

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

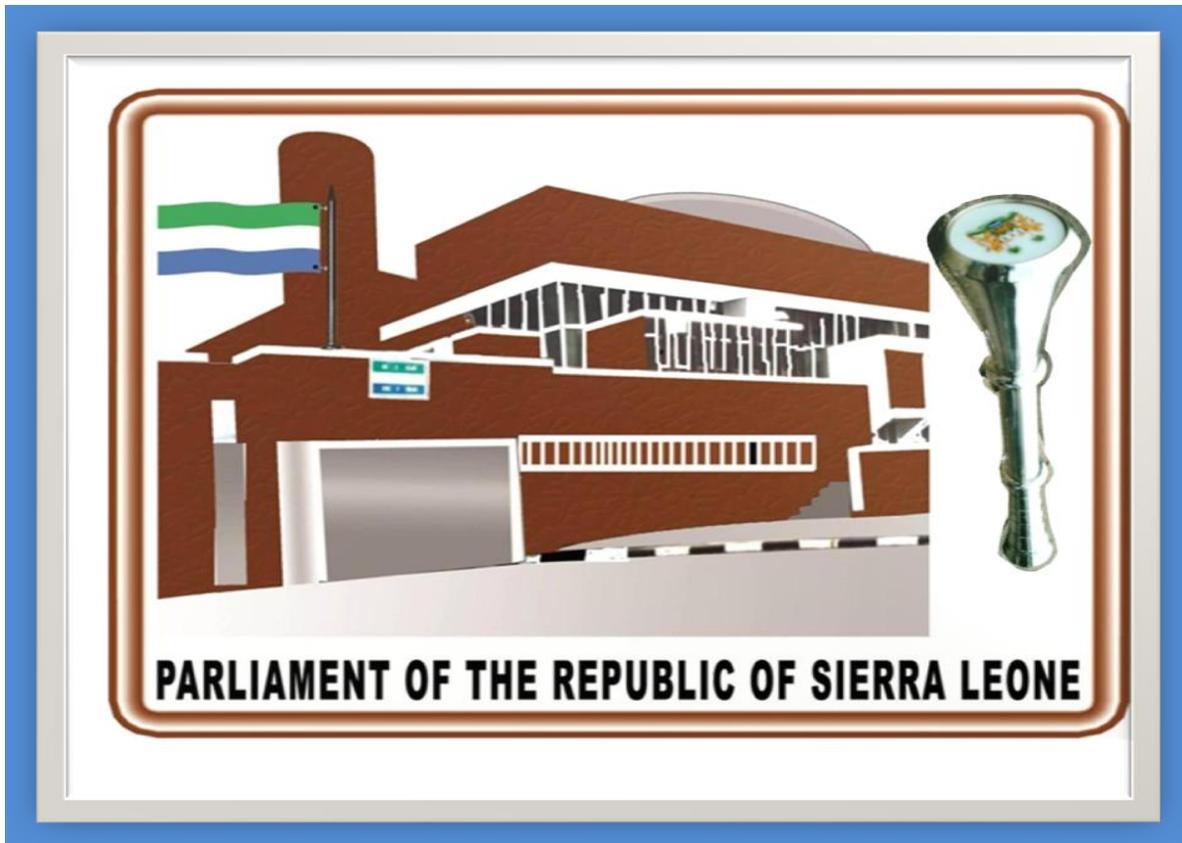
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION-SECOND MEETING

FRIDAY, 23RD MAY, 2014

SESSION – 2013/2014



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Friday, 23rd May, 2014.

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ON THE PRESENT SITUATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND THE SIERRA LEONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (SLFA)



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 23rd May, 2014.

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 Speaker, Hon. Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

SUSPENSION OF S. O. 5(2)

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable members, we contacted the Minister this morning, but we were told that there was an accident along the route he used to take to come to Parliament. However, measures have been taken for him to use another route to be here in the next ten minutes. Therefore, I want to crave the indulgence of Members of Parliament to be patient.

THE SPEAKER: Regrettably, Honourable Members, the record of Votes and Proceedings cannot be presented today, because of certain technical difficulties encountered by the administration in having the record ready for this morning. Nevertheless, I want to promise that by the next sitting, we will have the two sets of Votes and Proceedings.

II. PAPER LAID

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE
POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT, RELATING TO THE 128MW FREETOWN GENERATION
PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, DATED 14TH MAY, 2014.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and in my capacity as the Leader of this Honourable House and Leader of Government Business, I beg to lay on the Table of the House 'the Power Purchase Agreement, relating to the 128MW Freetown Generation Project in the Republic of Sierra Leone, dated 14th May, 2014 (*Applause*).

IV. PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

THE MINISTER OF SPORTS
ON THE PRESENT SITUATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND THE SIERRA
LEONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (SLFA)

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, you are in Parliament and when talking to Members of Parliament, you please stand up.

MR PAUL KAMARA (*Minister of Sports*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I want to apologise for my ignorance. I am not familiar with the procedures of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I think this is his first time, apart from his appearance in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service.

MR PAUL KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here this morning to brief you on the recent state of sports in Sierra Leone, viz-a-vis the relationship between the Sierra Leone Football Association and the Ministry of Sports. Mr Speaker, before I was appointed as Minister of Sports by the President, I... - (*Interruption*).

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, point of order.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, in that case, when you are speaking and a Member of Parliament stands up, you have to sit down.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, I think it behooves the Minister of Sports to preface his briefing because he came late. I think it proper to first of all apologise to Members of Parliament and to tell them the reason why he came late (*Applause*).

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, on the directive of the Leader of this House, would you like to explain to Members of Parliament why you had to come late?

MR PAUL KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to apologise for being late due to an accident along Kissy Road. In fact, those who travelled to town this morning would have observed that Fourah Bay Road is barricaded, because of the construction that is going on in that road. So, I had to use the mountain route for me to be here. I once again apologise to this House for coming late.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you cannot understand the present situation between the Ministry of Sports and the Sierra Leone Football Association if I fail to give you brief background to the problem. This is because even though Parliament did not tell me the issue, either because of the allegations I made about match fixing against

the Sierra Leone Football Association, or the present intrigue surrounding our relationship with the Sierra Leone Football Association.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I was appointed as the Minister of Sports, I think my contribution to sports in this country was more than any other person in this country. During the National Provincial Ruling Council (NPRC) regime in this country, even though I was the major critic of the NPRC regime and played a big role to bring them down, yet, I was able to support the NPRC in terms of sporting activities in this country. I brought a Coach from Sweden by the name of Roger Pamgrem to this country and he helped this country to win the Zone Two competitions. We qualified successfully for the African Nations Cup and we won the first under 20 Competition in Benin.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, eight of the players, including the captain, Mohamed Kamara, came from my own team. This is a clear manifestation of my zeal to transform football in this country. I created a leeway for Sierra Leone footballers to find a paradise out of Sierra Leone. The first batch of players I took from this country to Sweden was seven and the second batch was fourteen. Later, I took the most famous player from this country, Mohamed Kallon to Sweden and from there he went to Inter-Milan Academy. He became the first Sierra Leonean player to be put in a renowned international academy like Inter Milan and up to today, the route that players pass through from Sierra Leone to Europe is Sweden. I created the Sweden Hills Wellington People Cooperation, under the NPRC. So, 98% of the players in this country are still benefiting from my initiative.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, also, I have been a team Manager of our national team, Leone Stars. I had to resign when I realised that it was difficult for me at a particular point to transform the mentality of those who occupied the top positions in Sierra Leone Football Association. I stood against the ills that permeated football politics in this country. In fact, I was incarcerated for six months because of my vehement opposition against those in top positions. Mr Speaker, by the time I was released from

incarceration, my property were confiscated. So, everything that I owned was taken from me because I stood up for the truth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, FIFA laws and the Constitution state that 'matters dealing with sports should not go to courts.' Ironically, I was dragged to court and interned. I lost all my property and nobody said a single word. That is why I am grateful to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for giving me the opportunity to come and reform our sports industry. As the saying goes, 'he, who feels it, knows it.' So, when His Excellency appointed me as the Minister of Sports, I realised that this was going to be a huge challenge for me. The Sierra Leone Football Association was a disgrace for eleven years under the erstwhile government and the first five years of this present government. We never crossed the first stage of any competition in football. We always lose major matches and those who were managing the affairs of sporting activities in this country were happy. They were happy because they were getting a lot of money from FIFA. The issue of patriotism is not in their dictionary. They do not want to see the progress and improvement of sports in this country. Mr Speaker, patriotism has given way to selfishness and greed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have said, football has been a disgrace in this country for eleven years. We never made any positive impact until the present President, in his wisdom, decided not to subsume any sporting activity under any Ministry, as it used to happen in the past. So, we created a separate ministry for Youth Affairs. In spite of the ugly state that has existed before, our hoteliers cannot host our team, because the Hotelier Association of this country was not in good terms with our national team. Also, there was huge debt owed by our national team. Mr Speaker, this is the third year when the Ministry of Sports was created, but because of the discipline the Ministry is trying to instill, that is why I am unlikable. In fact, there are disciplinary measures against the captain of the team if he/she misbehaves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have ensured increment of allowances for our players by four-fold. We have made sure that the situation that existed when players

had to leave the camp is under control. In fact, the Vice President used to go and plead with the players to come back to the camp. As a Ministry, we laid that to rest and Sierra Leone has moved from 176 positions in FIFA ranking to 51. We came 10th in Africa; and FIFA acknowledged the fact that we are the fastest movers in football in the whole world. Mr Speaker, for the past two years, even though we have not been able to play any friendly match because of our financial problems, we are still 71 in the World, out of 208 countries in FIFA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have also made sure that no country defeated us in our home matches, because we wanted to begin to give hope to the people of this country, especially the youth. Honourable Members, if we do the right thing in this country, I want to assure this House that all is not lost. We are a glorious nation, because we were once the Athens of West Africa and we can regain that status if we work hard. We can regain that status because we have the responsibility to the youth of this country, under the vision of the President to overturn the ugly dogma of, S. O. 2 *'wusay dEn tay kawo na de fɔ it.'* Mr Speaker, Bailor Barrie and Davidson Nicol, which of them exhibited bad heart and pulling down syndrome in this nation. When President Kabba was in governance (may his soul rest in peace), he used to say: *"Salon man get bad hat."* If only we love ourselves, we could not have been in this situation. Sierra Leoneans are known for 'dirty-bad heart.' In England and America, if you go to an institution where you have a job and you call a Sierra Leonean to be with you, he would be the first person to destroy you. That is why the President decided to surmise it to 'Attitudinal Change.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for us in the Ministry of Sports, we want to ensure that in as much as we are moving ahead with the 'Agenda for Prosperity,' we should not forget the 'Agenda for Attitudinal Change.' This is because that is the root of our problems and that is why we are divided in this country. In fact, we have tribalised and sectionalised everything in this country. We only talk on the surface, but we hate ourselves as Sierra Leoneans. For us in the Ministry of Sports, we need to confront the

problems, so that people begin to realise the attitudinal problems we have in this country. That is why, in our first engagement with the erstwhile Sierra Leone Football Association, we said that we must work together as a nation. In other words, we must effectively collaborate with each other.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the problem we have with the Sierra Leone Football Association is that, they are asking the government to give them money. They are also saying that the government should not interfere in the affairs of sports. Mr Speaker, how can government translate its policy into action when we have people who do not love this country? These are people who are only interested to put money into their pockets. They are involved in match fixing in order to derail the development of this nation. What will be the position of government if it decides not to handle these people? That is why we said that under this government, we must change our attitude. Therefore, we must make sure that we do all that is possible to revitalise our sports industry in this country. The majority of the people of this country love sports and if you want to destroy a government, you can easily do so through sports. We are determined to elevate the spirit of this nation through sports. So, as a Ministry, we are going to provide the money, but we should supervise the utilisation of the money. If we want to develop as a nation, we must come together in the spirit of unity to develop football. We cannot give you the money and you tell us not to collaborate and provide supervision. I have decided not to leave this in the hands of unpatriotic people. I told them that we have to work together. They threatened to call on FIFA and I told them to do so.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when FIFA came, I knew that this was a collision course and we cannot continue to have people under this government and continue to have powers under the National Sports Council Act of 1965. The President of this country, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma is the President of the National Sports Council and I am the Chairman. I am responsible for the day-to-day work of the President in the National Sports Council. If the National Sports Council says the President of this country must

control, manage and supervise all sporting activities, why should an association formed by the national sports council say no? They owe allegiance to outsiders because they want to embezzle money. In fact, it was this Parliament that promulgated the National Sports Council Act of 1965 and not the Minister of Sports. Therefore, is SLFA above Parliament that made this law? They must be subjected to the laws of Parliament and we are there to put into effect the laws of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, FIFA came and followed the road map that we initiated. In fact, when the President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan decided to interfere into the Nigerian Football Association, FIFA threatened to suspend Nigeria and he had to back off. However, we told FIFA that this is the path we are going in order to develop this country. Looking at our recent bloody past, we must be disciplined in this country and we must be hard in some areas. Thankfully, Mr Speaker, when FIFA came, they supported our aspirations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the '7, 7' dates are very significant for the All Peoples Congress Party. In 1967, 1987, 1997, 2007 and the 17 November, the All Peoples Congress emerged winner in all those elections. It is the vision of the President that I have to translate and that is why it becomes a spiritual venture for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when FIFA came, they dismantled the entire edifice of football in this country. They dismantled the Sierra Leone Football Association, the Western Area Football Association and all provincial districts associations were dismantled. For me, I see it as a spiritual fight between good and evil. So, this new SLFA was given the mandate by FIFA to hold elections nationwide. This was due to confrontations between the Ministry and those who wanted FIFA to come in. Therefore, FIFA decided that the way forward was to dismantle all football associations and to hold fresh elections. Since this present SLFA came to power, they have refused to adhere to the mandate of FIFA. What they did was to bring on board all the same old people that were fighting the Ministry. And Mr Speaker, there are some people in that Council who do not understand the work of the Sierra Leone Football Association. It is rather

unfortunate for the SLFA to sack Mr Swaray. Mr Swaray is a seasoned football scribe and he has grown over the years. They have brought in Chris Kamara, a man that does not know anything about sports in this country. This was the same person who was on Radio Kalleone and other media houses fighting the Minister of Sports. He has been telling me that I am a crazy man. Chris Kamara has said all sorts of things against the Minister of Sports. How can you do that, when this new SLFA has been mandated by FIFA to conduct elections in the country? That started the whole process again, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the government of Sierra Leone spent almost one billion Leones for the Swaziland game. It is the government that takes control of the finances of the national teams and when we had the debacle with the erstwhile SLFA, FIFA came here and said, he who pays the piper calls the tune. That was why we were able to bring in Coach Oloph Maxine. Mr Maxine was able to take the country from 176 to 51 and 10th position in Africa. This shows that the government policy in sports is working in the right direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after Oloph Maxine, we brought Mr Johnny Makinston on board. It is the government that pays all Coaches. Government cannot pay Coaches and leave their appointment in the hands of other people to bring whosoever they want. Some of these officials in the Sport Council are guilty of match fixing and other form of irregularities. I have more than substantive proofs to show that there are irregularities in the sport industry of this country. We brought Oloph Maxine and the present Coach for the under 20 tournament. We hired him with tax payers' moneys. Now, we have made these strides in football and no country has defeated us since the President decided to establish the Ministry of Sports. Mr Speaker, we are about to enter into other competitions. Honourable members, without the Ministry of Sports, this present SLAFA would not have been in power. As a Minister, I stake my job, especially when the majority of stakeholders in the football industry were against the present SLAFA President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those who know me can testify that I am committed to reforming the sports industry in this country. I wanted to free this country from selfish people and that was why I supported the election of Madam Isha. The Ministry of Sports did it to show that things are moving in the right direction and she became the most unique woman in this country. The President of this country has appointed many women in top positions, like the Chief Justice, the Solicitor-General, the Administrator-General and the National Revenue Authority (NRA), but this woman is the only woman who heads a football association in the entire world of 208 countries. She is the only woman and because of that she is currently in international football association, like CAF, FIFA, world Women's Federation and in all the international football bodies. This means Sierra Leone is properly positioned because the world has a passion for women. Therefore, a lot of goodies will come to this country and we have already started realising that. FIFA is going to construct an artificial top at the National Stadium, costing almost one million dollars. They are going to construct a mini stadium at the Approved School ground. Mr Speaker, They are also going to rehabilitate the SLAFA Head Quarters at Kingtom, which will cost 500,000 United States Dollars.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the reasons why I was interned for six months was because I said that the football academy that was constructed at Kingtom did not cost 1.6 million dollars. If you go to Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia and other countries that spent just 600,000 dollars to build their academies, you would realise that they worth the amount. We are beginning to see the advantages we have, because it is only Sierra Leone that has somebody that is in all the committees of international football. Mr Speaker, we thought it wise that this was the right time to push the President's 'Agenda for Prosperity.' We were prepared to qualify for the African Nations Cup and the World Cup. Mr Speaker, it is because of the imbroglio and brouhaha that existed in football that made us not to qualify for the Africa Nations Cup on previous occasions. Honourable Members, it will interest you to know that, four minutes to the end of the match, probably because of match fixing, Tunisia equalised with us. This also happened when they allowed the same person, who scored against us when it was four

minutes to the end of the match, from the same position, to score against us a minute to the end of the match. It was a painful spectacle.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were thinking that this was going to be the take-off stage, as we now have an SLFA that we can rely on, in spite of bringing on board the same people. As a government and as a Ministry, it is our responsibility to unite all the football units in the country, so that they could come and work together. But to my disappointment, they started fighting the government again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for over two years, I have not been in any of the radio stations. They have forced me again to go to the radio and explain certain issues to the public. Mr Speaker, when we started the under 20 Competition, we worked together with the SLAFA. We made sure that we fed the players every day and we even took them to the beach. We also ensured military training for our players because we know that our players lacked the necessary stamina. We were able to eliminate Guinea and Guinea is one of the best under 20 teams in Africa. The last time we defeated Guinea was in 1978. This was the first time we eliminated them from the tournament. Mr Speaker, this defeat made the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Sports in Guinea to sack the Coaches. They composed a special song for Sierra Leone. So we had this second match against Ghana, we decided to work just as we did in the case of Guinea. The coach selected his team and we have the technical people from the SLFA. But it is the Ministry that has the technical team, since we provide all the Coaches for the various sporting activities in the country. Therefore, they sat together and mapped out strategies. This happened with Guinea and the same process happened with Ghana. We agreed that the winning team that played against Guinea must be the team to play against Ghana. We went to Bo for the first match and we were defeated. We were defeated because our national team was changed entirely. So, I decided to take action against the Coaches. I did this because we have initially agreed on the team that should play the match against Ghana.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the question is, why should SLFA failed to respect the government? If we have agreed on something together, we should continue with it and forget about personal gains. This division shattered the hopes and aspirations of Sierra Leoneans. I decided to take the bold step in terms of laying off the Coach because we employed him. We took that decision in the best interest of this country. I also said that we were going to investigate the Coach for match fixing, because I suspected that something must have happened along the line. Why should they change the team that was supposed to have played the match? They were very defiant and they even said that the government did not have the power to do so. I told them that I have enough evidence against the Coach for match fixing. In fact, the President of the Sierra Leone Football Association also gave me some of the evidences. However, they later allowed the Coach to go to Ghana to play this weekend.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the team wanted to go to Swaziland, the head of the delegation was another SLFA official. We have never had any problem for the past two years. We have been working with the SLFA Normalisation Committee. We had no problem with Mr Alie Fornah and others because we have been working together. We were not there to witness the match and I have never bothered to ask them on how the money was expended. It is only when it comes to the national team that I interfere, because it is our responsibility to ensure that this country wins laurels. We have to work cohesively with the Sierra Leone Football Association in order to bring glory to this country. So, when they told us that the head of their delegation should be Morrison Sannoh, we said: "Madam President, you know very well that you gave me documents about this same man, why are you telling us that this same man should head the delegation?" In other words, the President of SLFA told me that this man is being recorded for fixing matches. Mr Speaker, even when we withdrew the ticket from the gentle man, SLFA bought a ticket for him. He went to Ghana, but could not get a visa to go to Swaziland. Mr Speaker, the Sierra Leone Football Association has been involved in match fixing for many years now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will just look at one document. and I will show you the others. This is a joint statement made by two players under oath and this was done by the present President of the Sierra Leone Football Association. She gave me this document. With your permission, Mr Speaker, what I am about to read to you is a joint statement by Lansana Jalloh, aka Vandersa and Amara Kamara, aka Whitex at the Babatel Hotel, Freetown. It was recorded by Mr Mohamed Konneh at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, 14th September, 2012. Both stated that the football players were playing for the East End Lions and Central Parade Football Club respectively. The entire team consisted of 18 players and 5 officials. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I read: *"We left Freetown to Nigeria with the delegation on the 8th September, 2008. We arrived in Nigeria and transit in Dubai, with 15 players and all the officials. The three players left in Nigeria because the players' names were not on the list that the Sierra Leone Football Association sent to Malaysia. Therefore, they did not have ticket. We continued the journey to Malaysia, which was our final destination. We were lodged in a hotel in Malaysia called Pleurae at 8:00 p.m. local time. We were immediately informed by the Malaysian FA Officials that we were to play the same night we arrived. We were so tired and we have eaten a lot and did not have the energy to play. We did not have any time to rest or to acclimatise, and we were rushed to the field. The game ended 4-2 in favour of the Malaysians. In the field of play, we were leading the Malaysia team by 2 goals, when we got instruction from the bench, through the second Coach to our captain, Salifu Kamara who instructed us on how to fix the match.*

Salifu told us that the instruction came from Mr Abubakar Kabba, aka Sweet Kay. He went further to tell us that the game should end in 4-2 defeat in favour of Malaysia. I, Lansana Jalloh, who was the goalkeeper, I was instructed to let in four goals, which I refused. Eventually, I conceded 1 goal and I was still putting up resistance. So, I ended up been replaced by the second goalkeeper, Mohamed Kanu, commonly called Fish Ball. He was given the instruction to let in 3 goals, which he eventually did. The game eventually ended 4-2 in favour of the Malaysian under-20. As we went back to the

hotel, we were conveyed to a meeting by Abubakar Kabba, in the presence of Mr Wilson Rajj."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will tell you who this Wilson Rajj is. He is the most notorious match fixer in the world. Mr Morison Sannoh, a guy I stopped from going to Swaziland and the second Coach, Mr Alimamy Turay, a man I also stopped, were in that meeting. *"In that meeting, Wilson Rajj told us that we were not here for football, but for business. We should obey the way the matches should end. We are going to play and that can make us rich and be able to take care of our families. Similar sentiments was expressed by the team manager Mr Morison Sannoh and who is presently in the Sierra Leone Football Executive and the Assistant Coach took time to tell us how we can be rich in no time. We took oath with each player drinking a bottle of water, mixed with salt as a symbol of agreement. In the oath taking, all of us, who swore the secret oath, must not come out, and if anybody dares to disobey, he would go mad. After the meeting, each player was given one thousand dollars, but Mr Kabba deducted 200 dollars from each player, as a commission on the part he played. Lansana Jalloh was given 500 dollars because he refused to follow instruction on letting the goals in. We were all threatened to obey or our moneys will be deducted if otherwise."*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I have just read to you is one of the evidences on the match with Malaysia. On the match with Syria, which was an international friendly match, organised by the SLFA, the same Coach, Alimamy K Fornah was the head Coach. This is the very reason why I told SLFA that this man should be dropped from the delegation, but they refused. Mr Speaker, you have J.S. Kelfala, Morison Sannoh and the team doctors on the list of alleged match fixing. This is what they said: *"We travelled from Freetown to Ghana and passed through Dubai to Syria, which was our final destination. The next morning, we were summoned to a meeting by Wilson Rajj in the presence of all the team officials, except James Fofanah and Mr. J.S. Kelfala. There were new players in this team that had no knowledge about our previous match against Malaysia. We were instructed not to take the game seriously, as it was going to*

be a fixed match. They promised us that at the end of the match, each player would be compensated. Rajj told us that they should win by 4 goals, but in case we concede an early goal, he would give us fresh instruction. When we went out to play the game, we conceded 2 early goals and then Rajj told Mr Morison Sannoh to tell the Coach that he should instruct us to concede 4 more goals, which we eventually did.

However, while we were two goals down, I called for substitution and then the second goalkeeper came in and some other players who had prior knowledge to the deal in Malaysia. The match ended 6-0 in favour of Syria, which was the target for Mr Wilson Rajj. After the match, there was confusion among the players and some officials, because Wilson Rajj delayed with the cash, the team had to leave without the money, but Wilson Rajj eventually caught up with us at the Dubai Airport and the sum of 1,500 dollars was given to each player.”

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now take you further to the involvement of Wilson Rajj in Sierra Leone football. If you search for Wilson Rajj Peroma on the internet, you will be shocked to know that we have people in the SLFA who are ready to betray their country for their pockets. However, everybody thinks that it was the controversial Togo versus Bahrain match that gave Wilson Rajj very nice game. The Singaporean who is on the run had allegedly brought a fake Togo team to play the national team in September, 2010. Others believe that it was his involvement in the Zimbabwe versus Malaysia game last year where he allegedly took a club to Malaysia and passed them off as the national team.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, while this is coming to light, Wilson Rajj, may have started the ball rolling earlier in 2008. His first falling into big time match fixing allegedly involved in Sierra Leone under-20 team. They have stepped forward after the News Papers broke series of stories on his alleged match fixing. Worst still, these sources stated that Wilson Rajj is broke and heavily in debt. One of the sources explained that Wilson Rajj was released from jail in 2006 and he was broke. He needed to make his money quickly, but nobody would care if it had been an unknown team like

Sierra Leone coming from an unknown part of the world. Malaysia beat Sierra Leone 4-0 in Malaysia in the Madeca Tournament in October, 2008. Yet, somebody took notice of that. During the 2008 Madeca Tournament, a source within the football association in Malaysia told the newspaper that he was suspicious of the Singaporean, whose name was not registered under the company that organised the match between Sierra Leone and Malaysia, but he acted as though he was the boss. That was the first time they heard the name Wilson Rajj Peroma. In fact, to learn more about Wilson Rajj, officers from the government security guards, HA Detective, followed his every move. Unfortunately, they could not pin him with any incriminating evidence. We had to be extra careful when we learnt that he had a history of match fixing in Singapore. Wilson Rajj, who is on the run for failing to appear in court for his appeal hearing against his sentence of 5 years corrective training for injuring an auxiliary police officer, had been jailed 3 times for match fixing in Singapore.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following year after his release, Wilson Rajj organised more matches in Malaysia. He had brought Zimbabwe to play Malaysia two friendly matches in July, 2009. Following the matches, the Malay maid first raised the alarm about the Zimbabwe team, which lost 4-0 and 1-0 to Malaysia. The source said that the team was a fake one. The Zimbabwean players said that he had with a Premier League team called Monomatopa United. Wilson Rajj has been implicated along with suspended Zimbabwean football association, C.E.O Henrietta Luswaya for allegedly fixing the Zimbabwe versus Malaysia matches. When we were told that this is a national team, it was said that since the start of this year, no African team has been invited to play in Malaysia. We still welcome all the foreign teams to play in Malaysia and we have to be very careful with African teams.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the investigation now involves the Togolese officials, who were responsible for match fixing. Mr Antuan Folly, former Togo Sports Minister was arrested in the Togo Bahrain match, but denied knowing Wilson Rajj. So, this is another evidence, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will continue to present more evidences of match fixing by the Sierra Leone Football Association. We have played several matches, but SLFA was involved in match fixing in Syria, Malaysia, Jordan, Angola and Benin. To cut a long story short, I will crave the indulgence of the Speaker, to invite the former Secretary-General of the Sierra Leone Football Association, Mr Alimu Bah. Mr Alimu Bah is now before the Supreme Court, because when this scandal of match fixing came up from the then Anti-Corruption Commissioner, he was asked to report on the matter and he gave the full detail to the Anti-Corruption Commission about these match fixings. Instead of being jailed for what he did, he was brought before the court by the Anti-Corruption Commission and accused of corruption on match fixing. Now, he is before the Supreme Court, fighting to exonerate himself. He can give more explanations on this, because he was the Secretary-General, the citadel of power in the SLFA. I believe that he is ready to testify before you that the range of match fixing is eminent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the present problems with the SLFA is because they condone match fixing and they know about match fixing. They are also promoting people who are involved in match fixing, so that we can continue to lose matches and lose our reputation as a nation. Mr Speaker, if anybody behaves in this manner, he is capable of selling this country. The government and I intervened in order to maintain our position as a nation. We are well determined to fight those who want to mortgage this country for what we call in our local parlance, 'koko Eb&h.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are more evidences of match fixing, which I will put before this Honourable House. I want to tell Members of Parliament that we can still provide further material that they would need to substantiate these allegations. With the permission of the Speaker, I want to quote what a high profiled Minister of Sports in Britain once said. He said: *"However, we are not against government, nor do we encourage our member associations to work in the position of their government."* On the contrary, we constantly tried to establish a good atmosphere and cooperation with the government. The government has a very important role to play, in terms of

contributing to the development of football in this country. If there is a good relationship between the government and the national football association, there will be a productive and healthy relationship. We find it very difficult to work with the Sierra Leone Football Association because they have betrayed their country. They are not ready to protect the reputation of their country. The government cannot continue to spend money without reaping the benefit for which we are spending these moneys. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I want to stop at this point and to thank you very much for giving me the chance to make this presentation. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, all of us have heard what the Minister of Sports has said.

HON. HELLEN KUYEMBEH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it appears to me that there is some serious problem between the Ministry of Sports and the Sierra Leone Football Association. The magnitude of that problem is very intense based on the Minister's explanation. In the first place, I want this noble House to also hear from the other side of the story. And I believe the Speaker will agree with me that there is a saying in Latin, which translates: "*hear the other side.*" We want to hear what the Sierra Leone Football Association will have to say, relating to what the Minister has presented to us. In doing so, we will be able to decipher what has gone wrong. In addition to that, I did listen to the radio when the Minister was on the air, explaining to the public about this issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to advise here that as public servants, we have to be careful of what we say in public. We need to guide our words or the things we say in public, particularly when they relate to the country at large. You can correct me, Mr Minister, but you said that you played a very important role for the election of the current President of the Sierra Leone Football Association. If you say, S. O. 2, Mr Speaker, "*wi put am de,*" basically suggests that you did everything possible to ensure that you achieve your aims. You might have flouted rules or electoral procedures to achieve your dreams. In fact, your nobility or honourability is questionable, as far as

what you have explained is concerned. And it goes a long way to make the people of this nation ask a lot of questions. The people will say this is what is happening in government. So, I want to say here that I am not happy with your statement. You have given the people the chance to start questioning what is happening in government and how things are done. Mr Speaker, such statements should not be coming from a Minister, a public figure for that matter. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to respectfully ask all those intending to contribute to please resume their seats. The two leaders of the House have told me that Honourable Helen Kuyembeh has raised a very important point. We have to listen to the other side of this story. That is what she has suggested and that is the basic rule in law. So, now that the Minister has made his own submission, perhaps, it would be prudent and fair to hear what the other side would have to say before we judge. In that case, the discussion would end here. We will continue this discussion in Committee Room 1. The change in venue is because only Ministers come to this Chamber. Honourable Members, after we've heard from the other side, we may decide to come back to the Well to hear what Members would have to say.

But Mr Minister, as you've heard from Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, perhaps you should be well equipped to respond to her. She has said that it would appear as if she has taken exception to certain things that have happened, particularly with regards to your own utterances. We will not debate that issue here, since not everybody is allowed to make a statement in this Well. I am sure an agreement has been reached between the Majority and Minority Leaders of this House. Honourable Members, at this point, I would want to thank the Minister of Sports, Mr Paul Kamara, a former student of Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya for finding time to come here.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Honourable Members, this is just to remind you about the pre-legislative hearing on the Correctional Service Act, 2014 that will take place on Monday, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1. Please endeavor to attend. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, that Bill is very important. We now have the Prison Service, I think there is going to be a big change and it is Members of Parliament that have the final say on that Bill. So, make sure you go through the Bill and be prepared for the pre-legislative briefing.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.38 a.m. and was adjourned until Tuesday, 27th May, 2014, at 10.00 a.m.)