

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

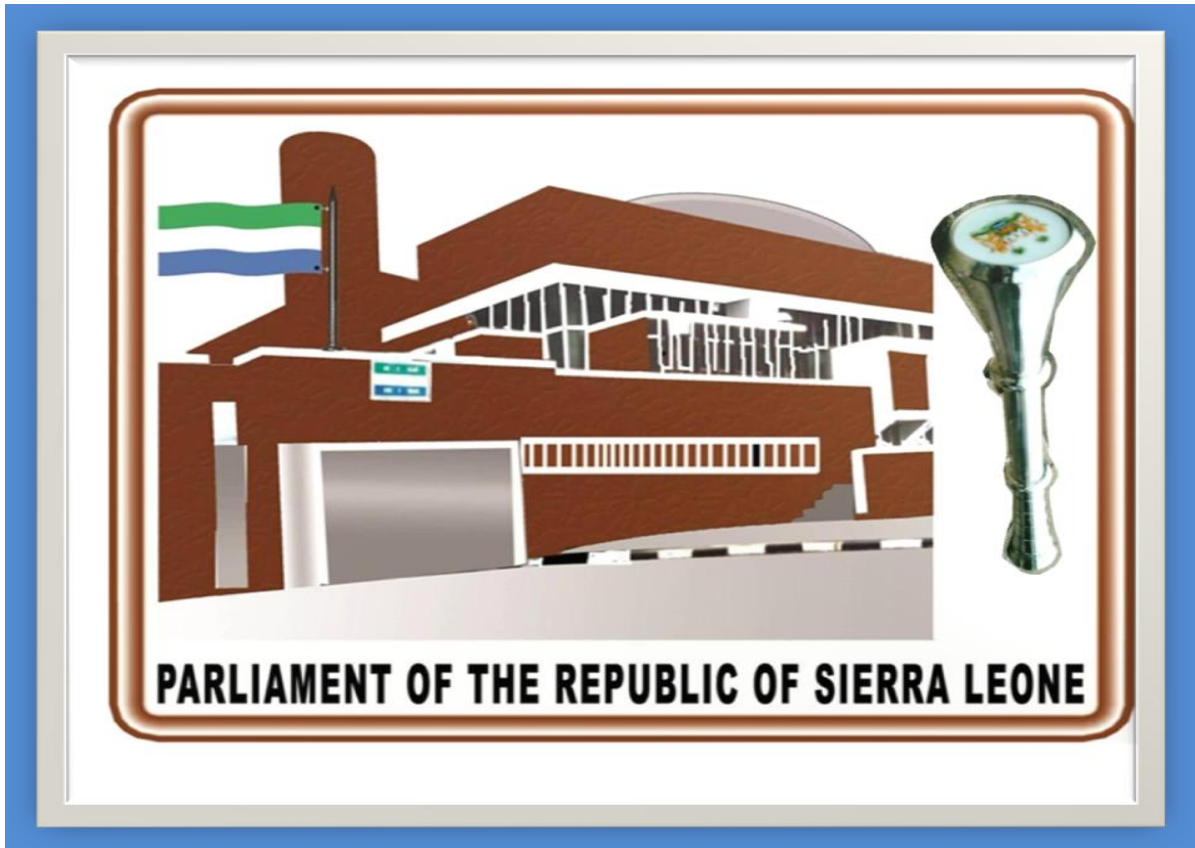
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Tuesday, 5th September, 2017.

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VI. PARLIAMENTARY MOTION:

PROPOSER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE CONFIRMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 74[1][A & B] OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE [ACT NO. 6 OF 1991] BE ADOPTED:



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 5th September, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:35 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

[The Speaker, Hon. Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of Honourable Members to item III on the Order Paper. I am afraid, that item is hereby withdrawn as of now. Therefore, item IV becomes item III.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, please pay attention. Your counterpart is suggesting that item III be deleted because apparently, it is not properly before the House. So, I take it that there is no objection.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI [*Deputy Minority Leader of the House*]: Mr Speaker, the only problem I have with that is that my counterpart must stand under the relevant Standing Orders.

THE SPEAKER: Alright. Accepted!

MR IBRAHIM S. SESAY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: Honourable Members, may I have your attention?

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please say with 'the leave of Mr Speaker' because it is not normally allowed.

MR IBRAHIM S. SESAY: That is true, Mr Speaker. Honourable Members, with the leave of the Rt Honourable Speaker of the House, I hereby announce the serious illness of the Honourable Paramount Chief, Joseph Ali Kavura Kongomoh II, Member of Parliament from Moyamba District. You will be informed duly of any further arrangements.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 2017.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th August, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 29th August, 2017 as presented?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th August, 2017 has been adopted as presented].

III. MOTION:

PROPOSER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Confirmation of parliamentary seats for ordinary Members of Parliament in accordance with Section 74[1] [A & B] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No.6 of 1991] be adopted

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF *[Deputy Majority Leader of the House]*: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: I was waiting for that question because there should be no debate again.

THE SPEAKER: So we take it that there is no voting and that it is generally acceptable.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, I am confused. I thought it was a Motion and not a Statutory Instrument that was laid. I believe the Motion is on the Order Paper, which means we have to debate it. I am confused and I want to learn from that decision.

THE SPEAKER: It does not necessarily warrant a debate, Honourable Member but if you feel that it should be debated then we debate it.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, I am saying that we are learning on a daily basis. I am of the opinion that we are to debate this Motion. Normally, thank you. I beg to differ though it is an undertone which means I should not respond to his statement but the Deputy Speaker is saying we should not. I want to learn why it should not be debated.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to go over that again.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH [*Deputy Speaker of the House*]: Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O 34. This Motion is very clear. It is a fact that the National Electoral Commission [NEC] has gone so far with the endorsement of this Parliament based on the 132 seats. Therefore, debating this Motion is like defeating this Parliament itself.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker that is how I see it.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Not necessarily, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, if you did listen to the judgment of the Court in Kenya, I do not think there was anything wrong with the conduct of the election. However, NEC did not do certain things that were to be done and that was one of the reasons why the election result was annulled. Taking a page from that decision, if people feel otherwise, I would like the Majority Leader to please go over that Motion.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Confirmation of Parliamentary Seats for ordinary Members of Parliament in accordance with Section 74[1] [A & B] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No.6 of 1991] be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai, are you comfortable?

HON. ANSUMANA JAIA KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I am extremely comfortable.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, do I now take it that the Motion is clear, having regard to its wordings and having regard to what the Deputy Speaker has said that the Motion does not warrant a debate? However, whether the Motion warrants a debate or not, consistent with parliamentary tradition or convention, I put the question.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Motion to confirmation parliamentary seats for ordinary Members of Parliament in accordance with Section 74[1] [A & B] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No.6 of 1991] has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Suahilo M. Koroma did say that there was no need to debate this Motion.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, when we were in secondary school in this country, there was one political wise man called Borbor Kamara. One of the theories that he always espoused was “**man butu man watch**” and believe you me there are eyes on both sides and we are all watching.

HON. ALHAJI SERAY DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. I want to bring to your notice a social problem that needs our intervention. If you notice the recent flood that occurred in our country, most of it was caused by social problems. Dundas Street and Charles Street are far away from the mountains, but you will notice that the last rains caused flooding on those streets and it was influenced by plastic bags and plastics bottles. I want to ask this Honourable House to consider requesting the factories or the companies that are producing these plastic bottles, sachet water to ask for returns thereby recycling the used of plastic bags and bottles in this country. Like what Brewery is doing, when you buy a bottle of drink, they ask you to return the bottles. So, if this House mandates these companies to ask for returns of these plastics bottles and plastic bags, I believe it will minimise flooding.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most of our drainages that are flooded when it rains is due to these plastic bottles and plastic bags that are littered around the city. I want to ask this Honourable House to consider enforcing or passing legislation that will mandate these companies to request from their customers to return plastic bags or bottles, so that the situation we are experiencing [that is causing the government to spend a lots of money] will be minimised. I thank you, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I hope the relevant committee will take note of that.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, three months ago, we reluctantly passed into law the Finance Act of 2017.

THE SPEAKER: No, do not say reluctantly. If you say reluctantly, you are laughing at yourself. So go on to say what you wanted to say.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Three months ago, we passed into law the Finance Act of 2017. We made it clear that on the 25th August, 2017 the Minister of Finance would have been summoned to come and explain to us about the successes and challenges of that Act. I am asking the Leadership of this House to summon the Minister of Finance because the decision of Parliament has to be respected.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am requesting that the Leadership of this Parliament summon the Minister of Finance with immediate effect to come and explain to us the successes and challenges of the Finance Act of 2017. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I want the Majority Leader of this House and Chairman of the Finance Committee to take note that.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I see here yesterday that there was an Order Paper that came out that is different from the one that we have today. And I have always said this Mr Speaker, for Parliament to function efficiently the Business Committee of this House must perform its duties. The Business Committee is not meeting and as I have said in this House, as a Parliament, we have to be proactive in the next 90 days. For Parliament to be proactive, the Business Committee of this House must function effectively, otherwise we will be having some of these bottlenecks at a critical time and we may end up being embarrassed. That is my concern, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The point is taken and I want Majority Leader to take note of that. I want to agree with the Acting Minority Leader that the Business Committee has not been functioning apparently. I will qualify it by using that word 'apparently.' So, please Mr Majority Leader, take note of that and I want you to refer to the relevant sections of the Business Committee and you will see why it should function properly. If that Committee fails to function effectively, there is going to be chaos.

Honourable Members, Immediately after adjournment, I would like to see the Honourable Benneh Bangura and Honourable David Johnson. But before that, I would like to see the Clerk first in my office.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23. This one has to do with the welfare of Parliament; viz-a-viz parliamentarians themselves. Like any other institution, there is a relationship between employer and employee. In case of Parliament, we are

employees of the Government of Sierra Leone; and therefore, we are entitled to every benefit an employee stands to gain. In this case, I am talking about leave allowances. It is an annual leave that every year workers embark on. Members of Parliament should not be an exemption. I want to believe that we are equally entitled to recess allowances. If we are not going on recess, it sounds absurd; and as the saying goes, 'charity begins at Home.' As Parliament, we are to set a very good precedent for others.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have no problem in staying, but the necessary enumeration has to be accorded us. I am therefore calling on the Leadership of this House to make sure that we get compensation for not going on recess. Thank you very much
[Applause across the Floor].

THE SPEAKER: I see the Honourable Ansumana J. Kaikai is endorsing what you have just said by a clap because it was he who said to me at one time that "**as I see things, I see the possibility of us not going for recess this time around.**" Now, I think he has been proved right. But what you have said will be considered. Thank God, the Leadership is here.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11.00 a.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 12th September, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.]