



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2016

SESSION – 2015/2016



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PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

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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 Thursday, 27th October, 2016.

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IV. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENT AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED:

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



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 27th October, 2016.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:15 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]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 25TH 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 Tuesday, 25th October, 2016. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1?Page 2?Page 3?

HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH:Mr Speaker, Page 3, number 43, under the heading, 'The following Members were absent.' Mr Speaker, I was on an official duty and my name should be written under 'absent with excuse.'

THE SPEAKER:Honourable Member, I guess you were accompanied by a clerk to that Committee.

HON. J.K. ROSALINE SMITH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER:I think the Clerk to that Committee failed to do what is normally required of a Committee clerk. Mr Clerk, please take note of that.

HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH: Mr Speaker, I was absent with excuse. I want the same thing to apply for me.

THE SPEAKER: Were you on a delegation?

HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please mark her as being absent with excuse. Page 3?

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Page 3, number 19. I was present but I have been marked absent.

THE SPEAKER: Your observation is noted by the Clerk's office. Page 3?

HON. ALUSINE MARAH: Mr Speaker, Page 3, number 24. I was also present. I was asked to attend a meeting at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, when did you leave Parliament?

HON. ALUSINE MARAH: Mr Speaker, I left Parliament for the said meeting as soon I signed the register. It was the Chairman of the Finance Committee who asked us to attend such meeting.

THE SPEAKER: That is a bit questionable and I am afraid, Honourable Member.

HON. ALUSINE MARAH: Mr Speaker, you can make an enquiry from the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Where is the Chairman?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, there was a meeting at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on Tuesday, for three parliamentary Committees, Public Accounts Committee, Finance Committee and Transparency Committee. The Chief Whip [who is the Chairman for the Transparency Committee], called and told me that he would not be available for that meeting. After consultation with colleague Members of Parliament on the other side of the House, we decided to send the two Members of Parliament to represent the three Committees.

THE SPEAKER: So, he was one of those sent to attend the meeting? Did he tell anybody that he was not going to be present for sitting?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERRIF: I supposed so Mr Speaker. However, I want to apologise on his behalf if he did not inform the Clerk of Parliament. The three Members of Parliament were sent to represent the three parliamentary Committees.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Chairman, I am afraid your apology is untenable. I will give a special dispensation to mark him present. Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? There being no other correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 25th October, 2016 as amended?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DAVID JOHNSON: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 25th October, 2016 has been adopted as amended]

III. PAPERS LAID

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

MR ARROW BOCKARIE *[Attorney-General and Minister of Justice]*: Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I wish to lay on the Table of the House the following papers;

THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION (ADMISSION OF STUDENTS) REGULATIONS, 2016;

THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION ACT, 1989 [ACT NO 1 OF 1989];

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 1 OF 2016.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whilst preparing the written notice for the papers that have just been laid, may I, at this point, give an oral notice that this Statutory Instrument be discussed by this House.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, what are you saying?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I was saying that this is a statutory instrument and if it is laid on the Table of the House for 21 days without any motion of objection to it, it is going to become a law automatically. So, it is on that note I am giving notice now that I will be filing a formal motion... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Very well then. Mr Minister, you can leave.

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

PROPOSER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fourth Session of The Second Republic of Sierra Leone; Fourteenth Reports 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, alive to its constitutional obligations, met on Monday 24th October, 2016 and interviewed eight Presidential nominees for appointments as follows:-

- i. Chairman, National Youth Service Board;
- ii. Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-graduate College of Health Specialities;
- iii. Three Board Members, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- iv. Member, National Civil Registration Authority;
- v. Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners; and
- vi. Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC]

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. Fifteenth Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 24th October, 2016

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

i. Professor David Sarah Momoh Koroma, Proposed Chairman, National Youth Service Board

Professor David Momoh Koroma is currently the Executive Secretary of the Sierra Leone Tertiary Education Commission. Professor Koroma is a great teacher, a man who has spent the better part of his working life in teaching from St. Francis Secondary School, Makeni [1968 – 1969] to post-primary institutions in the Ukraine, [1969-1977] the University of Moscow, [1978], University of Maiduguri, Nigeria (1979-1990) where he

became professor and, Visiting Professor, Frankfurt University, Germany [2002]. Professor David Sarah Momoh Koroma has a very long list of publications to his name.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Professor Koroma outlined his vision for the young people of Sierra Leone thus: *"Throughout my life as teacher, I have always believed that young people could be made better. I have always looked out for trouble makers and tried to find out why they are troublesome. The reason may be because he/she is neglected at home or nobody is interested in their affairs. When you find that kind of student and you show care for them they will change their attitude completely. I believe society can be a better place if our youths are cared for."* He said.

Questioned about his mandate as the Board Chairman, Prof. David Momoh Koroma said, *"The National Youth Service was established to ensure that we train our youths who are graduating from University to make them better citizens, direct, expose them to community life and the job market for employment opportunities and to develop their entrepreneurial skills for self-reliance. We plan to make sure that a graduate from Kailahun is sent to Kabala so that we get him to know the culture of Kabala and may eventually marry and integrate into that community. We want to make sure our young people graduating from the Universities are taught leadership skills by action and example. Every student would be required to devise and implement a project in the community he is posted to so that they leave a visible mark the community would continue to benefit from."* He said.

ii. PC Melrose Marie Forster-Gberie, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-graduate College of Health Specialities

PC Melrose Marie Forster-Gberie is the Paramount Chief of Kpanda-Kemo Chiefdom, Bonthe District. She had previously served as a Registered Nurse at the John F. Kennedy Hospital, Monrovia, Liberia.

In her response to probing questions, PC Melrose Forster-Gberie promised to work *"Collaboratively with colleague Board Members to ensure that medical practitioners are*

well trained to have the requisite qualifications before being posted to hospitals.” She said.

iii. Mr Arthur Ebum Davies, Proposed Board, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

Mr Arthur Ebum Davies is a Sierra Leonean British civil engineer. After obtaining his primary and secondary education in Sierra Leone, Mr Davies proceeded to the United Kingdom to pursue further education in civil engineering. He lived and worked in England in various engineering positions from 1986 to 2006. Returning to Sierra Leone he has been serving as Chief Engineer Sierra Leone Roads Authority from 2006 to date.

Responding to the Committee Mr Arthur Davies deposed that he had vast experience in engineering project management. *“I hear that the Sierra Leone Ports Authority will undertaking key projects for which I believe I would be able to give my expert advice and also assist the board with my knowledge and skills to arrive at well inform decision.”*

Giving his opinion on the Ports hosting of multi-billionaire companies like Bollorie International and the Dangote Group of Companies, Mr Arthur Ebum Davies said that was an exciting moment for Sierra Leoneans, the Board Members and the ports management because the presence of these multi-national companies has prompted the expansion of the port into a major international hub. As a professional Engineer, I view this as positive development because it is a major infrastructural development that will help the Port management in terms of negotiation for the delivery of goods. I think it is an exciting prospect, with the patriotism I have for my country, to sit on the negotiation table with the Dangotes of this world and the billionaires from Bollorie. I will ensure that we negotiate a better contract for posterity”.

iv. Mr Augustine Aruna Richard Koroma, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

Mr Augustine Aruna Richard Koroma is a former Councillor, [2004-2008] and Chairman, Tonkolili District Council [2008-2012]. He had previously served as a teacher and Head-teacher [1991-2008].

Reacting to the Committee's probing, Mr Augustine Koroma promised to draw on his past experience to advise on institutional strengthening and capacity building for the Port Management so as to be able to effectively handle agreements made with Bolloré and the Dangote Group of Companies for increased revenue generation.

v. Mrs Fatu-Marie Conteh, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

Mrs Fatu Marie Conteh is the Deputy Managing Director of the Sierra Leone National Shipping Company. She joined the Company in 2006 as Assistant Manager Operations and rose through the ranks to her current positions.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Ms Fatu Maria Conteh, said, *"Coming from Shipping Company background, I am sure I have a lot to offer. If I could briefly take you back, most of the developments that we are now seeing at the Ports came as a result of the hue and cry of shipping companies. Importers generally approved of the privatisation of the containers section of the Ports including the recently launched expansion project of the Port."*

Mrs Fatu-Maria Conteh did not agree with the Committee that there would be any conflict of interest in her service on the Board of the Ports Authority. He said, *"If there is any issue of conflict of interest I will declare it and step out. I will always put the interest of this country first"*

vi. Maude Regina Peacock, Proposed Board Member, National Civil Registration Authority

THE SPEAKER: Mrs Peacock, please stand there for the time being. With your leave, Mr Leader, Mrs Peacock was a class mate of the Honourable Agibola Manley Spaine and myself at Fourah Bay College from 1968-1971. The Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma was our junior *[Applause]*.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Fortunately for me, I have already left Fourah Bay College. Mr Speaker, Mrs Maude Peacock is a Senior Principal Lecturer at the Milton

Margai College of Education and Technology [1985 to date]. She had previously served as a Lecturer, Port-Loko Teachers College [1972-1975].

Responding to the Committee's questions on her Board experience, Mrs Peacock said, "*I have served as Chairman of the Board of the National Power Authority for six years, during which I gave strategic guidance for energy efficiency. I am sure I am still in position to continue giving strategic guidance to National Civil Registration Authority.*"

Commenting on the mandate of the National Civil Registration Authority, Mrs Maude Peacock said that the Authority is responsible for the collection of data on all people living in Sierra Leone and for issuing out identification cards. She promised to work to the best of her ability for the success of the Authority.

vii. Florence Thomas, Proposed Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners

Ms Florence Thomas is an Accounts Officer who has successfully served in several institutions between 2003 and 2009. She is currently pursuing an ACCA course at the Institute of Chartered Accounts of Sierra Leone [2014-2016]. In her interview, Ms Florence Thomas promised to work collaboratively with other Board members to ensure that aggrieved taxpayers are heard and their grievances addressed accordingly in a fair and just manner.

viii. Maseray Masseline Conteh, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC]

Madam Maseray M. Conteh was until recently a public servant who had variously served in the Government Gold and Diamond Office, Sierra Fisheries, Cape Sierra Hotel and the Bintumani Hotel as an individual worker and a team player.

Madam Maseray M. Conteh promised to work for the provision of adequate transport facilities for the poor market women, traders and the handicap.

4. Excerpt from the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service

ix. 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.

5. Recommendations

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

- i. Prof. David Sarah Momoh Koroma, proposed Chairman, National Youth Service Board;
- ii. P.C. Melrose Marie Foster-Gberie, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-Graduate College of Health Specialties;
- iii. Rev. Dr Philip B.S. Sesay, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Council of Post-graduate College of Health Specialties;
- iv. Mr Arthur Eburn Davies, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- v. Mr Augustine A. Richard Koroma, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- vi. Mrs Fatu Maria Conteh, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- vii. Mrs Maude Peacock, proposed Member, National Civil Registration Authority;
- viii. Ms Florence Thomas, proposed Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners; and
- ix. Mrs Maseray Masseline Conteh, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourteenth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fourteenth Report of the Fourth Session of

the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service and the excerpt of the Thirteenth Report be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu, Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I second the motion.

[Question Proposed]

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again, we have nominees before this House for approval. Few months ago, we had in this House somebody called Mamayo [Mother]. Today again in the House, we have the Mama [The Mother]. The Mama that I am referring to has worked for the Government Gold and Diamond Office to manage staff. She worked at the Sierra Fisheries Company to manage sales. She has also worked at the Cape Sierra Hotel where she was managing catering. Also, she has worked at the Bintumani Hotel. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of the Maseray Conteh and Sons General Services. Today, she is here for Parliamentary approval for the Sierra Leone Transport Corporation to manage our transport services.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that preamble, I believe each and every one present here today would agree with me that this person, the Mama of the Western Region would surely be able to manage the transport services in this country. She is mother not just for the Western Region, but for the country as a whole. Today, we as Members of Parliament join hands together to first of all thank His Excellency the President for this nomination. The nomination of the woman in question by the President is not a mistake at all. We are pretty sure that when this House shall have approved her nomination, she will go there and join other Board members to actually manage the transport services in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second nominee on my list is the youngest amongst the nominees, Prof. David Sarah Momoh Koroma, proposed Chairman,

National Youth Service Board. May I, at this point, ask this Honourable House to join me in congratulating or wishing this young man a happy birthday. He is celebrating his seventy birthday *[Applause]*. Notwithstanding the age, when you see him, you would see him like somebody who is in his 40s and that speaks volume. If you go through the Report that has just been read, you would know that he has spent all his life in transforming young people in making them what they are today. Now, he is prepared to see how best the Youth Service Scheme is going to operate. I am sure he is determined to continue transforming the lives of young people. He assured the Committee that they would not only concentrate on university graduates, but other institutions. I want to ask this House to give him the necessary support.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the name Madam Maude Peacock I need say anything about it because that name is a household name in Constituency 093, Western Rural District, Western Region and the country as a whole. Please Madam, go and do more for this country. We know you are capable of doing good things, but I want to remind you that this country is in a hurry. The young people want to see positive things happening not only for the youth, but even the ageing. The time for praise singing of nominees is over. Now is to challenge you to go and perform remarkably well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to entreat the former Chairman for Tonkolili District and other nominees to go out there and do what is expected of them. The Majority Leader of this House and Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has always been saying that we are not only interviewing and approving nominees, but we go after you to track your progress in the institution you are serving. We are ready to follow you on your work and report back to this House. We have approved many nominees in this House and majority of them have not reported back to this House. We have not received any report in this House about those nominees. However, we want to assure this House that very soon a report would be tabled in this House about those nominees. Those that we have approved and those that we are about to approve should take note of this information. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

HON. NAVO KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to say few words about the nominees before us. It is a pleasure to see many women amongst the nominees. From what has been read about them, I think they are qualified for these positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I really want to talk about Mrs Maude Peacock, proposed Member, National Civil Registration Authority. I have known Aunty Maude, as we normally call her, for the past thirty years, when I was a teenager. I knew her when her late husband, Rev. Peacock of blessed memories, was a Reverend in Kailahun District. I want to state here that Kailahun is the most important district. Aunty Maude was a teacher at the Methodist Secondary School. Even though she did not teach me at that time, but she taught my sisters who are now successful women in this country. She was an inspiration to them to the point that she actually selected my younger sister to serve as the first female prefect in that school. I want to thank her for that gesture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that Maude Peacock is a fervent Christian and a Methodist by denomination. She is very honest, reliable and dependable. She is part of the women forum and somebody who believes in women and will go all out to promote women. Personally, she is very caring. For example, when my family was going through difficult times, she had always supported us. Also, she used her Women's Forum connection to promote and encourage women to participate in politics. In 2012, she was part of the women to monitor the elections. She used her influence in Kailahun District to ensure that we had fifteen female Councillors and a female Member of Parliament at that time. So, I have no doubt that Mrs Peacock, if given this opportunity, will perform beyond expectations. She will be a very good member of the Civil Registration Authority and I am sure she will ensure even those children in Kailahun will be fully registered. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

HON. FRANCIS KOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about three of the nominees before us this morning. Before going further, I must say thanks to the Speaker for giving me this opportunity I have been waiting for so long.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first nominee I want to talk about is Mrs Maseray Masseline Conteh, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC]. Mr Speaker, if I want to talk about Madam Maseray Masseline Conteh, I must refer you to a biblical quotation according to St Paul's second letter to Timothy Chapter 4:4-18. It says, "*You have fought a good fight. You have finished the race. You now have to keep your faith.*" Madam Maseray, please go and perform your duties because you have fought a good fight. You have the strength and stamina, as a woman, to make things go the right way. You have proved that without doubt and I want to remind you that the institution you are about to go is very important. This is because if we are talking about national growth and economic development in this country, transportation is key. Transportation is significant for the livelihood of every developing nation. Therefore, we need to put more efforts in order to have affordable, efficient and effective transportation system in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a government, our role is to ensure that we bridge the gap between the farmers, the traders and the end users in terms of transporting goods and services. Without efficient and affordable transportation, there is no way we are going to achieve that. I know that with your strength and stamina, you will ensure success in the institution you have been nominated to serve, if this House approves your nomination. What I will endeavour to say this morning is that we believe you are going to turn around the Road Transport Corporation for the betterment of this country. Please go there and deliver well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Mr Arthur Ebum Davies, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. I want to inform this House that the nominee is put in the right place at the right time. Today, the President of this nation, His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, in his vision commissioned the Sierra Leone Ports Authority in terms of port expansion. You will all agree with me in this House that 70% to 75% of the National and International Trade is on sea. Therefore, without a mechanised, effective and efficient Port, we are not going to move forward as a nation. What we are expecting from the nominee is his international experience as an

Engineer and as a successful businessman in the United Kingdom. We want his contribution in our Ports. Nevertheless, Port expansion has to go with other areas of development in terms of infrastructural developments like good road network that is linking the city and the sea port. We need to take that into consideration as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude my contribution with Ms Florence Thomas, proposed Member, Income Tax Board of Appellate Commissioners. She is a young woman, very dynamic and effective in whatever she does. Today, this House will make no mistake in approving her nomination. Therefore, I want to encourage this House to speedily approve these nominees. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON.P.C. SHEKU SONSIAMA FASULUKU III: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to join other colleagues this morning to lend my voice to the approval of the nominees before us. I want to start by saying that Sierra Leone is already moving forward as a nation. Honourable Members, if you please look at the sitting arrangement of these nominees [either deliberately or accidentally], the 'Attitudinal Change' has started working. I am saying this because all the women are in front and the men at the back. Having said that, I believe all the nominees before us are qualified, otherwise they would not have been nominated by His Excellency the President for this Parliamentary approval. On behalf of the Paramount Chiefs of Kono, I want to congratulate all the nominees in advance.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to talk about two nominees. I would want to start with Mr Arthur Ebun Davies, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. I have known Mr Arthur Ebun Davies for the past six years. If the road construction in this country is anything to talk about, Mr Arthur Ebun Davies was the SLRA Engineer attached to the Kenema/Pendembu Road. I stand to be corrected, Mr Speaker. That road is one of the best roads in this country [*Applause*]. I want to use this opportunity to continue to encourage him to work hard when he shall have assumed full responsibility at the Port Authority. There are lots of civil works expected to be done within the next two to three years. I want him to make sure that

we have value for money because money is difficult to come by everywhere in the world. I wish him well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude my contribution this morning with Paramount Chief Melrose Marie Foster-Gberie of Kpanda-Kemo Chieftdom, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Council for Post-Graduate College of Health Specialties. I have known her for the past ten years. She has been a Paramount Chief for more than twelve years now; and in the institution of Paramount Chieftaincy, there is no handing-over notes. This means that you learn on the job. She already has a lot of experience. Currently, she is the Chairperson of the National Council of Chiefs and the Chairperson of the District Council of Paramount Chiefs in Bonthe District. She has also served as a Board Member in Sierra Leone Social Action Commission [NaCSA]. I want to encourage her to practicalise what she has learnt over the years in the fields of nursing and Paramount Chieftaincy. Please bring those experiences to the Post-Graduate College of Health Specialities, so that we could talk about a viable health sector in this country. I thank you *[Applause]*.

HON. MOSES JORKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am very happy to talk about the nominees before us this morning. Like what the Honourable Member was saying, I don't know much about these nominees, but I know Madam P.C. Melrose Forster Gberie. She is one of my Constituents. She is our Paramount Chief as was observed by the Honourable Paramount Chief. As the previous speaker said, she is the Chairman of Paramount Chiefs in Bonthe District. She is a hardworking Paramount Chief and somebody who enforces the law to the letter. She is somebody who always stands by her words.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the Ebola scourge, Madam Foster Gberie was one of the few Paramount Chiefs who enforced the bye-laws that were put in place to fight the deadly disease. This House was aware that Bonthe District had only five Ebola cases. She was one of the people behind the fight against the Ebola disease in the District *[Applause]*. She ensured that those bye-laws were implemented to the fullest.

For example, she rejected her very sister during the deadly disease, who had left that Chiefdom for a very long time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another very important thing she did, which caught the imagination of many of us was when she ordered the security at the Tinkoko Checkpoint not to allow a particular corpse from Kenema District to enter into her Chiefdom. If we have such decisive leaders in our communities, I want to believe that this country will forge ahead in terms of development. The President has made no mistake by nominating her to serve as Board Member in that institution. She is a trained nurse. In fact, she is also a Chairperson and an Adviser to the Health Committee in her Chiefdom. She frequently holds meetings with the health workers and gives advice where necessary. Therefore, if she has been nominated to serve in such position, I want to believe that the President made no mistake in that regard.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to advise all other nominees going to the various Boards to work for the interest of this country. I therefore ask this Honourable House to approve these nominees. I thank you.

HON. AARON KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise this morning to also contribute to this monumental sitting. I referred to this sitting as monumental because I am sure the women of this country are very happy today. I can see that Sierra Leone is gradually becoming a Rwandan type of country; whilst the world is clamouring for fifty percent representation for women. Today, with the wisdom of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, we have fifty percent of the nominees who are women in front of us, seeking for Parliamentary approval to serve this country in various capacities. That shows how committed this President is in terms of empowering the women of this country. I am sure the Minority Leader of this House will be the happiest to see her women folks being nominated to serve in various positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a common saying that when you want things to be said, you try a man; but if you want things to be said and done, you try a woman. It is of no mistake that we have more women in front of us here this morning

because the President believes that women can do better if given the opportunity. We have several nominees in front of us this morning and most of them are from the teaching profession. We all know that the teaching profession is a noble profession and the President of this nation was once a teacher. In fact, the Speaker and the Minority Leader were once teachers. I was also a teacher, Mr Speaker. Most of the nominees in front of us this morning were teachers and some are still teachers. That shows that teachers have proved to be good leaders and reformists.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is against that backdrop I want to talk about Mr Augustine A. Richard Koroma, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority, whom I have known throughout my life. The name Augustine A. R. Koroma is not strange to us, especially Members of Parliament who are here for the second term. This nominee in question was the Chairperson of the Tonkolili District Council. In Tonkolili District Council, we know and believe with persuasion that Mr Augustine A. R. Koroma is a performer and wherever he goes, he always transforms people and institutions. We have several acquaintances today in Tonkolili District that we can name after him. We believe that his nomination to the Sierra Leone Port Authority Board will help to transform that institution. This is because judging from his track records, he is indeed a performer.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to emphasize here that the Ports Authority is an important institution that will help improve growth in this country. I know very well that those who are going to the Ports Authority may be aware of the potentials that our natural harbour has. Mr Speaker West Africa is increasingly the preferred route for shipment because of the rising coast of the Suez Canal in Egypt. Sierra Leone happens to get the largest natural harbour in Africa and the third largest in the world. We believe that Sierra Leone is the equidistance to Europe, South America and many parts of the world; which means that with the presence of these competent and professional individuals, who have been nominated to this Board, I am left with no iota of doubt that they would formulate policies that will bring more revenue to the government.

However, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the challenges our Ports is facing, which I am sure if robust policies are introduced, our revenue base will increase, is the fact that our channel is a bit narrow. I am looking forward to this Board to go into agreement with the private sector to find possible ways of expanding that channel, so that big vessels could start to anchor there. If this done, I think it will increase our revenue generation for the betterment of this nation.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another area I would like to recommend is on the area of collaboration between the National Revenue Authority [NRA] and the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] on one hand and the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. I am saying this because we are in dire need of revenue. The national Ports is one of the key areas government depends to generate those much needed revenue to stimulate developments in other sectors in this country. I want the Ports Authority to collaborate with these entities, so that seepages are minimised. Revenue generation should be prioritised, so that government will tap into those resources that are needed to improve the welfare of the nation.

On this note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to humbly ask that the House speedily approves the nomination of all the nominees seated in front of us this morning. They are all qualified for the respective positions they have been nominated to serve. For the women, we know that wherever women are, we can only attribute performance. Therefore, the President has made no mistake in nominating them to serve in those positions. I have also known Prof. Koroma as a teacher and that means the President knows what teachers can do. We do hope that all of you will take what teachers can do to your various institutions.

On this note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily approve their nominations. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I can only state here that the nominations of these nominees by the President are most appropriate, taking into consideration the background of the nominees. I have no doubt that once

they go through this process, they will turn out to be very useful functionaries in the various institutions where they will be attached.

However, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about my own constituent, Professor David Sarah Momoh Koroma, proposed Chairman, National Youth Service Board. He was one of the people who encouraged me to come to Parliament. We should take into consideration the fact that he has served this country well in different capacities. He has taught in secondary schools and in the University of Nigeria. Today, he has provided an effective and efficient leadership at the Tertiary Education Commission [TEC].

Mr Speaker, Prof. Koroma hails from the Paki Masabong Chiefdom; and he is one of the few PHD holders from that Chiefdom. I want to state here that he has always provided leadership for the younger people; and therefore, I am not surprised that the President thought it fit to nominate him to this position as Chairman of the National Youth Service Board. Mr Speaker, whenever we talk about his interest in young people, we are not restricting his interest to urban youth, because he is a man who spends most of his time in the rural areas, especially in his own Chiefdom. He goes there almost every other week, using his car. This means that he mingles with his people, especially the youth in that Chiefdom. He provides leadership for the people of that Chiefdom; and his nomination is a clear indication to show that even the President of this nation recognises his role. He is not like other people who, after attaining higher heights, decide to shy away from their people. Here is a man who had the opportunity of being one of the greatest academics with important positions, even in Nigeria, but who at some point decided to come home to serve his own people. When he came home to serve his own people, he did not restrict his activities to just Freetown, he went to the rural areas, especially to his own Chiefdom to provide the necessary leadership for the development of that Chiefdom. I want to assure this House that his nomination would not, in anyway, sway him from abandoning his people. He would continue to mingle with them and do what he has been doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that if Professor Koroma is approved today, I will not be surprised if he drives again to Paki Masabong to celebrate with his own people. So, the President did not make any mistake in nominating all these nominees for Parliamentary approval. On that note, Mr Speaker, I want to ask this Honourable House to give them the support they need by approving their nominations. I thank you very much.

HON. DAUDA KALLON: Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy for seeing notable women before us this morning, being nominated by His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. The role the women have played in this country still remained key in the development of this nation. Therefore, whenever I see women here for parliamentary approval, I celebrate for their successes. I am very happy this morning, if not the happiest. I am saying this because I know for sure that there is a name in this Well that people simply referred to as Madam Regina Maude Peacock. I listened attentively to my colleague from Constituency 001 when she was saying all beautiful things about Madam Maude Peacock. I want to thank her very much for standing out tall in saying those wonderful things about Madam Maude Peacock. Indeed, she is an 'all-rounder.' She has worked in Kailahun, Port Loko, Bo, Moyamba, to name but a few.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Regina Maude Peacock has been all over this country and have served in various capacities working for the young people and the women of this country. She is a caring and loving mother. I want to thank His Excellency for nominating such an enviable woman to serve in the mainstream administration of this country. If this House approves her nomination, she is going to the National Civil Registration Commission. I want to state here that there is something peculiar about this Commission which is very much important. This is a Commission that will be registering Sierra Leoneans, a Commission that will be giving identification to Sierra Leoneans; a Commission that is going to respond directly to the Bill we enacted in this House. This means that Sierra Leoneans, young and old, wherever they may be, are going to be Sierra Leoneans with identification cards, which is a very brilliant move for this nation. I

want to appeal to Madam Peacock that if this House approves of your nomination, please endeavour to work with your team, as you have always done. Please continue to give your advice. This is the time for Sierra Leoneans to have identity cards. This is also the time Sierra Leoneans need to be recognised by the state and to be defended by the state.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next nominee I want to talk about is Mrs Maseray Masseline Conteh, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation [SLRTC]. She is commonly called Mamayo. I want to ask for forgiveness from the men. We know your work; we know what you have done; and we know what you are capable of doing. Therefore, I want to congratulate all men for their supports. Whenever we talk about Mamayo in the Western Area, we are talking about a performer, somebody who moves to the length and breadth of this country, and somebody who is going to stand and defend the transport system in this country. Before now, we used to see long queues all over the streets, women were fighting to go to the market places and men were also fighting to go to their offices. We have seen how the women and young people were suffering to get transport. With the wisdom of the President, we have seen more vehicles in the country to ease the transportation problem. These vehicles are plying all over the routes of this country, regardless of wherever you are coming from. If you are coming from Kenema, for instance, you would have the pleasure of being in one of the one hundred buses. There are brand new buses running to and fro Kenema. Again, if you are from Moyamba, there are brand new buses plying to and from Moyamba. Also, if you are coming from the North, the story is the same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what is very important for Mrs Maseray Masseline Conteh nomination to the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation is that she is going to intimate the Minister about the need to prioritise the issue of women. She is going to ensure that those untold sufferings the women of this country were going through are put to an end. She made it clear during her interview with the Committee on Appointments that she would also advocate for better conditions of service for the disabled. Well, I want to congratulate her for thinking about the disabled *[applause]*.

Disability issues are issues we need to take very seriously in this country. If a woman could stand and talk about her determination and preparedness to resolve the issue of disability, I believe these are the women we need to support. I want to thank Mamayo very much for prioritising the issue of women and disability in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Prof. Koroma, who is going to handle the issue of youth. I want to remind him that the issue of young people in this country is not only about the young people within the age bracket, 18 – 35 because people above 35 still need mentorship. I believe some people coming from Constituency 002 may also need your guidance to make sure that performance is enhanced.

Honestly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have given leadership positions and responsibilities to women who have performed exceptionally well. Therefore, I must join this House in congratulating the President for nominating these notable women, especially the involvement of the Paramount Chief from Bonthe in the governance of this country. Well, I want to inform the Paramount Chief that I have a royal blood running through my veins and I know what it means to be a Paramount Chief. I know at the end of the day your mentorship is going to help the women and the institutions that you will be going to serve. I want to thank her very much for accepting the nomination. We know that she is going to continue her motherly role and we are very proud of her. I want to say congratulations to all the nominees before us this morning. On that note, Mr Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in asking this House to speedily approve these nominees before us this morning. Thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it has been an interesting and lively debate this morning. I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for continuously appointing women to various positions of trust. Today is one such day where out of the nine nominees we have before us, five are women. I want to state here that these are not ordinary women, but women who have proved to be very efficient, hardworking and resilient in the various positions they occupy. As a result of

those virtues, the President deemed it fit to give them additional work. We want to thank the President for that. We know that he will do more for the women of this country. We hope that by the time the final draft of the Constitutional Review Committee is out, we shall have our minimum 30% for both public and private offices at all levels.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, good sentiments have been expressed about the nominees before us this morning. I have no doubt that the nominees, both men and women who are before us, are good citizens of Sierra Leone. They are professionals in their own rights. Therefore, I want to follow suit by saying that these nominees deserve their nominations. I will recommend that we speedily ratify their nominations, so that they will go and take up their new offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not single out any nominee because we know all the nominees. I said so because all the Members of Parliament who have spoken either talked about one or two nominees. What is important is the Authority of the Boards or Commissions they shall be sitting on. All of them are very important to nation building and our economic development. Our country has a very young population demographically and therefore, the Youth Service Commission is going to be very important for our national cohesion and for our acculturation. I agree with Prof. Koroma who has worked on the Youth Service in Nigeria for a long time that it has a lot of benefits.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we used to have good boarding schools in Sierra Leone and in those boarding schools, we had boys and girls who left Freetown to go to Pujehun, boys and girls who left Njalaun to go to Makeni, Magburaka, etc. We also had those who left the North to come to Freetown in the boarding schools. That was where we knew a lot of boys and girls, and we established long lasting relationships. Sometimes after the holidays, some would follow their friends to come to Freetown whilst other would follow their friends to go to Kenema/Bo. That resulted in knowing colleagues and their families better. We also exchanged cultural values. This is why some people in the North speak Mende very fluently because they grew up in the South

or the East, while those in the South and East speak Temne/Limba very fluently. In that way, we really became one people, and that is one area the Youth Service is meant to accomplish. That is the Youth Service is meant to send youth from one district to the other, so that they live and work there, they know each other and get to understand their culture. This would also enable the youth to understand how a particular group does things, so that our youth would be in a better position to appreciate others. These are some of the things the Youth Service is meant to address. Additionally, the Youth Service would provide the necessary apprenticeship wherein when young people leave the university, they work under a supervised body. This is what the Youth Service is all about.

For Prof. Koroma, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, he may be 70 years, but what is important is that he is young at heart and he has worked with the youth all his life. Therefore, I think putting somebody who has the experience is very important. He has worked on the Youth Service in Nigeria for many years. Therefore, bringing all those experiences he has acquired to our Youth Service is in place and I want to wish him well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the Report, three nominees are going to sit on the Ports Authority. Everybody knows our Ports are the gateway to the outside world through the ocean or through rivers, both for our import and exports. Nowadays, a country that does not import or export perishes. If we import goods or services, there are taxes importers do pay, which will help to broaden our revenue base. Therefore, the Ports are very important. We need to modernise our ports. I want to agree with the Honourable Member who said that the sand is 'shallowing' our Ports and we need to do something to improve on those channels, so that bigger ships could anchor in those ports. I am saying this because when bigger ships come, we know exactly what that means. The fees they pay to land in our Ports are also important, apart from the goods they bring to this country. They will bring enough goods, as compared to goods brought into the country by smaller ships. It is therefore important for us to modernise our Shipping Agency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also need to look at the timing. We have done little in terms of reducing the time. Few days ago, I was listening to the radio and I came to realise that there are still bottlenecks in terms of clearing the goods at the Ports. We need to look at that area very carefully. The nominees who have been nominated to Ports Authority should go there with this issue in their minds. We don't want a situation wherein Ports are clustered with many goods. We have to find possible ways of reducing the time to the barest minimum. The more those goods are there, the more they gather demurrage. Sometimes the owners of those goods just abandoned them there. We have seen how merchants have lost lots of goods, especially perishable goods because they have spent so much time on the Ports. We must also talk to the customers in terms of ensuring that before their goods arrive here, there should be a pre-shipment arrangement. If that is done correctly, before their goods arrive, they will be in a better position to know the fee they have to pay. That will enable them to clear their goods very fast. These are some of the things that are clogging our seaports and they are also increasing on the cost of clearing those goods and the cost is normally passed onto the consumers. We really need to look at that area and find ways of how we can make it better for people of this country. I think this is what we expect from the nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Maseray Masseline Conteh has been in the shipping industry and she knows what am saying. She knows everything about shipping arrangement in this country. I hope she will bring her acquired experiento to the shipping industry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Civil Registration Authority is becoming very topical. On Tuesday this week, we approved the Chairperson of the National Civil Registration Authority and he was being interviewed this morning on the FM 98.1. A lot of questions were being asked. He was asked if he would ensure the registration of everybody. He was also asked if he would ensure the availability data and the advantages. The Chairperson was able to enumerate over nine [9] advantages of the National Civil Registration Authority, ranging from security to other very important

areas. On the issue of births and deaths, your card will be used as a births and deaths registration. It will be used to enrol children in school and for your National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT]. The card could also be used for many other purposes. Again, we must not also ignore the genuine concerns of the people of this country. It is those concerns that the Commission and the National Civil Registration Authority should look at and find possible ways of addressing them. The Commission and the Authority should plan how everybody is registered. That concern is legitimate and we should not ignore it at all. It is very important and it can only be addressed through national dialogue. We have to go to the radios and televisions to talk about it, so that these questions are answered. Once these questions are answered, people are better educated and will be in a better position to present themselves for the exercise.

Of course, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our taxes are important, but the Appellate Board of Commissioners will be there to look at citizen's queries, especially queries on taxes. The Appellate Board of Commissioners was already in a moribund state. The office itself was nothing to write home about. In fact, when we approved the Chairman of the Appellate Board of Commissioners, he went to the office but he couldn't sit down because there was no descent chair to sit on. There was only one rickety typewriter in that office. I am sure he has been able to get a nice and decent office now and he is putting modalities together to improve the conditions of that office. I hope that we will also help him to build up that institution and make it serve the purposes for which it was established.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the nominees who are going to the Sierra Leone Council for Post-Graduate College of Health Specialties. Well, as the saying goes, 'health is wealth.' We have a lot of health issues in this country and a lot of specialisation is coming now. We have to improve on those institutions meant to improve on our health. The regulation is also very important, Mr Speaker. We had a pre-legislative engagement with the health professionals in this country, who for over thirty years have worked and provided services to the people of this country, but they are not regulated. If you want to assess the status of a country, you have to look at its

health status. In other words, a country's health status speaks volumes, just as if you want to talk about the status of the entire country. If you also look at the status of women in a country, you will be able to infer on the status of the entire country. These two issues are very important in determining a country's human development index. If this House approves your nominations, I want you to note that these institutions occupy special places in our hearts and I also want you to know that you were carefully selected and nominated to this House because of the expertise and experiences you have mustered over the years. Please, I want you to put this country first in whatever you do, let Sierra Leone be first and all other affiliations should be secondary.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to wish all the nominees well in their new positions if approval is made. I thank you and God bless us all.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU*[Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to stand on the existing sentiments expressed by all those who have commended the nominees this morning. I want to recall what an Honourable Member from Kailahun said when she was contributing to this debate. She said that Kailahun is the most important district in the East, whilst Kenema the home of the Minority Leader, and Kono follow. Thank you very much for that observation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about all the nominees. I am going to make few comments on the institutions they would be going to serve. I want to start with the Sierra Leone Port Authority. Today, the Ports Authority is graduating to a landlord Ports and now its land lordship is one that is not going to be a "pan body landlord." You are a big landlord when you host a Dangote Company, Bollere and others. All of these are no longer a child's play. So, I hope the Members of the Board to that institution would look at the kind of responsibility ahead of them. Where a country is going to invest, in addition to the \$120,000,000 as a landlord, you must brace yourself towards negotiating for such venture. You have to brace yourselves for those activities and the benefits Sierra Leone is going to get through taxes. I am particularly happy that I know one of the nominees that would be going to that institution. We

belong to a fraternity, the Conclave Fraternity, where we interact and I know his capacity to perform. Having trained and worked in England, I believe that the work ethics that he has cultivated during the period he worked in England would be translated in the Port Authority, just like he has done with the Sierra Leone Roads Authority as an Engineer.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, lots of praises have been showered on Madam Maseray, not only for political reasons, but also for her hard work and commitment to duty. Madam Maseray is going to a very important institution this time. I consider it very important because today people are coming up with lots of blackmailing sentiments that we want to remove subsidy on fuel. When you are in Government, you are bound to take decisions, both hard ones and soft decisions, but you have to take them for the positive reasons. We all know what is going on with our fuel. The subsidy that is given is because we want our people who use public transportations to benefit, but are they really getting that benefit. The answer is no because the big companies and private vehicle owners, who can afford to pay, are the ones that are catching in that situation. They are catching in because it helps them to maximise their profits. In fact, they even go to the extent of smuggling our fuel products to other countries. Some of these companies are not only established in Sierra Leone, but also in Liberia and Guinea. This is what is going on in this country. Therefore, we are going to remove the subsidy and subsidise public transportation for our people. We will subsidize public transportation. Sixty-three Million Dollars per year is gone. I am sure the \$ 63,000,000 that would be saved per year would buy over 400 buses. So, we are going to subsidise transportation and remove the fuel subsidy. That is why we are putting serious minded person in that area by the name of Madam Maseray. She is not only politically strong, but by her CV and the testimony from Members of Parliament, she is a very strong woman. I am asking my people to be patient and not to listen to the political 'razzmatazz.' We are a responsible government and we are going to make sure we get things right.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most of the Members of Parliament who have spoken said very good things about the nominees before us. We hope that they are taking cognisance of what have been said here about them and the institutions they will be serving. We are praising you not for praise sake, but we want you to be part of the development of this country. We should take this country as a business. Let us now go and do our businesses, so that we can move this country forward. I thank you very much.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I want to particularly congratulate a friend and classmate of mine at Fourah Bay College, Madam Maude Peacock. I want to wish you well. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

[Members rose on S.O. 23 to explain personal issues to the House]

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 12.18 noon, and was adjourned to Thursday, 3rd November, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.]