



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Wednesday, 29th March, 2017.

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THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIFTH SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Wednesday, 29th March, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:30 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, 28TH MARCH, 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 28th March, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? And page 6? There being no corrections or amendments, could somebody move for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 28th March 2017?

HON. HALAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I so moved

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 28th March, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPER LAID

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI, MINORITY LEADER, FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT [PAP] AND HEAD OF SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO PAP REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE FOURTH PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT HELD IN SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT FROM 10TH - 19TH OCTOBER, 2016.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Honourable Members, a very good morning as Leader of the Delegation to the Pan-African Parliament, I have the honour to lay before this noble House the following document: 'Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the Fourth Pan-African Parliament, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from the 10th to 19th October, 2016; with the theme 'Taking the Parliament to the Peoples of Africa.' Thank you *[Applause]*.

IV. BILL

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SECOND READING, COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

RTD MAJOR ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA [*Deputy Minister of Defence*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 be read the first time.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, there is an apparent inconsistency here. The Minister said 2017, but the Bill in question is talking about 2015. Would you like to advise yourself, Mr Minister? Mr King, please have a talk with the Minister.

RTD MAJOR ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it should be 2017.

HON. AJIBOLA MAINLY-SPAIN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The correct date of this Bill is 2017. I think the mistake is on the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the Bill in question was signed in 2015 by J. B. Dauda, who was the then Minister in-charge.

HON. AJIBOLA MANLY-SPAIN: Mr Speaker, we are dealing with it in 2017 and not in 2015.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have two Bills here and they are saying the same thing, but with some significant alterations. The first Bill was in 2015 and it has been replaced and tabled here in 2017. So, we are dealing with the 2017 Bill, as the Honourable Ajibola Manly-Spain has said. There was a pre-legislative hearing on this and during the hearing, we dealt with the 2017 Bill. Mr King, let me have a copy of the 2017 Bill. What I have here is 2015 for the necessary references.

RTD CAPT ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 be read the first time.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill has been read the first time]

SECOND READING

RTD CAPT ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the national Security and Central Intelligence Act 2017 be read the second time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 is intended to provide for the continuance in the existence of the Office of the National Security and the Central Intelligence and Security Agency. The appointment of the Deputy National Security Coordinator, the Deputy Director-General, the provision of powers of arrest by the officers of the Central Intelligence and Security Agencies by way of enhancing their operations, and establishment of Chiefdoms Security Committees and the Trans-national Organised Crime Unites [TNOCU] to provide for other related matters.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the object of this Bill, the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 is divided into ten parts:

- part one provides for the interpretation of certain terms and the expression in the Bill;
- part two provides for the continuance in existence of a National Security Council, proceedings of the Council and the Joint Intelligence Committee;
- part three deals with the continuance in existence of the Provincial District and Chiefdom Security and Intelligence Committees, the establishment of the National Security Council coordinating Group and the Joint Maritime Committee;

- part four provides for the establishment of the Trans-nationals Organised Crimes Units with its Advisory and Management Boards, the appointment of a Director-General as head of the Unit;
- part five deals with continuance in existence of the Central Intelligence and Security Unit, to be known as the Central Intelligence and Security Agency, its functions, powers, annual operations report, the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the CISA tenure of office, other employees and under-cover or sting operations.
- part six deals with the continuance in existence the Office of the National Security [ONS], qualifications for the appointment of the National Security Coordinator and Deputy, functions and tenure of office of same and covers other employees.
- part seven provides for application for warrants, effects of warrants and information without warrant;
- part eight deals with complaints, tribunals, its investigation of complaints, hearing of complaints, proceedings of hearings, notice of hearings and decision of tribunal;
- part nine deals with financial provision, including general expenses for the routine operations, end of service benefits, special operation and account audit.
- part ten deals with miscellaneous provisions which include oaths, confidentiality, disclosure of information, disclosure before Parliament, privilege information, impersonation, interference and obstruction of duty, regulations and repeal.

With that submission, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 be read the second time.

[Question Proposed]

HON. PARTRICK L. M. KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are today talking about the security of the state through an organ established by Government to look at what is happening in the area of security in this country. We must be aware of the fact that security is not only in the hands of the security personnel, like the military and police. It is the responsibility of each and every one in this country to make sure that our country is well secured. In that light, issues relating to security of this country should be carefully handled with seriousness. I think

this is why Government has been able to establish what we called CISA for that organ of Government to look at issues relating to the security of this country, so that the people of this country can go about their businesses without any security threat. As Sierra Leoneans, we deserve the right to be properly secured by the agencies that have been set up by Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here issues relating to security are not only in the hands of the Military or the Police, as the Minister has rightly noted, it has become an issue involving every sector of society from CISA level to national level. Therefore, we must treat this Bill with all seriousness because it deals with the lives of each and every Sierra Leonean. National security issues, as stated in this Bill, are issues we must not toy with at all. If you look at this Bill, new issues relating to state security have earmarked and those issues must be thoroughly discussed and put into effective practice, so that those officers in charge of the security sector will be able to discharge their duties effectively.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in as much as we are able to work as a team and being a former member of the police, all of us are part of the security apparatus to provide what is required for the stability of this country. We are aware of the fact that if we are not able to secure our country, the development of this country will not be realised. Therefore, in as much as we are talking about issues relating to the security of the people of this country, we should treat this document with the utmost seriousness, so that at the end of the day, we will be able to achieve our aims and objectives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since the Office of National Security [ONS] is now going to take the security sector down to the chiefdom levels that is an indication to show that the people living in those Chiefdoms are concerned about the security of this country. Therefore, we should take this document with all seriousness. Again, I want to inform this House that security is not all about lives because we have other areas of security threat. For instance, the Minister spoke about espionage, sabotage and terrorism, which are of paramount concern to every peace loving citizen. We know what terrorism has done, and is still doing in other countries. May God forbid, if a

terrorist is amongst us, all of us will be gone. Therefore, as a sober and serious Government, it has thought it necessary to make it more effective for us to have an organ that will be able to look after our lives. Like I said earlier, security issue is not only in the hands of the Military or Police and that is why Government has created this special organ and brought this Bill before us to look at issues relating to the security of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue on trans-national crimes should be taken very seriously in any society. For those of us who are fortunate to be in Parliament should be telling our parents and constituents to be their own security. How are you going to do that? For those of coming from the villages, if for instance, we have a stranger whom we have never seen or known before, you should only provide accommodation for him/her, but you should also monitor him/her. This is because you might have a stranger whom you do not know his/her characters. Therefore, Government has thought it necessary to amend the old Bill that was brought to this Parliament in 2002, so that security issues that were not included in the Parent Act are addressed. The Department that is charged with the responsibility of security is able to look at issues that were elided and I think those issues are being addressed in this Bill. The Department has done a very good job in terms of ensuring the effectiveness of the security sector to perform its responsibilities. They have thought it fit to bring this document to Parliament, so that we can make inputs and suggestions to make the new document more effective.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the provisions in this Bill is the creation of a new sector for members of the CISU. That section will be responsible to arrest criminals who are with the intention to threaten the security of this country. They are going to be assisted by the military and the police forces. Other agencies or MDAs are also going to assist in providing information relating to the security of the country. We have an agency like the Maritime that is going to assist the security sector in that regard. As Members of Parliament, it is our responsibility to make sure that this Bill is speedily

ratified, so that we can have effective organs that will be addressing issues relating to the security of this country. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 21st Century security requirement for the safety and security of citizens in this country is a continuous process because of the security threat emerging in the everyday world situations. It is, but prudent for our country to align our security needs and structures to meet the current security threats.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill that is in front of us has made provisions in that regard. This Bill, if passed into law, will strengthen the security cooperation and coordination from the Chiefdom levels to regional and national levels. What has been lacking over the years is an effective coordination in terms of security operations; and as a result, we have been complaining about issues emerging with no concrete solution. However, the National Security and Central Intelligent Act, 2017 is one that I find very good, moving towards addressing the challenges of the 21st Century security issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill makes provisions for the creation of a Deputy Director-General. It also makes provision for the powers of arrest, and that in my opinion is one of the main tools of any effective security institution. They must have powers of arrest if they think it is in the interest of the country. This Bill, therefore, provides effective means to carry out those functions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the issues mentioned in this Bill is the impoundment of computers and other tools. Mr Speaker, for some of us following current events around the world, airlines have banned travelling with computers in cabin areas because of the improvise means by terrorists to carry out their vicious and heinous crimes. As we are seated here, destructive materials or bomb making materials can be found on the internet. The destructive capability of some of these improvise devices can be very catastrophic if we do not give our intelligent security agency the powers to arrest and to enforce with swift reaction to those situations. I think there would be some deficiency in terms of their operations. I know some might argue that those powers might be misused, as someone from the background is saying; but I think

this Bill makes provision for application to the court or to a Judge or to a Magistrate before such powers are carried out.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without wasting much time, I want to urge this Honourable to ratify this Bill because it is in the interest of national security and the wellbeing and safety of us all. Thank you so much.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: I thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill that is before us this morning is a good Bill. It is an improved version of the parent Act that was passed by this House in 2002, when in fact the agencies that we are referring to here as the National Security Agency were established. It is extremely relevant for us to take note of the fact that terrorism was of no much significant during the time when the parent Act was passed into law. Today, however, the world is experiencing a lot of activities through which countries like Sierra Leone must ginger up, so that we can cope with international best practice in the area of security. Therefore, there is every need to improve that part of the Bill that is before us this morning. As a matter of fact, we have learnt few days ago that some terrorist organisations were able to infiltrate our passport system in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with such activities, if our national security, our laws or our regulations are not amended to comply with international best practice, we will be in a position where bad people will do that which they have been planning to do. I am saying this because these terrorists have already involved in committing international mayhem by obtaining and acquiring our passport. This Agency was formed in 2002, when we had just ended the civil war. The Central Intelligent and Security Unit was set up to protect our internal dynamics, so that we can avoid domestic terrorism from which our country suffered for ten years. So, I am pleased that this Bill is before us today. Interestingly, Mr Speaker, the then Minister of Internal Affairs was in Cabinet in 2015 because he was the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. He was quite familiar with the development that took place up to that time; and since then, further developments have also taken place that require some amount of improvements. Therefore, it is necessary for this Bill to be brought before us for

amendment. The amendments that have been included in this Bill, which were not in the parent Act of 2002 should be looked into thoroughly in order to ensure that we have an inclusive Bill that will stand the test of time.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this House to pass this Bill into law. I thank you.

HON. SUAHILO M. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to start from where the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai ended; i.e., the need for an inclusive Bill that will stand the test of time for the security of this country. I want to state here that this Bill is very timely and it is well-structured. A couple of days ago, I attended an international conference in this Parliament and issues relating to biological and toxic weapons were discussed. This is a very serious security issue and a number of concerns were raised in that conference. For instance, the Ebola virus is still hibernating in human bodies in Sierra Leone. These are very serious security concerns. We now have a lot of experts coming around to conduct research on Ebola and how to develop Ebola vaccines.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to alert the security sector that this is one possible area that may cause some serious security breach for this country. The security sector has to be very alert on who should come into this country to undertake any research on Ebola related issues because we all know that the Ebola virus still exists somewhere in human bodies in this country or in other neighbouring countries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also made a presentation on the protection of our water sources in that conference. If you look at our water sources around Freetown [as we are talking about biological or toxic weapons], you will find out we are a very vulnerable country. Therefore, I also want to draw the attention of the security sector to those areas. Those areas should be considered too. This Bill is about security coordination and it also talks about creating security committees from Chiefdom to national levels.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at part three of this Bill, it talks about the composition of the Security Committee at the Chiefdom level. The 'c' part of that provision talks about the senior security police commander in the chiefdom and the 'd' part talks about the most senior military commander in the chiefdom. Mr Speaker, I come from a chiefdom where I have never seen a single police officer being deployed in that area. These are people who have knowledge and expertise in providing advice as far as security issues are concerned. If paramount chiefs, chief administrators and other local authorities are put on those committees without a police officer being deployed in the chiefdom, I think it is a serious matter of concern.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at this Bill, no provision is made to suggest that police and military officers are going to be deployed at chiefdom levels. This is a very serious concern and I know is not only for the chiefdom where I come from, but other chiefdoms. In other words, there could be other chiefdoms in this country where police and military officers are not being deployed, but provision is being made for their representation in these committees as this Bill states. I think that is a major concern and I would like the Minister to actually respond to the issues we are raising.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with those few points I have raised, I believe this Bill is timely and I would want to encourage my colleagues to also examine this Bill properly, especially when we come to the Committee Stage. I would also like the Minister to respond to the issues we are raising, so that we can ensure that we address the security needs of this country. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I want the lady who was altercating with the Member of Parliament to stand up. Don't you know that you should not do what you just did? Madam Fatmata, are you a Lawyer?

MADAM FATMATA: No sir.

THE SPEAKER: Do you know that what you did is contempt of Parliament it is a very serious crime. That can even send you to jail. Please do not do that again.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the creation of the Central Intelligent System, also known as the ONS in the wake of the civil war in this country was a beginning point by the Government at the time to put in place those structures that would provide the necessary security for the state and for the people of this country at that time. It should also be noted here that at the time the ONS was created through the support of the British Government, quite a number of aspects were left out and it was not until later we came to the realisation that we must beef up the legislation related to state security. We have made the point time and again that there is a clear dichotomy between the ONS [which is supposed to provide a synergy in providing security for the state], and the police and the military as an individual institutions. However, it should also be stated that the ONS ought to provide leadership even for these two other institutions, the police and the military. The military and the police forces should be part of the security of the state.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the powers of arrest, as provided for in this new Bill, gives a lot of strength to the ONS. I want to agree with that because during the cocaine saga, we suddenly discovered that we did not have the necessary legislation to take the necessary action that could have made it easier for the Government to arrest possible suspects. In fact, we have seen the need for us to give arresting powers to our intelligent agencies. This will only happen if we pass this Bill into law. It should always be the work of Parliament to provide the oversight facilities that are so necessary. I would even suggest that we have a special Committee to oversee the operations of ONS. This will enable us avert any possible conflict that may want to arise. I remember reading the conflict between John Edgar Hoover, who was in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] in the United States of America and the Gently General, who was fighting the war in Korea once said that the people in Washington DC were taken too many decisions that were not consistent with the security of the state and the aspects that are so necessary for the Military of the United States of America. When you have this kind of conflict then you have difficulties to contend with.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when Robert Kennedy became the Attorney General of the United States of America, it became almost impossible for him to control John Edgar Hoover. He was so powerful that he was able to make secretaries of states incapable of performing their duties. When Robert Kennedy became Attorney General he wanted to correct that situation, but that was difficult to correct. He tried very hard to correct that situation. The important thing is that there must be a system which will ensure that there is no conflict between the various agencies that have been created. We should also ensure that the civilian security component [ONS] is not excluded. I am very impressed with the fact that if you look at the composition of the proposed committees, there is provision for civilians to participate in the process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the drafters of this Bill for including this provision in this Bill. Also, we should not allow the excessive use of such powers. We are now talking about arresting and impounding computers, laptops, etc. If that kind of power is given to somebody who can use it excessively, that can undermine the very security and the freedom of the individual. So, I can only state here that in appointing people to handle some of these important positions, they should also be cautioned that the rights of the individuals are very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that General MacArthur complained that those guys in Washington DC were taking all decisions whilst they were in the bush fighting. We should not forget that because the people who are going to provide security are not necessarily civilians. They are soldiers and their roles should also be explained.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Council that is going to be created should also be converted into a War Council, so that in the event of war, the Council takes the lead. We discovered during the last civil war, we did not have this component to the extent that individual citizens quickly created institutions which they called Kamajor, Gbethi, etc. All that happened because we did not have a Central Intelligent System and that is why we have to be very certain this time to have a Central Intelligent

System and a War Council that can be utilised very effectively in providing security for the state.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to make it very clear that when we started the process of providing security, creating the ONS it was deliberate. It was as a result of the fact that we did not know that we needed an institution of this nature until we were overtaken by a war. We now know that the intelligence that is going to be provided for Sierra Leoneans, even if people are planning a war in England, we should be able to know about it in Freetown. If we do not have the capacity and its capability, people can easily plan a war around our borders and we may have a war. So, the important thing here is that we should have an effective intelligent system that will make sure that this country does not fall into the trap of war anymore. But again, we also want to protect the people in this country' and we also want to make sure that both the police, the military and other security agencies are incorporated into this system, so that the ONS itself is not only seen as a small civilian entity, but also an entity that brings on board all the security components of the state so that this country is protected *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have already made it very clear that we have an institution responsible for internal security of the state and we also have an institution responsible for the external security of this country in the event of a war. Also, we now have the intelligent system, a system that will ensure that we bring all the security apparatus together, so that we protect this country and this is very important.

With those few words, I want to encourage this Honourable House to support the passage of this Bill into law. I thank you very much.

HON. RTD BRIG. KOMBA E. S. BOYAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the last Pre-legislative hearing on this Bill, I think it is now clear that both members are familiar with the contents; and as a result, I am not sure it is going to be controversial. However, having listened to a lot of speakers this morning, I want Honourable Members to determine, in their debates, the professional link

between national security and intelligence. Once you do that, by the time you come to the Committee Stage, we will be able to do justice to this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Minority Leader of this House raised some salient points in his contribution. I am sure he was part of the arrangement for the formation of the ONS. The Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo came up with recent scenarios to support his argument. At this point, I want to urge Honourable Members to patiently wait for the Committee Stage. That is the area we have to make some proposals for inclusion.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI [*Minority Leader of the House*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, we are here debating a Bill that is fifteen [15] years old because the parent Bill was promulgated in February, 2002, few days after the eleven years of protracted war was officially pronounced ended in January, 2002. Fifteen years is a long time and a lot of things would have happened both nationally and internationally. During the promulgation of the parent Bill, we were still enjoying a lot of international security forces in this country because we had United Nation Advisory Mission in Sierra Leone [UNAMSIL] and a lot of other intelligence were foreign-based. After we launched the security sector reform, we brought in new institutions, new personnel and by 2007, there was a drawdown of the international security forces for our own national security apparatus to gradually take over. Today, the rest of our national security system is nationalised and of course, we are still receiving benefits from intermittent foreign interjection, which is normal and necessary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the parent Act, you will find out that it has been improved upon because we had about thirty-nine articles and the Bill under discussion has fifty articles. This means that there has been a lot of improvement. We have added new structures to the current Bill that are not in the parent Act. Mr Speaker, even if they were included, we have improved on their functions and the nature of those institutions. Therefore, this is a big change. We hope that all of these

changes will ensure improved security, stability and peace for this country. If passed into law, it will improve on the human and logistical resource of the security apparatus because it is very important. Recently, we saw the attack at the Westminster and within few days, they were able to apprehend a lot of suspects. In Sierra Leone, we have still not been able to apprehend war suspects and we still do not even know what happened. We are still looking for those evidences. Therefore, it is not about establishing some of these institutions, even though they are very important. We should also be thinking about capacity building and resource allocations to these institutions, so that we can benchmark our institutions of national security. We may not use the United States of America or the United Nations, which to me sounds too over ambitious. We may use countries that are closer to us, like South Africa, Ghana and Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very important for us to lay premium on our security because it is important. Our national security is very important because without national security, we cannot have sustainable development. Sustainable development and national security are two bed fellows; i.e., they go together. In fact it is the sine quo non for any national development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you come to the Bill itself, under the Office of National Security Agency, it makes provision for deputies. Let me start with the position of the Director-General. The parent Act did not prescribe, in specific terms, the qualifications and years of experience, but the Bill before us has made that provision. The parent Act states thus, 'persons with the requisite academic and professional qualifications.' The Bill before us goes further to state that you must have so many years of working experience and you must have such qualifications. However, I would like the Minister to make certain clarifications on the area where the qualifications for the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General are the same. You are saying that for the position of the Director-General, you must have a Master or a Bachelor Degree. The question is which one do you want? This requirement is very ambiguous because in any qualification for a job, there is a minimum qualification requirement. Therefore, we must take the minimum qualification in this case. If the minimum qualification for the

position of Director-General is a Master degree, then it stands to reason that you must have a first degree. You cannot put both of them.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Madam Minority Leader. As an educationist yourself, do you agree with that? If you say a Master degree, it stands to reason that you should have a bachelor degree. Educationally, that is the understanding we all have. However, there are some who will ask for a Master degree and do not even want to know whether you have a bachelor degree. I agree with what you have just said. This is really ambiguous and the Minister must endeavour to clarify that issue.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, if you are calling for a Master degree as the minimum requirement and you do due diligence during the interview process; i.e., by asking the interviewee to provide his/her first degree certificate or an equivalent. That is the first certificate you ask for before you finally ask for the Master. That is what I am saying here. It is left with the interview panel to make sure that there is due diligence. The interviewee should not provide a Master degree certificate without having a first degree. I am saying this because we have seen instances where somebody has a Diploma and jumped straight to do his/her Master degree.

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minority Leader, even an 'A' Level.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Yes, Mr Speaker. There are people with 'A' Level certificates who have done their Master degrees without their bachelor degrees in this country. If you have a Master degree without a first degree, that gap is very wide. That is what I am saying, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now look at the position of the Deputy Directors General not only for the Central Intelligence and Security Agency, but also for the National Security Coordinator. We have the same qualifications, either a Master or a bachelor degree. We have to have the minimum qualification. For instance, if the minimum qualification for the position of Director-General is a Master degree, then it stands to reason that you must have a first degree and then the Master degree. The same arrangements should also apply to the position of the Deputy Director General.

Both positions have the same qualifications and experiences because you are calling for a Master with ten year working experience. This means that you are requiring the same qualifications for both the Director General and the Deputy Director General in terms of academic qualifications. However, their functions are different somehow. That is one observation I have made.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have seen that the functions of the National Security Coordinators have also been enlarged. If you compare this Bill and the parent Act, what I do not see is that under the functions of the National Security Coordinator, we have removed the issue of licencing private security firms because it used to be under that institution. That section has been deleted, according to this Bill. Therefore, we want to know who will be responsible to license those private security companies. Where has it been moved to, Mr Speaker? I need to see it or is it now an entirely different set up?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was not present when the Pre-legislative hearing was held, but I want to state here that 'memorandum of object and reason' is very scanty. The 'memorandum of object and reason' should have told us what has changed since 2002 when the parent Act was passed into law. We want to know what has changed and that is usually the case. You have to state why we are overhauling or consolidating the parent Act. We need that background information; and if you have given it during the Pre-legislative hearing, it is not sufficient. Maybe during the Pre-legislative hearing, you gave enough information. What happened during the pre-legislative hearing is a different situation from what usually happens in this Well. We expected the Minister to have given us detailed information with regards the 'memorandum of object and reason.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that even for the education of those who may not have been in the pre-legislative hearing, we still needed to see what is new in this Bill and the reasons for replacing the parent Act. If we fail to do that, we will not be able to understand the rationale behind this Bill. We cannot take security issues for granted, especially for a country that has just come from

war. We have done a lot of security sector reforms; we have done a lot of personnel trainings; we have also tried to upgrade our tools for security activities, but we are not there yet. We are far from being there because even the issue of high illiteracy level of our population, in itself is a very big security threat for this country. Therefore, the people of this country should be educated on this issue. Sometimes our children are playing with shining objects and they do not even know if it is a bomb.

Recently, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, something was discovered in Fourah Bay College and it was there for days. I think it was a bomb and attention has been called to it. We expected that quick action should have been taken to immediately assess the situation and deal with it. For the past two days we have been discussing issues on biological and toxic weapons convention. The question is why are we discussing an agreement that is like 40 years old? Is it because of the terrorist organisations like the Al Shaba or the Boko Haram? Non-state actors are also looking outside conventional weapons to weapons that we may not think are lethal, but they are lethal 'weapon of mass destruction.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not end my contribution without talking about this Parliament. If there is any institution in Sierra Leone that is not secured at all, if there is any institution where our security is taken for granted, it is this Parliament *[Applause]*. We have put the scanners out there, but people are by-passing the scanners. They go through the cafeteria right to our offices. We usually find them sitting in front of our offices to see the Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai, the Deputy Majority Leader, the Clerk of Parliament, the Deputy Speaker and even the Speaker. They are by-passing the scanners to come and see us. I must state here that this Parliament is really free. We have been to other Parliaments and we have seen the amount of checks you would have to go through before you finally get to the Member of Parliament you want to see. In this Parliament, people have taken this place like market hub. Whilst people are busy doing something in their offices that will be the time they knock at the door of your office to tell you, S.O. 2 'ar get cream o or ar get yɔgɔt o.' Selling Yoghurt in a Parliament? This is not only absurd, but very sad.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am now going to talk of something very sensitive. I am not offending anybody, but this is a reality; i.e., the Friday prayers. My husband is a Muslim and I support him as a Muslim. To me, the Friday Muslim Prayers in this House is a risk. We do not even bother to check them. Some come through the Cafeteria and other entrances. Who are they? I am not offending any religion. This is just the reality and our security should be paramount. If we are to allow outsiders to congregate here for Friday for Muslim Prayers, we should be able to vet everybody who comes here every day and every minute. May God forbid that we do not offend any of our constituents to the point that he/she comes here with a gun for a Member of Parliament who has failed to pay for his/her child's school fee. We have cases wherein Members of Parliament have been confronted by their constituents to buy diapers for their babies. This is very serious because other Parliaments are being attacked and we are no different from those Parliaments. Therefore, while we are talking about national security, let us also start with the security of this Parliament. Let the security come and assess our security situation in this Parliament, so that they can come up with effective ways to tighten the security of this Parliament. This Parliament is insecure, despite the scanners we have put, people are bypassing them *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill is very good because security is everything. Whatever we can do to secure our country, it is going to be important because without security, we will not have peace and stability in our homes and in our offices. Again, without adequate security, we cannot have sustainable development in this country. Therefore, we have to make sure that this Bill, when it goes through the other stages, we try to tighten the loose ends. Mr Speaker, we should take our security in our own hands in this Parliament. We pray that nothing goes wrong; otherwise it will be a sorrowful day because this Parliament is very porous. We are accepting everybody under the surface of the earth in this Parliament.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what usually disturbs is the way and manner some of our ladies dress to come to this Parliament. It does not befit us, as Members of Parliament. Sometimes I asked the police to send them out of this Parliament. This is a

noble House, but people just think that they can dress anyhow and come to this House. Those who are coming here should be decently dressed in a way that befits this House. This is the seat of law of this country and we have to ensure that the dignity of this House is maintained. The ladies are in the habit of wearing short and tight skirts, thereby exposing their bodies. Also, some of the boys who are coming here usually wear short sleeves. Mr Speaker, we should put more efforts to ensure that those who are coming to this Parliament dress decently, otherwise we should not even allow them to pass through the first gate. We should send them back because it does not befit our standards. I thank you and God bless us all *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minority Leader that is well said. Madam Minority Leader, I guess you are a member of the House Committee. Some of the things you have said are very important and those issues should be taken up with the House Committee.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are aware of the fact that security architecture has to be very thorough and effective, so that we will be able to render the necessary services to the people of this country. We have listened keenly to the Honourable Members who have spoken about the intent of the law that is before them. We have also listened to the Honourable Minority Leader of this House. She has raised a few issues, but they are very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would recall that I have already given notice that we have received communications from the Minister himself and is requesting a delay in the process of passing this Bill because he wants to revisit it. I will move that motion when we come to the necessary stage. I want to assure this Honourable House that this Bill, in as much as we are moving into the 21st century, the Minister wants to ensure that it is very thorough and will be able to take care of our immediate security needs and even anticipate future happenings. In view of that, I am not going to respond to the concerns that have been raised. In other words, when we come to the necessary stage, I would move a motion to send this Bill again to the Legislative Committee for it to be revisited by the Minister. We would want the Minister to go and incorporate the issues raised in this Bill.

Having said that Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to wait for that stage to be able to move the motion. I want to thank all those who have spoken.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, certain questions have been posed and certain concerns were raised. You are at liberty to respond to those questions or issues.

RTD CAPT. ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a nation's security can only succeed in bringing peace and stability to that nation with a thorough security apparatus in place. I happen to be a former US Army Official who was present during the 2001 World Trade Centre bombing; and I played a very significant role there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Kambia District, in his opening remarks, said that security is a responsibility for everyone. This means that the issue of security should only be left in the hands of Government, but every security sector has a role to play. I made mention of the 2001 World Trade Centre Bombing because the report that came out after that incident clearly showed that there was no coordination between the different security sectors of that nation and that was why the band of terrorists were able to erode the world's most security barricade. Therefore, what the Honourable Member said is in place and we must ensure that everybody is involved in securing the state, our lives and property.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Alhassan Kamara spoke about new challenges confronting world's security. He also spoke about some issues with sweeping powers. The Honourable from Pujehun, Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai also commended this Bill as an improved version of the parent Act of 2002. He stated that the world is experiencing technological transformation which the terrorists are utilising in their own best interest to bring mayhem. The Rt. Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo spoke about the civilian component of this Bill and he even cited examples on the internal dispute in the United States of America in those days, which brought about stagnation into an improved security system of the United States of America at that time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Minority Leader, Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai spoke about the qualifications of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General. She wanted to know whether it should be a Bachelor degree or a Master degree. Well, it should be a Bachelor degree, but a Master degree is preferred. However, the Committee will work on that issue. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr Minister. Has it ever occur to you that some bachelor degrees are far better than Master degrees, particularly the present generation? The other day, the Honourable Komba Koedoyoma was talking eloquently on that issue. Honourable Members, what I see these days is that everybody is rushing for a Master degree even when some people with A' level can be regarded as better off.

RTD CAPT. ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the wisdom of His Excellency the President in bringing about the National Civil Registration Authority is a blessing on our security system in this country. This is where every citizen of this nation, as well as every one that is entering the borders of this country, will be made to go through the biometrics. This will save us from the outward nature of our security apparatus. We have seen situations wherein Sierra Leoneans are being deported from other countries. Those Sierra Leoneans were claiming that they went there during the civil war, but they have no documentation to ascertain that assertion. However, with this system the President has introduced, it will help to save us from those hustles. This is a system wherein each and every person that is entering Sierra Leone will be identified.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr Minister. I want the Honourable PC Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III to educate me on something. I first of all refer him to Page 10 of this Bill, Paragraph 'f,' under Chiefdom Councillor. As a veteran Paramount Chief, who is a Chiefdom Councillor? Does Councillor here refer to the Council? I think there is only one Councillor in the Chiefdom.

HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARU SANKA III: The one we usually call Chiefdom Councillor is a tribal authority. Okay, Honourable Paramount Chief. I want to thank you very much. That is now understandable to me.

HON. SUALIHO M. KOROMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I raised a very serious issue; i.e., 'the Chiefdom Security Committee.' I think he did not say anything on that issue. I wanted to also know if we would not establish a Chiefdom Security Committee. I also wanted to know how our security sectors, particularly the police and the military are involved in the process. This is because in the Chiefdom where I come from, there are no police or military officers being deployed in that Chiefdom. According to this Bill, Chiefdom Security Committees are being provided for at Chiefdom levels. I am of the opinion that these are not just committees we are trying to establish on paper.

RTD CAPT. ISHMAEL SENGU KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope this Bill will be passed for the good of this nation. On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 be read the second time.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled, the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2017 being an Act to repeal and replace the National Security and Central Intelligence Act, 2002, to provide for the internal and external security of Sierra Leone and for other related matters has been read the second time].

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O 51[1]. I move that this Bill be committed to the Legislative and other relevant parliamentary Committees.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. NICHOLAS KAMARA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and agreed to]

[The Bill has been committed to the Legislative Committee]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have a very important announcement to make. I am under instruction by the Leader and Chairman of the All Peoples Congress [APC], who incidentally is the President of the country. The announcement is that because the Majority Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business has expressed his intention to vie as a presidential candidate in the forthcoming elections, and he holds the position of Leader of the House, the Leader of the House is not only Leader of the APC, but of the entire House. There will be no more confidence in him as to his fairness to the House since he is now a presidential candidate. I am therefore under instruction by the Leader and Chairman of the APC to relieve him off the position and make the following replacement. With immediate effect, the Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah becomes the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, the Honourable Hassan B. Sheriff becomes the Deputy Majority Leader. That is the end of the announcement [*Applause*].

In that regard, Honourable Members, I will announce the movement with regards to the sitting position later. And Mr Acting Clerk, hold on with regards to carrying out any other thing necessary having regard to this announcement until I so direct.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we all know we are very much involved in the current voter registration exercise for the forthcoming Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Councils Elections. We are aware of the fact that the process has some flaws we must draw the attention of the relevant authorities to. Again, there are unforeseen expenditure that are personally carried out by Members of Parliament in our various constituencies like providing fuel and logistics to the NEC officials who are carrying out the exercise. In fact, that is causing discouragement on these workers because they may not be in a proper mind to carry out these exercises they have been hired to carry out. Therefore, I want to call on NEC to immediately provide sufficient logistics that would help those workers carry out their duties. They must provide financial resources immediately to those workers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I state earlier, the process has some flaws we would have to look into. These workers cannot work without the necessary logistics. Therefore, I want to ask NEC to step-up and carry those burdens. It is even now becoming necessary that the period of this registration should be extended because of the slow pace at which the process is going.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, to support what you have said, my own observation is that having regard to other observations made by other people that the initial stage of the registration is a bit cumbersome, perhaps that will necessitate what you are saying. Registration is key to any credible and transparent election. Therefore, would you like to move that as a motion?

HON ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON ABU B. KOROMA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that because of certain problems associated with the registration exercise that an appeal be made to NEC to consider very seriously the extension of the time for the registration.

[Question Proposed, Put and agreed to]

[A motion of Appeal for NEC to consider the option of extension of the voter registration process has been carried]

HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, this House is responsible to make laws for the people of Sierra Leone. No other person can make laws that are constitutionally acceptable than this House. We are doing our best to make these laws, but some of the agencies we establish under the laws of Sierra Leone do not follow the laws that have been passed by Parliament.

[Suspension of S.O. 5[2] being 12:00 noon]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, for the information of all of you, the Honourable Benneh Bangura is now the Chairman of the Port Loko District for the APC *[Applause]*.

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Speaker, in 2009, under your leadership and others, we passed the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, Act No.12. Under that Act, we did our best to protect the people of Sierra Leone and I want this to be considered by the Committees on Finance and Mines. Under Section 73, I want you to look at the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, Act No.12, 73[b]. It says: "An application for an exploration license shall not be granted to an applicant where:

[a] the applicant is disqualified from holding an exploration license under section 26;

[b] an application license shall not be granted to an applicant where the proposed exploration license area is the same or overlaps with an existing exploration license area, or an existing mining area or an area close to exploration and mining; and

[c] the proposed exploration license area is the same or overlap with any area, the subject of an earlier registered application for an exploration, artisanal mining, small scale mining or large scale mining license.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Minerals Agency [NMA] is taking moneys from big exploration license companies. They are preventing those who are doing artisanal mining. In fact, artisanal miners are qualified to mine because they have paid to NMA. People are coming to the chiefs to complain because they paid over **Le2,000,000** for artisanal mining licenses. They usually seize their equipment and lock them up. As I speak, some of these miners are at Kenema and they have authentic mining licenses. I want to remind this House and the public that we are not protecting our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters at all. If you have taken 400 licenses from people who are employing 30 people to mine for them, it means you have displaced 1,200 workers.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that the people of Kenema, Bo, Kono, Pujehun, and other districts in the mining sector are being affected. The artisanal mining should not be stopped by an exploration license. These people are not exploring any more. Sierra Leone has been discovered to have diamonds from 1930. These explorers are mining in the areas where our people are mining. I want to inform this House that the artisanal miners have the right to protect their land and do their mining.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 12.25 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 30th March, 2017 at 10:a.m]