



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2013**

*SESSION – 2012/2013*



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**VOLUME: I**

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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, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

## Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

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Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

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

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

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

The House was called to Order

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would recalled that during our last sitting, I moved a motion in this House after the Statutory Instrument No. 13 was laid... - *(Interruption)*.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, can we come back to this if you are not quite ready yet? Mr Clerk, let us go to the next item please.

### **III. BILL.**

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, 2013

#### INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Minister, please sit down for a minute. Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the presence of the delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda to this Parliament. The delegation is here on a study tour *(Applause)*. Mr Minister, you may continue.

**DR KERIFALA MARAH: (*Minister of Finance and Economic Development*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 be read the first time.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*(The Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 has been read the first time).*

#### SECOND READING

**DR KERIFALA MARAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 be read the second time. Mr

Speaker, Honourable Members, you will recalled that I presented the 2013 Budget and the Statement of Economic and Financial Policies to this noble House on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2012. Following critical debates and laid down Parliamentary Procedures, this Honourable House subsequently approved the Budget on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. Prior to this, the request for Presidential Warrant was approved by the House on the same day I laid the Budget. First the implementation of the 2013 Budget using the approved warrant commenced in January, 2013.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, following three months of implementation, it became clear that we must revise the original 2013 Budget Framework for the following reasons:

first, the 2013 Budget approved by Parliament reflected the macro-economic and fiscal framework agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in September, 2012, which in turn was underpinned by the projections for key economic variables. However, since then, some of the underlined assumptions on which the Domestic Revenue Projections were based no longer exist. For example, the fall in the international price of Rutile and Bauxite and its implications for royalties on the same;

second, only preliminary estimate for the 2012 Budget outturns were available at the time I presented the Budget to Parliament in December, 2012. Hence, the full and comprehensive picture of actual expenditures and revenues collected as at the end of December, 2012 was not available; and

third, two months into the implementation of the 2013 Budget, several compelling expenditures requirements emerged not foreseen during the preparation of the Budget. These extra budgetary expenditures increased the financing gap in the 2013 Budget. Hence, there is need to mobilise additional resources to finance the increasing expenditure requirements.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in view of the above, and consistent with Section 112, Sub-section 3 of the 1991 Constitution provides that: "*a Supplementary Estimate*

*shall be presented to Parliament for approval for Expenditures that were not part of the Appropriation or for which funds were in-sufficient.”* By virtue of this, we now present proposal for the Supplementary Budget of 2013. The preparation and submission of a Supplementary Budget to Parliament is a manifestation of our determination to respect the National Legal Frameworks for Public Financial Management, including the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Government Budgeting and Accountability Act of 2005 and its related Financial and Accountability as well as Management Regulations which require that any spending above the original Appropriation warrants submission of a Supplementary Budget to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as usual, before presenting the details of the 2013 Supplementary Budget, I would like to provide highlights of macro-economic developments during the months of January to June, 2013 and Budgetary Performance from January to March 2013. They are as follows:

*A. Macro Economic Developments from January to June this year;*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Economy grew by 15.2% in 2012, driven largely by the increase in Iron Ore Production from 137,000 metric tons in 2011 to 6.6 million metric tons in 2012. Excluding Iron Ore, the Economy grew by 5.3% supported by increased activities in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and services sector. Preliminary data for the first five months of the year indicates that the economy is on track. To achieve the projected growth of additional 13.3% for 2013 as output in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing and construction, services sectors continue to expand. Meanwhile, we continue to bid it up to any economy in the sub-region. National inflation continued a downward trend. Inflation fell by 10.9% in April, 2013 from 16.7% at the end of 2011. Following the current stance of zero domestic borrowing interest rate on the 91-day Treasury bill fell to 6% in June, 2013 from 19% in December, 2012. Gross foreign exchange reserves at the Bank of Sierra Leone reached \$437.4m, equivalent to three months of import as at end of June, 2013. The exchange rate remained stable during January to June, 2013.

### *B. Budgetary Performance in Quarter One –January to March 2013;*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, domestic revenue collection amounted to Le508.8bn in the First Quarter, compared to the Le413.4bn in First Quarter of 2012 and exceeded the programme target of Le469.1bn. Of the total domestic revenue collected, Income Taxes amounted to Le207.5bn, GST Le99.8bn, Customs and Excise Duties Le107bn, Non Tax Revenue amounted to Le83bn of which Mining Licenses and Royalties amounted to Le60bn. Total expenditure amounted to Le497.8bn in Quarter One, compared to the budgeted amount of Le759.9bn. Of this total, the recurrent expenditures amounted to Le454.8bn. Wages and Salaries amounted to Le249.4bn within the budgeted amount of Le250bn. Of these, Le60.7bn constitutes interest payments on Domestic Debt, Non Salary, and Non Interest Recurrent Expenditures amounted to Le137.5bn and Capital Expenditures funded from Domestic Revenues total Le43.0bn.

### *C. Revisions to the Original 2013 Budget*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, developing the 2013 Supplementary Budget involves revising the original 2013 Budget, taking into consideration Domestic Revenue, Grants, Expenditure and Financing. This will be done by incorporating the new fiscal policy measures and underlined assumptions. Therefore, the difference between the revised expenditures and original budget is the Supplementary Budget. This section therefore has to do with the revisions of the 2013 Original Budget to reflect the emerging expenditure issues, as well as the changes in the assumptions underpinning the original 2013 Revenue Projections.

### *D. Provisions to the Original Expenditure Profile*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of the emerging and new expenditure requirements that warrant a revision to the original expenditure profile are as follows:

1. clear un-paid bills carried over from 2012, amounting to Le299.3bn which includes ways and means advances from the Bank of Sierra Leone of Le48.1bn and outstanding Pension Payment to NASSIT of Le40.1bn;
2. to complete many of the ongoing infrastructural projects initiated since 2010 under the Agenda for Change in 2013. This requires therefore additional resources estimated at Le75.4bn. Of this increase, Le31.6bn will go towards the completion of ongoing road construction projects, Le12.6bn towards completion of ongoing energy related projects, including the procurement and installation of Thermal Plants and Transmission and Distribution materials. Le3.7bn for water supply projects, Le4bn to the Sierra Leone Police for the procurement of security equipment. In addition, the rehabilitation of the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Dam and the Thermal Plant at King Tom and Black Hall Road as well as purchase of fuel for NPA under the Emergency Power Programme is estimated at Le52.2bn;
3. the Bank of Sierra Leone to utilise the remaining balance of Le81.8bn of non-negotiable, non-interest bearing securities by converting into marketable securities to support monetary policy operations with interest obligations thereof;
4. the outstanding pension contributions to NASSIT, amounting to Le40.1bn have been securitised by issuing a marketable two year Bond to NASSIT. The interest cost of proposals 3 and 4 above is estimated at Le8.2bn. Despite this, the recent decline in domestic interest rate owing to the current stance of zero domestic borrowing is expected to offset the increase in interest payment, emanating from the above policy measures. Savings in domestic interest payment for the year is estimated at Le10.6bn;
5. following the successful conduct of the 2012 General Elections, the new Government structure pronounced in early 2013 saw the creation of new Lined Ministries and

Agencies together with additional appointments. This has budgetary implications for the Government, wage bill, as well as the Goods and Services Budget;

6. as part of Government strategy to improve the welfare of academic staff in tertiary institutions, Government, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has adopted proposals to allow the universities to charge tuition fees at market rate. To cushion the effect on these students and parents, Government is providing an additional Le8.5bn to the University of Sierra Leone and Njala University as additional fee subsidy agreed with the universities;
7. the increasing cost of diet and drug supplies combined with the increase in the number of inmates required additional expenditure allocation of Le1.7bn to the Prisons Department. In addition, preparations to commemorate the one hundred years of Prisons Service in Sierra Leone in 2014 calls for additional resources of Le4bn for the procurement of uniforms and regalia for all Prison Officers;
8. the National Electoral Commission requires additional resources, amounting to Le1.5bn for the conduct of bye-elections and Paramount Chieftaincy Elections in 2013;
9. the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation has been increased by Le2.4bn for the procurement of vehicles;
10. an amount of Le4.97bn has been allocated to the newly established Ministry of Water Resources and Le1.7bn to the Ministry of Youth Affairs;
11. Government pledges Le4.4bn, the equivalence of one million US Dollars as part of the international support to the Republic of Mali;

12. payment of Le4.4bn the equivalent of one million US dollars to the survivors of the Togolese victims of the Helicopter crash at Lungi in June, 2007; and

13. the Introduction of GST receipts to address the problem of underperformance in GST collection is on the rise and therefore, the cost is estimated at Le30.3bn the equivalent of \$7m. The payment for these receipt books will be phased over the medium term.

*Revisions to the Original Revenue Projections and changes in the underlined Assumptions*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as previously stated, changes in some of the assumptions that underpinned the domestic revenue projections in the original 2013 Budget will impact negatively on domestic revenue performance during the year. Hence, projections for the following revenue streams are being revised downwards:

1. personal Income Tax as far as those projections are concerned will decline by Le114bn after adjusting for one-off payment of personal Income Tax in 2012. The actual In-come Tax collected in 2012, which included the one-off payment of foreign pay roll tax by African Minerals Limited and the proceeds from the sale of the Sierra Leone Government Shares held in the Sierra Rutile Limited form the basis of the original 2013 projections of Income charges. Hence, the original 2013 Income Taxes were over projected;
2. import GST is revised downwards by Le62.3bn lower than originally projected. Data collected for Quarter One, 2013 showed a 38% decline in dutiable import related to the same period in 2012;
3. Import Duty projections were also reviewed downwards by Le39bn due to lower than expected import volumes as explained above;

4. Royalties on Rutile and Bauxite are now projected to decrease by Le7bn, compared to the original budget due to fall in international prices for these commodities; and
5. Royalties on Iron Ore also discounted by Le2bn to reflect the fall in world market prices and unexpected production difficulties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, despite the above scenarios, projections for a number of other revenue streams are being revised upwards as follows:

- i. Corporate Income Taxes are projected to increase by Le75.7bn over the original budget in line with the projected expansion in economic activities;
- ii. Royalties on diamonds are projected to increase by Le17bn over the original projection due to the anticipated increase in production and favourable market conditions;
- iii. Excise duty on locally manufactured goods is projected to increase by Le18.7bn on account of the expected increase in manufacturing activities;
- iv. Freight levy will increase by Le2.4bn based on performance in Quarter One of 2013;
- v. Signature bonuses of \$7.5m equivalent of Le32.5bn are expected from petroleum exploration activities; and
- vi. revenues collected by various Government departments are projected to increase by Le24bn over the original projections due to the anticipated expansion in economic activities as well as the implementation of the revised fees and licenses in the second half of the year.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, other revenue projections included the disbursement of the second tranche of the Sierra Rutile Limited Loan Repayment estimated at 8.2m Euros, plus the delay 2012 disbursement of Le9.2m are also being incorporated in the revised budget. The World Bank will also disburse \$3.5m under the pay and performance budget.

### *Revised Donor Budget Support Disbursement*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of our Budget Support Partners have also increased their support to the 2013 Budget as follows:

- i. DFID will now disburse a total of \$23.3m equivalent of 12.6m pounds compared to the original 18.4m in lieu of the delayed disbursement for 2012 performance tranche;
- ii. the World Bank has increased the 2013 Budget Support to Sierra Leone by \$15m, including \$10m to support the Emergency Energy Programme and \$5m as additional General Budget Support;
- iii. the European Union will disburse as Programme the sum of 14m Euros; and
- iv. the Global Fund will also disburse an amount of Le7.4m in support of Health Sector Workers as originally budgeted.

### *The 2013 Supplementary Budget*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the emerging new expenditures and extra budgetary expenditures are new revenue streams require an extra Appropriation in the context of a Supplementary Budget. The details of the Supplementary Budgets are as follows:

Total Revenue and Grants have been revised from Le2.68tn or Le15.6% of GDP to Le2.83tn or 16.4% of GDP, representing an increase of Le147bn. Domestic revenue has been revised from Le2.3tn or 12.1% of GDP to Le2.2tn or 12.7% of GDP, resulting an increase of about Le130.5bn. Grants have been revised from Le613.9bn or 3.6% of GDP to Le630.5bn or 3.6% of GDP, an increase of Le16.5bn. Total expenditure and net

lending has increased from Le3.2tn or 18.7% of GDP to Le3.36tn or 19.5% of GDP, resulting in an increase of about Le152.6bn. Of this recurrent expenditure has been revised from Le2tn to Le2.2tn an increase of about Le175.9bn.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, wages and salaries are now projected to reach Le1.06tn or 6.1% of GDP. The original budget estimate was Le999.1bn or 5.8% of GDP. The main reason for increase is to accommodate the full year effect of the implementation of 13% increase in wages and salaries for Civil Servants, Military Officers, Police Officers and Teachers under the Multi Year Pay-Reform Programme between 2011 and 2015, which aims as a transparent and affordable multi-year upward adjustment in Public Sector pay and compensation. Other factors include provision of Le5bn as Pension Arrears to Ex-Ministers and Parliamentarians. The increase in the Wage Bill also takes into account the establishment of new MDAs and additional appointments mentioned earlier.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Goods and Services expenditure is projected to increase from Le660.6bn or 3.9% of GDP in the original Budget to Le789.2bn or 4.6% of GDP. Capital expenditure has been revised from Le1.2tn to Le1.28tn. This reflects the increase in domestically funded capital expenditures by 75.4bn. The overall budget deficits, excluding grants are now revised to Le1.16tn compared to the original deficit of Le1.14tn in 2013 and Le1.48tn in 2012. Including grants, the overall deficits are now projected at Le535.6bn compared to Le854.3bn in 2012. The deficits will be financed by external project and programme loans, domestic borrowing from the Central Bank and Non-bank Sectors as well as privatisation receipt.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the revised external borrowing for the year in the form of Project and Programme Loans is projected at Le453.7bn. The supplementary financing requirement will be met by additional Programme Loans from the World Bank of about \$18.5m referred to earlier which will be disbursed during the second half of this year. Of this amount, \$10m will go towards the support of Emergency Energy Programme, \$5m as additional general budget support in addition to the \$10m already

budgeted in the original 2013 Budget and Le3.5m for the payment and performance programme. Domestic financing for the year is projected at Le336.8bn of this Central Bank. Financing of the Budget is programmed to reflect the Statutory Credit Limit of Central Bank Credit to Government as per the Bank of Sierra Leone Act of 2011.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in view of the improved Micro Economic Environment, the Government of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Bank of Sierra Leone is issuing a two-year infrastructure bond, amounting to Le200bn this year to the Bank and Non Bank Sector of the Sierra Leone Economy. The purpose of the bond is to finance and sustain Government's infrastructural development from short and medium term security development as it has happened in other developing economies, including those re-financing and interest rate risk as well as interest due for semi annually instead of the present quarterly payment. The Bond to be issued will be marketable and can be used as collateral by commercial banks and other domestic financial investors in the economy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, zero in the original budget is now \$2.6M for 2013 being proceeds from the Sierra Leone Ports Authority concession. The total supplementary estimate is above the original 2013 Budget submitted to the House for ratification is estimated at Le578bn.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the presentation of the Supplementary Budget was necessitated by the need to complete on-going projects and programmes under the Agenda for Change and to commence the implementation of the Agenda for Prosperity. Sierra Leone, according to records continues to be the highest growing economy in the world. This means that we have to be innovative. We have to transcend the boundary from conventions. The economy is performing because of some of the innovations and initiatives we have taken on board. We have bought interest on the 91-day and wish to continue in that direction. And it is on that account we have to respect the laws and rules, and the legal framework of this Nation that we are submitting this Supplementary Budget for your consideration, noting that we have made increases in several areas so

as to be able to create liquidity in the economy through construction and many social economic activities. I will by virtue of these increases and some of the relevant adjustments being made make this for the consideration of the Honourable House. In this regard, I therefore commend the Supplementary Budget for 2013 to this House for your approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 be read the second time.

*(The Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 has been read the second time).*

**HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance for presenting to this House for the very first time over several years, a Supplementary Budget added to the first Budget approved by the Honourable House in January, 2013. I believe that, that is the right way to go and I believe this Parliament will take note of the things that you have just mentioned Mr Minister. There are concerns being raised here by Members of my Committee together with myself but before I get to that let me also thank your Ministry for extending invitations to our Development partners for which copies have been made to me as Chairman of Finance Committee. The World Bank, IMF, ADB, UNDP, Irish Aid, UNFPA, European Union, DFID, WHO and FAO are all here today. I must thank you for that. These are our development partners. Some are not mentioned here but I also believe they were invited to be part of this discussion.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance has fine tuned the Supplementary Budget information. I believe this House wants to hear from him. The sum of Le518bn has been given to us. Honourable Members take notes of what I am saying here. There are others that want to make some contributions here but we have to be faithful to ourselves and be serious with whatever we say. If we are sincere of what we are saying here, we can meet our challenges. We can meet our challenges if

we take our development programmes seriously. Capital expenditure is reduced, proceeds on privatisation must be directed to the right account, not to a different account. These are the opportunities that we all have. But I believe as Members of Parliament and as Members of Oversight Committees, we have a role to play. The changes made as a result of the separation of the Ministry of Youths Affairs from Youth and Sports are there for us to see. Therefore, it is easy for the Youth Committee in this House to go on Oversight and know exactly what they are looking for. The same goes for the Ministry of Water Resources which has been separated from the Ministry of Energy. Separate allocations have been made to these two Ministries which make it easy for us to do our oversight function.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were looking at these figures Le52.3bn allocated to the Road Maintenance Funds. We want to know from Mr Munda Rogers and perhaps from the Executive Director what plans they have put in place to utilise the Le52.3bn. They cannot give you money and you just walk away with it without giving us a plan. You have to give us a plan. The plan has to be put on the table of the Finance Committee in Parliament so that we can track what the Government is doing or what Government is saying to these people. The people of this country should know exactly the benefit they would derive from the development the Government is undertaking. That is very important. The first Budget gave the Road Maintenance Administration Fund the sum of Le40bn. This Supplementary Budget has made a provision of Le52bn. In totality, we are talking about Le92bn. The Director of SLRA gave us a huge and ambitious plan to construct roads in all the four regions in this country. This is what we want to see. Tell us what you want to do with the money that you are asking for. If you give me the confidence that these funds are going to be utilised for the benefit of every Sierra Leonean in this country, I will give it to you. But you have to come up with a Plan. I commend Mr Munda Rogers and his team for the work that they have done so far. I hope the Road Maintenance Fund Administration will work in that direction to meet the challenges of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Energy. Energy is the engine for the development of this country. We want power to be seen in every corner of Sierra Leone. We want to see electricity not only in the capital city, but also in the areas where mining activities are going on. We rely heavily on mining activities to increase our revenue base and the economic growth of this country. Without energy, it is going to be difficult for us sitting here to even receive our monthly salary on time. When there is no money in the Treasury, we will not be paid on time. We don't want to see that happen in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, Let me take you further into Schedule 2. There were cheques from 2012 being carried-forward to 2013. I don't know whether Parliament is part of that allocation. The Financial Secretary is giving assurances that Parliament is part of the equation. The Provision has been made for Le214bn cheques. Outstanding cheques obligation from 2012 and printed cheques for liability of Government here carried over to 2013 in the amount of Le214bn. Is Parliament in that equation? Mr Minister, I would like to have some clarity. I am saying this because there are dues and subscriptions to be paid for Parliament as our foreign obligations in Organisations like the CPA, the IPU and etc. The last time I went for a Conference, representing this Parliament at the IPU together with the Honourable Members on the other side, I was not allowed to speak let alone to vote because we failed to meet our obligations even though I was the head of delegation. But I have been informed recently that effort has been made to make some payments to reduce the 4 year outstanding dues or subscriptions by the Sierra Leone Parliament. That money has been paid but we need a full payment from the Ministry of Finance to allay the fear of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Focal Person of the IPU. The same goes for the CPA. We don't want Members of Parliament to be embarrassed when they attend CPA Conferences abroad. I need some clarity here with this Le241bn whether Parliament is part of these cheques printed in 2012-2013.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not going to talk about contingencies. I will leave that alone. I am not going to talk about Miscellaneous Services. There is a huge

burden on the Minister of Finance to meet the needs of travelling by the Executive. Perhaps, I should also include parliamentarians. It was His Excellency who was a Member of Parliament here that approves a Constituency Facilitation Fund for Members of Parliament. Have those moneys been forwarded to our respective accounts?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, even though we have engaged the nine Ministries whose allocations are on this Supplementary Budget, I want us to tidy up the Appropriation Bill. What I mean by this is that, if we give them a hundred million to buy books and pens (and that is what they are asking for) we should make sure that they buy those items for which the money has been given. And at the end of the year, they must report to Parliament. We have to tidy up some of these provisions we are making in the Budget. I am saying this because at the end of the day (when these MDAs appear before Parliament to defend their Budgets), what they will be saying to us will be different from what they will say to you at the end of the year. We have to move away from that step Mr Minister. Let us make it transparent. And let us also be transparent in our duties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want clarity from the Minister of Finance if he can on the Office of the Chief of Staff. The Office of the Chief of Staff was given Le1.5bn. We need some clarity on that. But if you cannot, don't worry about it. I will not comment on the allocation made to the National Revenue Authority. They are the ones mobilising funds for us to function. I leave that alone because I know they are doing a very good job. As you mentioned, they have exceeded their target for the first quarter of this year. And I believe they will continue to exceed their target for the Second, Third and Fourth Quarter allocations. The only thing I am asking from the National Revenue Authority is to ensure that they do the right thing. They have to ensure that those monies are not diverted into the wrong accounts. We have people in this country who might want to beat the system. We have to fight hard to avoid that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me again take your attention to the Road Maintenance Fund. Let us make it very clear here that they should work together with

the SLRA to meet their challenges I am asking the Director of the Road Maintenance Fund Administration to work together with the SLRA Director to meet their objectives that are in this report.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are some MDAs like the National Commission for Democracy that have met me few weeks ago and ask for increase in their Budget. This is because they have signed a contract with His Excellency the President this year. They want to see that their own Commission executes those contracts. Mr Minister I want to tell you that most of the monies we have approved at the beginning of this year have been slashed. And I believe if you want to make some changes, you have to get back to this Honourable House to approve or disapprove. If you decide to change those allocations because of lack of funds or funds are not available at the moment, you have to come and tell us. That is the proper procedure to do. This is what you are doing today by presenting this Supplementary Budget to us. This was not done by your predecessors. You have to come back to us and tell us if there are recent changes to what we have decided here as a Parliament. The Ministry of Trade is one of those that have reported such incident to us. They told us that their budgets for the First and Second Quarter were reduced even though Parliament has approved it. The National Commission for Democracy and few others also told us the same thing. Let us avoid doing the wrong thing. I believe that is the wrong way of doing things. Once Parliament has approved, nobody should interfere with that. If you want to make any changes, you have to come back to us. The Leader of the House is here. We can always meet back and see reasons to reduce or to absorb the reductions you want to make. If the funds are not there, there is nothing we can do. Maybe, most of these things are not made known to the Minister. But they are happening behind the scenes in his very Ministry. I want the Minister to bear that in mind. The National Commission for Democracy is asking for more because they have a Performance Contract to do. If you cannot give them more, don't reduce what has been allocated to them again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Le533m has been provided in this Supplementary Budget for Parliament. What is that for? I should be privileged to know what the

Le533m constitutes. I want to know what we are going to spend these monies on. I don't know and perhaps I will have to ask the Clerk of Parliament to tell me. I asked the Deputy Clerk yesterday but he frankly told me he doesn't know. We have to be able to tidy up these Appropriation Bills (*Applause*). If there are funds allocated for Parliament, let us tidy it up because you know why the Oversight Committees are not going on oversight activities. All of them asked me to say this. The Oversight Committees are not functioning at all. There are only three Committees that are functioning in this Parliament: Public Accounts Committee, Transparency Committee and Finance Committee. These three Committees are functioning because they are getting funds outside Parliament. But I believe there is a budget-line for Oversight activities or for all the Committees in Parliament. But the money is not there. I believe if Parliament was consulted whilst the process of developing this Supplementary Budget was going on, there would have been good reasons to increase Parliament allocation from Le533m to a billion. We have to oversee the various MDAs in this country. Mr Minister, these Committees are not going anywhere. They don't have money to do their work. You cannot go back to the Ministries you are going to oversee and ask them to provide funds for you. If you do that, you will be compromising your position. It makes you less important. How can I ask you to give me money to superintend your work? We cannot do our work effectively if that happens. Somebody will be guilty of something somewhere (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me congratulate the Minister of Finance for giving us a Supplementary Budget for the first time. I wish you well in your endeavour and I hope that my fellow parliamentarians are willing to work with you, particularly the Committee on Finance. I thank you very much for coming to us and I hope this will continue. We will do more. Please, don't forget that Parliament is supreme. Thank you very much.

**HON. BRIMAH CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after that brilliant speech from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, of which I am a member, let me start my brief contribution to this debate with a calculating briefing from David

Copperfield. I am sure most of you have read or did read when you were in school. Speaking is a character in David Copperfield. With your permission Mr Speaker, he said: *"When an annual income is twenty pounds and the annual expenditure is nineteen pounds ninety-six cent, the result is happiness. But when the annual income is twenty pounds, annual expenditure is above twenty pounds, the result will be misery"*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the Minister of Finance and his team are beyond Mr Macabre's prescription for the management of a Budget. Of course the purpose of our objective is the development of the economy which will bring happiness to us all. Let me congratulate the Minister of Finance. The statistics he has given to us shows that his Ministry has been doing a good job. I congratulate him also for the deficit that is under control. In fact, the Bank of Sierra Leone is bringing inflation down and the Foreign Exchange rate is under control. These are developments that we hope you will continue to pursue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were approving the Appropriation Bill, we raised few issues on certain Departments, Ministries and Agencies that were underfunded and underprovided for. But in this Supplementary Budget, the Minister is trying to beef up the allocation to some of these MDAs. We welcome that idea wholeheartedly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the Appropriation Committee, I reported to this House that Bonthe is woefully neglected. The Municipal Council of Bonthe is woefully underfunded. They also reported to us that the Bonthe District Council is appalling. I am sure there are one or two others outside apart from Bonthe that are in this same condition. We have others Councils that are doing very well. I am sure those that are doing well have revenue base. But there are those who really ought to listen to. Mr Speaker, devolution and local governance is something that we should not neglect at all. We are happy that the Ministry of Youth is being provided for and we congratulate you for that. The Water Resources has now been separated to be a Ministry on its own.

We hope that the Minister will see to it that those two Ministries are properly catered for so that the job that they have been given will be properly done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Assets Commission came into existence before I became a Member of Parliament. But I don't know why that Commission is neglected. They reported to us that they don't even have a vehicle. They are working on the National Register. They need to be properly funded for their work to go on. I don't see anything like that here in this Supplementary Budget. But the Appropriation Sub-Committee reported in this House what was happening to the various MDAs in this country. We want the Minister to look at some of these issues. I don't have much details of what you submitted to us this morning, but I want to commend you for the submission of this Supplementary Budget to Parliament. I think it was inevitable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minister for a job well done. I thank you all for listening to me.

**HON. BLISS OSHO-WILLIAMS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my support to this Supplementary Budget before us. I want to be a bit selfish as Chairman of Energy and Water Resources. I want to say I am exceptionally delighted for the provisions made by this Supplementary Budget in that regard. Water and above all Energy is the backbone of the Agenda for Prosperity. But permit me to say that we should push that aside. I have heard the Chairman of Finance spoken and another Member on the other side of this House and who is also member of the Finance Committee. I am also a member of the Finance Committee. We have what you called party politics. Whenever you want to discuss something on party line, you should discuss it with the Minister. You should ask the Minister if there is going to be a Supplementary Budget and find out exactly what is expected of you as a member of the Finance Committee and as a Member of Parliament. This will help you to speak and to speak intelligently once it is before us for approval. We have more clashes over there and less clashes on this side. The reason for this is because you love to criticise, good things. I agree with you that that is what you are here for (*Laughter*). If you don't

criticise or accept criticism, you will never come from that side to this side. I want you to come over from that side to this side but not in the next ten or fifteen years *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I want to thank the Minister of Finance for this Supplementary Budget. I think history is in the making in this country. You have delivered a thoughtful Supplementary Budget Speech and you gave us a background of the deficiencies and even told us the progressions. That is good Mr Speaker. There is no more to say about this Supplementary Budget. There is nothing to criticise about. It is a Supplementary Budget and on the basis of that, there is not a single Member of this Parliament who will not appreciate the effort of the Minister of Finance to deliver such a brilliant Supplementary Budget. I thank you very much *(Applause)*.

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like everyone else that have spoken before me has said, I am going to be selfish as well. That is to express concern over the state of affairs in my own area. When I say my own area, I am talking about the Ministry of Tourism, in my capacity as the Chairman of that Committee. Today, we have record of officials of the Ministry of Finance, scratching their heads and growing more grey hairs in two months as if it is forty years. We see the Financial Secretary getting smaller and smaller because of worries over the economy of this country. The Bank Governor has reduced his contracts that he gave to many of his friends. But the question is, why is this happening? All of these are happening because we have not brought ourselves to do a realistic appraisal of what we should do. We have to be identifying areas we should concern ourselves with in order to improve the economy of this country. Every time I talk to people they always give me examples of countries like the Gambia that only has groundnuts. But Gambia's economy is strong because of what is happening in the Tourism Industry. We have visitors coming from Uganda. And Uganda has registered improvements in their economy because of the attention they are paying to the Tourism Industry. Here, it is becoming very necessary. It is becoming crucial for us to revamp our concept of Tourism. These people are not coming here to only see and stay in our Six Stars Hotels. The people coming from these

other countries have hotels that are much bigger and beautiful than ours. You think they are coming here to look at Mammy Yoko Hotel with leaking roof? The answer is no. They want to come and see something unique. This brings us to the importance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we can make a lot of money if we develop the cultural aspect of this country. I was expecting the reconstruction of the Freetown City Hall that was demolished. The Minister will recall that it was demolished and we were told that they were going to rebuild it. But that has not happened yet. That should have formed the nucleus of a new economic improvement. This country needs Performing Art Centers. Probably, you were not in this country when the City Hall was constructed. The Minister, Financial Secretary and the Accountant General were all not in this country when the City Hall was constructed. We used to make a lot of money from the City Hall. They only came back later after its demolition.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, may I direct your attention to Standing Order 69 (3)? I want you to advise yourself accordingly.

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** Noted Mr Speaker. I would want to make a personal plea to the Mr Minister for us to see if we can use the Le764 million to rebuild this Performing Art Centre. That will be a dependable and reliable source of income for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another area where Tourism can generate revenue is the Museum. Culture is an aspect of Tourism. It says: "the Ministry of Tourism (Culture)... – *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member if you proceed and continues in this line I may ask you to sit down.

**HON. FRANK KPOSOWA:** I am making an appeal to you Mr Minister to use this money to develop our Museums. We need modern Museums in this country. Museums bring or generate revenue for a country. We have seen this in other countries. For example, if you go to France, you will see that much of the revenue that the country

generates comes from their Museums. People pay lot of money to look at the Paintings of Lunado Da Vinti, Mona Lisa etc. A lot of money comes in through Tourism on a daily basis.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about urban migration. Why are people moving from the villages to the cities? People are moving from the villages to the cities because they know that it is the only place that they can earn a decent living. What we see happening in other countries is the decentralisation of development. Most countries have used the Tourism Industry to decentralise development. If we develop the Bikongo Fall for example in Kono (and people go there on a regular basis), money will be generated from it and this will help to boost the Economy of this country. This will provide employment facilities for the people living there. This will also stop them from migrating to the cities. Therefore, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to please pay more attention to Tourism Industry. I thank you.

**HON. KARIFALA S. CONTEH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want to say thanks to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development for being dynamic and his dynamism can be associated with members of his Ministry. I say thanks in setting the precedence of development in this country by submitting this Supplementary Budget to this House. When I went through it, I realised that the defects problems of this country are included in this Supplementary Budget. Typical amongst them is the Road Maintenance and the Water System. When you see the reality being transformed into a document, then, it is obvious that you have to commend the Minister who made it possible to happen. When you go through the Supplementary Budget, you will realise also that the highest amount is allocated to the Road Maintenance Fund, followed by Water and Energy Sectors. It is also clear that our problem in this country is energy and the roads. This means that the Ministry is on the right track and the Minister is doing very well in that regard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution will be directed, particularly to Members of Parliament. We have our functions and responsibilities to perform. And if

we fail to do our functions, that failure cannot be associated to either the Minister or the Ministry itself. This is because we have our Oversight functions to perform. We must get into the activities of these MDAs. If we fail to do that, then, we must bear that responsibility. In view of this, I want to advise my fellow parliamentarians that instead of us tagging errors, mistakes or miscalculations in this Supplementary Budget, there is an absolute need for us all to reach out to those concerns in order to ensure that we have proper understanding about whatever budgeting allocation is made. I want to once more commend the Minister for a job well done. I also want to ask my colleague Members of Parliament to ensure that what these moneys are meant for are realised. I thank you very much.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Thank you Mr Speaker. When this debate first started, I said to myself that I was not going to take part. But there is need for me to make some clarity here. I have said several times in this Well that when we talk about Budget, we are talking about the livelihood of the people of this country who voted for us in this House. We have to treat it with some amount of seriousness. Few months ago, I extensively lectured this House on fiscal indiscipline (*Laughter*).

**THE SPEAKER:** When did that happen Honourable Member?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** In the last Budget Speech Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Was the Speaker in his Chair when you gave that lecture?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker was in his Chair.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed Honourable Member.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** I want to believe and this House will agree with me that most of the things I said during the last Budget Speech have come to pass. I challenged the Minister who was sitting here at that time that there was not a single increment of salary for Members of Parliament. I am talking as Honourable Foday Rado Yokie and not as Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar once said: "*what touches me first shall be*

*last served.*” But I want to say that what touches me first shall be first served. Therefore, I come to the salaries of Members of Parliament. Again I stand with authority to challenge the Minister of Finance that there is not a single dime as far as increment of salaries are concerned for Members of Parliament. The sum of Le533bn has been proposed for Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I listened to the presenter of this Budget. I will use what he has presented to us to present my own argument. He has said there is a multiyear plan which will take into account of 13%. But I will not take that. I will take what the Budget Speech told us that there was an increment of 12.5%. One good thing about me is that I did not buy my lecturers while in college. Therefore, I know exactly what to say. If you are going to take the Le533bn in entirety for 124 Members of Parliament, you are talking about 6.9% increment in salary. Let us assume that that money is meant for us Members of Parliament. But that is not possible. I am challenging him that there is no single dime put for increment of salaries for Members of Parliament. When I was making that presentation, Members of Parliament said I was taking a party position. But they have seen what I was saying here. Now, I am saying this again for you to hear. The facilitations are here. The minimum any Member of Parliament will spend for this Ramadan is Le20m. The facilitation fee is not making any progress for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am appealing to everybody, especially the Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business to advocate for increase in salaries for Members of Parliament. That is what we will retire with and that will be our pensions after we retire from politics. The Le533bn is not sufficient and it has nothing to do with Members of Parliament. On a more serious note, I have to ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee these questions. I want him to tell us if he knows anything about this Supplementary Budget that is before us. How did they come about with a Supplementary Budget without reference to the Finance Committee? Let me take the Ministry of Finance and juxtapose it to the...- (*Interruption*).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I want you to be careful with the lady's head.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker, I like gesticulating while talking. The Ministry of Finance has appropriated the sum of Le900m as against Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament, through the Transparency Committee can perform that function adequately without reference to the Ministry of Finance. Why did they need Le900m just for intelligence? Did they consider that Members of Parliament could need the same fund? They just sat in the Ministry of Finance and say S.O. (2), "*na Paliment. Le wi jps gi dem wetin de want.*" But that is not right at all. You have to sit and engage the people. I have said here times without number that Budget normally reflects what the people want. I don't want to go into the inadequacies of this Supplementary Budget. A lot of people have thanked the Minister for presenting this Supplementary Budget. I am saying that you don't need to say thank you. The Supplementary Budget came as a result of the inefficiencies of the Budget Speech itself. They should have captured all of this in that Budget. It was in this Well I said... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Just a minute Honourable Member. In the event of any injury, I will be asked to explain. Honourable Emma Kowa, are you safe where you are sitting?

**HON. EMMA KOWA:** I am trying to be safe Sir *(Laughter)*.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, again I say here with authority that when we were debating the Budget, I did make reference to the Prisons Department. I said here that they were grossly underfunded. As a politician, I was disgraced for eleven (11) days. I know how much money is needed by the Prisons Services. I said here that the Le44 Billion that was allocated to that Department was inadequate. I have spent eleven days in prison. Even the Le1.6bn they have allocated is again inadequate. In Economics, we deal with law of projections. But these projections should be taken on the lower side and not taken on the high side for externalities purposes. If you take externalities into consideration and take the lower side of your projection, you will always save and land on a safer ground.

But when you take the high side because you want to continue telling people that Sierra Leone is Singapore when the 4-4-4 is over hauling us, this is what will happen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Minister and other people to stop telling the people that Sierra Leone is the fastest growing economy in the world. It is the fastest growing poverty country in the world. We have the "Abuja Declaration." Sierra Leone is a signatory to the Abuja Declaration. We were to spend 15% of our Budget on the health sector. This fastest growing economy as I speak has only disbursed 2.5% to the Health Sector. Therefore, if you are growing very fast and you have plenty of money but cannot meet your desired goal, then, it is a pity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will take the next twenty hours discussing fiscal indiscipline. All I have said centers around fiscal indiscipline. I am merely saying here that when we put our figures right and take cognisance of whatever we are talking about, we will see a very good result at the end of the day. The Minister was talking about interest rate on zero buying. We should be looking at the majority of the people out there. How many of us invest in Premium Bonds here. We are talking about zero lending. They have reduced it from 19% to 6%. I don't have enough to even save, let alone to buy Bonds. The question is, do I benefit from that? How many Members of Parliament and how many of our constituents invest in Bonds? Let us reduce the Commercial Banks Interest Rate. That is what is killing us slowly. When that becomes attractive, a lot of people will invest in that area. I told you the last time to give me the economy of this country. I will turn it around in six months time for the better. These are the stark realities. When you go to the Bank of Sierra Leone, you reduce the lending rate from 19% to 6%. But we are talking about a small fraction of the people that are benefitting from it. In Economics, we have what is called the trickledown effect. S.O. (2) Mr Speaker, 'bɔt if na u nɔ mɔ de bɛnɛfit, dɛn, nɔ to bɛtɛ tin.' I don't need to come over to the APC. I only need to be a very rationale Sierra Leonean. What is good for everybody in Sierra Leone would be good for me. That is my position and that is the position I will always maintain.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The President has dedicated his five years to the youths of this country. When I listened to the Minister over the radio, I heard him saying that they have secured the sum of thirty million dollar loan from the Japanese for the youths. I want to say we need to do more because the future of this country rest upon the young generation. I am no longer a youth. You have to be 45 years old before being a President of this country. I will be 45 by 2017. I have plans to aspire for the Presidency of this nation. Therefore, I am no longer a youth. We need to appropriate more money for younger generation. These are the people who will be succeeding us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Ministry of Water Resources. Naturally, I know the intention of the Government will be very genuine. But my concern here is the capacity to access those revenues. This is because in the first Budget, we talked about 2.4trn. We cannot get that one. And now we are talking about half a Trillion which is Le518m. How do we get it? I will not tell you that it is very appropriate for us to approve this budget. There is the need to increase this Budget. But again, we are not in the capacity to do that. I want the Minister, in his response to actually tell us what modalities have been put in place, whether they will have to raise the taxes, and how they will have to raise it. Are they going to increase taxation? Mr Speaker, Tax base is very small. Therefore, the only thing you need to do is to increase your revenue. You have to increase our taxes. I want to know if they are going to increase the taxes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to say that in our Constitution, there are some portions which say that when donations are made to this country, they should be laid on the Table of this House. These are monies that we want to use to cushion this extra budgetary support that we are clamoring for. If those monies come and are expended in the right way, it will cushion this deficit. A Million Dollars was given to this Country by the Prince of Kuwait. Sylvia Blyden, the Executive Secretary posted on face book that they gave to Sierra Leone \$2m and the Government said \$1m. But I will take what the Government said. I am asking for that \$1m to be laid

on this Table so that we can factor that into this Budget. That money is not incorporated in this Budget. That will help to cushion some of these deficits we want to finance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, the other area I am not very comfortable with is the Blanket Amnesty. The Finance Committee Chairman mentioned something about it briefly. I have called it 'Blanket Chapping Miscellaneous.' I think we have to be specific so that we don't give undue advantage to Civil Servants. They are not specified here. You talk about Miscellaneous and Contingencies. Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya is not here but I know Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbi will help me with the interpretation of the two terms, in terms of giving the difference between Miscellaneous and Contingencies? These are just extra ways of playing around words so that they can have extra monies. We have to be specific. They are very good at these words. That is why I pity the Ministers. The Ministers do not have the necessary expertise at all. These Civil Servants have been there for ages. They know how to play with the Ministers. The Ministers are only there to append their signatures. To save these Ministers who are going into these areas for the very first time, let us specify some of these expenditures. I want to know the difference between contingencies and miscellaneous. This was how it all started when somebody connived with a Commercial Bank to defraud this nation of Le40bn. The whole Budget for the Parliament is not even Le40bn. What a pity Mr Speaker?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Supplementary Budget is long overdue. And if calculations were made very well, there was no need for this. I thank you very much.

**HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. To me, this debate is all about a Supplementary Budget. The Minister stated very clearly that a Supplementary Budget came as a result of unforeseen circumstances. And I will try to explain some of those unforeseen circumstances to some Honourable Members who don't know what they are.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Budget makes provision for Road Maintenance and these are developments that are badly needed in each and every constituency. It is

only the blind eye that does not see what the rains have caused to our roads. And every day we see gravels running down the main highways. It takes money to clear it. It takes extra money to do that work. If this Budget is approved, most Honourable Members are that crying down this Budget will be queuing, lobbying for their people. And that is why we are here. This Budget is a blessing. We must commend the Ministry and this Government for this bold initiative for presenting to this House a Supplementary Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, various speakers have indicated very clearly that there are some MDAs that were underfunded. That is true. We cannot do everything in a single day. It is Supplementary Budget. If you want this Government to do more, wait till next year. As Committee Chairmen, you have to engage the Ministers and ask them what their policies are. Make contributions to these policies. But it saddens me to note that some Members of Parliament are criticising this Supplementary Budget. If they don't need it, we need it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the previous Budget was also criticised. People shouted here that enough allocation was provided to the Ministry of Water Resources. Some Honourable Members even said that what the President has said about the youths of this nation do not match the action with the allocation made for the youths. But here is a Supplementary Budget that makes provision for each and every MDA. Let us take Water for example. The sum of Le7.4bn has been allocated for Water, plus Le4bn extra budget. Is it not justifiable? Why the criticism Mr Speaker? We all know the social consequences and other economic ramifications as to the unavailability of water in most parts of this country. How many of our sisters have become pregnant by fetching water every day at night? How many rocky areas, mountainous regions, even within the capital that are without water? We need this Supplementary Budget and it is good for us. I can assure you that Allen Town is going to benefit from this Supplementary Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the previous Budget Speech, Members were criticising the Government's Initiative. They were saying that the money allocated for youths is not enough. Little did they realise that we are going to get an independent Ministry that is responsible for Youth Affairs in this country. I want people to know that you cannot preempt the decisions of the President. He listens and he listens attentively. He created a whole Ministry in that regard. As a result of that, we need extra money for that. Above all, the Honourable Member from Bo stated that youths are an integral part of our society. They are the future leaders. I totally agree with him. If he said we need more money for our youths that is correct. But we have to make use of what we have at the moment. We have to ensure that what we have at hand improves the lives of our brothers and sisters. And how are we going to do that? We are going to do that by conducting our Oversight functions as Members of Parliament. You can engage the Youth Minister and bring in your proposals. Advocate for your constituents. The Minister will listen to you. He was once a Member of Parliament. He knows the problems and he will listen to you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about education. In the previous budget that was brought to this House, there was Le109bn Grant to Tertiary Institutions. To me, I think that is a record number of assistance to our brothers and sisters pursuing higher education in this country. We must be grateful for that. Also, an increment should be made. In this Supplementary Budget, the sum of Le8bn has been added. If you were listening, he stated them very clearly. The Honourable Member from Bo asked the where the Minister of Finance would get this money to fund this Supplementary Budget. The Minister did say from Corporate Income Tax, Royalties on Diamonds, Exercise Duties on locally manufactured goods, Revenues collected by Local Councils and Loan repayment etc. If you were listening you would have heard him well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Budget is the right step in the right direction. We need it. And will urge all Honourable Members to approve this Budget as it is the key to the Agenda for Prosperity. I thank you all very much (*Applause*).

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI** (*Minority Leader of the House*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to welcome those I am seeing here this Morning. Not that some of them have not been in this Parliament before, but what is new is that if we had seen some of them here when the previous budget was debated and when the different Committees of Supplies were making their presentation, I am sure what we are doing today would have been done but in a different fashion. This is because the essence of debating a national Budget and the essence of having Committees of Supply is for the various MDAs to take notes of the result of the exercises that we go through. That is why I said I welcome them not only to the debate of this Supplementary Budget exercise, but for others that may come to us in the future. I hope that they will be here when the actual Budget is being read. We want them to be witnessing how Members of Parliament debate the national budget. At times we spend a lot of time in questioning the various MDAs, particularly with respect to their Expenditure and what is allocated to them. I have always said here that no Budget is adequate because our developmental needs are increasing on a daily basis. But there are priorities due to our limited resources. And it is those priorities that we Members of Parliament discuss here. We wish that Members of Parliament will take note of those priorities when the Budget is being prepared.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard Members of Parliament who spoke before me saying that this is the first time that we have had Supplementary Budget. Perhaps, he was not here. But for some of us who have been here know that this is not the first time we are having a Supplementary Budget. Under different Ministers, we have had Supplementary Budget of different kinds. And we know exactly what Supplementary Budgets are and how they are to be treated. We have Constitutional and Standing Order provisions as to when a Supplementary Budget is allowed and how the debate is treated. And I would want to entreat Members of Parliament to actually pay special attention to the Constitutional and Standing Orders provisions. Those provisions are very clear.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister did elaborate on both the external and internal issues that gave rise to the presentation of a Supplementary Budget. When we look at these Externalities, we are looking at our prize and demand of our mineral resources based on which projections are made in terms of revenue and as and when those prices either fall or decrease. They have a determinate effect on our revenue base. Internally, our need for development, the creation of new Ministries and also the employment of many new staff necessitates the exercise that we are doing today. Therefore, this is not a new phenomenon. It is not only pertaining to this Government at all. When we were in Government, we also brought in Supplementary Budget. What this Budget is meant for as we have heard is to help us implement those projects that would otherwise not be implemented without a Supplementary Budget. Let me say that the Minister will need to work closely with the Committee on Finance future; not only in the development of Supplementary Budget, but also when preparing the main Budget. I am happy that for the last two days we have had the opportunity to share...-  
*(Interruption).*

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

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I was saying that for the past two days, we have had the pleasure of sharing information with our visitors from Uganda and that discussion will continue fruitfully. One of the discussions has been on the Budget process. They have had the opportunity to listen to us. I hope this discussion will continue after here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always said in my deliberations that while it is important that we are given money, it is also important that the little we have is judiciously expended. What I am stressing on is that our developmental needs are so much that they can never be self sufficient when it comes to the Budget. But we must make sure that what is given to us is used wisely. Therefore, we are expecting that Supplementary Budget has to go to the Committee of Supply so that we can interrogate the various MDAs as to what they received and how they have used what they have

received. Supplementary Budget should be first discussed in the Committee of Supply before it is debated here and approved. In the future, when a Supplementary Budget is presented, it has to be preceded for our own education and to help us discuss and debate the Budget from an informed point of view. We have to know how the various MDAs have expended monies. We will not just speak for the sake of speaking. We will be speaking and drawing attention to pertinent issues when it comes to expenditures that were already made provisions for. This is very important in the future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that all the expenditures that we have been called to approve are well meant. The issue is we hope that they will be used for the purposes for which we will give this additional Supplementary Budget. Let me for example go to the Road Maintenance Fund. Nobody will argue against such a fund. Nobody will argue against the utility of such fund. This is because when we talk of roads, we are talking about the engine of development in a country. We have seen how roads have opened remote places today. We have seen how development follows roads. Therefore, roads are very important. We must do everything we can to improve our road network in this country. By improving the road network in the country, it means we are moving as a country in terms of development. Our goods and services will be transported smoothly from places of production to the market where they would finally meet the consumer. And the more we have good roads in the country, the less the cost of production. And this will make it very easy for more goods to get to the consumers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the area we want the Minister of Finance to pay more attention to is on the area of wastage. I will just give you an example. I live at Regent Road, in Malamah. That road is under construction. Some of us suffered because we had to break our fences to move few meters away to give SLRA or whoever is making the road enough passage to construct that road. They have gone so far with the work. But I was dismayed that where they have gone they could have paved that road. What has happened? A few days ago, there was a heavy down pour of rain that washed stones and other materials into these big gutters. In fact, some low vehicles

could not pass. Immediately, the transportation from Lumley Junction to Malamah was increased from Le1, 000 to Le1, 500. That brought the problem of Podapoda refusing to go to that end. We have a lot of students and workers plying that road in the morning to go to their respective places. Those commercial vehicles that attempted to use that road used a lot of fuel that day. They had to go back to the filling station to fill their tanks. And in the process, the drivers are using a lot of fuel. That was a complete wastage. If whatever few meters that have been done were done well, then, the rains would not have destroyed everything. So, when we give monies to the Roads Maintenance Fund, we should ensure that there is no wastage. Take two or three roads at a time so that a thorough work is done. This will be my advice to the Minister of Finance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to the allocation made to Parliament. We will appreciate whatever money is given to us but our appeal is the Constituency Development Fund. Yesterday, we were talking with our parliamentarians from Uganda. Constituency Development Fund is part and parcel of the meaning of Parliamentary Jurisdiction. The Constituency Development Fund is not going to be put in the Members of Parliament personal Accounts. We started talking with NaCSA some years back about the Constituency Development Fund. NaCSA was to go out and maybe be the Implementing Partner of the Constituency Development Fund. And there was modalities put in place for Constituency Development Fund Accounts. There would have been Constituency Implementation Committee that will sit down to prioritise with laid down financial principles as to how these monies should have been used. We are satisfied to have an increase in salary but that is not what we are here for. We are here representing our people. I may speak all the good English here. I may speak all the jargons but at the end of the day our people want to see something tangible from us (*Applause*). We are disadvantaged in the sense that our Councilors are the only ones that are taking development to our Wards. If you are not in a good working relationship with your Councilor, he or she will personalise that development even though it is not his or her money. This money belongs to Sierra Leone and its people. But when they

take it, they will say I did A, B and C for my people. We Members of Parliament rely only on our little per diems that are given to us when we travel out of the country. These per diems are what we use as our Constituency Development Funds. At the end of the day, nothing will be left with us. Our people know that we are here to make laws and to oversee the MDAs. But to them, our representation role is very important and you are only as good as a representative when they see that you are providing them with food, good drinking water etc.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen how Members of Parliament have lost their party symbols during the last elections. They were very good debaters and good also in the oversight functions while they were here. This is because they cannot provide those basic things for their constituents at the time that the constituents need them. That is why we have high attrition rate in this Parliament. And for an institution to grow, you need institutional memory. We have in other jurisdiction people who have been in Parliament for 30 to 40 years. They are the encyclopedia of the Parliament. And they know everything that has happened. So, we want to also continue in that line so that our Parliament can grow. It might not be today, but let us start debating the issue of Constituency Development Fund. We will work together with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that modalities are put in place so that those funds are not siphoned. Those funds should not be used for the personal interest of Members of Parliament, but purely and wholly to service their constituents (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the National Electoral Commission (NEC). It is good that we are providing them with money. But please, I don't want to be misunderstood. But some of these monies are now being asked for because we are conducting bye-elections. According to my own analysis, every bye-election that is been conducted outside Freetown (depending on the distance from Freetown to where that bye-election is going to be and whether it is a ward election or a constituency election), it costs should be between 400 and 500 million Leones at any point in time. If it is a constituency election, there will be many polling centers and therefore you will have to take staff and logistics with you. In this Parliament, two of

my best friends have been promoted. I am very happy for them and in the previous Parliament several of our own good friends were also promoted. We are also happy for them. In the future, let the presidential candidate talk with their members to decide where they want to be. If you want to be a Member of Parliament, be a Member of Parliament. I want to be a Member of Parliament and I enjoy being a Member of Parliament. I have a lot of independence in my capacity as Member of Parliament. Discuss with them to know where they may want to be. If they want to be Ministers, let them sit and wait. Let them work for their party to win. And when that party wins, they will become Ministers as they had wanted. It will be a waste of resources to promote a Member of Parliament immediately after we have spent a lot of money to conduct elections. That will give the cause to do bye-election. We should not continue to do things that way. This is some of the reasons why we are asking for additional funds. There are a lot of bye-elections all over the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in relation to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, I am happy that the Ministry was given additional funding for tertiary institutions as a way of cushioning the educational institutions. But I also know that part of this money is also as a result of the negotiations that have been going on between the Ministry of Education and the various universities and institutions on their conditions of service. As we are talking, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology have been on a sit-down strike negotiation for their conditions of service. Njala University is also part of that. I know that after MMCET, another institution will also come up. Any time you negotiate and increase the working conditions of an institution, another institution will think that they are been marginalised. That is why in this Parliament I have often said that we should learn from some of the good things that are in other countries. Nigeria is a very big country with hundreds of universities, but they only have one Academic Staff Association. They negotiate the conditions of service for all the institutions and make sure that they are all at the same level. This is what should have been done in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the disruption that we are having in our Universities and Colleges is affecting the quality of education in this country. I know that part of this money is also to some extent servicing these negotiations of increase in salary of members of the Academic Staff Association in different institutions. And I don't know what the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is doing about this. If I have my way, I will dissolve that commission and reemploy new and fresh people to make up that Commission. The composition of that Commission comprises of former principals and chancellors that have out-lived their time. They are just there collecting money at the end of every month, doing nothing to ensure that the educational system is improved. If they are doing their work, there would have been a well structured university and tertiary education. There would have been no more strike or piece meal negotiations of conditions of services for lecturers in these institutions. The Minister of Education, (I don't know whether he is here) should work together with us and he should also revive the TEC in order to solve this problem. Let us have one Academic Staff Association in Sierra Leone. We have only two public universities in this country. We should not wait until we have 5 or 6 Universities in this country. If that happens, the problem will multiply. Let us have one Academic Staff Association that will negotiate for every institution in this country. If we do this, it may take five or six years before they can think of renegotiating their conditions of service. There will be peace in the Ministry of Education and even the Minister of Finance will enjoy peace. But as we speak now, you don't have peace at all. You are not enjoying peace because you are not doing what should be done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would talk about the Foreign Affairs Ministry. It is a very important Ministry, especially for our embassies in other countries. One Honourable Member did say that when they went to attend the IPU Conference, they neither speak nor vote because of the nonpayment of the IPU fee. It is not only that, very recently in the United Nations General Assembly, when we were negotiating the Arms Trade Treaty (which has now be adopted and I hope the Foreign Affairs Minister will do everything so that by the next General Assembly Sierra Leone will also sign the

Arms Trade Treaty), Sierra Leone could not vote because we owe 120,000 Dollars. It has now been paid but Sierra Leone could not vote at that time. Five countries were not allowed to vote and Sierra Leone was among those countries. We did so much on the Arms Trade Treaty and at the end of the day, Sierra Leone was not allowed to vote because of 120,000 Dollars that we owed. I am pleading to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to please go through all the International Organisations that we are part of in order to know if we have to pay any due. And if there is any, let us pay them so that we enjoy discussing and voting whilst we are there representing our country. But it is very alarming and disgraceful that we couldn't vote for such small money.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said earlier, Supplementary Budgets is not a new thing to us. They are essential no development can take place without it. What you are doing is not new to some of us at all. When the SLPP was in governance, we did have Supplementary Budget. I can remember when Sierra Leone was implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). On that day, we came back to this Parliament with a poverty reduction related Supplementary Budget to be spent on poverty related issues and health education. We also had Supplementary Budget when J. B. Dauda was the Finance Minister of this country. These are necessary because sometimes we don't have control, especially over external factors like the prices of our goods on which we make projections for our revenue. The only thing we can say is that, we have to use this Supplementary Budget judiciously. Let's avoid wastages and give Parliament, particularly the Parliamentary Committees enough money to go out there and effectively oversee how these monies are used. Otherwise any Supplementary Budget is welcome because at the end of the day, the development for which this Supplementary Budget is used for will benefit all of us. We hope that it will not be directed towards one region and one party. It should be used equitably and inclusively. That should be our watch word. I thank you Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a recurring theme in

most of my contributions has been, to thyself be true. I want all of us in this Chamber to openly and proudly commend the Minority Leader for being true to herself. She has really been true to herself in her contribution. She has been really positive but more emphatic on the Constituency Development Fund.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am also going to emphasize that point here today. And let me make a clear distinction between Constituency Facilitation Allowance and Constituency Development Fund. By definition Mr Speaker, Constituency Facilitation Allowance can never be something for development. That is why it is designated as 'facilitation.' Allowances do facilitate but they cannot be put entirely for development. Therefore, what we are asking for and what we are agitating for as a Parliament is for the Ministry of Finance to provide us with Constituency Development Fund in the next budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie in his contribution did say that the Minister of Finance should increase our salaries. He also said that if they increase our salaries, we will have money to help with developments in our constituencies. I want Honourable Foday Rado Yokie to know that with all the economics he has learnt, an increase in salary will never be enough for any development in his constituency. Even if his present salary is multiplied by ten, it will never be enough for development. This is because the moment you begin an item of development, they will expect more from you. I am always skeptical about salary increase. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is an economist, and he should be skeptical because of the implications that may follow it. The moment you have an increase in your salary, situations will be worsen because prices will increase generally. Therefore, don't advocate for that. You are an economist and you should know better than this. I was educated in the 60's and my economics when I was in the Sixth Form can challenge any university economist. I was educated in the 60s and education in the 60s was composite. Do you know what that mean?

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, I did ask some few weeks ago that you have a dictionary on the lectern. You may continue Mr Leader.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** Also Mr Speaker, the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, in his contribution did say inter-alia that he had foreseen such a situation that the amount of money or the allocations made then would never be sufficient. Well, that is true. I want to say that no allocation is sufficient for any economy in the world. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie should know that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are discussing a Supplementary Budget. Grammatically, the word supplement is a noun. Supplementary therefore is an adjective. Supplement comes from the Latin word "suppler." Suppler means to fill up or to complete and to supply something to make an addition. So, to supplement something is to supply a want, or something that brings closer to the completion of a desired result. The Minister of Finance did say that. Hence, this Budget is supplementary. Supplementary, as an adjective simply means an additional to something. That is clear from what the Minister of Finance had said. That is why we are asking for a Supplementary Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie was asking for more money to be given to Prisons Services. He did that because he has had an experience in that institution. I felt sorry for him and I don't want him to go there again. And if he does not want to go there again, he should be less troublesome (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minority Leader has said it all. But coming to the question of giving money to Parliament for our oversight functions, I am of the view that at times they are refusing to give us this money almost deliberately because they know that it is they that we are going to oversee. And when we oversee you, we will bring out so many things hidden under the carpet to the light. Perhaps, they don't want that to happen at all. Mr Minister of Finance, one of our functions and a very major one is our oversight responsibility. Make sure you always provide money for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minority Leader also talked about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Mr Speaker, when I was an Ambassador, my Dean, Ambassador Dauda Kamara... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Majority Leader, it might be of help if you spell the word Dean.

**HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA:** I will Mr Speaker. It is spelt 'D-e-a-n.' He was the head and most of the time in my diplomatic functions, I had to be consulting him on most matters. He was my senior even in the university. He was at one time President of the Student Union. Ambassador Dauda Kamara I recognize you Sir. The Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai did talk about Foreign Affairs. And just as it had been Mr Speaker, no amount of money ever allocated would be enough to man a foreign mission for any year. Dr Bernadette Lahai was saying that they were not allowed to vote and talk in the IPU and other places. There is a saying that you put your mouth where your money is. And if your money is not there, you have to shut up. What a shame. It is a shame as a country. The Minister of Finance, the Bank Governor and also the Financial Secretary are all here. Let them know that there are certain votes that had been slated in certain organisations for this Parliament that we must be part of at all times. We have the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in which the Speaker is always attending. We also have the IPU, the Pan African Parliament and the ACPEU. Mr Minister of Finance, don't allow us again to go to your Ministry to beg for these moneys. It is our money and you have to give it to us. There are times when you say that the Speaker is travelling too much. What do you mean by that? That is nonsense. The Speaker has to travel with regard to the nature of his office. We have about four sessions in the Pan African Parliament every year. We must be seen attending those sessions. It is very important that we attend them, otherwise it is disgraceful and shameful for our Parliament in particular and the country as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are also certain International Organisations in which certain Members of this Parliament are invited to attend certain conferences. And

the Government does not give anything to those that attend these conferences. These organisations only provide for hotel accommodation, food and of course the transportation ticket. At one time, I went on a similar mission. Believe you me Mr Minister I was almost stranded financially. I had to go to our embassy to beg for money for the other Members of the delegation. What a shame? When organisations invite us, we don't expect them to give us per diem. We expect the Ministry of Finance to do that for us. Mr Minister, I want you to take note of that. The other day I heard that the Ministry has decided not to give any top-up allowance to Members of Parliament. That is nonsense. Top-up allowance should continue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will commend the Chairman of the Tourism Committee for the contributions he has made in this Parliament. But he said something that I don't want to agree with him at all. He said when the tourists come, they will want to see things that they had never seen before or they want to see things that they cannot see elsewhere. I agree with that. He also said building these Six Stars Hotels is not necessary. I disagree with him on that because the building of First Class Hotels is a sine qua nom for the success of tourism. It's a sine qua nom because if they come to see certain things, they will need decent accommodation. If you don't have good hotels, they will not come. Hotel accommodation should be the first side of tourists' attraction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me remind this Honourable House and members of the public that the solar lights have become national attraction. Everybody is now so excited about solar lights. The provision of the solar lights will give the country more revenue either directly or indirectly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Brimah Conteh, one of my seniors in school made a very good contribution. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie did say here at one time that there is a big difference between an accountant and an economist. That is true Mr Speaker. If you have heard Honourable Brimah Conteh when he was making his contribution, he was speaking as an economist. He is an accountant. So, if he falls

short, you should understand. But he spoke as an economist. And from the economist point of view, you can see his appreciation of most of the things that have been done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in summing up my contribution, I want to say here that the approval of this budget does not mean that they can necessarily vary taxation. I repeat, approving this budget does not necessarily mean that they can vary taxation at will.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very good budget. The Minister of Finance has only been in office for about six months. But so far, I must commend him. He has been doing tremendously well. That is commendable Mr Speaker. I welcome this budget and I support it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Minister, you may like to respond to the several issues raised?

**DR KARIFALA MARAH (*Minister of Finance and Economic Development*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it has been a wonderful morning as well as an early afternoon experience in this Honorable House. We are here this afternoon, faced by the law makers of this country and I have been reminded of the David Copperhill's experience. In other words, I have been told that there is a need to balance our budget. I take it seriously sir. But I really want us to put this in perspective and as a result of that, I will draw your attention to some of these challenges that we are faced with. I will do this before responding to some of the key issues that have been raised in this Parliament today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot of Members of this Honourable House have been saying that there is a need for us to take into consideration the Constituency Facilitation Allowance; and that, when we provided five hundred million and above for Parliament, it was not enough. The Minister of Finance should go further to explain for what those resources are meant for. The Minister of Finance was called upon to ensure that Constituency Development Fund is increased. I should also ensure that Parliament

and the Ministry of Finance should always sit together in terms of preparing the national Budget in the future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must admit that I have been scolded this morning by Members of both sides. You have been putting heat under me so much that my hair has all gone grey. But that is the beauty of this work and that is what you should be doing. I am fully aware that there is a need to support parliamentary Oversight work in order for you to be able to hold institutions into account. This Honourable Members are requesting for an increase in their salaries. But if you take a look at the exit package of a Member of Parliament that could have served for two terms, you will learn that it is far higher than many other individuals in this country. But yet in the middle of Le518 Billion deficits, the Minister is asked to take that into consideration. I have been advised further that there is a need to not only make an increase but I should also ensure that priority areas within Parliament, particularly those that have been budgeted for are considered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my attention has also been drawn to ensuring that payment, particularly international dues to some of those organisations like the CPA, the IPU are met and on time. And I have been advised that there is a need to strengthen devolution systems to ensure that more money go to the Local Councils. I was also told that Members of Parliament should be part of every development that is taking place in their respective constituencies. I have been advised also that there is a need to look into the possibility of establishing or constructing a National Art Centre, and also to look at the pay reforms.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, even when we have made additional allocation to Prisons Services, the Minister of Finance had been further advised to ensure that more money should be allocated to that Department. I have also been advised that we should be able to maintain a balance and not to skew development initiatives across the across the regions. That has been noted as well. Members of Parliament pointed out the fact that we should be equitable in terms of budgetary allocations. We must not

reduce allocations for certain MDA's and I have been cautioned as to why some allocations or increased allocations have been made to the Office of the Chief of Staff. I was also told to ensure that top-up per diems for Members and staff of Parliament travelling overseas are reconsidered. But in the middle of all these, my attention have been drawn that the possibilities of fiscal indiscipline seem to be the issue behind everything, even though I told you people when I was appointed Minister of Finance that I would be going down the path of fiscal discipline. Honourable Members, all of the issues you have raised have been taken into consideration and I will share with you in response to some of the issues raised as to what we have done in regards to that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the debate was beautiful and wonderful and I do wish to share with you that I respect your individual views as have been espoused. I want to say to you that there is a reality in the public service. I also want to draw your attention to the same letters we use to spell Satan as S-A-T-A-N. These are same letters we will use to spell Santa as in Santa Clause. One brings good tidings and the other is about perdition. The reality here depends on which side of the fence you stand. This is a Supplementary Budget. That is, the obligation of the Executive arms as required by the laws of the land is to come to this Honourable House and seek your approval for the provision of extra resources in many of the areas that you have discussed; and to share with you why is it that revenues may underperform in some areas and what we must do to ensure that revenues accrued are performed better in other areas. That is what we have done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to speak on some of the individual issues that have been raised on the Floor of this Honourable House. We are aware of the challenges that are confronting the National Revenue Authority (NRA). If you read the newspapers and listen to the radio, you will note that action is being taken in that regard. The Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom Government is working with the NRA to strengthen internal controls. We know that to become a middle income country (as we have set the path in 2035), we have to ensure that our internal processes and procedures, particularly so if it has to do with revenue

mobilisations are enhanced. As a Ministry, we are working together with our development partners and the Commissioner General of the NRA and her team to ensure that we get things done the right way. A typical example is the GST receipts. If you go back to what I shared with you this morning, a case was made that there are reductions in that area. But then, we have to introduce the use of GST receipts of the NRA to ensure that revenue is properly collected in that area. What is our strategy beyond that? The strategy speaks to one key element. And that is to be efficient as other economies. We have to introduce electronic GST systems and it is under serious consideration. We are working audaciously to ensure that we address that issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me explain to you as to why royalties for example on bauxite and iron ore are under performing and why we are doing very well in the area of diamonds. Sierra Leone is a small country in the ocean of the global economy. Our economy is shifted by external shocks and situations that are beyond our control. The same could be said of not only developing countries but also other middle income countries as well as developed countries. What we are doing is to provide a strategic response to some of these challenges we are facing as a country. That is why we are here this morning to be as transparent as possible to explain to you the difficulties we are encountering and the actions we are taking to address these challenges. On budget rationalisation for NCD and the Ministry of Trade and Industry and as to why more resources have been allocated to the Office of the Chief of Staff, I want to say that when I was appointed Minister of Finance, I did say that I will go down the path of fiscal discipline. We went down the path of going through budget rationalisation. If you take a look at travel votes and compare that to other social development areas, you will see the difference. This is because it is the social capital that counts. Sometimes in the history of nations, there is a need to tighten up our belt and say between this period to this period, we have to go slow in certain recurring needs so as to be able to ensure that we propel our development aspirations. That had been the reason for the reduction of the Budget of some MDA's. It was not really meant to ensure that those institutions or the activities of those MDA's are stifled. And I can

share with you a simple experience. We are aware that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has embarked upon a holistic SMS strategy by giving out money, putting money into people's pocket to ensure that they do well to be part of the economy of this country. Therefore, budget rationalisations were made and I wish to underscore and make a humble submission here that we did so with the realisation that there is a need for us to go down the path of ensuring that we become a middle income country. This means that we have to tighten up our belts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the area of Tourism, we may not necessarily be able to address those issues here, particularly issues on National Art Centre as well as ensuring that we do well in the tourism sector. But I will say that if you take a look at the Agenda for Prosperity that spells out the aspirations of all of us in this Well and the multitudes of people that we represent, there is a clear cut strategy as to how Government would wish to position Sierra Leone in the tourism industry. The Agenda for Prosperity noted that we have a huge potential. There is a need to put in place the necessary parameters to create the framework that will ensure that we thrive in the sector of Tourism. It also noted that in the tourism sector, there is a huge potential to create jobs to move out people and to put money in people's pockets so that we can be innovative. I will say that whilst those issues are not necessarily addressed in this Supplementary Budget, but they will be addressed later. I met with the Tourism Minister yesterday in my office and we discussed about the UN-WTO contribution that we owe. And I did say that immediately we launch the Agenda for Prosperity, we will sit with each and every Ministry to map out what we wish to deliver to the people and identify their flagship project. Therefore, the Tourism Ministry will have the opportunity to identify those activities they will wish to undertake during the next three to five years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having worked with many Parliamentary institutions around the world, I know that there is a need to strengthen this Parliament. And when I presented the budget in December, 2012, I did say that we will work hand in glove with this Parliament. But I do tell people that economic development is not like growing

cucumbers. In terms of growing cucumber for example, you plant this week and harvest them in few weeks time. The root of economic development must be nurtured and it takes time to do that. But the beauty of this interaction here this afternoon (particularly the many admonishments that have been made) is to draw the attention that there has to be a nexus or a symbiotic relationship between the Ministry of Finance and many of the Oversight Committees within Parliament. Those concerns have been noted. I met with the Chairman of the Finance Committee two days ago and he raised some issues to me and I did say that I will support him to ensure that we meet the aspirations of what he may wish to achieve. I did make a commitment to ensure that we work together. For some of the other Committees here, particularly the key Oversight Committees, the pledge will be made. But let me just say that we are all in the business of nation building. There is what we call the push and pull factor in budgetary process. If you meet all the needs of one institution, what you will be doing is putting less emphasis on other strategic areas that may require more resources. And that has been demonstrated here this afternoon. Indeed Mr Speaker, a call was made for more allocation to many other sectors within the country. But my attention has been drawn that there is a need to have more interactions with Parliament. I will do that Honourable Members. I also noted that resource allocations were made to the Ministry of Finance and some questions have been asked about it. The Ministry of Finance will have to be able to meet many of our commitments to development partners, particularly International Organisations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't have to be explaining every now and then that we are faced with emergencies and contingencies in this country. The cholera and landslides situations are examples of that. What I strongly believe we need to do is to have a holistic strategy on some of these issues. And I am always ready to have this conversation, possibly within some of the Committees or anywhere away from this Honorable Assembly. I note that there has been a call to ensure that we reduce wastage in budget execution. What I will say is that you are singing to the drums of the Minister of Finance. This is because that had been one of the key elements of the

mantra of fiscal discipline. These are supposed to be said to the Contractors. You know that for fifty and more years in the midst of many resources, you only have a nation that is able to make marginal difference and not been able to catch up with other economies that have been defined to be middle income countries. If you just wake up one morning and say let us consider infrastructure, roads, energy and water for our people and you have not been doing this earlier, you will get many challenges. The reason is because we have not been doing these things before. We are learning from those mistakes. But what I would require from many of the Oversight Committees is to hold these Agencies and Ministries to account. We would empower Parliament at levels that are comfortable within the budget to perform their Oversight Functions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we need to do is to sit down and understand the depth of your requirement, particularly your Oversight functions. And I note the comment made by a Member of Parliament that what will be the outcome of an Oversight work if it is facilitated by a particular agency. We need to sit and discuss this issue of Oversight. As we speak, you have echoed many of the challenges we face, particularly some of those we've been discussing recently. In relation to subsidies to universities, His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma rightfully said that there is a need to harmonise the wages and salaries and some of the issues bordering around universities. But there is a need to take it beyond that. There is a need to have a holistic strategy, a kind of agency or a body that will ensure that all of these are harmonised. There are many other budgetary challenges that I may wish to draw your attention to. When some of these Agencies go down, the burden rests with Government and I therefore think that it is our collective responsibility also as a Ministry and other relevant Ministries, including Parliament to sit down and begin to take a look at it seriously. There is a need to take a long term view of this and I strongly believe that that is the way we should go about it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have all agreed to be a middle income earner by 2035 as an outcome of the 2012 national conference. To date, I must share with you that as an outcome of a collaborative World Bank and Statistics Sierra Leone, studies on

extreme poverty has been reported to be down from 66.4% to 52.9% between 2003 and 2011. The indications are that we are on right track. But how will we keep the momentum going? I wish that you understand where I am coming from as a new Minister of Finance. When I read the Supplementary Budget this morning, I did share with this Honorable House that we have over 299 Billion. We had that in January of this year. We are trying to meet the challenges of meeting the first quarter allocations as enshrined in the budget. Therefore, what do we do? We don't have to pretend about it. We need to sit down and take a look at the realities on the ground. We need to take the bull by the horn and do that which is expected of us. We cannot become a middle income country if we continue do business as usual.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been advised and I have observed that if you continue to do as you have been doing, you will always get what you've always got. We will not be able to provide all these answers right now. We have stopped domestic borrowing because the truth is that, the interest rates were about 19%. If you pay an interest over 90 percent, what do you expect? So, if you continue to do that, will you sustain economic growth? The answer is no. Therefore, we have put a hold on domestic borrowing and the good news is that, that has been brought down to about 6%. But the only challenge we have now is getting the banks and I will say that we already have the support of the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone for that purpose. This is the way we strongly believe that we can go about it. And so whilst we have been able to identify the budget deficit, what we have here today is to share with you how we can be able to close those loopholes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I implore you to consider what I have submitted for your consideration. As I have been advised, we need more solar energy. And the truth is that, we need to construct more roads. His Excellency the President said he wants to do more. And how would he do more? We need more than Le70 Billion to be able to ensure that we provide more roads, electricity, water and ensure that many of the new Agencies and Ministries that have been established are looked after and also ensures that Fourah Bay College, the first institution of higher learning in this sub region is

transformed (*Applause*). The President said he is committed to the Youth Commission. He also said that he will provide more jobs and ensures that these new institutions do well. I implore you Honourable Members to favorably consider this budget and help me pass it into law.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013 has be read the Second time. Thank you and Good Afternoon.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

BILL HAS BEEN READ THE SECOND TIME

THE HOUSE REVERTS TO COMMITTEE STAGE

THE VARIOUS VOTE HEADS AND THE AMOUNT ATTACHED WAS PROPOSED

FIRST SCHEDULE

106 00	Office of the Chief of Staff -	1,500,000,000
110 00	Office to the Secretary to the President	445,000,000
110 18	Cooperate Affairs Commission –	200,000,000
112 00	Office of the Vice President .....	973,000,000
116 00	Parliaments ....	533,000,000
117 00	Cabinet Secretariats .....	150,000,000
128 00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Co-operation	1,295,000,000
129 00	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (Financial Intelligence Unit)	900,000,000
130 00	National Revenue Authority	1,992,000,000

132 00	Accountant General's Department	774,000,000
134 00	National Electoral Commission	1,500,000,000
139 00	National Commission for Privatization	450,000,000
207 00	Prisons Department	1,671,100,000
208 00	National Fire Authority	700,000,000
210 00	Office of National Security	931,000,000
301 00	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Grants to Tertiary Institutions)	8,507,200,000
302 00	Ministry of Sports – Reallocation to Ministry of Youth Affairs (Vote 310)	(1,790,000,000)
302 00	Ministry of Sports – Compensation	4,334,000,000
303 00	Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (Culture Division)	764,000,000
310 00	Ministry of Youth Affairs	1,790,000,000
404 00	Ministry of Transport and Aviation	2,400,000,000
406 00	Ministry of Energy – Emergency Energy Programme	44,000,000,000
406 00	Ministry of Energy – Reallocation to Ministry of Water Resources (Vote 414)	(4,970,000,000)
409 01	Department of Co-operatives	500,000,000
411 00	Road Maintenance Fund	52,364,000,000
414 00	Ministry of Water Resources	4,970,000,000

Various Development Activities – Water Supply Services	3,706,000,000
Various Development Activities – Electrification of District and Provincial Headquarter Towns	12,593,000,000
Various Development Activities – Rehabilitation of City and District Headquarter Towns Streets	12,000,000,000
Various Development Activities – Other Roads	19,600,000,000
Various Development Activities – Others	<u>27,501,000,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b> ...     ...     ...     ...	<b><u>Le 202,283,300,000</u></b>

### **Second Schedule Votes Head**

341 00 Pensions, Gratuities and Other Retirement Benefits	5,000,000,000
501 00 Miscellaneous Services	1,730,700,000
509 00 Domestic Supplies' Arrears	9,500,000,000
509 00 Salaries and Wages Arrears	4,241,250,000
610 00 Contingency Expenditure	425,000,000
Various Salaries and Wages – Note 1	53,659,000,000
Various Stock of Outstanding Fiscal Year 2012 Obligations (Printed Cheques) Carried Over to Fiscal Year 2013	<u>241,169,000,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>Le 315,724,950,000</u></b>

## **ALL TO STAND PART OF THE FIRST AND SECOND SCHEDULE**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the various Vote Heads and amount attached as read by the Clerk stand part of the First and Second Schedules.

*(Question Proposed)*

**DR KARIFALA MARAH:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the various Vote Heads and amount attached as read by the clerk stand part of the first and second schedules.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

VARIOUS VOTE HEADS AND AMOUNT ATTACHED STAND PART OF THE SCHEDULE

THE HOUSE RESUMES ITSELF

**DR KARIFALA MARAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013, having gone through the Committee of the Whole House without any amendments be read the third time and passed into law.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

*(The Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2013" being an Act to make supplementary provision for the services of Sierra Leone for the year 2013 has been read the third time and passed into law).*

**HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a follow-up of the statement I was about to make this morning. You would recall that the Instrument titled "The Council of Legal Education (The Admission into Sierra Leone Law School Regulation 2013)" was laid in this Honourable House. In that vein, I want to move that,

Be it resolved:

that in accordance with Section 177 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, I move that Statutory Instrument No.3 of 2013 entitled The Council of Legal Education (Admission into Sierra Leone Law School Regulation 2013) which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2013 due to its larger implication on society be debated by this Honourable House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I second that motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

***(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)***

THE MOTION IS CARRIED

### *Adjournment*

*(The House rose at 1.27 p.m., and was adjourned until Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).*