

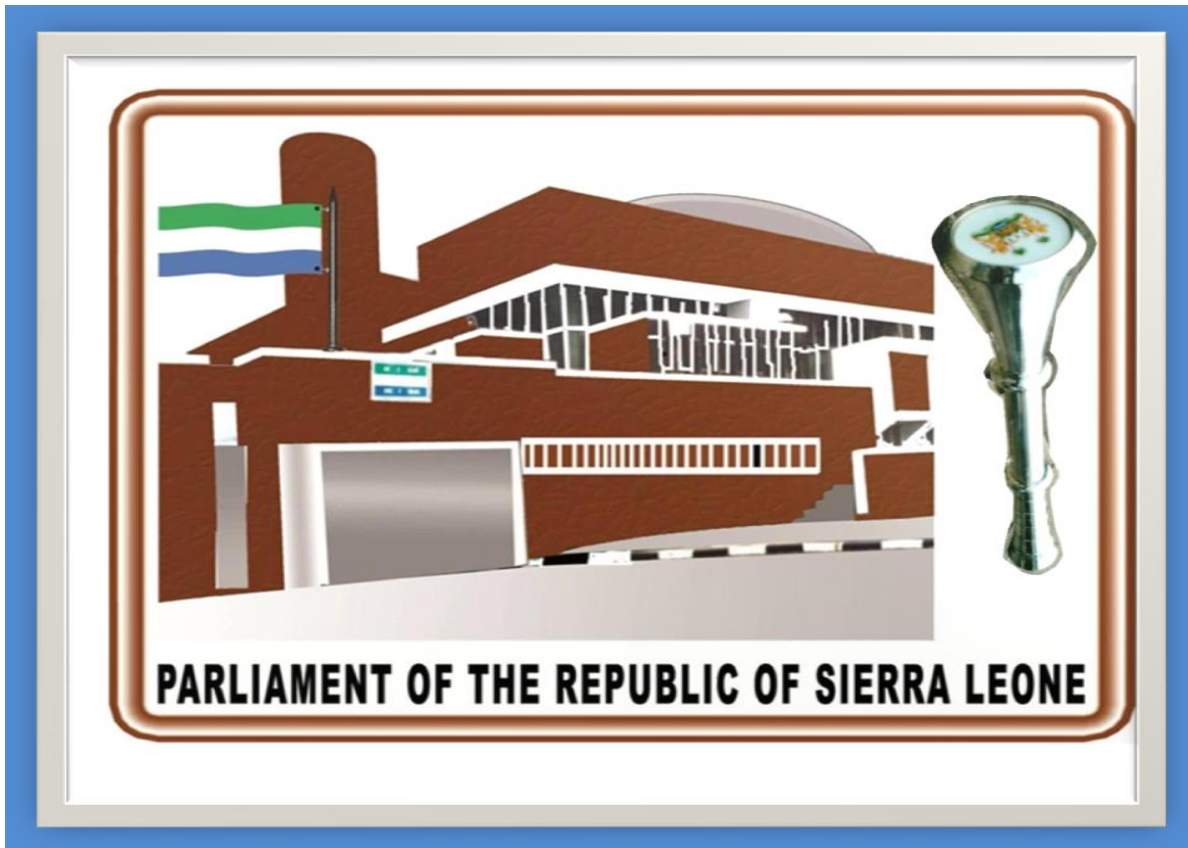
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2013**

SESSION – 2012/2013



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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 Wednesday, 6th March, 2013.

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFY THE UNDER-MENTIONED MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTS.

(a) PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

(b) ACP-EU PARLIAMENT

(c) ECOWAS PARLIAMENT



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 6th March, 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. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, with your leave Sir, I would want an item IV to be added on the Order Paper.

THE SPEKAER: Any seconder?

HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEKAER: Any counter motion?

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEKAER: Honourable Members, we now go through record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 28th February, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. MOMOH MOIWA: Page 4 Mr Speaker.

THE SPEKAER: Yes Honourable Member, what is your comment?

HON. MOMOH MOIWA: Mr Speaker, my name is not included in the list of Honourable Members who were absent with excuse.

THE SPEKAER: Mr Clerk Please take note of that. Any more observation on Page 4?

HON. ABU JAJUA: Mr Speaker, Page 4, item 6.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member.

HON. ALICE FOYAH: Mr Speaker, as a Caucus Leader, I want the Clerk to take note of Honourable Braima Mustapha.

THE SPEAKER: Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7. Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6th March, 2013 be adopted as amended?

HON. KADIJA K. SILLAH: Mr Speaker I so move.

THE SPEKAER: Any seconder?

HON. ANDREW V. LUNGAY: Mr Speaker I second.

MR. SPEAKER: Any counter motion.

(Question Proposed, Put and agreed to)

*(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 6th March 2013
was adopted as amended)*

III. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (*Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Seventh Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Thursday 28th February 2013 and interviewed five Presidential nominees for appointment to the following positions:

- i. Ministers & Deputy Ministers; and
- ii. Justice of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone

2. Procedure

The Committee adhered strictly to its set standards. The nominees were interviewed on pertinent issues relating to their educational backgrounds, declared

assets, track records in public office, tax obligations and vision for a nationally productive tenure.

3. Twelfth Sitting of the Committee on Thursday 28th February 2013

3.1 The following nominees were interviewed:

With your leave Mr Speaker, because of the condition of Mr Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay I want him to stand where he is.

i. Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay, Proposed Minister of Political Affairs;

Alhaji Kemoh Sesay is an outstanding personality in the contemporary politics of Sierra Leone and has served his country as follows:

1996 – 2007, Member of Sierra Leone House of Parliament; 2002 – 2007, Member of the Pan-African Parliament; 2007 – 2008, Minister of Transport and Aviation; 2010 - 2013, Special Adviser to His Excellency the President.

Responding to questions as why his nomination should be approved by the Committee, he said that he had served his country in several high ranking positions to merit the confidence of the Committee in his ability to deliver. Recalling his days in Parliament, the nominee opined that members of the public that were present at the hearing should be grateful to him because “before now, non-members of the Appointments Committee were not allowed to sit in. It is on record that it was I who moved a ‘Private Member Motion’ for the doors of Parliamentary Committees to be opened to the public so that interested members of the public and journalists could sit in as observers.”

Answering to questions about what he would be doing in his new office, he said that the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs is an interface between the Government and the public. “Most times,” he said, “the Ministry is misconstrued as a party Ministry. The Ministry is not a party Ministry but a national Ministry for political and public affairs. It is

the Ministry that is in-charge of all political Parties, the APC, SLPP, PMDC and all public affairs that have anything to do with government. Hon. Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay assured the Committee that with the support of Parliament he would endeavour to make Sierra Leoneans appreciate the functions of the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs.

ii. Mr Valesius Victor Thomas, Proposed Justice of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone;

Mr Thomas is a private Legal Practitioner (1981 to date), with specialty in Company Law, Real Estate and Employment Law. Prior to entry into Private practice, Mr Thomas had served as State Counsel in the Office of the Attorney-General particularly in the Prosecution, Constitutional and the International Law Divisions. He was also attached as a Government Lawyer to the Mano River Union and the ECOWAS.

Reacting to questions as to what he would bring to the Supreme Court, Mr Thomas informed the Committee that his reason for accepting the gracious offer of the President was that over the years, people including himself have been too critical of the system. He had however realised that criticism without the willingness to make positive contributions does not bring about any remarkable change. He submitted that he has the gift to quickly analyse any given situation and to make appropriate decisions. He added that the delay of cases in court is one area that required a lot of improvement. "*I will endeavor,*" he promised, "*to speedily expedite whatever assignments that are given to me.*"

Reacting on the issue of the seeming lack of collaboration between the Legislature and the Judiciary, Mr Thomas said that the Judiciary was supposed to be independent and judges were expected to give judgment on the basis of the evidence presented. "*So while it may be necessary to have some collaboration, the impression must not be created that the judiciary is under pressure from the legislature. The Judiciary is headed*

by the Chief Justice and any concern of the legislature and the public," he said, "could be channeled to the Head of the Judiciary."

iii. Feremusu Konteh, Proposed Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs:

Mrs Feremusu Konteh is a widely traveled housewife/businesswoman who has settled and acquired a lot of work experience in many countries abroad. In Paris for instance, she was a 'Communication Support Officer,' responsible for assisting school pupils with scholarship issues to further their education. As 'Vice President, African Women Organisation' in Madagascar, she was 'Liaison Officer' to a number of civil society groups. In 2012, she was appointed Deputy Minister of Fisheries & Marine Resources, a position she held until after the 2012 General Elections.

Answering questions as to whether she was prepared to work in the Ministry of Youth Affairs after she had served as Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, she said that she would do her best as she had what she referred to as "the will power" to do the job. The youths she added were anxious and their expectations were high. There was therefore the need for the wherewithal and will power to handle such high expectations.

iv. Mr Ismail Al-Sankoh-Conteh, Proposed Deputy Minister of Sports:

Mr Sankoh-Conteh is a Civil Society, Human Rights and Youths Activist, who has spent the better part of his life promoting the welfare and development of youth Programmes. When asked to give an opinion on the acrimony between the Ministry of Sports and SLAFA, Mr Al-Sankoh-Conteh said that he was aware of the acrimony between the Sierra Leone Football Association (SLAFA) and the Ministry and that his responsibility would be to engage the stakeholders in a round-table talk to find a peaceful solution. *"I will engage in consultation and dialogue, for all to put their cards on the table in a kind of a family gathering. I do not believe in addressing indifferences between brothers on radio or television."* He added that the sports and football associations were supposed to be independent bodies, though

government was providing the financial resources which, he believed, should be accounted for. *“SLAFA,” he went on, “should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.”* He promised to ensure that a culture of openness exist between SLFA and the Ministry.

v. *Mr Peter Bayuku Konteh, Proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs*

Mr Konteh is a Community Development Initiator and Coordinator of the “Little Step 2000 Development Organisation” (a Humanitarian Organisation) for Koinadugu District. From 2000–date, through this Organisation, Mr Konteh initiated, financed and implemented many development programmes in the Koinadugu District. In 2008-2012, he contested and was elected Chairman of the Koinadugu District Council.

Responding to questions as to whether he was au fait with the operations of the Ministry of Tourism, he frankly admitted that he was new in the business of tourism. However, he has a passion for tourism and culture and if given the opportunity, he promised to demonstrate the initiative, drive and leadership that would make a significant difference. He was aware, he said, that he was going to a Ministry that has little political attention and very little resources but he assured the Committee that he was ready to tap on the experience. *“I have ideas but I want to be humble in tapping on other ideas. I have strong commitment in promoting the common good, and I will always endeavor to make sure that I speedily accomplish any assignment given to the best of my ability,” he said.*

4. Recommendations

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be suitably qualified for their proposed appointments and are recommended to the House for approval:

i. *Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay, Minister of Political & Public Affairs;*

- ii. Mr Valesius Victor Thomas, Supreme Court Judge;*
- iii. Mr Peter Bayuku Konteh, Minister of Tourism & Cultural Affairs;*
- iv. Ms Feremusu Konteh, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs; and*
- v. Mr Ishmail Al-Sankoh-Conteh, Deputy Minister of Sports.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Seventh Report portrays the collective view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Seventh Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendation contained therein be approved. Signed by Hon. S. B. B. Dumbuya Chairman.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to second the motion so ably moved by the Majority Leader of the House.

(Question Proposed)

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is one of the happiest days in my life. I am a very happy man in this well of Parliament. Why did I say so? Mr Speaker, I said so because like my leader always say each time he presents people who have passed through him in terms of him being their mentor. And they have made remarkable progress in their own little contribution to the welfare of the state. He always says that of such people are very special and they are close to his heart. This morning, we are here to approve a list of nominees sent to this House for us to give our approval on the basis of what the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has done. Among the nominees this morning, I would single out one person. He is not a stranger in this country. He is not a stranger to this Parliament. His contributions to this House are a record to contend with for many generations to come. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am talking of no other person but Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay, who is now being proposed to head the Ministry of Political Affairs. I am sure when all is said and done, Alhaji Kemoh Sesay would have a big applause from this House. What our revered leader has read as part of our own assessment of this individual could not be complete if we do not add a few other things of those of us who

have known Alhaji Kemoh Sesay over many years; first, as a student; second, as a teacher; and third, as a politician. I have served under his tutelage when I entered Parliament in 2002. He had been here. I was his student Mr Speaker. But before then, he had served under my own tutelage as a student and a teacher. And I am sure all those years he served under me were very instrumental for his achievements today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Alhaji Kemoh Sesay was a very hard working man. He was very respectful and obedient young man. I am convinced that what he had learnt during those years helped him greatly to pursue his studies after his education at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School to Fourah Bay College. After completing his studies at the Fourah Bay College, he decided to come and serve as a simple class teacher. As a Biology teacher, he encouraged students to develop interest in the sciences. And I know for sure that at the end of his service at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School, the school became one of the schools that most pupils in this country chose to do their science studies. And I am sure the record they left out there would tell you long story of successful students from that school.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the course of his service as teacher of the school, he contributed immensely in producing sound academic students in the sciences, particularly in Biology and Chemistry. Therefore, I am proud to say that his appointment is delayed, as far as I am concerned. He should have been appointed earlier than now. But I am sure he could have served in other areas than the one he is now being put to serve. Again, looking at the circumstances, I think he would serve as a person who would lead this country towards cohesion, particularly between the various political parties. This is because he is a man who knows almost every political arrangement in this country. And I think he cuts across ethnic boundaries, in spite of various differences in terms of social or cultural backgrounds. Honourable Alhaji Kemoh Sesay will help His Excellency the President to bring about cohesion in this country and better understanding among the people of this country. The spirit of unity and oneness is better than remaining in our own individual groups (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the rest of the nominees, I will only talk briefly about the proposed Justice of the Supreme Court. I like the responses of Justice Victor Thomas in the course of his interview.

THE SPEAKER: Excuse me Honourable Member, was he a Justice when you interviewed him?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: No Sir. He wasn't, but a proposed Judge.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: You cannot be a critic all along. If you want to make meaningful contribution, you must come into the system so that you can bring about a change from within. Mr Speaker, we know that many of our learned people do not take kindly to serving on the Bench. They prefer to be private practitioners. I think people like Mr Thomas should be applauded for accepting this great challenge. It is indeed a great deal of sacrifice as a private practitioner. I know he enjoyed unlimited freedom in the exercise of his legal profession. Therefore, I believe that when we would have approved his appointment as Supreme Court Judge, he would go to work at once to make sure he injects justice in this country. We have a lot of prisoners or detainees who are standing trials. And they have been in detention for a very long time. I am sure Mr Thomas is going to make a difference in making sure that justice prevails in this country. I want him to ensure that justice is injected in our courts system, particularly at the level in which you have being appointed. This is where we have a lot of problems. We have serious problems in the sense that not many people would want to go and sit as Judges of the Supreme Court. Presently, we do not have the required number of judges to sit as judges of the Supreme Court of this country. So, I am convinced that Mr Victor Thomas's acceptance of this offer would make a lot of difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have met the proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs more than once in Makeni. He had served as Chairman of the Koinadugu District Council. When he appeared before our Committee, he proved himself worthy of that appointment. I am sure the President did not make any mistake in appointing him as Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. He is going to represent Sierra Leone in terms of our cultural heritage. He is fit for that position.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would crave the indulgence of this House to speedily approve the proposed Ministers and Deputy Ministers as well as a Judge. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting to this noble House such a beautiful team. After a scientific random sampling, a brother of mine was nominated for a very important position.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees should consider themselves very lucky to be appointed by no lesser person than His Excellency the President of this nation. I am saying this because in this country, we have a population of more than 6 million. We also have a plethora of qualified people of their kind to assume such state responsibilities. So, for them to be nominated for such positions, I am pretty sure that they must consider themselves very lucky.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt that these nominees would do well in their respective positions. I want to single out one nominee from the rest. He is Honourable Kemoh Sesay (*Applause*). If I am here in Parliament today, it was due to Honourable Kemoh Sesay. I am proud to have this young, brilliant, dedicated and educated young man whose interest is geared towards the development of this country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Kemoh Sesay is somebody worth imitating. Mr Speaker, I know most of my colleagues would like to say a word or two to these nominees. But if I am to say what I intend to say about Honourable Kemoh

Sesay, probably I would take the whole day. But let me tell you this, Honourable Kemoh Sesay is blessed with peculiar characteristics that I admired. He is a man of honesty, sobriety and integrity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this House to speedily approve his nomination. I thank you very much.

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to lend my voice to the proposed Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State. I will single out Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh. Two years ago, Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh and myself were S.O 2 "target men."

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, can you give some explanation.

HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Speaker, we were grass root people. We started our journey as youth activists together. Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh knew no ethnic or regional boundary. At a point in time, I failed to understand the part of the country he came from or the tribe he belonged to. I knew he was Conteh and I still know he is Conteh; but I don't know whether he is a Mende Conteh or a Themne Conteh or better put, a Creole Conteh (*Applause*). One of the goals of Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh is that he will always pursue a course believing that before anything else, Sierra Leone must benefit first. He has demonstrated this over the years he served as President of the National Youth Coalition. As the President of the National Youth Coalition, Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh brought every youths (be you educated, unskilled or unemployed youth) together to work as a constituent. He was able to use his leadership charisma to mobilise the various potentials of young people to move this country to where it is today. He gave hope to the young people who were despondent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say that the proposed Deputy Minister of Sports is going to ameliorate the many problems in that Ministry. I know he is going to

use his leadership charisma to ensure that the Ministry's focus and direction is in line with what the people of this country are yearning for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt in mind just as the young people of Sierra Leone have no doubt in their minds that he is going to perform to the acclamation of each and every Sierra Leonean. It is against this backdrop that I want to submit this morning to this Honourable House that we speedily approve the appointment of the proposed Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr Al-Sankoh Conteh. Thank you.

HON. MOMHAMED LAMIN MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Mohamed Lamin Mansaray, representing Constituency 47, Koinadugu District, Kassunko and Warawara Bafodia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will first of all say praise be to God and thanks be to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for making the people of Koinadugu District happy. Mr Speaker, I speak in respect of what I have in front of me. I start with the Minister of Tourism, Mr Bayuku Konteh. Mr Bayuku Konteh is one of the developmentally oriented heroes in Koinadugu District. When he was elected as the District Council Chairman in that District, he brought many development projects in that District. Today, we are very proud of him. In terms of the health sector, he ensured that hospitals were constructed everywhere in the District. He also collaborated and ensured that medics and medicines go to those hospitals. This proposed Minister of Tourism, on his own volition has been giving scholarships to nurses and other students all over the country, especially those institutions that are in need. Mr Bayuku Konteh believes in transparency and whosoever want to come against what he is doing, Mr Speaker, S.O. 2 "e no de gi big wan respect."

THE SPEAKER: Bikos na im get am.

HON. MOMHAMED LAMIN MANSARAY: Whenever... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: S.O. 2 is granted Honourable Member.

HON. MOMHAMED LAMIN MANSARAY: People do say: "ifit yai. E no de gi big man respect." Mr Speaker this is because he believes in what he is doing and what he represents to serve the people of this country. I want to inform this Honourable House that if the Free Health is to succeed in Koinadugu, Mr Peter Bayuku Konteh has contributed 60% towards the achievement of the Free Health Care Programme in Koinadugu District. Mr Speaker, I admire this gentle man so much. If there is no fuel in all the vehicles, he will go all out to make sure that he provides fuel so that patients are taken to the hospital.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am proud for the appointment of Feremusu Conteh. So when women are asking for 30%, she is not just from any society. She is groomed in a political house. As a result, she is a political animal. She will do her best to ensure that this country moves forward. She is very active, respectful, law abiding and always work for the interest of Sierra Leone. This is all I have to contribute. I thank you very much for your audience.

HON. MICHEL SHO-SAWYER: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here humbly to thank His Excellency the President for using his divine wisdom God has given him to give us people of caliber that would serve this nation and help to take this nation forward. I am particularly happy for Alhaji Ibrahim Kemoh Sesay, proposed Minister for Presidential and Public Affairs. I met this man in 2005, in the United States of America at the Jimmy Carter Center. He was there representing His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, when he was the opposition leader. I attended the meeting at the Jimmy Carter Center and met Honourable Kemoh Sesay. I was so much disappointed because when he went there, I thought he was there to speak for the APC party, but instead, I met a man who spoke for this nation, a man who spoke about the interest of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Kemoh Sesay focused on the 2007 Election. He admonished every eligible voter to vote peacefully. He spoke about the importance of a free, fair and transparent election. He even invited the Jimmy Carter Center to Sierra Leone to witness the elections and to help ensure that that the people of Sierra Leone have a free and fair election. After his speech, I came to respect him the more. He spoke on national interest; and not on tribal, regional or party lines. Mr Speaker, as I see him here today being proposed as Minister of Political and Public Affairs, I will confidently say that there will be no better person to head such a Ministry. I am saying this because this Ministry is charged with responsibility of looking at the affairs of all the political parties in Sierra Leone. He is ready to take politics away from tribal or regional lines to ideological line.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next gentleman I would like to talk about is Mr Ishmael Al-Sankoh Conteh. This is another young man I have high respect and high regard for. I have high regard for him because as a youth myself, I know sometimes we are very disobedient. I know that young people lack patience sometimes. Sometimes we are aggressive in nature. Sometimes we the young people lack the wisdom and understanding to do certain things. Mr Al-Sankoh is someone that has shown himself to be a unifier. He brings unity among the youths of this nation. He has succeeded in bringing the youth issues to the forefront of this nation. He deserves this position because of the work he has done for this nation. I also believe that he is going to do more for this nation as far youth issues are concerned. As a proposed Deputy Minister of Sports, he will work towards unifying the various sectors of sports in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all these nominees, I believe His Excellency the President has scrutinised them all. I believe that they have the capacity to perform in their respective areas that they have been proposed to serve. For the proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, by extension is my friend from Koinadugu. I welcome you sir. By extension, Koinadugu is my home as well. My advice to him is that, tourism will bring a lot of financial resources to this country. Our beaches are been destroyed in

this country. Moreover, sand mining is seriously going on there. There are hundreds of trucks around our beaches scooping the sand. Beaches like the Hamilton Beach, Lakka Beach and John Obey Beach are being destroyed. Without these beautiful sceneries, we would have no base to say we have tourism in this country. After your approval today, I want you to take your time and visit these beautiful beaches. I want you to see how these beaches have been destroyed. I am saying this because I want you to find solutions in solving the many problems our tourism industry is facing today.

With that Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I ask that this House speedily approve the recommendation of the Committee on Appointments. I thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (*Minority Leader of the House*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have before us this morning men and woman that have been nominated by His Excellency the President for various positions in the administration of this country. I will be brief in making statements about these eminent personalities. From the report read to us, I have no doubt that the members of the Appointments Committee did their work expected of them. I was not around when these people were interviewed. But I have no doubt that what is in this Report is a true representation of what transpired during that interview.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said, I would be very brief. All the nominees are expected to do their best in the various ministries that they would be working in. The Ministry of Works is a very important Ministry in this country. The youths of this country are both our present and future leaders and therefore, we look forward to their being incorporated fully into national development. Tourism is also very important and lucrative industry in any country. Some countries in Africa get the greater part of their GDP or income from tourism. For instance, the tourism industries of Banjul and Senegal contribute greatly to their revenue base. In Sierra Leone, we have all the natural features for us to meet the tourist industry of the West African sub-region, but we are yet to fully develop our tourist industry. I hope that the Minister will take the Ministry

from where it is now to where we are expecting it to be. We want Sierra Leone to team up with tourists so that our local tourist industries will also benefit from the income that they leave here as they buy from our different tourist groups.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Judiciary is also a very important Arm of Government in this country. We need as many judges as we can afford because we have a lot of backlog cases. Mr Speaker, as those who spoke before me said, "justice delayed is justice denied." We hope that as we approve Mr Thomas, he would also work with those in the judiciary to ensure that our cases are speedily dealt with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would not sit down if I fail to say something about Honourable Kemoh Sesay. We were in this Parliament from 2002-2007. He was in this Parliament before we came. He sat on this side of the House and I am sure on the front bench of the opposition. He was a very wonderful debater in this House. He used to talk for hours. He liked to criticise a lot. We had very good relationship when he was here as a Member of Parliament. He was later appointed as member of the Pan African Parliament. And even now, any time we go for the Pan African Parliament Conference, people always ask for him. This is because people still remember him for his vibrant speeches in the Pan African Parliament (*Applause*). So, we are happy that he has been nominated to serve in the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs, a Ministry that was previously managed by Honourable Alpha Khanu.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Honourable Kemoh Sesay himself has said, that Ministry is a Ministry that is dealing with all the political parties in Sierra Leone and not just one political party. It is a delicate Ministry, especially from the fact that though he is an APC member and he is being nominated by APC led government, but his work is going to cut across all in his capacity. Therefore, he must be impartial in the way he deals with issues emanating from political parties. He must ensure that he bridges the gap between all political parties in the country, be they women or youths. He has to ensure that peace and harmony is in place. He must ensure that there is peaceful

coexistence and political tolerance between political parties to the extent that political parties should under his leadership come together regularly and frequently to discuss issues that are pertinent to the development of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposed Minister of Political and Public Affairs should not only concern himself with issues bordering on violence, misunderstanding and confrontation, but he should ensure that political parties come together as a real and genuine project to look at issues of national interest with a view to harnessing their goals and their energy. If he could do that, then, he can reduce the political tension within the country. He can reduce the mistrust between and among political parties in this country. Political violence is no longer needed in Sierra Leone. Elections are over; and all of us must work together as one. The President should be the father of the nation. He should embrace everybody in this country. He should be tolerant, forgiving and merciful. These are things you have to be communicating to the President. I am saying this because as a father, it is not everything that your children do that you take drastic action against them. Sometimes you have to ignore them and say these are my children. In any group of people, you have good and bad ones. As adults, when children get to the adolescent stage, they become troublesome. But as they grow up, they become mature and experienced. I want you to pass this message to the President. Mr Speaker, Honourable Kemoh Sesay has to be magnanimous in his work with all political parties. A good number of people are still in the various prisons in Sierra Leone

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about my sister from Koinadugu District, Madam Feremusu Konteh. I again want to welcome her for the second time she is appearing before us. During the last Parliament, she was here for approval. Today, she is here for approval to serve in a different capacity. I only hope and pray that she gives her best. She has travelled extensively. You have to do your best to prove yourself in that Ministry.

With this Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage Honourable House to speedily approve the nominees before us. We wish them good luck in their new appointments. I want them to work very hard. Let them put Sierra Leone first and political parties and other considerations second. If they do this, they would give their best and Sierra Leone would benefit from their work. I thank you very much *(Applause across the Floor)*.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA *(Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business)*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, we have five nominees before us today. In the case of the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Honourable Komba Koedoyoma has said it all. He is being proposed to go to that Ministry as the political head of that Ministry. And Mr Speaker, by his dress code this morning, you can see a reflection of what he is going to be as a Minister of Cultural Affairs *(Laughter)*. He is very prepared for the job as he accepted during his interview.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the case of Ishmael Al-Sankoh, I like the very brilliant contribution of the Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally. That contribution was very good; and I have no doubt that Mr Al-Sankoh will perform well. He has been very excited to the extent that he used to ask me Thus: Mr Leader, when do we come to Parliament?" I want to tell him that he is now in Parliament. We are ratifying his appointment today. He has been a very good man as presented or portrayed by Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally. Being a youth activist, I have no doubt that he would measure up to the expectations of the people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the case of Ms Feremusu Konteh, she had been a Deputy Minister before. Therefore, we have no doubt that she would continue to do her good job. The fact that she has been reappointed testifies to the fact that she must have done well in her former position. And for her in particular, and for the women in general, I have always said or we have all agreed that the age of women empowerment has arrived. So, we have to give more power to the women of this country. And for

some of the appointments that we are making, you can see that we are really demonstrating this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Honourable Alhaji Kemoh Sesay. Mr Speaker, when Honourable Komba Koedoyoma was making his contribution, my hair stood on end because of what he said about Honourable Kemoh Sesay. I have always said it in this Chamber that there are times when we are confronted with certain situations. We always talk about what I would like to call the 'paradoxes of life.' Here is a situation where Honourable Komba Koedoyoma taught Honourable Kemoh Sesay in school. Later, when he came to Parliament, Honourable Kemoh Sesay was already here, therefore, Kemoh Sesay had to teach him Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma. Mr Speaker, the same thing applies to me. The same thing applies to S. B. B. Dumbuya, the Leader of this House that is speaking now about Kemoh Sesay. With your leave Mr Speaker, I want to elaborate a little on that. Mr Speaker, Honourable Kemoh Sesay calls me *Kotho* S. O. 2. It means 'brother.' Even when I met him in this Parliament, he used to call me *Kotho*. And he still calls me *Kotho* because S.O. 2 Mr Speaker "mi na di big wan." But that notwithstanding, I had to learn from Honourable Kemoh Sesay. I had to learn from him when we came to this Parliament. We met him here. Before we came here, he had been a Member of Parliament. This small book, the Standing Orders is a deceptive book. This is because it is difficult to understand. New members would begin to agree with me that it is not an easy book at all. But believe you me Mr Speaker, this man, Honourable Kemoh Sesay had a mastery of the Standing Orders of this Parliament. On many occasions, whenever I had difficulty with a particular of the Standing Orders, I would go to Honourable Kemoh Sesay for edification; and he would respectfully say: "*Kotho le wi kam sidon.*" He would never make any mistake in not calling me *Kotho*. He kept on saying *Kotho*. He was a master of the Standing Orders of this House. And many of us at the time almost without exception benefitted from him. So, I agree with what the Honourable Komba Koedoyoma has said about him. He is a

small boy in the sense that if my good friend, Honourable Komba Koedoyoma is saying that he taught this man, then he is a small boy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Kemoh Sesay is my example of a conscientious, dedicated and ruthlessly efficient worker. There was ample demonstration of this during the time he served in this Parliament. As Chairman of the Committee over which he presided, and in the discharge of multifarious duties with which he was assigned, he proved his mettle to the satisfaction and admiration of all of us. He was a foremost debater in Parliament and was generally admired by almost everybody. And even before then, according to the testimony of his colleagues who were with him in Parliament, he was highly regarded because of the soundness of his argument either in support or in opposition to a proposition. Honourable Kemoh Sesay's argument will always carry conviction; perhaps I will say that again Mr Speaker, either in support or in opposition to a proposition. His arguments always carry conviction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the Honourable Minority Leader has said, and this is again where this man was my senior. Though this man calls me Kɔthɔ, he went to the Pan-African Parliament before us. And Mr Speaker, the present President of Ghana were all in one Committee. I belonged to the Committee of International Relations. And in those days, each time another candidate that contested for the presidency in Ghana would always ask for Honourable Kemoh Sesay. Later, when Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai joined us in the Pan-African Parliament, Ghanaians are always saying that Sierra Leoneans are very articulate. And any time such accolade is expressed, I am reminded of people like Honourable Kemoh Sesay. His name is still in the annals of the Pan African Parliament. Mr Speaker, this man used to be and he is still a vibrant debater. But I can assure you that we are following your examples. If you ask members of the Pan-African Parliament, they will tell you about Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya
(Laughter and Applause).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say something about Mr Valesius Thomas. Mr Speaker, there is a term, particularly when referring to Lawyers people are using wrongly. The word is legal luminary. That is, if somebody qualifies today and begins to practice tomorrow, people will call him a legal luminary. I think that is very wrong. But Mr Speaker, Valesius Thomas is one lawyer I would refer to as a legal luminary. I have two people in mind, the late Cyrus Rogers Wright and Berthan Macauley. There may be others but these were legal luminary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you talk about the word luminary, the word itself comes from the Latin word Lumen lumini, meaning light. Therefore, when you talk of luminary, a second meaning of luminary is 'a notable person in a given field.' A third definition is 'someone that is an inspiration to others, one who has achieved in his chosen field.' In this light Mr Speaker, I present Valesius Thomas today as someone of the legal luminaries that we can appropriately talk about in this country. I normally read in the newspapers, referring to lawyers as legal luminaries. They not at all. You must have been an outstanding somebody in the field, exceptionally good in this field. Mr Valesius Thomas is such an individual. The Speaker belongs to the noble breed of Durham. I will talk about that.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, is the Speaker one of the nominees?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, most people do not know Valesius Thomas because if you look at him, he is not of the ostentatious type. He does not belong to the category of lawyers who are known for what I would call flamboyant gestures. Mr Valesius Thomas attended a school that virtually had no recognition at the time. But believe you me that school had some very brilliant people. The name of the school is the Peninsular Secondary school. Mr Speaker, in those days, when Valesius Thomas went to school, if you did very well in your O' Level, you will have a national scholarship. It is no longer applicable. Mr Valesius Thomas had two Bs and a C. That was almost distinction. And that was how he came to have a national scholarship. That

was also how he decided to go to Britain to study law. He is a very brilliant man. For that reason, we give him the green light to assume the position of a Supreme Court Judge. And there is another attestation here. Normally, when you want to promote a practicing Barrister, you promote him to the Bench. But you begin as a High Court Judge, then the Appeal Court and the Supreme Court, which is highest court of the land. But here is somebody, a practicing Barrister who has been nominated to go to the highest court of the land. That means he must have been a very successful person.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that we approve the nomination of all the nominees before us. Thank you very much

(Question proposed put and agreed to)

(Motion of the committee on appointment was unanimously ratified)

THE SPEAKER: It is now my pleasure to congratulate you in your respective endeavours. I wish you well and hope you will live up to expectation. I refer to an answer given by one of you during your interview. I am paraphrasing it. 'I have however realised that criticism without the willingness to make positive contribution does not bring about imaginable change.' This statement is saying a lot. In this country, people talk too much. People criticise and it is now popular amongst both young and old. It is not taking us anywhere. Some people are shy of accepting appointments because they do not want to come to the forefront. Do the best you can and satisfy your conscience. You cannot satisfy everybody. There are certain things or endeavours some of you are embarking on which are highly sensitive. I dare say I am losing confidence in certain institutions now. And it is your solemn duty to try and bring sanity to these institutions in the best way you can. You might not find friends along the line, but you are not there to make friends. You are going to serve the country. And when your days are gone, you go away and posterity will talk about you. Contemporary society people can say anything they like. I congratulate you again and goodbye.

IV. MOTION OF ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO THE FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTS.

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW TEAMBO

SECONDER: HON. J.B. MANSARAY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFY THE UNDER-MENTIONED MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTS.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the motion of election of Members of Parliament to the following parliaments. Mr Speaker the respective protocol of the Pan African Parliament and that of ECOWAS state that if you are a member you continue to retain your membership until you lose an election. If you win your seat your membership continues or where there are vacancies then they should be filled, this is what is intended by this motion. But at the same time we need a renewed ratification by the House. So, this motion will be proposed by the Honourable Mathew Teambo and seconded by Honourable Jusufu J. B. Mansaray.

HON. MATHEW TEAMBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the following Honourable Members of Parliament to serve in different international organisations:

PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

1. HON. SHEKU B.B. DUMBUYA
2. HON. DR. BERNADETTE LAHAI
3. HON. P.C BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III
4. HON. ISATA KABIA
5. HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY new members

ACP-EU PARLIAMENT

1. HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU
2. HON. ALPHA BABATUNDE LEWALLY
3. HON. ALICE FOYAH

ECOWAS PARLIAMENT

1. HON. MABINTY FORNAH
2. HON. P.C VICTOR SIDI KEBBIE
3. HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH
4. HON.. AUGUTINE B. TORTO
5. HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE

HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, I second the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question proposed put and agreed to)

(The motion was ratified)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to wish you all a happy and pleasant International Women's Day on Saturday. It has been declared a public holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.42 a.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 4th March, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)