



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 3rd AUGUST, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



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PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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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 Thursday, 3rd August, 2017.

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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**

Thursday, 3RD August, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

[The Clerk of Parliament, Mr Ibrahim S. Sesay, Read the Prayers].

[The House met at 10:40 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 FRIDAY, 3RD JULY, 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 21st July, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3?

HON. MABINTY BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Page 1? I was absent because we had a District Executive meeting in Kambia District.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Mabinty Bangura, please sit down. Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? There being no corrections or amendments would somebody move for the adoption of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Friday, 21st July, 2017.

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 21st July, 2017 has been adopted as presented].

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE DEPUTY SPEAKER - CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HONOURABLE CHERNOR R.M. BAH

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH *[Deputy Speaker of the House and Chairman, Public Accounts Committee]:* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following document:

THE AUDIT SERVICE – PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT BY THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY – SIERRA LEONE [EPA-SL] *[Applause]*.

[B] HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA – DEPUTY CHAIRMAN [PAC] AND HEAD OF DELEGATION
REPORT ON TACKLING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS: AN AFRICAN APPROACH TO A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a Report on 'Tackling Illicit Financial Flows: An African Approach to a Global Phenomenon. Mr Speaker, before I lay this report, I would like to make this simple comment on this all important document.

HON KOMBAE. KOEDOYOMA: Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr King, please take note of what the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai has said. I am aware of the fact that before any document is laid on the Table, the relevant Standing Orders must be quoted. However, once the Speaker has allowed, it should not be questioned.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, illicit financial flows has become a major problem for the entire world, especially Africa. It has become a very difficult situation that is leading to the outflows of our resources from the continent. Most of our resources are finding their ways out of our various countries, leaving us poorer than we were. So, this report highlights the African approach in terms of tackling these outflows of our resources to Europe and America.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now lay the report on the Table of the House for Members to read *[Applause]*.

IV. BILL

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AGENCY ACT, 2017

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SANITATION

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE]

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA [*Acting Chairman, Legislative Committee*]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is the 6th Report of the Legislative Committee, Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled, 'The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017,' presented to Parliament on Thursday, 3rd August, 2017.

Introduction

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the Sixth Report of the Legislative Committee, Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, on the Bill entitled, **"The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017 being an Act to repeal and replace the National Pharmaceutical Procurement Unit Act, 2012 to establish the National Medical Supplies Agency as a public service agency responsible for the procurement, warehousing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies in a transparent and cost-effective manner for and on behalf of all public institutions throughout Sierra Leone."**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Bill, having gone through the Second Reading was committed to the Legislative Committee for scrutiny pursuant to **Standing Orders 51[1]**. Subsequently, the Committee met on Tuesday, 1st August, 2017 in Committee Room 1, Parliament Building with the following objectives:

- to scrutinise the detailed provisions of the legislative proposal after the Second Reading in the House;
- to ascertain the constitutional and legal implications contained therein; and
- to report to Parliament in accordance with the Provisions of the Standing Orders of this Honourable House.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in attendance were the Minister of Health and Sanitation and Officials of his Ministry, the Chief Pharmacist and Deputy Chief Pharmacist, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone, Secretary General

Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone, Registrar of the Pharmacy Board, Chairman and Members of the Task Force. Meaningful contributions were made during the said meeting.

Recommendations

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinised the Bill line by line and clause by clause, recommended the following amendments to the House for approval.

[1] Part 1, preliminary be approved.

[2] Part 2, Establishment of the National Medical Supplies Agency

- i. The side note be amended by inserting the word **"the"** before the word **"National"**
- ii. That Clause 2 be approved
- iii. Clause 3 be amended as follows:
 - a. the side note be amended by inserting the word **"the"** before the word **"Agency"**
 - b. Sub-clause 2, Paragraph 'D' be amended to read "A representative of the Medical and Dental Association of Sierra Leone."
 - c. By inserting the following paragraphs to read [e] and [f] respectively:
"A representative of the Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone;" and
"A Legal Practitioner from the Bar Association of Sierra Leone."
 - d. Paragraph 'e' be amended to read as paragraph 'g;' i.e., **"Four other Members recommended by the Minister through a consultative selection process"**
 - e. Sub-clause 3 be amended to read **"A member recommended by the Minister under Paragraph 'g' [i-iv] of Sub-clause 2 of Clause 2.**
 - f. Sub-clause 3, Paragraph 'c' be amended as **"not to have been convicted for an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or sexual offence."**

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Honourable Member. Did you say not to have been, what we have, is not have been. Please read what you have.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Sorry, Mr Chairman. It should be 'not to have been convicted for an offence involving fraud.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Can we please go to that section again?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where, Honourable Member?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Clause 3.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under Part 2?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is Page 5.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Paragraph 'c,' the second paragraph at the top.

THE CHAIRMAN: 'not have been convicted' shall we go to the principal sentence. **"A member appointed by the Minister under paragraph [e] shall have at least ten year experience in his field of experience, shall be of proven integrity and shall not have been convicted."** Okay, please proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you sir.

g. Sub-clause [4] be amended as follows:

"The Chairman and other members of the Board referred to under paragraph [g][i-iv] of Sub-clause [2] of Clause 3 shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister subject to the approval of Parliament."

h. A new Sub-clause [5] be inserted to read as follows:

"The Chairman to be appointed under sub-clause [4] of Clause 3 shall be from among persons who..."

i. Sub-clause [5] be amended to read sub-clause [6] as follows:

"The Managing Director shall serve as Secretary to the Board."

j. Sub-clause 6 be amended to read Sub-clause 7 and by deleting the word **"selecting"** and replacing it with **"recommending."**

iv. Sub-clause 4[1] be amended by deleting Paragraph 'e' and replacing it with Paragraph 'g.'

Clause 5 be amended as follows:

[a] Sub-clause 2 be amended by inserting the word '**summon and,**' immediately after the word '**shall**' and also by deleting the words '**if present.**'

[b] Sub-clause 5 be amended by deleting **[6]** and replacing it with **[5]**.

vi. That from clauses 6 to 11 be approved.

PART III – FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY

'**Function of Agency**' be amended to read '**Functions of the Agency.**'

[i] Clause 12, Sub-clause, 2 Paragraph 'a' be amended as follows: "**Procure and where necessary, sell medical supplies of requisite quality and efficacy consistent with the Pharmaceutical Act as requested by the Ministry and other public bodies.**"

PART IV - ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

[1] That clause 13 be amended as follows:

[a] Sub-clause 1 by inserting the words '**and Deputy Managing Director**' immediately after the word '**Director.**'

[b] Sub-clause 2 by inserting the words '**or Deputy Managing Director,**' instead of '**and.**' In other words, remove the word '**or**' and replace it with '**and.**'

[c] Paragraph [a] of Sub-clause 2 of Clause 3 be amended by deleting the word '**degree**' and replacing it with '**postgraduate qualification.**'

[d] Paragraph [d] of Sub-clause 2 of Clause 3 be amended by deleting the word '**or**' after the word '**fraud**' and replacing it with '**a comma.**' Also, by deleting the words '**any other serious offences**' and replacing them with '**sexual offence.**'

[2] That Clause 14 be amended by inserting a new Sub-clause 2 to read on the side notes - **functions of the Deputy Managing Director.** It should read as follows: '**the Deputy Managing Director shall perform the following functions:**

[i] serves as principal assistant to the Managing Director;

[ii] assist the Managing Director in the administration of the Agency; and
[iii] carry out such other responsibilities as shall be assigned by the Managing Director.’
That the side notes of Clause 14 be amended by inserting the word **‘be’** after the word **‘of.’**

[3] That clause 15 be approved.

[4] Clause 16 be amended as follows:

[i] Sub-clause 1 be amended to read as follows: **“The Agency shall have, in addition to the Managing Director and other Directors referred to in Sub-clause 2 of Clause 15.”** Please remove **‘shall have’** after 15 and go straight to [a]. I will read that again. **The Agency shall have, in addition to the Managing Director and other Directors referred to in Sub-clause 2 of Clause 15, a secretariat consisting of a Secretary, Finance Officer, Internal Auditor, Administrative Officer and such other technical and administrative staff as may be required for the efficient performance of the functions of the Agency.**
Please ignore the next paragraph.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

[i] That Clauses 18 to 19 be approved.

[ii] Clause 20 be amended by deleting the word **‘the’** before the word **‘government.’**

[iii] That clause 21 be approved.

PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

[iv] Miscellaneous Provisions be approved.

Conclusion

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinised the Bill entitled ‘The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017,’ recommends these proposals to the House for approval. The Report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee. I therefore, move that the House pass the Bill Entitled: ‘The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017 into law. I thank you for your

attention. Signed by Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, Deputy Chairman, Legislative Committee.

[Question Proposed]

[Parts 1, 2 and 3, Clauses 1 to 12 Proposed]

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH *[Minister of Health and Sanitation]*: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 1, 2 and 3, Clauses 1 to 12 stand part of the Bill.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Chairman Page 4, Clause 'e.' In the report it is stated that it should be rephrased to read four other members recommended by the Minister through consultative selection process as follows. We agreed that the four members be clearly defined as it is in the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where is it in the report?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: It is on Page 2 of the report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where is it exactly? Clause 'e,' Sub-clause 3 be amended to read. Is that what you are trying to refer to?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: No Sir. Mr Chairman, it is under four other members; i.e., Sub-clause 3 be amended as...'

THE CHAIRMAN: Sub-clause 3 be amended and Paragraph 'e' be amended to read as follows.

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: That is it, Mr Chairman. It says 'four other members recommended by the Minister through consultative selection process as follows.'

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to add as follows?

HON. PARAN TARAWALLY: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, do you agree with him?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It is just a matter of playing with words. The word 'following' can be used with the same objective, but in different format. If you look at the Bill, for instance, the paragraph that we deleted entirely the word 'following' was used to mean the same. The paragraph says, 'the following members appointed by the Minister through a consultative selection process. You cannot say again as follows because the word 'following' is there. In the report, we used the words 'the following to mean the same as what he is suggesting now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would have suggested four other members recommended by the Minister through a consultative selection process.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It is in the preamble already. Paragraph [e] to be amended to read paragraph [g] as follows. If we put as follows after the next sentence again you know... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally, do you agree with him?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: No, Mr Chairman. The point I am trying to make is that if you look at the Bill, the four other members the Minister is supposed to recommend are already clearly defined in the Bill. Therefore, if we are using 'e,' which now becomes 'g' because in Paragraph 'e,' it is stated thus, the following members, appointed by the Minister through a consultative process. Therefore, if we are rephrasing it, they should equally be listed and the only connection between that particular statement and those recommended should be as follows. If you leave it open like that, there is no connection. Where are the four members? This statement should speak of the four members.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, what do you think? Both the Majority and Minority Leaders have not been following. Honourable Members, I do appreciate the situation. By this time in the past four years, we were on vacation. In one of our leadership meetings, the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai did say that if we

are not careful this time, there would be no vacation. Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai do you recall?

HON. ANSU JAI KAIKAI: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, I have always said that circumstances alter cases. Much as all of us would like to be on vacation, but the situation is such that I am afraid we have to manage.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: I want to agree with the comments from Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally because if we leave it like that, it looks ambiguous. If you add as follows, it gives specification to a group of people that the Minister is going to select from.

THE CHAIRMAN: The contention here is that the Acting Chairman of the Legislative Committee is wondering whether it will not be superfluous. This is because there is already 'as follows' in the preamble. But for the purposes of clarity, perhaps we could adopt the recommendation of Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally. Let us add 'as follows.'

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, on this same part, he is saying through a consultative selection. Mr Chairman, who is the Minister going to consult?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, even the Parliament through the Legislative Committee can be consulted or the Committee on Health and Sanitation. International partners can also be consulted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Bashiru Silikie, that is not too material. Consultation is consultation and I think the Minister can decide whom to consult. Any other observations or comments? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9?

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 1, 2 and 3, Clauses 1 to 12 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Parts 1, 2 and 3, Clause 1 to 12 formed part of the Bill as amended]

[Parts 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 13 to 24 Proposed]

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 13 to 24 stand part of the Bill.

[Question Proposed]

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 9? Page 10? Page 11?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, the report is silence on Page 11, Part IV. Page 11, Clause 14 says 'the Managing Director shall perform the following functions: Clause 14[f] says, 'ensures the undertaking of periodic review of the remuneration and conditions of service of staff. I believe that function should be left with the Board and not the Managing Director.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Administratively, Mr Chairman, the Managing Director is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Agency. He is the Administrative head of the Agency.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Bashiru Silikie, I do not think this is entirely the function of the Managing Director. It is principally the function of the Board. I want to agree with you, but what the sentence is saying is that the Managing Director shall only ensure, for instance if after some time, you find out that certain things are not been done, he/she should guide the Board. Therefore, ensure is correct here. Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? Page 14? Page 15?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Chairman, I still could recall that during our deliberations, the registrar of the Pharmaceutical Board brought to our notice the fact that Section 19 of the Pharmacy Board Act requires each and every cooperate entity dealing in medicines and medical supplies to take licenses from the Pharmacy Board. The question was that would this Agency also be subjected to taking out licenses from the Pharmacy Board? We came to the realisation that if that happened, then the

Pharmacy Board could have some supervision over this Agency. To us, that is not the intent of this law. Therefore, we agreed that under miscellaneous, a provision should be included that clearly spells out that this Agency shall not be subjected to government licenses so as to avoid a situation wherein Pharmacy Board would exert control over the Agency. I did not see that in this report.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, that has not been provided for?

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: It has not been provided for in this Bill and the report. So, it should be provided for or else there is going to be a situation wherein Section 19 of the Pharmacy Board Act would conflict with this Bill when it shall have become law.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I agree with him. The concern was raised during the workshop organised by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Pharmacy Board, but it did not come up during our deliberation as a Committee. I agree with him that this Agency should not be subjected [by a way of obtaining licenses] to the control and supervision of the Pharmacy Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, what do we do now? It will appear then that there is going to be a lacuna.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: As he has suggested, we need to insert a provision, excluding this Agency from the provisions of Section 19 of the Pharmacy Board Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, what do you think?

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Thank you, Mr Chairman. This issue did come up in our deliberations. There were two suggestions that came up. The first suggestion was to repeal Section 19 of the Pharmacy and Drug Act, but there is an implication in repealing that Section. If you repeal it, then it is no longer applicable to anybody and we do not want that to happen. We only want to protect the National Medical Supplies Agency. So, I think we should only insert 'Section 19 of the Pharmacy and Drug Act for the National Medical Supplies Agency [NMSA] in terms of taking licenses from the Pharmacy

Board. This is because the problem is that the NMSA is only going to act as a messenger.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, did you agree with that?

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: No, Mr Chairman. So, that is what we need to resolve now.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what he is saying.

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: We now need to find a way of inserting that provision.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any of your technocrats around?

THE MINISTER: The Chief Medical Officer is here.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I think what the Honourable Member and the Minister said is true. The issue was raised by Mr Wiltshire Johnson that if this Act failed to make reference to that particular Section, the functions will overlap. It is either we repeal that Act or we subject this Agency in terms of taking licences. This will also suggest that every time the National Pharmacy Board calls for all those who have obtained licences from that Agency, the Agency will be subjected to their supervision. Therefore, we agreed in this Act that we should insert that particular provision. We should repeal Section 19 of the National Pharmacy Board Act. It was agreed upon, Mr Chairman.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]. Mr Chairman, like what the Minister said, we cannot really repeal Section 19 in the Pharmacy Board Act. It is there to function and to supervise all other people who buy drugs. I want to call your attention to Part 6, Miscellaneous Provisions in this Bill, Paragraph 23, Sub-section 2. With your permission, it reads: "**All Regulations, other rules and instructions relating to the pharmaceutical procurement in force immediately before the commencement of this Act are not inconsistent therein. It shall continue to be in force until such Regulations, other rules or instructions are expressly amended, revoked or**

repealed under this Act.” We should now insert a clause here to say that Clause 19 in the Pharmacy Board does not apply to this Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is where it should be inserted. That is what Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally and Honourable Dickson Rogers have been saying. So, we insert it under that provision. Mr Clerk, please take note of that insertion. Honourable Members, the Clerk has just drawn my attention to Section 24 on Page 16. It says, **“The Board after consultation with the Minister may by Statutory Instrument make Regulations for the Implementation of this Act.”** Normally, what we have in Bills of this nature should be ‘The Minister may, by Statutory Instrument...’ I don’t think whether the Board has any business here.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: That is also my conviction, even though we ignored due to previous deliberations concerning the same Statutory Instrument. It was even quoted by Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally that there is nowhere in Statutory Instrument Act excludes Board members from making certain Instruments. On that day, they prevailed and we left as it is. I want to believe that it should be laid by the Minister because he is directly answerable to this House.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, it should be the Minister. Therefore, Clause 24 should be amended here by general agreement and having regard to what normally obtains. ‘The Minister may, by Statutory Instrument, make Regulations.

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 4, 5 and 6, Clauses 13 to 24 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

Parts 4, 5 and 6 Clauses 13 to 24 formed part of the Bill as amended.

[THE HOUSE RESUMES]

DR ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, ‘The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017’ having gone through the

Committee of the whole House with some Amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into Law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Bill entitled, National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017 being an Act to repeal and replace the National Pharmaceutical Procurement Unit Act, 2012' to establish the 'National Medical Supplies Agency' as a public service Agency responsible for the procurement, warehousing and distribution of drugs and medical supplies in a transparent and cost-effective manner for and on behalf of all public institutions throughout Sierra Leone has been read the third time and passed into Law].

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am standing on S.O. 23. We all know the economic situation in this country. The various Universities have increased their fees for the application forms from two hundred and fifty thousand Leones [**Le 250, 000**] to five hundred thousand Leones [**Le 500, 000**].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I am calling on the Committee on Education to invite the Minister of Education and see how best they can lobby these institutions, so that they can reduce that amount. Mr Speaker, **Le500, 000** for an application form is very expensive. If you see the application form, it is not more than six pages and they are asking for **Le500, 000**. It used to be **Le250, 000**. Why the increase from **Le250, 000** to **Le500, 000**? It is a hundred per cent [**100%**] increase and the pages in that Application Form have not increased.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am asking the Committee on Education to see how best they can lobby these institutions for them to see reason and reduce that amount. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you said the application form contains only a few pages. The economist will tell you that the utility of something has no value. That is, you can put any price. If you do not understand that, please consult Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. I agree with you. Even if it is two pages, it is what the whole thing contains. The utility of anything has no price. If you really need it, believe you me you

will not mind the cost. Anyway your point is noted. Are you a member of the Education Committee? If that meeting is convened make sure you are there.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH Honourable Members, this announcement is not in response to the statement by the Honourable Member from Bo. I am inviting all members of the Education Committee to come to a very short meeting in my office. It is so urgent that we need your presence. The meeting will not last for ten minutes. I thank you.

AJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11.45 a.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 8th August, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.]