



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

# PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING**

**FRIDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2013**

*SESSION – 2012/2013*



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 24**

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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 Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013.

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MARCH, 2013**



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

## Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

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Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013.

*The House met at 10:25 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

**HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourble Members, I move that S. O. 5(2) be suspended so that the business of the House may commence.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. HABIB M. MUNDA:** I second the motion Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

*S. O. 5(2) Suspended*

## **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDING FOR THURSDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2013**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the records of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2013. I start page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2013 be adopted as presented?

**HON. ALHASAN JERO KAMARA:** Mr Speaker I so moved.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Counter motion?

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House):** Mr Speaker, you would recall that we did agree yesterday that this Report should be read by every Member of Parliament so that today we just go straight to the debate or the discussion. But there has been a general appeal by many Members of Parliament and other people that the Report be read publicly. This is because we as Members of Parliament we do represent

people; and the reports are meant for the consumption of the public. In that case, I would want to yield to the suggestion of Honourable Rado Yokie that we read the Report page by page.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members that is the suggestion. Is there any objection to that suggestion? Since there is no objection, I now ask the Chairman of that Appropriation Sub-Committee to read the Report.

*The House reverts itself into Committee*

### **III. BILL: THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2013**

#### **Second Allotted Day**

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Minister, I think the attendance of MDAs was of concern. Yesterday, there were few representatives but today I wonder if there is any in the room so I am reminded to inform you that you would not be surprised if by the next adjourned date or the day when we would be attempting to pass this bill, if the MDAs themselves are not here, it will be difficult for this House to pass that bill so you yourself make sure you assist in informing MDAs to be here on the next adjourned date. None of them are here today. Proceed.

**HON. MULUKU SULAIMAN SISAY (Chairman of Appropriation Sub-Committee 3):** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report on the Review of the Recurrent and Development Estimates for the Financial Year 2012, Appropriation Sub-Committee 3, Parliament Building Tower Hill, Freetown, March 2013.

#### **1. MANDATE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in conformity with the powers conferred on this Parliament by Section 112, Subsection 2 of the National Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, and the 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 to the under mentioned Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The proposed 2013 budget estimates for the various Heads and Sub-heads under review are as follow:

## **2. VOTE HEADS AND SUB-HEADS**

<b>107 04</b>	Northern Province, Makeni.....	<b>600,000,000</b>
<b>110 17</b>	Public Sector Reform Unit.....	<b>460,000,000</b>
<b>112 00</b>	Office of the Vice President.....	<b>3, 400,000,000</b>
<b>124 00</b>	Office of the Solicitor General.....	<b>850, 000,000</b>
<b>124 01</b>	Office of the Administrator and Registrar General.....	<b>250,000,000</b>
<b>131 00</b>	Revenue Appallete.....	<b>180,000,000</b>
<b>134 00</b>	National Electoral Commission.....	<b>8,560,000,000</b>
<b>141 00</b>	Government Printing Department.....	<b>1, 300,000,000</b>
<b>211 00</b>	Immigration Department.....	<b>1,700,000,000</b>
<b>301 00</b>	Ministry of Education, Science & Technology.....	<b>27, 050,000,000</b>
<b>301 04</b>	Grants to Tertiary Institutions.....	<b>109,930,000,000</b>
<b>306 00</b>	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment....	<b>1, 680,000,000</b>
<b>309 00</b>	Dental and Medical.....	<b>180, 000,000</b>
<b>402 00</b>	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.....	<b>600,000,000</b>
<b>408 00</b>	Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure.....	<b>4,620,000,000</b>
<b>409 01</b>	Department of Cooperatives.....	<b>300, 000,000</b>
<b>412 00</b>	National Telecommunication Commission.....	<b>100, 000,000</b>

**416 00** Civil Aviation Authority.....**600, 000,000**

**Local Councils**

**Direct Budgetary Allocations**

Kambia District..... **2, 800, 496, 701**

Kono District.....**1, 978, 503, 113**

Bo City.....**3, 909, 903, 417**

Western Rural.....**3, 000, 903, 937**

### **3. MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE 3**

1. Hon. Muluku Sulaiman Sisay - **Chairman;**
2. Hon. Abu Bakarr Koroma - **Deputy Chairman;**
3. Hon. Kombor Kamara;
4. Hon. Gladys G. Gbappy-Brima;
5. Hon. Saidu Babah Kamara;
6. Hon. Alusine Kanneh;
7. Hon. Mohamed Kamara;
8. Hon. Abdul Salaam Kanu;
9. Hon. Mabinty Funna;
10. Hon. Alimamy G. Kargbo;
11. Hon. Patrick Lahai M. Kargbo;
12. Hon. Roland Foday Kargbo;
13. Hon. Alfred Brima Katta;
14. Hon. PC Brima Victor Kebbie S.;
15. Hon. Ibrahim L. Kemokai;
16. Hon. Salmay Bockarie Nomolie;
17. Hon. PC Kongomoh II Joseph Alie Kavura.;
18. Hon. Francis Amara Konuwa;
19. Hon. Ibrahim Kamara;
20. Hon. Daniel B. Koroma;
21. Hon. Sualiho Monyaba Koroma;
22. Hon. Emma J. Kowa; and
23. Hon. Frank Kposowa.

#### **4. PROCEDURE**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in carrying out this daunting exercise, open-ended questionnaires were sent to the various MDAs to determine whether the allocations for the 2012 fiscal year were judiciously utilised in accordance with the Financial Regulations. Vote Controllers were therefore requested to give a breakdown, summaries and justifications of expenditures of their actual allocations and proposed estimates for 2013 in relation to their detailed prioritised work plans.

#### **5. OBJECTIVES**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the objectives of this exercise were to inquire into:

- the policies underlying the estimate and the structure of their priority plans;
- the efficient and effective use of resources, both human and financial;
- the weaknesses, challenges or constraints of these Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs);
- the justifications for any increase/decrease in the current allocation;
- the need for any supplementary budgetary provisions; and
- the level of revenue generation and how it could be improved.

#### **6. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee adhered strictly to its constitutional mandate in executing its functions during the appropriation hearings. In doing so, the Honourable Members of this Committee observed that:

- i. relatively inadequate financial resources were allocated for training of personnel. In order to further enhance the general effectiveness and efficiency of personnel in the various MDAs under the purview of this Committee, the Committee is therefore recommending that a supplementary budget allocation be provided for such purposes as human resources development, especially at the level of junior cadre;
- ii. the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development failed to release on time the 3<sup>rd</sup>-Quarterly allocations to the various MDAs under the purview of this Committee as approved by this Honourable House. The Committee believes that such delay in the

- release of the 3rd-Quarter allocations to the various MDAs was responsible for the underperformance of some of those MDAs. The Committee therefore recommends that the Minister of Finance be summoned to Parliament to provide detailed explanations on this matter, in a bid to put remedial measures in place;
- iii. the Committee strongly recommends that all Select Committees should use their relevant Appropriation Reports and the Work Plans of the various MDAs during oversight functions to monitor the implementation of all approved and budgeted activities;
  - iv. all the Councils dealt with by this Sub-committee fell short of meeting their various revenue targets. The Committee expressed disappointment and skepticism as to whether these councils would sustain themselves when Government subvention would have been curtailed; and
  - v. the budgetary receipts of some MDAs were drastically slashed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development after Appropriation by this Honourable House.

## **7. MDAs AND ALLOCATIONS**

### **107 04 Northern Province, Makeni**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office of Makeni, the nerve centre of Government operation in the Northern Region was noted by the Committee to be grossly underfunded. In 2012, the Office made a budgetary submission of Le 2, 356, 700, 000 to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, but received only the sum of Le 151, 700, 000.

During scrutiny, the Committee observed that the entire amount received was expended on internal travelling, vehicle maintenance, fuel, running costs of the Office generator, general supplies and administrative costs etc.

For 2013, a budgetary allocation of Le 600, 000, 000 was viewed by the Committee as 'inadequate' to enhance effective performance.

The Committee recommends a supplementary budgetary allocation to keep pace with the growing demands of district offices and to promote a better provincial administration.

## ***110 17 Public Sector Reform Unit***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Public Sector Reform Unit is a Department under the Office of the President, and is one of the many innovations the country has introduced after the civil war. This Department was created to achieve a lean, effective, efficient, ethical, citizen-centred, performance and result oriented Public Service for improved service delivery to the people of Sierra Leone. To achieve this, the Committee observed that the Department provides leadership, coordination and technical backstopping in strategic designing, implementation steering, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Public Sector.

Mr Chairman, this Department works with all facets of society, including the Civil Service, Parliamentary Service, Justice Sector, Security Sector, Local Government and Devolved Services. To carry out their functions, the Unit requires enough funds.

In 2012, the Public Sector Reform Unit received a regular budget of Le 365, 500, 000 from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, which the Committee observed was far less than what this Department submitted. In fact, what this Unit received was also less than the budget ceiling of Le 574, 000, 000. This means that, the 36.3% decrease in the 2012 regular budget adversely affected such areas as trainings, monitoring and evaluation of reform initiative across the public sector programmes.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during its scrutinisation process, it was revealed to this Committee that this Department, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB) conducted a survey on the Teachers Records Management Improvement Programme, funded by the African Development Bank (ADB) that amounted to US\$ 1, 564, 931.06. This money was directly transferred to the International Records Management Trust (IRMT) for the execution of this Project.

The Committee was thrilled with the following outcome of the International Records Management Trust survey:

- ✓ that all registered schools with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology can now be located using Global Positioning System (GPS);
- ✓ the total number of schools found was 5,505 out of which 4,578 were Primary, Jss-622, SSS-129, Tec/Voc-123, and 53 were not categorised;
- ✓ 830 schools were not found on the Education list
- ✓ 41,085 teachers discovered and interviewed;
- ✓ 25,731 of teachers on payroll were verified by matching payroll PIN Code or NASSIT Number or Date of Birth; and
- ✓ 7,761 (22%) teachers on payroll were not found (probably ghost teachers).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the 2013 budgetary allocation of Le 460, 000, 000 to this Institution that is charged with such functions as producing results based on practical realities like the Teachers Record Management Survey, 2012 was considered by this Committee as 'inadequate.' This Committee therefore recommends that the Agency be considered for a supplementary budgetary allocation to enhance service delivery.

### **112 00 the Office of the Vice President**

The Vice President is the Principal Assistant to His Excellency the President in the execution of his executive duties and functions. Hence, the Office develops policies and programmes geared towards the promotion of justice and good governance. The Office strategic components and service delivery objectives include strengthening local government, enhance police administration, ensuring the implementation of the PRSP II (Agenda for Change), amongst others.

In 2012, the Vice President's Office made a budget submission of Le 3, 179, 000, 000; but only 2, 342, 714, 096 was actually allocated.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, whilst scrutinizing the budget, the Committee observed that there was delay in the allocation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters that adversely affected the smooth functioning of this Department.

The Committee also observed that a reduction of Le 836, 285, 904 from the Office of the Vice President's original budget submission in 2012 was made. This reduction affected the key programmes performance, especially the service delivery targets to some MDAs and the security sector (NAP).

In 2013, the budget submission dropped to 3.21% of the 2012 submission; but the Ministry of Finance voted Le 3, 400, 000, 000 which the Committee observed would now eliminate the financial stress encountered by the Office of the Vice President last year.

The Committee considers the budgetary allocation to be 'adequate' to run this Office.

***124 00 the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General (OARG).***

The Office of the Administrator and Registrar General was established under the General Registration of Sierra Leone Act, 1965, CAP 225 of the Laws of Sierra Leone and the Office of the Administrator General by the Administration of Estate Act, 1960 CAP 45 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. These two offices were later merged by the Estate Amendment Act of 1976 with the Administrator and Registrar General as head and Vote Controller. It operates as a corporate body under the supervision of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, and thus performs six strands of activities, namely:

- land registry;
- business registry;
- Marriage registry;
- Intellectual Property registry;
- Property Registry; and
- Estates.

In the 2012 Financial Year, Le 300, 000, 000 regular budget was received by this Office, besides the supplementary budget of Le 306, 000, 000 totaling Le 606, 000, 000. Mr

Chairman, this amount, together with the donor funds (equivalent to Le 532, 971, 364.00) were said to have been used for various activities including:

- i. the modernisation project that catered for the automation and digitalisation of the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General records and other document;
- ii. the establishment of offices in the provincial towns of Makeni, Bo and Kenema;
- iii. the rehabilitation and refurbishments of the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General in Freetown;
- iv. review of legislation governing the operations of the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General;
- v. communication/outreach campaigns;
- vi. capacity building network;
- vii. network installation for satellite connection; and
- viii. general administration and utility bills.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2013, the budget submission for the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General was Le 606, 800, 000, but the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development voted Le 250, 000, 000, this registered a huge decrease of Le 356, 800, 000. Mr Chairman, this contrast of 58.8% (as Members were informed) would affect the operations of this Office in terms of service consultancy fees, massive outreach programmes, office equipment and the modernisation process.

In further investigations, the Committee was informed that the following annual revenue was generated by the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General:

***Table 1: Revenue Generated by the OARG from 2005-2012***

YEAR	AMOUNT (LE)
<b>2005</b>	480, 087, 780.00
<b>2006</b>	418, 959, 491.00
<b>2007</b>	725, 030, 282.46
<b>2008</b>	909, 813, 629.45
<b>2009</b>	1, 410, 107, 492.00

<b>2010</b>	1, 478, 202, 836.00
<b>2011</b>	8, 838, 709, 275.00
<b>2012</b>	583, 155, 711.29

***Source: Annex to Filled Appropriation Questionnaire***

The Committee, having carefully scrutinised the potential of the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General to generate revenue observed that there was a huge dismal drop in the 2012 revenue. This the Administrator and Registrar General attributed to the following reasons:

- i. in 2008-2011, there was unrestricted rush that made the registration of companies and debentures;
- ii. the Office did not receive much registration in 2012, which appeared like a year of saturation;
- iii. that the drop in the revenue, even though was expected, must have been a little over what was reported. In this vein, the Registrar said that the mortgage files have been requested by the Auditors to properly check whether there were leakages in the collection process;
- iv. the NRA establishes a good working relationship with the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General for a transparent collection of funds generated by this Office;
- v. the Committee recommends that a supplementary budget provision be made to enable this Office carry out its proposed modernisation programmes effectively.

***131 00 Revenue Appellate***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Income Tax Board of Appellate was established by an Act of Parliament in 2005 and later amended in 2008. Its main function is to sensitize the business community with regard to tax compliance and to handle all tax complaints that arise between the Revenue Authority and the business community. This Department is supervised by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The Committee, during its scrutiny observed that:

- ❖ its regular Government budgets are supervised by the officials of the Finance Ministry as controllers of the vote; and
- ❖ since last year 2012, only one quarter, out of the four quarters allocations was received. That is, Le 57, 600, 000 out of a total of Le 160, 000, 000. This was used for the payment of equipment and field assignments in the provinces, especially Bo and Kenema.

The 2013 budgetary allocation for this Board is Le 180, 000, 000. Mr Chairman, for a prudent and effective use of State resources, the Committee recommends that:

- Parliament mandates the Committee on Finance and Economic Development to probe into the activities of this Board and present the report to Parliament; and
- the Commissioners in this Commission must be part and parcel of the budget formulation process.

### ***134 00 National Electoral Commission (NEC)***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Section 32 (1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone provides for the establishment of a neutral, impartial, independent and non-partisan organisation known as the National Electoral Commission (NEC) that is charged (in Section 33 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone) with the herculean tasks of conducting and supervising voters registration in all public elections, making regulation by statutory instrument for the registration of voters, delimitation of the country into constituencies and wards etc.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in the performance of the aforementioned functions of this Organisation, the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone made a budgetary submission of Le 92.4 Billion for the FY 2012 to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the conduct of the Parliamentary, Presidential and Local Government elections. The Committee observed that the sum of Le 34, 846, 055,

450.00 was donated to this Commission by the Nigerian Government and other Electoral Assistance Agencies as tabulated below:

***Table 2: Donor Funds Received by NEC in 2012***

<b>S/No.</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT (LE)</b>
<b>1</b>	UNDP Electoral Support	28, 170, 200, 410.00
<b>2</b>	ECOWAS Commission	2, 124, 538, 150.00
<b>3</b>	Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)	230, 629, 890.00
<b>4</b>	Nigerian Government	4, 299, 312, 000.00
<b>5</b>	Accra Principles of Electoral Justice (APEJ)	21, 375, 000.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34, 846, 055, 450.00</b>

***Source: NEC Report to Parliament, 2013***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee further observed that these donor funds were expended on the following areas:

- Bio-metric Voter Registration;
- Exhibition and Distribution of ID Cards;
- Ward Electoral Education Committees (WEECs);
- Bus Service for Polling;
- Polling logistics like hiring of vehicles, trainings and workshops to enhance the capacity of staff; and
- For administrative purposes.

The Committee therefore expresses its satisfaction on how the aforementioned donor funds were utilised by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

In 2013, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) submitted a budget of Le 40.3 Billion to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, but the Finance Ministry only

allocated the sum of Le 8.5 Billion to this Commission. The Committee noted that a deduction of Le 31.8 Billion was made by the Ministry of Finance. This is mainly because NEC has already conducted National Elections last year and so, does not need huge election expenditures.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considers the voted Le 8.5Billion as adequate for capacity building of its staff and the conduction of future by-elections.

### ***141 00 Government Printing Department***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Interpretation Act, 1971 gives legal authority to the Government Printer to print Acts. As a component of the Ministry of Information and Communications, the Department is responsible to implement Government policies that are related to printing, Stationery Supplies, Gazette Publications, Legislations and several others.

The above responsibility of this Department is in accordance with the General Orders 1565, the Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2007, the Financial Management Regulations, 2007, the Local Government Act of 2004, Statutory Instrument No. 13 of 2004.

In 2012, the Department made a budget submission of Le 1, 344, 100, 000, but only Le 1, 212, 300, 000 of regular budget was received. The reduction of Le 130, 000, 000 as explained by the management affected the purchase of office equipment, maintenance of machines and repairs etc.

In 2013, the Committee observed that the Ministry of Finance's allocation to this Department dropped to Le 1, 300, 000, 000 which would not help the Department to achieve its projected plans.

In addition, the Committee also observed that the ability of the Department to carry out its functions effectively had been undermined by such factors as the use of outdated machines and equipment, the inability of the Department to procure quality and required spare parts, the unavailability of quality materials from outstanding oversea

suppliers, lack of trained and qualified staff or personnel, lack of building maintenance and other essential systems etc.

For the period under review, the Committee observed that the Government Printing Department had not received or expended any money in the form of donor funding, but generated the sum of Le 193, 105, 500 from printing, sales of stationery and publications. This exceeded its revenue target of Le 140, 000, 000 for 2012.

Considering the strategic significance of the Government Printing Department and its potentials to generate more revenue, the Committee viewed its current budgetary allocation as grossly 'inadequate' and therefore recommends:

- that a supplementary budgetary allocation be provided to enhance the effectiveness and day-to-day operations of this Department;
- that the overall modernisation of the Department be speedily effected to give room for the of provisions of state of the earth equipment; and
- that the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Information and Communications conducts a fact finding mission on the current state of the Department for the general attention of Parliament.

## ***211 00 Immigration Department***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Immigration Department is a revenue generating Department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In 2012 Financial Year, the Department collected Le 11, 672, 150, 849 from the sales of Passports, Passport Forms, Visas, Non-citizens Registration and Naturalisation. The revenue target for 2013 is yet to be communicated. Examining the 2012 allocation, the Committee noted that a total of Le 1, 800, 000, 000 was received and expended on capital and general administration and support services.

In 2013 budgetary allocation for this Department is Le 1, 700, 000, 000, which is far below the 2012 budget submission of Le 2, 002, 000, 000. The Committee observed that such reduction in the budgetary allocation would adversely affect the operations of

the Department, relating to maintenance of buildings and vehicles, travelling and others.

The Committed further observed that:

- all Foreign Affairs Missions accounted for Le 50% of sales of passports and visas stickers for the Department;
- the current status of this Department that generate so much revenue is under resourced and poorly maintained with disaster prone characteristics. The current office building has only one door with no fire escape exit, which is very dangerous;
- issuing of work permit was detached from the Immigration Department and transferred to Labour, Employment and Social Security Ministry. The Department views this as 'controversial' as residential status is supposed to be cleared first before labour awards permit to work.
- Relocation of the Department to a bigger, secured and business friendly environment was welcomed. The Committee applauded the Government decision for the Department to share the new Foreign Affairs Complex at Tower Hill with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Internal Affairs.

In consonance with the above, the Committee recommends that:

1. a supplementary budget of Le 302, 000, 000 that was initially deducted from the 2013 budgetary submission be approved to make the Department meets its functional challenges;
2. the capacity of development plans of the Department be enhanced to attain the status of semi autonomous institution, typical of the Ghanaian model with autonomy to decide what revenue goes to the coffer and what is retained for the operation of the Office;
3. the appeal from the Chief Immigration Officer for the amendment of the 2007 Business Start-up Act be effected by the Immigration Department and supported by this Honourable House

## ***301 00 Ministry of Education, Science & Technology***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Education received the sum of Le 135 Billion that comprised of Le 84.4 Billion regular budget and 50.6Billion supplementary from the Government of Sierra Leone for the Financial Year 2012. This budgetary receipt as observed by the Committee fell short of the Ministry's initial budget submission of Le 160 Billion for the 2012 Financial Year.

Mr Chairman, examining the expenditure, the Committee realised that all allocation were expended on such areas as categorised below:

- Grants-in-Aid;
- Grants to Tertiary Education Institution;
- Non Formal Education;
- Inspectorate;
- Technical and Vocational Education;
- Primary and Secondary Education;
- General Office and Equipment and Supplies; and
- Gender Education.

Mr Chairman, the equivalence of Le 21.2 billion of donor funds received during the year under review was used for the rehabilitation of Njala University, Fourah Bay College and the Magburaka Islamic College, Technical and Vocational Development, Construction of Schools, Provision of School Furniture and Provision of Teaching and Learning Materials, Support to the Girl Child Education and Provision of Printing and Brails for the sight impaired.

The 2013 budgetary allocation to this Ministry is Le 27, 050, 000, 000 which is below the initial budgetary submission of Le 84.4 Billion. The Ministry officials during cross examination pointed out that such a huge deduction would adversely affect vital services as tabulated below:

***Table 3: Estimates for Some of the Activities Heads Affected***

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>2013 Budget Estimate (Le)</b>
<b>1</b>	Basic Education	220, 000, 000
<b>2</b>	Research and Development of Standards on National Curriculum	1, 240, 000, 000
<b>3</b>	UNESCO Desk Officer	60, 000, 000
<b>4</b>	Teaching Service Commission	750, 000, 000
<b>5</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation Unit	50, 000, 000
<b>6</b>	Girl Child Education	6, 500, 000, 000
<b>7</b>	Tertiary and Teacher Education	130, 000, 000, 000
<b>8</b>	WAEC Exams Fee	3, 000, 000, 000

***Source: Appropriation Filled Questionnaire***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, after scrutiny of the finances, the Committee further observed issues of national concerns bordering on the performance of the Ministry. The Honourable Members raised serious concerns on:

- a. the rampant and protracted strike actions of lecturers in our tertiary institutions and the slow pace with which the Ministry has handled the whole crisis;
- b. the proliferation of community schools and teachers that are yet to be placed on the Ministry's list and payroll;
- c. the actions taken on the recommendations on the Teachers Records Management Improvement Project, funded by the African Development Bank, supervised by the Public Sector Reform Unit in 2012;
- d. the pace of recruitment procedure of qualified teachers into the school system that seems very slow; and
- e. the proliferation of Private Schools in the country and lack of proper Ministerial supervision.

In relation to these, the Committee recommends that:

- the Parliamentary Committee on Education meet with the lecturers and Ministry Officials to find amicable solutions to the repeated strike actions;
- the Parliamentary Committee on Education extends its oversight function to all private schools in the country for a complete awareness raising that they must operate within the educational policy of the country; and
- a supplementary budgetary provision be provided as required after serious need assessment by the Ministry of Finance.

### ***306 00 Ministry of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment is the custodian of all state lands and agent responsible for environmental issues. This Ministry has four sections: Administration, Country Planning, Survey and Lands, and the Environment. These four sections collaborate for the purposes of effective and efficient land administration and checking of environmental degradation. The Ministry currently operates the following programmes:

1. State Land Management Project Account;
2. Imprest Account;
3. Land Registration/digitalisation Project;
4. Land Reform Policy; and
5. Freetown Development Project.

Examining the 2012 budgetary allocation, the sum of Le 3, 080, 560, 472.00 was submitted, but the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development allocated Le 3, 713, 200, 000 comprising recurrent expenditure of Le 2, 563, 200, 000 and capital expenditure for development of Le 1, 150, 000, 000. Besides the regular Government budget, the Ministry received the equivalent of Le 208, 127, 615.00 for the Freetown Development Project (FDP) and Euro 145, 866.00 from donors. When the Committee probed into the use of the above donor funds, it was informed that the following activities were carried:

- Freetown Urban Planning; and
- Sensitisation on the value of land in business and effective land administration.

The 2013 budget submission by this Ministry was Le 3, 024, 600, 000, but only Le 1, 680, 000, 000 is allocated, which as the Committee was informed would cover part of capital projects, like the Land Digital Registration Process and the Freetown Development Project (FDP).

As one of the revenue generating Ministries, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment raised revenue from land lease, land sales and survey charges, and thus recorded for the 2012 fiscal year a total income of Le 2, 812, 273, 688.00.

The Committee therefore recommends that:

- a timely and distinctive revenue target be provided by the National Revenue Authority (NRA) to this Ministry as a bench mark to measure its revenue collection; and
- the Parliamentary Committee on lands and the Environment engages the Ministry with regards to the growing demand for State land in the eastern growth pole of the city that leave no room for the establishment of public goods; and
- the issue of rampant State land encroachment be handled seriously by the Ministry officials.

### ***309 00 Medical and Dental Council***

The Medical and Dental Board is a Statutory Body established by the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC), Decree No. 12 of 1994, and subsequently incorporated into law by the Repeal and Modification Act of Parliament, 1996. This Council was given further responsibilities to promote medical and dental practices and to protect patients from bad medical and health practices.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, this Council was allocated the sum of Le 209, 000, 000, but only received Le 129, 000, 000. Its expenditure of Le 341, 791,

372.40 far outstripped its regular budget received from Government. This Committee found out that this was compensated by the Council's 'own generated revenue' as tabulated thus:

***Table 4: Own Source Revenue of the Medical and Dental Council in 2012***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (Le)</b>
<b>1</b>	Permanent Registration of Doctors	44, 000, 000
<b>2</b>	Provisional Registration of House Official	25, 000, 000
<b>3</b>	Annual Renewal of Registration of Doctors	42, 000, 000
<b>4</b>	Areas of Renewal of Registration for Doctors	37, 800, 000
<b>5</b>	Issuing of Certificates of Good Standing to Doctors	10, 320, 000
<b>6</b>	Inspection of Registration Health Care Institutions	48, 000, 000
<b>7</b>	Miscellaneous - Application Forms - Internship Booklets - SLMDA for Utility Service	4, 800, 000
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>211, 920, 000</b>

***Source: 2012 Appropriation Report to Parliament***

In 2013, the Council made a budgetary submission of Le 616, 405, 000 to the Ministry of Finance but was given a budget ceiling of Le 340, 000, 000, out of which the actual amount voted was Le 180, 000, 000. Mr Chairman, a huge reduction of Le 336, 000,

000 from what was originally submitted was found out by the Committee. This will adversely affect the following areas:

- regular monitoring of health care;
- recruitment of professional staff;
- maintenance of office building and purchasing of office equipment; and
- purchasing of additional vehicles for inspection.

Mr Chairman, after carefully examined the crucial and strategic role of the Dental and Medical Council, especially in promoting the nation's health care services, and taking into cognizance the proliferation of fake Health Units and the influx of many untrained, unqualified and false medical doctors in the country, the Committee recommends for a supplementary budgetary allocation for this Council for effective implementation of its 2013 Strategic Plan.

### ***402 00 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as one of the revenue generating Ministries in the country, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is mandated to:

- ensure increase in fish production, reduce spoilage and wastage to support nutrition and food security;
- increase employment opportunities;
- improve export that would enhance the socio-economic status of Sierra Leone; and
- promote artisanal and inland fishing for local protein production and industrial fishing for exportation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2007, the revenue from this sector was approximately Le 4.3 Billion, but with the advent of His Excellency's Agenda for Change that incorporated challenges to the fishing sector, the annual revenue collection has steadily grown as shown in the table below:

***Table 5: Revenue Generated from 2007-2012 by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT COLLECTED (LE)</b>
2007	4.3 Billion
2008	11 Billion
2009	13.7Billion
2010	14.8Billion
2011	11.9Billion
2012	12.9Billion

***Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources' Account Department***

As shown in the Table above, the revenue collection in this Ministry showed an upward trend to 2010 (Le 14.8Billion); after which it took a downward trend in 2011 and 2012. Probing the reasons for the Ministry not maintaining an increase in revenue collection after 2010, the following challenges were highlighted by the Ministry:

- a. the rampant illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in our coastal waters that deprived the Ministry of the anticipated revenue;
- b. the limited capacity of the Ministry to monitor, control and surveillance the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012 Financial Year, this Ministry received a regular budget of Le 887, 257, 336.00 and a supplementary budget of Le, 6, 750, 000, 000. Its main expenditure areas included purchasing of fishing nets and accessories, flash lights and life jackets and the payment of the numerous contracts under the Ministry, especially fish landing sites in Freetown. The Committee requested for further explanation on the use of the \$2, 492, 000 of donor fund. The Committee was told that

the donor fund was part of the support for the West African Regional Fisheries Project (World Bank) to combat the many challenges as already mentioned.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the 2013 allocation of Le 600, 000, 000, though the Committee viewed as inadequate for the many challenges facing the Ministry, but further recommends that:

- ✓ the Ministry speed up the review of the 1994 Fisheries Management and Development Act to “Fisheries and Agriculture Bill of 2012” for the attention of Parliament;
- ✓ effective mechanisms be put in place to follow up on the devolved artisanal fishing project management at council levels; and
- ✓ the Ministry strengthen the logistical constraints of the joint Maritime Committee for improve surveillance.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee also noted that this Ministry received donations from the following institutions in 2012:

***Table 6: Donations Received by the Ministry in 2012***

<b>Item/Service</b>	<b>Organisation/Country</b>
<b>Computers</b>	Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
<b>Boats for Surveillance</b>	Isle of Man
<b>Maritime Training School, Kissy Dockyard</b>	UNIDO
<b>Training of Trawlers</b>	Russia

***Source: Filled Appropriation Questionnaire***

### ***408 00 Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in His Excellency’s Agendas for Change and Prosperity, this Ministry is at the forefront of championing infrastructural development

through massive road constructions in the country. Its Strategic Plan for 2012-2014 clearly spells out some policy objectives that include:

- ❖ providing MDAs with physical infrastructure that is conducive for conducting Government business;
- ❖ providing suitable accommodation to ministers and other senior Government functionaries;
- ❖ promoting the use of labour based technology and promote affordable housing and job opportunities; and
- ❖ construction of road network through the Sierra Leone Road Transport Authority (SLRA).

In 2012, the budgetary provision to this Ministry is tabulated below:

***Table 7: 2012 Budgetary Provision Target of the Ministry of Works***

<b>Details</b>	<b>Provision (Le)</b>
<b><i>REGULAR BUDGET</i></b>	
<b>development</b>	5, 039, 900, 000
<b>SLRA/Roads</b>	153, 593, 000, 000
<b>Other expenditure</b>	3, 863, 186, 000
<b><i>SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET</i></b>	
<b>SLRA/Roads</b>	138, 549, 000, 000
<b>Other Development/Expenditure</b>	3, 863, 186, 000
<b><i>FOREIGN/DONOR FUND</i></b>	
<b>SLRA/Roads</b>	193, 111, 000, 000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>499, 134, 086, 000</b>

***Source: Filled Appropriation Questionnaire***

Scrutinising the above, the Committee noted that the allocation to SLRA road fund formed bulk of the Ministry's budget and that much money was still desired for civil

work. Since the SLRA during the Appropriation fell under different Sub-committee, the Committee recommends that the parliamentary Committee on Works follow up on the SLRA activities, especially in assessing the status of road construction and how donor and Government budgets are utilised for this purpose.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the 2013 budgetary provision of Le 4, 620, 000, 000 fell short of last year's regular allocation which would inadvertently affect civil work programmes like:

- the already stagnated construction of the perimeter fencing and the erection of security post for the Sierra Leone House of Parliament;
- the renovation of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament Chamber, including the replacement of all the Chamber seats for Members of Parliament; and
- the provision of market facilities for traders as a measure to stop street trading etc.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends for a supplementary budgetary provision to meet up the Ministry's Strategic 2013-2014 programmes.

## ***409 01 Department of Cooperatives***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Department of Cooperatives is a subsidiary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This Department was created by an Act of Parliament known as "*The Cooperatives Societies Act, 1977.*" It has the mandate to organise a viable and strong cooperative movement that can contribute to the overall development of the cooperative members and the national economy. In addition, this Department promotes, develops, supervises and coordinates the activities of all Cooperative Organisations in Sierra Leone.

Mr Chairman, taking into cognizance of the role of this Department in the development of trade and commerce, the Committee carefully examined its 2012 budgetary allocation of Le 291, 300, 000, constituting both regular and supplementary provisions

from the Government of Sierra Leone. In the process of scrutinising its expenditure, the Committee discovered that the sum of Le 261, 690, 000 was expended on two major programmes, i.e., General Administration/Support Services and Local Training of staff and Cooperative Members.

In 2013, this Department made a budgetary submission of Le 282, 800, 000, but the Ministry of Finance made a 6.08% increase to the vote head, totaling Le 300, 000, 000. This, as the Committee observed, will help the Department to engage in nationwide cooperative infrastructural rehabilitation performance.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, though the Committee views the allocation as fairly 'adequate' for the existing circumstance, this Committee recommends that:

- this Department be properly reconstructed, both in terms of personnel and logistics to manage their own budget; and
- a status report on Cooperative Institutions established and supported by Government be made available to the House Committee on Trade and Industry.

## ***416 00 The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority***

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority (SLCAA) was established by the Civil Aviation Act, 2008 to provide for an independent professional oversight of international and domestic air transport and cargo services in compliance with international agreements and obligations, relating to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority, amongst others performs the following functions:

1. regulate Civil Aviation in accordance with the obligations of Sierra Leone under applicable international agreements so as to meet the requirement standards in air transportation, cargo services and maintenance of aerodrome and related facilities;
2. advises Government on the efficient and effective development of the aviation industry;

3. promotes and develops safety regulations, air traffic control, meteorological services and combating of hazards to air navigation; and
4. registering and licensing of aircrafts and the regulation of air travel agents.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the sum of Le 526, 400, 000 was actually allocated to this Department to purchase office equipment; charges for overseas travels for conferences, training of technical and administrative staff etc. However, the Committee observed that only Le 357, 400, 000 of regular budget was received by this Department. Enquiring further as to how the Department met its needs after such a reduction of Le 169, 000, 000 of their budget, the Committee noted the following:

- that the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority was an income generating Department that raises revenue at both local and foreign from
  - (a) Licenses,
  - (b) 70% of air tickets and cargo sales charges,
  - (c) 10% of air craft landing,
  - (d) 30% of all passengers service charge,
  - (e) 20% ground handling fare (as provided by the 2008 Civil Aviation Act of Sierra Leone),
- that the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority revenue target for 2012 was Le 7, 752, 851, 260.00, but generated only Le 1, 600, 208, 381.00. This huge drop in the revenue collected as explained by the authority representative was because the Civil Aviation Department does not fully collect its own revenue as mandated by the Civil Aviation Act. It is the Sierra Leone Airport Authority that collects revenue and pays the agreed percentage due the Civil Aviation Authority; and
- the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority could not meet their target because they had no direct access of fund collection. The Sierra Leone Airports Authority collects its funds.

In 2013, the Authority made a budget submission of Le 2, 943, 223, 800.00, including proposed salary Bills. A ceiling of Le 660, 000, 000 was however given by the Finance Ministry, out of which an amount of Le 600, 000, 000 was allocated.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the oversight Committee on Transport and Aviation gives the necessary support to the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority to have access to fund collection areas as mandated by Civil Aviation Act of 2008.

## **LOCAL COUNCILS**

### **DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS**

#### **General Observations**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in examining the various Local Councils, the Committee observed that:

1. a revised decentralisation policy that allows Members of Parliament to sit on Ward Development Committees prepared by the Ministry of Local Government be tabled in the House. In the district of Kambia for instance, the Member of Parliament in the township was never invited or involved in Council activities. This the Committee noted will make the councilors personalise development that go into the various wards within constituencies;
2. the 2004-08 budgetary allocation formula developed by the Local Government Finance Department did not favour many District Councils because it hinged on the population of the Council. Many District Council populations were displaced during the 2004 Population Census and have now increased, but the allocations still remain the same. The Kono District Council and Kambia District Council currently face this scenario of inadequate allocation; and
3. in the Rural District Councils of Kono, Kambia, Waterloo rural and the Municipality of Bo, revenue targets for the 2012 financial year were never met as shown below:

***Table 8: Revenue Raised by Local Councils in 2012 FY***

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>REVENUE TARGET</b>	<b>AMOUNT RAISED/ COLLECTED</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b>KAMBIA</b>	546,540,500	15,824,250	530,716,250
<b>KONO</b>	4,523,480,090	3,240,456,250	1,283,023,840
<b>WESTERN RURAL WATERLOO</b>	1, 200, 000, 000	391,000,000	809, 000, 000
<b>BO CITY</b>	1,657,031,417.82	1,141,838,000	515,193,417

***Source: Filled Appropriation Questionnaire***

In relation to the above, the Committee members concluded that:

- own sources of revenue collected from local taxes, property rate, business license, market dues, registration of marriages, mining regulations were not meeting required targets because of inadequate sensitisation and non compliance of the public to pay taxes;
- that the controversy over the revenue collection between councils and chiefdom authorities still persists. The councils informed the Committee that even though section 58 of the Local Government Act, of 2004 states that "Revenue raised from local taxes and mining revenue other than those collected by the Government, shall be shared between the local councils and the chiefdom councils," in relation to this, the Committee noted that some chiefdoms in Kono and Kambia did not fully give account to council of other revenue raised, besides local taxes. This has seriously made the councils not to meet their financial targets. Mr Chairman, the Bo City Council must be commended for its administrative prowess during its cross examination before the Committee, particularly with regards its innovations of broadening their 'own source' revenue base to include: car washing, taxes from palm wine bars and hiring of vehicles owned by council such as the funeral van.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that:

- strengthening the Provincial Coordinating Committee that directly supervises the Local Council be brought to the attention of the Minister of Local Government. This Coordinating Committee, when enhanced, will effectively handle all controversies on taxation and revenue at Chiefdom and Provincial levels.
- that the quarterly payments of regular budgets by the Ministry of Finance be properly looked into as the delay and doubling of quarters 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> allocations made most councils dysfunctional; and caused most activities rolled to 2013. Mr Chairman, members of the Committee regarded this as a deprivation of their people from much needed devolved services.
- that the voted devolved services allocations as submitted by the councils:

***Table 9: Direct Budgetary allocations to Councils for the 2013 Financial Year***

Local Council	Education	Agriculture	Health	Rural Water	Social Welfare, Gen. and Children's Affairs	Library	Support to Ward Committees	Unconditional block Grant/1	FY2013 Direct Budgetary Allocation/2
<b>Bo City</b>	197,189,577	243,592,738	2,858,501,338	-	21,940,403	136,586,856	9,160,305	442,932,201	<b>3,909,903,417</b>
<b>Kono District</b>	181,040,148	1,070,969,101	384,534,915	50,434,542	21,530,608	-	73,284,443	196,711,355	<b>1,978,503,113</b>
<b>Kambia Dist. Council</b>	272,690,474	832,967,841	1,188,620,351	68,267,545	31,066,048	56,373,582	76,335,878	274,175,008	<b>2,800,496,701</b>
<b>Western Rural Dist. Council</b>	251,034,475	484,455,222	1,798,282,794	42,853,815	23,014,466	57,185,526	61,068,702	283,008,937	<b>3,000,903,937</b>

***Source: 2012 Government Budget, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development***

were fairly 'adequate,' but supplementary budget provisions be provided were necessary.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, at this juncture, I wish to express sincere thanks to all Members of Sub-committee 3 for their commitment during the financial scrutiny of the various MDAs assigned to this Committee. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the

following clerks: **Mr Moriba Julius Songa, Mr Musa L. A. Foullah and Mr Anthony C. Kamara** for documenting the findings.

Against this background Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and without prejudice to the generality of the observations and recommendations afore-stated, I move on behalf of the Committee that the vote Heads and Subheads as listed in this report form part of the schedule:

<b>107 04</b>	Northern Province, Makeni.....	<b>600,000,000;</b>
<b>110 17</b>	Public Sector Reform Unit.....	<b>460,000,000;</b>
<b>112 00</b>	Office of the Vice President.....	<b>3, 400,000,000;</b>
<b>124 00</b>	Office of the Solicitor General.....	<b>850, 000,000;</b>
<b>124 01</b>	Office of the Administrator and Registrar General.....	<b>250,000,000</b>
<b>131 00</b>	Revenue Appallete.....	<b>180,000,000;</b>
<b>134 00</b>	National Electoral Commission.....	<b>8,560,000,000;</b>
<b>141 00</b>	Government Printing Department.....	<b>1, 300,000,000;</b>
<b>211 00</b>	Immigration Department.....	<b>1,700,000,000;</b>
<b>301 00</b>	Ministry of Education, Science & Technology.....	<b>27, 050,000,000;</b>
<b>301 04</b>	Grants to Tertiary Institutions.....	<b>109,930,000,000;</b>
<b>306 00</b>	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment.....	<b>1, 680,000,000;</b>
<b>309 00</b>	Dental and Medical.....	<b>180, 000,000;</b>
<b>402 00</b>	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.....	<b>600,000,000;</b>
<b>408 00</b>	Ministries of Works, Housing and Infrastructure.....	<b>4,620,000,000;</b>
<b>409 01</b>	Department of Cooperatives.....	<b>300, 000,000;</b>

**412 00** National Telecommunication Commission.....**100, 000,000;**

**416 00** Civil Aviation Authority.....**600, 000,000;**

**Local Councils**

**Direct Budgetary Allocations**

Kambia District..... **2, 800, 496, 701;**

Kono District.....**1, 978, 503, 113;**

Bo City.....**3, 909, 903, 417;**

Western Rural.....**3, 000, 903, 937.**

*Presented by Hounourable Muluku Sulaiman Sisay, Chairman*

**MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development):** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the Vote Heads and Sub-Heads and the amount thereto as has just been read by the Assistant Clerk stand part of the schedule

***(Question Proposed)***

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us turn to Page 14, under the Office of the Administrator and Registrar-General. I am concerned on the table presented that revenue generated from 2005 to 2012. Mr Chairman, in 2009, the revenue generated by this Office was Le1.4 billion; 2010, Le1.478 billion; 2011, and Le8.838billion; but in 2012, the revenue dropped to Le583, 000,000. Mr Chairman, no comment was made on that decrease by the Committee. It is alarming and at least it should be commented by the Committee. And we don't know whether the Chairman or Members of the Committee can give us reason(s) why this massive drop from Le8.8 billion to Le583, 000,000. The amount is not even up to a billion.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, another comment I want to make is on the Revenue Appellate, Sub Head 131 00, Page 15. Mr Chairman, bullet point 1 reads: "*The*

*Committee during its scrutiny observed that since the establishment of the Revenue Appellate Board in 2005, it has as to date no functional office building.*" And bullet point IV of the same Page told us that they bought equipment for that Board. My concern is that, where did they take these equipment to when they have no functional office?

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 18, under the National Electoral Commission (NEC). It reads: "The Committee was concerned about the deduction of Le21.8 billion. We need to know that NEC will not be conducting general elections in 2013. And I believe the money was raised if you compare the 2012 budget to that of 2011 or 2010 you would realise that a huge increase was made for 2012 because of the just concluded 2012 elections. Because of that, I believe there is no reason why we should increase the budget for NEC.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to move the House again on Page 19, under the Government Printer. It reads Mr Chairman: *"In 2012, the Department made a budget submission of Le1.344 billion, but was given Le1.21 billion."* And when you read further, the Committee did say for the period under review that: *"The Committee observed that the Government Printing Department did not have supplies and could not undertake office and general repairs and maintenance."* I wonder what the Le1.2 billion was used for when they can't do maintenance and repairs. Why are they asking for more?

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us turn to Page 29, under the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. We need to commend the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. If you go through the table on Page 29, you would find out that the Ministry generated the sum of Le 4.3 billion in 2007; and in 2008, the sum of Le11 billion was generated. And in 2010, the sum of Le 14.8billion was raised by this Ministry. And although 2011 and 2012 was not recorded, but I believe that the increment continues. We must congratulate the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and ask that they do more.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to move you to Page 35, under the Civil Aviation Authority. Mr Chairman, I am concerned with last bullet point. It reads: "*The Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority could not meet their target because they had no direct access to fund collection.*" I don't really understand what they are saying here. They have already stated how they do get their funds. So, we want the Committee to further explain to us why is this problem?

Finally Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to look at the Local Councils. Let us look at Pages 36 and 37. With your leave Mr Chairman I read: "There was complete lack of involvement of sitting Members of Parliament in Council's activities even though the 2012 Local Government makes provision for Members of Parliament to sit on the various chiefdom developments Councils and not the District Councils." We have to get clear that there is no provision for Members of Parliament to sit in Councils. The Council has that authority to officially invite Members of Parliament to witness their sittings. We can witness their sittings, but we don't have any voting right and we cannot say anything during their meetings. We only talk through our Councilors. So, we must make it very clear to all Honourable Members.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, added to that, I want to say something about my Council, the Western Area Waterloo. According to this Report, the Council generated the sum of Le5.81billion. This is news to me and I believe we will do follow-up on that. I want to know how this money was utilised.

Finally Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this concerns the Minister of Finance. When we went through this Report and having listened carefully to the presentation made by the Chairman and even with the presentation yesterday, many supplementary budget were recommended to the various MDAs without due notification to this House as required. It is in Section 111, Subsection, 3 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. we should respect the provisions of the Constitution of this country. I thank you.

**HON. KOMBOR KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I was very fortunate to be a member of this Committee. Whatever I say here represents nothing but the truth. Mr Chairman, I want to add to what my colleague had just said. I believe as a member of this Committee, this Report would have been given to us so that we can go through it. But that did not happen at all. I cannot sit here and allow a vote to be taken on the Revenue Appellate Board. We received their documents with no allocation for 2013 Financial Year. According to their documents presented to us everything was nil. If that is the case, why are they asking for Le180, 000,000 to be approved by this House? It is very serious Mr Chairman. I told them that since they have no office and no staff, there is no need for this MDA to exist. What I said was not captured in this Report at all. We never agreed that the Revenue Appellate Board must be given this amount of money. Therefore, I would not sit here and allow the approval of this amount of money for this Board. I want to agree with the Chief Whip that this Report is inconclusive. We need to go through it again for correction. I thank you.

**HON. P. C. SHEKU A. T. FASULUKU SONSIAMA III:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Member, I want us to look at Page 37, under the Local Councils, the third bullet point. I think the '*Rural District Councils for Kono and Kambia*' should be removed. It supposed to be 'in the Rural District Councils of Kono, Kambia and Waterloo Rural; and not in the Rural District Councils of Kono, Kambia etc.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Noted Honourable Member.

**HON. P. C. SHEKU A. T. FASULUKU SONSIAMA III:** Another thing I want to bring to the attention of this Honourable House concerns Table 8, under the revenue target and revenue collected by the Kambia District Council. There is a serious mistake on that Table Mr Chairman. The Committee has to do the necessary correction. The revenue target for Kambia was Le546, 540, 500; but ended up raising Le15, 824,250, 000. That has to be corrected.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I totally agree with you something is definitely wrong with these figures

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House):** Thank you Mr Chairman. I will start with the General Observations. There are series of tables and I want to say that every table must have a title and a number.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the other comment I want to raise has already been noted by the Majority Whip, Honourable Claude Kamanda. According to this Report, we see a dramatic increase in revenue generation in 2009, 2010 and 2011. There was a huge increase in the sense that there was a huge increase in revenue collection. I even asked myself the drivers they used for this huge increase in revenue generation. If we start low revenue generation, and suddenly we increase, there must be motivation. We would love to know what these drivers were so that we can apply them to other revenue generating ministries. This is very important for us. But unfortunately, we were given no explanation why that has happened. It is important that we know this. I think the Chairman needs to check the calculations again on Page 28, the first paragraph says: "Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2013, the Council made a budgetary submission of 616,000,000 but was given a budget ceiling of 340,000,000 out of which the actual vote head was Le180 million. Mr Chairman, a huge reduction of Le36 million was made. I don't think it should be Le36 million. It should be Le160 million. This is because if you add Le160 million to 180m, you will get Le340 million. That correction should be made.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 29. We are discussing the 2013 budget. We are expecting the revenue generated for 2011 and 2012. We are now in 2013. Why are we not having figures for those two years? Let us look at Page 36, under the Devolved Functions. I want to look at the whole issue of Parliamentarians involvement in the local Councils. I think we now have the revised decentralisation policy document. I think we should be working in line with that policy document. That policy document is now saying that Members of Parliament are now Members of the Ward Development Committee. Therefore, we have the right to sit on that Ward Development Committee, despite the fact that when the decentralisation policy was revised, they are recommending now that we are no longer voting members but have

the right to sit on the Ward Development Committee. I think that is a big step. This is because when we sit on our Ward Development Committees, we would exactly know the needs of those Wards and how we can prioritise them. This would also enable us get feedbacks from our councilors. It would also enable us know which projects have been approved for the ward and how much has been approved by each agency or organisation? This would give us the opportunity of knowing what is going on in our constituencies. We have to inform our Constituents about the various developments in our constituencies. In this way, we become direct participants in our Ward Development Committee activities. We don't want a situation where in the councilors personalise the developments that are going on in those Wards. We don't want them to claim ownership of those developments. Both the councilors and Members of Parliament should work together. I think we must take this advantage and make sure that the Local Government Minister is aware of this. Let me give you one example, the Local Government Minister was having a meeting in Kenema District, and there were important issues but no Members of Parliament was involved or invited at all. We were neither informed nor invited and yet at the end of the day we take responsibility or held responsible for things that did not happen or happened in our Communities.

Therefore Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we must work together with the Minister of Local Government. We have to invite her here so that we look at the Decentralization Policy and see what modalities would be put in place so that the information will twinkle down to all the councils. We have to be invited or better still we get the minutes of a particular meeting even if we are not able to attend. But I think we must be invited. If we are not able to attend, we must be given the minutes of the Ward Development Committee meetings. We must be given our District Council reports. This is because if I sit as a member of the Ward Development Committee, then, invariably I must have the minutes of a particular meeting.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in the last Parliament, some of us were actually invited. We took part in our District Council Meetings. Any time they sat in my constituency, I would help in providing refreshment. I was very much au fait with some

of the activities in my Ward. In fact, my councilors do insist that I give the date of a particular activity. If I resist to attend, they would say: "No, you have to be there. You have to launch this programme. That was why no councilor was able to take the party symbol from me. No councilor was able to claim anything. Really Mr Chairman, we must take this very seriously. This is where we start disturbing ourselves as Members of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, somebody mentioned the Table on Page 37. According to that Table, there is a huge mistake. I think we need to revisit that figure. The members of Committee have actually spent a lot of time in preparing this Report. I think the Reports are generally good. The only thing they have to do is to make the necessary corrections that have been pointed out. I thank the Chairman and Members of this Appropriation Sub-committee 3 for putting this Report together. I thank you  
*(Applause).*

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House):** Mr Chairman, I agree with most of the observations that have been made, particularly those made by the Minority Leader, Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai. The concerns she raised are considered legitimate. And as I see it, I have the feeling that this Committee did not take their work very seriously. In the past days, I used to see the Honourable Brimah Conteh, his deputy, the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh and some other Members of their Committee hanging heads together. We were going through their Committee Report to make sure that a very good Report is presented. I don't know whether that is being done by this Appropriation Sub-committee. I would want to suggest that this particular Report be resubmitted after the various corrections have been made. For instance Mr Chairman, I would want to make reference to Page 9, under the Public Sector Reform Unit, Subhead 110.17. I am very concerned about the quality of documents that leave this Parliament. We have always said it to the hearing of many that as a Parliament...-  
*(Interruption).*

*(Suspension of S. O. 5(2), being 12.00 p.m).*

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Chairman as I was saying before that interruption that we have always said it loud and clear to people that our Parliament is made up of very educated people. Because of that, there has to be a true reflection of this. Therefore, whichever document leaves this Parliament has to be of the highest quality in terms of many things, perhaps, in terms of everything (*Applause*). I don't understand what they are saying when they said: "One of the many innovations the country has achieved." I don't know how the country can achieve an innovation. That sentence should be reconstructed. It has not been well expressed at all. Perhaps, you could say one of the innovations the country has introduced, and not the country have achieved.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Pages 11 and 12, under the Office of the Vice President, the last paragraph. It says: "The Committee considers the budgetary allocation as 'adequate' to run this Office. The Committee unanimously agreed that the last allocation delayed evidences be given to the Committee." I don't know what they are saying. I would also ask that the sentence be reconstructed.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Mr Leader, do we take it then in summary that it would be relevant to go over the document again so that we avoid going page by page?

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Mr Chairman, I think certain things have to be pointed out so that they take note of them. Let us look at Page 29 Mr Chairman. I agreed with the points made by the Minority Leader when she said that each and every table must be numbered and must have a title. With your leave Mr Chairman I read: *Lack of modern fish harbor complex effect and shipment..'* Well, that point was brought up by the Honourable Komba Koedoyoma. I don't know if they wanted to say affect. But let them also take note of that.

**HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, I rise on S.O. (33). I want the Committee to go and make the necessary corrections.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** That is true Honourable Member.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Alright Mr Chairman, accepted.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Mr Minister, the necessary corrections would be made before the next adjourned date. Would like to comment on some of the issues that have been raised?

**MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development):** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I think these are some of the difficult days because most of the comments that have been made are directly tied to this document. I share the same comments. I even have more comments to make because we had the opportunity to go through the document in detail and the proposition has already been made that the Leader of the House should have mercy on this Report. I don't want to go along that line. But I would want to look at the issue of the Appellate Board. That Department has offices. We give them money to run those offices. What this Report did mention is that the Chairman of that Department is seriously sick and his ailment is causing a lot of problems. It is affecting the functioning of the organisation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to say something on the issue of the Printing Department. New equipment have been installed and arrangement is being made with a Ghanaian Company. That Company won the bid which means that a Public/Private partnership is going to run the Printing Department because of the new equipment.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Have you signed that document already Mr Minister?

**MR MOMODU KARGBO:** Yes. The contract has been signed and the arrangements have been finalised.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** So, we presume that document has to be brought to Parliament.

**MR MOMODU KARGBO:** Oh yes Mr Chairman. I believe so Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** We have to see the document Sir. Please proceed.

**MR MOMODU KARGBO:** I want to talk about the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Certainly Mr Chairman, we cannot continue to give NEC more money when we are not conducting General Elections. We only give them money for the conduct of Bye-elections and Paramount Chiefs Elections. I think NEC should manage whatever is given to them until we have a bigger activity.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 14, under the Local Councils. Again, the issue has already been raised. According to the Report, we saw a trend of rise and fall in revenue mobilisation. But I don't want to continue with that issue since this Report is going to be looked at for the second time. I want to tell this Committee that I will be personally available to give the Committee some information. I am knowledgeable in lot of the issues raised. I am willing to sit with any Committee and share some of their ideas. I don't want to be seen criticizing a Report in the Well of Parliament. On that note Mr Chairman, I want to move that pending the corrections that are slated to be done, the Vote Heads and Sub-Heads and the amount thereto that had been read by the Clerk of Parliament and debated in this House stand part of the schedule. Thank you.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*The various Heads and Sub-heads form part of the schedule.*

*The House resumes.*

**ADJOURNMENTS**

*(The House rose at 12.05 p.m. and was adjourned until Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, at  
10.00 a.m.)*