



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

ON THE:

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA, ON THE OCCASION OF STATE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2013.

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
SECONDT SESSION-SECOND MEETING
FRIDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2014**

SESSION 2013/2014



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Friday, 31st January, 2014.

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PROPOSER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

SECONDER: HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI

BE IT RESOLVED:

“That we the Members of Parliament here assembled, wish to thank His Excellency the President, for the Address he so graciously delivered, on the occasion of the Second Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, in the Chamber of Parliament, on Friday, 20th December, 2013.”

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 31st January, 2014.

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. Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya, in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2014

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as usual, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 30th January, 2014. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no amendment, can somebody move for the adoption of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 30th January, 2014?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 30th January, 2014, was unanimously adopted as presented)

III. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, a list of contributors for today's debate on the presidential Address has been submitted to me. The list has been agreed upon by the leadership of both parties. Therefore, I am going to abide strictly by this list, so that we would be able to adjourn on or before the stipulated time.

HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to the motion of thanks to His Excellency the President, for the Speech he so graciously delivered in this Well on Friday, 20th December, 2013.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to join the queue, in terms of congratulating the President and this Honourable House for the pace we have set as a

Parliament in the Republic of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, you are the very first Speaker of this Honourable House to be elected from amongst Members of Parliament to occupy the third highest seat in this country. I once more say congratulations and may you live long. By extension, I also want to extend my felicitation to the Deputy Speaker for his re-election to this noble office. Congratulations, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here to perform a traditional duty, a duty that has been performed in this House for many years. I have been sent by my people to perform that duty in a very special way. It is important for you to know that I am coming from the peninsular area, which comprises of Goderich, Seven Battalion, Milton Margai College of Education, Idonkia Village, Angola village, Hamilton, Tokeh, York, Mammah Beach and Kissy Compound. In a meeting held in my constituency, we agreed that I should bring this message to this noble House, that we are very pleased and satisfied by the level of sincerity expressed by His Excellency the President, in delivering his gracious Speech to the people's representatives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, unlike those who were not in this Well when the President was addressing this nation, I watched his body language, emotion and confidence, when he was addressing Members of Parliament. Regrettably, some people could only read and contribute to the debate, but could not see or feel and understand the disposition of the President when he was delivering his Speech (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, I am going to premise my discussion on the theme: 'Political Ideology.' I am taking this House to Page 2, Paragraph 6 of the President's Speech. Mr Speaker, with your leave, it says: *"We belong to a political tradition that is committed to enhancing the right and capabilities of the common man and woman and tangible evidence therefore, abound. Every political party has an ideology; and every political party has its own way of governing a state."*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was in a discussion with some Members of Parliament on the other side of this House and they were asking me series of questions. They asked me if the APC understands the political ideology of the SLPP. This was the

question posed to me and this question brought a lot of debates. One of them said: *"How can they understand the political ideology of the SLPP when they do not belong to our political party."* They are of the view that the political philosophy of the APC about governance is bad. If that is so, how did they know when they do not belong to our party? They do not understand our political ideology as well. He also said that the APC led-government is very clever because they came to power through democratic means with an agenda. He also said that they were amused at their manifesto and allowed them to come in and stay. They have won our brothers, sisters, tribesmen, paramount chiefs, youth and the women; now, they are part of them. How can we fight them at this time? How can we unseat the APC government? Well, the young man said, we cannot because they have taken all that we had before, through a democratic means.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they also identified some of the things this government has done for this nation. They said that what this government has done helped to popularise the APC party and has won the hearts and souls of the people of this country. This government, they said, has constructed good roads, improved on electricity supply, introduced the Free Health Care Programme, which is benefitting pregnant women and lactating mothers, regardless of tribe, geographical consideration and political affiliation. Today, if you go to Kailahun, Pujehun and Bo districts, the Free Health Care Programme is extended to those parts of the country. It is not possible to unseat this government. They have improved the salaries of our armed forces, the police, the teachers, the civil servants and Members of Parliament. So, to unseat this government will be very difficult, Honourable Members. This is the more reason why, if we talk about operatives today, they are drawn from all over the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Braima Conteh said that Bonthe is gradually sinking. I want to inform him that the Minister of Water Resources hails from Bonthe and he is contributing seriously to the development of this nation. I say kudos to the Minister of Water Resources, Mr Momodu Maligie, for his relentless effort in pushing this country forward. This is what we refer to as good governance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma knows that the first Female Minister of Local Government and Rural Development hails from Kono District, Mrs Diana Finda Kabba. Mr Speaker, the issue of tribalism is not part of the Agenda for Prosperity. In this government, every tribe is included without prejudice. This government has established Commissions where different people from all over this country are included to manage the affairs of those Commissions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the statements of the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, can hardly be criticised because they are well thought of, well structured, and well designed to give meaning to the people of Sierra Leone. In tandem with that, I will take the House to Page 10, Paragraph 59. Mr Speaker, with your leave, it reads: "*This country is on the move, my government has created space for the youth, the youth must continue to seize this moment and move the transformation of our country, and let no one stand on their way.*" Mr Speaker, I am bringing this as a way of responding to what has been said by a very senior Member of the SLPP from Kono, Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma, when he was referring to the youth of this country as being irresponsible. He called them a bunch of lawless youth who are not prepared to participate in the governance process of this country. I want to ask him a simple question. Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma, do you think those within the ages 5-10 are youth? They are not youth at all. Are the youth coming from the sky? The answer is no. These youth are sons and daughters of this nation. They belong to communities and families. What have we done to improve on their living skills? These were the very youth that were misused, abused and dumped by us, the politicians. Why are we calling them names that are negative to our hearing? After they have campaigned for us to be elected and represent their interests, we are calling them drunkards, thieves, hooligans, gangsters, criminals, thugs, racketeers and mobsters. What have we done to make sure that these youth are productive?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what did the past administration of the SLPP do for the youth of this country? In as much as I feel the pinch of the eleven year rebel incursion in this country, the past administration was in a better position to determine

the direction the youth of this country would have taken. This would have been a continuation for the APC government. Mr Speaker, if it were not the strong parental care we got, we would not have been here. Is it the fault of the youth to be useless and unproductive? We have to do something for them. This is the reason why the government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma made it abundantly clear that these are the very youth he has vowed to lay his life for, in order to give them hope. Now, they have got a leader and a father who has assured them hope. These are the very young men and women who are in the universities and other tertiary institutions. This government is catering to empower them, so that they will be useful in society.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the youth have been given opportunity to transform for the better. I am saying this because they have been given positions of trust in this government. Today, we have the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Aaron Koroma and many others in the Executive Arm. Today, we have a barrage of well-articulated young men and women in the government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Instead of castigating these youth, we should create the necessary opportunities for them? This government has established an institution that can give hope and support to the youth of this nation. They need a government that can draw them from the doldrums, cartels and from the gambling fields. It is not only a question of giving them arms to perpetuate violence... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Dauda Kallon, the Honourable Ansumana Jaia Kaikai is saying that you are a youth too.

HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are the very youth that were only disarmed and demobilised within six months and dumped some of them with only a chisel and a harmer to go and start life. Did we lay better foundation for these youth? This government will continue to bring young men and women to the governance process of this country. We want them to take responsibility of the leadership of this nation. We should not use and dump them into the dungeons, but we will empower them to become responsible Sierra Leoneans. Mr Speaker, few years from

now, you will be running to them to campaign for you. I say kudos to the youth of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is time for us to look at the foundations that were laid for the development of this country. Were these foundation appreciated? Were these foundations good? Do you think these foundations were responsible for a change of government? If the foundations were good, why do you think the landlords (those who owned the resources of this country by then), were removed from power? If you had done a good job, why did Sierra Leoneans disown you during the polls? You were disowned by the very youth you are calling all sorts of names today. The reason why those youth voted for President Koroma was because the President appreciated the efforts of the youth. These were youth who campaigned with him, danced for him and sang beautiful songs for him. In fact, it is only these two elections that we had hundreds of thousands of musicians that sang for only one leader, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. They are not the influenced youth who sang, S. O. 2 "Yɛstade bɛtɛ pas tide," when their very lives are more improved today than yesterday. They are not the musicians who were opportuned and want to turn their backs today. The book is 'Things fall apart.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a good number of us here were teachers. Mr Speaker, with your leave it reads: *"Those whose palm cannels have been cut by a benevolence spirit should not forget to be humble."* That is why I am very grateful to this government. I expect the same from the Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma and other Honourable Members. Today, people smile broader than yesterday; today, people drive better cars than yesterday; today, people interface more with their constituents than yesterday; and today, people have more strength and energy to talk to their constituents with authority than yesterday. This government has empowered the women of this country than previous governments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the first female Brigadier and the first female Chief Justice in this country. All these are gearing towards the empowerment of

the women of this country. Previous governments fought against women's empowerment. We have a President who is committed in ensuring the improvement of women in this country. This is the first time, in the history of this Parliament, to have the first female Member of Parliament as Minority Leader. Unfortunately, on the other side, instead of them encouraging and giving her the support she needs, there are people fighting her tooth and nail. We have the first female Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. We are not backstabbing her, but instead, we are rallying around her in terms of support. Why are we fighting women when we should be in the position to defend them? 'To thyself be true' has been the advice given to us by the leadership of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the people of Constituency 093 and the youth of this Republic, we are proud of this President. Mr President, we salute you with all respect. We will always work with you because we know that you are bringing governance to the young people of this nation. You are one of the Presidents that encourage women's empowerment, development and discourage tribalism and regionalism.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for given me this special opportunity to say thanks to His Excellency the President for delivering a very good Speech in this Well of Parliament on Friday, 20th December, 2013.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today is Friday and according to the Standing Orders, we should adjourn at 12:00 noon. Perhaps, we will even adjourn before that time. So, if Members of Parliament could limit their contributions to 15 minutes or less, I would be very grateful. I want to kindly and respectfully appeal that you abide by this time limit.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI (*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*): I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to one of the annual parliamentary functions that we must perform as a Parliament and as a nation. The President came here and delivered to this nation his wishes, plans and his

aspirations for the next 12 months. Should I rise to disagree with all the nice things and ambitions of the President that are encapsulated in this Speech? It will be difficult to do that because I am a Sierra Leonean and the President, as an individual, is the President of Sierra Leone. Therefore, if he wished good for this country, as written in this document, it is my responsibility to pray and wish that his good intentions come into reality.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have decided to bring the valedictory speech of the former President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba, which he graciously delivered in this Well on Tuesday, 19th June, 2007. Mr Speaker with your leave, I wish to let my colleagues hear the reason why we should all know where we came from, so that we will be able to know what we are doing today and what the future holds for us and our children. On that note Mr Speaker, I will read Paragraph 77. It says:

"In order to provide the enabling environment to facilitate economic and social transformation, the higher priority was accorded to the creation of a secure environment that enabled the free and unhindered movement of people, goods and services across the country. The first step in this regard and as was stated earlier was the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme and the restructuring, retraining and equipping of the Army and the Police within the framework of a comprehensive national security policy." Mr Speaker, Paragraph 78 reads: *"The second priority focused on enhancing efficient budgetary management, reducing the debt burden and of augmenting public expenditure in the social sector, education, health and infrastructure. A third priority was improving access to basic education and health care and enhancing income and employment opportunities."*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the former President said these in this Well and in Paragraph 80, he said: *"Enforcing of the key objectives of removing the destruction in the economy for achieving rapid sustainable growth and equitable social and economic development, wide ranging structural and institutional reports have been put in place*

since 2004. Within the support of development partners, the key initiatives in this area were the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) arrangement with the IMF, the third world Economic Recovery and Rehabilitation Credit (ERR), the 10 year Poverty Reduction Framework Arrangement (PRFA) with the United Kingdom and Ireland, the European Union budgetary support and the PRSP. A multi-donor arrangement in addition to the underpinning quantitative target performance under the programs was largely assessed by progress made in the following broad areas of the report; peace and security, good governance, public service reform, strengthening fiscal and public finance management systems and promoting private sector development.” Mr Speaker, my point is that all of this resulted in the policy initiative that yielded us being the sixth country that received economic benefits that led to the PRSP One (1), PRSP Two (2). Under the APC government, we have the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those are the foundations the SLPP led government left behind that the APC led government is now building on. I think there is no reason why I should not be happy with that, Mr Speaker. I am a Sierra Leonean and I love this country. Whatever we would have achieved by now, we should not be saying things that are detrimental to all of us. When we decide not to know those who voted us, I will doubt as to whether they voted for the right people. They may not doubt that they voted for the right party, but they would doubt as to whether that party was sincere enough to have given them the right candidate or the right person. On that note, Mr Speaker, I want to plead with my colleagues, those of you who keep referring to the past to stop forthwith. We all knew our past history. We are praying that this country becomes the best in Africa.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the inflation rate in 1997 was 17.6%. In 1996, it dropped to 9%. Mr Speaker, by 2007, the rate of inflation was 11.6%. The then Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is now the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The current Bank Governor was part of that system. They worked assiduously in making sure that we received the

accolade that we received then. Mr Speaker, I agree with the President because he means well for this country. I am urging all of us to join him in making this country a better place for all of us. This is our country and it is the only country we call home.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Agriculture. By the end of 2006, we had achieved 85% of rice production in this country. In fact, the current Minister of Agriculture was in Liberia, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) with attachment to the agriculture sector in Liberia. So, he can attest to the fact that 200 metric tons of seed rice was exported from Sierra Leone to Liberia in order to carbon copy our achievement. Mr Speaker, musicians were singing, S. O. 2 'cassava dɔn win.' It reached a point where, if we had continued on those trends, we would have been exporting cassava to other countries. Ginger seedlings were brought from China and by 2006, we had started receiving huge amount of money from our cocoa production in this country. The records are there for any doubting Thomases. Why are we saying things as if this whole country was slumbering and only woke up after September 2007? The President will not agree with those who believe that no foundation was laid during the SLPP regime. This government met a very strong foundation, and that is why a lot of infrastructural developments are taking place. Those of you who were here during the SLPP regime will bear me witness that we never throw rotten eggs at each other, but we worked cooperatively. That is what I expect all of us to do, as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk briefly about education. The records are there for everybody to see the efforts of the SLPP government made towards improving the standard of education in this country. We brought the SABABU Education Project. Mr Speaker, I am again tempted to go back to former President Kabba's valedictory speech in assuring this House that enough was achieved in the area of education. If the current Minister and officials or technocrats in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology could go back to the records, all they need to do is to amend the educational policy in this country. The issue of retrieving Le800, 000, 000 is good, but what about those who were deliberately hired when the number of primary schools were increased from 200 to 436 in 4 years? The then government knew; the then

Parliament knew; and the current President knew because he was part of the then Parliament. There were a lot of university graduates - our brothers and sisters, our children who had graduated did not have the requisite job, but they were educated enough to establish the distance learning programme. The distance learning programme helped a lot of them to gain qualification while they were on the job. So, a lot of teachers we have today are now trained and qualified through this programme.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to plead with the Minister of Education to consider the teachers who have been teaching without salaries. They were not doing a disservice to the people of this country or to our children. The money that he has recovered should be used in paying their backlogs. They are the ones who are teaching those who would take over from us. I am pleading to the Chairman of the Education Committee and all those who are close to the Minister of Education to go and tell him to be gentle to the teachers and lecturers in this country. Those are the people that taught us. When you climb a ladder, if you are too timid to look down, make sure that the ladder is there, because you may come down and you should therefore decide to come down gently and not roughly. I am saying this because those at the bottom of the ladder are the people you will meet. So, they would be there to make sure that you have a safe landing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Harry Tuleman referred those at the bottom of the ladder as those we should always think about. Mr Speaker, when President Kabba came to power in 1996, he enacted the minimum wage Bill. By then, Members of Parliament were receiving Le360, 000 and our sitting allowance was Le50, 000. There were people in this country who were receiving Le4, 000 as salary per month. What the President did was too great. Here is a situation where he increased the minimum wage from Le4, 000 to Le21, 000 because that was what the then government could afford. At that time, when we came back from Guinea, a bag of rice was Le 14,000. And this was after the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) coup d'état. Mr Speaker, when the SLPP came to power; or when the politicians were allowed to come back and continue our parliamentary democracy, a bag of rice cost Le10, 000. Today, the minimum wage

for government workers is Le480, 000 and a bag of rice cost Le150, 000. Proportionately, I think we have not missed anything.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about infrastructure and energy. The Millennium Development Goal requires this country to meet certain bench marks at a given time. All twelve district headquarter towns and big towns in this country are supposed to have adequate water supply, 10 kilometers of tarred roads in and around it, electricity, hospital etc. We all know that the President is trying very hard to achieve those goals that were set in 2005. Those goals were set not because former President Kabba did not know that good governance was going to come after him, but because he had prayed for it. He entered the Cabal in Mecca, where he prayed and fasted for this country to get somebody with good heart and good leadership. He prayed fervently for somebody who would continue his good work. So, I expect President Ernest Bai Koroma and whosoever succeeds him to also tread on those paths.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about a new airport at Mamamah. Mr Speaker, the question is, what has happened to the studies that were conducted for the road from Lungi to Hastings and around Waterloo? The African Development Bank and IMF gave this country two (2) million dollars in 2005/2006. The survey was done and Lokomasama benefited, because the road was to pass through Lungi to Lokomasama. The amount should not have been more than 50 million dollars to construct a first class road that would have connected Waterloo to the Freetown highway. Now, we have the Hill Side Road that is currently under construction. I am sure the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and those who are advising the government should go back to the drawing board and make sure that they advise him properly. We are about to construct a new airport at Mamamah. Will it be more cost efficient than the roads? Can we spend approximately hundred million dollars on Lungi airport, in terms of improving its standard? If we do this, the people of Lungi, Lokomasama, Waterloo and Hastings would have a better and more viable economic benefit. I am not saying that we should not construct an airport, but we have to look at the cost involved, so that we will not incur loans that we cannot pay in the future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are about to receive our Constituency Development Fund. Our salaries have been increased and nobody doubts about that. Mr Speaker, even though the Constituency Development Fund does not belong to us, but it belongs to our respective constituencies. The public is quite aware of what is going to be given to us. Therefore, they are expecting standard performance from us. That is, our performance, as Members of Parliament, must be in conformity with the constitution of this country. They are expecting more from us now. In that regard, I am urging those who have served with me in the Privileges and Ethics Committee to say thanks to you, because one of our recommendations to this House was laid on this Table and had been achieved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your permission and that of the leadership of this House, if I retain the chairmanship of that Committee, I am promising this nation and this House that we will be coming with a Bill to this House to set up a register wherein all of us will be putting information about us, and our investment, so that transparency in this country will start from here. With this, we will not have anything to hide because we are public officers. As Members of Parliament, we have to be transparent and accountable to the electorate. I thank you very much.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH (*Deputy Majority Leader of the House*): Mr Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to His Excellency the President's Speech that was so graciously delivered in this House on Friday, 20th December, 2013.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said by my colleagues from both sides of the ayes. I am sure more information have been added to the President's Address. I want to say that the two documents that have come to this House, starting from the Agenda for Prosperity to the national budget are provided for in our Constitution. I want to refer Honourable Members to a very obscure part of the Constitution, which many people have not read. It is found in Chapter II, Page 2 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. It talks about the Fundamental Principles of State Policy. When that Constitution was laid here, the fundamental principles of state policy

were added unto the Constitution and it laid down the objectives on which every government should work. It became the guiding principles for the successive administrations of this country. I have no doubt, on what the government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma has done to those policy issues. As I said, a lot of speakers have done justice to this Address and I would want to limit myself to the economy and agriculture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those two issues are the basis of good governance in this country and the problems highlighted by various speakers are indeed very true. I want to refer to a newspaper that was published yesterday, the Awareness Times. I hope a few people read the articles contained in that newspaper. There is a relevant article on page 3 of that tabloid. With the leave of Mr Speaker, it says: *"The world economy is not creating enough jobs, particularly for young people. Unemployment is one of the biggest issues facing us today and we cannot rely on growth alone to fix it. In develop countries, sluggish recovery in the wake of the crisis has left employment well below 2007 level with 6 to 7 million fewer jobs in the UK, the US and Euro area alone. According to the Standard Chartered Global Research making economies work, youth unemployments have gone up and more unemployed people are out of work for a long time."* The article analysed the world economy and unemployment that are facing the youth. The question of unemployment has not limited to our economy alone and the President has been honest enough and said that in the wake of all the sluggish crisis development, we have been able to go on very well.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah, the Clerk's office is requesting that you give the date of publication to be captured in the Hansard.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The paper is the Awareness Times, published on Thursday, 30TH January, 2014. If you read that newspaper, apart from that article itself, there are lot of adverts for jobs from various companies and organisations. I am sure, if the economy was not growing, those adverts would not have been advertised. Our economy is better than most of the economies of other African countries. We have been categorised as one of the fastest growing economy in

the World. That is indeed true, Mr Speaker. When you look at the activities of the National Revenue Authority (NRA) and the amount of revenue they are collecting every year, it is indicative of the fact that our economy is growing and is on a better footing than yesterday. Jobs are being created every day, otherwise the 'pay as you earn' (PAYE) system would not have been bringing much revenue as we are seeing today. The fact of the matter is that, new salaries increments have been given across the board to all government employees. In the 'Agenda for Prosperity,' the budget and the presidential Address are talking about the giant strides that the government wants to make in this country. If we did not have a serious economy base, we would not be able to implement those programmes that have been listed in the 'Agenda for Prosperity.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if our economy was not booming, our donor partners and other development partners would not have been giving their increased financial support and commitment to us. These are people who keep watching our economy and they do not put their moneys into bad economic situation. They are smarter than us. When they decide to give you something, if the economy is not doing well, they are not going to support any programme that you have asked them to finance. So, we should conclude that in spite of all the odds, the economy is doing better than most other countries in the world. I want to assure Honourable Members on the other side that they have seen nothing yet. President Ernest Bai Koroma has just begun and he is going to show this nation that he is capable to better the lives of Sierra Leoneans (*Applause*). In economic situations, it is always the first step that is extremely difficult to take. I believe, we have successfully taking the first step on the ladder and we are now going to move to another level of development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to Agriculture, I am not going to talk much about it. I am going to give facts and figures to this House. I want to say here that you can confirm with what I am going to say about Agriculture. Today, Agriculture is in good shape and it will transform the landscape of this country. Honourable Helen Kuyembeh has said a lot about the issue of tractors distribution and the discrimination that has been taking place against the East and the South. That is very true. There had

been a lot of discriminations to the advantage of the South and the East. This government has sent tractors to ensure that there is selective discrimination in favour of the South and the East in most of the distribution systems in this country. For example, let me give you a summary of the way the FSA's and the community banks were distributed in this country. Mr Speaker, these are prime institutions of development in our rural areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Kailahun District has nine (9) FSA's and three (3) community banks and these are smaller banks than those in big communities. I wonder how many Members of Parliament are shareholders in these community banks in Kailahun District. Kenema District has eight (8) FSA's and two (2) community banks and Kenema District happens to be the home of the supervising APEX bank for the district and the region; Kono District has eight (8) FSA's and three (3) community banks; Pujehun District has two (2) FSA's and one community bank; Bombali District has three (3) FSA's and one (1) community bank; Bonthe District has two (2) FSA's and one (1) community bank; Moyamba District has three (3) FSA's and one 1 community bank; Kambia District has three (3) FSA's and one (1) community bank; Tonkolili District has 3 FSA's and one (1) community bank; and unfortunately, Port Loko District has nothing. As I said, Mr Speaker, how many of us are encouraging our people to patronise with these community banks? Yet, they are so important in the economy in terms of giving loans to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, government has refrained from the bad example set by the SLPP government previously, when you gave S. O 2, "osusus" or loans to people without paying back. The present government has run away from the practice of giving money freely to people. If there is any criticism against this government, it is because this government has tightened up the loose ends of corruption, so people are now criticising this present government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Helen Kuyembeh also came to the question of tractors. The tractors are not distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture. I am

sorry to say that. The Ministry still has a number of tractors that have not been distributed. Most of them are still in the stores. They are for hire purchase and if I can give you the figures of the number, it is regrettable to say that people have not taken advantage of the availability of these tractors. I come from Kenema District and in the whole of Kenema District, there is only one person that applied for a hire purchase agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture. Regrettably, the person who took this tractor has not paid a single cent as we speak. Pujehun District has twelve 12 tractors on hire purchase. Kono has thirteen 13, and the recovery rate is 47% in the case of Kono District. Pujehun District has a recovery rate of 25%.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the availability of tractors is not because of financial limitations, because the areas we represent are not composed of very poor people. The coffee and cacao industries in those areas are making people extremely rich. It is a question of having the land on which tractors can be deployed to work efficiently. People know the reason why there are many Boli lands in the whole of Kenema District. And because of the vastness of land in Kenema District, Kenema has fifteen (15) tractors; Moyamba District has fourteen (14) tractors and the district has a total of fourteen people who took tractors on hire purchase. Tonkolili has forty-five people who took tractors; Bonthe has ten; Port Loko has nineteen (19); Bo District has nine; Koinadugu has thirteen; and Kambia has twenty-one. The highest number of tractors per district is Bombali. They have fifty-five (55) tractors and with a recovery rate of 79%. It is individual farmers who signed these agreements for hire purchase and the tractors were given to them. Let me inform this House and the nation that there are still tractors available for hire purchase. We also had a lot of power tillers. Again, going for the same condition for hire purchase, government keeps announcing this on the radio but yet, farmers do not come forward to take advantage of this opportunity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Agriculture is not created for production. The Ministry is there to create conducive atmosphere and to strengthen the farmers so that they can produce. Mr Speaker, I am happy to report here that production figures in the last four (4) years have been very encouraging. The Ministry

also has a number of seedlings they are distributing. The seeds are distributed by the Ministry for free of charge. Anybody who wants to utilise ten (10) acres of land would be supported. The Ministry has now made it a policy and very soon, they are going to inform Members of Parliament about the policy. They are ready to support the 124 Members of Parliament to plant ten 10 acres of two of each of those crops. The crops are: cashew, sherry, oil palm and the biggest of the growth centres in terms of cashew, because this is a forest crop that had been established in the Kenema District. In fact, every farmer, who is interested, would be provided with seedlings to plant a minimum of ten (10) acres and the government would support you in the planting process. They are also developing seedlings for oil palm, cocoa, loti and Nerica Rice. Again, I am not going to bore you with the statistics for that area. The seedlings would be distributed to Paramount Chiefs in all the 149 chiefdoms in this country. Members of Parliament, fifty-four (54); Ministers and their deputies, thirty-six (36) permanent secretaries, the police, the military and business people are inclusive. This is a challenge government is going to throw to everybody, so that we can enhance the productivity of agriculture in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, fertilizers has been made available to farmers. They are not distributed freely. A fertilizer is sold to farmers who are interested in developing their farms. Interestingly, let me inform this House that the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to what the central government is doing, is helping to construct feeder roads to link market centres from the production areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Hellen Kuyembeh said that there are no roads. The road maintenance fund has given money to all the nineteen (19) local councils for the maintenance of feeder roads. This is the first time that the Road Maintenance Fund has allocated money to all the district councils for the maintenance of their roads. What did you do with these monies? Regrettably, they kept the money for the last financial year and only started using it towards the tail end of the general elections. In my constituency, the contracts were given to only SLPP candidates who were vying for the party symbol in that constituency. These moneys were given to them

and contracts were signed in September. They passed around this House, saying that the people have gone to develop their constituencies, even though they were not being elected. Shamefully, the District Council Chairman went there to open some of those programmes that were undertaken by his candidate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the district councils should not be used as political agents. It should rather be a community development organs, with the exception of this year when the CDF grants have now be given to Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament are concentrating on the legislative process of Parliament and that is what is required of them. We have now ceased to be development agents for our respective constituencies. You can go out there and help, but you are required to be here continuously, as long as Parliament is sitting. You do not have the time and energy to be able to undertake a lot of development programmes in your constituency. A lot of people have not been able to know what Members of Parliament are expected to do. Our functions are still seen in the same mirror as when we were in this Parliament in the 80s and early 90s. I was in this House for ten (10) years.

THE SPEAKER: Order!

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, from 1982-1992, I was in Parliament and we were only overthrown by Maada Bio and his gangs, the very best substitute by the gun. They came in to undertake extrajudicial executions. Mr Speaker, I hate referring to those sad moments because I was a helpless victim in the hands of the military boys. I spent the entire life of the military regime at the Pademba Road Prison. I was the only detainee, who saw Bambay Kamara and Colonel Yayah Kanu taken to the gallows.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture speaks volumes for the progress this President is making in all aspects of development in this country. Like what many speakers have said, the President is extremely honest to the people of this nation. It is very rare for state leaders to accept that they have challenges or problems, but here is a President who tells this nation that notwithstanding all the development in the country, there are still challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to tell Honourable Mohamed Tunis that there is only one Speaker in this House and nobody can presume to be doing the work of the Speaker except himself (*Undertone*). Here is a President who accepts that there are challenges and he wants the cooperation of everybody in trying to move this nation forward. That is a very biblical situation, Mr Speaker. Those of you who are Christians and familiar with the Holy Bible, when you go to the book of Second Samuels, there was once a very enthusiastic king in Israel, King David, who wanted to build a temple for his God, but according to the Bible, God sent the prophet Nathan to go and tell him that he should not be the one who would build a temple for him, but rather, it was one of his children who would be appointed by God to build the temple. So, he went back and prayed to God that he has accepted God's ruling. This nation is exactly like what I have said. Perhaps, the other leaders would have liked to develop this nation, either they did not have the good will, or they did not have the wherewithal, but it was not just their time. It appears that God had destined Dr Ernest Bai Koroma to develop this nation for our wellbeing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can say without any iota of doubt that opportunities keep coming to this country every day. The President is supporting a lot of international good will, not to talk about the way he has adhered to the people of this country. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma stands the tallest among all our past leaders. No other leader in this country is comparable to Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Mr Speaker, what I have said about the Economy and Agriculture is nothing but the truth. We want your cooperation on the other side and we will do what this nation desires of us to do. I thank you, Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (*Minority Leader of the House*): Thank you Honourable Members for that round of applause. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to contribute to the ensued debate that has been going on for the past three days, which we are about to round up. Mr Speaker, almost all those who have spoken said that what we are doing is a tradition that every President goes through on an annual basis. It has been the tradition to address Members of Parliament at the

beginning of every session. This is an annual event in which the President is expected to present his stewardship to the people of this nation through their representatives. The Presidential Address is a caricature of what the President has done in the previous year and his intention for next year. So, I want to thank His Excellency the President, for presenting to us the State of the nation address on Friday, 20th December, 2013.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Honourable Members that there are four purposes for which the state of union address is made every year. The first purpose, from the point of view of the President, as I have just said, is to present to us an account of what the President did and what he wants to do. The second reason is that, if we are convinced of what the President has presented to us, it is our duty to appreciate him. In acknowledging the efforts of the President, we look for areas where there are challenges and proffer recommendations, so that proper remedial actions are taken to address those challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the point of view of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the budget speech, MDAs should also come and listen very keenly to the issues raised in their different sectors, so that they will go and reconsider or reshape, where necessary, their policies in line with the budget and the presidential speeches. Most importantly, from the point of view of Parliament, Honourable Members also have a responsibility to listen to issues raised, so that during our Committees' work, we will bring on board those issues. Even though I know that we have not announced the sessional committees yet, but when that is done, I would be expecting every Committee Chairperson and his/her members to take note of the issues raised. I think this should be the first step for effective Committee work. By so doing, the Committee will be able to look at those issues and see which ones need immediate attention.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think our Standing Orders should be reviewed. We have to review the Standing Orders, so that the Committees are reconstituted even before the presidential Address. I am saying this because as we now deliberate on the

presidential Speech, every parliamentary Committee will be reminded of its responsibilities, in terms of listening and taking relevant note on the issues raised. This will enable the Committees take immediate action. I think those are the four main issues coming from this important debate (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President has performed his presidential responsibility. It is now our turn, as Members of Parliament, to perform our own responsibility. One of the responsibilities is representing our people. In doing this, this Speech speaks to every Member of Parliament, either at the district level, or at constituency level. Also, if you are an Educationist, this document speaks to you on the area of education; and if you are an Agriculturist, this document speaks to you as well. This document is also speaking to some of us, either by the things that are been provided for our districts or our constituencies or by the things we would want to see in our districts and constituencies. This is the opportunity we can use to ask questions and raise pertinent issues, so that the people who have voted for us to represent them here will not be disappointed. Our people should see us taking active part in all important parliamentary functions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also make a few statements that nobody can deny. These facts are the very foundation for development and good governance. These are:

1. development is a process and not a project. I am sure a lot of people here have been reiterating that fact when they were contributing. Development is not a project that you can start today and finish it. As a process, it continues for years;
2. development is also incremental. This means that we build on what has been started. It is like an ocean, wherein drops of water and the rivers flow into the ocean;
3. development is contextual. That is, it is carried down within the context at the time. In that light, we have environmental context, social context, political context, economic context etc.; and

4. development is cyclical. This implies that in a bid to address a problem, you invariably create new need which leads you to start the process of identifying problems to those needs and putting materials together to solve those needs.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, development will never end, as long as the population is growing and as long as the human needs are developing, our development needs will never end. Most importantly, development should be a national project, a project which everybody in the country converges to support. In other words, it is a project in which everybody in the country converges, irrespective of who you are, where you are, your age or your educational background, you have a moral obligation to take part in the development of your country. That is what is contained in our Constitution - your national objectives and your national obligations. This is very clear that you must take part in the development of your country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, let me come to governance. Governance is continuity and that is how it should be. In Sierra Leone, we have a time limit to our governance system, especially when it comes to the presidency of this nation. Presidents come and go; and as they come, they do what they are able to do. That is what builds the country. No government can claim monopoly over the development of a country and no government will claim to have all the resources (human, material, logistical and financial), to undertake development. As such, development is about prioritisation. All governments have the same goal - national development. What is different is how we go about it to achieve the goal.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if this is so, nobody should doubt the truism of what I have just said. These are basic facts we should always consider. It is from this premise that Honourable Members of Parliament should look at our work and even look at what the President has said in his Speech. What should be the role of Parliament in all of this? I think we all have the responsibility to work together, even when we belong to different political parties. This is very important because at the end of the day, it is collective responsibility that will move this country forward. We are held accountable

and responsible for whatever happens in Parliament, whether as passive Members of Parliament or otherwise. At the end of the day, we are going to be judged as a Parliament and not as individuals. With that in mind, whatever we do here and whatever we say, we must know that if things go wrong, may God forbid, the first call of the three arms of government will be the Parliament to report at the nearest police station. For your own security and safety, Mr Speaker, we are in this together and we must be honest and genuine in what we do and how we say the things we do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been a Member of Parliament under two Presidents. I came to this Parliament in 2002; and during this period, we were in governance. Today, I am here to serve as an opposition to the government. I want to say that our two Presidents have been honest to the people of this country. They have been honest in the sense that if we were to take all the presidential addresses from 2002 to date, you will find out that in each of those addresses, each President stated his achievements and challenges. Any presidential Address you take, you will find the limitations. They were aware that they could not do everything at one go. In the absence of all the resources that they had, they were still limited by certain forces beyond their control. So, our two Presidents have been honest and true to this country. We have done what we can, in terms of giving our resources, but we still have some challenges. As a Parliament, we have been asked to help address these challenges through our Oversight functions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament have done well by taking their time to look at this document with critical minds. The document is divided into eight (8) pillars. The President has decided to arrange his ideas into pillars, so that it will be easier for us to read and understand, especially when we are reading it in line with the national budget. The 'Agenda for Prosperity' is divided into pillars and every pillar you read is in tandem with the budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some parliamentarians have been very passionate about health and they have spoken about the importance of the health sector, with

particular reference to the 'Free Health Care Programme.' They have spoken extensively about the problems inherent in our health sector. They also spoke about the strides that are being made in the health sector. Some parliamentarians are so passionate about education that they spoke about education as a pivotal sector that gives the human capital. We have acknowledged the problem of corruption and the huge problem that exists in teachers' recruitment process in this country; we have acknowledged the problems of examination malpractices in our educational system; and we have acknowledged the problem of limited monitoring and supervision in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Some have also identified challenges, as to how we can alleviate those challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Members of Parliament spoke verbosely about the energy sector. In the energy sector, we have acknowledged that work is being done. The Bumbuna is working and effort has been made in that regard. In fact, the World Bank has given some money for the rehabilitation of the Black Hall Sub-station. The first thing that is going to be done is to improve on the transmission lines, so that whatever electricity that is generated, will get to the final consumer. That work is going on as we speak.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, other Honourable Members have also talked about rural electrification, which is very good for the development of this country. This is because even if we electrify the city, the bulk of our population is in the rural areas. And Mr Speaker, the rural areas are considered as the economic backbone of this country. In fact, those are areas they need more electricity than even the cities. The rural areas need electricity more than the cities to enable them transform their raw materials into finished products. This means that the rural areas should not only be seen as producers of raw materials, but adding value to these raw materials. In doing so, we can generate income and provide more jobs for our youth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Honourable Members were more passionate about the mineral sector. In other words, they spoke about the mineral sector as the

main economic mover of this country. Our economic growth is now calculated based on the production of iron ore, rutile and bauxite. Some have said that it is good for us to mine our minerals, but it is even better, if we embark on pre-processing before we export them. So, during the pre-processing period, we can also provide jobs for the youth (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Port Loko District spoke loquaciously about our Local Content Policy. I happened to have taken part in the sensitisation and the consultation on the development of our Local Content Policy in Kenema District. That meeting was held in Tongo because of the fact that we have the OCTEA Mining Company in Tongo. The meeting was well attended by those concerned. The Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of Mines and Minerals were in attendance. I am happy that when the Local Content Policy shall have come to this Parliament, we would be in a better position to educate our people, especially those in the mining or industrial areas. They will be educated on how to take advantage of their God given natural resources in terms of the jobs that will be provided for them. Already, the Member of Parliament from Lunsar is ahead of us because it has been recommended (even before the Local Content Policy comes), to start registering and enumerating businesses in her area. She is going to find out whether the people have the requisite skills and capacity bid for contracts, so that the people can benefit. I have asked her yesterday to tell us how she went about the process, so that we too can start preparing ourselves and our community.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Members of Parliament were obsessive about youth issues. Mr Speaker, we should not trivialise the issues of the youth. We have very good youth; we have professional youth; we have responsible youth; we have educated youth and we have enterprising youth in this country. However, we have youth who are not enterprising; who are not disciplined; and youth who do not want to work at all. So, the youth issue is an issue of dichotomy. Therefore, our business is to ensure how we can close the gap between those who are very good or very enterprising and those who are not.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minority Leader, you made mentioned of dichotomy. Can you elaborate on that, please?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: When I said dichotomy, I was referring to two kinds of people. In this sense, we have people who are very intelligent and there are those who very stupid. It also means good or bad people or beautiful or ugly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whatever category our youth find themselves in, they are the ones that are taking over from us when we shall have retired. So, we must take their issues seriously. We must invest in them; and we must prepare them for the world of business and education. So, I am not surprised that the President has dedicated his life to the youth of this country. No country can ignore its youthful population. In fact, 45% of our population of this country is made up of youth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Honourable Members have spoken about transportation and roads, as the engines of economic growth. We have seen roads that have been constructed during the Tejan Kabba's regime. During his regime, there were roads that were completed and there were those that were in the verge of completion. In this current era, the era of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma's regime, we have seen roads that have been completed. We are also seeing new roads that have been started and most of them are in the verge of being completed. We are also witnessing new conceptualisation of roads and infrastructure. This is what we call development. Development, as I have said, is continuity. With good roads, we would have good transportation system in this country. I am happy that we now have the Wilkinson Road and it has actually shortened the time from our homes to our respective work places. Without good roads and adequate transportation system, most of our people will not get to work on time. This is where I will call on the private and public sectors to come in and help. In other countries, the government provides policies, whereas the private sector constructs the roads and provides adequate transportation system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, is there something we can learn from Abbess? Abbess has been in the transport sector for many years and he has been one of the

most successful private sectors in this country. Millian Tours is another notable example. Maybe, what we need to do is to call them and ask how they have gone about their business. This is because we need adequate transportation system in this country, so that our children can go to school early. Adequate transportation system will also enable workers to go to their respective work places early and after work, they go back to their homes as early as possible. Quality time in our families is been affected by poor transportation system in this country. This is because workers get up early to go to their offices and they come home late. Parents do not have enough time, especially those who are working, with their families. Some members have been very passionate about it, so they spoke about it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, challenges have outlined by some Honourable Members and some proffered recommendations in that regard. I am going to add more recommendations for the attention of the government. Mr Speaker, in the area of energy, the need of the country surpasses the production. The energy supply is mostly limited to the cities and bigger towns. As I said, there is room for improvement. Energy studies have shown that we have a very high potential in hydro-energy power and we must diversify our energy needs. We are gradually going into solar generation, but we are encouraging the private sector to come in and help. Let me also say that when you travel to foreign countries, share the good things that you have learnt and bring back to your country. In South Africa, as the Chairman of the Energy Committee in the Pan-African Parliament, we visited the BAOMAS Energy Plant where all the household refuses in the Johannesburg City are deposited. And what is now happening is that they are sourcing energy from those households refuses by fixing big pipes that are collecting the gas. The gas is been transmitted into the power house and put into the national grid. We have places in this country where the refuses are thrown. The one is found at a place we call, S. O. 2 "Bɔmɛ" in Freetown, Kingtom and other places. Honourable Members, this is very serious because we are thinking of alternatives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, nobody is paying for "Bɔmɛ" and people are using those refuses as fertilizers. We are seeing people sieving these refuses and use the

decomposed materials as organic manure. Let us find ways and means to manufacture electricity from these refuses. I am sure there are cubic tons of gases at “BOMÉ” that could be harnessed. Let us give it a thought. We must also concentrate on rural electrification. In other countries, the government provides electricity for the rural areas. I want us to think in that direction, Mr Speaker. Our energy policy in Sierra Leone and the action plan are very good. What we need is more money and more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the energy sector. We have to encourage investment in the energy sector, especially at the private sector level. We now have the Public Private Partnership Act (PPP), which we should encourage strongly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we still have a problem with our educational system. This is a fact that we cannot deny at all. Mr Speaker, for the past three days, we have highlighted the problems we have in our educational system, but let me say that the Education Committee in this House needs to seriously engage the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology on educational issues. We are all parents and we are all paying school fee. All of us should dialogue with the Minister of Education, Science and Technology.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will give you a typical example that pains me, as a mother. I have my two daughters who are doing their masters at Njala University. We are almost buying pamphlets every day. But Mr Speaker, what pains me most is the fact that I expect that my daughters should buy one pamphlet per module, since they are together. They sleep on the same bed and they are studying together. I buy the same pamphlet for them and anyone who does not buy the pamphlet will fail. Mr Speaker, each pamphlet costs Le150, 000. This means that I am paying Le300, 000 for the two of them. This is very painful, Mr Speaker. Why should this happen? We must address this and it is not only happening in universities alone... - *(Interruption)*.

(Suspension of S. O. 5(2), being 12:00 noon)

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Thank you Mr Speaker. This is something we should be ashamed of at all. Mr Speaker, this is not only happening at the tertiary level, but it

is also happening at primary and secondary school levels. The issue of pamphlet is still in our educational system. Therefore, we must do something to put a stop to it. I want to call on the Anti-Corruption Commission to intervene. I am very serious about this and I want all hands on deck to stop this problem. Each lecturer is being paid for the service he/she renders. When we were in primary and secondary schools, we did not know anything about pamphlet. We were taught and we had quality time in class. Teachers came and gave notes to their pupils to study. This issue of selling pamphlets to the pupils and students is not doing any good for our educational system. It is stopping our children from consulting other books. In Fourah Bay College, you have all your references at the start of the academic year, so when you get to the lecture room, the lecturer lectures and he/she makes references to several books for the student to go and consult. In other words, students are referred to the library to look for books and make notes for themselves. This will help to broaden the knowledge base of the students and subsequently become subject specialists. For instance, if a lecturer is lecturing on a particular topic, the student is expected to read 1 to 6 books to give him/her an array of information. What is happening now is that, students are only reading the pamphlets and nothing else to broaden their knowledge. This is not good for children.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Tertiary Education Commission has a huge responsibility to perform and government should slowly relinquish these problems to this Commission. In other countries, it is the Tertiary Education Commission that is responsible to take care of these problems, so that the President and the Ministry of Education will have chance to develop policies. The Teaching Service Commission, in other countries, is very effective and it is responsible to recruit, transfer, discipline and advocate for teachers. The Teaching Service Commission also determines when a teacher should go on leave and when a teacher should retire from the teaching service. The burden on the Minister of Education is too much, Mr Speaker. The Minister of Education is now doing all the work that this Commission should be doing. Therefore, he hasn't much time to concentrate on the development of policies in order to provide

the enabling environment for quality education. So, let us compartmentalise these functions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, water, they say, is life. We have spoken about water severally in this Parliament. We are now talking about affordable, accessible and safe drinking water. Most of the diseases we get today are as a result of the water we drink. Pure drinking water is still a problem in this country. We need more money into that sector. I know that the young man in that Ministry is trying his best, but water is something that people use every day. To me, water is indispensable. So, I am not surprised that the issue of water is still topical. We must help the young man, especially in our Oversight function to make sure that water is provided for our people. We need to repair our pipes. If you go around Freetown and other places, you will find out that the pipes are leaking and thousands of cubic liters of water are wasted. Therefore, we must ensure that we conserve what we have and later ask for more. I am saying this because if we do not conserve what we have and we ask for more, then what are we doing?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, roads are very important, as I have noted earlier on. *"Charity," they say, "begins at home."* I am appealing to the President and the Minister of Works to consider Tongo Field, in terms of roads. We have OCTEA Mining Company in Tongo Field and we are seeing thousands of dollars being paid as royalties to the Government. The road from Kenema passing through Mano junction to Segbwema, Pendembu and to Kailahun and will also benefit the people of Koindu. In fact, the shortest road that can be invested in is the one from Mano Junction to Tongo and Kono. Therefore, we are also pleading that (because we are contributing to the consolidated funds in the form of royalties and funds from our God given diamonds in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom), we also benefit from the road construction. I think that is natural justice, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Agriculture is also important in this country. The ABCs have been put in place, but what we need is more monitoring, so that they serve

the purpose for which they have been established. They were established to provide market hubs. We must encourage the people to take their produce to those centres. We need to pay more attention to those places. The Agriculture Committee members need to pay more attention to what I am saying. We should know the problems these ABC centres are facing. I know that there are problems that are hindering the functions of these centres. I think there is need for consultations with the Small Holder Commercialisation Project Director, so that we look at how best we can make them viable to serve those communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, natural resources are very important, but what is also important is value addition. Let us encourage the setting up of secondary industries in this country. We have exported all the scrap materials out of this country to other countries. And Mr Speaker, only few people are benefitting from exportation of these scrap metals. There was a monotorium on the export of scrap metals, but it has been lifted and the scrap metals are still exported to other countries. I can imagine the thousands of jobs we will create for our youth out of the scrap metals' industry. It would provide income, jobs and even improve on the lives of people. The youth will become more engaged and more productive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the area of gender parity and gender equality, all presidents did well in that regard. Under the presidency of Dr Tejan Kabba, we had the first woman to be appointed as Commissioner of the National Electoral Commission (NEC); we had the first woman Immigration Officer and several female Ministers. The same trend has continued and we hope that it will continue. We have asked for more women to be appointed to serve in prominent positions. We have more qualified women and we are asking for more positions. The basis of this is the girl child education, which is where it all started. If the Honourable Member from Kambia had not been given the opportunity to go to school and learn, she would not have been seated here today. We are happy about the girl child education in this country. Mr Speaker, this should not only stop at the Junior Secondary School (JSS), because some parents cannot afford to pay for their children at the Senior Secondary School (SSS) level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am running a junior secondary school in my constituency and I pay the teachers, because there is no junior secondary school around the place. I pay the teachers every month. Mr Speaker, even though the tuition fee per term is Le 30, 000, the parents could not pay that money. I ended up giving a grace period to the pupils. In fact, I ended up paying their school fees. So, what I am saying is that, I want to encourage the government to extend that facility to the SSS, majority of the girls stop at JSS level because their parents cannot afford to pay their school fee. They are dropped out of school after their junior school. So, now that we have scholarships for science students, that gap should be filled. We need to support these girls up to university level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what are some of the risk factors that will affect the implementation of this Speech? What will be the risk factor that will constrain the achievements of the President and his dreams? These are noble dreams and they are good for this country. These are dreams that any President should have for his people. There are many constraints that will affect the smooth implementation of these proposals. Indiscipline and recklessness are two bedfellows that will hinder the implementation of the President's good intentions for this nation. That is, everything we are talking about today hinges on discipline. The discipline could be financial, social, political or any other type of discipline. If you are disciplined enough, you will know the difference between a private school and a public school. If you are disciplined, you must earn the money you get. If you are disciplined, even in this House, Members of Parliament should not come only to sign and go to their private businesses and come to take their sitting allowances and salaries at the end of the month. If we are disciplined enough as Members of Parliament, we should take our Oversight functions very seriously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the past, MDAs have been helping us financially to go and oversee them, but we now have our Oversight budget line. For God's sake, let us use whatever little we have and do our work diligently and honestly. We must

now make a difference in this Parliament. We have a new Speaker and everybody is expecting much from us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, corruption is going to be another constraining factor that every one of us here should fight against. The President is fighting against corruption and we cannot say we are at the end of the road. There are lots of challenges and the President has good intentions, in terms of curbing corruption in this country. But Mr Speaker, we still have people who are contravening the system to suit their comfort.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Attitudinal and Behavioural Change is another agenda that people should take seriously in this country. We have to do the correct thing, because we have reached the stage where we have to do what is correct. Patriotism and nationalism are very important for the survival of this nation. If we are patriotic, we must do what we are supposed to do. We must love our country and if you love your country, you have to come to work on time. People should take what is only theirs and you leave what is not theirs. We give respect to whom respect is due, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about law enforcement. With all that we have said, Mr Speaker, if we do not enforce the law or make follow up of what has been said here, all our efforts and money will go in vain. Therefore, I will recommend that we set up a Committee of Assurance in this Parliament. In other Parliaments, they have Committees of Assurances. The Committee of Assurance will ensure that they follow up all government policies to ensure that those policies are executed to the latter. We may want to go to the Parliament of Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa to understudy how the Committee of Assurance works.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I did second the nomination of the Speaker of this House because I believed that it is time for us to have a Speaker from amongst ourselves. Mr Speaker, whether what I did was correct or not, I have done it. Therefore, we must help the Speaker to do his job. We must make sure that we give

him all the cooperation and the support he will need. This is because at the end of the day, we are going to be adjudged collectively. If the Speaker wins, we win together and when he loses, we lose together. If he loses, he is not going to be judged alone, but the membership of Parliament. Therefore, on behalf of the minority party in this Parliament, we will continue to give him all the support he needs, so that he makes a difference in this Parliament. We will help him succeed, so that we put to shame all those pessimists who have said that we will fail.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish you good luck in your new office, as the Speaker of this House. I have no doubt that you will work hard to achieve the goals of this Parliament. I thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start my contribution by thanking the Almighty God for giving me the strength to stand before you today to thank His Excellency the President, for the Speech he so graciously delivered in this Parliament, on Friday, 20th December, 2013. I want to thank colleague Honourable Members for making my job easier. You have made a lot of points and mercifully for us, this debate is carried live on radio and television. Last night, I met a group of people who commended this Parliament for the observations Members of Parliament made during the course of this debate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that this Parliament is going to miss the Honourable Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya when he was the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business because of his choice of words or jargons he was using here. I attended the only school that is allowed to use the definite article, 'The Bo School.' I did not go to a learning centre, but I went to a school. I do not speak Latin, because Latin is a dead language for us.

THE SPEAKER: You would like to know, Mr Majority Leader, that in our days, if you do not know the Latin language, you would never be considered as a fully educated somebody (*Laughter*).

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Members, I would join the Minority Leader and other colleagues to state here that this government has done so much to improve the lives of our people. We have done so much in terms of infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, and youth issues, as highlighted in the eight (8) pillar. This Parliament has passed many laws; some of them are statutory instruments to regulate some of those Bills. We have ratified Loans, Agreements, Gifts, and Grants for the development of this country. We have approved sons and daughters of this country, who were nominated by the President to serve in different capacities.

However, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the question still remains, as to why we are still facing many challenges, as already enumerated by Honourable Sualiho Koroma, Honourable Hellen Kuyembeh from Bo and the Honourable Minority Leader. It is against this backdrop I want to centre my contribution on those who are charged with the responsibility of implementing these government programmes, as highlighted by the President in the eight pillars.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with the Public Sector. The Public Sector, in this context means the Public Service. The people who are charged with the responsibilities to implement these policies are not here to listen to us. Mr Speaker, out of 50 or more MDAs in this country, I only have eight (8) MDAs that are represented in this House to listen to what parliamentarians are saying. Mr Speaker, with your leave, I want to read out the names of MDAs that are represented here. They are:

- Asset Commission;
- National Commission for Democracy;
- The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure;
- The Administrator General's Office;
- National Revenue Authority (NRA);
- Sierra Leone Police;
- Ministry of Youth Affairs;

- The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs;
- SLARI; and the
- National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the representatives of the aforementioned MDAs for their presence. We are not the implementers of these programmes and policies. Mr Speaker, in spite of the plea we made to the implementers of these programmes, our appeal fell on deaf ears. All the same, I want to thank those who are absent from these proceedings. I thank them for challenging this Parliament. I want to say here that as long as I remain to be the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, we shall pursue all those who disobeyed the call of this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Parliament, we are very disturbed, because the civil servants and Vote Controllers who are managing the loans, gifts and grants we approve in this House have failed this nation. Mr Speaker, these are so permanent that they have served under many governments. I want to say, shame on you for having seen those governments fail. These officials are the engine of development in this country. In most cases, politicians are blamed for these civil servants' inactions. But Mr Speaker, how much can the President do? How much can the Ministers and Members of Parliament do without these civil servants? All we can do is to provide them with the enabling environment to perform their functions. We are now convinced that the civil service of this country needs serious overhauling. Some civil servants are falsifying their ages to deprive the youthful population of this country from gainful employment. If anyone challenges what I am saying, we have to go to the records for verification.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other issue I want to talk about is the Private Sector. Any country without a robust and honest private sector is doomed to fail. How many of our people are engaged in very strategic private engagements in this country. How many of these people are declaring the correct tax for the government to collect it revenue? You prefer to bribe those young boys whom we have given the responsibility

to work in Customs. You bribe them, so that you can get away with a lot of money. This time, this Parliament will pursue you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a very "good" partner in terms of development in this country - the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the Civil Society. I want to thank them for their good work. Thank you for all that you have been doing in our different communities. But Mr Speaker, are they doing all these to close the gaps that otherwise government is not able to do at that time? Are they doing all those things to help the people we represent in this Parliament? Are we not entitled to know, by way of presenting a report to this House? We want to see these things done. I think we have to engage members of the civil society and non-governmental organisations. We are partners in development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, 'justice delayed is justice denied.' If we find people act contrary to the dictate of the laws of this country, there are punishments for that. In other words, there is a punishment for any criminal offence in this country, but because this is a country with rules, you have to go through the court to interpret some of the findings of the police and other law enforcement agencies. Lamentably, when these cases are brought to the court, they are delayed. Therefore, I am appealing to the judiciary to ensure that justice is not delayed. Mr Speaker, if we want to achieve what the President has outlined in this Speech, we have to avoid unnecessary delay in our court system. The delay in the work of the Judiciary will greatly impede the work of the other pillars, as mentioned in this Speech. So, I crave the indulgence of our courts and other law enforcement agencies to speedily and judiciously look at the cases brought before them by our people. When matters go to court, Members of Parliament are the first point of contact. This is because our people cannot afford to pay lawyers. Mr Speaker, S. O. 2, "A dɔn gɛt kes o." And Mr Speaker, if you fail to attend to help your constituent, you will be in trouble.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Judiciary, the Executive and Parliament are the three arms of government and we must work as a team. The judiciary should ensure speedy justice for our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, the social media is very useful and helpful to us, but people have turned it to a social menace. If you read what Sierra Leoneans are writing on the social media about their country, it is very pathetic. We have just lost over 300 million dollars because some people do not want this government or they do not like Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. This money did not come to Sierra Leone at all. What a shame to these unpatriotic Sierra Leoneans. It is on Whats App and Facebook. I entreat Sierra Leoneans to read, so that you can see what your brothers and sisters are writing about their country. Mr Speaker, those discussions on Facebook and social media are scaring away potential investors to come to this country. Are we expecting investors to leave their countries and come to a country where the citizens are discrediting their country? S. O. 2, Mr Speaker, 'if dis kɔntri nɔ bɛtɛ, no bodi nɔ bɛtɛ na dis kɔntri.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as parliamentarians, we represent the people of this country. The people have our numbers and they know our addresses. They know where to find us. They do not know where to find most of the public officials, civil society organisations and NGOs, but they can find us easily. They are around us everywhere we go and they are after us. Mr Speaker, we are now in control of this Parliament. Both the Speaker and the Clerk of this Parliament were former Members of this Parliament. This is a very good combination for us; and failure to do what we are supposed to do is no longer an excuse for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank colleague Members of Parliament, especially those who were very objective in their contributions. I will also thank those who were subjective, because that is the more reason why Parliament is a House of debates. We have started showing this nation that we are up to the task and we will continue to do what is expected of us. We are neither witch hunting, nor going after anybody, but we are determined to pursue all those who do not want to see the

progress of this country. If you want our partnership to be cordial, we have to work together, so that this nation improves. Nature has given us abundant mineral resources in this country. We should be a proud nation and we should be ready to work harder than before.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would end my contribution with the minimum wage. Mr Speaker, Le 480, 000 and Le 600, 000 are encouraging amounts. I want to say kudos to the President for that kind gesture. Mr Speaker, the question is that, how many people believe in the principle of earning money in this country? People want to collect salary, but they do not come to work. There are those who do not go to work on time. Are they being fair to those who go to work every day and on time? This is where I want to entreat the Ministry of Labour and the Human Resource Department in the Public Service to intervene. There is a machine that is very technical and accurate in terms of registering employees. The cost of that machine is less than a thousand dollars. I want to implore the Ministry of Labour and the Human Resource Department of this country to institute the use of that machine in this country. Mr Speaker, technology has improved in such a way that we now talking about biometric registration. All you need to do is to place your finger on the machine and all your information appear. I think this will help to identify those who come to work every day and those who do not. I think we have to be paying people on pro rata basis. That is, you are paid according to the number of days you work. This government cannot afford to pay people who are not working at all. The growth of America is as a result of people earning a living, rather than getting a living. Stop the begging on the streets. You will never succeed begging for a living. If you earn a living, you will be respected and your dignity will be purified. Mr Speaker, with those few words, I want to thank Members of Parliament for their contributions and I wish you well. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, what makes the motion of thanks to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma different from other motions or Bills is that, in the case of other motions, after the two leaders have spoken, that will be the end of the debate. But I want to refer Honourable Members to S.O. 32(15), where a

motion of this nature has been moved by somebody, the individual has to reply to the suggestions, comments and issues raised. It is in this vein I call on the Chief Whip of this Parliament, Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda to reply.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA (*Chief Whip of the House*): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I must congratulate each and every Member of Parliament, because in my opening statement on the first allotted day, I did say that in some Parliaments, this Speech is called the 'Gracious Speech' or 'Speech from the Throne.' I did say that we need to give commendation to where it is due and also we need to bring out the gaps, so that we help the President and this government in achieving the eight pillars of the 'Agenda for Prosperity.' I also said that we need to bring out suggestions and recommendations, so that when the Leader of this House sits with His Excellency, he would highlight some of the issues raised by Honourable Members. Let me state here that each and every Member of Parliament must know that the President himself is listening to us and I want to believe that every Minister is also listening to us. Mr Speaker, I say shame unto the various Vote Controllers who are not here to listen to our suggestions, comments and recommendations. In fact, two of those that are represented here are Ministers. This means that only six (6) of them are Vote Controllers. Mr Speaker, as the Leader did say, we would surely make a difference in this Parliament. We will chase anybody who does not want to see the progress of this country. This country must progress and nobody should serve as hindrance towards the development of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my duty is to respond to some of the issues raised. I want to start with the suggestions, comments and recommendations proffered by the Minority Leader, Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai. she was talking about the ABCs. Indeed Mr Speaker, we discussed this issue at length during the budget hearing in Port Loko. What is the position of the ABCs? The Local Councils and Ministry of Agriculture are not talking about the ABCs in the budget hearing. We want to call on each and everyone to know that these ABCs mean a lot to the ordinary man and woman of this

country. Therefore, the Local Councils should find ways and means to address this issue. These ABCs must be resourced, so that the common man and woman benefit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minority Leader did talk about the Teaching Service Commission. I want to refer her to Page 50 of the presidential Speech. This means that the President is aware of it and that is why he said that he has established the Teaching Service Commission. He also spoke about the plans that have been put in place for this Commission to function.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move to the comments made by a very senior Member of this Parliament from Kono District, Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma. Mr Speaker, at the end of my remarks, I would not hesitate to apologise to this nation, especially to the youth. If the President can apologise to the women of this country, because the former Presidents failed to do it, I would not hesitate to apologise on behalf of the Member of Parliament. Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma kept referring to the youth of this country as lawless, irresponsible and not focused. Let us imagine and take through the age limit from 18-35. What are the ages of those in the universities? Are they not youth? Are the young police officers and army officers not youth? We also have young fire Force officers, prison officers, teachers, lecturers, Members of Parliament, Ministers, Ambassadors and medical doctors who are very responsible. They are all within the age bracket of 18 and 35. Are they not responsible, Mr Speaker? Are they lawless? Are they not focused minded?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Member of Parliament from Kono District, a very senior member of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), I want to apologise to the youth of this country for those descriptions against them. I want to agree with the Minority Leader, when she said that there are some youth in this country who are lawless. But Mr Speaker, we should not forget the fact that some of the elders are also lawless. Indiscipline among the elders is also an issue. There is lawlessness even in this House. I want the entire Chamber of this House to be televised, so that our people out there can see how many Members of Parliament are present. Mr Speaker, is

that not lawlessness? I want the Chamber to be shown, so that the world can see how many Members of Parliament are in this Chamber. Why are we always referring to the youth as lawless and irresponsible? How many MDAs are here to listen to this debate? How many Vote Controllers and Permanent Secretaries are here? Are they not lawless and indisciplined? Of course, they are lawless. This must be a Parliament of difference and I want to salute the Majority Leader that we would leave no stone unturned. We would chase them wherever they are, so that they can account to this nation their stewardship.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Jajua talked about land management. In his presentation, he did say that the 2012 budget addressed land management, but the President failed to mention it in the 2013 presidential Address. I want him to turn to Paragraph 35, where the President talks about management of forest reserves nationwide. That is talking about land management as well. We have a President that is concerned about every sector of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the issues raised by an Honourable Member from Jimmy Bagbo. First, I want to refer to four politicians from Jimmy Bagbo: Victor Foh, the late Honourable Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie, Juana Smith and now Honourable Helen Kuyembeh. I want researchers to go to Jimmy Bagbo and see whether they have a school of politics in that Chiefdom. Let me hasten to say that we need to commend Honourable Helen Kuyembeh for the brilliant contribution she made. But there were areas she tried to make cheap propaganda, whether that statement points to our party or not, she said that we sold a piece of land to investors for 5 dollars per acre. I would not be surprised that she is very new in this House. The old Members of Parliament would not say that land is sold to investors for 5 dollars per acre. We do not sell land to investors, but we lease land and that is quite true. The 5 dollars she was referring to is paid each and every year, until the life span of that particular project. So, if the project is going to last for 99 years, each year, you would have that money for that particular acre. And if you calculate it for 100 years, you will have more money after all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Bo said that government is preventing pupils from taking their WASSCE exam. On the other hand, the Honourable Kposowa talked about falling standards in our educational system. As a responsible government, we have carried out a research on the problems affecting the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Mr Speaker, one thing that came out clearly is the issue of lawlessness on the part of principals of schools. It was noted that when the pupils fail their BECE exams, the principals collect bribes from the parents and admit them. In most cases, they triple the cost of admission. For instance, if the admission fee is one hundred thousand Leones, they will be asking for five hundred thousand Leones simply because the candidate failed the BECE exam at the detriment of this country. We will no longer allow that to happen in this country. Today, if a candidate wants to take the WASSCE exams, we ask him/her to produce his/her BECE result. That is the step we are taking as a government. We will not relent and we are determined to overhaul the educational system in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the late Honourable Alice Foyah did say, in this House that it is not necessary to have a second airport in this country. Today, her husband is saying that it is not useful to have a four lane roads in this country. Mr Speaker, I am aware that 'the two shall become one,' but let me say that they are all from the diaspora and the Honourable Patrick Foyah was an Ambassador, representing this country outside. With this statement, he is defeating the purpose of a foreign mission, because we send Ambassadors to understudy good things and import them into our country. Mr Speaker, if a former Ambassador is saying that having four (4) lane roads in this country is not a good idea, I wonder the type of representation he provided for this country. I think that was why they were shown the exit door. I want to assure him that we will continue to construct four lane roads and the feeder roads in this country. Honourable Members, I think that is why we are spending huge amount of money on the Local Councils, using the road maintenance funds for them to construct feeder roads.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Parliament, we should continue to do the good work we have started. I want to assure the Leader of this House that when the committee is constituted to monitor the activities of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the NGOs, we will do our best. These CSOs and NGOs fail to understand that they receive moneys for and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone and they believe they should not give account to the people on how they are spending those moneys. As the people's representatives, we are determined to oversee these CSOs and NGOs. They should account for every cent they are spending. This is because when our development partners calculate the moneys they are giving to this country, they also include what they give to these CSOs and NGOs operating in this country. Henceforth, we will also ask the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to join us, so that these people will account for these moneys. Mr Speaker, when these people go to our constituencies, they do what they feel like doing and leave without proper accountability. This has to stop and this is a Parliament with a difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, I want to thank you for your patience during the past days. I do not have any iota of doubt that this Leadership will perform. You have promised us that Ministers will be summoned to this Parliament to answer questions. I believe that will happen. The Permanent Secretaries should also be accompanying their Ministers to this House. I am saying this because they are the technocrats in those Ministries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, "Be it resolved that we the Members of Parliament, here assembled, wish to thank His Excellency the President, for the Address he so graciously delivered, on the occasion of the State Opening of the Second Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, in the Chamber of Parliament, on Friday, 20th December, 2013.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Motion of thanks to his Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, has been carried.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I wish to thank all of you for what has been a very lively debate, particularly the summations given by the two leaders of this House, the Majority and the Minority Leaders of this House. I thank you all.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the attention of this House, the following papers were laid on this Table for our consideration by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development:

- a. Letter of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank and the lead financier of a project co-financed by EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, Cote D'voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) Electricity Networks inter-connection project, dated 28th November, 2013;
- b. Loan Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank, acting on behalf of the Nigerian Trust Fund, Cote D'voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) electricity networks inter-connection project, dated 28th November, 2013;
- c. Loan Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank, Cote D'voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) Electricity Network Inter-connection project, dated 28th November, 2013; and
- d. Protocol of Agreement between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank, Cote D'voire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea electricity networks inter-connection project, dated 28th November, 2013. I want honourable Members to take note of the aforementioned Agreements before the next sitting. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 1:05 p.m. and was adjourned till Tuesday, 4th February,, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.