

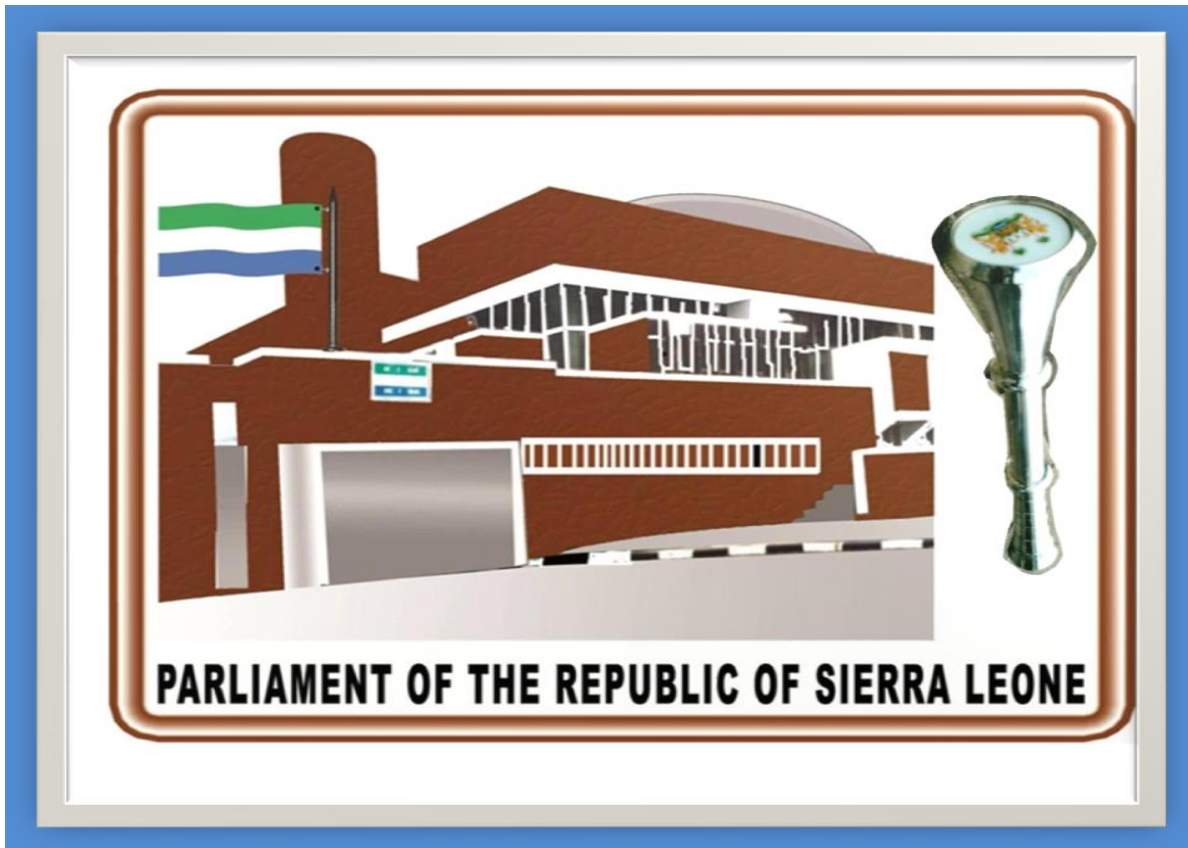
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING
THURSDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2013**

SESSION – 2012/2013



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 3rd October, 2013.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 3rd October, 2013.

The House met at 10:12 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

[The Legislative Clerk, Mr Lamin Yansaneh, Read the Prayers].

[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

MR LEBBIE (Deputy Clerk of Parliament): Honourable Members, I announce the absence of Mr Speaker in today's sitting. And in accordance with S.O. 10(2) and Section

88(b) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, I call on the Deputy Speaker to preside.

Suspension of S. O. 5(2)

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 24th September, 2013. Page1? Page2?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, I was in Port Loko during the Budget hearing. I believe I was absent with excuse.

THE SPEAKER: So what's your point Honourable Member?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: My point here is to remove my name from Members of Parliament who were absent to Members of Parliament who were absent with excuse.

THE SPEAKER: What page are you referring to Honourable Member?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Page 3 Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: But we are still on Page 2. I want you to resume your seat Honourable Member. Any correction on Page 2? Page 3?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Page 2 Mr Speaker. That was why I rose up earlier.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do you want to make a point? Is your name on Page 2?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Let us look at the bottom of Page 2. I am sorry Mr Speaker I was referring to Page 3. I stand to be corrected Mr Speaker. I was in Port

Loko, together with my colleagues representing Parliament during the budget hearing. Therefore, I was absent with excuse.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member. Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no further amendment, can someone move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 24th September, 2013 be adopted as amended?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHAJI S. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Questions Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 24th September, 2013 was unanimously adopted as amended)

III PAPER LAID

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHARTER

HON. ALIMAMY KAMARA (*Minister of Youth Affairs*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a draft of the African Youth Charter.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, the Minister of Youth Affairs is here to perform a function that has been executed. I wonder if we still need his presence.

THE SPEAKER: Except he wants to stay with us. I was hoping that he had wanted to stay with us.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, the Minister is still within the precincts of Parliament. I just want to thank him very much for laying on the Table the draft of that document. No Minister has never done this before. I thank him because he has given us in Parliament the opportunity to critically look at that document to compliment and criticise where necessary before the final document is laid on this Table. I thank him very much.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, I would like to announce for the information of all Members of Parliament that after consultation with the Minority Leader and the Leadership of Parliament, there will be a meeting of all Members of Parliament in Committee Room No. 1, immediately after this sitting. It is very important. All Members of Parliament must be there. Thank you.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very recently there was a United Nations General Assembly in which Sierra Leone and many other state parties participated. During that Conference, Sierra Leone joined other 10 Members of Heads of States to sign the Arms Trade Treaty. The Arms Trade Treaty is a very important Treaty. It is a Treaty that is meant to control the production, the illicit use, importation, exportation of arms and ammunitions round the world. You will agree with me that there had been reckless use and proliferation of arms and weapons, especially small arms and light weapons. Maybe, our war would not have been fuelled or would not have prolonged the way it did. And there were lots of human rights abuse as a result of easy access to arms, including sexual harassment, rape and a lot of destruction of goods and property.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in Sierra Leone, we have already enacted and established the National Arms Control Act and at the same time established the Small Arms Commission. Therefore, we are very happy that Sierra Leone has joined other

Members states, particularly knowing how small arms and light weapons destroyed this country during the 11 years war. And I must thank the parliamentarians for Global Action both in this Parliament and in other Parliaments and also the International Secretariat in New York for the hard work that this group of parliamentarians has put in terms of sensitisation, dissemination and advocacy. We have now signed this document but what is more important is the ratification and implementation of this document. This is because it will only become effective after two-third of the state parties have ratified and deposited the certificates of ratification with the UN.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Parliament and as a Government and as a PGA National Group, we want to congratulate ourselves and the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for taking this bold step. But we also want to admonish and plead that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Minister of Justice and the President and all peace loving Sierra Leoneans will now put modalities in place as soon as possible so that we bring this document to Parliament for ratification. If we do this, very soon it will become an adopted document and we would start benefiting from this. Few months ago, Sierra Leone benefitted from two very highly expensive marking machines. One of the requisitions is that we mark every arms and ammunition coming into this country. Once we have marked it, it is recorded anywhere that arm is used for illegal purposes because it is marked. By so doing, we would be able to trace it. We will be in a position to know who own the arm, who gave away that arm and for which purposes. Already, before this document comes into effect, certain aspects of it are now being implemented. There is going to be an International Conference in South Africa, wherein Members of the Parliamentarians for Global Action in Africa will be converging to start putting modalities in place for advocacy on the ratification of this important document by their respective Governments. I hope Sierra Leone will be a beneficiary and participant in that important Conference. I thank you very much.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O. 18. I had given notice to this House that I would come up with motion on various Statutory

Instruments and Constitutional Instruments that were laid on the Table previously. For ease of reference and parliamentary convenience, I have concluded that it is more expedient that those Constitutional Instruments and Statutory Instruments that S.O. 18(2) be complied with by the Administration so that all Members of Parliament will be engaged in various debates that we will be having in this House.

Members of Parliament should be given the relevant information as it is required by the Standing Orders before Statutory Instruments are laid on the Table of this House. Those are requirements and those are information that are given to this House before the Statutory Instruments are laid on this Table. In light of that, I also believe this House is convinced that a Statutory Instrument and Constitutional Instrument Committee should be established in this House. This is because that is the practice in most Commonwealth Parliaments. In the American system, they do not have Statutory Instruments. But in our own system, there is the necessity for that. I am sure my most efficient Majority Leader would agree with me on that. And on the basis of that, I am therefore withdrawing that what I said before. I am saying that S.O.18(2) be complied with by the Administration for the edification of my colleague Members of Parliament and myself. I am also asking that a Statutory and Constitutional Instruments Committee be set up in this House so that we may not in the future have to go through this. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, I wish to lend my support to the suggestion that has been made by Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai. Mr Speaker, a Statutory Instrument is what we call Secondary Legislation. What does that mean? It means any Statutory Instrument, as long as it has been laid and the period has expired, that is the period of 21 days, it automatically becomes law. That is why we call it Secondary Legislation. If you know that you want any further lecture on that, please see me. That is a very important suggestion that has been made by Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai. In most Parliaments that I have visited, they have Statutory Instrument. There are some who say that if you have a Legislative Committee, it can take care of that. If want to give

the importance that is due to the Statutory Instrument, we have to create a Committee on its own in that regard. This is what is done in other jurisdictions. That is why I am also asking that we implement it here. Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai, I give you my support ON what you have just said.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O. 31, under withdrawal of motions. Honourable Members, you would recalled that on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2013, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice laid on this Table the Statutory Instrument captioned: "The Council of Legal Education (Admission into Sierra Leone Law School) Regulations, 2013; The Council of Legal Education Act, 1989 (Act No.1 of 1989) and Statutory Instrument No.3 of 2013. After the laying of that Instrument, I gave a notice to this House, for this House to debate that Instrument, so in effect the 21days running on that instrument was suspended. As the mover of that motion and in consultation with the seconder of that motion, I now rise to withdraw that motion effective today. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Who was the seconder?

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I was the seconder.

THE SPEAKER: Was it done with your consent?

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: well he consulted me yesterday and I agreed with him.

THE SPEAKER: Is it yes or no Honourable Member, did you agree with him?

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, we agreed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, we go further to S. O. 31(1). We will have to confirm that it is the pleasure of this House for the motion to be withdrawn based on the same rubric. Honourable Members, you've heard the suggestion from the Mover and the Secunder of the motion. Are there any dissenting views? If there are none, I take it that it has been accepted.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, with your leave I would like to make the following announcements about the Women’s Caucus of the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, are you a Member of the Female Caucus?

HON. S.B.B. DUMBUYA: I am not Mr Speaker. But as the Leader of Government Business, it is my pleasure to announce the new Executive Committee of the Women Caucus of the Parliament of Sierra Leone. They are:

1. Hon. Patricia Brown - President;
2. Hon. Veronica Sesay - Vice President;
3. Hon. Mimi Soba Stephens - Secretary;
4. Hon. Mabinty Fornah - Assistant Secretary;
5. Hon. Abi Kalokoh - Treasurer;
6. Hon. Isata Kabia - Public Relations Officer; and
7. Hon. Gladys Gbamoh Gbappy-Brima - Organising Secretary.

Signed by Honourable Patricia Brown, President of the Women’s Caucus of the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: This is an announcement for Members of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Advocacy Group on Population. Members who have been slated for the workshop at Tokeh are hereby reminded to be at Tokeh at about 12:00 p.m. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.43 a.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 10th October, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)