



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - THIRD MEETING

FRIDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 2016

SESSION – 2015/2016



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Friday, 9th December, 2016.

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THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[SECOND ALLOTTED DAY]



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 9th December, 2016.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 11:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON FRIDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2016

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 8th December, 2016. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. MOHAMED K. THOLLEY: Mr Speaker, I spoke immediately after Honourable Bashiru's statement yesterday. I said something on Agriculture, citing the donor funds given to that Ministry, but nothing is mentioned in this document.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note of that. Page 8?

HON. DR ROLAND KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I made a statement on education and my name was replaced with Honourable Dr Foday Suma.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? There being no further amendment or correction, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 as amended?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALY: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 has been adopted as amended].

III. BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2017

BEING AN ACT TO AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR THE SERVICES OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 2017 AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[SECOND ALLOTTED DAY]

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY]

[SUB-APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE IV]

DR PATRICK CONTEH [*Minister State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Member, I move that the following Vote Heads stand part of the schedule:

VOTE	DIV.	VOTE DESCRIPTION	SUM VOTED [LE]
402	00	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	3,022,753,400
403	00	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	2,165,193,700
403	05	National Minerals Agency	4,580,033,300
420	00	Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]	100,000
312	00	Teaching Service Commission	1,105,479,200
110	18	Corporate Affairs Commission	712,080,900
124	01	Administrator and Registrar General	470,118,200
310	00	Ministry of Youth Affairs	3,301,252,900
305	03	National Commission for Persons with Disability	2,172,320,100
308	00	National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA]	1,345,700,500
108	00	Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission	679,898,700
110	01	National Assets Commission	907,944,900
110	08	Office of the Ombudsman	1,268,606,400
117	00	Cabinet Secretariat	1,918,442,900

142	00	National Public Procurement Authority	2,677,179,300
143	00	Justice and Legal Service Commission	274,699,600
203	00	National Civil Registration Authority	3,841,848,500
210	00	Office of National Security [ONS]	7,086,486,500
701	01	Moyamba District Council	3,731,717,911
701	01	Koinadugu District Council	4,755,198,266
701	01	Bonthe District Council	2,028,636,746

Various Salaries and Wages

Le1,806,034,674,804

Devolve Functions

Health Care Services

Le21,422,400,000

[Question Proposed]

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report entitled, 'Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee IV on the Recurrent and Development Budget Estimates for 2017.'

1. Introduction

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the Report of the Appropriation Sub-Committee IV, on the budget hearings with the Ministries, Department and Agencies [MDAs] assigned to this Committee, in respect of their Recurrent and Development Expenditure Estimates for both 2016 and 2017 Financial Years.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the above function was performed in conformity with Section 111, Sub-Sections [3&4] and Section 112 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, [Act No. 6] of 1991 and S.O 64 [3] and 66 [1] of the 'Revised Standing Orders of the Sierra Leone Parliament.'

The Committee is very mindful of the fact that the 2017 budget, like its predecessor, is presented in line with the Government's Agenda for Prosperity [AFP]¹. Each Ministry, Department and Agency is placed under one of the eight Pillars of the AFP.

In view of the above and with your leave, Mr Chairman, I hereby present, on behalf of Honourable Members of the above mentioned Committee, the Report on both the findings and recommendations of the Committee for the consideration and adoption by this Honourable House.

Table 1. Recommended Vote Heads for Approval

VOTE	DIV.	VOTE DESCRIPTION	SUM VOTED [LE]
402	00	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	3,022,753,400
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117	00	Cabinet Secretariat	1,918,442,900

¹A Government document containing policies that will direct its activities from 2013-18

142	00	National Public Procurement Authority	2,677,179,300
143	00	Justice and Legal Service Commission	274,699,600
203	00	National Civil Registration Authority	3,841,848,500
210	00	Office of National Security (ONS)	7,086,486,500
701	01	Moyamba District Council	3,731,717,911
701	01	Koinadugu District Council	4,755,198,266
701	01	Bonthe District Council	2,028,636,746

2. Composition of the Committee

Below are the Honourable Members and staff of this Committee:

1. Hon. Amadu Kanu,
2. Hon. Alhaji Seray Dumbuya,
3. Hon. Karifala S. Conteh;
4. Hon. Alie Kalokoh;
5. Hon. Hassan Abdul Sesay;
6. Hon. Kusan Sesay;
7. Hon. Francis Kowa
8. Hon. Abu Jajua;
9. Hon. Emma J. Kowa;
10. Hon. Abie Kalokoh;
11. Hon. Alhassan Jero Kamara
12. Hon. Daniel B. Koroma;
13. Hon. Dr Rolland F. Kargbo;
14. Hon. Bai Kalokoh
15. Hon. P.C. Bai Bureh Sallu Lugbu II;
16. Hon. P.C. Alex M. J. J. Kainpumu II;
17. Hon. Dauda J. B. Kallon;
18. Hon. Mohamed Jawara Kamara; and
19. Hon. Osman K. Conteh

Chairman;
Deputy Chairman

Staff

The following Staff Members were assigned to the Committee:

1. Ibrahim Jalloh;
2. Mohamed Koroma;
3. Jane Y. Kargbo; and
4. Ms Nancy Magbity.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee sat on the following days: Thursday 24th, Friday 25th, Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th November, 2016 to scrutinise budgetary allocations of the under mentioned MDAs.

3. Procedure of the Sittings

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in performing its function the Committee strictly adhered to the provisions contained in **Section 93, Sub-Section 6 [a, b & c]**, Section 112, Sub-Section [6] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and S.O. 66 [1] of the Revised Standing Orders of the Sierra Leone. In addition to the above, Vote Controllers [VCs] and their accounting staff were requested to appear before the Committee with all supporting documents on their expenditures for the period under review. Detailed information was also sought from MDAs on how they intend to expend their 2017 budgetary allocations currently under Parliamentary approval.

4. Objectives of the Exercise

The budget hearing was done in order to:

1. enable Vote Controllers and their accounting personnel justify the figures factored in their recurrent and development expenditure estimates for 2017;
2. justify whether the submissions of the above-mentioned MDAs for 2017 budgetary allocations are in compliance with their work plans presented to the Committee;
3. expedite the debate on the appropriation in the Committee of Supply;
4. enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public funds; and
5. ascertain whether the 2016 budgetary allocations were judiciously spent.

6. General Observations and Recommendations

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, please permit me to draw your attention to the failure by all MDAs, including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development [MoFED], to take corrective measures on most of the observations and recommendations presented by all Sub-Appropriation Committees during exercises of this nature. It is therefore the hope of this Committee that corrective measures will be taken on all observations and recommendations presented by Committees for the 2017 fiscal year. With this, Mr Chairman, I present to you the observations and the recommendations of the Committee on the MDAs under its purview:

- That the Committee was constrained to ascertain the claims presented by all MDAs interviewed on their actual budgetary allocations received as at October 2016. The Committee therefore recommends that in future MoFED provides Parliament with the details of all disbursement made to MDAs during the course of any given fiscal year. In doing so, they must also furnish Parliament with the status on the budgetary allocations approved by Parliament on behalf of MDAs.
- That in spite of all efforts made by Government and its development partners to build the capacities of civil servants amongst the various MDAs, some of them are still not up to the task to adequately account for monies allocated to them by Government. This is a cause for concern taking into consideration the huge resources put at their disposal for the implementation of Government policies and programmes. In view of the above, the Committee recommends that serious attention be further given to the quality of civil servants recruited by the Government.
- That though the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency (EPA-SL) is doing a great job to protect the land scape of the country, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a standard formula to determine the fee prices for the EIA License. Responding to probing questions pertaining to the above, the Agency said that the EIA License Fees are charged based on the impacts of the activity to be carried out. In the absence of a clearly defined formula, the Committee observed that the fees charged by the Agency are unreasonable and have the tendency to undermine

meaningful investment, particularly the minerals sector. In this respect, reference is hereby made to the general duty of every mineral right holder to protect the environment and minimize pollution, as enshrined in Section 132 of the Mines and Minerals Act, 2009. The Committee therefore recommends that the Agency's current charges on EIA be reviewed with the view to encourage investment. Where necessary, the Committee recommends that appropriate measures be instituted whereby the cost of land reclamation will be included in the fees charged for the EIA License.

- That most MDAs lacked adequate capacity to appropriately respond to the Parliamentary Questionnaires sent to them. As a result, the Committees are most often left with no option but to stand down some of these MDAs so that they could make the necessary corrections. To minimize this perennial problem, the Committee recommends that Parliament considers the adoption of a practice whereby vote controllers and their accountants are provided with pre-Committee hearings prior to the Commencement of the Sub-Appropriation Committee hearing.
- That unlike other Regulatory Agencies such as the National Telecommunication Communication Commission [NATCOM] the National Revenue Authority [NRA], EPA-SL, etc., the National Minerals Agency [NMA] is not permitted by law to retain any proceed from the revenue generated during the course of its operations. Mindful of the fundamental role of the NMA to both increase mining activities and generate revenue for Government, it is therefore imperative that adequate budgetary provision be made for the Agency to enhance its ambition for revenue generation.

In view of the above, the Committee therefore recommends that:

- [i] the NMA Act, 2012 be reviewed to allow the Agency to retain part of its revenue generated through fees charges and fines imposed on defaulters;
- [ii] MoFED to allocate **5%** of the total revenue collected from the minerals sector, to fund the operations of the NMA;
- [iii] the NRA to remit **40%** of the **3%** it retains from revenue collected from the minerals sector;

- During scrutiny, the Committee observed that MDAs do not meet their obligation of paying water bills. In response, some of them informed the Committee that MoFED is paying such bills on their behalf. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the appropriate Parliamentary Committees further look into the situation.
- That most of the Vote Controllers, Accountants and other Senior Officials amongst the MDAs that are either on transfer or retirement do not prepare detailed handing over note for their successors. The Committee is of the view that such practice is adversely affecting the performance of their successors. The Committee therefore recommends that this procedure must be adhered and fully implemented by all outgoing officials that fall under the categories mentioned above.

7. **Specific Observations and Recommendations**

402 00 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources was established to coordinate and supervise the management of fishery and marine resources of the country.

In 2016 FY, the Ministry of Fisheries made a budget submission of **Le 6,388,600,000** but was allocated **Le 5,196,576,020**. However, the Ministry actually received **Le 5,195,576,020** as GoSL Regular Budget. In addition, the Ministry received two different donor funds as follows: NEPAD \$ **99,995** and WARFP \$ **153,000**. As reported by the Permanent Secretary [PS], NEPAD's fund was utilized particularly in the reduction of illegal fishing activities, whilst that of WARFP was used for community management associations, monitoring and surveillance.

The Committee observed that the Ministry has huge domestic debt of **Le 94,908,687** to be paid to Guma Water Company and National Power Authority for water and electricity bills and foreign debts of **\$ 363,000** as membership fees to the International Fisheries Organisations. The Committee further observed that the Ministry made a payment plan for its domestic debts as against 2017 whilst the foreign debt will be taken care of by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is a revenue generating institution and for FY 2016, it set a revenue target of Le **30,893,670,000** but however collected **Le 53,935,202,207**, exceeding its target by **Le 23,041,532,207**. Responding to questions relating to the reasons for exceeding its target, the Ministry reported that there was an increase in licensing of tuna vessels that registered in Sierra Leone, increase in monitoring systems of the country's territorial water and continental shelf and drastic reduction in Illegal Unreported and Unregulated [IUU] fishing in Sierra Leone. The Committee commended the Ministry for a job well done and called on them to do more in 2017. They were also encouraged to support the country's local fish market. For FY 2017, the Ministry's revenue target is Le **30,893,670,000**. In this respect, the Committee is of the view that the Ministry's 2017 revenue target is unrealistic, taking into consideration the increase in the tariff of tuna vessels and other related charges. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry revisits its 2017 revenue target.

For 2017 FY, the Ministry made a budget submission of Le 6,388,600,000 but was allocated **Le 3,296,576,020** and considering the current financial global crises, the Committee encouraged the Ministry to prioritize the utilization of its allocation and recommends its approval.

403 00 Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, a total amount of **Le 2,165,193,700** was allocated to the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources in 2016 fiscal year. Of that amount, according to the Ministry, only **Le 1,477,356,910** was received so far to implement programmes highlighted in the 2016 Budget. In addition, the Ministry confirmed receipt of **\$ 1,332,319.59**, as donor funding for the fiscal year under review. According to the Ministry, the funding received from donors was utilised as follows:

- Institutional strengthening and
- Project Management

With respect to its status on public debt and revenue generation, the Ministry maintained that it has no public debt. The Ministry also admitted strict compliance with the current austerity measures adopted by the Government. On revenue generation, the Committee observed that the Ministry is no longer responsible for generating revenue for Government. Such responsibility has been entrusted with the National Minerals Agency [NMA]. The Ministry is now mainly responsible to promote mining investment and regulate the mining industry through the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes.

As part of its achievements over the years the Ministry highlighted the following:

- Reviewed the 'Core Minerals Policy' to align it with the African Mining Vision and other international standards
- Built the capacities of both the Ministry and its staff

Conducted management and functional review in collaboration with the Public Sector Reform Unit

- Promoted the development of the minerals sector and attracted additional investment in spite of the current challenge on falling commodity prices. Notwithstanding the above, the Ministry further listed the following as their key challenges:

- late and inadequate disbursement of budgetary allocation;
- inadequate technical and administrative staff; and
- inadequate vehicles/motorbikes and other working equipment such as computers, photocopiers, printers, etc. to enhance the Ministry's efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of its programmes.

In view of the above, the Committee hereby urges Government to pay serious attention to the above mentioned challenges.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, a total budgetary allocation of **Le 2,165,193,700** has been made to the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources by MoFED for the 2017 fiscal year. The Committee therefore recommends the approval of this budgetary allocation to enable the Ministry meets its operational needs.

403 05 National Minerals Agency

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Minerals Agency is largely responsible, inter alia, to enforce, regulate and monitor the effective implementation of the Mines and Minerals Act, 2009. The Agency performs this responsibility bearing in mind its mission to become a world-class professional and technical regulatory organization that could serve and develop Sierra Leone's mineral sector and local communities. The Agency therefore has a vision to ensure that Sierra Leoneans derive maximum benefits from their mineral resources.

In 2016 fiscal year, Parliament approved a budgetary allocation amounting to **Le 4,580,033,300** for the Agency. But during scrutiny the Committee observed that as at September 2016 the Agency had so far received **Le 9,933,021,437** and **Le 1,753,700,000** for both salary grant and other charges, respectively.

In addition to the above, the Agency also received donor support for the implementation of the following projects:

- Laboratory refurbishment amounting to **\$ 82,000**
- Capacity building grants amounting to **\$ 402,750.**

Both projects were implemented on behalf of the Agency by EITAP. Also, the Agency received donor support in the form of laboratory equipment worth **\$ 606,668** and **\$ 489,000** worth of equipment for Geological Information Management Systems [GIMS].

As regards its public debt status, the Committee observed that the NMA has no public debt.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that as at **30th September, 2016**, the Agency collected a total revenue amounting to **Le 17,334,848,034**, as against its original target of **Le 11,205,990,257**. Below were the reasons highlighted by the Agency for exceeding its revenue target in 2016.

- The eradication of Ebola encouraged the full participation of miners in the sector
- The implementation of the 10% levy on monitoring fees for all mineral rights holders
- Enforcement of full compliance with all major obligations

Mindful of its ambition to generate the revenue needed by the Government, the Agency proposed a revenue target of Le **11,286,790,220**.

To maximise revenue generation, the Agency has therefore recommended that:

- there should be serious penalty levy for non-compliance;
- the royalty payment for iron ore must be increase to 5% of corporation taxes by mining companies; and
- the tariff rates must be harmonized with others in the sub-region so as to minimize smuggling.

In 2017 financial year, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development [MoFED] has allocated **Le 4,580,033,300** to the NMA.

In view of the above and mindful of the crucial role of the Agency in revenue generation, the Committee recommends the approval of its 2017 budgetary allocation.

420 00 Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency [EPA-SL] is a non-sub-vented Government Agency. Apparently, the operations of the Agency are largely driven by revenue generated internally, as well as other support from donors.

In respect of the above, the Committee observed that as at 30th September 2016, the Agency has so far generated the sum of **Le 11,574,273,600**, as against its initial target of **Le 18,515,000,000**. Given the period for which revenue was being reported by the Agency, the Committee was of the firm belief that much improvement would have been made with respect to revenue generation for the remaining part of 2016. In addition to the above, the Agency acknowledged receipt of donor funding to the tune of **Le 2,009,765,042**. The donor funds received during the period under review, according to the Agency, were used to further the implementation of the approved activities related to the environment in conformity with the signed Operational Programme Estimate [OPE2], the Persistent Organic Pollutants [POPs] and other UNDP Projects.

The Committee observed that the contract for the construction of office space for the Agency is still on-going at New England Ville. The contract value for the construction of the entire office building is **\$ 9,459,720**. Since the last report to this House, the Committee observed that the Agency has made an additional payment of **\$ 680,485** towards the contract. This therefore brought the total payment so far to **\$ 4,911,935**, thereby giving a remaining balance of **\$ 4,547,785**. According to the Agency, the Project is **60%** complete and is expected to conclude in 2017.

Responding to questions pertaining to the formula used to determine fee prices levied on quarries and other related activities, the Agency disclosed that there is no standard price set for levying fee prices. The fees are charged based on the magnitude of environmental impacts of the activity to be implemented. The Committee therefore recommends that EPA-SL should revisit its quotations on major investments and to collaborate with other stakeholders in the Ministry, NMA with the view to realise meaningful and productive investments in the sector.

312 00 Teaching Service Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Teaching Service Commission [TSC] was established in 2011 through an Act of Parliament. The Commission is responsible to manage the affairs of teachers with the view to improve their professional status and economic wellbeing and other related matters. It is therefore the mission of the TSC to ensure that Government recruits adequate, professional, qualified, motivated and disciplined teaching personnel that will be available in all Government and Government-assisted schools for the successful implementation of national education plans and programmes.

During scrutiny, the Committee observed that no allocation was made to this Commission in the Appropriation Act, 2016, as the Commission itself was only inaugurated in August 2016. Apparently, the Committee observed that the Commission did not expend any money as regular budget from the Government of Sierra Leone.

Nonetheless, the Commission admitted receipt of donor funding amounting to \$ **599,600**, though indirectly from the Global Partnership Funds on Education [GPE]. Of this amount, according to the Commission, \$ **214,226.08** was expended so far to refurbish the office and for other general operations. As at the time of appearing before this Committee, the Commission claimed to have maintained a balance of \$ **385,373.92**.

In 2017 Fiscal Year, MoFED has allocated **Le 1,105,479,200** to the Teaching Service Commission. The Committee therefore recommends the approval of this budgetary allocation taking into consideration the important role of the Commission to the development and achievement of sound and quality education in Sierra Leone.

110 18 Corporate Affairs Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Corporate Affairs Commission was established by virtue of the Companies Act 2009 and it is body corporate capable of suing and be sued in its corporate name. The functions of the Commission are:

- to administer the Act, the Regulation and the supervision of the incorporation and registration of companies as indicated in the Act;
- to establish and maintain a company's registry and offices nation-wide; and
- to performs such other functions as may be specified by the Act.

For 2016 FY, Commission's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **Le 1,417,220,000** but actual allocation was **Le 712, 100,000**. However, actual amount received by the Commission was **Le 561,700,000**, and an additional **Le 291,200,000** brought forward from 2015 [3rd and 4th quarters]. The Commission is one of the revenue generating MDAs and therefore projected a revenue target of **Le 297,000,000** for 2016. However, the Commission generated **Le 282,325,000**. For 2017 fiscal year, the Commission projected a revenue target of **Le 350,000,000**. Although the Commission was unable to meet its intended revenue target in 2016, the Committee encouraged them to increase their efforts in 2017.

During hearing with the Commission, the Executive Director disclosed to the Committee that under staffing, coordination from other MDAs, untimely disbursement of funds and limited transportation facility [vehicles and motor bikes] are its major challenges.

For FY 2017, the Commission's original budget submission and actual allocation are **Le 727,600,000** and **Le 712,080,900** respectively. The Committee was of the view that the allocation is fair enough to keep the Commission up and running effectively in 2017 and recommends it approval.

124 01 Administrator and Registrar-General

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General comprised the General Registry that was established under the General Registration Act of 1955, Cap 255 and the Office of the Administrator General that was established by the Administration of Estates Act of 1960, Cap 45 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. Both offices were merged by the amended Administration of Estates Act of 1976, with the Administrator and Registrar General as head and supervised by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. Its functions are: the registration of lands, companies, businesses, marriages, intellectual properties, estates, etc. The Department's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance for 2016 FY was **Le 1,603,895,197** but received **Le 399,300,000** for 1st and 2nd Quarters only.

For FY 2017, the Department's original budget submission was **Le 480,300,000**, but was allocated with **Le 470,118,200**, indicating a slight decrease to the original request. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease will affect the digitalization of records, staff training and awareness raising campaigns.

As a revenue generating institution, the Department projected a revenue target of **Le 1,500,000,000** for 2016 FY. From January to November, it has generated **Le 1,106,236,524** and the Vote Controller indicated the inability of the Department to meet the 2016 target is largely due to the fact that the registration of companies has been devolved to the Corporate Affairs Commission. As for 2017, the Department's revenue target is **Le 2,000,000,000** and according to the Vote Controller, now that the companies have been devolved, the department is going to re-strategize within the

remit of the law, to improve on revenue generation come 2017. The Committee recommends the approval of the Office's 2017 budget.

310 00 Ministry of Youth Affairs

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, since 2013, the Ministry of Youth Affairs was alienated from the Ministry of Youth and Sports pursuant to the government's agenda to suppress the long standing challenges of youth in the country. In order to mitigate youth problems in Sierra Leone, the Ministry is charged with the responsibility to develop, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and support the implementation of policies and strategies that serve as solid foundation for youth development.

In 2016 FY, this Ministry's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **Le 3,696,440,270**. For the same year, the Ministry was given an allocation of **Le 2,583,900,000** covering quarters 1 to 4. In addition, the Ministry received Donor Funding of **Le 5,244,760,000** which was expended on the following activities:

- sensitisation on Sexual Reproductive Health [SRH];
- training of youth peer educators;
- distribution of SRH materials;
- clearing of drainages in Western Area and the other 13 Districts; and
- provision of Livelihood Support to less privileged youth.

For FY 2017, the Ministry's budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **Le 52,527,610,665** to cater for the following sub heads:

- Recurrent **Le 4,805,800,000**
- National Youth Village **Le 20,248,855,648**
- Youth in Fisheries **Le 4,372,075,000**
- National Youth Farms **Le 12,702,728,000**
- National Youth Service **Le 10,398,152,017**

However, the Ministry was allocated **Le 3,301,352,900**.

Responding to questions relating to the procedure followed in employing youths to clear drainages across the country, the Vote Controller admitted to the Committee that the scheme has been effective in all districts and that contracts were given to youths

through the District Youth Committees. With respect the payment of salaries to youths employed for the said exercise, the Vote Controller informed the Committee that the Ministry has a payment backlog of five months. He intimated the Committee that modalities were being put in place to address the situation before the end of the year.

305 03 National Commission for Persons with Disability

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Commission for Persons with Disability is working relentlessly to prohibit discrimination against persons with disability, achieve equalization of opportunities and to provide for other related matters. This Commission therefore has a vision to advocate for the existence of conducive environment where disable persons would live in an independent and dignified conditions.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the financial year under review, the Commission was given a budgetary allocation to the tune of **Le 1,530,787,250.00**. During scrutiny, the Committee observed that as at October 2016, the Commission only received and expended **Le 659,322,750.00**. In addition to the above, the Commission also confirmed the receipt of donor funding amounting to **Le 120,000,000**. According to the Commission, the resources on donor funding were utilized to finance livelihood projects for disabled persons across the country.

For 2017 Financial Year, MoFED gave a budgetary allocation to the tune of **Le 2,172,320,000.00** to enable the Commission implement its on-going programmes on behalf of disable persons in the country.

In view of the above, the Committee therefore recommends the approval of this budgetary allocation.

308 00 National Commission for Social Action [NACSA]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA] was established by an Act of Parliament in 2001 to promote Community-based, demand driven and sustainable development activities leading to the alleviation of poverty et., as contained in Part III, Section 11 Sub-section 1 of the Act referenced above.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, in 2016 FY, the Ministry of Finance provided NaCSA with a budgetary allocation of **Le 4,424,000,000**, but actually received the sum of **Le 1,021,000,000** as GoSL Regular Budget. The Commission further received **Le 6,400,000,000** as Counterpart Funding and **Le 53,700,000,000** as donor funding. Hence the total allocation received and expended by the Commission in 2016 FY amounted to **Le 61,300,000,000**.

For 2017 FY, the GoSL Regular budgetary allocation to the Commission amounted to **Le 1,345,700,500**. During scrutiny, the Committee observed that there was a significant decrease to its original budget submission which, according to the Vote Controller will affect the implementation of Social Protection Services, Reparation, Cash Transfer, etc.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as observed by the Committee, in FY 2016, the Commission generated revenue from the sale of old vehicles, office equipment and bidding documents to the tune of **Le 168,728,000** out of a target of **Le 150,000,000**. For FY year 2017, the Commission's revenue target is **Le 200,000,000**. The Committee commended the Commission for exceeding its target and encourages them to maintain their revenue generation performance in 2017.

The Committee therefore recommends the approval of the Commission's 2017 budget.

108 00 Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission

The Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission was established by an Act of Parliament in 2010 in compliance with ECOWAS Protocol on Small Arms, signed and adopted in 1999 by the ECOWAS Member States in Lome, Togo. The Commission has the mandate to oversee the movement or transfer of small arms and light weapons, their ammunitions and other related materials, regulate the manufacture of small arms and light weapons, their possession and their use within Sierra Leone.

The Commission's original budget submitted for 2016 FY was **Le 2,758,122,000** but was allocated **Le 678,898,000** and actually received **Le 557,112,000**. According to the Commission, the Mines Action Group [MAG] received and expended for and on behalf of the Commission, **\$ 63,000** on the destruction of absolute weapons belonging

to the police and military. The Commission disclosed that records of such expenditure have never been made available to the Commission. The Committee therefore recommends that the appropriate Committee [NGOs Committee] investigate such expenditure.

For 2016 FY, the Commission did not set any revenue target but however generated **Le 306,150,000** from fire arms license fees. The Commissioner disclosed that more revenue generation is expected for 2017 provided fire arms owners in the provinces come forward to register.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, for 2017 FY, the Commission was allocated **Le 679, 898,700**. After examining the Commission's work plan for 2017, the Committee observed that the allocation cover the priority expenditure heads and therefore recommends it approval.

110 01 National Assets Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Assets Commission was established by an Act of Parliament responsible for the control and identifications of all government assets in and out of the country. The Commission is responsible to monitor the use of these assets to ensure sustainability.

For the FY 2016, the Commission made a budget submission of **Le 1,016,400,000** to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, but was allocated **Le 598,588,250**. However, the Commission received the sum of **Le 326,188,250**. The Vote Controller informed the Committee that they are in full readiness for the implementation of the Treasury Single Account [TSA] as stipulated in Section 47 of the PFM Act 2016. He also informed Members that they projected a revenue target of **Le 50,000,000**, but was able to generate the sum of **Le 52,000,000**, exceeding their target which was as a result of the withdrawal of some confiscated houses from the pool of Government quarter under the purview of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure.

The 2017 FY budgetary submission of the Commission was **Le 927,600,000**, but was allocated **Le 907,944,900**. The Committee recommends the approval of the Commission's 2017 budget.

110 08 Office of the Ombudsman

Mr Chairman Honourable Members, the budgetary submission for FY 2016 by the office of the Ombudsman to MoFED was **Le 2, 244,855,075**, but however received **Le 634,300,000** and as of October 2016 has expended **Le 598,284,626.43**. Bank statements accounted for the remaining **Le 36,015,373.57**, which the Executive Secretary said will cover part of the institution's expenditure for the remaining months of the year.

For the fiscal year 2017, Office of the Ombudsman made a submission of **Le 1,296,200,000**. However, it was allocated **Le 1,268,600,000** and the Committee views the allocation to be adequate for the Commission to carry out its function in 2017 and therefore recommends its approval.

117 00 Cabinet Secretariat

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, in 2016 FY, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development allocated a total of **Le 848,515,755** to the Cabinet Secretariat. However, the total amount received by the Office was **Le 1,284,255,884** from GoSL Regular Budget and GoSL Supplementary. As of November 2016, the Office has expended **Le 1,273,384,780**.

For FY 2017, Cabinet Secretariat was allocated **Le 1,981,442,900** the Committee views the above allocation as adequate to meet the operations of the Office and recommends its approval.

142 00 National Public Procurement Authority

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA] was established in 2004 through an Act of 2004. It was established to, amongst other things, perform oversight functions over public procurement activities amongst MADs and to advise the Government accordingly.

For the period under review, MoFED allocated **Le 2,677,179,300.00** to the NPPA. Of this amount, the NPPA disclosed to the Committee that they had only received **Le 782,783,000**. Probing further the Committee observed that the NPPA did not receive any donor support as at October 2016.

For 2017, the National Public Procurement Authority made a budgetary submission of **Le 2,435,400,000** to the Ministry of Finance and was given the same amount as their ceiling. The sum of **Le 2,677,179,300** was given to the National Procurement Authority as an actual allocation.

In respect of the above, the Committee recommends the approval of the 2017 budgetary allocation to the NPPA.

143 00 Justice and Legal Service Commission

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in spite of all efforts made by this Committee to ensure the appearance of the above mentioned Commission, no individual deemed it necessary to appear before the Committee for budgetary scrutiny. The Committee was therefore left with no option but to recommend to this Honourable House to withhold the 2017 Budgetary Allocation to the said Commission until the matter is being looked into by Parliament.

203 00 National Civil Registration Authority

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Civil Registration Authority [NCRA] was given a budgetary allocation of **Le 5,841,848,500** in 2016. However, as at October 2016, the NCRA received and expended **Le 1,873,400,000** from its regular budget.

In addition to the above, the Government allocated another **Le 36,000,000,000** to enable the NCRA undertake national civil registration exercise across the country. Of this amount, Government has credited into the account of the NCRA a total of **Le 26,000,000,000** for the said purpose. According to evidence presented to the Committee, it was observed that as at July 2016, a total of **Le 1,118,000,000** has so far been expended to implement the following activities:

- civic education;
- recruitment of field staff;
- rehabilitation of 15 Districts registration offices;
- setting up of power supply systems and data connectivity server; and
- procurement of biometric registration kits.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the NCRA generated a total revenue amounting to **Le 629,182,000** as against its original target of **Le 1,000,000,000** in 2016. Probing further the Committee observed the shortfall in Authority's 2016 revenue target was as a result of its inability to decentralize the production of national identity cards to other parts of the country. However, the NCRA was unable to make any revenue projection for 2017 because its contract with Thomas De La Rue will soon be rolled out.

For 2017 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated to NCRA **Le 3,841,848,500** as Government regular budget, whilst another **Le 180,000,000,000** was allocated to the Authority for development activities- National Civil Registration Project. The Committee recommends the approval of the Authority's 2017 budget.

210 00 Office of National Security

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Office of National Security came into being by an Act of Parliament in 2002 in order to provide high level of authority in the coordination, arbitration and oversight of the security sector. The Office is further charged with the responsibility of providing the highest forum for the consideration and determination of matters relating to security in Sierra Leone.

For FY 2016, Office of National Security received a total amount of **Le 18,530,359,881** [other charged and salaries]. Like in 2015, ONS did not receive GoSL Supplementary, donor funding and any fund from other sources. For 2017 FY, original budget submission of ONS to Ministry of Finance was **Le 26,027,500,000** but **Le 7,086,486,500** was actually allocated to them by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The institution incurred a decrease of **Le 18,941,013,500** and as highlighted by the Vote Controller, the decrease in their original submission would obviously affect the following areas:

- proposed expansion of chiefdom security committees;
- implementation of the recommendations of the second SSR Report;
- capacity building of personnel;
- implementation of counter-terrorism strategy; and
- the planned activities of the Trans-Organised Crime Unit.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considered the allocation to this Office as adequate and recommends its approval.

ALLOCATIONS TO DISTRICT COUNCILS

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the table below contains information on the various District Councils interviewed by this Committee, capturing both the actual budgetary allocation received by each in 2016 fiscal year, as well as their 2017 budgetary allocation, respectively.

Table 2: Actual Allocation Received in 2016 FY for all Devolved Sectors

No.	Name of District Council	Actual Allocation Received [Le]
1	Moyamba	1,819,838,201
2	Bonthe	937,857,364.00
3	Koinadugu	2,867,556,274.00

Table 3 Budgetary Allocation in 2017 for all Devolved Sectors

No.	Name of District Council	Actual Allocation Received [Le]
1	Moyamba	3,731,717,911
2	Bonthe	2,28,636,746
3	Koinadugu	4,755,198,266

In addition to the regular budgetary allocation received in 2016, the Moyamba District Council also received donor funding amounting to **Le 924,952,211.60** from both the Decentralised Service Delivery Programme [DSDP] and the Reproductive Child Health Programme [RCHP], respectively. On revenue mobilization, the Council generated **Le 485,761,819** as own source revenue from local tax, property tax, licenses and royalties. Although the Council was unable to attain its revenue target of **Le 1,272,165,368.10**, it has nevertheless projected a revenue target of **Le 1,000,000,000** in 2017 fiscal year. Like its counterpart, Bonthe District Council received **Le 937,857,364.00** as regular budgetary allocation from the Government of Sierra Leone [GoSL] for all devolved sectors. In addition to the above, the Council further received **Le 478,287,829.00** as donor funding from both DSDP and RCHP. The Council also received **Le 243,428,932.00**.

With respect to revenue generation in 2016, the Council made revenue projection of **Le 474,189,437.00** but actual revenue collection was **Le 292,560,780.00**. Responding to questions relating to the Council's inability to meet its revenue target, the Chief Administrator highlighted the following, amongst others:

- Inability to collect property rate due to the huge financial resources required to set up and manage a Cadastre System;
- Lack of comprehensive revenue data base to determine revenue generation potentials and collection methods; and
- The lack of willingness by Paramount Chiefs to share with the Council revenue collected in their respective chiefdoms.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council has projected a revenue target of **Le 475,340,000.000** for 2017 Financial Year.

Meanwhile, the Committee observed that Koinadugu District Council expended a total of **Le 4,706,677.55**, as at 30th September, 2016. According to the Chief Administrator, the expenditure under review included **Le 2,867,556,274.00** from regular budgetary allocation and **Le 1,838,707,403.55** as donor funding, respectively. The donor funding was utilized on capital projects ranging from the rehabilitation and construction

of rural water facilities, primary and secondary schools, health care facilities and social protection activities.

Like all revenue generating MDAs, Koinadugu District Council generated from own source revenue **Le 181,882,054.00** out of a target of **L 971,789,948.48** in 2016. Responding to the Committee’s disappointment for the Council’s abysmal performance in revenue generation, the Chief Administrator drew the attention of the Committee to the conflict over the ownership of revenue sources between the Council and the Chiefdom Administration as a major impediment. In view of the above, the Chief Administrator therefore called on the Committee to encourage the Ministry of Local Government to adhere to the provisions of the Local Government Act of 2004 and to also institute a policy on local government revenue.

8. Conclusion

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Members of Sub-Committee 4 for their cooperation and teamwork as they critically perused the budgets of MDAs under their purview. The Committee’s thanks and appreciation go to Mr Ibrahim Jalloh, Mr Mohamed Koroma, Mrs Jane Y. Kargbo and Miss. Nancy Magbity and all of whom provided technical support to the Committee.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on behalf of Members of the Sub-Committee IV, I move that the **Vote Heads** and **sub heads** of MDAs including allocations to the Local Councils scrutinised by the Committee as indicated in the table below stand part of the Schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Table 4: Recommended Vote Heads for Approval

VOTE	DIV.	VOTE DESCRIPTION	SUM VOTED [LE]
402	00	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	3,022,753,400
403	00	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	2,165,193,700
403	05	National Minerals Agency	4,580,033,300

420	00	Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]	100,000
312	00	Teaching Service Commission	1,105,479,200
110	18	Corporate Affairs Commission	712,080,900
124	01	Administrator and Registrar General	470,118,200
310	00	Ministry of Youth Affairs	3,301,252,900
305	03	National Commission for Persons with Disability	2,172,320,100
308	00	National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA]	1,345,700,500
108	00	Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission	679,898,700
110	01	National Assets Commission	907,944,900
110	08	Office of the Ombudsman	1,268,606,400
117	00	Cabinet Secretariat	1,918,442,900
142	00	National Public Procurement Authority	2,677,179,300
143	00	Justice and Legal Service Commission	274,699,600
203	00	National Civil Registration Authority	3,841,848,500
210	00	Office of National Security [ONS]	7,086,486,500
701	01	Moyamba District Council	3,731,717,911
701	01	Koinadugu District Council	4,755,198,266
701	01	Bonthe District Council	2,028,636,746

Submitted by Honourable Amadu Kanu, Chairman, Sub-Appropriation Committee IV

[II] Sub-Appropriation Committee VI

DR PATRICK CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Vote Heads stand part of the Schedule:

107 00 – Ministry of Local Government – **[Le 4,232,489,000];**

408 00 –Ministry of Works and Infrastructure – **[Le10, 016,465,100];**

306 00 – Ministry of Lands C/ Planning & Environment – **[Le3, 068, 907,400];**

407 00 – Ministry of Labour/Social Security – **[Le6, 000,886,000];**

110 52 – Law Reform Commission – **[Le803, 276,300];**

112 00 – Office of the Vice President – **[Le 10, 840, 916,400];**

138 00 – Statistics Sierra Leone [SSL] **[Le8, 794,425,400];**

110 13 – Sierra Insurance Commission – **[Le744, 149,600];**

130 00 – National Revenue Authority – **[Le 76,360,780,000];**

134 00 – National Electoral Commission – **[Le209, 534,000,000];**

110 14 – Local Government Service Commission – **[Le189, 628,400];**

123 00 – Public Service Commission **[Le 1,915,636,100];**

417 00 – Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority **[Le1, 589,164,800];**

133 03 – Attitudinal and Behavioural Change – [ABC] **[Le818, 642,500];**

701 01 – Port Loko District Council – **[Le5,679,325,273];**

701 01 – Tonkolili District Council – **[Le4,839,501,680];**

701 01 – Kailahun District Council – **[Le4, 592,204,213];**

409 10 - Department of Corporative – **[Le 1,229,856,800];**

107 04 – Provincial Secretary’s Office North – **[Le1, 986,366,200];**

701 01 Bonthe Municipal Council – **[Le1, 422,768,815];**

101 00 – Charge Emoluments [See Note 1]

341 00 – Pensions, Gratuities and other Retirement Benefits [See Note 1]

342 00 - Contribution to Social Security [See Note 2 please].

501 00 - Miscellaneous Services – **[Le880, 998,300];**

509 00 - Domestic Suppliers Arrears – [Le19, 007,000,000];

509 00 – Parastatals Arrears – [Le2, 522,000,000];

601 00 – Public Debt Charges – [Le846, 876,493,700];

61000 – Contingency Fund [3] [Le50, 030,000,000];

Devolve Functions – Youth and Sports Services – [Le1, 486,200,000]; and

701 00 – Local Government Administration Grant – [Le4, 183,400,000].

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, you have referred us to Notes 1 and 2. I see that this has been the practice in the past. In future, this is totally unacceptable. We must get figures attached to these Vote Heads specifically and they must be pronounced. I hope this will not happen again in future.

DEPUTY MINISTER: Noted, Mr Chairman.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Chairman, Sub-Appropriation Committee VI].

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2014, I read Sub-Appropriation Committee VI Report. In 2015, to support gender equality in this House, I delegated that duty to a lady in the Committee, Honourable Patricia Bangura from Kambia District, Constituency 038. This year [2016] to encourage party tolerance, I am requesting that Honourable Mustapha Braima from Kailahun District, Constituency 002, to present the Report.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. BRAIMA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you Sub-Appropriation Committee VI Report.

A. INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 111, Sub-section 3 and Section 112, Sub-section 6 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and Standing Orders [S.O.] 64[3], Parliament committed the examination of the under-mentioned budgetary heads of the bill entitled “the Appropriation Act 2017”, to the

Appropriation Sub-Committee 6. In line with Standing Orders 66 [1], this Committee was charged with the responsibility of working together with the Vote Controllers and the Accountants of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] stated below, and to carefully scrutinize the budgets allocated to them in 2016 in order to ascertain whether these funds were judiciously expended and to justify if their submissions of 2017 budgets are in accordance with their work plans presented to the Committee. The proposed 2017 budget estimates for the various Heads and Sub-heads under review are as follow:

MDAs ACCOUNTS HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2017			
Vote	Div.	Vote Description	Sum Voted [Le]
107	00	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development	4,232,489,000
408	00	Ministry of Works, Housing & Infrastructure	10,016,465,100
306	00	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment.	3,068907,400
407	00	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	6,000,886,000
110	12	Law Reform Commission	803,276,300
112	00	Office of the vice President	10,840,916,400
138	00	Statistics Sierra Leone [SSL]	8,794,425,400
110	01	Sierra Leone Insurance Commission	744,149,600
130	00	National Revenue Authority [NRA]	76,360,780,000
134	00	National Electoral Commission [NEC]	209,534,000,000
110	14	Local Government Service Commission	189,628,400
123	00	Public Service Commission	1,915,636,100
417	00	Nuclear Safety Radiation Protection Agency	1,581,164,800
133	03	Attitudinal & Behavioural Change Secretariat	818,642,500

409	01	Department of Cooperatives	1,229,856,800
107	04	Provincial Secretary's Office - North	1,986,366,200
701	01	PortLoko District Council	5,679,325,273
701	00	Tonkolili District Council	4,839,501,680
701	00	Kailahun District Council	4,592,204,213
701	00	Bonthe Municipal Council	1,422,768,815

PROCEDURE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sub-Appropriation Committee 6 followed the established procedure of scrutinizing heads of expenditure. The Committee sent out questionnaires to all the MDAs assigned to it, for detail information relating to the 2016 and 2017 budgetary activities. Pursuant to S.O. 66[1], the Vote Controllers were summoned to come along with their financial documents pertaining to revenues and expenditures of their MDAS for examination, to ascertain the efficient and effective use of both human and financial resources, the constraints of the MDAs and the adequacy or otherwise of their financial allocations.

B. OBJECTIVES

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in line with the provisions of S.O. 66[1], the Sub Appropriation Committee probed with the following objectives in mind:

- The MDAs adherence to prudent public financial management regulations as means of enhancing accountability in the utilization of public resources allocated under the 2016 and 2017 budgets;
- The strength and weaknesses [if any] in the budget preparation and performance with the view of improving on the appropriation process;
- The challenges and constraints faced by the MDAs in executing their activities; and
- Whether budgetary resources were equitably distributed.

C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sub Appropriation Committee VI comprised of the following Members:

1. Hon. Abu B. Koroma - **Chairman**
2. Hon. Kombor Kamara - **Deputy Chairman**
3. Hon. Saidu Baba Kamara
4. Hon. Dr Foday I. Suma
5. Hon. Foday Rado Yokie
6. Hon. Sahr Fatorma
7. Hon. Lahai Marah
8. Hon. Sheku A. Sannoh
9. Hon. Jusufu B. Mansaray
10. Hon. Fredrick Sandy Sourie
11. Hon. Mabinty H. Bangura
12. Hon. Hannah Bundu Songowa
13. Hon. Mustapha M. Braima
14. Hon. P.C. Joseph Alie Komgomoh II
15. Hon. P.C. Alhaji Bai Shebora Yek II
16. Hon. Rosaline J. Smith
17. Hon. Andrew Lungay
18. Hon. Tamba Entochema Ebba
19. Hon. Sallieu O. Sesay
20. Hon. Kemokoh Conteh

D. SUPPORT STAFF

1. Mr Mahmoud Barrie – **Clerk In-Charge**
2. Mr Abdulai B. Sannoh
3. Mr Karmoh Conteh
4. Mrs Bintu Weston – **Absent with excuse**

E. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, AND FINDINGS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the following general observations in respect of the MDAs and Local Councils that appeared before Sub Appropriation Committee 6.

- i. The Committee observed that for most of the MDAs and Local Councils, actual amounts received for 2016 Financial Year [FY] were less than the amounts allocated. This cut in actual receipts by some MDAs and Local Councils might have negatively impacted their performance.
- ii. The Committee further observed that allocations to the MDAs and Local Councils for 2016 FY were not released on time. This also might have negatively impacted their budgetary performance and similarly created huge outstanding public debts. This also affected the administrative activities and development projects of the MDAs and Local Councils.
- iii. It was also noted that some MDAs did not follow the Government austerity precautions, especially in the use of fuel.
- iv. Documents submitted by most MDAs were haphazard and full of mistakes, as if some of these MDAs did not take the budget process seriously.
- v. Except for some consideration for the current economic condition, the Committee viewed the allocations to the Local Councils and most MDAs for 2017 FY as inadequate.
- vi. It was also observed that most Vote Controllers of MDAs and Local Councils used their personal email addresses for official purposes, contravening best practice.

F. SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, below are the specific observations and findings on the MDAs and Local Councils that were assigned to Committee 6 for scrutiny of their budget allocations:

107 00 MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this Ministry is responsible for providing leadership, policy formulation, coordination and oversight of all 19 City and Local Councils and all 149 Chiefdom Administrations, in order to ensure prudence local governance in the country.

In 2016 FY, this Ministry submitted an original budget of **Le 5,446,362,275** to the Ministry of Finance despite been given a budget ceiling of **Le 1,732,500,000**. The Ministry was however allocated **Le 1,895,000,000**, slightly above its ceiling and received the sum of **Le 1,732,500,000** from GoSL regular budget and later received Le 162,500,000 as supplementary, which amounted to **Le 1,895,000,000** as allocated. In scrutinizing the Ministry's expenditure, the Committee observed that the Ministry expended **Le 1,345,000,000** out of what was received from the GoSL regular budget for the year 2016 and had a balance of **Le 550,000,000** which according to the Accountant was still with the Accountant General's Office for processing.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2017 FY the Ministry made an original budget submission of **Le 48,770,200,000**, inclusive of money for the de-amalgamation process. An allocation of **Le 4,232,489,000** was given to the Ministry, higher than the ceiling of **Le 1,770,200,000** but lesser than its budget submission. The Committee observed that there was an increment in their actual allocation for 2017 FY as compared to 2016 FY. This as they acknowledged, might increase on the monitoring and supervisory role of the Ministry over the Councils. The Committee further observed that the Ministry hired Mr A.J.P Lebbie as a Consultant who had already been retired to perform a duty that the Director of Local Government who is in active service could have done. The Committee viewed this action as waste of resources and therefore recommended the immediate termination of that contract. The Committee however recommended that the MDA be granted a supplementary allocation in order to enable them undertake the amalgamation process.

408 00 MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure made a budget submission to the tune of **Le 144,601,285,146** for the 2016 FY. The Ministry was however given an actual allocation of **Le 25,650,010,000** and received all of what was allocated from the GoSL. According to the Permanent Secretary, the allocation was mostly expended on infrastructure and administration. With a revenue target of **Le 1,500,000,000** in 2016 FY, the Ministry generated **Le 886,422,100**, far below their revenue target. According to the Accountant, the revenue collected was only for a period of 9 months beginning from the 4th January to the 30th September 2016.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2017 FY, the Ministry of Works Housing and Infrastructure made a budget submission of **Le 132,690,621,120**, higher than the budget ceiling of **Le 9,814,400,000**; the Ministry was however allocated **Le 10,016,465,100**. Mr Chairman, the Permanent Secretary reported that the reduction in their original budget submission might affect the following areas:

- Security and cleaning services at Youyi Building and the Ministry's Headquarter;
- The implementation and monitoring of works and projects

In view of the above, and despite the Ministry's own revenue target projection of **Le 1,500,000,000** for 2017 FY, the Committee recommended a supplementary budget support, with the view of enabling the efficient and effective operation of the Ministry.

306 00 MINISTRY OF LANDS, COUNTRY PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment as contained in the Gazette No.21 Vol. CXXX1X of 30th April, 2008, is mandated to develop the appropriate policies and programmes for land management, country planning and the environment under the following headings:

- Land and Land Tenure
- Surveys, mapping and triangulations

- Relationships with the Directorate of Overseas Geodetic and Topographical Surveys and other relevant international organizations.
- Enforcement of Planning & Building Controls
- Demolition of unauthorised structures
- Development of National Environment Policy
- Protection of the environment in collaboration with other relevant MDAs
- Collaboration with National and International Organizations and institutions

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Lands Country Planning and Environment, made a budget submission to the tune of **Le 8,596,954,500.00** for the 2016 FY with a budget ceiling of **Le 3,701,300,000**. The Ministry was allocated **Le 1,601,782,900.00** but the actual amount received was **Le 681,382,900** and expended all of what was received mostly on:

- Local and overseas travels;
- Office furniture and equipment;
- Vehicle maintenance;
- Building maintenance;
- Stationery;
- Water and electricity charges; and
- Office and generals.

In FY 2017, the Ministry made a budget submission of **Le 3,701,300,000** with a budget ceiling of **Le 3,068,000,000**. The Ministry was allocated the sum of **Le 3,068,907,400**. The Committee recommended a supplementary budgetary allocation to this Ministry.

407 00 MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is responsible for formulating and coordinating national labour policies, with the view of enhancing compliance, job security and protection of employees' and employers' interest in the labour market.

Given a budget ceiling of **Le 4,067,600,000** for 2016 FY, the Ministry made an ambitious budget submission of **Le 12,031,032,106** but was actually allocated **Le 4,595,070,000** and only received **Le 2,197,656,496**, just about half of its ceiling. The Ministry however received a donor fund from the International Labour Organization [ILO] to the tune of **Le 43,062,450** and from GIZ to the tune **Le 22,500,000**, making a grand total of **Le 65,562,450** in donor support. This, according to the Permanent Secretary was spent on the launching of the National Employment Policy [NEP] on the 2nd of May 2016.

With a revenue target of **Le 10,000,000,000** in 2016 FY, the Ministry generated **Le 3,980,900,000**, far below the revenue target. The reason given by the Permanent Secretary for not meeting their target was that; as he stated, "we could not meet the target because factories have not recovered from the effect of EBOLA and the fall in the price of Iron Ore. Also, unavailability of resources to facilitate integrated labour inspections affected the process"

For the 2017 FY, the Ministry with a budget ceiling of **Le 5,331,400,000** made a budget submission of **Le 10,522,200,000** but was allocated **Le 6,000,886,000**. The Vote Controller stated that the decrease in the allocation might affect the areas:

- Revenue generation through integrated labour inspections;
- Overseas travelling to attend annual ILO Conferences;
- Social protection programme-cash transfer to aged/vulnerable persons
- Vehicle maintenance;
- Building maintenance/renovation of offices.

For 2017 FY the Ministry's revenue target is projected at **Le 9,220,750,000**. The Committee considered this allocation inadequate and requested that the MDA be considered in case of a supplementary budget.

110 12 LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Law Reform Commission was established as an agency of Government under the Law Reform Commission Decree in 1994 and as

amended in 1999. The Commission has a statutory mandate to review the Laws of Sierra Leone for the purposes of the need for reform, consolidation and codification.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2016 FY, the Commission's original budget submission was **Le 1,168,104,000** although it was given a budget ceiling of **Le 899,400,000**. The actual allocation made to the Commission was **Le 642,590,000** but the Commission received a total of **Le 401,600,000** for the 1st, and 2nd, quarters only; the balance is yet to be disbursed.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2017 FY, this Commission made an original budget submission of **Le 820,700,000** for recurrent expenditure and **Le 268,704,000** for capital expenditure which summed up to **Le 1,089,404,000**. With a budget ceiling of **Le 820,700,000** the Commission was allocated **Le 803,276,300**. The Committee recommended a supplementary budget for this Commission.

112 00 OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, to ensure good governance and increase the efficiency of the government, the Office of the Vice President has been conducting oversight activities, supervising, monitoring and coordinating the MDAs. This Office has been operating on two programmes: Programme I focuses on Administration and Programme II centres on the Vice President's Security, travelling and services.

In 2016 FY, the Office of the Vice President submitted an original budget of **Le 7,648,892,000**, in line with its budget ceiling and was allocated **Le 4,254,580,920**. The sum of **Le 133,000,000** was provided by UNICEF for Scaling up Nutrition [SUN] Programme under the purview of the V.P's Office.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for FY 2017, this Office made an original budget submission of **Le 8,478,700,000** in line with its budget ceiling and was allocated **Le 10,840,916,400**. The Committee viewed this allocation as 'adequate' since the Office has been allocated more than its original submission.

138 00 STATISTICS SIERRA LEONE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Statistics Sierra Leone is responsible for the collection of reliable data and the dissemination of national statistics for use by both Governmental and non-Governmental institutions. In 2016 FY, with a budget ceiling of **Le 6,899,531,303.50**, Statistics Sierra Leone made a submission of **Le 31,190,000,000** but was allocated **Le 14,194,000,000**. The institution however received the total sum of Le 27, 283, 270, 434, 68 from the Ministry of Finance and the sum of **Le 5,632, 412, 370.68** from the donor communities [NUFPA, UNICEF, NEC, MOHS and World Bank]. During scrutiny, the Committee found out that the sum total of **Le 27,283,270,434.68** was expended under the following Heads:

- Non- Salary Recurrent Expenditure;
- Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey [SLIHS]
- Salaries
- Labour Force Survey [LFS]
- Multi indicator cluster survey [MICS]
- Water mapping survey
- Social safety net survey
- Malaria indicator survey
- Boundary delimitation

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2017 FY, this Institution made an original budget submission of **Le 17,307,000,000.00** to cover other charges, like Non-salary recurrent expenditure and several surveys, such as Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey [SLIHS], Labour Force survey [LFS], Multi indicator cluster survey [MICS] and Census of Business Establishment survey [BEC]. However, the Committee observed that a Sum total of **Le 8,794,425, 400.00** was allocated to this Department.

110 13 SIERRA LEONE INSURANCE COMMISSION [SLICOM]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this Commission is charged with the responsibility of overseeing and ensuring compliance by Insurance Companies in this country.

In 2016 FY, SLICOM made a budgetary submission of **Le 3,184,517,700** with a budget ceiling of **Le 1.18b**. The MDA was given a budget allocation of **Le 1,978,825,840** and received the sum of **Le 1,272,984,705**. The Commission however further received as revenue, an amount of **Le 782,092,013.00** from Insurance Registration Fees and others charges, plus **Le 604,896,234** as cash balance from 2015; all summing up to **Le 2,659,972,950.00** as total revenue receipt for 2016 FY. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2016 this MDA made an expenditure of **Le 2,320,292,332.00**, with a balance of **Le 339,680,618.00** which was reported to be in their bank account. It was further observed by the Committee that the Commission did not meet their revenue target of **Le 955,888,234** for 2016 FY, and only generated **Le 782,092,013**. The reason given by the Commissioner for not meeting their target was that some insurance companies paid less levy, due to drop in their premium incomes and late payments of levies in 2016.

In 2017 FY, the budgetary submission of this Commission was **Le 3.204b** in line with their budget ceiling and was allocated **Le 744,149,600**.

130 00 NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY [NRA]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the 2002 National Revenue Authority [NRA] Act, gives the Authority the sole right to collect revenue on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone. However, the Committee noted with regret that the policy of centralized revenue collection has not been achieved, as other MDAs still collect and retain revenue independent of the NRA. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as part of the NRA collection mandate, as spelt out in the 2002 Act, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is required to pay back to NRA **3%** of the total revenue collected as incentive after meeting their targets but has not been the case over the years. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that even with the introduction of the austerity measures, NRA continued to registered steady growth in terms of revenue mobilization.

The Commission's original budgetary submission to the Ministry of Finance was **Le 78,683,753,719.00** for 2016 FY with a budget ceiling of **Le 75,941,883,374.00**. The actual allocation made to the Commission was **Le 68,675,120,000.00** but only **Le 60,506,340,000.00** was actually released by the Ministry of Finance. This reduction, the Management reported affected vital areas such as research, border monitoring and other administrative expenses. Donor support was in kind through modernisation programme with DFID. The Commission's actual expenditure for 2016 FY stood at **Le 59,570,324,036.00**.

For 2017 FY, out of a total budget submission of **Le 107.7b, Le 76,360,780,000.00** was allocated, indicating a decrease in allocation. This, the Management again reported that it might affect salary reforms and operational activities for revenue mobilization. The Committee recommended that NRA be given their **3%** as indicated in the NRA Act 2002.

134 00 NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS [NEC]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Section 32[1] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone provides for the establishment of a neutral, impartial, independent and non-partisan Electoral Commission that tagged with the responsibility of organizing, conducting and supervising all public elections, referenda, registering of eligible voters, demarcation of constituency boundaries and making regulations for the efficient performance of its electoral functions.

In 2016 FY, the original budget submission of this Commission to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development was **Le 54,023,779,475** with a budget ceiling of **Le 37,367,100,000**. The Commission received **Le 31, 639,203,592** for both recurrent and development expenditure. In addition, the Committee also discovered that the Commission received **Le 1,800,000,000** as donor fund. Furthermore, donor fund as explained by the Vote Controller was used on the following activities:

- Training of IT and District staff on GIS;
- Update on GIS for VRCs;
- Development of Human Resource Information System;

- Technical assistance, report, and production of constituencies and ward Maps;
- Organized stakeholder consultations at National and District levels on the draft constituencies and boundaries; and
- Organised regular National and District Boundary Delimitation, Monitoring Committee meetings to discuss the process and provide technical advice to NEC.

The Committee further observed that the Commission generated **Le 63,500,000** as revenue raised from 'nomination fees.' According to the Vote Controller, this money was paid to the National Revenue Authority [NRA] and a copy of NRA receipt was presented to the Committee for authentication.

Mr Chairman, for 2017 FY, this Commission submitted a budget of **Le 330,105,461,980.00** but was allocated the sum of **Le 209,534,000,000** indicating a decrease of **Le 120,571,461,980**. Considering the huge task of the Commission and examining the negative effects of this decrease, the Executive Secretary told the Committee that the decrease would affect the following:

- Electoral Education, Communication and out rich;
- infrastructural development; and
- Staff training and capacity building.

Therefore the Committee views the 2017 FY budgetary allocation to this Commission as inadequate and recommended for supplementary allocation during the course of the fiscal year.

110: 14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Local Government Service Commission as stated in section 38[1] of the Local Government Act 2004, is charged with the responsibility of providing regulatory and management functions, to the system of decentralised governance in Sierra Leone.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2016 Financial Year [FY], the Local Government Service Commission submitted an original budget of **Le 4,875,000,000** and was actually allocated **Le 190,000,000**. The Commission received Le 94,800,000 as GoSL regular budget, for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters, a supplementary budget of **Le**

250,000,000 and roll over of **Le 48,237,981.71** from 2015, which amounted to **Le 393,037,981.70**. It was observed by the Committee that this Commission expended **Le 380,606,178.05** on fuel and oil, payment of furniture and equipment, vehicle repairs, payment to suppliers, administrative costs etc.

The Executive Secretary stated that the cut down in their original budget for 2016 FY posed serious constraints as follow:

- Inadequate vehicles;
- Insufficient logistics and office equipment;
- The Chairman and Regional Commissioners unable to perform their oversight duties as a result of lack of funds to establish regional offices and lack of vehicles and logistics; and

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, for the FY 2017, the Commission submitted an original budget of **Le 3,578,000,000**, with a ceiling of **Le 194,000,000**. The Commission was allocated **Le 189,628,400**; far lower the original budget submission. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the reduction of **Le 3,388,371,600** from their budget submission might affect the following activities:

- Capacity Building of Council Staff;
- Quarterly review and Planning of the Commission's activities;
- Performance appraisal system for Local Councils;
- Administrative costs;
- Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Review of human Resource Management Guidelines for Local Councils; and
- Vehicle repairs.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, looking at the relevance of the Local Government Service Commission in the development of the human resource base of the Local Councils and seeking to manage the decentralisation process, the Committee recommended that a supplementary budget be provided during the course of the year.

123 00 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, Section 152[1] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, empowers the Public Service Commission [PSC] to appoint persons to hold or act in office in the public service and to dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over persons holding such Government offices.

For 2016 FY the PSC submitted an original budget of **Le 2,121,700,000**, marginally above its budget ceiling of **Le 1,915,818,000** and was allocated **Le 1,915,618,050**, almost in line with the ceiling. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development released to the Commission the same amount as allocated. The Commission further benefited from donor funding of **Le 246,975,000** from the World Bank, to support Public Sector Reform. During the deliberations, the Committee observed that the Commission expended **Le 1,915,618,050** to date, out of what was received from the GoSL regular budget for the year 2016 and had a balance of **Le 248,000,000** in their bank account. For the 2017 FY, the PSC made a budget submission of **Le 1,967,300,000**, in line with the ceiling. The Commission was actually allocated **Le 1,915,636,100**, slightly below its submission. The Committee viewed this allocation as adequate.

417 00 NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority as stated in Section 5[1] of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority Act of 2012, the object for which the Authority was established was to regulate, control and supervise the acquisition, importation, exportation, use and disposal of radioactive substances and devices emitting ionizing radiation.

For 2016 FY, the Department submitted an original budget of **Le 2,900,000,000** with a budget ceiling of **Le 2,002,000,000** and was allocated **Le 1,641,200,000**. But the Department actually received **Le 1,015,450,000** from GoSL regular budget for the four quarters. However, the Authority received donor funding equivalent to **45,000 Euro** in terms of equipment and training.

The Committee observed that the Authority expended **Le 615,450,000** in the first half of 2016. It also generated as revenue **Le 98,110,000**, which was far below its

projection of **Le 350,150,000**. Reason for not meeting the target as stated by the Vote Controller, was due to the drastic reduction in the number of inspections owing to lack of logistics.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members for 2017 FY, the Department submitted an original budget of **Le 1,616,600,000** in line with the ceiling and was actually allocated **Le 1,581,164,800**. According to the Vote Controller, this decrease in allocation will affect the payment of rents, number of inspections, operationalizing regional offices, and opening of offices in Kenema and Kono.

133 03 ATTITUDINAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE [ABC] SECRETARAIT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Attitudinal and Behavioural Change [ABC] Secretariat, is the institution charged by the Government and the people of Sierra Leone to take the lead in influencing and cultivating positive attitude and behaviour in the hearts and mind-sets of Sierra Leoneans.

For the 2016 FY, the ABC Secretariat made a budget submission of **Le 920,000,000**, above its ceiling of **Le 917,000,000** and was actually allocated **Le 424,800,000**. But the Secretariat received only **Le 30,000,000** as rent for the Regional Offices in Bo, Makeni and Kenema and the balance of **Le 394,800,000** was yet to be released by the Ministry of Finance. However, the Secretariat received **Le 70,000,000** from other sources and expended **Le 45,000,000** on magazine production and **Le 25,000,000** on SLRTC project.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, for the FY 2017, the ABC Secretariat submitted of **Le 836,400,000** in line with its ceiling and was allocated **Le 818,642,500**, slightly below its submission. The Executive Director shared with the Committee that over the years there was tremendous variance between the budget allocated and amount actually received for its programme of activities; hence the decrease of **Le 17,757,500** from the 2017 FY submission and unpaid balance of **Le 394,800,000** in 2016 might affect the following areas:

- Outreach programmes- country wide education and sensitization for a peaceful and violent election.

- Administration- financial support to smooth running of offices
- Maintenance of official vehicles, office furniture and equipment.

409 01 DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the FY 2016 the Department of Co-operatives submitted an original budget of **Le 2,464,208,000** with a budget ceiling of **Le 1,397,300,000** but was actually allocated **Le 1,397,300,000**. The Department actually received a total of **Le 742,670,000** for the 1st and 3rd quarters. The Department expended a total of **Le 642,670,000** but did not submit any report regarding the balance of **Le 100,000,000**. According to the Vote Controller, he had submitted to the Minister of Finance the plans and commitment forms requesting for their quarterly allocation of **Le 140,000,000** but it was rejected owing to insufficient funds. Hence, this largely affected their activities and projects.

For 2017 FY the Department submitted an original budget **Le 1,326,900,000**, with a budget ceiling of **Le 766,800,000** but was allocated **Le 1,229,856,800** almost in line with their submission and far above the ceiling.

107 PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MAKENI

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office at Makeni in the Northern Region, for the FY 2016, made a budget submission of **Le 1,250,400,000** in line with its ceiling but was actually allocated **Le 1,986,400,000**. The Office received the same amount allocated for the four quarters of 2016. The expenditure to date amounted to **Le 1,086,317,900** on internal travel, vehicle maintenance, generator running cost, office and general and administrative costs.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members for 2017 FY, this Office made an original budget submission of **Le 2,029,800,000** in line with its ceiling, but was actually allocated **Le 1,986,366,200** to offset the following problems in maintaining:

- two utility vehicles for the Provincial Secretary;
- five vehicles for the five district offices; and
- Housing facilities and the upgrading of the headquarter and district offices.

701 01 PORT LOKO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2016 FY, the Port Loko District Council made a budget submission of **Le 11,858,110,288** in line with its ceiling and was allocated the same amount. The Council received for the 1st and 2nd quarters a total of **Le 2,161,469,394** from GoSL regular budget. Donor funding amounted to **Le 1,398,906,405** for the 1st and 2nd quarters from the Decentralised Service Delivery Programme [DSDP] and **Le 350,641,814** from the Reproductive Child Health Programme [RCHP]. These resources were expended under the following headings:

- Salaries and administrative expenses;
- Health and Sanitation;
- Education;
- Solid waste Management;
- Rural water services and
- Agriculture

The Council's own source revenue target was **Le 768,869,352** but collected the total of **Le 186,994,759** which was far below the target. The Chief Administrator [CA] revealed that the shortfall was as a result of low compliance from tax payers, conflicts with Chieftom Administration over revenue collection and the closure of mining operations, which contributed about **50%** of the Council's own source revenue.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2017 FY, the Council made an original budget submission of **Le 12,090,743,454**, same as its ceiling but was allocated **Le 5,679,325,273**. The Committee recommended that the Council should put premium on own source revenue generation.

701 01 TONKOLILI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the FY 2016, the Tonkolili District Council made an budget submission of **Le 10,573,226,712**, in line with their budget ceiling and was allocated the same amount as their original submission. The Council actually received **Le 1,784,138,075** from GoSL regular budget for quarters 1 to 4. Donor funding from

the RCHP and the DSDP amounted to **Le 297,580,430** and **Le 643,078,374** respectively, which was expended as follow:

- Personnel employment;
- Travel expenses;
- Training/ capacity building;
- Construction and reconstruction of feeder roads;
- Repair and maintenance of vehicles, motor bikes;
- Portable Water system;
- Payment of utility bills;
- General Office administration; and
- Rehabilitation of staff quarters.

The Council's own source revenue generation amounted to **Le 404,859,240** which was far below the projected amount of **Le 957,184,390**. This according to the Chief Administrator was due to the low compliance in payment of taxes and conflicts with Chiefdom Administration over revenue collection.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2017 FY, the Council made a budget submission of **Le 8,738,253,333** and was allocated **Le 4,839,501,680**. The Chief Administrator revealed that the decrease in allocation might affect their general operations. The Committee recommended that the Council should put more effort on own source revenue generation.

701 01 KAILAHUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the FY-2016, the Kailahun District Council was given a ceiling of **Le 8,509,798,524** and submitted the same amount. The Council was actually allocated **Le 3,896,637,159**, which was less than half of its ceiling and submission. Actual cash received from GoSL regular budget for the 1st and 2nd quarters was **Le 1,633,922,347** and additional **Le 405,669,120** for the remaining quarters.

Donor funding by the World Bank's DSDP and RCHP projects amounted to **Le 921,568,356**, making a grand total of **Le 2,961,159,823**. The Council had an own

source revenue target of **Le 554,325,000** but actually collected **Le 178,948,000**. As in other Councils, the CA reported that the downwards shift in the revenue collection was due to the reluctance of some chiefs to return precepts. However, the Committee was unsatisfied with the Council's inability to properly account for the implementation of development projects activities under the DSDP & RCHP programmes. The Committee was of the view that these projects were not properly implemented and therefore recommended proper scrutiny by the Finance Committee in due course.

For FY-2017, the Council has been allocated a total of **Le 4,592,204,213** which is exactly as its budget ceiling and submission. The Committee considered it adequate and recommended that all projects in the Council must be properly monitored this time round to ensure value for money.

701 01 BONTHE MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Bonthe District Council made a budget submission of **Le 1,739,473,043** in line with its ceiling but was only allocated **Le 931,942,790** and actually received the same amount but inclusive of the DSDP and RCHP donor grants. The Council had an own source revenue target of **Le 30,000,000** for 2016 FY but was only able to collect **Le 18,305,000** showing a shortfall of **Le 11,695,000**. The Council's total expenditure amounted to **Le 950,247,790**. The Committee Members were not satisfied with the Council's records and presentation.

For 2017 FY, the Council in line with its budget ceiling submitted **Le 1,422,768,815** and has been allocated the same amount. The Committee considered this allocation inadequate.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 111 Sub-section 3[1] and S.O. 66[1&2], the Committee unanimously recommended that the entire budget Heads, including the Sub-Heads listed below stand part of the schedule.

MDAs ACCOUNTS HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2017			
Vote	Div.	Vote Description	Sum Voted [Le]
107	00	Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development	4,232,489,000
408	00	Ministry of Works, Housing & Infrastructure	10,016,465,100
306	00	Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment.	3,068907,400
407	00	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	6,000,886,000
110	12	Law Reform Commission	803,276,300
112	00	Office of the vice President	10,840,916,400
138	00	Statistics Sierra Leone [SSL]	8,794,425,400
110	01	Sierra Leone Insurance Commission	744,149,600
130	00	National Revenue Authority [NRA]	76,360,780,000
134	00	National Electoral Commission [NEC]	209,534,000,000
110	14	Local Government Service Commission	189,628,400
123	00	Public Service Commission	1,915,636,100
417	00	Nuclear Safety Radiation Protection Agency	1,581,164,800
133	03	Attitudinal & Behavioural Change Secretariat	818,642,500
409	01	Department of Cooperatives	1,229,856,800
107	04	Provincial Secretary's Office - North	1,986,366,200
701	01	PortLoko District Council	5,679,325,273
701	00	Tonkolili District Council	4,839,501,680
701	00	Kailahun District Council	4,592,204,213
701	00	Bonthe Municipal Council	1,422,768,815

Signed by Honourable Abu Bakarr Koroma, Chairman, Sub-Appropriation Committee VI.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we have listened to the two reports. Mr Minister, this is the time for you to listen attentively.

HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, I will start with Committee VI Report. My general observation is that for most of the MDAs, utilisation of funds is not stated in

this report. Secondly, I want us to look at Page 6, the issue on Consultancy. We must realise that consultancy does not mean that the substantive holder is not capable to do the job, but to improve or strengthen the job. In other words, hiring a Consultant does not mean waste of resources in that Ministry.

Again, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Pages 7 and 8, under the Ministry of Lands. If you turn to Page 8, you will see how the funds were utilised on local and overseas travels, office furniture and equipment, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, stationery, water and electricity charges, office and general, etc. However, if you turn to Page 7, under the mandate of the Ministry, I want to know if the expenditure heads actually help to see that the mandate of the Ministry is executed? I want the Chairman of the Committee to look at this observation because no comment was made at the end of it all at least to inform this House whether the expenditure heads, as stated in the report, helped the Ministry to execute its mandate.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, looking at the relevance of the Local Government Service Commission in the development of human resource base of the Local Councils and seeking to manage the decentralisation process. There is a full stop and there should not be a full stop. That sentence is incomplete, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Chief Whip, did you get me clearly? I said you should not go to Page 16.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: I thought you asked me to go to Page 16. I am sorry, Mr Chairman. I wanted the Committee Chairman to take note of that omission. I now move to Sub-Appropriation Committee IV.

THE CHAIRMAN: Basically, all these comments and questions are for the Chairman or the Presenter.

HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, I start with Page 6 of Sub-Appropriation Committee IV, under the general observations and findings, especially on bullet five that talks about NMA. It says: **"It is therefore imperative that adequate budgetary provision be made for the Agency to enhance its ambition for**

revenue generation.” The sentence states: **“In view of the above, the Committee therefore recommends that the NMA Act 2012 be reviewed to allow the Agency to retain part of its revenue generated through fee charges imposed on defaulters.”** That is a welcome idea, but my greatest concern is the two last bullet points, calling on the Minister of Finance to allocate 5% of the total revenue collected. That is very high and I don't believe this can help us as a nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: I hope the Chairman of this Sub-Appropriation Committee is taking note?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: According to this report, NRA should retain 3% for their hard work in collecting from all MDAs and now the Committee is calling on NRA to give 40% of the 3% to NMA. I think we are opening room for other MDAs to ask for percentage and we need to look into that recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Chief Whip, I'm sure the report itself is misleading in that direction. The 3% being referred to has nothing to do with what is paid to NRA after the collection of all dues. That particular portion of the report should be reviewed.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Added to that, Mr Chairman, the report reads as if NMA is not getting enough money. If you look at this report, you will note that **\$4.58m** was allocated to NMA from donor funding, but they received **\$82,000** plus **\$402,000** and **\$606,000**. They also received another **\$498,000m**. Mr Chairman, judging from what I have just read in this report, NMA is getting enough money.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us turn to Pages 8 and 9, under the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. Bullet points 2 and 3 state challenges such as 'inadequate technical and administrative staff, inadequate vehicle/motorbikes and other working equipment such as computers, photocopiers, printers to enhance their work.' If you look at Page 8, there is **\$1.3m** for institutional strengthening. Therefore, I want the Chairman of this Committee to tell this House why the Ministry was asking for a Printer, Computer and a Photocopier after **\$1.3m** was received for institutional strengthening.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to look at Pages 10 and 11 under the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]. If you read through the report, nothing was mentioned about the allocations they received for 2015/2016 and their request for 2017.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think their allocation was **Le100, 000**

HON. CLAUDE D.M. KAMANDA: Well, nothing was mentioned in the report. The last question is for the Minister of Finance. If you look at the Bill, **Le100, 000** was allocated to EPA, another **Le100, 000** to the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration and **Le100, 000** for NATCOM. I want the Minister to explain to this House the meaning of that because if you take **Le100, 000** to the canteen, I don't believe if you will return with a cent.

HON. PC MOHAMED SAMA KAILONDO BANYA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to take you to Page 23 of Sub-Appropriation Committee VI. Mr Chairman, I don't know whether my colleague Paramount Chief in this Committee reacted to this complaint by the Chief Administrator. The report states: **"The CA reported that the downward shift... - [Interruption]**

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, if you are not paying attention, you have yourself to blame.

HON. PC MOHAMED SAMA KAILONDO BANYA: **"The CA reported that the downward shift in the revenue collection was due to the reluctance of some Chiefs to return precept."** I think this is a very difficult point for the Chiefs and I want to say this is not true. I want the Chairman of this Committee to note that and all other Chairmen of Committees. If you have this complaint, maybe you can answer the questions for them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman of Sub-Appropriation Committee VI, was your Committee given a Paramount Chief?

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Two Paramount Chiefs were attached to this Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did they participate

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: They were always present in the hearings?

HON. ABU B. KOROMA: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, please proceed.

HON. PC MOHAMED SAMA KAILONDO BANYA: We find it very difficult to collect revenue because people are reluctant to pay local tax. Secondly, even if we collect local tax, it's difficult to collect **Le2, 000** per taxpayer. I want to make an analysis before the Minister can respond. The rebate on collection is **Le 500** per taxpayer, the printing cost is **Le 250** per receipt and then CA's office takes **Le 600** per taxpayer. There is also the Assessment Committee that goes out to assess the amount of people who pay the tax. There is also the cost of collecting local tax and sometimes we hire the Sierra Leone Police to help us collect the tax. We have to pay these people on a daily basis. We also have to pay allowance to those who issue the receipts in the various areas, and even the distribution cost. Sometimes when we collect the tax, we are only left with **Le 1, 100**. In other words, if we are to pay **Le2, 000** to the Councils, it would be very difficult for the Chiefdoms to pay this amount to Councils. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your point is noted Honourable Paramount Chief.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Please permit me to look at both reports at the same time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we have to be judicious with the time.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I want to start with one of the comments made by the Chief Whip regarding the hiring of Mr A. J. P. Lebbie as Consultant. I think the Chief Whip's justification for hiring Mr Lebbie as Consultant is limited and I want to therefore recommend that both the Transparency and Local Government Committees look into this matter in order to ascertain whether due process was followed. He was

hired as a Consultant and I would prefer that a proper investigation into this matter is carried out.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is an opinion, I believe.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Yes, Mr Chairman. It is my opinion and I stand by it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Noted, Honourable Member.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I want to take you to Committee Report VI. I am looking at Page 5. With the leave of Mr Chairman, it says: **"The Committee observed that the Ministry expended 1,345,000,000 from the GoSL regular budget for the financial year 2016 and had a balance of 550m, which according to the Accountant was still in the Accountant-General's Office for processing at the time of preparing this report."** This amount is still in the Accountant-General's Office. I think it would be nice to know what is going to happen to that money.

THE CHAIRMAN: That will be an answer for next year.

HON. MOHAMED KAMARA: Let us look at Committee IV, under 'General Observations and Recommendations on Page 5. I am looking at the second observation. It Reads: **"In spite of all the efforts made by government and its development partners to build the capacity of Civil Servants, some of them are still not up to the task to adequately account for moneys allocated to them by government."** If you look at Committee VI Report, under 'Observations and Findings on Page 4, it says: **"Documents submitted by most MDAs were haphazard and full of mistakes."** Mr Chairman, I want to state here that this is a general issue for all MDAs. The other sentence states: **".....as if some of these MDAs did not take the budget process seriously."** I think this is the issue rather than just limiting it to capacity building. I also think that Parliament needs to look at this properly, so that MDAs will treat Parliament seriously. If these MDAs can afford to take up appointments at a time when they should be addressing budget issues, it tells you that they are not

taking this Parliament very seriously. I think issues of national importance should be treated with the utmost seriousness. I thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

HON. MOHAMED K. THOLLEY: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I want to look at Sub-Appropriation Committee IV, Page 22, under the Office of National Security [ONS]. According to the fourth paragraph, the institution had a decrease of **Le 18.9b**. The ONS requested the sum of **Le 26b**, but only the sum of **Le 7b** was approved. Mr Chairman, I am a bit confused because if this nation is not secured, no development would take place. In that regard, the ONS is an important state institution that should be properly funded. For the past years, this institution has done a very good job for the people of this country. The most confusing part is on Page 23 and with the leave of Mr Chairman, I read: **"The Committee considered the allocation to this office as inadequate and recommends its approval."** There is something doubtful here, Mr Chairman. If the Committee observed a sharp decrease in the allocation, I thought this Committee was sympathising with ONS. I was expecting the Committee to recommend for a supplementary budget for ONS. I want an explanation for this, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I complained earlier that some of the words have found their wrong places when the reports were being presented, probably the word should have been replaced. This is because there is no way they would function if we don't approve their budget. So, they have accepted that there is a challenge regarding the inadequacy of the budget. However, the budget should be approved.

HON. MOHAMED K. THOLLEY: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, please turn to Page 7 of Committee IV Report, under Vote Head 104 00, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. With the leave of Mr Chairman, the third paragraph reads: **"The Committee observed that the Ministry has huge domestic debt to the tune of Le 94,900,000 to be paid to Guma Valley and National Power Authority for water and electricity bill and a foreign debt of 363,000 US dollars."** From this point, I think we are growing as a nation within the Fisheries and Marine Sector. However, as speak and I stand to be corrected that we have not started exporting our fishes to other nations for us to start getting the foreign exchange expected. I want to

believe that the Ministry of Finance should try to pay those foreign debts. It is only when we are able to pay our foreign debts we would get recognition from other countries. This will enable the Ministry to do other things that will bring attraction to our marine resources. That is my concern, Mr Chairman

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, please take note of that observation.

HON. PATRICK L. M. KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am not going to talk about figures, but rather issues mentioned in these reports. I think they are very important for the progress of this country. I want to start with Sub-Appropriation Committee IV Report that was presented by the Honourable Amadu Kanu. Please turn to Page 5, Paragraph 2. With the leave of Mr Speaker, it states: **“In spite of all efforts made by government and partners to build the capacities of civil servants in the various MDAs, some of them are not up to the task.”** This is a very important statement. In order for us to build a better society, we need to have a better civil service. It has been stated in this report that civil servants are not doing what is expected of them. Therefore, it is good for Parliament to at least have a meeting with the Human Resource Management Office [HRMO], so that they can begin to recruit people that are of better qualities to occupy those offices. If we are not able to do that, we would not be able to build a better Sierra Leone.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if we go to Sub-Appropriation Committee VI, it also states that documents submitted by MDAs were prepared haphazardly with numerous mistakes. I want to believe that those documents were prepared by these civil servants. Therefore, I want the HRMO to give serious consideration in terms of enlisting people for appointments. Thank you very much.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to refer the House to Sub-Appropriation Committee IV, Page 12, under the Teaching Service Commission. I want to congratulate the Committee for the way they treated the Teaching Service Commission of Sierra Leone. The Teaching Service Commission of Sierra Leone is a creation of this Parliament. The Teaching Service Commission is the greatest employer in this country, with teachers across this nation. They have a very

huge task for those Members of Parliament who had the privilege of going to government secondary schools in this country. You would recall that teachers were being transferred from school to school, making sure that government schools are provided with sufficient teachers. That is the system that the Teaching Service Commission of Sierra Leone wants to introduce into our education, so that we can be sure of quality education in this country.

However, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to state here that I am a bit disappointed because the allocation to the TSC is too small. I would want to encourage the Ministry of Finance to reconsider for a supplementary provision for the Teaching Service Commission. They have already started recruiting staff. We have also started discussing with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in terms of devolving the functions of teachers. It is going to start very soon. They have rented an office and recruited key staff members, but even the recruitment process could not continue because the funds are not sufficient for the Commission. If you create an organisation and you want that organisation to work immediately and effectively, you need to make sufficient provision for it. Therefore, I want to call on the Minister and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that a supplementary provision is made available.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, please turn to Page 18, under the Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission. Again, this Commission was also created by an Act of Parliament. The Commission has already started performing effectively. Honourable Members would recall that the Commission has collected all illegal weapons that were in this country, especially after the war. They have publicly destroyed those weapons and they are now in the process of issuing out licences to all those who have weapons. For example, they have put a moratorium that they have extended, so that they can be able to give license to those who have weapons in their possession.

Regrettably, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in the process of issuing out licenses this year, they have collected over three hundred million Leones. This is pointer to the fact that this Commission has the potential to increase its revenue base. The Minister of Finance has said in the budget that we need to diversify the economy, and the thrust of

that diversification is going to the Agricultural Sector. And I want to state here that we need weapons to protect the farms. Half of the production of the cacao production in this country is being destroyed by pests like moneys, rodents, squirrels and baboons. If we don't have these weapons, we would not be able to increase our production in the Agricultural Sector. Therefore, I want again to make the same request to the Ministry of Finance to ensure that allocation to this Commission is reconsidered. The Commission has the potential to raise revenue in this country. And if you want to achieve economic diversification, our farmers need to be protected. If you cultivate a farm of 100 hectares, there is no way you are going to fence that rice farm to protect it from rodents. The best you can do is to get to the farm at night with a gun and kill some of the rodents that may want to destroy your crops. If you fail to do that, you would not be able to make good harvest.

On that note, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to encourage the Minister of Finance to ensure that the licenses process continues. I thank you very much.

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I want to refer Honourable Members to Page 6 of Committee VI. I want to look at the recommendation for Mr A.J.P. Lebbie. I would want to suggest here that the Minister be summoned to come and explain to this Honourable House why Mr A.J.P. Lebbie was contracted.

Again, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, please turn to Pages 21 and 22. When you take a look at the analysis they gave on RCHP as far as health is concerned, the RCHP is one of the elements under the Primary Health Care, under the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, supervised by the Director General of Primary Health Care. I want say that the purpose of the moneys that were sent to this specific unit is to make sure that issues relating to family planning, immunisation and allowances for health workers in the villages are taken care of. The statement mentioned in this report is misleading, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What statement, Honourable Member?

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: The reproductive health salaries and administrative expenses.

THE CHAIRMAN: What page are you referring to, Honourable Member?

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: Page 21 of Sub-Appropriation Committee VI, under the Reproductive Child Health Programme [RCHP]. These funds are expended under the wrong headings as far as the RCHP is concerned, those moneys are not meant for what they have listed in the report. The Report states that 'administrative salaries are paid by the government of Sierra Leone, and all health workers are paid directly from the consolidated fund.' This statement is misleading, Mr Chairman. If you go to education, there is a specific amount stated for education and another specific amount for solid waste management. How can you take funds for RCHP to pay salaries, while the government is charged with that responsibility to pay from the consolidated fund? If you go to the rural water service and agriculture, there are specific amounts for each sector.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you are confusing me. I am very confused because the explanation is not too clear to me.

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: Mr Chairman, what they are saying is that the DSDP and the donor funding, including the RCHP funds they are using... - *[Interruption]*.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is not that they are using the money, but they have used it for... - *[Interruption]*.

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: They have used it for what? I am now saying that that statement is misleading.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is your opinion. The Committee would explain the issue better.

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: Indeed, Mr Chairman. It is my opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Were you a Member of that Committee?

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did this come up during the Committee hearings?

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: No, Mr Chairman. I am a member of the Local Government Committee and the Health Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, Honourable Member, your point is noted. You are now saying that the moneys collected were not used to cover these areas.

HON. MOHAMED L. MANSARAY: The Minister himself would attest to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of this Committee would have to respond. There are questions which are specifically for Committee Chairs and Members. The Minister would only respond to areas that have to do directly with him. Those that have been referred to Committees would be addressed.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief with my observation. I want to clarify the issue on the Local Government. I was Adviser to the President when this decision was taken and we also want the public and Members of this House to fully understand the processes that were considered. Just before the elections of 2012, the Minister of Local Government took a cabinet paper to Cabinet, asking that we take steps for the amalgamation of certain Chiefdoms and then the creation of another district and then the creation of north western region. The President, with his wisdom, thought it was too closed to the elections and decided that we should suspend that arrangement until after the elections. After the elections, we as Advisers reminded him about this cabinet conclusion. The President promised to continue the process, but that the positions for Director should be advertised. The reason being that during the process of waiting, the Director himself had retired. But because he started the whole process under the former Minister of Local Government, he was more knowledgeable than other people. Notwithstanding that, the President insisted that the position be advertised and it was advertised and Mr A. J. P. Lebbie got the job. That is how Mr Lebbie became the man in charge of the de-amalgamation. He was not pushed into it. He went through recruitment procedures. There was a Cabinet conclusion that led to the appointment of Mr Lebbie after he had gone through the

process of participating in a system that allowed him to compete with other people for the position of Acting Director and Consultant in the office of the Minister of Local Government. Thank you very much.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Since this is a debate, I want some clarifications. The Honourable Member from Koinadugu was concerned with the use of the RCHP fund. According to him, the RCHP fund was not used for the various purposes. The Report state that: **“Council received for the first and second quarters above two billion Leones from Government of Sierra Leone regular budget and donor funding to the tune of 1.3 billion for the first and second quarters from DSDP and Le 350,000,000 from the reproductive child health. These resources were expended under the following.”** It doesn't necessary state that the RCHP fund was specifically used for these purposes. I want this House to get this clear.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want the Chairman of Committee VI to tell this House where they derived their objectives of ascertaining whether budget resources were equitably distributed. This is stated on Page 2 and it says: **“Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in line with the provision of Standing Order 66[1] the sub-appropriation committee probed with the following objectives in mind: to determine whether budgetary resources were equitably distributed.”** That has never happened and it will never happen, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your point, Honourable Member?

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: Resources will never be an equitably distributed.

THE CHAIRMAN: But it can be an objective. Honourable Member, when they allocate budget, there are rules to be followed, and it is those rules that will make it equitable or not. That objective is in place. I overrule on that point. Mr Minister, I am sure you would say something because there are rules you follow and in doing that, you check for equity or relevance and purpose.

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have a lot to say. Honourable Members, I want to look at Committee IV. As far as the 2017 Budget is concerned, it wasn't structured under the Agenda for Prosperity Pillars. In other words, it was not structured like the 2016 Budget under the agenda for prosperity pillars. This Report is saying that the 2017 Budget, like its predecessor, is presented in line with the agenda for prosperity. The Report is suggesting that each Ministry, Department and Agency was placed under one of the eight pillars of the Agenda for Prosperity. That was not the case at all, Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, you would have to say something on that.

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us turn to Page 5, bullet point three, under 'General Observations and Recommendations, Paragraph 3. It says: **"In the absence of a clearly defined formula, the Committee observed that the fees charged by the agency are unreasonable and have the tendency to undermine meaningful investment."** I don't know what the Committee is trying to state here. Should we take that to mean 'meaningful investment or 'mining investment?' The use of the word 'meaning investment' is out of place.

THE CHAIRMAN: We take it as suggested.

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I saw the enthusiasm and the zeal and the motivation by the Committee Chairman, who happens to be the Chairman of the Mines and Minerals' Committee.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, when he was presenting the percentage for retention for NMA, he should have recommended same for other revenue generating MDAs to retain 3%. We want him to tell this House if his position as Chairman of the Mines and Minerals' Committee has nothing to do with this recommendation. I am sensing some amount of conflict of interest, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman, ignore that side of the question. Do you have a copy of the Appropriation Bill?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: No, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that is the problem. Don't you have a copy of the Appropriation Bill? If you are saying that the Agenda for Prosperity has no influence on these allocations, I don't really know what you are trying to say.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: I didn't say so, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What did you say?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: I said that the 2017 Budget was not structured like the 2016 Budget.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is my point, Honourable Member. Do you have a copy of the Appropriation Bill?

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: No, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would be very good for you to have that Bill. The Bill is well structured, Honourable Member.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us go to Corporate Affairs Commission on Page 13, under the functions or the reasons for the establishment of that Commission. It says, 'establish and maintain a company's "register."' It should be 'registry,' Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: What part of Page 13?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Page 13, under Corporate Affairs Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Make your point, Honourable Member.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, under bullet point two, I think there is a typographical error.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, it should be a company's 'register' and not 'registry.'

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Chairman, my last point is on the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please tell us the report and page number.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Sub-Appropriation Committee IV, Page 15. I am not looking at the report specifically, but to plead to whosoever has to pay the five months salaries to our youths who are cleaning up the drainages under the Ministry of Youth Affairs to please expedite the payments of those salaries. Most of the streets and drainages in the city are being cleaned by these hard working youth. Ministry of Youth Affairs has employed thousands of these youth who are cleaning the streets and drainages every morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is Chairman for Youth Affairs Committee?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Honourable Francis Konuwa is the Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suggest you refer that issue to him.

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Thank you sir. In that regard, Mr Chairman, I want to plead here again on behalf of the Ministry of Youth Affairs for their allocation to be increased and their allocation to be hastily paid into the Ministry's Account, so that they can pay those youth who are cleaning the streets as soon as possible. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Amadu Kanu, would you like to respond to some of the issues or comments made?

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Chairman, I want to start by thanking the Majority Deputy Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business for recognising and also endorsing the good job done by Committee IV. To the Chief Whip, I don't want him to confuse the donor funds and the government regular budget.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, your response is noted and it makes sense.

HON. AMADU KANU: If we go to Page 10, the document speaks for itself. The Honourable Member from Calaba Town, Honourable Alhassan Kamara spoke about the youth who are cleaning the streets and drainages. As I speak, Mr Chairman, the Minister of Youth Affairs is presently engaged in a meeting to address the issues of such nature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Please resume your seat. Honourable Abu B. Koroma, the issues that were raised have been cleared by Honourable Alhassan Kamara.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I would start by saying that budgets are meant for accountants not for agriculturists. On a regular basis, this is what obtains at the Ministry of Finance. The public debts are liquidated on a monthly basis, whether domestic or foreign debt. I want the Honourable Member from Bo to understand that public debts are liquidated on a monthly basis. If you want to prove beyond reasonable doubts, the records are available at the Ministry of Finance for inspection. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, there was an issue being referred to you. However, I would like you to comment on two issues in your response. Last year, we were educated on the use of financial terminology, but it seems as if we are still being confused with the words fiscal and financial. In what context do we use the two terms? Honourable Amadu Kanu, I want you to please listen because you have been using these interchangeably. Also, Mr Minister, looking at the report, we have been told that debts are to be paid for MDAs by the Ministry of Finance, but some MDAs are still being challenged as to why they have not been paying their water and electricity bills.

DR PATRICK CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much for the opportunity. Let me start by clarifying the issues about fiscal and financial. The calendar is the normal January to December that we all know. The financial year is often the year of reporting of an entity. It may, in some instances, be the same as a calendar year, but in some other instances, it may be a period chosen by the entity. Therefore, you have a case in which an entity is reporting from 1st April to 31st March of the other year, and it is known as the 'financial year' for that entity. Fiscal is more of a technical term, meaning that government revenue and expenditure. A fiscal year may also be the calendar year, which is January to December or it could be a year so chosen by a jurisdiction. So, you may have a fiscal year that is January to December which coincides with the calendar year or you may have a fiscal year that starts from 1st April

to 31st March of the other year. So, they may be the same or they may differ it depends to the context being considered.

THE CHAIRMAN: In this case what are we operating on?

MR PATRICK CONTEH: We have a fiscal year as the same as a calendar year in Sierra Leone.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, both of them are correct.

MR PATRICK CONTEH, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

DR PATRICK CONTEH: I want to briefly talk about the issue on utility bills. The practice is that MDAs are to make provision for the payment of their utility bills in their budgets. It is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance to pay utility bills at all, Mr Chairman. It is the responsibility of the respective MDAs to pay their utility bills.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, somebody wanted to know why NATCOM, EPA and SLMA were always allocated small amounts to the tune of **Le 100,000**. Well, the Acts of Parliament that established these institutions allow them to collect revenue and retain same to fund their operations. That is the reason they are allocated small amounts in the budgetary provisions. I think that was why Sub-Appropriation Committee IV recommended that NMA retains **3%** of what they are collecting to fund their operations. It is a good practice because that has enabled these institutions to operate. However, there are lots of downsides we are facing as a country and as a Ministry. Honourable Members would recall that by mid this year, the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 was passed by this noble House and one critical component in that Act is the Treasury Single Account [TSA]. As it is in Sierra Leone, you have very strong agencies with a lot of resource at their disposal. Often we have cases where government would be starving for resources and these resources are sitting on the balance sheet and the books of these entities. The aim of the TSA in the PFM Act is to ensure that these resources are consolidated into one central place at the central bank. This is in line with best practice, and Sierra Leone is amongst the few countries where

total revenue to GDP is still below the required threshold of 20%. Sierra Leone stands at **10.5%**, instead of **20%** and that benchmark is a condition for so many donor supports. So, the spirit of the TSA is to ensure that we move from **10.5%** revenue to GDP to **20%**. Well, we may want to agitate for retention of **3%**, but that is going against the spirit of the TSA and that will be going against the spirit of the PFM Act. Therefore, I would like Honourable Members to have that in mind when that is being debated. Thank you very much.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the Vote Heads, as read stand part of the schedule for both Committee IV and Committee VI reports with the exception of Vote 143 00, Justice and Legal Service Commission.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The various vote heads as read out by the Minister, Committee 4 and 6 with the exception of Vote Head 143 00 Judicial and Legal Service Commission form part of the schedule]

The House Resumes

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, do you know you have to be with us again next week? You are putting Parliament under intense pressure. We know that you have challenges, but please in future, help us in getting the budget to Parliament earlier than now. We need more time to scrutinise the budget. You have many challenges and we don't want those challenges to spill over to Parliament. You are at liberty to go, but be prepared to come back on Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1.17 p.m., and was adjourned Tuesday, 13th December, 2016 at 10:00a.m.]