



# **PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

***ON THE:***

***PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA, ON THE OCCASION OF STATE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2012.***

***FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY***

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2013**

***SESSION – 2012/2013***



# **PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE PARLIAM E N T A R Y D E B A T E S**

***ON THE:***

***PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA, ON THE OCCASION OF STATE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2012.***

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**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 Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

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## **C O N T E N T S**

### **I. PRAYERS**

### **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.**

### **III. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR ERNEST BAI KOROMA**

PROPOSER: HONONOURABLE IBRAHIM BUNDU

SECONDER: HONOURABLE ISATTA KABIA

BE IT RESOLVED:

*"THAT WE THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HERE ASSEMBLED WISH TO THANK HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE ADDRESS HE SO GRACIOUSLY DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OPENING OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2012"*

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)



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, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 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

## **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2013**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we have in our hands the record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

**HON. P.C. FASULUKU:** Mr Speaker, Page 6.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief what is your observation?

**HON. P. C. FASULUKU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker there is a mistake on No.7, items 2 and 5. They have the same components Sir. Item 2 says: Committee on Transport, Information and Communications." Item 5 is saying the same thing as item 2. Another observation is that, the Committee on Labour and Industrial Relations met yesterday but that meeting is not captured here.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, let us take it one after the other. You were saying that No. 7, items 2 and 5 are identical?

**HON. P. C. FASULUKU:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, please take the necessary action.

**HON. P. C. FASULUKU:** There was a meeting held by the Committee on Labour and Industrial Relations yesterday. It is not included here.

**THE SPEAKER:** It ought not to be included here Honourable Member.

**HON. P. C. FASULUKU:** But there was an announcement in relation to that Committee yesterday.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, there was an announcement that the Committee on Labour and Industrial Relations would be meeting at a particular place and all its details.

**HON. P.C FASULUKU:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** We have finished with Page 6. Can somebody move that record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 be adopted as amended?

**HON. P. C. ALEX M. J. J. KAINPUMA:** Mr Speaker I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. MABINTY K. SILLAH:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

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

*(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 was unanimously adopted as amended)*

**HON. ISATA KABIA:** As I stated yesterday, the foundation we inherited in 2007 was a foundation of deficit. In the past five years of the Agenda for Change, the infrastructure deficit has been greatly reduced with highways and feeder road networks. Makeni-Matotoka Highway is about 35 kilometres, Bo-Kenema Highway is about 65 kilometres, Kenema-Pendembu Highway is 86 kilometres, Masiaka-Bo Highway is about 164 kilometres etc. Therefore, I would like to say here that my greatest concern about the Lumley-Tokeh road is not the fact that the pay back rate is 2% nor the fact that the pot holes that currently exist during construction, but the fact that the loan preceding had to be repeated due to the pot holes that existed in the fiscal management of the original fund to such an extent that in 2007, there was almost a collapse of our Commercial Bank with no tangible results to show for the funds that was squandered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Agriculture productivity has increased greatly. Initially, based on the increased allocation from 2% in 2007 to 10% in 2011, increased cash crop and exports resulted in great earnings for cocoa from 2.2 million dollars in

2006, to nearly 8 million dollars in 2008. In 2010, the sum of 37.1 million dollars was realised, making us the champions of agricultural productivity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, up to 2007, Sierra Leone was the worst place on earth for pregnant women to live. Now, there has been more than 50% reduction in the death rate related to pregnancy conditions in public hospitals. Our Free Health Care Programme is a model for the world. America, as the richest nation could not afford free health care for their most vulnerable citizens. Our Free Health Care is the best in Africa. For example, we have free malaria treatments. Over 200 health centres have been constructed in all districts. There are maternity and pediatric hospitals under construction in five districts in this country. Presently, there is approximately 250% increase in the number of under-five out patients' consultations. We have the most reduced medicine theft in Africa. It saddens me to hear the Honourable from Constituency 076 crying about the lack of Free Health Care in her constituency. I would like to advocate that she endeavours to improve on the monitoring systems in that constituency so that our people in her constituency can also taste the fruits of prosperity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before 2008, Sierra Leone was known as the darkest city in the world, yet, within the first 100 days of the First Term of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma led Government, 18 Mega Watts of energy was generated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agenda for Change had established strategies for poverty reduction and paved the way for economic growth in the country. The Agenda for Change was not abandoned. It was accomplished and has addressed issues that were largely ignored in the previous 11 years led Government of the S.L.P.P.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the Honourable Member from Moyamba eloquently put it, this Speech: "from pep to perep" (i.e. from start to finish) is about the youths of this nation. And there is good reason for that Mr Speaker. This President has laid the foundation for the next step in terms of youth development in this country. The

“lumpen” syndrome that pre-existed in the war created a ready-made market for rebel to recruit our youths. We don’t want history to repeat itself at all. We want to make sure that our youths are well catered for. The problems of unskilled and unqualified youths were compounded with inefficient actions in the post-conflict era. That is why the youths between the ages of 18-35 cannot be washed away by a magic wand and cannot be taken away at all. We can only reduce it to tangible and comprehensive plans of action. Corrective measures must be taken to ensure that our youths are brought up to the standard where they can be part of our development drive. We want our youths to be provided with skills and education. This is because they hold the key to our nation’s success. I have witnessed in a regular basis youths from all over the country clustered in my constituency, waiting for a London Mining job. The private sector development strategy within the Agenda for Change has created this new phenomenon, migration of youths from Freetown to other parts of the country in search of jobs to companies like the London Mining, African Minerals, Addax and many others. We have the responsibility of organising employment strategies. Previously, there were no employment opportunities in the country. Increased employment opportunities in the private sector can only be accessed by addressing our capacity constraints. The youths in my constituency need to access these opportunities to focus on training and improved coordination. That is why this President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma has made them the focus of his next five years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to advice the Honourable from Constituency 85 not to repeat the divisive myth of unemployment of Mende names. These names are abundantly employed in my constituency by the London Mining Company. Instead, I would caution her to call on her youths to dress appropriately when they appear for interviews (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we asked for 30% representation as women, we are not asking for any favour. We are merely asking for the opportunity to serve this great nation. We are asking for the chance to prove that women can do something. Since these minimum rights of representation are in the TRC Report, not a single

conversation is heard about them until when this particular President came to governance. Let us not politicise the 30% Quota for women. We should not politicise the 10% Quota for youths and the physically challenged in this country. Let us make it a reality. We have the political will, but a lot of people did not want this to become a success before the elections. President Barack Obama, on his visit to Ghana said: "*African does not need strong men. Africa needs strong institutions.*" What he meant when he said that statement was that Africa needs strong institutions and women. All the women that have been appointed have been highlighted by other Honourable Members. But I would like to also mention that for the first time in the history of Sierra Leone, we have a gender responsive budget established and a socio protection budget initiated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are only two possible directions in which we can go as a nation, forward into prosperity or backward into despair. I humbly submit that the people of this nation have spoken. They have spoken and endorsed a second and final term for this most democratic President. They have decided to continue our march in the right direction. The smallest word in the English dictionary makes the most difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind our friends from across the ayes that the SLPP is the Government in opposition and not a Government of opposition. The mark of good governance is to raise expectations. You did so much that the people expected more.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry Honourable Member, I do refer you again to a statement made by a Honourable Member that in Fourah Bay College, you have to pay for education, but in Parliament, you have it free.

**HON. ISATA KABIA:** The mark of good governance is that you raise expectations of the governed. You give them so much hope that they expect more. Our people are expecting more based on the work they've seen in the last five years. We want a strong and objective opposition. This is because we want to do more. The Agenda for Change

is the foundation upon which the Agenda for Prosperity stands. I hope and I pray that all of us here today and those Ministers approved by this Parliament would prove to be the ingredients that would assist our President to fast track us to prosperity, so that Sierra Leone would no longer be the equivalent of a dance that is walked or a song that is spoken (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, may God guide and direct us all as we go through this five year term. May prosperity be delivered to the people of this nation through the arms of Judiciary, the Legislature, and the Executive? I stand here for our President in acknowledgement of the work he has done in appreciation for the plans ahead and gratitude for the commitment he has shown to this nation. God bless Sierra Leone, God bless our President and God bless us all (*Applause*).

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by introducing myself as Honourable Paramount Chief Joseph Alie Kavura Kongomoh II of Moyamba District. I have 13 other Paramount Chiefs in my district. And I am the 14<sup>th</sup> representing them in this Parliament. Mr Speaker, this is my first speech in this Well and I have listened to a lot of speakers. With their speeches, I am now comfortable to deliver mine. Initially, I was not comfortable at all. But I am now comfortable Mr Speaker. I want to draw the attention of the House to Section 74(1).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount, Section 74(1) of what?

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Mr Speaker, Section 74(1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** Section 74 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone?

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry Honourable Paramount Chief, you have directed this House to Section 74 (1).

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Yes Mr Speaker, Section 74(1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. You may proceed Honourable Paramount Chief.

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 74(1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone says: "*Members of Parliament shall comprise the following (a) one Member of Parliament for each district who shall subject to the provision of the Constitution be elected in such manner as...*" The reason for quoting the Constitution is because I want to call the attention of this House that Paramount Chiefs are the oldest and first in this House. And they are always in Parliament. The party of the Paramount Chiefs does not go out at all. Paramount Chiefs are always in Parliament. APC, SLPP can go, but the Paramount Chiefs are always in Parliament. The PMDC has gone, but we the Paramount Chiefs are here. We always have the governing party, the opposition party and then, the advisers. A speaker last said that Paramount Chiefs are neglected and forgotten. That statement is reflecting here. In most cases they forget that we are here. The argument would just be between the Opposition Party and the Government.

**THE SPEAKER:** I hope the Speaker does not contribute to that.

**HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA KONGOMOH II:** Somebody had just said that Paramount Chiefs are not politicians. But Paramount Chiefs are the first people to be mentioned by the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone to be in Parliament. It depends on the perception of people about what politics is all about. To me, I think Paramount Chiefs are the greatest politicians in this country. This is it is not easy to be become Paramount Chiefs. But when once one is elected as Paramount Chief, he/she is a Paramount Chief for life. Members of Parliament are only coming to Parliament for a period of time. I am not here to deviate from what I want to present at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my speech here is going to reflect the role of Paramount Chief as far as governance issues are concerned. One of the primary roles of

the Paramount Chiefs is to advise the Government on the customs and traditions of our people. This is what I want to bring up here today. I have listened to people who have spoken before. But I want to state one thing today. There is one rule that we must adhere to. If we all obey that rule, there would be no need for a Parliament. There would be no need for police and even Judiciary. That rule is the Golden Rule. That rule says that we must be kind, sincere and true to others as you would like them be to you. When people stand up to talk in this Parliament, they forget the past and concentrate on the present. They even forget about the future. As Paramount Chiefs, we are here to advice you not to forget the past, but to build on it. You have to build on the past whilst you are in the present to ensure prosperity in the future. We forget the fact that somebody started governance in Sierra Leone. Somebody started the existence of this Parliament we are seated in today. That person started with a political party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that political party I am talking about is still in Parliament. That political party gave birth to a child, and that child is also in Parliament today. When two children are fighting, the father should be there to see and watch the way both children are talking. That is what we are doing here as Paramount Chiefs. I want to remind you Honourable Members that we have to be careful the way we talk. I am not a lawyer, but I am qualified only to come to Parliament because of Section 75(e) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. I can speak English very well. Though it is not my native language, if I was asked to address this House in the language I know best, perhaps it would have been very wonderful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring your attention to something I found very interesting. I was given a form to list down the priorities of my constituency in Moyamba District. In Moyamba District, we have 14 chiefdoms. And there are chiefdoms that are bigger than mine. All 14 chiefs elected me to represent them in this Parliament. I am not just representing those paramount chiefs in my chiefdom. I go with the feeling that I am representing the people as well. In order to represent the people, they gave me 6 other Members of Parliament, otherwise known as the Ordinary Members of Parliament. If I had my way, I would have made it possible for three

Members to be on this side and three on the other side of this Honourable House. But out of 6 Members, there is only one Member of Parliament on the Government side and 5 are on the opposition side. So, I want to inform this House that there are 14 chiefdoms in Moyamba District. God rightly divided us into 2 equal parts. There are 7 non-Kpa-Mende and 7 Kpa-Mende Chiefdoms. God also made it possible that we have 2 Kpa-Mende female Paramount Chiefs and 2 non-Kpa-Mende female Paramount Chiefs. And in this House, I was expecting equal numbers and that is what happened. We have 3 male Ordinary Members of Parliament and 3 females. Mr Speaker, this is how God is working mysteriously in my constituency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was asked to give the priority of my district, I wrote peace. I am replacing a Reverend, Rev. Dr Yovonnie. May his soul rest in perfect peace. I wrote peace, order, security, good governance and development. I want chiefdom governance to be improved and the conditions of Paramount Chiefs of Moyamba District. If the Paramount Chiefs of Moyamba District catch the eyes of the President, I know that all the 149 chiefdoms in this country will be improved. In Paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of the President Speech, the caption says: "*Strengthening Chiefdom Governance.*" The President has an aim to strengthen chiefdom governance in this country. I want personally thank him for this, it is the greatest part of all that is written in this Speech. I can say thank you very much Mr President for your intention. And I want to remind those who are just coming for the first time in this House that this is our first Presidential Address we are debating. We cannot go back to the 2007 Presidential Address. We are not going to focus on that Address. Our focus now is on this present Presidential Address.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody mentioned that the President in his Speech used the phrase "*we will*" repeatedly. The president is the highest of the leaders contracted by the people of Sierra Leone to govern them. But with the help of the legislative and Judicial Wings, when the laws are made in Parliament, which is the first and most important Organ, the judicial Organ is responsible to interpret these laws we are making in this House. They said we should debate the Address. To me, the Address

is a policy statement. It is easier written than done. If this Speech is going to be implemented as written, the least man in the village will realise the Agenda for Prosperity that we are driving towards. But sometimes, when the phrase "*New Direction*" is mentioned in this Well, people become uncomfortable. We cannot go to the end of this prosperity until we take a "*New Direction*." What is this New Direction? Please take note Honourable Members. It is not the New Direction of the SLPP. I don't know what they meant when they coined that phrase. My own interpretation of the phrase New Direction is that, if three Arms of Government bring their own ideas together as it is written here ("Strengthening Chiefdom Governance"), it will help to achieve the goals of the Agenda for Prosperity. The way some people perceive this is quite different from the way Paramount Chiefs perceive the "*New Direction*." Therefore, if we don't take a united direction, we will not progress to achieve the realities of the Agenda for Prosperity. United Direction is the way I personally perceive the New Direction. We have different perceptions of the new direction. We have different perceptions of the phrase: "*Agenda for Prosperity*."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some people said here that the Agenda for Change did not succeed. To me, it succeeded. The Agenda for Change has accomplished its aims and objectives. But how did it succeed? First of all I would like to a theological idea. In religion, both the Quran and the Bible are saying that we are all fighting for everlasting life. I want to assure everybody here that you are going to get everlasting life. Where are you going to spend your everlasting life? Is it in hell or heaven? How did the Agenda for Change affect you? Precisely, there was a change. The change could either be positive or negative. Be it positive or negative, a change is a change Mr Speaker. There were changes in road constructions. Mr Speaker, when they said the Agenda for Change is in tandem with Attitudinal Change, I asked my child what he understood by Attitudinal Change. Are you going to change your normal behaviour to something I will dislike? If a child used to wake up at 7:00 a.m. and changes that attitude to 6:00 a.m. that is a positive change Mr Speaker. But if the child changes the attitude of waking up at 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. it is a negative change. What we are here for is to help the

President achieve the positive aims he has set for this country. This is what is written in the Constitution. The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone charged us with the responsibility of making laws in order to bring peace and security. The President has nominated ministers to serve the people of this country. We have directed these nominees to the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. The Appointments Committee has interviewed these nominees and brought them to the Well for approval. Parliament has approved these nominees. Oversight Committees have been constituted to oversee these ministers. If we fail to perform our duties, all that is written here will fail at the end. And the people of this country will put the blame on Parliament. I am reminding you that we have a common name as parliamentarians, Honourable. Be you APC or SLPP, you are a parliamentarian. When we were not Members of Parliament, we blamed our colleagues. We said they were in Parliament, when the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone was presented to them. The Bill was presented to them and they did not say anything. But I am here today. What will I say about the Appropriation Bill? Should I deny the Bill when I know that it is going to affect me either positively or negatively? There are just 12 Paramount Chiefs in the Parliament. If we put it into a vote, we are going to loose. Therefore, let us bear this in mind when we advice, we mean good for this country. Do unto others as you would like do unto you. Today, the APC is in governance. It may be the SLPP tomorrow, or another party. I endorse the fact that Paramount Chiefs are to be neutral in the present day political dispensation. This is because in Fakunia, I have APC, SLPP, PMDC and all the Ps are there. If I chose to be in one party, am I not doing injustice to the other parties? That is why we have to be neutral. Our role here is to advice the government. We are here to give constructive advice to the Government. We would say Mr President, please allow people to say nonsense and remove the non and take the sense. If you remove the 'non' and take the 'sense,' you are going to become more sensible than the person who brought the nonsense.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Speech of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma is a proposal to what he wants to do in his next five years of office

as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. When people are debating this proposal, they must do so in order to correct where there are lapses and not to be destructive in criticising the good intentions of this proposal. Members of Parliament should not make undertones that have the potentials to destroy the good intentions a particular person wants to bring. Let us disagree to agree. Let us help our President to achieve this Agenda for Prosperity. If my children and I prosper while my constituents are suffering, that is no prosperity at all. It is only prosperity for me and my family.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Kono parliamentarians were saying that Kono District is without electricity. There are some people who have never touched an electric bulb. They have never seen one Mr Speaker. But if Freetown is given 24 hours electricity, do we have to say Sierra Leone is prospering? Do we expect prosperity to go to Tokombu, a village in my chiefdom that has only one house? They can only do it through what people are today seeing it in a condemned form known as 'Kabba Tiger.' How do we call the present electricity supply we now enjoy? Do we call it APC Light or Poor Man Light? What name can we give to it? But these are all changes. People do not struggle for kerosene any more as it used to be. They are presently struggling for batteries. Whosoever initiated that one, I see it as a change. That is my perception Mr Speaker. That is how I perceive good changes. Perhaps, that is what the President meant. When our brother, the founder of the APC, Dr Siaka P. Steven said: *"I have brought a lot of money, but while I was approaching Sierra Leone, the plane crashed and the money is scattered all over the place. If you go there to look for it, you will get it. If you are going to lay your back, you would remain poor."* The perception people had was that Siaka P. Steven was going to England, America and other countries to bring all the dollars and Euro to share to Sierra Leoneans. No! What Siaka Stevens meant was that you go back to the land and do hard work. Indeed, most of the issues that have been highlighted in this Speech are true. Those who are saying the Agenda for Change did not reach my village are speaking the truth. Those who are saying the Agenda for Change brought some changes in the lives of people are saying the truth. It affected them. Those who were not affected would definitely grumble Mr Speaker.

Nobody will be 100% satisfied with those in power. So, let the President realise this. I do enjoy whenever the Speaker says: "*Honourable Member, don't allow the undertone to destroy what you are intending to tell the people, go ahead*" (Laughter). I like that Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to my district, according to history, good things have always come from the Moyamba District. The Albert Academy we are talking about today started in Shenge. Education had its roots from the Moyamba District before we got the Fourah Bay College in Freetown. But the Moyamba District is as underdeveloped as any other underdeveloped place you can think of.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leonean leaders, including myself, want to be like Caesar. What touches them first shall last be served. Is this the way we want to be? Where can we get our produce? Like somebody was saying, where can we get foreign exchange when the roads are neglected? We praise the road from Freetown to Kenema because they are all paved. What about the road from Kenema to Pendembu? Where do we get our fish? That road is so deplorable Mr Speaker. A very big investment has been put into Shenge, which is the jetty. That is a big development. But how can we tap the resources from that place when there are no good roads. When we shall be implementing what is written in this Speech, I want the Government, including the ministers and the other functionaries depends on Parliament to achieve what the President has proposed. In fact, any process is not automatic. It is gradual Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if the President is listening to what I am saying here today, he will put premium on strengthening chiefdom governance in the country. Page 21, Paragraph 93 says that they are going to prepare a Bill for the chiefdom finances. If that Bill is passed, it will be alright. It will surprise anyone here. I have worked for 31 months without salary. We were only given salary for six months. The President said in this Speech that the chiefdom governance is the basis for all governance systems in the country. It is true Mr Speaker. That is why I want to thank him very much for this Speech. It is true that the chiefdom governance does the dirty job while those at the

echelon enjoy. We are with the grass root people. They are not afraid to wake us up at any time. They can come to knock at our doors any time. We know how they are suffering. Their conditions are so deplorable that we do pity them. To bring them from where they are to where the President wants them to be is not an easy task at all. It is going to be a gradual process. We have to be patient with the President. We have to help him achieve what he has proposed to do for the people of this country. As Members of Parliament, we have to help the President by making laws to actualise what is written in this Speech. I am urging the Oversight Committees to perform their functions well so that the ministries can do what is expected of them. With all these and others to come in the subsequent days, I rest my case (*Applause*).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, I feel morally compelled to say how pleased I am that you are succeeding the late Paramount Chief Yovonnie. He was one of my greatest friends in the last Parliament. He guided me and he told me quite a few things which I will not disclose now.

**HON. ALIMAMY A. KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go straight to thank the President of this great Republic of ours for a work well done. I stand to be corrected, but I think this is the 7<sup>th</sup> Speech we are discussing today. The farewell Speech was not discussed. Mr Speaker, when you were re-elected recently as Speaker of this House, many people spoke on that day. The Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business clearly informed Honourable Members about what Pharaoh said about Joseph wherein a man was diligent in his work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members taking from that point, it is clear for us the Christians that scriptures are clear with regards to issue of appreciation. Thanks to the Leader of the House for educating us on that Biblical quotation. In the book of Proverbs, it is clear that the hand of the diligent bears the rule. Why am I saying this Mr Speaker? I followed very closely the past three days when the Honourable Members were doing justice to this Speech. I must confess and I want to thank most of you on my right

hand side for believing that above all else this nation is supreme and its development is paramount.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a country and as a Republic, we are about 20,000 square miles. As black men, our forefathers were part of those who 100 years ago sold their countrymen for things we are regretting today. Down the line, we ended up being governed and ruled by people who came from afar. In 1808, we became a British Crown colony. People like Bai Bureh, Madam Yoko and others were part of the liberation movement. We all know it Mr Speaker. I read a magazine entitled: BBC 'Focus on Africa.' This country was described as a nightmare of Africa. This country has also being described as a failed state and the least developed country in the world. We all know it. For a very long time, Freetown was the darkest city on planet earth. Politics is what I want to look at. This is because I believe that the problem of this country is the mind set of Sierra Leoneans. That is what I believe. Development cannot be ushered when we don't have the right minds to develop. It is not possible at all. Places don't make people, but people make places. If you go to America without a developed mind set, you will live there a poor man. Likewise if you stay in this country without the right attitude to hard work, you are worthless and useless.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying these because when I looked at this document with the preface I have given, Page 2, Paragraph 6 gives me the necessary words or statement to say thank you Mr President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. I salute President Koroma and many of the Sierra Leoneans who have been working so hard to make us reach to this point. With your leave Mr Speaker it says: "*we are at peace and our country remains stable. We are no longer a country of blood diamonds. We are an example of a consolidating democracy as one of the safest and most peaceful society in the world. Our economy continues to show positive signs of growth. We have moved away from being the least developed country in the world to be the second hottest economy this year with a 21% projected growth.*"

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Bo must learn from this that 21% projected growth. He should understand what projected growth is all

about. The indications are there Mr Speaker. This Government has built roads, provided electricity and free health care for our pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five; we have built schools and relocated Njala University to its rightful place, etc. This is one of the places supposedly we should train our state thinkers, the people who would follow theories and direct the affairs of this state. This is the main reason why they are sent to Njala University where it is supposed to be as against what was happening. Our human rights record is exemplary. We have enhanced public service delivery and brought Government decision making and participatory politics closer to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this country, it is possible for President Koroma to go today to "Bome" and see what is happening there. He can as well go to Sorogbema and see what is happening there. He can no longer rely on shenanigans who parade around the streets claiming to be legal citizens, deceiving their people. He goes there directly to see things for himself. No wonder he came with the firm decisions and policies that have practically changed the landscape and the development of this country. We must claim these achievements Mr Speaker. This is very important. We must claim these achievements and we must congratulate ourselves for a work well done. We said too many bad things about this country. We hate one another. President Kabbah always said: "*Salon man get bad at.*" This statement applauds the international partners who have sustained their faith in the collective ability of Sierra Leoneans to move forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Honourable from Pujehun District, Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai was contributing on Monday, he said that he listened attentively when the President was delivering his speech and he believed with high degree of what he said and he was very sincere. Mr Speaker I was caught with an atmosphere of redolence. It is true that the issue of President Koroma is not an issue of mere politicking; it is an issue of a country or a people having wondered and suffered so long. The facts are there Mr Speaker. The people of this country have despaired for so long. There is a time in any society's history when a man cometh that we do the work. Biblical students would agree with me in the book of Joel when God spoke of a

visionary army. In Sierra Leone, let us look at the body politics in this country. Like all other countries in Africa, even though we clamored for independence, again, there are people who are still refusing to understand the reasons why our forefathers fought hundred years ago. Black people will come forward to applaud Kwame Nkrumah, but when he was alive, they couldn't listen to him. The people did not also listen to Modibou Katta. Sheku Turay was 35 years when he led the revolution in Conakry. Patrick Lumumba and others were refused by their people. They turned them down.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Africans believe people coming from afar to tell them that this is what you should do. This is the problem of Africans and this is the problem of Sierra Leoneans as well. I am calling for compliance from both sides of this Honourable House. Concepts like socialism, capitalism, democracy etc., are all borrowed concepts, brought to us to practice. But the fact of the matter is that, we have been practicing these concepts in Africa. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania was very succinct about it. He knew historians know the programme he was trying to usher in. Mualimu was very much clear as well. We are still wallowing in poverty. As a country we are still waxing in the delirium of poverty. What I think is that we should be paying attention to compliance and listen to our leaders.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, multiparty party system of democracy has been in existence before colonialism came, otherwise nothing would have happened. Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai we are proud of you as a reputable woman in this country. We would follow to accept what is wrong. We all know that she is one of the distinguished women we can proud of in this country. But the white men and their democratic concept would come to tell us no, if you don't take this way, we are not going to accept what is wrong. What President Koroma is saying is simple. We have work to do as Honourable Members of Parliament. Parliament is the epicenter of leadership. Our business here is to work with the President of this nation. We are to ensure that the very people and paramount chiefs you are referring to are well catered for. How Sierra Leone is fifty years under self-rule, yet we still have people who cannot see an electric bulb. Whom do you want to blame? Do you want to blame President

Koroma? I say no. I would begin to blame those leaders who had led these people before and who are still leading them today. They were not sincere with the masses at all. They will complain everything about their salaries and the difficulties they faced. Like you said, we are all enjoying the comfort of this building. Your business as leaders is to move those people from that decadence to their expected destination. How many of us are doing that? This is what this Speech is saying.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, President Koroma has just finished his five year term of office. At the age of 48, he was too young to lead our party and to lead our country. At the age of 50, our party recognised him to lead this country. We all witnessed the history he fought for. He promised to transform this country. He promised to transform the politics of the APC; and he did that. He accepted the TRC Report, and he fought within the party. He emerged as a victor. He promised a change and a transformation in the politics of this country. Do you know why we are not developed? This is because we frown at development. How do we refuse development? When you follow the history of the politics of this country, I am always firm in believing that the principles of *"One Country and One People"* upon which the SLPP was founded failed us woefully. Our founding father, Siaka P. Stevens of the All Peoples Congress (APC) was also a member of the SLPP. He was a Minister in that Government. The SLPP refused to be dynamic. The SLPP refused to understand the issues. Why did Siaka P. Stevens, who was a foundation member of the SLPP left the SLPP to form another party that is now ruling this country? With all the difficulties he got to the point of leading this country even when at the eve of Independence Sir Milton Margai, whom we were all praising to be the father of this country was so intolerance that he wanted to imprison Siaka Stevens and others, because they believed in elections before independence. You are still talking about tolerance and a lot of issues. These are the facts Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the politics of the sub-region is moving in the right direction. No more the days of Military coup. I am very serious about the history of the politics of this country. I believe I've just told you how the President fought within the APC to transform the party. We all know that no Honourable Member has ever become

the youth leader of the APC before. Never in the history of this country would APC allow an Honourable Member of Parliament to be a youth leader of the APC. Under the Presidency of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, it is possible. How dare an Honourable Member lead a strike? It's not possible. How can you reduce yourself to become a thug, even after 2007? The SLPP was still taking us to a point where the people of this country would not accept the APC as a changed party. The people have accepted the fact that APC is a changed party. The Paramount Chief was saying things that are very paramount for the development of this country. I want to bring it to the notice of some Paramount Chiefs that we are worried as young people. The paradigm that has set by our elders and politicians is nothing to write home about. Some of them are now flogging our elders in politics (*Laughter across the floor*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, how can we develop when we have people who are bent on preaching trivialities? The other day my sister from Moyamba was alluding to the fact that this Government is not employing some tribes because of their surnames. What a sad moment? President Ernest Bai Koroma's Presidency change the political landscape of this country. Mr Speaker, all the tribes are here represented in the APC party in this Parliament. The problem of Africa and Sierra Leone in particular is that, we have Extremists who are preaching tribalism, regionalism, sectionalism and nepotism to get to power. President Koroma is practically changing these negative styles of politics. President Koroma is very much clear. On my side, the Leader of this Honourable House and Leader of Government Business is a Susu by tribe. The Deputy Speaker, a young man is a Fullah by tribe. We have the Yalunkas, Themnes, Limbas Mendes, Kurankos etc. These tribes are all represented here. There was a time when the Mendes branded the APC as being tribalistic. We accepted that and moved forward. Today, these are the dividends. From 5 parliamentary seats to 27 parliamentary seats; and from 27 seats to 59 seats, plus the Presidency. And today, we have 68 parliamentary seats. Very soon, we are going to add them with the Presidency. The SLPP should realise that they are retrogressing. You are moving towards a moribund status. The other day the chairman of the SLPP was beaten like a child (*Laughter*). Do you think that in politics?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let this nation know that the problem of the SLPP is that they are intolerant. They started this intolerance right from the leadership of Sir Milton Margai. They failed to tolerate people in politics. As recent as the Convention in Makeni, they believed that Charles Margai could just be dismissed like that. As Chairman of the All Political Party's Youth Association, we want to move forward and... - *(Interruption)*.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker, point of order Sir. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34(1). We are discussing the Presidential Speech and not SLPP.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Member, what s your argument?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker I am saying that we are discussing the Presidential Speech and not the SLPP. The SLPP has nothing to do with this Speech. So, I'm asking the Honourable Member who is contributing to confine himself on the Presidential Speech.

**THE SPEAKER:** Have you finished?

**HON. RADO YOKIE:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Where you here when we started this debate?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I believe you listened to the various contributions ushered in by Members of both parties.

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** And hope you listened attentively?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Yes Mr Speaker. I listened when Honourable Isata Kabia and the Honourable Member were contributing... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Did she speak yesterday in the afternoon and this morning?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** We started these debates on Monday, continued on Tuesday and Wednesday. Today is Thursday Honourable Member. Have you been here for the past three days when these debates started?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** I have been here ever since the debates started Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** You've been listening to the various submissions of Honourable Members?

**HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Alright, thank you very much. Proceed Honourable Alimamy Kamara.

**HON. RADO YOKIE:** Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member who was speaking referred to the SLPP and APC... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Excuse me Hon. Member, would you prefer the mobile microphone?

**HON. RADO YOKIE:** No, I would use this Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Alright Honourable Member, carry on.

**HON. ALIMAMY A. KAMARA:** Honourable Member from Bo, the President is very clear in his Speech. He referred to the APC and the SLPP as the two greatest political parties in this country. The problems are clear. What we did to get to where we are today is that, the activities and the modules of branding the politics of the SLPP has something to do with APC; and by extension, we care for this country. We are talking about unity and at the same time you are preaching tribalism. I have just showed you how we are defeating tribalism on this side. We are talking about inclusiveness. Take a look at what the President did in his appointments. We have Ministers brought here for approval from all parts of the country. We have Ministers who are Mendes, Susus, Limbas, Themnes etc. They were all here for approval. What I am trying to say is that,

we need compliance from the SLPP. Mr Speaker, the SLPP is depriving the people of this country of good leadership. I do agree that we believe in the democracy of America and Britain. This is where our Constitution is modeled. But when you go to America, the Republicans are conveniently serving in the Government of the Democrats. But when you come to Sierra Leone, the SLPP are always criticising without proffering constructive suggestions that would move this country forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people are afraid to speak the truth because they don't want to be termed as betrayers. But the question is whom are you betraying? Are you betraying the SLPP or the people of this country? Allow people to come forth and serve this country. Dr Kadie Sesay, Bobson Sesay and others were not original members of the SLPP at all. But they came forth and worked with President Kabbah. Today, we are seeing a group of young politicians and young people depriving well-meaning Sierra Leoneans. People with dignity, good character, and people with honour are deprived by the SLPP. What a disgraced Mr Speaker? The SLPP is now coming with the politics of "*pa-o-pa*." That is how they are being branded Mr Speaker. Is this the way we want to move forward as a country? We are condemning it that it is very wrong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to thyself be true. If we want to move forward as a nation, we have to accept our problems. We have to accept our mistakes. We have to accept that for far too long we have been degraded. We have waxed in derision as a country. When I was listening to the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) this morning, the Prime Minister of England was in the House of Commons referring to Sierra Leone as one of the countries that is in for development. This country is now an example of development Mr Speaker. Not too long ago, this country was described as a failed state. It was a country where a Sierra Leonean killed a Sierra Leonean and we all knew what happened in the past Mr Speaker. I am calling on all and sundry, let us don't joke with some of these issues. Our politics is the very fabric that can usher in developments in this country. President Koroma is looking for good Sierra Leoneans that would help in the development of this country. We believed when Dr Bernadette

Lahai was asked to lead the SLPP, some of us were proud of her. By every speck of imagination, she is a woman you can reckon with. She went to the African Union and she is now a member of the Bureau of the Transport Committee. What is bad if Dr Bernadette Lahai is asked to man Agriculture portfolio (*Laughter*)? What is bad in that Mr Speaker? I just heard people are murmuring as if that is impossible. Mr Speaker we now see where our problems lie? We believe that we are dogmatic. This is where we belong to Mr Speaker. Where are we as a people? On our side, we have accepted the mistakes we did as a party. No wonder from 2007 to date, the people of this country have endorsed us to take the leadership of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank President Ernest Bai Koroma and I want to thank all those who have worked with the President to achieve his goal. Every Sierra Leonean from Soregbema to Koribondo, down to the hills of Sulima to Kabala, including the hills of Kobola, the President is very willing to work with all of us to change the face of this country. He made mentioned of that when he was interviewed on CNN. He told the World with regards his vision that he is a progressive leader. President Koroma is a visionary leader. Sometimes, it is not a mere sight; otherwise you get to the point of a barrage. When you talk of vision, I personally believe that it is an assignment packaged by the Almighty God. The transformation we have gone through in the level of road constructions that are now going on has never taken place since independence. Let us join hands with the President of this Republic to move this country forward. This is very important as a nation Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the Agenda for Change, I want to move to the valuable developments that have clouded this country. I am looking at things that are a bit abstract philosophical. After the 2007 elections, many people were bent on dividing the country. And they are still trying to do that. Looking at the President's extra wisdom, we thank the Almighty God for penetrating the heart centre of Kailahun, Pujehun, Kono and other places in this country. Today, when you talk about unity in one of his speeches, he warned and told us to keep away from people who are bent on dividing us. We agree they are amongst us. But why not concentrate on our similarities

and commonalities. We breathe the same air, we bear children, and we inherited the same country called Sierra Leone. Should you oppose somebody just because of his tribe or region or the family he is coming from? But this is not an issue of the Animal Kingdom to be a tribalistic at all. You are equal to the lion in the bush. That is a bush behavior. We have to move this country forward. People focus on trivial issues like tribalism. There are those who believe in them. We can't move on with these trivialities. We cannot move forward with tribalism. We are too small a people for our country to suffer from tribalism. President Koroma is working day and night to transform this country. Sir Milton Margai ruled this country four years. You cannot compare those four years of Sir Milton Margai to those of President Koroma. You cannot compare the two in terms of development. But Mr Speaker people are not sincere to themselves at all. People are not honest in this country. I think this is due to the fact that they don't want to obey a leader who is existing. Why are we still saying that the father of democracy is Sir Milton Margai? What did he do in terms of this nation's development?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I would advise that we do not drag the name of distinguished leaders we have had in this country.

**HON. ALIMAMY A. KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wholeheartedly accept your advise Sir. I will leave that area but the facts are there. This is the message Mr Speaker. We have finished with the Agenda for Change. Please turn with me to Paragraph 8, Page 3. This is the new message for all of us Mr Speaker. It is now up to us to comply or not. Let us look at Paragraph 8, the second sentence. Mr Speaker with your leave I read: *"The Agenda for Prosperity requires Youths to render their creativity, their energy, their zeal unto the service of their nation, their community and for their own progress. The Agenda warrants progressive action for bringing about Prosperity. The Agenda needs discipline, hard work, initiative and drives to help you, the Government, your community, and help your country as whole."* I am moved with this part of this Speech.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us will not be Pastors or Imams, but sometimes we have to be honest to one another. Even within the peer grouping, you can acquire knowledge and learn if you are ready to learn. This is the fact. Hard work is an antidote to poverty. We are poor because we don't believe in hard work. People got to politics because they believe it is the shortcut to make riches. We are all guilty of that. After reading history, economics and Government, instead of transforming the ideas we have got to practically alleviate the sufferings of our people, we move into politics with the intention of becoming the richest people without labour. What are the examples here? The President has told us that he is going to unite this country with development. Connecting the roads does not mean we have to share jobs. We want the professors and degree holders to travel from one region to the other to share ideas. Mr Speaker, we can unite those educated men in the PMDC, APC and the SLPP if they come together and decide who should be the Minister of Finance and Economic Development; or who should be Minister of Mineral Resources etc. These are the areas the money bulk of the money in this country is coming from. The late President of Malawi was very clear of the role of the opposition and governance in Africa. From his book, 'Poverty to Prosperity, the Dream of Africa,' he asks what we are opposing. The Agenda of the President is clear. It needs hard work. Being a Member of Parliament doesn't suffice. Go there and lead with example. Go to your village and do some work. It is not true that the Government has to provide everything. You can still help by digging a water well, providing two/three latrines for your people. You can still help the road network in the country. Mr Speaker, do you know what we have been complaining about? I keep telling the young people of this country that during the days of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, these young people have been complaining and they are still complaining today. They are going to complain come 2030. They should stop complaining and try to do hard work. This is what the leader of this country, the man who represents the Almighty God here on earth is pursuing. The Almighty God is omnipotent. We all believe Him. We thank Him and we appreciate Him. The President of this Republic is our leader. If we comply and we take what he says, we will succeed as a nation. No leader will want to fail. Let us try to follow what he says. Look at what

he is telling us, if we want to prosper as a nation. It is not a matter of sharing the wealth here and there. No, it is a matter of re-orientating our minds, "*Attitudinal Change and self-disciplined.*" Let us work very hard as a country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, (when you work hard, even if you are not the richest Sierra Leonean), you would be respected. Some of us will not be despised easily because we believe in hard work. Nobody will despise me easily because I believe in hard work. I made myself relevant wherever I find myself. This is very important if you believe in that principle. How can a poor Themne boy like me, whose mother and father did not go to school and finds himself in this House? It is not by chance. It is not by miracle. It is by hard work and diligence. This is what the President is saying. Some of you are going around telling people that how can we benefit from this prosperity when things are difficult, our roads are not connected. You have to join hands for the development of this country. We all know that the Paramount Chiefs whom by tradition used to feed their people. They were the biggest farmers in their chiefdoms. Everybody goes to their houses to be fed. Is this happening today?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, how many times do we work with our people? If you want to prosper, first of all you have to be disciplined. If you are disciplined and believe in hard work, you will prosper. It is very simple to prosper. You have to help the Government so that the Government will help you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, take a look at what has been happening before. I don't want to look at the issue of salaries in this country. We can only get good salaries if our road networks are improve more. We would enjoy more if our roads are well paved. Good salaries will come if we increase our productivity. There was a time when somebody was condemning the Wilkinson Road that it was irrelevant. I was so surprised Mr Speaker. What are we doing as a nation? We should be thanking God that we have a leader who makes things happen the right way. What we are doing now could have been done years back. What we should have been talking about are fly-overs as in the case of Ghana. Do you know that the Ghanaians were here studying at

Fourah Bay College? The Nigerians who gave us money and vehicles recently were all here to acquire knowledge? Adjai Crowther was the name of a Nigerian who schooled here at Fourah Bay College. Namdi Azikwe and others were all here to get good education. We have Professors and PHD holders without tangible change to shape this country for the better. The Gambians and the Cameroonians are moving forward. We have road contractors from Senegal, Korea etc. Where are these engineers from Fourah Bay College? I am the first Mineralogist out of the sub-Sahara even before the construction of the Kosombo Dam. But I would not want to see another engineer coming up. This is the attitude of Sierra Leoneans. If we are to move forward, we have to... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, at Fourah Bay College we pay, here we have it free

**HON. ALIMAMY A. KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for reminding me. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will move on to his Initiative and Drive. Mr Speaker, I want us to underline this initiative and drive. It is very serious Mr Speaker. Somebody gave us an example during the course of this debate that the British, being clever during the Second World War, Winston Churchill, instead of the British move to capture and destroy all the ships of the Germans that were tormenting them, they decided to capture one. And what they did was to study it properly and they developed and invented the DPRK model and they made a tractor that instead of it moving forward it moves backwards. So, what did they do? They said they should improve on engineering process so that it can move forward. China has about 1.3 billion people. We are not more than 6 million. The Chinese are all over this country helping us. What a kind heart do the Chinese have? How many doctors and professors do we have today? How many of us are here? Where are their initiatives? Look at the massive developments that have taken within these four/five years. There are developments everywhere in this country. These developments happened because of a man who believes in developments. The landscape of this country is changing *(Applause)*. This is not a matter of politics. It is a matter of the existence of the progress of Sierra Leone. Honourable Alimamy Kamara

would only be meaningful based on his contributions. The only proof about us living is our contributions. We have to release the carbon dioxide for the plant to grow and the plant will give us oxygen for us to live (*Laughter*). This is very simple Mr Speaker. We are always blaming people for not having the best cloths, good salaries, good roads etc. What is our role in all these things?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy with the initiatives and the directions of President Ernest Bai Koroma. This country is no longer in the retrogressive path. People are no longer going to Banjul or Ghana for mere things. Even the Americans have home again. The British are presently in Sierra Leone. These people are back to Sierra Leone because they believe that this country is moving forward. Let's stop crying down people. We have to be serious with the issues of this country. I was pleased when the Honourable from Bo for identifying the problems of our educational system. This is no politics. 110 pupils in a class and one teacher is a disgrace Mr Speaker. We will end up getting armed robbers, we get people who are at Eastern Police pick-pocketing. We should not forget the fact that no proper schooling will take place in any country with divided minds. The President has said that he was going to stop the two shift systems and come up with more buildings. What is our take on that? The President is saying we are coming with more Technical Vocational Institutions. What is our take on that Mr Speaker?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President is determined to encourage the girl-child education. He is willing to offer scholarships to girls who have the university requirements in the Sciences. These are the initiatives that will make people to get on board. Your business and my business as leaders is to transform, help and give the initiative that is required to move this country forward, otherwise your name will not be written in the history of this country. All of us believe that the father of this nation is Sir Milton Margai. What about the other leaders? We don't often call them. Do you know why? We don't often call them at all. But we can see the works of Siaka Stevens and others. There are those whom we can remember because of the role they played. They ushered in tribalism, regionalism and sectionalism etc. They always focus on trivial

things. Why Mr Speaker? For us the young people, I will zoom in on that. We now have an opportunity that we must take home. I can assure you when the President is talking about laying his life for the young people; I am a testimony to that. He is sincere and he is committed in that regard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very recently, I was opportuned to meet with the President and I told him that we are proud of his Speech. I told him that because of your stance in the improvement of young people. Therefore, they are now nursing, gathering up, to make sure, that you did not fail at all. I don't care whether you are SLPP, PMDC or APC. We know the old order. Let us look at cabinet Mr Speaker. The Minister of Finance is a very young man. The Minister of Health is a young woman. The Minister of Water Resources is also a very young man. Let me give you a good example Mr Speaker. The belief of President Koroma in the young people has been manifested long before now. When you look on this side of the House, we have many young people. We have the Honourable Deputy Speaker and many others who are young people. They were all here and you saw what happened to show the commitment of the President in moving young people forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at this Address, the President kept using the pronoun 'we' throughout. This implies that we have to work together as a nation. He said the youths should be brought on board in decision-making and to provide employments, skills, and trainings for them. This is factual Mr Speaker. On the APC side in this House, there is no young person that did not return from the last Parliament. Mr Speaker, it takes people like Dr Ernest Bai Koroma as our Leader to ensure that the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Mabinty Fornah, myself, Honourable Martin Bangura and others are back. This is because of his consistency in believing that these people should be groomed and encouraged.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have lost one of the most influential and a very good Member of Parliament. He is a young man by the name of Honourable Matthew Nyuma. It is sad to note that it was Members on the other side who made Honourable

Matthew Nyuma failed to come back. Honourable Matthew Nyuma did not leave this Parliament by himself. He was a hard working young man. He was one of the most ferocious critics of the SLPP. People accused him of where he was coming from. Even at the outline of the SLPP today, that brain is not with us. We see more young people coming. Therefore, when the President is talking about young people, I want to appeal to the young people that we should be united. We have many young people in most ministries, but my only concern for them is the fact that to whom much is given much is expected. Let our Ministers, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Water Resources, the Minister of Health know that they are qualified. But President Koroma is looking for young people who can listen to him and work with him. The President needs a team of young people who can go down to Kroobay, Soregbema, Bo etc. to meet with the young people and move them from poverty. We want to get the armed-robbers on board. We want to improve on those who are pick-pocketing. We want to improve the lives of young people in this country. The only way we can change the status of youths of this country is by getting them in decision making. Let us make sure that they are committed to that course. They should not be betrayers. The course of the young people is to chant the way forward. I should not use my position to betray the young people of this country. The President is talking about creating jobs for the young people. We are grumbling that there are no employments when as a matter of fact there is money. How do you think the Americans, the Koreans and the British are all over this country? There is money in this country. The problem with us as Sierra Leoneans is that, we are too gluttonous and selfish. We are coming forth as young people. I would rather die than to betray the course of the young people in this country. Let the Ministers know that even to the point of cleaning, we have authorities in this country. Let us get affirmative action to allow the young people to own land. Please join the President to make sure that the poor young people own land in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am calling on the young people with all due respect to join the President in achieving his goals. The President recently was on TV

admonishing this nation to make sure that we leave a legacy that is enviable. What a challenge Mr Speaker? Do I need to seek God for me to accept that I must work hard so that the people of Gbankapoto will remember me? Do I need to seek God for me to stay away from corruption? Do I need to seek God to see that I love my countrymen? Mr Speaker, I have a level of conviction deeper than any human reasoning that this President is a special Messiah. Having suffered so long as a country to set the pace so that nobody can redirect the development of this country and this is where we must thank him. We must appreciate him. He is human. He will only do more if we appreciate his efforts. How can we expect him to do more when we do not appreciate him as a person? How can we expect him to do more when we keep condemning his efforts? We should stop looking at negative things. We should also stop looking at trivial issues. We have to stop campaigning calumny. Let us stop telling our vulnerable people things that are not correct? Very soon you will see young ministers joining the ranks of those who are already there so that we can work together. Do you know that no nation will develop without the input of young people? We have been deprived for so long. We have been marginalised in the villages and in the towns. Everywhere people will tell us that we are too young to participate in politics. Sometimes the young people are not allowed to speak. We adore this President for alleviating the plights of young people. Some of us worship him. I am not blaspheming here. It is real today Mr Speaker. We have young people who are Ministers. The Deputy Speaker of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament is a young man. This is unimaginable Mr Speaker. It is unbelievable Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my elder brother was worried when people on this side were trying to play politics. I told him that President Koroma was pursued and fought against. As I speak, these people have been elevated today by this same President. How can you dare destroy a very young man? Go and tell the SLPP that you are a material. It doesn't matter whether you come back to Parliament and join President Koroma to move this country forward. That is the spirit we are putting forward. We have to move this country forward. I am calling on you all to join President

Koroma in making this country a better place for mankind to live. We must understand the philosophy like the Majority Leader is always telling us. This is very challenging Mr Speaker. Maybe the task is daunting, but it is not insurmountable. Let us discourage tribalism and encourage hard work. Work with the community people. Let us make sure that we work harder than before. It is only through hard work we can defeat poverty. Our compatriots are looking forward to us. Be rest assured that development is in progress. Like my sister said earlier, Rome was not built in a day. Rome was built in a gradual process. What is important is that, the philosophy of hard work should be put in place. It was lacking and missing in the past. Now, we have it from Agenda for Change. We are now moving forward to the Agenda for Prosperity. If we work together as a team, coupled with hard work, commitment above all and love for one another, we would get to the palace of prosperity. I thank you very much Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

*The House was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for Lunch, and resumed at 1: p.m.*

**HON. GLADYS GBAPY BRIMA:** Thank you very much for giving me this chance to do justice to this Document before us. Before I proceed, I want to say that since I entered this Parliament, I have been asking myself why we have to allocate a whole week to the Motion of thanks to the President. Why do we have to set aside a whole week to discuss a document that we have before us? In my research, I have always listened attentively to colleague Honourable Members of this House to really find the answers. When our people are in a hurry for changes, I want to tell all of us here that we have to sit to this examination to assess our capability and ability to assess the commitment we've made to our people. This is the time to assess our dedication to defend the right of the powerless people. We are in an examination hall to examine whether what has been put together in this Speech is right for the people of this nation or not. This is the question I have always asked. In this examination, who are the Examiners? The Examiners will be the people who sent us here. We are not here because we just want to be here, but because we have the political right to be here. We have the right to vote and to be voted for. S. O. 2 Mr Speaker, "*bi bo bi a mbe bi.*" You are not here by yourself or for yourself, but you are representing your people. Therefore, whatever we

do here, we should always be asking ourselves how this will change the plans and situations of the people we have out there, the people who have voted us as parliamentarians.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another most important Examiner is our President. It took a whole day to go through this Speech. He gave it to us and he has given us the time to discuss it. Thank you very much that I have time. I have always said, in discussing this Document, "*Motion of thanks,*" who should be thanking who? Honestly Mr Speaker who should be thanking who? Are we to thank the President or the President is to thank us? We are the one representing the people. We are the true representatives of the people. Who should be thanking who? We should be thanked Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, my brother from Constituency 098 always says that when you go to Fourah Bay College you pay. In fact, the interesting thing is that, this time you spend more than ever. We have heard a lot about the transport challenges facing the Fourah Bay College students. If we are giving it free of cost, so it's a learning opportunity for everybody. I will encourage us all to learn.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in answering that question, why do we have a whole week slated to debate the Presidential Address? My answers are very simple. To start with, the President came here to present his address to us. He has the legal and moral obligation to do that. I like what he said when he started his presentation. He said the time for politics is over. Whatever best he has told you, the fact that we keep repeating some of these messages we have heard when we were campaigning is that, for me, it is telling us that we are desired. This is because the President has said the time for politics is over.

Secondly Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always said that I like his sincerity. The President is very sincere. Mr Speaker, I want to read Page 1: "*Today, before the esteemed representatives of the people, I once again with faith in God, loyalty to the Constitution and firm commitment to the achievement of our national aspirations accept the honour bestowed upon me by the people of this country to serve them as President*

*for the second and last term.*" It is very important. This one is free education. What I am saying here is that, he has said that his loyalty is to the Constitution, then, what are we talking about? I will take you to what our Constitution says. At times we forget the tool of this nation. The useful tools we have are our Constitution and the Standing Orders. You on the other side sleep and forget about them. You want to spend all the time praising even when the President has said the time for politics is over. I will go to Chapter 2 of our Constitution with your leave Mr Speaker... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** What Section Honourable Member?

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Mr Speaker, Chapter 2 talks about our fundamental principles.

**THE SPEAKER:** What Section are you referring to? If you fail to tell me the relevant Section I will call on another member.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Chapter 5(4)

**THE SPEAKER:** Already, somebody wants to take your place.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Mr Speaker I am very sorry Sir. I was actually referring to Chapter 2, Section 5 (2a). With your leave Mr Speaker, it says: *"It is accordingly declared that sovereignty belongs to the people of Sierra Leone from whom Government through this Constitution derives all its powers, authority and legitimacy."* Section 5(2c) says: *"The participation of the people in the governance of the state shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this constitution."* It is because of this that the President brought in this document to us so we can debate it. For us on this side, he has done his own part. It is for us to actually democratise his hopes, dreams, and maybe intentions. What do I mean by that? We are representing the people of this country. He is saying that these are the intentions he has for the next five years. Look at them. Are they real? Do you accept them? Can you add to them? Do you want to subtract? That is what he is saying.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, how just are we in terms of sharing the resources of this country? How just is the justice system you are talking about? I am saying that if you look at this Speech, it is a framework. These are promises he has made to the people of this country. These are mere intentions Mr Speaker. Have we had time to look at them? Have we thought of how applicable they are? Have we looked at how we think it can benefit our people? Are they real? Where are they deriving? It is good if you miss your step and fall down. You shouldn't forget where you actually miss the step. You build on the foundation that was laid by the then Government of the SLPP. I want to go ahead by saying that if we are talking about this Address, where is it coming from? Agenda for Change came and indeed made so many changes. The Agenda for Change made so many changes as the Paramount Chief said. The changes could either be negative or positive. If you go down the street to Victoria Park, you'll find the changes. If you go to the market, you would agree with me that we have changed from eating fish or chicken to eating "fol fut," S. O. 2 Mr Speaker. Indeed, we have changed from eating good food to eating bad rice rejected from other parts of the World. The name of the rice is S.O (2) 'Kɔ bukɔ.' We have changed from having more women in this Parliament to having a small number compared to the last Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at one document which I think is the most important and the most realistic document is owned by the people of this nation. I am talking about the Conference Report on Development and Transformation, the 25 – 50 years Development Plan of this nation. If you look at that document, you will know when we are talking about the lives and survival of the people of this nation. I know we are not joking. We don't want to politicise the survival of our people. Let us do it with all sincerity, I am definitely talking about the youths. I am very much pleased. When we talk about youths, we are not just referring to the young men. We are talking about young women and men within the ages of 14 – 35. Therefore, let us have that clear. How can you tell me you are going to achieve all of these within five years? Let us be honest with ourselves. We are going to construct all the roads... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member did you say 30 – 45 years?

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** No Mr Speaker. I said 35 Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** You said 30 years?

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY:** Mr Speaker I said from 14 – 35 years Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed Honourable Member.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, his reference is on Youth Policy. They are very good. Are we discussing about the youths? Are we thinking about the rural youths? Are we thinking about the youths in the ghettos? Do we associate ourselves with them? For many times we have looked at them as trouble shooters. Mr Speaker the youths in the ghettos want justice. It is their right. In this country, the youths are not like a homogenous group. They are different across the board. Are we catering for them? There are some youths who just want to be in agriculture and stay in their villages. Are we thinking about them? Or are we talking about these youths who were following us? There is nothing to write home about. The most touching part of it is that the people I represent always say, it is hard to praise in pain. It is difficult to hope where there is no hope. It is so hard to claim power in poverty. I want us all to keep asking ourselves, is it right? What democracy are we talking about without women? What democracy are we talking about without SLPP? The first mandate says we should bring them together.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agenda for Change has succeeded in changing the colours of people from green to red. Those who have not delivered, especially to their people, crossed to the other side. Please check them properly as they come. The Bible says that if you do well, you will be accepted. But if you don't do well, for sure sin lies at your door. It is hard to praise in pain. I can comfortably tell you about the war in Sierra Leone. I am not coming from the diaspora. The women fought hard to bring us the democracy that you are talking about today. If you go back to history, you will discover the Bintumani 1 and Bintumani 2. It was the women of this nation who stood firm to say no, we want elections before peace. The President at that time was Rt.

Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, the Father of Democracy. He handed power to a democratically elected leader with peace. He did that at a time when you men were running away. He did that when people were hiding under beds, and at a time when people had nothing to eat. It was the women of this nation who took to the streets to say yes, this war must come to an end.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us not forget the fact that what led to the war was because of the mismanagement of state resources by then APC Government. Have you forgotten so soon Honourable Members? The 27 years rule of the APC brought nothing but exclusion, marginalisation, nepotism and corruption. Mr Speaker it pains me any time I think about that situation. It pains whenever I think about the plight of women of this country. The bulk of our voters and campaigners were women. They voted in the President. But what is it that he has given them? With your leave Mr Speaker, I would read from Page 3-10 where the President talks about women. In one short sentence, he said: "*We recognise the imperative of promoting the rights of women and have taken positive steps in this regard.*" We recognise that and therefore we have taken it so. That is okay Mr Speaker. What are we saying? Is that the reward you are giving us for ensuring that democracy was restored? I am talking about those who constitute more than 51.3% of our population. If you consider their productive and reproductive roles in this country, I am sure the Government will pay more attention to the women of this country. I am talking about those who are living on less than Le 5000 a day. I am talking about those who form the bulk of the illiterates in our communities. I'm talking about those who are sexually abused every day. I am talking about the ladies on the beaches, those who are commercial sex workers. I am talking about women who have died to give life to children. This proposals would not achieved without the supports of women. In fact, I also want to tell you that this document will have to be examined beyond this level. This is because we all know that this country is part of a globalised world. So, nobody suffers or enjoys alone. Sierra Leone has signed so many regional, international and national human rights instruments, promising that they will ensure the rights of women as true human beings. The fact that we are still

negotiating our inclusion and participation is a clear manifestation of injustice. Is it a crime to be born a woman?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have prepared to celebrate International Women's Day. We are going to celebrate it, but what do you have as a nation to celebrate? There is absolutely nothing Mr Speaker. The least funded ministry we have been managing has been taken away from us. That Ministry was created under the SLPP Government. The policies on Gender Mainstreaming, the policy on the Advancement of Women are all gone. Where are those policies today? They have been thrown away Mr Speaker. What prosperity are we talking about? Talking about prosperity without women? I know why the much talked-about youths. It is because in this country when you talk about youths, people think of men. What do we have to celebrate as women? The women of this country are tired. The President made the promised of the minimum 30% Quota. Since then Mr Speaker, where is it today? We went to Magburaka to celebrate the World Women's Day. The President made the same promises. Where is the 30% Quota? The fact that you are talking about 30% Quota is a clear manifestation of our exclusion. This is because the 30% Quota is a temporal measure that is used to close the gap between those who have been enjoying and those who are suffering. The fact that we are still negotiating the 30% Quota tells you the position of women in this country. Prosperity without women is nil. We are all Christians. Even when Christ died, the first person he declared salvation to was Mary Magdalene. What I am saying is that, we will not get to prosperity if you don't work with women. We are demanding our inclusion. It is painful to talk about two ministerial appointments that are been manned by women. What do you have to write home about? Are you saying that the SLPP is the only way to get gender equality? All that we are building on today in this country was put together by the SLPP. It is not about the tokenistic appointments you are making. It does not really reflect the plights and conditions of the ordinary women.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will take you from the Beijing Declaration, the Nairobi Platform for Action and even the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). You

are talking about correcting imbalances between women and men in politics. The International Parliamentary Union talks about that. We have a whole Africa Declaration on that Mr Speaker that is the solemn declaration that talks about women. We will not get there if you fail to bring the women of this country onboard. How is this reflective of the plights and situations of the people of this country?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is another area where the President talks about development and growth. I am raising these issues again. I want our President to make these corrections. It doesn't matter what we are saying here. It is a democratic state and we have the right to belong to party X or party Y. But what is more important is the economic growth and developments of our people. We are here representing the people of this nation. With your leave Mr Speaker I want us to look at Page 7, Paragraph 32. The issue of the women of this country is mentioned in this paragraph. I know most of the women who came here that day left this Chamber with tears of sorrow on their jaws. As I keep saying, it is painful to praise in pain. Page 7, Paragraph 32 says: "*Work with the private sector and appropriate Government agencies to design and set up well targeted micro enterprises for women*" Let them just be there to comfort us. Why can't you talk about macro? Setting up micro enterprises is what the President said. It saddens me Mr Speaker. The President thinks we just want to remain poor. If you know how to manage money, we know how to manage it better than you. Women are the best managers you can think of. He also said: "*We would work with the weak and vulnerable*" Are we weak and vulnerable?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the much trumpeted "*Free Health Care*." Whose pockets are you actually saving? I am saying this because the men are supposed to take care of their children. Therefore, if you say free health for maternal, lactating mothers and children under five, it means the men are saving their moneys. If we are talking about unity, freedom and justice, as far as I am concerned, it is good to talk about the Free-Health Care. But the question is how many women are accessing this Free Health Care? Mr Speaker I will prefer talking about food. Let us increase access to food. If we increase access to food, then, the Free Health Care

would work better. My mother once told me that if you have what to eat, you will have good children. Save the lives of women. Stop beating them. Increase access to food. That is very important Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying this to remind the President that we have made national commitments.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want the male Honourable Members on my right to refrain from making sexist remarks.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Don't be put off by those remarks Honourable Member.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY:** Noted Mr Speaker.

**HON. GLADYS GBAPPY BRIMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that the President of this country is listening. These promises and intentions are many. The report on Development and Transformation of this country says that we cannot get there. That is why they are talking about 25 -50 years. Mr Speaker, if you ask our people, they will tell you where they belong. We shouldn't be talking much about Njala University College. There are young people who have left for that place. I have had to create cancelling rooms for them. We are in the worst part of this country. In fact, starting with the roads, the President did nothing in order to construct our roads. Thank God, I saw some piles of stones. Are we going to get there? If you go to Njala University College, there is no electricity there. There is no canteen at the University. If there is any, it is not functional. The place they have to buy food is called S.O (2) 'Bafitaria.' It is neither a canteen nor a restaurant. What does that mean when a place to eat is not a canteen or restaurant? They are creating little shacks to eat. Have you talked about their rights to water? There is no water supply in Njala University College. It is a complete village student's life. Students are carrying water on their heads to wash and you are here talking about a University that you are so proud of. We want the President to seriously think about that Mr Speaker. What is happening now what I

would call an increase in girl-child drop-out. This is because most of our daughters are sexually abused and there is not much being said about that. The little that we had is no longer enough. Njala University used to produce eggs. There were chickens everywhere. All these good things are no more. What they are eating is called *'boti boti'*. 'Boti boti' is the feet of a chicken. That is what they are eating. The Government does not have time to address these issues. I know my colleagues on that other side are learning. You have to learn Honourable Members. We are not going to use any Bible. And we are not going to church. What I am saying is very simple. if we want to talk about places, let us talk about places we know best. Njala is nothing to talk about. Students are thinking they are in hell. How can you be in a university without electricity, no paved roads? You have to use a motorbike to get to other places.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if operation WID goes to that place, the students will not be able to attend classes. This is because the only means of transportation from the University to Taiama Junction is "Okada." We have so many produce in that area. If you stop by to buy fruits, you will notice that many of them have decomposed. This is because there is no processing facility in that area. If you go down by the bridge, you will find our youths mining sand. What can you talk about?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our President needs to be mindful of the fast approaching of the Sahara desert. It is coming so fast that if we are not very careful in a very short time we will definitely lose all of the things we have put in place. Have you checked your soil? There is soil erosion because of the stone mining on the hills. We are losing the fertility of our soil. In this document, I found nothing about that. How are we going to preserve our environment? We are not going to sit and allow things to continue going the wrong way. We the women are demanding our inclusion in governance. Thank you very much Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

**HON. PRINCE LAPPJA BOIMA P. C. IV:** Thank you Mr Speaker for given me the opportunity to talk very briefly. On the day the President was giving this Speech, I became a biblical student. Going to the book of Genesis, God said: "*Let us make man in*

*our image and in our likeness.*" God said it and He did it. The President taught of it. It is written and it came to this Parliament and he said it. All we want to see now is the implementation. My responsibility as a Paramount Chief (since I am part of the Government of this country), is to see how it is done. I have to monitor certain things that would benefit the people of this country. So, I took this document to my constituents, especially the Paramount Chiefs of Bo District. After perusing the content of this Speech, they told me that their own take is on education and the youths of this country. They asked me not to forget about the Paramount Chieftaincy, I said, 'I will and thank God I have been given the opportunity to talk on how we would like our youths to grow up in this country. There was a mistake in the upbringing of youths in this country. But we should learn to correct that mistake so that it will not happen again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was growing up as a child in Sierra Leone, I thought I belong to the community. The community helped my parents to bring me up and all what they wanted for me they have achieved. I would love Sierra Leoneans to bring their attention back to how children were brought up in those days. If you go from your house to the street and misbehaved, you would see somebody from nowhere who would come and discipline you. The person will even find your home to report you to your parents. But today, when you beat somebody's child for misbehavior, you will be taken to the police for child abuse. I want us all to rethink on some of the rights we are giving to our children. We are forgetting that this is Africa. Sierra Leone as a case study is rather unfortunate that some of the beautiful things are being neglected. We now train our children the way the man in America trains up his/her child. We are mistaking Mr Speaker. Foreigners will come to tell us to adopt certain policies, but we forget that we are still struggling. Children do walk one, or two miles to go to school, whilst their own children do not. We want some of the policies that are being made to be a little friendly to Sierra Leone. Sometimes they say when you beat your child, you are violating his or her rights. All the time we are here talking about rights. But we are forgetting something Mr Speaker. It happened in America. The Americans were always

giving their children rights and after having some data collection on the rights of the children, they saw it all wrong that 75% to 80% of the misbehaviors that happened in the United States were done by children. They went back to the drawing board. And now, they are talking about their responsibilities. If you give one right to a child, make sure you give him or her ten responsibilities. But in Sierra Leone, we are giving rights to our children without attaching responsibilities. Therefore, we do not have good children.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if your child goes the right way, he or she belongs to you, but if that child goes the bad way, he or she is a loss to the parents and the community. It is a loss to the community and a loss to Sierra Leone. We should be thinking that every child that is being born in Sierra Leone should be useful to Sierra Leone and not only thinking that "*na mi pikir*" (*It is my child*). To bring that child to the educational fold, I think a lot of things are missing. When I went to the university, I would always sit down in class and my Lecturer would only come at the first day of the term. He would write the topics that should be completed within that term. The lecturer would say these are the books we are going to use this term. I do remember when my Chemistry Lecturer was lecturing Chemistry with his chalk in his hand, thinking that there were books in the Library where a student would go and do some research. But if you look at the school system today, it has been proliferated by pamphlets. I do not want the Lecturers to do the work for the students. It will be garbage in and garbage out. Allow the students to do their own research. When you give Term Papers and assignments to students, they should do that Term Paper and assignment with all amounts of sincerity and honesty. If we do that, we will see a positive change in the lives of our children. That is what we called learning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Lecturer will go to class and write everything for the students. The Lecturers will even sell these pamphlets to students. Mr Speaker, if a student fails to buy this pamphlet, he or she will not pass the exams. What type of Sierra Leoneans are we having? What type of Sierra Leoneans are we talking about? And these students that are going to graduate from universities fall within the realm of youths we are talking about today. We want better youths in this country. We don't

want the youths of this country to be those that sit in the ghetto and say S. O 2, "*di de we Jah go gi mi.*" "How Jah go gi u' Mr Speaker when you are not working? If you go to the book of Genesis Chapter 2, it talks about work. If you do not work, you will die in abject poverty. We do not want Sierra Leoneans to die in abject poverty. We want everybody to be able to feed him or herself. In our thoughts towards education, if you look around this country, you cannot boast of any good bookshop. When I was in school, I used to go to the Macmillan Bookshop to buy my books. Few years back, I went there to get some books and there were no books again. What is happening Mr Speaker? Now, if you want a book, except you pay for it from overseas. How many of us can afford freighting fee? I want the Government, in as much as we want a very good system of education to get books ready. Mr Speaker, our libraries are empty... - *(Interruption).*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, people do not go to Macmillan again these days. If you want the simplest of text books, you have to go to Accra, Ghana to get them.

**HON. PRINCE LAPPYA BOIMA P. C. IV:** Thank you Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the internet is not a solution to the educational system of this country. If we can have our libraries equipped with books, it will be better for us. We would be redirecting our educational system in this country. When I was a child, books were bought for me by my father. Reading habits of the child begins from the home. But how many university students do we see reading these days? In those days, we trick our girlfriends with novels. We exchanged novels. By so doing, you developed acquaintances. The internet could be a blessing Mr Speaker. I always refer to the internet as a single teacher with many learners. Few months ago, I was busy downloading literature books for some students when I won my election. I gave myself with the responsibility of providing learning materials for the schools in Bo. I started downloading the European textbooks. As I was about to download the African Literature books, they ask me to pay for them before I get them. When I went to ask for the cost of these books, I was told to pay for them through my visa card. How many Sierra

Leoneans are having credit cards or visa card? I was doing the downloading and I did not even have a credit card. I want NATCOM to put a system in place wherein the ordinary Sierra Leonean wanting to download educational or whatever material for him or herself will go and pay his money to have access to that material. By so doing, we will develop the scope of learning (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Chieftaincy in this country. Before I came to the chieftaincy institution, I thought I was going to sit by and get money. But when I came, it was the other way round. I asked myself one day, why did I leave my job for this job? Having thought about that, I realised that my people need me. DFID and Justice Sector Department made very good research and I must applaud them for that. They brought up vital issues like the roles and responsibilities of the Paramount Chiefs in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when war broke out in Sierra Leone, the people were always looking up to their chiefs. As soon as the Chief moves, the people too would move away. They would say they were no longer safe. Today, the perpetrators and the victims are all in the chiefdoms, with the exception of Freetown where we have Tribal Heads. There are chiefdoms that do not have the presence of police officers at all. The victims and the perpetrators of the war are living with us and the Chief uses his wisdom to bring these two groups together. And chiefdoms without the presence of police personnel are one of the peaceful chiefdoms in this country. People do admire the role played by their Paramount Chiefs. When I went through this Speech, the President spoke about policy. If you go to Page 20, the caption says: "*Strengthening Chiefdom Governance*." The President knows the role the Paramount Chiefs played that is why he included that caption in his Speech. I am very happy for that Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is stated in the Constitution, the Chiefdom Governance Policy and the 2009 Chieftaincy Act concerning the roles of the Chiefs. The Chiefs are responsible to bring peace and justice to our people. We are providing all these for our people. But we are not provided for at all. The Chiefs are the most

generous men in their Chiefdoms. They always give to their people. But when the chiefs receive, they say it is extortion. The Local Government was set up, thinking that devolutions would occur when the Central Government devolves to the Local Government and the Local Government will in turn devolve to the Chiefdom Councils. But this is not happening at all Mr Speaker. The feeder roads have been devolved to the Councils. For example, if take the road to my village, you will see it bushy. Until you ask the Town Chief of that village before something happens. The question is why can't the Councils devolve some of those monies to the Chiefdom Council so that the Chiefdom Council can perform those functions? I don't know if it is just greed or the Local Councils are afraid. There is no devolution taking place Mr Speaker. I think that is what we should start thinking of if we want to strengthen Chiefdom Administration. The Chiefs of 1940 like my grandfathers are no longer the chiefs today. They were professionals. I think the Chiefs of this country are playing vital role towards the development of this country. We are performing very important functions that have not been taken care of or even recognised. But with our presence here, we would bring it to the attention of the House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief I am sorry if I failed to catch your attention this morning... - *(Laughter)*.

**HON. PRINCE LAPPYA BOIMA P. C. IV:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I would want this Parliament (if we are talking about the traditions and customs of this country), to help in strengthening chiefdom governance. If these chieftaincy institutions are not strengthened, there are certain values we are losing in Sierra Leone. The story telling we use to teach our children is fading away gradually. Those stories have moral implications. If you go to the Spider Story, you will that, S.O 2 "*na in mek wan gyt no fyn.*" (*i.e., it is not good to be greedy*). Therefore, if our institutions are strengthened, I think we would go back and tell our people not to forget their children. We will tell them to be telling stories to their children. We have to forget about the Nigerian movies. They are becoming detrimental to this society because they are always interested in witchcraft.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, don't forget the 4-1-9s.

**HON. P. C. PRINCE LAPPYA BOIMA IV:** Exactly Mr Speaker. Our children are left without morals. These children are the youths we are talking about today. They will not be very good youths for this country. The Paramount Chiefs are living with the people. We know their pains and problems. One speaker said that the Chiefs are the highest farmers. Yes, we are the farmers. If you don't believe, you can go to Tormabom. I am a chief but I do not have the resources, and that is land. So, I went to the chieftom that has the resources. I have thousands of acres of land where I am doing rice farming. That is an example for all of us. We did it because we wanted to set an example for the people of Sierra Leone. If the Chiefs can farm, why not the ordinary man (*Applause across the Floor*)? We need this institution to be strengthened so that we can set the example. If the Chief is doing it, the subject will follow.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will urge Members of this House to start re-orientating our thoughts in terms of strengthening the chieftaincy institutions in this country. We should start thinking of our educational system. Njala University was the first oil palm research institution in this country. But when you look at both universities, they are in an armchair position. We do not think of research any more. If there is such facility, then, we should be thinking of soap production. The universities should be able to finance themselves. We only have to provide them the support they want. I want to implore this House that we start work. This is because we are here not as APC or SLPP, but as Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone. The President has given us the message and we are the representatives of the people. Let us work with this programme. Let us work with this Address to promote the welfare of the people of Sierra Leone, including the Free Health Care. You don't expect the President to come up with hundred volumes of books in this Well to make statements. How are we going to make those statements to succeed?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, over the years, Sierra Leoneans have not undergone any of such training. That is why we are having the influx of foreign expatriates in this

country. The same job that should be done by a Sierra Leonean where he is paid Le50,000 is the same job that is being done by the so called expatriates where they are paid 50,000 dollars. Why should we be suffering in that regard? That is why such companies have very bad retirement policies. They do not have any policy in place for retirement. The senior staff do not have retirement benefits. Why should such people be suffering? Why should I work for the rest of my life and go home empty handed? I think we should be re-thinking of our youths so that our youths would not die of frustration. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me say that today is my first day to speak in this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is your Maiden Speech?

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** Yes Mr Speaker. My name is Honourable Sahr Tengbeh, representing Constituency 03, Kailahun District. I rise to lend my voice to this great debate in this Honourable House. I want to make a contribution to His Excellency's Speech, delivered on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it amazes me most when people shy away from the truth. Personally, I am gratified by the contents of this Speech. This Speech covers a wide range of issues, starting from the Economy and Foreign Relations to the democratisation process in this country. For the past few days, I have heard some speakers making statements from both sides of this Honourable House. Some of these statements were good and others were just praising. Well, others in their own way had their own interpretation of this Speech. But I want to say here today that never in the history of Sierra Leone have we got a President in the person of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma who is committed to the well being of the people of Sierra Leone. He is sincere, honest, dedicated to purpose and committed to what he says and stands for. No wonder the coinage of the word '**anpa apon,**' S.O. 2 Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, what does that mean?

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker, this simply means everything is finished. It is all done because we are metamorphosing from the *"Agenda for Change"* to the *"Agenda for Prosperity."* I want to allay the fears of some of our colleagues from the other side. They said the *"Agenda for Change"* has been abandoned. We are graduating and in the process of graduating, you have to take what you have to the next level. You don't have to abandon what you have already got.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President has done tremendously well for this country. He did a lot of things and the admiration of many Sierra Leoneans today has given him the opportunity to serve this country for a second term. For me, the elections conducted recently are clear indication of what he has done for this country. He had high votes in all the constituencies in this country. Mr Speaker, permit me to say here that most of us seated here have bathed under the political showers of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. If you look at the results of the just concluded elections, you will find out that the President had more votes than some Members of Parliament seated here. This is true Mr Speaker. I am an example Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard people quote from various portions of the scriptures during their contributions. That is very correct and necessary. Also, it is prudent for me to quote from the scriptures. When the Messiah was to be born, the Bible says signs were all over the world. One such sign was the wise men coming from the East and a star appeared that led them to their destination. We today have a President in the person of His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. He is indeed a Messiah for this nation. The Bible speaks of the Messiah coming to bring Salvation to the world; and President Koroma has come to bring salvation to Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to limit myself to few issues. I am not going to bother myself with much talking. I want us to look at the caption: *"Enhancing National Security."* Let us look at Page 17, Paragraph 76, under Foreign Relations. We also go to Page 21, Paragraph 96. With your leave Mr Speaker I quote: *"Peace, security and defence are the foundation stones for a nation to become a prosperous society."*

Page 21, Paragraph 96 says: *"My Government would continue the impressive strides in marketing the country as a destination for international business and investment. We will continue to maintain those relationships we have known, continuing to strengthening the emerging ones and build new rewarding ones."* Mr Speaker, this leads me to the Yenga issue. Yenga has been a much trumpeted issue in this country, especially in the very recent past... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yenga used to be a topic in the last Parliament.

**HON SAHR TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would all agree with me that the word Yenga at some point in this country had an extrapolating nomenclature, but thanks to the resilience of His Excellency the President. He tried his best and implored diplomacy in resolving the Yenga issue. And today, I want to safely say that Yenga is a peaceful place as it used to be. Many people wanted to politicise Yenga. Yenga is a peaceful place today... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yenga used to be mentioned from the left side of this House.

**HON. SAHR TENGBEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we used to have military forces in Yenga and also the Guinean Armed Forces had once occupied Yenga. They had many armaments in that place. But Mr Speaker, it would interest you to note that His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma intervened immediately he took up office. Today, Yenga has no more armed forces. **"Ampa am pon"** for Yenga, S. O. 2 Mr Speaker. We are only waiting for the official proclamations to be made that Yenga is handed over to Sierra Leone. No more threats as far as Yenga is concerned. Most people wanted to make political gains out of Yenga. No amount of force would have brought us to where we are presently with the issue of Yenga, had it not been for the diplomacy applied by this Government. In the President's *"Agenda for Prosperity"* which was brought from the *"Agenda for Change"* is going to be brought forward to that of the *"Agenda for Prosperity."* The *"Agenda for Change"* is not abandoned at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to infrastructure for inclusive growth. Mr Speaker, the Koidu International Market once served this country as the second revenue generation in this country. It was next to the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in terms of revenue generation in this country. That is a testimony in Sierra Leone before the war. But during the war, everything went backward. The mining activities also helped to fuel the war. Let me make one point clear here today. It was the APC Government that was in power when the War came; and Mr Speaker no Government that is in power would bring war to itself. So, the question about who brought the war in this country goes back to you. I don't know who brought the War but it was the APC Government that was in power when the rebel incursion came into Sierra Leone. I want people who are true to themselves to find out the answer.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the road network to Koidu International Market. As we speak, massive road construction is presently going on in that place. The road between Kenema to Kailahun is under construction Mr Speaker. Whether that stops tentatively in Pendembu, I want people to know that Pendembu is in Kailahun District. Mr Speaker, the roads that have been constructed in the Eastern part of this country are superb. Hundreds of bridges in the Kenema/Kailahun axis are to be constructed. What we are seeing today in terms of infrastructural development has never been witnessed in this country. When the Kenema/Kailahun Road shall have been completed, it would be one of the best roads in this country. Mr Speaker, it is necessary for the road to be completed soonest because huge agricultural produce are coming from the Kailahun District. Our people are in desperate need of this road. I understand that funds have been secured for the Pendembu/Kailahun Road. That is also good Mr Speaker. I am appealing to this House and I want also to appeal to the Government for the road to start from Koidu, pass through Yenga to Kailahun. I think I have a moral responsibility to plead because I am representing the people from that end.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the UNIDO Youth Training Centre in Koidu and it is providing skills for our youth, women and other people from Guinea and Liberia. Most of them are coming from these two countries to acquire skills provided

from the UNIDO Youth Training Centre. Man by nature has insatiable needs Mr Speaker and therefore we want more. Mr Speaker, I hope I would have been given more time to talk as we go along. This is my humble Submission. Thank you very much.

**HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been in this Parliament for many years. But what I am seeing and learning from the youth and young people in this House is marvelous. I am greatly impressed by the new Honourable Members of Parliament. And sometimes we the aged will begin to think whether we should continue to be here? Should we leave everything to the youths of this country? I am saying this because we have dynamic, honest, sincere, dedicated and determined young people in this particular Parliament. If you look around, you will see the faces of bright, brilliant, determined young men and women. They are doing wonderfully well in this House. But Mr Speaker, during the Cuban Crisis, John F. Kennedy, former President of the United States of America met with the Prime Minister Gorbachev where he said, when you look around the table, you would know that we are a very young nation from 1917 to 1776. Kennedy said it is true but when you look around the table you see old men from the Soviet Union and very young beautiful faces from the United States. I think the old people are beginning to look around and say maybe, we should not be here but for experience and continuity sake, we would be around. What John Kennedy said in his inaugural speech of 1961 I think we can apply it in this House. John F. Kennedy said on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1961: *"What we observed today is not a victory of a party but a celebration of freedom, symbolising an end as well as a beginning, signifying the renewal as well a change."* What we are seeing here today and what the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone gave us is not a party manifesto. It is a document that outlined what he is going to do whilst in power, together with his Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament to see that the projects he has mentioned in the Speech are implemented. I want to implore everybody in Sierra Leone to join hands with President of this nation in achieving these aims. I want somebody to tell me that all what has been written in this Speech are not good for the development of this nation. I want

every good hearted Sierra Leonean to think of ways and means of ensuring the success of these programmes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us who were here in 1996, we knew that we had to work together as a people, as a nation and as a Parliament to see that the right thing was done. And Mr Speaker, this Address is saying that we have to work hard and work together in order to make Sierra Leone a better place for mankind to live. I will no longer sing songs of praises because they have been sung already. The people of Sierra Leone, including parliamentarians have been speaking their minds and freedom starts when you are free to speak your mind. This is what is happening in this Parliament, of which I give congratulatory message to His Excellency the President, the Speaker of this House and to all the Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after His Excellency had delivered his Speech in this Well, I went home and I read this Speech many times, I came to the conclusion that I wanted to propose a motion under S.O. 25, Sub-section 2. I came to realise that this document should be a Working document for this Parliament. Why am I saying this? We have many Committees that cover every aspect of the sectors in this country. We have such sectors as Education, Health, Agriculture, Gender and Children Affairs, the Police, the Army, Security etc. We have Parliamentary Committees that are responsible to oversee these sectors. Look at what is happening in Sierra Leone Parliament of which I am very proud of. In the United States of America, people from the Minority party are not allowed to be Chairmen of any Committee in the Senate. You would not be a Chairman at all Mr Speaker. They will be calling you a "*Ranking Member.*" But in our Parliament, we have many Chairmen from all the parties, including the Paramount Chiefs. And if you look at the powers given to us by the Constitution, we are even powerful than the Minister. The roles the Ministers play are based upon the Executive directives. They survive and strive upon the mercy of His Excellency the President. But all of us here are free to speak our minds at any time without being intimidated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy that 77 (1) K has not been implemented in this House. In 1996, the United National Peoples' Party (UNPP) Leader, Dr John Karefa-Smart wanted to expel fourteen (14) Members of Parliament. This Parliament rallied round the Speaker we had then. May his soul rest in perfect peace. He was Justice Kutubu from Kailahun District. He was the Chief Justice. He never used 77 (1) K to throw out the fourteen (14) Members of Parliament. Why Dr John Karefa-Smart wanted to do this was because he knew that the Proportional Representation (PR) System would have brought in another fourteen (14) Members without going to elections ... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, didn't that matter go to court?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Yes Mr Speaker it went to court but the court sat quietly on it... - *(Interruption)*.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, with respect to you, I disagree. The Court didn't sit quietly. I delivered that judgment ordering Members of Parliament to come back to Parliament.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Thank you very much. It is good that we clear out some doubts. It is going to be on record that you stood up for democracy. May God bless you. I am appealing to Committee Members and Committee Chairmen to look into this Presidential Address and come up with issues that will make this "*Agenda for Prosperity*" succeed. Are we going to afford failure for the next five years? If I am not in governance, should Government not be in the position to promote the welfare of the people of Sierra Leone? Mr Speaker what I am saying here is that, let us face the reality. The reality is that this should be a document for all Members of Parliament and for everybody in this country. This Address should be the working tool for all Members of Parliament. The President has given us the message and we, the representatives of the people should come together. Let us work with this Address to promote the welfare of the people of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 3, Paragraph 10. It says: "*We recognise the importance of promoting the rights of women and have taken positive steps in this regard.*" For me, if the President says this, I noted these agreement issues in the promotion of Education, Free Health Care, Sanitation, Housing, and Food Security. These are issues every Committee should look into for the women of this country. These are policy statements and they are meant for us to work with. Therefore, this is a wonderful Speech. It is my Bible and Koran for the next ten or twelve months. I will even go to my villages with the Speech. I will go to my villages and tell the Councilors that this is the President's Speech. How are we going to mobilise ourselves to achieve this Agenda for Prosperity? These are things that we expect from everybody in this House. Mr Speaker, even those in the opposition should take this more seriously. This is because when you perform, you can go back to your constituents and tell them what you have done for them during the tenure of your office. You will stand tall without any hesitation to say this is what I did for you. Are you just going to criticise? If you are only criticising, the people would not even look at you. For anybody who is very sincere in his political career will take this seriously that criticism without showing the way forward is senseless criticism. He will go to the doors and offices of the Ministers, write letters and bring them to book for you to succeed. You have a right to ask questions in this Parliament. The Standing Orders are clear about that. We have Question Time, Motions and you can even bring a Bill. A former Honourable Member of this Parliament, Honourable Eric Jumu, whom you did not give a symbol, was one of the only persons in this House who brought a Bill and passed into law from the SLPP. You did not give him a symbol (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge every Committee in this Parliament to study, address and make policies that will make the Government to succeed. The Leader of the House said it very clearly here. Any time we approve Presidential nominees, the Leader of this House always remind people that Parliament is 'supreme.' They should open their doors to Members of Parliament, no matter which Party he/she belongs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about water and sanitation. And I am happy that experienced people from this side contributed very well to this Debate. They talked about the problems we are facing in the Free Health Care Programme. It is a fact Mr Speaker. We cannot say everything is rosy. But for the simple fact that the President introduced that initiative is a very good gesture for this country. He said as one of the poorest countries in the world, we are going to do this and it has started. We should build upon that fact Mr speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this should be taken by every Member of Parliament and work out programmes that affect his/her own constituency. If we are determined to do this, then, we would knock at the doors of the Ministers, Chairmen, Committees, and the Board Members to see that we implement these projects in our constituencies. We know that there are many people who are taking the drugs away from these poor people. One day, as I was going to Kenema, I got to Gerehun. There was this pregnant lady with another young boy who was about 3-4 years old coming from the hospital. I told my driver to reverse. I asked the lady where she was going. The lady said was going to Janga. I told her to come in. She came in and I asked her what her problem was. She said she brought the kid to the hospital and she was given three aspirin tablets from the Gerehun Health Centre. I went back to the hospital. When the nurses saw me, they became jittery just as when a mouse sees a cat. I sat down and they did blood test on the boy. The result showed that the boy had malaria. They had to apologise. They were afraid. It was the time they brought him all the syrups the boy needed. The nurses told the mother to be taking the child for injections for five days.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, I suppose you introduced yourself.

**HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I did not Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** At the Hospital?

**HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I did not. They did not know me. But at least when they saw my face looking too old and saw me with my Range Rover. It was only after they have given the child good treatment they came to apologise. That

was the time I introduced myself to them. We know we are encountering such problems. If all the chiefdoms in this country have PHUs, CHCs, Peripheral Health Clinics or Community Health Centres, you can go there and check if you are really good to the people of Sierra Leone and your Constituency. Let us go there and check what is happening. It does not matter which Party you belong. This is because it is our tax payer's moneys. If we don't succeed, the Donors will say they gave us millions of dollars and we did not make good use of the money. Therefore, if I am a member of my Health Management Committee in Masingbi, when they take the drugs to that Health Centre, I have to go there to inspect. I have to inspect the quantity of drugs that came, and how they intend to use them. Mr Speaker, some of these nurses and doctors are in the habit of selling these drugs to the Pharmacists. When you go to the hospital, they will tell you to go and buy in their private pharmacies. They want people to say bad things about the Government with regard to the drugs of the Free Health Care. All of us should now go if we are sincere to ourselves and monitor how these drugs are used. You should not only oppose and hope that after five years you hope to be a Minister. Mr Speaker, many of those who were opposing on this side of the House did not come back. Likewise many of those who were praising did not come back. Therefore, whether you are on my left hand or right hand side, all we need is to support the programmes of His Excellency the President. That is all Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have so many ghosts teachers in our Chiefdoms and in our constituencies. What are we doing to identify those ghost schools and ghost teachers? The Minister of Education is the most honest and decent Minister I have seen in President Koroma's Government. He is the most dedicated Minister in terms of serving the people of Sierra Leone without asking for a cent. Do you know how many fake schools we have in Sierra Leone? There are more ghost schools in the South and East than anywhere in this country. I am not somebody like you who preach tribalism in journalism. You know me better. You know that when I talk in this Well I am saying reality.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I listened to the people coming from the Diaspora, particularly from the United States of America, some were criticizing while some were praising. What I found out from most of these diaspora Members of Parliament is the fact that most of them are looking for jobs. Let me tell you something again. Mr Speaker with all what we are saying, let us think of John F. Kennedy. He said *"Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."* Mr Speaker we have a very genuine President who is not here to bluff. He is not even an egotistic President or an imperial President. He is the common man's President. I was in my house when they started demolishing the houses at Lumley. He drove there with one security. Somebody telephoned me and asked me why we allowed the President to go to that place by himself? He believes in himself. The people who love this country trust him. All about leadership is trust. Therefore, let us go back and do our research. I could remember the dishonesty in other areas. Mr Speaker, when Honourable M. Tunis who was a member of the SLRA Board spoke, people were not happy with him because he spoke the truth. They even threatened him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Paramount Chiefs have spoken and they spoke very well. You can see the caliber of Paramount Chiefs we have today in Sierra Leone. Some of you don't have respect for Paramount Chiefs at all. When you leave here, you are nothing but vagabonds (*Laughter*). Some of you when you leave here, your mothers will bow down to say S. O 2 *"Pa mɔnin."*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, I take it and I believe you are not referring to Honourable Members of Parliament.

**HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Not at all Mr Speaker. I was referring to those who are dis-respectful. Those who are Honourable Members are not included. The dis-honourable people are the ones I was referring to Mr Speaker.

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA:** I stand on S. O 32(8) (*Laughter*). It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting languages about a Member of Parliament. It is my

dear Honourable Chief who did use the word 'vagabond' and this is really un-parliamentary.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree with you and he has to withdraw that word.

**HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker the word is withdrawn Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, if you intend to continue, you do so tomorrow.

## **ADJOURNMENTS**

*(The House rose at 1.20 p.m. and was adjourned until Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).*