

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

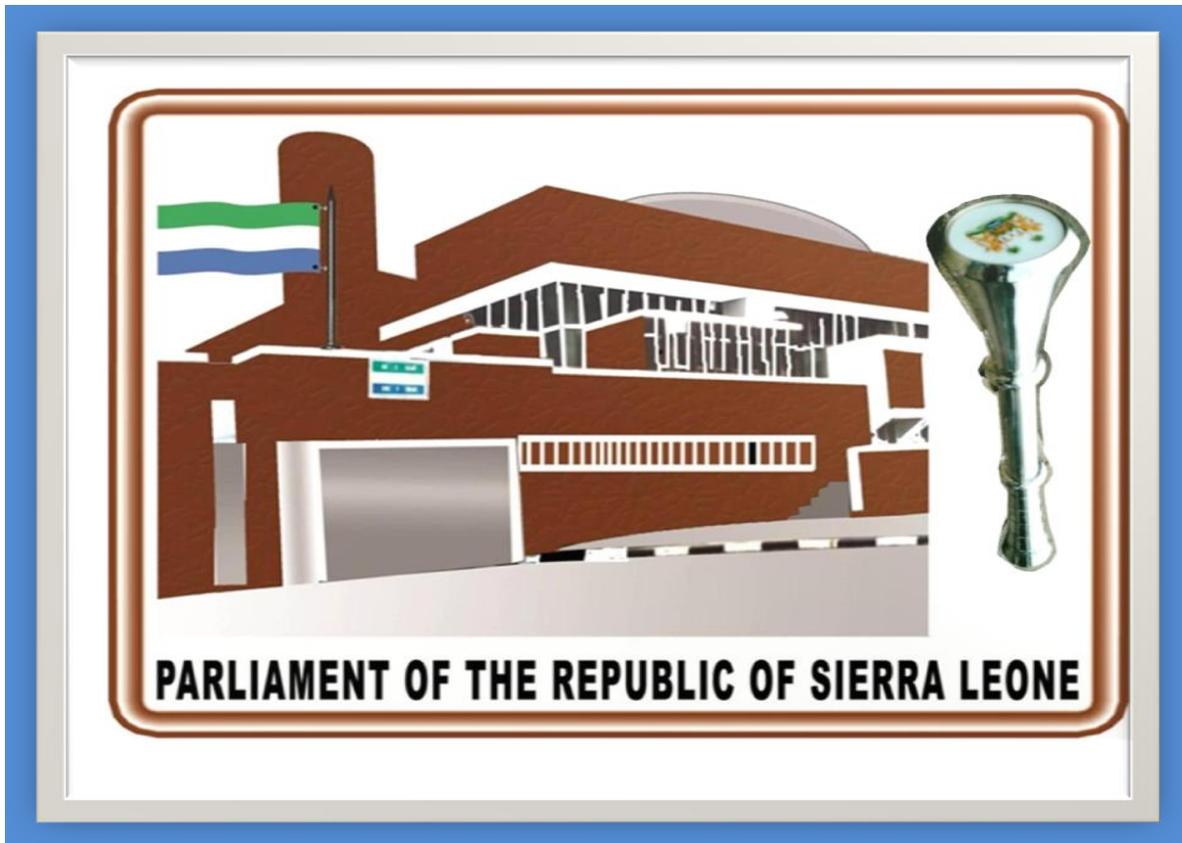
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2016

SESSION – 2015/2016



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PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 6th October, 2016.

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Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 6th October, 2016.

The House met at 10:28 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5(2)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we proceed to the next item, I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming every one of you back to Parliament after the long vacation. I take it that everybody, including the Honourable Abie Kalokoh had a very exciting vacation.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2016

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, I wanted to talk with one of the clerks in respect of the laying of papers.

THE SPEAKER: I will grant you that, Honourable Member.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: The Chairman is out of the country on official assignment and I think I should stand on his behalf as deputy Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to lay the Paper. In that regard, I want to make an amendment sir.

THE SPEAKER: Did you communicate that to the Leader of this House? Procedurally, the Leader of this House should be the one asking for an amendment on the Order Paper.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Well, Mr Speaker, he has heard me.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me join you in welcoming back our colleagues. I want to amend the Order Paper to allow the Deputy Chairman, Honourable Komba E. Koedoyoma, to lay the said Paper on the Table of the House, since the substantive Chairman is unavoidably absent. Thank you.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, in view of that, I want the Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai, who is not here at the moment, for somebody to step in for her. That is all part of the amendment of the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I just wondered why the amendment has not been done on the Order Paper. I am saying this because before Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai left, she did tell me that the second in command in the Pan-African Parliament delegation should take up the lead on her behalf; and the second in command here is the Honourable Muluku Sulaiman Sisay by virtue of seniority. So, he was going to stand in for her. I thought that could have been reflected in the amendment that was made on the Order Paper. However, we take it that it is amended.

HON. MULUKU SULAIMAN SISAY: Mr Speaker, I take it that that has already been amended. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 20th July, 2016. As usual, Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, my name is spelt 'S-i-d-I,' but it should be spelt as 'S-i-d-i-e.'

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please have that corrected. Page 8? There being no other amendment or correction can somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 20th July, 2016, as amended?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. SONGOWA BUNDU: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 20th July, 2016 has been unanimously adopted as amended].

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House 'Audit on the Procurement Activities in Selected Public Sector Entities for the period January to October, 2015 [*Applause*].

[B] HON. MULUKU SULAIMAN SISAY [*Member to the Sierra Leone Delegation to the Pan-African Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai [Leader of the Delegation], I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following Reports of the Pan-African Parliament [PAP]:

Report of the 27th February to the 4th March, 2016;

Report of the 27th April to the 13th May, 2016; and

Report of the 1st March to the 7th 2016. Thank you Mr Speaker [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Honourable Komba is an oldhand in Parliament and he would not make such mistake. The Honourable Muluku Sulaiman Sisay has been in this Parliament for quite some time. I want to apologise on his behalf.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my capacity as Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, I beg to lay on the Table [on behalf of the Minister of Political Affairs], the Annual Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the year ended 2015 [*applause*].

[C] THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

THE MINISTER: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following documents:

The Petroleum Regulatory Agency [Downstream Petroleum Regulations, 2016];

The Petroleum Regulatory Agency Act, 2004 [Act No.3 of 2014]; and

Statutory Instrument No. 8 of 2016.

[D] THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

MR MOMODU KARGBO [*Minister of Finance and Economic Development*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following documents as outlined on the Order Paper:

- Bank of Sierra Leone Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December, 2015;

- Financing Agreement Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project in West Africa [Redisse] - Sierra Leone Project under the First Phase of the Resisse between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association, dated 4th August, 2016;
- Financing Agreement [Health Service Delivery and System Support Project], between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association, dated 4th August, 2016;
- Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Trust Fund Grant Agreement [Health Service Delivery and System Support Project], between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association [Acting as Administrator for the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Trust Fund], dated 4th August, 2016;
- Dollar Credit Line Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Export-Import Bank of India, dated 11th August, 2016;
- Terrorism Prevention [Freezing of International Terrorists Fund and other related Measures] [Amendment] Regulations, 2016 ;
- the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2012 [Act No. 2 of 2012]; and
- Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2016.

[E] THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DR GIBRIL SESAY [Deputy Minister [I], Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay before

this Honourable House the following documents as outlined on the Order Paper:

[I] THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE;

[II] The MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY;

[III] THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZADOUS CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE;

[IV] THE BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL;

[V] THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIL AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; AND

[VI] THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

HON. IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SESAY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: The Office of the Clerk would like to inform Honourable Members that the Biometric Registration Machine to capture the attendance data for all Members of Parliament has been installed and registration starts today.

THE SPEAKER: It has been installed and is now fully operational.

HON. IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SESAY: Yes, Mr Speaker. It has been installed and is now fully operational. Registration starts today and Members of Parliament are respectfully requested to cooperate with the Officer-in-charge of the IT Department in ensuring that the personal data of every Member of Parliament is captured. The machine is outside where you sign and it is consistent with parliamentary practice.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie was saying that he just signed this morning. If the machine was operational, it should have started.

HON. IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SESAY: Mr Speaker, today's registration is meant to capture their data, since all Members of Parliament are present today. It has been installed, but we were unable to get all Members of Parliament to start the registration. Members are requested to start the registration immediately after sitting.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, let me render my disappointment at the Clerk of this House. I believe our information are with Clerk's office from the very first day. Besides, the Clerk knows every Member of Parliament by name, constituency, telephone number, etc. I was expecting him to have used those information to register every Member of Parliament. It would have been easier for Members of Parliament to thumbprint. If the Clerk is talking about information today, I am disappointed, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, I don't want to open any debate on that, but as from today, let no Member of Parliament be marked absent. I said so simply because the machine had not been made to be fully operational. So, we take it that when every name has been captured, we start effectively as from the next sitting.

HON. SUAHILO M. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O. 19, in tandem with S.O. 20 and Section 107 [2][a]&[b] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Section 107 2[a]&[b].

HON SUAHILO M. KOROMA: I want to place a question for the Minister of Energy to come to this House and tell the people of this country and this Parliament on the recent increase in electricity tariff. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I take it that you know the procedure, so you liaise with the Clerk.

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am standing on S.O. 23 to draw the attention of this House to a notice on the newspapers, informing the public about an intended increase in the price of Passports. With the leave of Mr Speaker, the public notice reads, "Due to the ongoing devaluation of the Leone against the United States Dollars, we wish to bring it to the notice of the general public that selling price of the Passport was fixed 100 United States Dollars which was more than 500,000 Leones last October. Today, to purchase 100 United States Dollars the equivalent in Leones is 750,000. The company that has been producing the e-passport is doing it at a loss and in order to provide continued services and with removal of the subsidy by the government since 2015. The effective price from 1st November, 2016 is now 750,000.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, is that an official notification or just a newspaper publication?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, it is an official notification.

THE SPEAKER: Official notification, Honourable Member?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: It is an official public notice, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am afraid Honourable Member.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, with that public notice, I want to draw the attention of Immigration Department and this Honourable House to Section 110 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please don't go into that because it would be premature to go into that now. In the first place, I want the authenticity to be established. Mr Clerk, are you aware of this notice officially?

HON. IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SESAY: Not at all, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Well, until we have official communication to the effect, let us not say anything on that now. I know the implications better than you do, Honourable Member. So, I would respectfully ask that we put a hold on that issue.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Since we all know the implications, we expect the Immigration Department to know the implications and to be advised accordingly.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the Immigration Department should be advised that there is a Statutory Instrument to the effect and figures are quoted on the Statutory Instrument and the Statutory Instrument passed by Parliament is a law.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, I stand on 23. Many a times, Members of Parliament have castigated the Leadership, S.O 2, 'Leadership nor dae do well.' This time round, when leadership do the right thing, we have to say it. Let me personally say thank you to the Leadership, but especially the Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu, who has been defending Members of Parliament on issues raised against Members of Parliament during the vacation. This is how I do my politics. You praise where there is praise and criticise where there is criticism. I want, on behalf of myself and the entire membership of this Parliament to say thanks to the leadership, particularly Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu. Thank you very much for defending us.

HON. MOHAMED THOLLEY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. Mr Speaker, I want to bring this notice to you and the rest of this Honourable House that on the 29th of September, rain and heavy storm completely destroyed 38 houses in Tange Village, Sewa Section, Bo District. This has left my people stranded and the only school I have in that village is now where my people are presently staying. I am calling on this House, the government and well-meaning Sierra Leoneans to intervene.

The second thing I want to talk about, which is very serious in this nation is security. I want to inform this Honourable House that youth are misunderstanding the message of His Excellency the President of this nation when he said "I will die for the youth." To me, the President meant those youth who were ready to discover and develop their skills would be given the opportunity to do so. In other words, as long as you are ready ready to push, he is equally ready as an individual and as the President of this nation to ensure that you realise your potentials. But the youth are taking on themselves to do the wrong things, Mr Speaker. They are killing innocent people and are doing all sorts of wickedness against peaceful Sierra Leoneans. I must say that we seem to be giving problems to the Sierra Leone police. That is, we are not allowing the police to do their rightful jobs. In fact, whenever the police are called to quell down a situation, we are the very people who will be mummuring against the police that they have used weapons against the youth. If we do not give the police chance to do their job, we are the very people condoling lawlessness in this country. It is not about the youth are not happy. To me, that should not even warrant them to destroy innocent lives and property. It is not about this Mr Speaker, we need really to give the security apparatus the strength to do this job. A good number of people who are saying that the police are using live bullets on these people are the very people sponsoring these youth. I want to believe we must give the police chance to do their job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my people in Connstituency 070 within the township of Bo have sleepless nights. Armed robbers are all over the place and they are terrorising the people of that locality. Interestly, Mr Speaker, these criminals have

people to represent them in court. I know that they have that right to be represented, but it is not their right to be disturbing peaceful Sierra Leoneans. To me, Mr Speaker, we need to look into some of these issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the last thing I want to talk about is the microphones that are not working in this House. To me, it sounds not too good to see microphones on the other side of the House working perfectly, whilst those on this other side are not working. This is absurd, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Mohamed Tholley, you are an Honourable Member and I am not expecting you to sound parochial. This is an issue the Leadership of this House is going to address.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speak. Over the past several months, we conceded the fact that the Economy of this country was being buffeted by factors beyond the control of the Executive. We all know that the Ebola Virus is not good and most of you did participate in fighting the Ebola Virus. I want to inform this House that that affected our capacity to generate the necessary income for the running of the State. Besides, most of us here also understand the difficulties confronting the State when the commodity prices went down and when the price of iron ore, which was generating copious funds for the State underwent difficulties. What I want to state, Mr Speaker, and later I will come with further notification about recent 'Press Release,' circulated by the Government through the Leadership of the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma with one serious move to achieve two things.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, point of order. Mr Speaker, S. O. 23 is personal explanation, but the Honourable Member from Bombali is going through Press Release that has nothing personally to explain to this House.

THE SPEAKER: I have been listening whether there is going to be a digression. There has not been any digression yet.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. There is no digression here. I am nearly coming to the final point which will be understood by my

colleague on the other side of this House. I want us to do two things this morning. The first thing is that, we have a Government that is honest enough to accept the fact that we are going through difficulties. And in State Governance, Mr Speaker, when a State is buffeted by problems... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, may I interject at this point. The Clerk of this House has just intimated that by yesterday, he called somebody for official communication on what you are now saying. So, I believe that what you are saying is already a public property. We should have an official notification in that regard, Honourable Member. Therefore, I want to respectfully ask that we put that on hold for now *[Applause]*.

HON IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Speaker, apart from the details that will be given to us, I want us to congratulate the President and his Executive for conceding that we must put mechanisms in place to address those issues.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, I am sure I will be speaking the mind of every Member of Parliament because the President has done well in coming up with this announcement, but let us not make it a topic of debate as at now *[Applause]*.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I concede to your observations and will therefore take my seat until the appropriate time. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11.55 a.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 13th October, 2016, at 10.00 a.m.]