

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

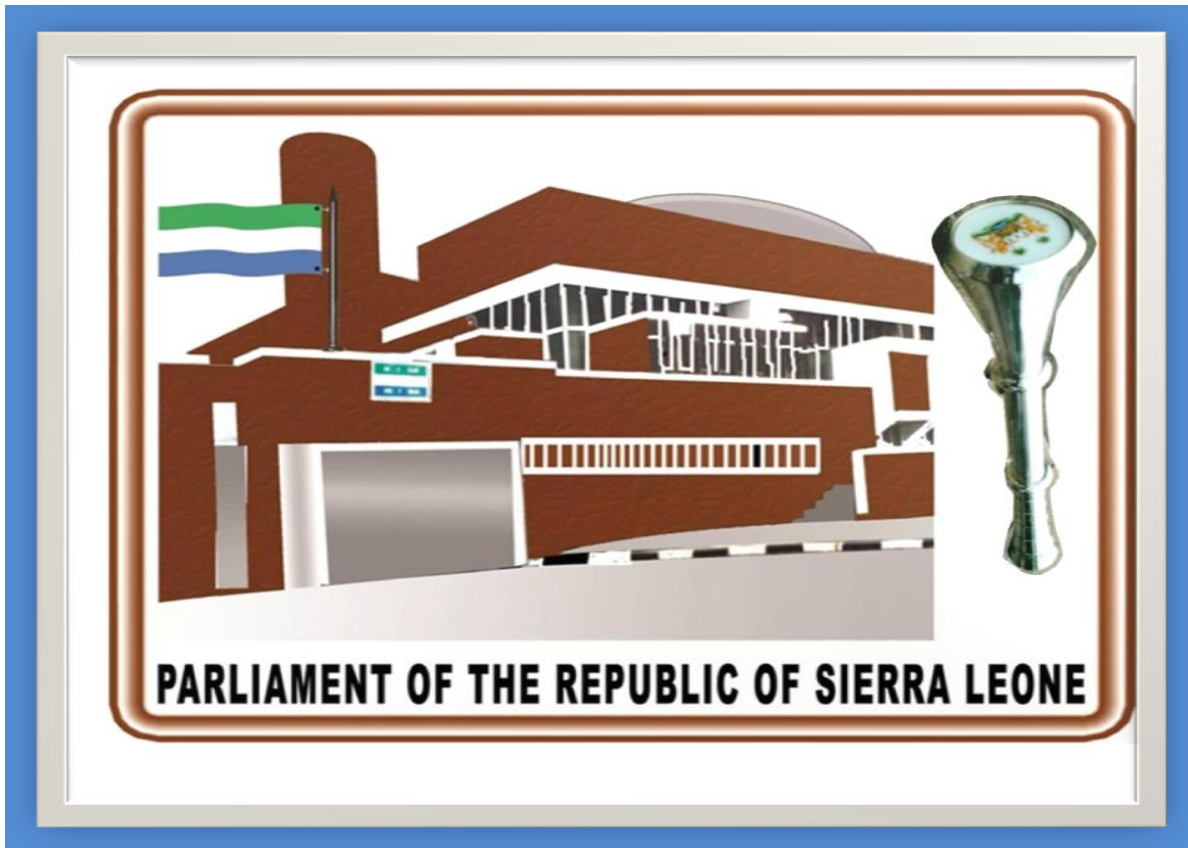
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION - THIRD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 2015

SESSION – 2014/2015



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Wednesday, 25th March, 2015.

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CHAIRMAN, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP OVERSIGHT VISITS TO LOCAL COUNCILS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 25th March, 2015.

The House met at 10:20 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, and 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)

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2015.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 20th March, 2015. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I want to refer the House to the first sentence on Page 5. I believe it was not all the items that were laid on the Table of the House. Therefore, the first sentence should read 'some of the medical items were laid on the Table of the House.'

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, don't you think it is correct as it is?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, it would be better that way.

THE SPEAKER: I hope your observation has been taken into consideration. I would even suggest that we delete item 'a.'

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Also, Mr Speaker, where the Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service is referred as Deputy Chairman should read 'Acting Chairman of the Committee.'

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are perfectly correct. Page 6? Page 7? Page 8?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I want to talk about the announcement made on Page 7 concerning the Committee on Political and Public Affairs on Tuesday, 24th and Wednesday, 25th March, 2015. Mr Speaker, when the Chairman got up to reemphasize the importance of these meetings, he did state the same dates on Hon. Jusufu B. Mansaray's report. The dates are different with what was actually announced.

THE SPEAKER: Therefore, Honourable Members, for the purposes of consistency, please have that corrected.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I want to refer the House to the last paragraph on Page 7. Instead of using the colloquial word, the report talks about... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Which one, Honourable Member?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I am referring to the penultimate sentence on the use of the word 'case.' I think that word should be replaced with the word 'matter' for the sake of consistency.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you referring to the first or second sentence on Page 7?

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, I am referring to the penultimate sentence on Page 7.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please have that corrected. I am glad that this is happening. Honourable Members, when I was talking about the deletion of item 'a' that has to do with evidence, there is usually controversy on the use of the word 'evidence.' Grammatically, Honourable Members, the word 'evidence' is an uncountable noun. It is not followed by an article at all. The moment it follows by an article, you will begin to count it; and when something is uncountable, you cannot count it. Page 7? Page 8?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, I want to refer the House to the last item under the rubric 'Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah requested the Clerk.'

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what is your point?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, my point is that the report should have been circulated to all Members before matters arising thereof.

THE SPEAKER: Normally, Honourable Member, we don't have matters arising. Page 8? Page 9? There being no further amendments, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Friday, 20th March, 2015?

HON. ALIE KALOKO: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. AMADU FOFANAH: I so second, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 20th March, 2015 has been adopted as amended).

III. PAPER LAID:

HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA

CHAIRMAN, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following paper:

REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP OVERSIGHT VISITS TO LOCAL COUNCILS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

THE SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker and Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, we did agree at the last sitting that whenever such reports are to be debated, key officials of the MDAs should be present in Parliament. Mr Clerk, do we have representative from any of the MDAs? I will therefore not allow this particular item to be transacted.

HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY (*Clerk of Parliament*): Mr Speaker, I discussed the issue yesterday with the respective Chairmen.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, did you inform the respective MDAs?

HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY: Mr Speaker, the outcome of the meeting I had with the Chairmen of the respective Committees was that they promised to contact the respective MDAs. Regrettably, they were unable to get most of them.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, the onus of getting the MDAs to witness the hearing is your responsibility. It is not the responsibility of any Committee Chairperson.

HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, considering the ruling

just made by Mr Speaker, I want to crave your indulgence to give notice of items to be discussed next week. We are going to ensure that we have these two motions discussed next week. Also, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service conducted some hearings and those reports would be presented next week. Please make sure you read those reports carefully.

HON. FODAY RADO YORKIE: Mr Speaker, during our last meeting, we agreed that the Clerk of the House present to us a break down of the two million Dollars grant for capacity building for Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Before that Honourable Members, I want to commend every one that is here for your sense of responsibility. I know these are difficult times and all things being equal, the expectation is that we should have closed for Easter vacation this week, but because of our tight schedules, we might have to go for vacation the following week. Mr Clerk, you did say that you would give an explanation to Members of Parliament with regards to the question posed by Honourable Bashiru Silikie. However, issues like this should not be discussed in the Chamber.

HON. FODAY RADO YORKIE: Mr Speaker, if that is the practice, I would rather ask the Clerk to put everything on paper and circulate the information to all Members of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, what do you have to say?

HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY: Mr Speaker, the information is already available; and if it is the wish of the Honourable Speaker as he has already said, it is a matter for the Parliamentary Service Commission and indeed it is a matter that concerns Parliament as a whole. I think we can do that now because the information is available.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I think the document should be circulated to Members of Parliament for them to look at the information contained therein; and whatever issues or concerns that Members may want to raise, we shall discuss them in Room 1, instead of the Chamber. Mr Speaker, though Members of the public are entitled to know certain things, but nowhere in the world the public participate on

issues of the Parliamentary Service Commission. However, Members of Parliament are entitled to such information.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, your suggestion is quite in place, but for the confidentiality of such document, I hope where Members of Parliament happen to be in possession of such document, it would be prudent for it to be strictly confidential. However, there is certainly nothing to hide as Members of Parliament.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would recalled when we were looking at the Votes and Proceedings, an issue came up on Page 8, when Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah requested that these documents should be ready as against this sitting today. I am sure the documents should have been posted in our pigeon holes. This is my humble request that before the end of the day, we should have these documents. I am sure the Clerk's office has prepared the necessary documentations and they should be posted to our pigeon holes. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 10.45 a.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 31st March, 2015, at 10.00 a.m.)