



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**

*SESSION – 2015/2016*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

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**VOLUME: IV**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

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PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

### **V. BILL**

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THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ACT, 2016

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

HONOURABLE MOHAMED L. MANSARAY

SECOND READING, COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

HONOURABLE MOHAMED L. MANSARAY



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

**Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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**FOURTH SESSION – SECOND MEETING  
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.**

**I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mrs Bintu Weston, Read the Prayers].*

*[The House met at 10:14 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

*[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, I would like to amend the Order Paper as follows: Item V, under Private Member Bill, I want to crave the indulgence of Honourable Members to ask that we defer the discussion of that Bill pending an upcoming pre-legislative hearing, which was scheduled to have taken place on Friday, but did not. In that regard, I ask that we delete that item from the Order Paper. On item IV on the Order Paper also, Mr Speaker, the Secunder of that motion, Honourable Leonard Fofanah be replaced with Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, that is a suggestion from the Leader of the House. I take it that there is no objection. Mr Clerk, please take note that Item V on the Order Paper has been accordingly deleted and item IV amended.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. As usual, we go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? There being no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 as presented?

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 has been adopted as presented.]*

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the absence of a minister, it has always been the procedure that the Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business lays the Paper on his/her behalf; but unfortunately, I did not receive any information about their absence. Therefore, it is very difficult for me to perform that function this morning.

**THE SPEAKER:** Really out of courtesy, there should be communication to the leadership of the House. Parliament should not be taken for granted.

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

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the Order Paper, the Secunder of this motion should be Honourable Leonard Fofanah, but is out on an official engagement. I therefore ask that the Honourable Deputy Speaker, steps in on his behalf to second the motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please take note of that.

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations.

#### ***1. Introduction***

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, cognizant of its constitutional obligations, met on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 and interviewed six Presidential nominees for appointments as follows:

- i. Chairman, National Civil Registration Authority
- ii. Chairman, Drug Law Enforcement Agency
- iii. Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-graduate Colleges of Health Specialist
- iv. Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region
- v. Member, Political Party Registration Commission.

vi. Member, Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit (MCCU)

**2. Procedure**

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Pertinent questions put to the nominees were related to their educational backgrounds, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

**3. Fourteenth Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

**i. Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali, Proposed Chairman, National Civil Registration Authority**

Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali is a retired career Diplomat who joined the Sierra Leone Civil Service in 1976 as Assistant Secretary and was posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he rose through the ranks in the diplomatic missions and later served as Permanent Secretary in a number of Ministries. In 2006 he was promoted Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In 2008, He was appointed Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2008-2014). He returned home in 2014 and was appointed Director- General and Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Giving his opinion on the newly established National Civil Registration Authority, Ambassador Bangali said, "I consider it an honour and privilege for His Excellency, the President, to nominate me as Chairman of the Authority. Civil Registration" he said, "is not a one-off assignment. It is an on-going, permanent, compulsory and universal assignment to collect data on everyone resident in this country, be you a citizen or a non-citizen. The essence is to capture information about the population living in the country. My take on it is that, it is a very serious assignment that has no room for

errors. It should be very transparent and accurate because the data collected will serve several purposes. So I consider it a very important assignment.”

Ambassador Bangali assured the Committee that modalities were being put in place to ensure that the Authority register everybody in the country including the sick and the disabled. “We are going to ensure that, as an Authority, nobody is left unregistered due to sickness and ill health because we are going to access every area of the country. We have identified 3,300 centres and, we are going to recruit 9,900 local personnel for training, who know the areas of work and could speak the local language,” he said.

***ii. Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo, Proposed Chairman National Drug Law Enforcement Agency***

Rtd AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo is a veteran police officer of high standing. He joined the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) in 1973 and rose through the ranks to the position of Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) before his retirement in 2014

In his response to probing questions on the status of the drug situation in the country, Rtd AIG Sorie Kargbo deposed that the drug situation in the country was becoming terrible because the rate of addiction was on the increase and heinous crimes were being committed. “If I obtain the approval of this Honourable House, I will endeavour, to the best of my ability, to enforce the drugs laws so that we minimize drug abuse and crimes in the country.”

***iii. Rev. Dr Philip B. S. Sesay, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Council of Post-graduate College of Health Specialties***

Rev. Dr Philip B. S. Sesay is an outstanding Evangelist of the Wesleyan Church. He is a lecturer at the Evangelical College of Theology and has spent all his working life in preaching, teaching and training disciples and evangelists.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries, Rev. Dr Philip Sesay promised to work to the best of his ability to help achieve the goals for which the Council of Post-graduate college of Health Specialties was established.

*iv. Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, Proposed Electoral Commission, Eastern Region.*

Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia has served the National Electoral Commission in various positions for 26 years [1990-2016] including Acting as Chief Electoral Commissioner. He was recently on secondment to the United Nations as Senior Mission Planning Officer in the Electoral Assistance Division [EAD] of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

Responding to Committee's enquiries on his preparedness for the next election Mr. Mattia said, "with regards to my preparedness for the next election, you are all aware that important strategic goals have been achieved, the boundaries have been reviewed. The national electoral list in conjunction with the National Civil Registration Authority is poised to actualize the voter registration. I think these are key fundamental building blocks to election preparations. There are concerns about the huge election bill for 2018 but I want to believe that they will be met. Government has always partnered with the international donors to provide the requisite funding. At the personal level, I want to modestly assure Honourable Members that elections have always been my work. I am just returning from conducting elections for the United Nations in the Central African Republic. I will continue to commit my knowledge, skills, experience and I will endeavour to do my best to live up to expectations."

Giving a professional view on the clustering of elections, Mr Mattia said, "I agree with your concerns that conducting so many elections on a single day poses significant challenges to the electorate and also the electoral management body. The good thing however is that we have done it before in this country. We did it based on strategic financial approach and prudence. There was a time when we believed that conducting the elections separately would cause significant funding requirements on government and that was how the concept of clustering these elections came about. A lot of legal exercises have since been done to ensure that the life of Parliament and the Presidency run concurrently and their elections are conducted at the same time. When we started

Local Council Elections we took the same approach to make the conduct of the elections cost effective," he said.

***v. DR Babatunde Pratt, Proposed Member, Political Party Registration Commission (PPRC)***

Dr Babatunde Pratt is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone and an Associate in the Law firm of Jenkins-Johnston & co. For the past Seven years, he has been the Duty Counsel for L.A.W.Y.E.R.S, representing women and children in gender and sexual violence cases for the Western Area and the Eastern Province.

Reacting to the Committee's enquiries, Dr Babatunde Pratt said, "I know that the PPRC has been very effective in controlling and monitoring the activities of political parties but there are rooms for improvement and if I obtain the blessing of approval from Parliament, I hope to make a positive mark in the monitoring and controlling of political parties."

Questioned on the funding of political parties Dr Pratt said, "the PPRC does not fund political parties, but it regulates and controls the way monies are being poured into the political parties."

***vi. Mr Alphonse Willy Mabila Ngana [aka Willy Ngana], Proposed Member, Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit [MCCU]***

Mr Alphonse Willy Ngana is the current Managing Director of the Sierra Leone Brewery 2012 to date. Mr Ngana has previously served in the following capacities:

2009-2012, Heineken, Finance Director, Rwanda;

2007-2009, Heineken Western Europe, Region- Business Controller Manager; and

2002-2007, Heineken Group Internal Audits- Regional Audit Manager, Africa& Middle East etc. etc.

Responding to probing questions on what value he will add to the Unit to help Sierra Leone qualify for the Sustainable Development Goals, Mr. Alphonse Ngana said, "the Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit was established to enhance transparency and good governance. It was established to ensure that the energy, water supply and

electricity sectors are upgraded to qualify for the Compact. My work with the unit is to advise and help build the various sectors to ensure that we qualify for the Compact.”

#### ***4. Recommendations***

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and they are recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali, Chairman, National Civil Registration Authority;
- ii. Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo, Chairman, Drug Law Enforcement Agency;
- iii. Rev. Dr Philip B. S. Sesay, Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-graduate Colleges of Health Specialities;
- iv. Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region;
- v. Dr Babatunde Pratt, Member, Political Party Registration Commission; and
- vi. Mr Alphonso Willy Mabilia Ngana, Member, Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit (MCCU).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Thirteenth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Thirteenth Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu, Chairman

#### *[Question Proposed]*

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it has become a tradition of this House that the seconder of a motion always opens the debate. I want to report here that the Leader lost his uncle this morning and he is supposed to be heading for Gbinti shortly. I am sure all of us know the ‘People’s Honourable. He is reported dead. He is a friend of everybody in this House. We pray that his soul rests in perfect peace. I was informed that he would be buried today at Gbinti at 4:00 p.m.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the motion before us for approval. I think the Minority Leader has been looking around to see whether there is a

woman amongst the nominees. Lamentably, there is no woman amongst the nominees, but there was a time when we approved nominees in this House who were all women. That day was a day for the women. Conversely, though today seems to be a day for the men *[Applause]*. If you look around, you will see very important personalities in this Well. The Secretary to the Vice President [Dr Sandy] is here with us and other personalities. This shows that the nominees before are not only important, but credible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be using the word individuals instead of citizens because we have a brother who heads the Sierra Leone Brewery. I am sure he is from the Congo; an African like all of us here. That is why I have decided to deliberately use the word 'individual,' instead of 'fine Sierra Leoneans.' For the Sierra Leoneans, they are definitely fine Sierra Leoneans. The Minority Leader was telling me few days ago that people are still asking for Ambassador Bangali in Ethiopia. I am sure she went further to say that they were asking for him because of the good work he did whilst he was as an Ambassador, representing Sierra Leone, both in the African Union and the Federation of Ethiopia *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said earlier, I will not spend much of your time. I will confirm that these are fine gentlemen who have acquired knowledge and experiences over the years. Mr Speaker, Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region, taught me in school. I am one of his good products *[Applause]*. If people are praising me for being a good man and a Deputy Speaker at the same time, I think I was taught by a very good Sierra Leonean in the person of Mr Mattia. He is very honest, sincere, reliable and credible. Honourable Members, if you go to the United Nations today and talk about credible election officers in the world, his name will be mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Bangali will be going to the National Civil Registration Authority. The presence of the Minister of Internal Affairs is apt and that is a testament to confirm that they will be working together. The Minister is seated close to Madam Miata French.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage this Honourable House to speedily ratify these nominees because I believe that they are responsible individuals who will excel in their various duties. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**HON. PC. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, as usual the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has done a good job. As usual, also, the President is nominating people of excellence to help manage the affairs of this nation. I want to thank the leadership of this House and the government for presenting these people before us this morning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at this report, you will find out that a lot of people will be working together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. His Excellency Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali is the proposed Chairman of the National Civil Registration Authority, which was passed in this Parliament during the last session; Mr Sorie Brima Kargbo is also the proposed Chairman for the National Drug Enforcement Agency; Mr Steven Aiah Mattia is also proposed member, National Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. I am sure the oversight Committee on Internal Affairs will be happy to work together with these gentlemen who have been nominated by the President of this nation. I am sure from what we are hearing from the Leader of the House and the Deputy Speaker, this motion will be approved unanimously. Ambassador Bangali is somebody who is known internationally. He has represented this country in the in the African Union. He has been part of the transformation from the Organisation of African Union [OAU] to the African Union [AU]. He knows international standards and he knows what is expected of him. In fact, he knows what is expected of this nation and I think that was why the President nominated him to serve in this sensitive position. We have to congratulate the good work of Ambassador Andrew G Bangali. This indicates that those who work relentlessly are always considered when it comes to serve this government. I want to thank Ambassador Bangali for this wonderful work he has done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo, proposed Chairman, Drug Law Enforcement Agency. He is already a law enforcement Officer and his nomination to the Drug and Law Enforcement Agency will help to curtail certain problems that have existed in the Drug Law Enforcement Agency - the writing of papers, polemics and articles. As Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, I want to assure you that government will do everything possible to give you the support you need. This is because you will be working together with the police force. I know you are part of the system in terms of bringing security to this nation. Therefore, we want to thank you for the service you've rendered in this country. You have worked in Kono, Kailahun, Bo, Kenema and other places within the country. You know this country very well and also the issues in the Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. He is somebody who is highly respected, humble, honoured and a non-assuming person. I want to appeal to him for the right thing to be done. We have to forget about regionalism, tribalism and sectionalism in this country. Your contribution will help to make Sierra Leone a safe haven for other people. There are many people who would want to contribute to this motion, particularly members of the Committee on Health and Sanitation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if this House approves the nomination of these nominees, I want to congratulate all of them in advance. My brother from Brewery has demonstrated patriotism by accepting to come and serve this nation. I want to thank the President for looking at the good job that he is doing to bring in stability into the country. Please work hard for the welfare of this nation. I want to thank the Speaker and this Honourable House for assisting the Minister of Internal Affairs, who is trying to ensure law and order in the country. I want you to work with the Law Enforcement Agency for the peace and stability of this country. I thank you sir *[Applause]*.

**HON. PATRICK L. M. KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not surprised at the decision taken by the Speaker because it has been a practice to give respect to senior colleagues and that has been manifested here this morning. Mr Speaker, I will not

belabour this House to give detail narratives of somebody I have known for the past years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo, proposed Chairman, Drug Law Enforcement Agency. Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo was my boss in the days of the Sierra Leone Police Force, while I was working there as a police officer. He is a good gentleman who was aware of his responsibilities. He executed those duties excellently and I think this is the reason why he has been nominated to serve in a very important office in this country. I want to remind him that Sierra Leoneans would like to see a better change taking place in that institution. I believe the length of service in the Sierra Leone Police Force will give him additionally knowledge to perform his new responsibilities if this Honourable House approves of his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the tasks ahead of Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo are going to be challenging, but I am sure he is going to measure up to bring prowess to the institution he is going to serve. As a Parliament, we are also all aware of the problems created by drug users in this country. Drug abuse has become a problem in this country and some of us are not happy all with what is happening, especially with our youth. We are also aware of what is happening at graveyards. Our youth have taken the issue of gangsterism. Majority of our youth are drug addicts in this country. Therefore, we are going to face a very stiff challenge in trying to minimise the use of drugs in this society. Day-in day-out we talk about our future leaders in Sierra Leone, but how can our future leaders be drug addicts. Mr Speaker, if we are not able to control them this time around, then some of us will be afraid of the future of Sierra Leone. How will this country be in the next ten to fifteen years. In this regard, I want the nominee to note that he is going to an office that requires strict discipline to change the society for the better. The people of this country are looking forward to what you can offer for the peace of this nation. The people are going to look at you with eagle eyes in terms of how you are going to execute your responsibilities; and how you are going to bring measures to control drug abuse in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with the wealth of Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo's experience from the Sierra Leone Police, I know you are going to perform exceptionally well. The Honourable Paramount Chief testified to this House that Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo had worked in all corners of this country. I know that you are aware of the way people behave in Kambia District, which was your last station. You also worked in Kono District and now in Freetown. I want to remind you that the behaviour of group 'A' in Kenema District is the same as group 'B' in Freetown. The behaviours of our youth in this country are new to you. You have to work hard in order to surmount those challenges. You have to work hard in order to ensure that the characters of our youth are shaped for the better, so that those who will be fortunate to go outside to serve this country, as we are doing today, will be in a better position to do so with respect and humility. We want a situation wherein our youth represent this country well in any international forum. The flag of Sierra Leone should be flown higher so that laurels are brought to this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that Sierra Leone is in agony because our youth are not behaving the way we expect them to behave. The issue of drugs has overcome the youth of this country and that's a serious concern for the people of this country. Therefore, as a former Police Officer, I would want you to work with those that you will be meeting in that institution. You have to work as a team, so that the laurels you will leave behind will be admired by all and sundry. The people of this country should be able to take note of your hard work by performing exceptionally well. They should be able to say that indeed we have got somebody with the required knowledge and experience to instil discipline in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo that we are very concerned and some of us will be visiting him in order to get first-hand information on his activities. This is very important and he is going to that institution as an Ambassador of this nation. I also want to remind him that the Sierra Leone Police Force, as an institution, will be looking forward to seeing his performance. This is because they will want to know what somebody from the background of the Sierra

Leone Police Force is doing. The position Retired AIG Sorie Brima Kargbo has been nominated to serve is a very important position and whatever he does there will reflect on Sierra Leone Police. In other words, if you fail to discharge your duties effectively and diligently, some of us will not be happy with you at all. Therefore, I want to appeal to you to be very conscious of what you do and you have to be serious with whatever responsibility you are discharging. Please, we want you to go there and make things better for the people of this country. We want to have a better society and better youth who shall take responsibilities after we have retired

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this Honourable House to approve the nominees before us this morning. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**HON. SWAHILO M. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice to the approval of the nominees before us this morning. I know that all the nominees before us are eminent Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali, proposed Chairman, National Civil Registration Authority. Ambassador Andrew G. Bangali is an eminent Sierra Leonean. I just want to point out something he did whilst in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for this country. He ensured the construction of the Sierra Leone Embassy in Addis Ababa. I am just from Addis Ababa and I went to the newly constructed Embassy. I was very impressed with what he did there for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. During the time we were approving the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission [NEC], I said that the regional offices for the Commission do not represent the Commission. If you go to Bo, Kenema and Makeni districts, you will find out that the offices in those districts are just two bed room rented apartment houses. Therefore, if this House approves your nomination, I want you to ensure that enough office spaces are constructed for all other regions. This is because the Nation Electoral Commission is a very big institution in this country. These rented apartments do not, in any way, represent what NEC is in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move briefly to Dr Babatunde Pratt, proposed Member, Political Party Registration Commission [PPRC]. I want to state here that the Commission you are about to go to is not only limited to the registration of political parties in this country. If you look at the Act that established the PPRC, you will see that the Commission is also responsible to regulate the activities of all political parties in this country. Therefore, I want to admonish Dr Babatunde Pratt that when this House shall have approved his nomination, he has to work hard and pays attention to issues affecting the smooth operations of political parties in this country. This is one of the countries in Africa that the government does not subvent opposition parties. I think this is one of the issues Dr Babatunde Pratt has to critically look into. We want a situation wherein opposition parties function effectively.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alphonso Willy Mabilia Ngana is going to the Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit [MCCU] if approved by this House. I am very much concerned about MCCU because I Chair the Committee on Water Resources and part of the work of MCCU in this country. Please, if this House approves of your nomination, go there as a Board Member and pay attention to every activity that deals with the water sector. With those few words, I want this Honourable House to speedily ratify the nominees before us *[Applause]*.

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI** *[Minority Leader of the House]*: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again this morning to approve the nominations of four eminent gentlemen to various positions in this country. At this stage, having listened to my colleagues who have spoken before me and having also been on the panel that interviewed these nominees, I think the report before us speaks for itself on the professional attributes that these gentlemen have acquired over the years. Therefore, I would really not belabour the point but to say that all the nominees are well placed. They have all got the requisite experiences. They have shown very good professional attitudes that were responsible for their nominations to various positions. If this House approves their nominations, they would be taken to those positions they have nominated for to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want these nominees to continue doing their best, so that they make a positive difference in the various areas they shall be going to serve. The National Civil Registration Authority is very important in this country and we want everybody living within Sierra Leone to be registered. It is not an easy task because we have to contend also with other issues [ecological factors] that will impede the movement of the staff that will undertake this exercise. The exercise is about data collection and availability. I am sure most of the questions asked will be brought before the Commission whilst planning for the national registration exercise. This country is not an island because we are compared with what is happening in other countries. That is why we have the millennium challenge in this country. We are no longer going to sit and content with what we are doing internally. We need to have a reference point against what is being done in other countries. Mr Speaker, what is more important with the Millennium Challenge is the benefits we are getting. We have huge financial benefits that we can use to further deepen our development strides in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Alphonso Willy Mabilia Ngana, proposed Member, Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit (MCCU). For couple of years, Mr Alphonso Willy Mabilia Ngana has successfully led Brewery. It will interest this Honourable House to know that Brewery is one of the most acclaimed businesses in the world and is bringing that experience into the Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit. We hope that any time we are assessed, we'll move from where we are to where we want to be as a country. I want to wish all of them good luck and to also inform them that this is a friendly House. They should always feel free to come to us instead of waiting to be called upon. In other words, they should not wait until they are called upon to come and tell us what they have been doing in those offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy for the appointment of Mr Stephen Aiah Mattia, proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. This is because for quite some time now we have not had a Commissioner in the Eastern Region. I don't think that is good for the democracy of Sierra Leone. Every region must have the requisite personnel and some of us were very concerned. We have even aired those concerns

severally. We are happy for the appointment of Mr Mattia as the Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. He was there before, but his nomination for the second time is a welcome gesture after a year of intense international work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I asked him what he would do based on his international experience; he did say that he would focus on communication because it is very important. He said that the way we communicate information, to whom and how we want that communication to be taken is very important. According to him, 'everything is about information and people are only as strong based on the information they receive. People can only change their behaviours based on the information they get.' He said he would make sure that he strengthens the information base within the region. He also promised to strengthen the voter education aspect within the region, so that everybody is at the same level and people will be able to exercise their franchise in a way that is expected of them. He said that will help our people to do the right thing. He told the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that he would bring new innovations and also work with the generality of the Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we hope to see a well-executed, free, fair and credible elections in 2018, so that at the end of the day, we all accept the outcome of the elections and move forward as a nation. I am saying this because we have seen situations where countries have been in disputes because of the outcome of their elections. The outcomes of those elections in most countries have resulted in violence, ethnic clashes, destruction, etc. Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon and Kenya are all examples. As we speak, those countries are still grappling with their post-election problems. We don't want that to happen again in Sierra Leone. We hope that you will bring all the experiences to our electoral systems. The forthcoming elections are very critical; and therefore, we hope that at the end of the day, nobody in this country will deny the result. However, that has to be based on how the election monitoring bodies comport themselves and the confidence they are going to give Sierra Leoneans in what they do and how they do it is very important. We hope that the good things you have learnt are going to put into action. We want a situation wherein whoever wins, is

declared the winner and we move on with our lives. Life is not all about elections, but life also entails development. With those few words, I wish all of you good luck in your new endeavours. God bless us all. I thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU** *[Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minority Leader of this House for having said what I intended to say. I am going to limit myself to few observations. Before that Mr Speaker, I want to draw your attention to what a colleague Honourable Member observed about Mr Ngana. My colleague was expressing his appreciations for what Mr Ngana has done at the Brewery. Mr Ngana, through his corporate responsibility, has done a lot of good things for the people of Wellington. I want to state here that as Members of Parliament, we are also customers in our various constituencies *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am particularly happy this morning to see the Minister of Internal Affairs witnessing this proceeding. His presence here this morning shows how interested he is in his Ministry. One of the fundamental challenges the Minister of Internal Affairs is facing in that Ministry is lawlessness. However, he has demonstrated to the people of this country that leadership is all about commitment. When the Minister was nominated for parliamentary approval, we advised him to take care of lawlessness in this country. We told him that if he was able to defeat the Ebola epidemic in the midst of numerous challenges, we knew he would minimise lawlessness in this country. If you were able to defeat Ebola, you have no excuse to tell us that you cannot defeat lawlessness. You have started very well and I know that you are going to continue doing the right thing. Mr Minister I want to shower these praises on you for having done extremely well in this country *[Applause across the Floor]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with reference to the drug law enforcement, this Honourable House passed the National Drug Control Act in 2008. Honestly, if we endeavour to read the provisions in that Act and implement those provisions, I think lawlessness will become a thing of the past; especially with the Minister of Internal Affairs' determination to forestall indiscipline in this country. He is determined to do

anything within the confines of the law to keep the peace in this country. This law alone will definitely bring back to order our youth. The law prohibits manufacturing, cultivation, importation and exportation of drugs. It also prohibits the possession and use of drugs or even acquiring property from somebody who is a drug dealer. Are we enforcing this law for the betterment of this country?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the farms where Marijuana are usually cultivated in this country. It is going to be very easy for us to destroy 'Cannabis sativa' farms because Cannabis sativa is not grown on the air, and even if it is grown there, that space belongs to Chieftdom, a section and a town. The question is have we ever reprimand a Paramount Chief, a Section Chief or a Headman for encouraging people cultivating Marijuana farms in their localities? The answer is no, Mr Speaker. Fortunately for us, the Minister of Internal Affairs is here and all of us should be committed towards eradicating the cultivation of those farms. I want to encourage the Minister of Internal Affairs to come up with a regulation that will help to eradicate the cultivation of Marijuana in all chieftdoms in this country. The Regulations should clearly state that if Marijuana is cultivated instead of rice or cassava in a particular Chieftdom, the Paramount of that Chieftdom shall lose his/her staff of authority or his/her job. If people begin to lose their jobs for this reason, I think they will help to expose recalcitrant farmers. I am not a custodian of the land, but the custodians of the land should be in a position to protect it. It is a duty and a civic responsibility.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage the parliamentary Committee on Internal Affairs and the newly appointed Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA] to work together in order to fight and eradicate this menace from this country. This is an urgent situation for this country, this House and our youth. One of the driving forces for lawlessness in any society is the drug abuse. This is why the law says that you should not drink and drive. You should not also drink during official hours. It is even prohibited by most religions. Most of the world regions preach against alcoholism. These drugs are putting our country into a state of insecurity and unnecessary anxiety. Our youth are everywhere, causing mayhems. For some of

them, it is because they don't have the right treatment and the right education in terms of the harmfulness of these drugs. That is why we enacted this law and it is very detailed. Again, Mr Speaker, the Committee on Internal Affairs should endeavour to engage the Chairman of NDLEA to ask for the status report of what they have been doing for the past years in relation to that Act. This is very urgent and we must make sure that we do the right thing in this country. Mr Minister, please engage the Chairman and his team on this matter so that we can quickly address this menace. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been approved]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Gentlemen, on behalf of Parliament, I congratulate all of you and wish you well.

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to repeat this announcement because it is very urgent for Members of Parliament. During the last sitting, the Clerk of Parliament did inform Honourable Members about the kind gesture from the European Union [EU] to procure computers for Members of Parliament. That information has been sent to Honourable Members' personal emails. Please endeavour to fill that form and reply accordingly. As we speak, we have only received eight replies. I believe some of you have not checked your emails or have not received an email, but let this serve as a notice to all of you. We will also circularise this document to you. Please endeavour to do it because it has a time line. By the end of Thursday, if you fail to respond, you will have yourself to blame. Please, make sure you reply as soon as possible. I thank you very much.

**HON. CHERNOR M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Honourable Members are still saying that they have not received the mail. I am suggesting that those who have not received their mails contact the IT Office and submit your email addresses. Maybe the addresses that the IT Office has have been changed. Please endeavour to submit or resubmit your email addresses.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, three weeks ago, I raised a concern about a public notice that is all over the media about the increase in the passport price. We were informed that the Clerk of Parliament will contact the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We are fast approaching November, which is the deadline for the increment to take effect on passport prices. In that regard, I want to urge this Parliament to be proactive. We should not wait until that price comes into effect for us to call on the Minister to ask him questions. I think this is the appropriate time we are to tackle this problem

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a law passed in this Parliament and that law is very clear. According to that Act, passport price should be increased from one hundred thousand Leones to five hundred thousand Leones. It was not pegged on dollar increase or dollar decrease. It is clear in the Act and we want the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Immigration Department to respect that law. Whether there is an increase in the dollar exchange rate or not, the passport price should be Le 500,000 and we are not going to accept any increase that is against the law. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Basiru Silikie, please repeat what you have just said.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a public notice presently going around that passport price is to be increased from Le 500,000 to Le 750,000 because of the increase in US dollar exchange rate. Sometimes last year, there was a law passed in this Parliament which increased the price of a passport from Le 100,000 to Le 500,000. It was not pegged on the dollar increase or decrease. Therefore, if the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Immigration Department wants to effect any changes, they should come back to this parliament and this Parliament is the only legitimate body that has that power to determine an increase or decrease. In that regard, I want to advise the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the Immigration Department to respect the laws of this country passed by this Honourable House. They should bear in mind that no increase should be

made on passport prices until that proposal is brought to this parliament for ratification. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wanted to take the queue on what the Honourable Basiru Silikie said. I still could recall that this Parliament did pass the passport increment Act. During that period, Parliament saw the need for an increment from Le 100,000 to Le 500,000. As the Honourable Member has said, the only body that has the authority to increase or decrease passport fees and other fees is this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my concern has to do with a third party bringing out a public notice for the increase in passport fees. In other words, my concern is not about the Immigration department bringing out a public notice, but I think the press release came from a third party. Later, Mr Speaker, Immigration Department dissociated itself from the said increase. However, the general public was informed that the third party has the authority to determine passport fees. I think this is erroneous because the determination of a passport fee should only be done by this House and in the name of the people of Sierra Leone. Therefore, I want the Minister of Internal Affairs to know that the only authority in this nation that has the right to increase or decrease passport fees is this Honourable House. I want him to note that very seriously. If this House deems it necessary to increase or decrease the price for passports, it will do it; but no other body has that authority in this country. So, the third party that is purporting to have increased the passport fee should be interrogated forthwith. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 11.30 a.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.].*