation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, while the Committee appreciated the upwards mobility in allocation to the Agriculture Ministry and in the same vein recommended continuity in that direction, the Committee regrettably observed that coordination among management staff, documentation and monitoring of expenditure activities are key challenges to realising expected results. Most Project Heads fail to properly report to the Administrative Head, in the person of the Permanent Secretary for proper documentation and reporting. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Agriculture in Parliament sitting together with the Committee on Finance get the Ministry to put in place better administrative, monitoring and financial mechanisms

116 00 – Sierra Leone House of Parliament

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Parliament as we all know, is established under Section 73, Sub-section 1 of the 1991 Constitution as the Legislative Arm of Government. The Parliamentary Service Commission, established by an Act of Parliament in 2007 now coordinates the activities of Parliament to enhance parliamentary autonomy. Unfortunately Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this autonomy in terms of budgetary resource allocation is still far-fetched. Parliament has since 2011 been receiving about 1.5% of the total Non Salary and Non Interest Recurrent Expenditures and is regrettably projected by the Ministry of Finance to remain so until 2015.

The Committee observed that for both 2012 and 2013 financial years, the allocations to Parliament are equal to the ceilings provided which are invariably lesser than the submissions made by Parliament. While the Committee appreciated the endeavour on the part of Ministry of Finance to tie allocations to Parliament to its ceilings, the Committee strongly recommended that the administration of Parliament should submit request for increment. In 2012 FY, Le 11,445,700,000.00 was allocated to Parliament

inclusive of civic funeral arrangements for late Members. For 2013 FY, this amount has been reduced to Le 10,081,200,000. The Committee further noted that of this amount, Le 6,547,200,000 is Constituency Facilitation Fund.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having in mind the need to strengthen oversight committees, research and capacity building for Members and staff, the Committee considered the allocation to Parliament inadequate and strongly recommended an upward mobility as part of any supplementary budget brought to Parliament.

130 00 - National Revenue Authority (NRA)

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Revenue Authority (NRA) was established to collect revenue on behalf of Government. As reported, the Committee observed that there has been steady progress in revenue collection from 700,000,000,000 in 2009 to 1.4 trillion in 2011 and 1.837 trillion in 2012, exceeding the original revenue target of Le 1.6 trillion. While these figures appear to be encouraging, the Committee observed that there is still more room for more revenue generation. NRA is supposed to be reimbursed 3% of revenue collected but on the contrary, budgetary allocations for both 2012 and 2013 financial years fall below the required 3% of collected revenue. The Committee however observed a gradual increase in the allocations to NRA since 2012.

For 2012 FY with the 3% reimbursement in mind, NRA made a budget submission of Le 60,208,500,000.00 but reported to have received Le 39,881,203,598. This the Committee observed posed a lot of challenges to the operations of the Authority. In 2013 FY, NRA made a budget submission of Le 66,229,381,236 and has been allocated Le 51,643,500,000. However, whereas this allocation was viewed by the Committee to be encouraging, it observed that the first quarter allocation is yet to be released by the Ministry of Finance to NRA and this is breeding staff discontent. This the Committee observed does not augur for effective revenue collection. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Parliamentary Committee on Finance investigate the issue of duty waivers and operations of the ASYCUDA revenue collection mechanism to ensure

increased revenue generation and further ensure that the Ministry of Finance observes statutory provisions in the budget process relating to the release of allocations and payment of commissions.

206 00 – Sierra Leone Police

The Police are responsible for maintaining law and order and providing protection for life and property. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, national security is not cheap and this reflected the budgetary allocations made to the Police Department by the Ministry of Finance.

In 2012 FY the Police made a budget submission of Le 182,772,940,777 for both recurrent and development estimates and was allocated Le 97,338,861,100. Unfortunately however, the fourth quarter entitlement was never released by the Ministry of Finance. In 2013 FY, the Police made a budget submission of Le 165,166,584,494, including both recurrent and development estimates but its voted allocation for 2013 is Le 58,400,000,000 of which Le 19,900,000,000 is assigned to rice supplies to the Police which the Committee observed is in line with the promise of His Excellency the President to the Police.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee however further observed that similar to other MDAs, the Ministry of Finance made payments for the procurement of security hardware and rice supplied to Police and charged such expenditures on Police vote in the IFMIS mechanism without duly notifying the Police Department.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the procured hardware was eventually used by the military but paid for by the Police and this seriously affected their operations.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that considering the security needs of this nation, the increasing incident of violent crimes and the government's zero tolerance on lawlessness, the Police need additional resources to be able to effectively and efficiently meet these challenges of the time. The Committee

observed that logistical support especially in terms of vehicles and motor bikes are not only inadequate but that existing ones incur a high rate of maintenance cost.

The Committee recommended increase in the budget allocation for the Police in the future to impact a good pay package and logistical support for personnel. The Committee however observed poor documentation and reporting of expenditure activities and recommended future investigation by the Committee on Internal Affairs.

110 13 – Sierra Leone Insurance Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission is expected to oversee and ensure compliance of insurance companies in the country.

In 2012 FY, the Department made a budget submission of Le 1,409,405,000.00 and reported to have received the same amount. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, it is interesting to note that this MDA reported to have been posted an allocation of Le 1,500,000,000.00 which is in tandem with what is noted in the Parliamentary Copy of Recurrent and Development expenditure Estimates (Yellow Volume) but contrary to the voted allocations in the Appropriation Act, 2013. The voted allocation in the Bill of the Appropriation Act 2013 is Le 400,000,000 and the Committee is obliged to submit this amount for approval since it is the amount tabled before Parliament. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this inconsistency on the part of the Ministry of Finance has serious implications and requires thorough investigation by the Committee on Finance.

Although the original budget submission has been slashed, the Committee noted that the Commission generates funds from levies on Insurance Companies and these should augment any short falls. The Committee however observed improper recording and reporting on revenue generated by the Commission. The Committee considered the budgetary allocation for this commission to be fairly adequate and recommended enquiry by the Committee on Defence and Presidential Affairs into the administration and revenue generation activities of the Commission.

110 14 – Local Government Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Section 38, Sub-section 1 of the Local Government Act of 2004 mandates the Local Government Service Commission to provide regulatory and performance management functions to the decentralization of Government's programmes.

The Commission in 2012 FY made a budget submission of Le 170,700,000 of which Le 128,700,000 was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. In 2013 FY, the Commission in line with its budget ceiling made a submission of Le 189,500,000 of which Le 104,000,000 has been voted in the Appropriation Bill 2013. The Committee observed a continuous reduction in the allocations to the Commission and that despite its small size this has affected the Commission's ability to effectively and efficiently provide the management and regulatory support for the 19 Local Councils as mandated by the Local Government of 2004. The Committee recommended capacity building for the staff of the Local Government Service Commission and consideration for increase in its allocation.

138 00 – Statistics Sierra Leone

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the responsibility of collecting relevant data and reporting on national statistics rest with Statistics Sierra Leone.

In 2012 FY, the department in tandem with its ceiling made a budget submission of Le 5,205,000,000 but was given an allocation of Le 4,567,600,000 plus a supplementary budget of Le 715,000,000 to cover initial activities for the 2014 national census, given a total allocation of Le 5,282,600,000 slightly higher than its budget submission.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, with recruitment and boundary delimitation mapping on-going, even with additional allocation, the Committee observed that the budget for Statistics Sierra Leone for 2012 FY proved to be inadequate. For 2013 FY, Statistics Sierra Leone made a budget submission of Le 5,040,000,000 for its other recurrent expenditures, Le 18,896,374,037 for 2014 census and Le 13,219,615,818 for Demographic Health Survey (DHS), given a total submission of Le 37,156,289,855.

However, the Committee observed that the Ministry of Finance allocated Le 4,646,000,000 as indicated in the Appropriation Bill of 2013. Furthermore, the Budget Statement in Annex 3a, Page 14 captured as part of capital expenditure, approximately Le 1 billion each for the 2014 census and DHS. The Committee did not only recommend the approval of this amount but also recommended increase allocation to cover preparatory programmes for the 2014 census in line with the demands of Statistics Sierra Leone.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the fact that a successful census will positively impact national development, more especially in the area of constituency delimitation which directly affect us as Honourable Members. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Finance convey a meeting with Statistics Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Finance with the view of providing adequate funding for the 2014 national census.

139 00 – National Commission for Privatisation

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Commission for Privatization was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002 with the mandate to oversee and facilitate the privatization of redundant Government enterprises and investments.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that for 2012 FY the Commission reported receiving Le 2,490,426,600 but the actuals of the Ministry of Finance reported transferring Le 1,931,776,500. Drawing from the excuse earlier submitted by the Ministry of Finance of having some processes of the last quarter of 2012 still in the IFMIS, the Committee recommended the Commission to liaise with the Ministry of Finance to put the records straight. The Committee observed that the allocation for 2013 FY was inadequate. For 2013 FY the Commission was given a budget ceiling of Le 4,029,309,232 and made a budget submission of Le 5,751,890,000 but has been voted Le 800,000,000 as allocation for 2013 FY. The Committee observed that the Commission generates revenue and pay into the Consolidated Fund and this creates an opportunity for corruption if the required budgetary support is not provided.

The Committee recommended an increase in allocation for the Commission in the next financial year.

121 00 – Audit Services Sierra Leone

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Audit Services in line with its mission and mandate is responsible for assessing the correctness of the use of taxpayers' and development partners monies that are entrusted to public institutions.

In 2012 FY the MDA made a budget submission of Le 14,941,851,996 and received an allocation of Le 12,749,802,797 which was in tandem with its budget ceiling. For 2013 FY Audit Services Sierra Leone reported to the Committee that no ceiling was provided and the allocation has not been communicated. The voted allocation however for 2013 before Parliament is Le 3,400,000,000 which from the MDA's budget history is inadequate. The Committee recommended an upwards review.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Audit Department standing on the provisions in Section 119 Sub-section 2 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, subcontracted audit services to private institutions. The Committee observed that the Audit Department itself had the capacity to undertake some of these services but still contracted them out. The Committee considered this as a loss to the institution. The Committee further observed that the Department did charge audit fees for certain audit services undertaken and reported paying into the Consolidated Funds but could not submit evidence of payment. The Committee recommended that the Public Accounts Committee should liaise with Audit Services to correct these mistakes.

107 03 – Eastern Province, Kenema

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the MDA is in-charge of local governance and rural development through the office of the Provincial Secretary.

In 2012 FY the MDA made a budget submission of Le 312,200,000 which was in line with its ceiling but reported receiving only first, second and third quarters totalling up to Le 179,400,000. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on the contrary the Ministry of Finance in its actuals for 2012 FY reported to have allocated Le 885,677,104 to Eastern Province, Kenema, accounting for a whopping difference of Le 706,277,104. Upon probing further, the Committee found out that the Ministry of Finance had charged expenditures under the MDAs' vote without notification and that the last quarter allocation was still in the IFMIS process. The Committee recommended that the Finance Committee investigates this anomaly.

123 00 – Public Service Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Public Service Commission was in 2012 FY allocated Le 734,280,460 but reported receiving Le 341,100,000. However, the Committee in probing further ascertained that the Ministry of Finance undertook expenditures in respect of civic funeral and consultancy fees and charged these under the votes of the Commission without due notification. For 2013 FY the Commission submitted a budget request of Le 526,570,000 and its allocation voted is Le 440,000,000. Comparatively to the request made, the Committee considered the allocation adequate and recommended that the Finance Committee together with Transparency Committee look into the budget activities of the Commission and further ensure the Ministry of Finance abide by budget implementation procedures.

205 01 – National Registration Secretariat

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Registration Secretariat in 2012 FY made a budget submission of Le 2, 888,567,856 but only received Le 820,000,000 as allocation. Similarly in 2013 FY, with a ceiling of Le 902,000,000, the Secretariat made a budget submission of Le 3,869,583,831 but its voted allocation is Le 600,000,000. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considered this allocation inadequate especially taking into consideration the ambition of the Secretariat to register all government officials starting with Members and Staff of Parliament, as a move towards

registering every Sierra Leonean. The Committee recommended increase in allocation for the Secretariat in subsequent budget.

404 02 – Meteorological Department

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Meteorological Department's allocation is somehow inadequate and this is reflective in the 2012 FY budgetary allocation and the confidence of the Vote Controller as seen in his appearance before the Committee. In 2012 FY, with a budget ceiling of Le 365,100,000 the Department made a submission of Le 450,800,000 but was only allocated Le 255,000,000. The critical areas that were affected by this slash were the inability of the department to rehabilitate its out-stations and procure the required technical equipment. The Committee is pleased to note that the Voted allocation for 2013 FY is Le 480,000,000. However, the Committee observed that the MDA could not properly account for expenditures for its recurrent budget. Predicating on the poor documentation of activities as observed, the Committee recommended capacity building training and posting of more qualified Sub-Accountant to the Department. The Committee further recommended that the Finance Committee and Transparency Committee to investigate the Department.

418 00 – Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) harbours as its main mandate agricultural research on improved varieties and its attendant extension services as a conduit to sustained agricultural productivity and food security.

Government's budgetary allocation in 2012 FY reflects its commitment to this process. For FY 2012, the Institute was given a budget ceiling of Le 3,330,000,000 but reported receiving an allocation of Le 11,173,000,000. This amount excluded a donor support funding of Le 2,611,651,677 and \$ 14,797. However for 2013 FY, the institute

submitted budget request of Le 40,468,881,819 but its voted allocation is Le 2,600,000,000. The Committee observed that like 2012 FY the institute is expecting donor support. Notwithstanding however, the Committee recommended increase in budgetary allocation and further recommended that the Committee on Agriculture follow up on the out-station activities of the Institute.

411 00 – Transfer to Road Fund

The Road Fund was established by an Act of Parliament specifically for the maintenance of feeder roads and is managed by the management and Board of RMA.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Road Maintenance Department was given an allocation of Le 300,000,000 in 2012 FY. The MDA could not properly account for this fund. The Committee also observed that there are tendencies of diversion of monies from the fund to meet obligations outside the Department and that revenue collected under this fund fall far short of the road maintenance requirements. In further probing bank statements and account ledgers, the Committee observed that balances relating to the Department's Administrative Account at the Union Trust Bank as at December 2011, brought forward as revenue in 2012, could not be accounted for properly. The Committee recommended that the allocation of the Department and all other transfers to the Fund be withheld until the Committee on Finance and Transparency sitting together, investigate the financial activities of the Department.

302 00 – Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as presented by His Excellency the President on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament, Government is very committed to improving the socio-economic status of the youth especially in employment and sports. In this regard the Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports has been divided into two Ministries: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Ministry of Sports. However, the Committee

noted that this separation does not reflect in the budget allocation and expenditure and the Committee was obliged to still consider them as one.

The Committee considered the allocation made to the Ministry in 2012 FY adequate and that of 2013 FY fair but inadequate, having in view the aspiration of His Excellency the President for youths. For 2012 FY, the Ministry in line with its ceiling made a budget submission of Le 4,967,900,000 but reported actually receiving only Le 2,079,752,000. However, the Ministry further received a supplementary budget of Le 3,405,305,220 for sport competitions. For 2013 FY, the Ministry made a budget submission of Le 19,714,312,579 but the voted allocation for the combined Ministry is Le 3,780,000,000. This amount the Committee considered inadequate especially after the separation of the administrations of the two Ministries. The Committee recommended an increase in allocation to cater for the two Ministries.

However, the Committee observed with dismay that the Ministry could not properly account for any revenue from gate takings during international matches and financial supports received from companies and individual business people. Worse still, the Committee observed that the Ministry is indebted for some international matches they conducted. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Finance and that on Youths and Sports sitting together conduct a full scale investigation into the expenditure activities of the Ministry.

701 01 –Local Councils:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee scrutinised the budget of the following Local Council:

- Port Loko District Council;
- Makeni City Council;
- Kenema District Council; and
- Kenema City Council.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before presenting the individual findings and recommendations for the Local Councils mentioned, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the following general observations in respect of the Councils that appeared before Sub Appropriation Committee 1.

The capacity of the Councils' personnel needs to be enhanced particularly in the area of financial accountability. Except for the Kenema District Council, reporting and documentation of expenditures and accounting performance of the Councils was observed to be weak. Government is expending billions of Leones on devolved functions to the Local Councils and if these monies including local revenues are not properly utilized and accounted for the objectives for which these Councils were established could be lost. The Committee recommended that properly trained and qualified accountants be recruited for the Local Councils and that the Finance Committee investigate the expenditure activities of the Local Councils.

As reported, local taxation is a revenue source for all the Local Councils that appeared before the Committee. The Chiefdom Administrations therefore share with the District Councils collected local taxes which leaves some chiefdoms without enough money to pay the Chiefdom Administrative Staff and this has generated an unsavory relationship between the Local Councils and Chiefdom Administration. The Committee recommended that the Local Government Service Commission and the Local Government ministry be approached by the Committee on Local Government to address this concern.

701 01 – Port Loko District Council

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2012 FY the Port Loko District Council reported making a budget submission of Le 20,631,447,268 but received an allocation of Le 12,591,473,964 including indirect transfers from the Ministry of Finance. The reduction in the Councils allocation was however cushioned by donor support in the tune of Le 131,799,635 and own source revenue amounting to Le 341,100,574. For the 2013 FY allocation, the Council made a budget submission of Le 16,031,156,894 but reported an

allocation of Le 10,931,108,275 including indirect transfers. The Council projects own source revenue target as Le 582,555,372. The direct transfer for the Council captured in the Schedule is Le 4,529,856,085. The Committee considered the budget allocation for the Port Loko District Council to be adequate.

701 01 – Makeni City Council

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Makeni City Council made a budget submission of Le 3, 790,644,165 for 2012 FY and received a fair allocation of Le 3,369,485,354. For 2013 FY, the Council made a budget submission of Le 4,428,997,178 and the same amount is recorded as allocation for 2013 FY excluding indirect transfers. The Committee considered the budget allocation to Makeni City Council as adequate. However, in probing further, the Committee observed poor documentation of accounting records and therefore recommended future investigation by the Committee on Finance of the Councils expenditure activities.

701 01 – Kenema District Council

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Kenema City Council made a budget submission of Le 6,709,440,590 for 2012 FY but received as allocation for the same year, Le 2,209,247,752, which is less than half of requested budget. For 2013 FY, the Council made a budget submission of Le 11,397,748,138 in line with its budget ceiling but Le 2,640,009,314 excluding indirect transfers. The Committee considered the budget allocation for the Kenema District Council to be inadequate. The Committee further observed poor documentation of accounting records and therefore recommended future investigation by the Committee on Finance of the Council's expenditure activities.

701 01 – Kenema City Council

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Kenema District Council made a budget submission of Le 7,205,499,452 for 2012 FY and received as allocation for the same year, Le 5,003,055,526 which is comparatively a fair allocation. For 2013 FY, the

Council made a budget submission of Le 7,102,429,148 in line with its budget ceiling but Le 4,552,311,642 excluding indirect transfers. The Committee considered the budget allocation for the Kenema District Council to be adequate. The Committee further observed poor documentation of accounting records and therefore recommended future investigation by the Committee on Finance of the Councils expenditure activities.

Against this background, and without prejudice to the observations and recommendations afore-stated, I move on behalf of the Committee that the vote Heads Sub-heads form part of the schedule, withholding that of Vote 411 00 of the Road Maintenance Fund.

Vote	Division	Vote Description	Total Sum Voted
129	00	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	11,580,000,000;
401	00	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	24,500,000,000;
116	00	Parliament	10,081,200,000;
130	00	National Revenue Authority	51,643,500,000;
206	00	Sierra Leone Police	58,400,000,000;
110	13	Sierra Leone Insurance Commission	400,000,000;
110	14	Local Government Commission	104,000,000;
138	00	Statistics Sierra Leone	4,646,000,000;
139	00	National Commission for Privatization	800,000,000;
121	00	Audit Services	3,400,000,000;
107	03	Eastern Province, Kenema	510,000,000;
123	00	Public Service Commission	440,000,000;

205	01	National Registration Secretariat	600,000,000;
404	02	Meteorological Department	480,000,000;
418	00	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute	2,600,000,000;
302	00	Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports	3,780,000,000;
701	01	Makeni City Council	3,457,781,875;
701	01	Port Loko District Council	4,529,856,784;
701	01	Kenema District Council	2,640,009,314; and
701	01	Kenema City Council	3,420,616,204.

Presented by Hon. Claude Melville Kamanda, Chairman, Sub-Appropriation Committee

1. Thank you.

The Clerk read the vote Heads and Sub-heads as follows:

129	00	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	11,580,000,000;
401	00	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	24,500,000,000;
116	00	Parliament	10,081,200,000;
130	00	National Revenue Authority	51,643,500,000;
206	00	Sierra Leone Police	58,400,000,000;
110	13	Sierra Leone Insurance Commission	400,000,000;
110	14	Local Government Commission	104,000,000;
138	00	Statistics Sierra Leone	4,646,000,000;
139	00	National Commission for Privatization	800,000,000;
121	00	Audit Services	3,400,000,000;

107	03	Eastern Province, Kenema	510,000,000;
123	00	Public Service Commission	440,000,000;
205	01	National Registration Secretariat	600,000,000;
404	02	Meteorological Department	480,000,000;
418	00	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute	2,600,000,000;
302	00	Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports	3,780,000,000;
701	01	Makeni City Council	3,457,781,875;
701	01	Port Loko District Council	4,529,856,784;
701	01	Kenema District Council	2,640,009,314; and
701	01	Kenema City Council	3,420,616,204.

MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development): Mr Chairman, I move that the Heads and Sub-heads and the amounts thereto as just announced by the Clerk of Parliament stand part of the schedule.

(Question Proposed)

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having read the report myself, the report recommends that the Committees on Transparency and Finance probe into the activities of the Road Maintenance Fund. I want to add that the Committee on Works be included Sir. I thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Noted Honourable Member. But I am sure that the recommendations as were read by the Chairman of this Sub-committee referred to various other MDAs wherein we are expecting the Finance Committee and the Committee on Transparency to look into those recommendations without reference to

Committees that are specifically responsible to supervise these MDAs. In any case Honourable Member, your point has been noted. I am sure the House will consider and take cognizance of that. But the recommendations were very specific because we are dealing with the budget and figures.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is the first report of Committee 1 on the Sub-appropriation Committee. Looking at the Committee of Supply on the Appropriation Bill of 2013 before us, I would want to say that a lot of work has been done by the Committee and I am impressed with this Report. I am very impressed with the analyses that have actually been made. Although I have not read the other reports, but what is clear about what has just been read is the fact that this report is very good. I hope that the other reports would be better than this Report. The Committee Members have actually done their work in line with the financial provisions in terms of both legal and financial provisions we have. The Constitution is one of those legal documents in this country. Members of this Committee have looked at the activities of the MDAs under their purview to see whether the various MDAs have actually followed the various financial provisions. This is because when we deviate from those financial provisions, there is bound to be serious problem. The Committee has done very well to really look at how the various MDAs have followed the laid down financial provisions that we have. I am very happy for that.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the general observations of the Committee are in place. The specific recommendations in this Report are well justified. From the Report, I observed that almost all the MDAs in this Report suffered from inadequate funding. This is not surprising because as I said when we were debating the budget, no matter what we do, money is never enough for the developmental needs of any country, particularly our country that has just come from war. Coming from war means that our needs are many, but the financial resources (even when we get donor assistance) are limited. So it is not surprising that there is inadequate financing of all the ministries. Mr Chairman what does that tell us? It tells us that this is going to be what we expect in future, even if the National Revenue Authority improves on the revenue collection. There would

always be short falls because we continue to create new needs as we go along with our development projects. Therefore, if that is what we expect year in and year out, we have to conduct our affairs with regard to financial capability. In the future, we should be asking ourselves what we should be really looking for.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we have to be judiciously using the little resources we have. We should start looking in that direction in our meeting with those Committees. If that happens, maybe we would be looking for different information in future; information that would help us greatly. For instance, if Mr Abu got Le2, he should be able to give account of how he has used that Le2. We should be in position to know what the value of the Le2 is. We have to know how the Le2 contribute to the general goal of our Government's development effort. If Le2 is given to the health sector, we want to know with statistics and indicators of how that money was used. This is because every year we report about inadequate funds. MDAs do develop budget ceilings but the Ministry of Finance says no. This is not your ceiling. It is our budget ceiling. You have to work within the budget ceiling and even when the budget ceiling is dropped at some point, you would be lucky to have all your allocations by the 31st December. As this report is saying, some ministries are still running after the Fourth Quarter Allocation. This is the time we should be talking about completing the First Allocation of 2013. As we proceed with this exercise, we would have to be coming up with new ways of scrutinizing our ministries.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the most important thing to me is the census that is being discussed on Page 11. We conduct census every ten years, but in between we also do the demographic surveys. The demographic surveys will keep telling us how we are moving in terms of our population, so that in between the inter-census years, we don't continue to use stale data. This will help us in renewing the data through the demographic heads survey. I know that they are in the field as we speak. My daughter is part of that team. She was in Makeni for one month. And this information is going to help in putting the marks for the census. But we as a country should begin to be proactive in that regard. If every ten years we are going to have our census which is very

important for our national planning, we should not wait until 2014 or 2024 to start budgeting for the census. Maybe in future we start putting aside money every year in a special account for our census so that by the time we conduct our census, we would have gathered enough resources for us to gather adequate, timely, and extensive information on how our population is doing. We can even use that information for the next ten years. In fact, if we collect good and extensive information, that information can be used in the universities and ministries in terms of research.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we have to start making provision for 2014. You now know what we have requested. What is needed is Le18 billion. I think what they have submitted is Le5 billion for its recurrent expenditure and 18.9 billion for the actual census itself. Surprisingly, what is allocated is 4 billion for us to generate information which is going to be our basis of development planning for the next 10 years. What sort of data are we going to get out in the field? We are not going to get much data or good reports in the field because it is not cheap at all. We need to recruit and train so that people will capture correct information out in the field. If we gather wrong information and plug it into our development exercise, we end up getting the wrong route to development in this country. This is because we either underestimate and therefore the budget we allocate for those sectors are low, especially when the data gathering process is fraudulent since there is no funding. If funds are limited, we reduce the number of days in the field. We also reduce the number of staff that we should have taught. We reduce the number or the quality of the statistical package that we are going to use to collect information and therefore, at the end of the day, what we get will be the wrong figures; and with the wrong figures, we would come out with wrong paradigms or wrong projections for our developments.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is a very important change and we don't know what is going to happen. But this is an exercise for every 10 years; and as a proactive people and Government, we should start saving or putting resources aside so that when the time comes, there are resources we would need for the next ten years.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I agree wholly and solely with this Report. As I have already said, the quality is good, particularly for our new Majority Whip. This is the first time he chairs such a Committee. His supervision, I am sure through his work has been very good. I am very impressed with this Report, and I am not going to expect anything less. In fact, this is a pace setter and for those who have not submitted their reports yet, maybe we ask that they go back and take this Report as a basis so that you come out with a very good Report (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, these are my few comments for the Appropriation Sub-committee 1. I thank you.

HON. BLISS OSHO-WILLIAMS: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am not surprised what the Minority Leader had just said. First of all, taking our queue and directive from the Majority Leader, and our queue and directive from the new Finance Committee Chairman, also having the leadership of the new Majority Whip as the Chairman of the Appropriation Sub-Committee 1, of which I am the Deputy Chairman, I want to tell all Other Appropriation Sub-Committees to read this Report and learn from what we have just submitted. I want to say this, it is very important that we follow word for word what the report has said. There was one particular MDA that gave us lot of problems. We brought the Vote controller here for more than 5 consecutive times; and 5 times we failed to agree. That particular MDA is going to be investigated by the Committee on Finance, Committee on Works, and the Transparency Committee. And I hope when that Report comes out, it will be made public for all to see that Committee 1 has done a very good job. The media is very much interested in the activities of the Committee of Supply. I don't want any one of you to pre-judge. Nobody should pre-judge the outcome of the work that is going to be shown on the MDA for the Road Maintenance Fund. It is very important because we don't know the outcome. We are still investigating. All of you should wait until we forward the Report.

Finally, I am proud of the leader of Appropriation Sub-Committee 1. He has done a brilliant job. I want to say this open heartedly that he did it all by himself. Above all, we

got the best Committee Clerk. Mr Karmoh Conteh is absolutely the best Committee Clerk in this House. I wish him well. I hope the others will come in soon. I thank you very much.

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the last speaker was saying that this is the best Report; and that others must emulate what the Majority Whip has read to us just few minutes ago. I want to assure this Honourable House...- (*Interruption*).

Suspension of S. O. 5(2) at 12:00 p.m

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: As I was saying, I want to assure this House that Sub-Committee 5 would come out with the best Report ever in the life history of this Parliament. I am really sure of that though that group had the weakest ministries or departments...- (*Interruption*).

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please confine yourself to the issues before us. We are discussing the Report of Sub-committee 1.

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Noted Mr Chairman. I wanted to give that assurance before I continue. As the Honourable Member was reading his Report, I came to realise that many things he said are more or less the same with the findings all the Sub-committees. The reason is each time the Ministry of Finance is allocating funds; they come up with budget ceilings. Some of these moneys are not sent to the respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). At the end of the day, you find out that the job of this nation is not carried out at all. And as a result, you realise that there are inadequate fundings in every ministry, department or agency around the country. How can we be talking about prosperity when these inadequacies are existing in those MDAs? I want to kindly beg the Minister today, alongside with the ministry to make sure that the prosperity we are talking about meet the needs and aspirations of our people. We definitely need to work hard in making sure that the Second, Third and Fourth Quarters allocations of every Financial Year go to these MDAs so that the jobs of those

MDAs can be properly done on time. Many ministries and agencies are suffering because of these inadequacies. I equally want to ask the Minister and the Ministry of Finance to inform Vote Controllers to be at this meeting. Each time Parliament wants to meet and discuss the budget of this nation, let it be incumbent on them to be here. This is because they are the ones controlling these votes. The fraudulent activities of these Vote Controllers are already unearthed and they have been pronounced in the Well of Parliament. But Mr Chairman these Vote Controllers are not here to even listen to some of these issues.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, no Vote Controller can get his/her record straight if he/she fails to get the corrections from those writing the Reports. So, I want a kind of resolution be taken by Parliament that those controlling votes be always present when reports pertaining their expenditures, inadequacies, misuse of public funds are discussed. They should be here listening to what we are discussing here. We are blaming the Ministry of Finance for not giving all the moneys to these MDAs. But if you go through the records, you will find out that there are lots of leakages. Every year Parliament offers series of recommendations to these MDAs but they are not followed. We are not sending them to jail for the misuse of these funds. We only give advice; and year in and year out, the same issues keep repeating. I want Parliament to put their feet down so that at the end of the day some of these corrections are taken seriously. Let them be here Mr Chairman. I want to crave the indulgence of the Leader of this House and the Leader of Government Business to make it a point of duty for the Vote Controllers to be here and listen to what we are saying. It is high time Vote Controllers took this Parliament seriously. Parliament should set one or two examples for them to see. This is the reason why they don't take us seriously. We talk about inadequacies and shortages of fund; but when the funds are given, they misuse them. Mr Chairman could you imagine somebody like the Minister of Works stood before parliamentarians and told them that he would not answer questions from Members of Parliament.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, the Ministry of Works is not part of the Report before us. Please move forward.

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Noted Sir. Mr Chairman that is one of the major suggestions I wanted to make to all of us here. Let us make sure that Vote Controllers are present for this debate. They should come and listen to what we are saying here. Let them take the advice we are going to give them so that they don't keep repeating the same mistakes. As Members of Parliament, we have to set just one example for others to see. If we do that, all of them will take us serious. Thank you very much.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Mr Chairman, I want to first of all extend my congratulations to the Appropriation Sub-Committee 1, which has presented its Report a few minutes ago. I want to raise one issue reported in this document. This issue is about the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission. With your leave Mr Chairman, I will read the last paragraph. It says: "*The Committee noted that the Commission generates funds from levies on Insurance Companies and these should augment any shortfalls*". Unless there are some statutory exemptions, but I don't think MDA's in particular are empowered to use any fund that they collect. And we in Parliament ought to be mindful of this. We ought to be mindful of the fact that all revenues collected should go to the consolidated revenue fund. That is the point I wanted to make Mr Chairman. We should be mindful of that. That is a statutory provision that all MDAs must observe. I thank you.

MR CHAIRMAN: That is correct Honourable Members; and we have noted that with the utmost seriousness. Those of you who were not paying attention the Honourable Member has brought a very important point. He has referred us to Page 10, under Sub-Head 110 13, the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission, the last paragraph. We have to make sure that the recommendation is in line with the Act itself that established the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission. Let us take note of that Honourable Members. Mr Leader you wanted to say something.

HON. S. B. B DUMBUYA: Yes Mr Chairman. And Mr Chairman that is a lesson to other Honourable Members. When senior Members get up to say something, they must be given preference. You are doing the right thing. That is the tradition. Mr Chairman, this

is a public document going out to people. I am not clear about the use of a word here. Let us look at Page 5, item 'e,' under General Observations. I read Mr Chairman: "similarly, the Committee was abhorred and dismayed...." To me, dismayed is okay. But I am not satisfied with the use of the word abhorred. Do they know what is meant by abhorred? If I may ask, what do you mean by that? Do you think that was what you wanted to say? I think it is the wrong word you have used here. Dismayed is satisfactory. Do you know what that word means? Abhorred means is to hate. So, what are you saying? Unless you want to be...- (*Interruption*).

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Leader, your point is noted Sir.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: And Mr Chairman I agree wholeheartedly with the point that the Minority Leader was making. No amount of money would ever be enough for any MDA. So, if I understood her well, what she has been trying to say was the judicious use of resources allocated to the various MDAs. We have to be prudent in the use of the State resources. We have to be very serious on this area. That has been the emphasis of the Minority Leader. It is indeed true that no amount of money would ever be enough for any MDA. In fact, the more of it you have, the more you would need. I am reminded of a law in Economics; which is the Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility. The law says: "*the more of the same thing you have, the less you will want to have.*" But Mr Chairman, the greatest exception is money. The more you have, the more you would want it. It is more the case with these MDAs. Whatever amount is allocated to an MDA, believe you me it would never be enough. Therefore, we have to be very serious about the judicious use of the money allocated to these MDAs.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I also agree with what the Minority Leader has just said about the census. We have to take our census very seriously. Mr Minister, now that you are here, we are told that the census will take place sometime next year. What I want to know from you is that has the amount been allocated for that purpose? Well, Mr Chairman I think you were present when we invited some members of Statistics Sierra Leone here. Mr Minister, the census is very important. It is important for so many

things. We need not elaborate on that but I am sure that the Minister himself is aware of that.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to turn to the recommendations or observations made by the Honourable Benneh Bangura. If you go to the Road Maintenance Fund, the Report is saying that there is something of an impropriety in that Department. And Mr Chairman wherever there is a detection of impropriety, an investigative mission has to go there, and where you have to go into an investigative mission, you send the Committee that is relevant in that respect, and the Committee that is relevant here is the Committee on Transparency. The Committee on Finance is included simply because that is their area.

MR CHAIRMAN: Order!

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: The Committee on Transparency is most appropriate Committee to look into these issues. I would not subscribe to the idea of bringing in the Committee on Works at all. Let the Committees on Transparency and the Finance look into this issue. I am saying this because it is an investigative affair and because there is a detection of impropriety. Thank you very much.

HON. DR ROLAND FODAY KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to lend my voice to the Majority Whip for presenting such a very good Report. As I was reading through the Report and listening to him, I could not help but noticed the interplay of words like budget submission, budget ceiling, budget allocation, amounts received, etc. I also noticed the interplay of wants, needs, and available resources. And these interplays must continue in life because as the Majority Leader said "Moneys are never enough." But if you look the negotiated figures, you will see the difference from one MDA to the other. I nearly asked myself why we are having such variances in terms of figures. Are these differences due to luck or relevance? You have to decide which is which. But I think there must be a sort of formula because if we say we are going to depend on luck or relevance and then perhaps some MDAs would feel disadvantaged. This is one of the concerns I have.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, there is also the issue of inadequate transfers. From this Report, it is clear that the First and Second Quarters transfer were undisputable. But the Third and Fourth Quarters have always given difficulties as far as this Report made us to understand. I don't know if the last two Quarters are not as important as the first two. I think this is an area that should be given attention to by the Ministry of Finance. Of course the late transfer of the last quarters obviously affects the quality of performance at the end of the day.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, there is also the issue of poor accounting system in almost all the MDAs as this Report made us to understand. I think the exercise we are doing here has a great effect on the quality of product and when we talk about the Agenda for Prosperity, these are the areas we need to address. They are very important.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to specifically focus on the councils which received substantial amount of money. According to this Report, it has been observed that the capacity of staff in those councils may not be the best to produce the sort of impact they expect. I think these areas must be given attention. I have great respect for the councils. This is because at the end of the day the Councils are the ones responsible to produce the effects of the Agenda for Change at the grassroots. Therefore, I hope the Ministry of Finance who is the referee over this whole thing pays great attention on the issue of enhancing the capacity of the Councils to deliver. I want to thank you very much.

HON. KOMBO R. KAMARA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I hope this is not a ruling; but if it is, I would humbly submit my own suggestion for the records. Standing in this Well, I am the chairman of Housing and Infrastructure Committee. I want to crave the indulgence of the leadership; particularly Mr Chairman to include the Committee on Works in investigating these issues. Some of the issues raised are very pertinent to my Committee. I am not challenging the Leadership, but I

would want to humbly suggest that the Committee on Works be included in these investigations. I thank you so much.

MR CHAIRMAN: Noted Honourable Member. Mr Minister, would you like to respond to some of the issues and concerns raised by Honourable Members?

MR MOMODU KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, lot of comments and observations have been made. But let me start by observing that I only laid hands on this committee Report 20 minutes ago. I have not yet read its contents. But it's important that I join the position of the Minority Leader and the Majority Leader that this is a very good Report. The Report is well written. It is a well-organised document. And I want to appreciate the Chairman and his group that constitutes that Committee. Again, the Minority Leader has said the truth and has put it in proper context. It is difficult to provide adequately for every ministry the amount of money they would require. Invariably, we have our own criteria which we use to guide us. I want us all to understand that this budget is a plan. This budget is based on a number of assumptions. It is based on certain realities and expectations. As has been mentioned earlier, the fourth quarter allocation has not been made. I want to draw the attention of Honourable Members to Page 26 of this budget, delivered by the Minister himself, and was debated by you Honourable Members. With the leave of Mr Chairman, I want to read Page 26, item 4. But it starts from item 25, which says '*Risk to the Budget.*' The heading says: *External budget support. "Budget support would continue to be necessary in complimenting Government resources to deliver public services. However, the predictability and timely disbursement of these funds remain a challenge with the continuing Euro zone crisis, donor inflows also remain uncertain, in this regard donor coordination and close partnership with Government will as usual be the catalyst to minimize the assisted risk in this area."* I want to inform this House that a lot of donor funds which we were expecting only came in the early part of this year. This is why we were not able to address the Fourth Quarter allocation which constitutes part of the budget for last year. This is because some of the moneys come as donor support. So, we will with time address all the Fourth Quarter allocation where necessary.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai did raise a very typical issue which we are toiling with. We are faced with this challenge that Ministries would always ask for more money. We need to find a different way to begin to evaluate the ministries demands. It is not so much as what they would ask for, but it will also be about what is provided is being utilised. I think this becomes very critical and is part of the problems that we face. We have double-dipping and triple-dipping. This means that donors do come with funds and at the end, they bye-pass the Ministry of Finance and go straight to the ministries. Therefore, you find a situation wherein something that may have been provided for by the budget is also being funded by a donor. And it takes time to uncover these facts. These are the issues that we struggle with. Some ministries will complain we don't have adequate moneys, or we are not adequately provided for, but the realities are there to deal with.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the issue of the census is indeed very important. What I want to assure Members of Parliament is that what is in the budget is the beginning of the preparatory face. The census will actually take place in 2014. And it is usually a joint effort. A basket fund is been created wherein the Sierra Leone Government will provide most of the money. But we expect other organisations like maybe UNFPA, UN etc. These organisations would contribute to round up the figure and have a credible census for next year. And I want to assure Members that there is going to be a development partnership meeting in the office known as the Grouping of the Government of Sierra Leone and all the major supporters of our development efforts in this country. One of the key items to be discussed is the census for next year. I can assure you that by the time we report on the census by next year, adequate funds would have been provided for the census.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, with those few remarks, I want to move that the Heads and Sub-heads, and the amounts thereto as had been read out by the Clerk of Parliament and the recommendations contained therein stand part of the schedule. Thank you.

MR CHAIRMAN: The recommendations cannot stand part of the schedule.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

THE VARIOUS HEADS AND SUB-HEADS FORM PART OF THE BILL

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Chairman, I want to know what the Clerk at the Table meant by inter-alia? He used the word wrongly. Inter-alia means '*among other things.*'

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the Heads which were read do not in any way include the Road Maintenance Fund. The Road Maintenance Fund was excluded. So, I want to put the question again.

THE VARIOUS HEADS AND SUB-HEADS FORM PART OF THE FORM PART OF THE SCHEDULE.

The Chairman of Committee 3, Honourable Patrick L. Kargbo

HON. PATRICK L. KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report on the Review of Recurrent and Development Estimate for the Financial Year 2012, Appropriation Sub-Committee 3, Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

1. Mandate of the Sub-Committee.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in conforming with the powers conferred on this Parliament by Section 112, Sub-section 2 of the National Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, and Standing Orders of Parliament 64(3) and 66(1), the Honourable Members of Sub-committee 3 were mandated to critically examine the budget allocated in 2012...- (*Interruption*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Chairman, I would want to come up with a suggestion Sir. Mr Chairman, I understand that you and the Minority Leader have a function to perform today. It is a very important function to the extent that you cannot imagine

yourself being absent. As a matter of fact, you should have done that yesterday but because of exigency it was deferred to today. So, in the case of this Report which is quite voluminous, I would want to suggest that we read the summary and the conclusion of this Report. The summary is on Page 3, Vote Heads and Sub-heads. All of them constitute the summary and the conclusion on Page 39. After that, we can retire, considering what we have in our hands. I want Members to make sure that before tomorrow comes, everybody must have read the entire document so that when we come tomorrow, we would have a half day. I also want to take this opportunity to announce that the Committee on Appointments is going to meet tomorrow to interview a presidential nominee. I would want to suggest with the leave of Mr Speaker and with the concurrence of Members of Parliament that we read the summary and then the conclusion and leave the rest to Members to go through the document tonight. I don't know what the Speaker thinks about it.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, this is a suggestion from the Majority Leader. Are there contrary views? Honourable Members, I have also noticed that most of the representatives of MDAs who were here few minutes ago have also left this Chamber. The reason why they have left before the adjournment of the House I don't know. We might want to have a look at the gallery. All of them have left.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Yes Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Do you have a contrary view?

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Yes Sir. Well, I am of the opinion that since budget discussions are very important like you have said is becoming boring and Members are now exhausted. So, I prefer we suspend everything till tomorrow so that the entire Committee Report would be read like the first Report in the Chamber. This will give us enough time to really read the Report. The Honourable Majority Leader has been in Parliament before I came in. The Chairman is going to read the Report page by page tomorrow. We will still have enough time to respond. For tidiness of the debate, we

want it read page by page so that we can make our contributions. Therefore, I prefer we suspend everything till tomorrow.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Well, Honourable Rado Yokie has said that I have been in Parliament longer than him. Perhaps, that explains for his inadequacy in that respect. And from what he has said, I wonder if that is not a duplication of work. He expects us to go home and read everything, then, when we come back tomorrow, we begin to read all over again. This is a duplication of work. I am not adverse to the idea at all. If the House think we should come tomorrow and read page by page, no problem at all. I am not averse to that idea. I would only want the two officials of Parliament in the persons of the Minority Leader and the Acting Speaker.... - *(Interruption)*.

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Leader, I want to make a suggestion Sir. This suggestion is subject to the approval of Parliament. I want us to take the Report home, read it and make sure we understand what is contained therein so that when we come tomorrow we just follow the queue as you have suggested. We are only going to read the introduction and then the conclusion. This would give us enough time to debate the Report in the morning as you have said. We have Appointments Committee sittings tomorrow; and tomorrow being Friday, we have to leave this Chamber before 1:00 pm. Is that acceptable by all Honourable Members? If that is so, then, I ask that we shelve the Report for tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, a member from the Clerks at the Table has just brought to my attention the following: that normally when Votes and Proceedings are read, some people would say they were present but were marked absent. Some would say they were absent but included as present. Now, the only way that they would know whether a Member is present or not is the register. When Members come, they have to sign the register. And if you don't sign the register, it means that even if you are physically in Parliament you are to be marked absent. Let that be known to all Members of Parliament. Even if you are seen physically by your friends, as long as that

book is not signed by you, it is presumed that you are not in Parliament at all and you are not present for the Sitting. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENTS

(The House rose at 11.20 a.m. and was adjourned until Friday, 22nd March, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).