



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

20TH SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 28th February, 2013.

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PROPOSER: HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED:

*THAT THE FIRST REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION 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

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

Thursday, 28th February, 2013.

The House met at 10:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

[The Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Sulaiman Sesay, Read the Prayers].

[The Speaker, Hon. Justice Abel Nathaniel Bankole Stronge, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 2013

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 20th February, 2013. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 20th February, 2013 be adopted as presented?

HON. ABI KALOKOH: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DR AIAH DABUNDEH: Mr Speaker I so second.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 20th February, 2013, was unanimously adopted as presented.

III MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. S.B.B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE SIXTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Sixth 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 met on Tuesday, 19th February, 2013 and interviewed two Presidential nominees for appointment in the following positions:

- (i) Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority (NRA); and*
- (ii) Director, Financial Intelligence Unit.*

2. Procedure

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, my attention has just been drawn to an apparent irregularity. I would want to make an amendment on the Order Paper concerning the seconder of the motion. Instead of Hon. Claude Kamanda, it is now Hon. Ibrahim Bundu.

THE SPEAKER: But when you started I believe you said the motion is being seconded by Hon. Claude Kamanda.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: I did not say so Sir. That is what is on the Order Paper and it was an error Mr Speaker. I put the blame on the Clerk's Office.

THE SPEAKER: Alright!

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, the amendment is, Honourable Claude Kamanda be replaced with Honourable Ibrahim Bundu.

In that case Mr Speaker I begin all over again.

*SIXTH 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 met on Tuesday, 19th February, 2013 and interviewed two Presidential nominees for appointment in the following positions:

- (i) Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority (NRA); and*
- (ii) Director, Financial Intelligence Unit.*

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Probing questions put to the nominees pertained to their educational background, track records in public office and other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure.

3. Eleventh Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 19th February, 2013.

The following nominees were interviewed:

- (i) Haja Isata Kallah-Kamara, Proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority (NRA);*

Haja Isata Kallah-Kamara has a strong professional background in Economics, Accounting and Finance. She also has proven work experience in Financial Management, Strategic Planning, Budget Management and Corporate Governance in several institutions at home and abroad.

Responding to probing questions as to why she should be confirmed as Commissioner-General of the National Revenue Authority (NRA), Haja Isata Kallah-Kamara said that

there was certainly no reason why she could not be confirmed. She submitted that she has worked as Acting Commissioner-General for three years and had proved her capability to do the job. "In 2006," she said, "the total revenue collected by NRA was about five hundred billion Leones. Since I assumed leadership of NRA in 2009, there has been a steady increase in revenue collection from seven hundred billion Leones in 2009, to 1.4 trillion Leones in 2011 and 1.8 trillion Leones in 2012."

Reacting to questions as to how she intended to minimize leakages, Haja Kallah-Kamara said that there were indeed some leakages in NRA but emphasized that with the cooperation of the Board and staff, strenuous efforts would be made to minimize those leakages. She assured the Committee that she had plans to move NRA to a level that would be the admiration of all. "Integrity Committees and Internal Administrative Mechanisms have been put in place to accomplish that and to ensure that we do not only maximize revenue collection but we also facilitate trade and minimize corruption. Since I became Acting Commissioner-General, I have dismissed over twenty staff at the NRA for malpractices. I may not be able to eradicate corruption at NRA but I will surely try to minimize it," she said.

(ii) Mr Ahmed Bokarie Kamara, Proposed Director, Financial Intelligence Unit.

Mr Ahmed Bockarie Kamara has over 20 years of proven expertise in policing and security in Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom and has served in the following security outfits: 2010–2012, Security Specialist, Vision Security Group, UK; 2002–2010, Command Centre Operator, the Corps of Commissioners, UK; 1999–2002, Security Officer, Ircheck Security Services, UK; and 1988–1995, Held Senior Positions in the Sierra Leone Police Force, including Chief Police Officer and Commandant Police Training School.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Kamara said that he had left the Sierra Leone Police Force because the 'Armed Forces Revolutionary Council' (AFRC) coup had occurred (1997) while he was away in the United Kingdom on 'Advanced Commandant Training', and it was unsafe for him to return home. "I did not resign from the police

force. I was struck off for not returning.” Reacting to further questions, Mr Kamara said that he did not consider his nomination as a political compensation from the government. “On the contrary, I consider my nomination as a call to national duty.” He promised to draw on his work experience to enhance proper service delivery in his new appointment.

4. 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), Haja Isata Kallah Kamara, Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority (NRA); and (ii) Mr Ahmed Bockarie Kamara, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sixth Report portrays the collective view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Sixth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendation contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya, Chairman, Committee on Appointment and the Public Service.

HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to second the motion.

(Question Proposed)

HON. ANSU KAIKAI: I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy this morning because as a member of the Appointments Committee had a good time during the interview process. I called it good time because I read the profile of the first candidate that appeared before us, Haja Kallah Kamara. I read her profile, and it is one of the richest qualifications that qualifies a good Sierra Leonean for appointment in public offices. During the interview process, I also compared her profile with that of some other female candidates that have appeared before the appointment committee previously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am proud and I feel good in letting you know that as a female candidate is not one of those who is just in public service or in high positions because they are filling the gender gap, the unofficial 30%. She is physically qualified as well to fill in that post. She has a normal height like a Sierra Leonean woman. But Mr Speaker, that candidate is going to occupy a seat that has been occupied by women like Madam Ella Koblo Gulama, Madam Constance Cummings John and several others.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't want to bother you any in sharing my happiness with you. I will recommend that this House speedily confirms Madam Haja Kallah-Kamara to continue her good work in the National Revenue Authority, (NRA). I thank you.

HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, It is indeed a great pleasure for me to stand here this morning and offer the most profound and heartfelt felicitation to the proposed Commissioner-General of the NRA, Madam Haja Isata Kallah- Kamara.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this woman has demonstrated her commitment, loyalty, hard work and has also demonstrated the willingness and love for the welfare of people of this Nation, especially in the area of revenue collection. She has worked relentlessly in collecting the much needed revenue for this country. Madam Kamara has consistently exceeded her revenue target in Sierra Leone. She has transformed that institution positively. She has worked so hard in the Agenda for Change which is no doubt that His Excellency the President has finally confirmed her as substantive Commissioner of the National Revenue Authority (NRA). When you think of women of substance in Sierra Leone, Madam Haja Kallah-Kamara would measure at the top most cadres. She is indeed a woman of substance Mr Speaker. She has made the women of this country proud. She has paved the way for women of this Nation to attain leadership positions. For this reason, we say thank you Madam Kamara. You have given hope to young women like us. You have given us hope that we would one day get

there. We want to thank His Excellency the President for fulfilling his promise that he made to the women of this country that he would give us the 30% quota. He has started proving his promises to the women of this country. As we see today, Madam Kala-Kamara has taken one of the highest offices in this country. She has proven beyond all reasonable doubt that she is indeed capable to run that institution. With an unprecedented leadership quality today, our revenue collection has sky-rocketed in the trillions. This is history in the making. This has clearly proved to this country that what men can do, women can do better. Thank you Madam Kamara and as you attain this office we have no doubt that you would excel.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to implore Madam Kallah-Kamara to work even harder. This is because your hard work has paid you today. We are encouraging you to work harder. We are looking up to you. The women of this country are looking up to you. Female parliamentarians and the women of this country want to assure you of our support. If you look around the Well today, you would see women of substance. They are here to give you their support. They are women from different areas, different institutions, and from different walks of life. They are here today to give you the support you so deserve. This is good because we want to see more women in leadership positions. We want to see women supporting one another. We have started demonstrating that today by supporting Madam Kallah-Kamara. I want the women of this country continue in that spirit to support our fellow women. It is only when we support women we strive towards getting to our desired goal in achieving the 30% Quota.

With this Mr Speaker, I want to ask this Honourable House to accept whole heartedly the nomination of Madam Kallah-Kamara as the substantive Commissioner General of the NRA. I thank you.

HON. HASSAN SHERIFF: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the long awaited confirmation hearing of the Office of the Commissioner-General of NRA is finally before us. I am very happy about that. I am glad that the nominee has

been tested for few years in her office. I am glad that I had the chance to work with her. I am also happy that am going to continue to work with her as Chairman of the Finance Committee. What did I mean when I said "the New Sheriff in town"? Things are going to be done differently as far as my Committee is concerned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague on the other side has made life very easy for me to commend the Appointment, especially on the Office of the Commissioner-General, NRA. I would hope Madam Commissioner would leave the door open to the Committee on Finance. I would do the best I can to help you succeed. I will do the best I can to give you the information you would need to expand your work area. There have been many challenges, particularly this year's budget. I have looked at this year's Appropriation Bill and found out that there are many challenges. We are looking at 2.7 trillion to be raised to cover the expenditure of the country. This is a big challenge. I believe you have to have the expertise, determination and the strength to meet those targets. You have done that in the past. I have no doubt that you will continue to do so in order to meet this year's revenue target of 2.7 trillion. I only hope that the rest of the staff at the NRA would give you the support you need to excel as the new Commissioner-General of NRA. I wish you well if confirmed by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Director of Financial Intelligence Unit. Again, that comes under my purview as Chairman of the Finance Committee. I am always available. When I looked at your profile, you have the requisite experience to fit into that description as Director of Intelligence Unit. You've been doing policing and security activities for the past 20 years. You are my constituent and also my friend. We fought for the symbol. But Mr Speaker, one has to win in any contest. Therefore, I am here representing you today and to give you the support that you need to succeed in your new office. I only hope and pray that your colleagues in the office would give you the necessary support you need to succeed as a new Director.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I commend the proposed Commissioner-General of NRA and the proposed Director of Financial Intelligence Unit to be confirmed by this Honourable House. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to be asked to make a few statements on the nominees before us this morning. As a Member of the Appointment Committee, I did take part in the exercise. I must confess that two nominees before us were stringently questioned with regard to the two portfolios they have been nominated for. And I want to identify myself with the Report that it represents a true reflection of the interviews that we conducted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with Mr Ahmed Bockarie Kamara, proposed Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit. I don't know him personally but from his profile, he has the requisite experience and expertise to man such an office. He would be controlling a very important institution. It is a very important Unit because the Unit is going to ensure that we strictly follow moneys that would be coming into the country and leaving the country under the Anti-money Laundry and the financing of terrorist activities in the country. We know that money laundering and terrorism are two important means that dirty money enters into our economy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are also aware of the vices of dirty money entering into a country and how it put the country in a very precarious situation. It opens the country to be either a destination country or a transit point. It also puts its citizens in dangerous situations if such moneys and activities are not properly checked. That was why it was thought expedient to create this Unit. I am happy that he has lot of experiences both national and international to man that institution. We only hope that we the citizens of this country give him all the support he needs. This is because as citizens, the success of this institution depends on our willingness to give information at all times. The success of the police in the UK and America depends much on the citizens who are willing to give the required information. Therefore, we only hope that we can

help him succeed. But at the same time Mr Speaker, he too would be facing a lot of challenges, challenges in terms of being enticed by people who maybe culprits in those areas. I don't know what the remuneration is. But the remuneration should be such that he has to think twice before falling a victim to people in the trade and industry. All we can say is to wish him well in his new position after we would have endorsed his nomination today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I come to my dear sister and college mate, Haja Isata Kallah-Kamara. First of all I want to thank Haja because her nomination has brought today a good number of us that were in college together in those days. For years we have not seen ourselves. As soon as I entered this Well, I saw most of my college mates. I am sure they are all here to give support to Haja Kallah-Kamara with whom we were all at Fourah Bay College together. I can see Grace Macauley, whom we use to call Gracious. I can also see Mary Ansumana of the National Privatisation Commission, whom we use to call Cow and Gate Baby. She used to be a very fat lady. She is very slim and beautiful now. I can also see Subi Wurie. She was a slim lady. She is now putting on weight. I can see Mrs Alice Unomarke. I still have problem pronouncing the husband's name. She is in the insurance world. I can see a lot of them today. I can see our former friend and Honourable Safula Moijueh with whom we also had very pleasant memories together with Haja at Fourah Bay College. That shows a lot Mr Speaker. We are all coming from different ethnic backgrounds and regions. But if they are here today, it speaks volumes of who Haja is and who Haja was to us. We went to Fourah Bay College the same day with Haja. Mr Speaker, whilst she was reading Economics we were reading Geography. Life is really not static. Sometime you start at one point but you end up at another point. If Honourable Members want to know how I became an Agriculturist, you have to pay me for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were all there at Beethoven. We shared the same eating halls. We were also visiting male dormitories together. Therefore, we have very good memories. We had very good days at Fourah Bay College. On the intellectual front Mr Speaker, we headed our own different units. Haja headed her own as an

Economics student, Grace headed her own as English and Literature student, Mary headed her own as a history student, Subi as an Economics student etc. When it came to business, we did business. We also did pleasure when it came to pleasure. After completing the five academic years at Fourah Bay College, we went to our different fields of studies. I was gratified to have met Haja on several occasions when she came from London, where she was doing her Masters and pursuing other courses. Mr Speaker, when this lady was nominated as Deputy Commissioner-General and later appeared before us, I was very gratified. I had no doubt in my mind that Haja will move that institution even when she was the Deputy Commissioner-General.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen over the years, since 2009 when she took over that institution and later became the Acting Commissioner-General. We have watched the revenue grew from strength to strength every year. Of course, when we interviewed her, she was frank to say that there are challenges in that institution, and there are areas of leakages which we expect. This is because not everybody likes to pay taxes. People want free things. Because of that people would do everything to evade the payment of taxes. It has not been an easy task for them to identify those culprits and to bring in those innovative activities to ensure that we maximize our tax recovery. Today, under her leadership, we have had the highest tax collection for the past few years. We must thank her and her staff for that. We must ask her to do more.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a month ago, I did attend the NRA annual general party, wherein they awarded business houses that were honouring their tax obligations. This was done to motivate other business houses to follow suit. It is a public recognition for complying with our tax obligations. But I also want to thank Haja that it is not only those who are complying that we should recognise. Let us also name and shame those who are not honouring their tax obligations. We have to name and shame them. We should even publish their names and know why they are not tax compliant. This is very important Mr Speaker. I hope Haja will put it in practice. You are a woman that has been put in this position, but not merely as a woman, but because you possess those

qualities, academic qualification and the professional experience to do your job. We want you to also make a difference at another level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to see the face of NRA more feminised. Haja, go out and ensure those women that have the necessary qualifications and experiences and who can compete with men are given the chance to serve so that your presence there as a woman will make a difference. I am not saying that you should put any woman. You are not any woman. You are a special woman. Go in search of special and qualified women. This is because we have seen that the leadership of women always makes a difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you take the educational system in this country, you will find out that over 50% of schools in this country are headed by headmistress or female principals. If women are given equal opportunities or the same resources as the men their schools tend to do better. We have for example the Modern Elementary School. Both the primary and secondary schools are headed by females. This is worth mentioned of.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I wanted to say was that Haja has our support in this Parliament. She will continue to enjoy the support most of us are giving her. There were a lot of problems with the GST. Some of us were with you to the extent that we championed the sensitisation programmes in our own districts. This is because we wanted our district to be at the top when it came to understanding the GST and complying with the GST provisions. Haja, count on us here and from time to time be pro-active volunteer. Give information from time to time to Parliament. We would be happy for you to call on Parliament here in our Committee rooms and give us an update as to how you are doing. Maybe you update us in every six months. I want you to be coming here to tell us the problems you are encountering so that we identify areas where and how you want Parliament to come in. When you create that atmosphere of information sharing, then, people would stop to create information for themselves. I want to tell you that when people are starved of information, they go out there and

generate their own information. You cannot begrudge them for whatever information they are generating, rightly or wrongly. This is because they are starved of information. Therefore, I hope that as time goes on, this should be part of your normal practice that you call on us as Members of Parliament and give us the information you think we need so that we will be updated. Even though your Annual Report will be laid on the Table of this Well, but in between the laying of the Annual Report, we can do well to know your problems. That would help us to be good ambassadors. This would help us as Members of Parliament to present NRA, especially with regard to what it is and what it is not to our constituents. This is very important for your own edification and for your own advancement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the candidate has proven herself very well and she has a battery of staff who are working with her on a daily bases. All we can say is that after today, she has a new task to perform. Therefore, we don't want to belabor her ratification. She has to go back after here to her office to continue to generate the needed resources for the provision of basic social services, which Sierra Leone needs in order to move from where we are to where we want to be.

I thank you very much and I want to congratulate you in advance for a work well done. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a feeling that most people do not know Ahmed Bockarie Kamara. I submit here that he is not an unknown personality for those of us who know him. I have no doubt that he is the right man for this job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ahmed Bockarie Kamara has the right chemistry of a highly professional police officer. During the time when he served in the police force, he left no one in doubt that he had acquired the necessary expertise and experience to work in the then transformed Sierra Leone Police. Therefore Mr Speaker, with some degree of proficiency already gained in the security sector, I have no iota of doubt that in his nomination as Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit there could

not have been a better choice. I can assure Members of Parliament here that Mr Kamara is going to transform that Unit and he will bring result with his training as I've said. We know that we have the right man in the right place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the side of Haja Isata Kallah-Kamara, I want to say here that perhaps the Minority Leader has already taken the wind out of my sail. If I want to talk about her (I am sure Mr Speaker, we do have some very pressing programmes this morning), I will take the rest of the day. I taught Haja Isata Kamara in school in the sixth form. And Mr Speaker, I am not surprised that today she has attained to such a height. There are times for us teachers, and Mr Speaker too was a teacher, when we teach you begin really to see what certain people would become later in life. I had known that one day Haja Isata Kamara would rise to such a height. I am not surprised at all. She had merely shown evidence of that. But Mr Speaker, because of time, I would want to read out some certain quotations here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it was Nancy Reagen, the wife of the former President of the United States. She was quoted in the Observer Newspaper. She said: *"a woman is like a tea bag only in hot water do you realize how strong she is"*. There are some people who say and S.O 2 *"ah Haja da place de nor to hot place o."* They really don't know who Haja Kallah-Kamara is. I can assure this House that she would certainly excel there. She is going to measure up. I don't want people to doubt about that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Shakespeare in Anthony and Cleopatra with reference to Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbi, said: *"age cannot wither a woman nor customs stain her infinite variety."* That is, if you are old, as long as you are a woman you would certainly make a difference. Well, Haja is relatively young. She has a long way to go *(Applause)*.

Mr Speaker, I want to quote from Daniel Webster, a Lithographer who once said: *"Under the most depressive circumstance a woman's weaknesses become a mighty power, her timidity becomes fearless courage, all her shrinking and sinking pass away"*

and her spirit acquires the firmness of a marble". Mr Speaker, with all modesty, Members know that Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya is a learned man (*Laughter*). What does that mean? That meant even under very difficult circumstances you can rely on a woman Mr Speaker. An illustrious scholar once said: "*if we would know the political and moral conditions of a state we must ask what rank women hold in it*". I will go over that "*if we would know the political and moral condition of a state we must ask what rank women hold in it*". Their influence embraces the whole of life. This explains why we have to put women of merit in certain important positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other day I was reading a magazine and a woman that is so passionate about women did say that in the Executive there were very few women comparatively speaking. But I would want that particular woman and others to know that it is not only in the Executive. There are other very important positions where women can serve. One of such positions is the NRA; and today we are sending Haja Kallah-Kamara there to serve. We have no doubt that she would serve very well. Thank you very much Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been carried)

THE SPEAKER: Presidential nominees, I want to congratulate you on behalf of the entire House of Parliament on your nomination which has now been approved. Have no doubt in your minds that you are going to manage very sensitive positions in this country. The eyes of the people are on you. You cannot afford to fail. Failure is not an option for you. I say congratulations again and I wish you well.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: I want to stand on S.O. 23.

THE SPEAKER: No Honourable Members. I am sure you would agree with me that we have been entertained by ladies splendidly dressing the House this morning.

HON. HASSAN SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, with your leave I want to make an announcement for the consumptions of Members of this House that five Appropriation Sub-Committees are been constituted to conduct public hearings on various Ministries, Departments and Agencies for the 2013 Budget.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please carry on.

HON. HASSAN SHERIFF: The following Honourable Members have been selected to serve as Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons:

Sub-Committee No.1, Honourable Claude Kamanda, Chair; and Honourable Bliss Osho-Williams, Deputy Chair;

Sub-Committee No.2, Honourable Brimah Conteh, Chair; and Honourable Helen Kuyembah, Deputy Chair;

Sub-Committee No. 3, Honourable Sulaiman Sisay, Chair; Honourable Abu B. Koroma, Deputy Chair;

Sub-Committee No.4, Hon. Amadu Kanu, Chair; and Honourable Rosaline Smith, Deputy Chair; and

Sub-Committee No.5, Honourable Eric Koedoyoma, Chair; and Honourable J. B. Mansaray, Deputy Chair

The rest of the Members would find their names on the list posted at the counter top of the Dispatch Desk.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O. 23 Sir. During the Parliament, for those of us who were here I stood again on S.O. 23 referring to...-
(Interruption).

THE SPEAKER: What 23?

HON. FODAY ROADO YOKIE: S.O. 23 Sir. If you look at your individual pay slip, there is a provision under deduction for Civil Service academy project. They are deducting Le 25, 000.

THE SPEAKER: Excuse me Honourable Member. This is a matter which you could take up with the Clerk's Office. And the Clerk's Office will contact the appropriate authorities in this Parliament. If you want it to be very official, you write and make the necessary attachment and ask them to act promptly on it. That is not for public consumption.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, with your leave the Chairman of the Finance Committee has announced the names of Chairmen and their respective Deputies in respect of the Appropriation Committees.

Mr Speaker, for the new Members of Parliament, I am imploring all of them to make sure that they are always in attendance. This is their very first experience. This is an opportunity for them to learn. And they can only learn if they are present. I am asking all of them, particularly the new Members to make it a point of duty to be present at all times. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.00 a.m., and was adjourned until Thursday, 7th March, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).