



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 9th JULY, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 39

First Meeting of the First Session of the Fourth Parliament
Of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 9th July, 2013.

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BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE RATIFY THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON FRIDAY, 5TH JULY, 2013:

"THE SIERRA LEONE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT AGREEMENT (ENERGY ACCESS PROJECT) BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ACTING AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SIERRA LEONE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND) DATED 20TH JUNE, 2013."



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 9th July, 2013.

The House met at 10:02 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

MR MOHAMED LEBBIE (*Deputy Clerk of the House*): Honourable Members, I announce the unavoidable absence of the Speaker. However, in accordance with Section 88(b) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and S. O. 10(2), I now call on the Deputy Speaker to preside over the sittings of Parliament.

Suspension of S. O. 5(2)

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR FRIDAY, 5TH JULY, 2013.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 5th July, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. MULUKU SULAIMAN SISAY: Mr Speaker, page 4, Roman no. ii, item 14. Honourable Sulaiman Sisay was not absent. I was on an official duty in Banjul, Gambia.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, take necessary action. Anymore on Page 4?

HON. ALHASSAN JERO KAMARA: Mr Speaker I was not absent as well. I was also in Banjul.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note of that. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Honourable Members, if there are no more corrections, can somebody move that record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 5th July, 2013, be adopted as amended?

(Question proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 5th July, 2013, was unanimously adopted as amended.

III. GOVERNMENT MOTION:

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here to ask this Honourable House to ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Friday, 5th July, 2013:

"The Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund Grant Agreement (Energy Access Project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association (acting as administrator of the Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund), dated 20th June, 2013."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on Friday, 5th July, 2013, the Honourable Minister of Energy and myself were here. The Honourable Minister of Energy presented... -
(*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, You keep saying the Honourable Minister of Energy. Whom are you referring to?

MR MOMODU KARGBO: I am very sorry Sir. The Minister of Energy presented a document, which was a treaty related to energy, governing the four countries in the Mano River Union. Thereafter, I presented the Loan Agreement from the European Investment Bank for an amount of \$75 million which is a component of the Project. I am here this morning again to ask this honourable House to ratify another Grant dealing with energy. This is a clear indication of the importance of energy in our lives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at present, the capital consumption of electricity in West Africa is really low. After the ranking, Sierra Leone is on the higher echelon in terms of electricity production and generation. So, a lot more needs to be done and this is the line of action that this Government is pursuing. This is a Grant involving an amount of \$16 million. This money is meant to improve electricity supply in the Western Area, Freetown in particular. It is meant to help improve the performance of the National Power of Authority (NPA). But equally, it will also invest in selected areas in the rural areas by introducing solar electricity in public buildings such as schools, health

centers, clinics etc. As I said earlier, the project consists of three to four components: the first component will focus principally in the Eastern part of Freetown, where the transformers covering Blackhall Road to Wellington and the power lines would be replaced; and in the process of replacing them, higher performance transformers and better performing cables will be utilised to minimise loss in energy. It would also involve the purchase of about 2,000 Prepaid Meters. These Prepaid Meters would ease the collection of electricity rates in the country. This is due to the fact that as the population expands, we also need to expand the electricity production. We have to be efficiently placed to collect revenue accruing out of it. We will take our peak. Equally, the exciting component is that of the rural electricity in the schools and clinics. I have been to one or two villages where solar light has been installed. If that is done, you will find out that the kids will spend more time at night studying. They would be enjoying the light studying in those areas where these Solar Lights would be installed. There might be a correlation between the more time the kids spend in the school building and the amount of time they play with their books and hopefully, the result that we will get out of the investment will be to pass their exams and eventually move to colleges and become good citizens.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this amount is a Grant. But I would always add that it is not because it is a Grant that we should not treat it as seriously as we treat the loans. The truth of the matter is that, this is going to speed up our development programme as a nation. Let us take the issue of the Prepaid Metres. About 20,000 Prepaid Meters are going to be supplied, almost free to the National Power Authority (NPA). Therefore, NPA should be able to capitalise on that amount of money. This is because if we look at it, NPA is being capitalised to the tune value of those 20,000 Prepaid Meters. In other words, the assets of NPA are now much better when this project shall have come into effect. This is why it is very important that we monitor this project closely to make sure that at the end of the period, it comes out successful. That is the presentation I would like to make this morning. I now move that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on

Friday, 5th July, 2013: "*The Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund Grant Agreement (Energy Access Project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association (acting as administrator of the Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund), dated 20th June, 2013.*" I thank you.

(Question proposed)

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S. O. 14(G), possibly to draw the attention of the Business Committee of this Honourable House in a manner in which matters of national importance are presented for us to take part in debating them in this House.

THE SPEAKER: Is that the Honourable Koedoyoma?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You are taking us to S. O. 14(G)?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Yes Sir. The heading under S. O. 14(G) is "*Laying of Papers.*" Mr Speaker, I am worried. I have constantly brought this to the attention of this Honourable House, particularly to this Committee that we ought to be notified accordingly on matters of national importance.

THE SPEAKER: What is the relationship between what you have just said and S. O. 14(G)?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Well, S. O. 14(G) relates to the entire process of the business of the Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, if you are relying on 14(G), I think we have to move on with the debates.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, with your permission, allow me to proceed Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed Honourable Member.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am a bit confused because I only got the Order Paper for this particular debate this morning. I was here for the rest of the day yesterday.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member. I have to rule on this. If you are relying on S. O. 14(G), it cannot help you in anyway. I think we have to proceed.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw S. O. 14(G). But I will go on to say that we should be informed at least 24 hours of any important matter that is being brought before this House.

THE SPEAKER: Noted Honourable Member.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: I am a bit constrained Mr Speaker. This is an important issue. We have to make meaningful contributions to this issue. But like I did say, I only came in this morning to find the Order Paper in my Pigeon Hole. I was taken a step backward. I didn't bring any material here to make any meaningful contribution. I am only bringing it to the attention of the Business Committee of this House to take note of what I am suggesting Sir. We don't want a repetition of this in the future. We would kindly request that we are informed at least 24 hours before the business of this House.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well noted Honourable Member.

HON. ALHASSAN JERO KAMARA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister for presenting this Grant to the House for the people of Sierra Leone. But I just want to remind the Minister to consider Calaba Town and Allen town. East-end of Freetown does not only stop at Wellington as stated earlier, but to go as far as Allen Town. When he was making his presentation, he made mention of Black Hall Road to Wellington. I am appealing to the Minister please consider my people in Calaba Town and Allen Town. We equally need electricity. Currently, the transformer that is supplying

electricity from Calaba Town to Mission Road has been blown off. I am asking again that we too benefit from this \$16 million Grant. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. It is my pleasure to lend my voice to this particular Grant. I have a concern I want to raise Sir. Most times Loans and Grants are coming to this House and every other day we give our support to them. But the most interesting aspect of these loans ended up in Freetown. Most of these Honourable Members staying in Freetown are coming from the provinces. Some of them came from the provinces to represent Freetown; but cannot even advocate for some of these facilities to be taken to their different districts or their places of origin. It is very much frustrating Mr Speaker. Look at our brother, the Honourable Member from Port Loko. He was asking me to calm down. He has no light in Port Loko District. There is no light in that District, despite the mining activities that are going on there. He wants me to calm down. The Majority Deputy Leader of this House cannot even boast of electricity in his village at all. And when people want to bring up some of these issues, they advise people to calm down.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please stop pointing at the Honourable Member.

HON. J. B. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker when some of us want to bring some of these issues up, you have people that are telling you to sit down. Why should I calm down when these things are affecting my people? These issues are affecting my people at Koribondo, in the Wonde Chieftdom. We are not getting these facilities at all. And Mr Speaker I have always said it here that some of these loans are going to be paid in the next forty to fifty years, a period when some of you would no longer be alive. Even the Majority Leader of this House, the Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya will not be alive by that time. I always get worried Mr Speaker. I am worried about the conditions attached to some of these loans. The Minister of Finance and his Deputy always come here with encouraging words without even discussing how these projects would be monitored. There should be a good monitoring system of these loans. How much foundation has been laid for the monitoring system? How much is being given to Parliament to monitor

these activities? We should not only sit here and approve loans without putting in place monitoring mechanisms. We should not always be given sweet talks from the Minister of Finance; and at the end of the day, much is not realised. Why is it that everything is for Freetown? When we want to drink good water, we should come to Freetown. If we want to see light, we have to come to Freetown. Only an extension has been made to go to the Eastern parts of Freetown. Are you bringing this nation to Freetown? Are we really going to look at Freetown as the end of Sierra Leone? These are my questions Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the \$16 million according to the Minister of Finance is meant for Freetown. It is really disheartening and disturbing. I want to plead to the Minister of Finance that he should not joke with these issues. They are very important for the development of this country. The Minister of Finance was also saying that solar lights have been placed along the streets of our villages. The question is, are they placed in our compounds? Are those lights cooling our water? Are we using the light to earn our living? The answer is no Mr Speaker. But when these loans and grants come here, we start clapping all over this place. We even want to break all the tables we have before us in a way of applauding the loans. How is it helping us? I really want our Minister to understand this. I also want the Majority Leader to take note of this. He is from a village; and he has no light in that village. There is no electricity in that village. Look at Honourable Isata Kabia sitting here. She has no electricity in her village. In fact, the Minister of Finance has no electricity in his village (*Laughter*). But we always come here with grants for Freetown. I want to plead with the Minister of Finance to consider what I have said here today. I want the next grant from the Minister of Finance to go to the provinces, especially the grants connected with light. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

HON. BLISS E. OSHO-WILLIAMS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to support the last speaker (*Applause*). I think what he was saying must be taken into consideration. Recently, I have the privilege of travelling with the Speaker and other Members of this House to visit Kailahun District. On our way to Kailahun District, I saw

a group of people in a very peaceful with smiling faces under the solar lights. I was amazed Mr Speaker. I asked myself, why were they celebrating? Somebody told me that this was the first time ever in the history of this country that the people of Kailahun District had light (*Applause*). This was the first time they had light in that part of the country. Was that true? I said to myself that the Agenda for Prosperity is working. But let us put everything in perspective. You could not build your house enjoying lights and our fellow colleagues on the other side are in darkness. That is not right at all. On the basis of that, I am saying that the Grant that has been given to us is a well welcome gesture. As the Minister of Finance has said, this Grant minimizes loss of energy and it will help us to purchase Prepaid Meters which are very essential for easy revenue collection.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a nice development for the provinces. We want to electricity supply all over the country. This was what I wanted to say. I visited Bo and Kenema with one Honourable Member for the purpose of commissioning the solar street lights in those two districts. The people were very happy. They even asked to consider Koribondo. They mentioned Koribondo and the Minister took note of that. But what I want to say is that, for every single part of the world, the citadel of success of a nation lies in its city (*Applause*). If the city is in darkness, then, Koribondo would also be in darkness. And if the city is dark, nobody, including the investors will come to the city to even develop the country. Therefore, the first to develop is the city, before any other area. After the city has been upgraded, other areas would be developed gradually. That is what this Government is doing. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Today, the goose is enjoying; and tomorrow, the gander will get its own share. You will get it after the city has been properly developed. I am from Freetown. The Minister of Finance was saying that each and every part of the country will get light. We just have to be patient. Everybody needs light. I thank you.

HON. P. C. JOSEPH ALIE KAVURA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when an old man speaks, another old man should speak after him. I want to support the speaker who spoke before my Chairman. Indeed, this is what the common

people use to say. The common people are saying that people there are more people loafing around the city. They are wasting in the city than in the rural areas. In as much as I agree with my friend, if you want to develop the outside, try to develop the inside first. I agree with him. But Freetown is not Sierra Leone at all. When we talk of Sierra Leone, all these grants and loans are not sent for Freetown alone. They are meant for Sierra Leone. If you look at this Document, the Grant is between the city and its Municipality. So, I agree. I was happy when somebody said they will take note of what he has said. This is a Government Motion. Somebody has said that when you talk of the goose, you should talk of the gander as well. In the Mende maxim, it is the reverse. In the Mende language, when you say no, it is yes in English. You are not interpreting it the way you are thinking. I am directly interpreting it that when you talk to the dog, you have to talk to the bone as well. Mr Bone, do not be too hard for that dog. Mr Dog, do not bite that bone too hard. It is the same thing here. We want Sierra Leone to develop. But where should we start. We start in the city. I want to bring your attention to something. If you have two children and the first boy is wasting your resources, what will happen to your second child? If you pay attention to one person, the other members of the family are going to suffer. So, when we develop the city, let us remember that most of us seated here are from the provinces.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people are our subjects. We are not saying that the city should not be developed. What we are saying is that, the provinces are equally important. If you give five cent to the city, please give one cent to the villages. That would be better than nothing. But if you pay more attention to the city, it is not good. Where are the street lights that were constructed during the OAU time? They are no more Mr Speaker. They are trying to install them back. Shenge, Kailahun, Kenema Segbwema, Pendembu are going backwards. The 149 chiefdoms are going backwards. When we talk of development Mr Minister, let us be thinking of the grassroots people. I always remind people that the 149 chiefdoms should be put together with the Western Area to make Sierra Leone. We should not concentrate more on the Western Area,

leaving the grassroot people to suffer. They do pay taxes to the Government. They do bring their resources together to make this nation. Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I want to give preference to a lady now.

HON. ISATA KABIA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to quote the Majority Leader of this Honourable House and Leader of Government Business. He always says: *"to thy self be true."* I do believe that if Members of Parliament speak the truth, we do a better job to educate the people on what is actually happening in Sierra Leone, not what we imagine is happening. The Honourable Member from Bo made mention of my village. I think he meant city instead of village. I do not have a village. I am from the city of Lunsar (*Applause*). When His Excellency, the President said, let there be light, two days ago, there was light in Lunsar. The people were very happy Mr Speaker. They were dancing. When he also said, let there be light in Port Loko Town, there was light. The people knew there was going to be light. I want to ensure.....- (*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us observe some amount of decorum in the Well.

HON. ISATA KABIA: When the President said, let there be light in Kailahun, there was light (*Applause*). The people in that District danced. I want to assure my colleague Honourable Members that this is not a partisan Government. This is a Government for the people of Sierra Leone. But Mr Speaker, when you inherit a city that has been in darkness for decades, when you inherit villages that have not seen light for over twenty years, when you inherit places where electric poles and cables have not been before, it means that you are starting from nowhere. Starting from nowhere is very expensive Mr Speaker. The \$16 million Grant will not be enough to electrify Koribondo. It is not even enough to start the electrification of the whole of Koribondo. We are using the Grant judiciously to ensure that we reap the benefits of the \$16 million. When the President in his wisdom divided the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, he did so to ensure quality output. He also did so to ensure division of labour. He was of the view that one

Minister could not be able to grapple with the numerous challenges of the two sectors. He wanted the Energy Minister to double his efforts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there would be no investment without light. Without light, there would be no tangible business and development. We have to be true to ourselves. At this point, if Kailahun, Lunsar and Port Loko are boasting of solar lights today, those projects took money. We are starting with something least expensive but we want to ensure sustainability. We do not want them to be buying expensive fuel. The Minister made mention of the plethora of benefits that the solar street lights would bring to the people. He said that people would continue their activities late at nights because of the presence of solar lights. If we have solar light in Lunsar, it has nothing to do with any mining company. This was a Government initiative supported and paid for by the Government. I want to assure my Honourable Colleagues from across the ayes... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Order!

HON. ISATA KABIA: My colleagues behind me know what I am talking about. We are collectively assuring Members of Parliament across the ayes that where there is light, there is hope. If there was no beginning then, you have no hope but we will be coming to Shenge, Pendembu, Kono and Kenema. Once we have started, we would electrify the whole country. If a Government starts nothing, then, it gives the people no hope for anything. But since we have started, we will be in all the 149 chiefdoms. I am not talking only for Constituency 50, but the chiefdoms of Marampa and Maforkie. We are making sure that we are working from the bottom to the top. Freetown is the citadel of this nation. It is the most important in terms of investment and furthering of business activities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2005, we had more people moving from the villages to Freetown, even though there was a rehabilitation and relocation initiatives, sponsored by UNDP. Today, we have more people inhabiting the towns and villages across this country. I can testify to that because the so much migration is due to the

job opportunities in Lunsar. The provisions of light, water and roads across the country have managed to accomplish what the previous Government was unable to do, even with the help of donor agencies like the UNDP and UNIPSIL. These donor agencies supported the relocation of people to the towns and villages for 11 years. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by saying that "to thy own self be true." Thank you.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to pay lip service to this Grant. We have been ratifying Grants in this Parliament for the past years, and as you've heard from my colleagues on this side, we are the representatives of our people. We are representing people here and if we continue to pass grants, forgetting the fact that we have people out there looking up to us, then, we are not doing justice to them at all. This Grant is a laudable gesture for the people of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, when we say we are in minority, some refer us as opposition... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: I the Honourable Members on my right hand side to give audience to the Honourable Member speaking.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we agree that we are in opposition. But I think that we have been opposing constructively. For this Grant, there is no need to oppose it at all. But the question is how it is going to be shared? If you continue to mention the East-end of Freetown, then, we can continue to criticize. I can say Freetown is not Sierra Leone. This Grant is meant for Sierra Leone. My colleague was just appealing that the rural areas should be considered. He was not just talking about Koribondo, Moyamba or Shenge. He was talking for Sierra Leone as a whole. He was talking for the people of Sierra Leone, and that includes all of us Honourable Members. I want to know where you are going to allocate this particular electricity, like the public places, schools, and hospitals you made mention of. They needed some of these facilities. Most of these public places you have mentioned have lights. The Connaught Hospital has light. We have other areas with electricity. There are

some schools with electricity. I think these solar lights should be provided to the rural areas. Therefore, those of us in the provinces need these facilities more than Freetown. If you do this, we would go to the President and say thank you Mr President. As people on the other side were crying for me to say thanks, these are some of the things that you need to do. If you do not give these facilities to those that are in need, then, you leave them with no option but to come to areas that have these facilities. This is the reason why we have people roaming up and down the streets of Freetown looking for cold water. Most of them have migrated to Freetown to see light. But I think if these basic amenities are evenly distributed, people would not come to Freetown in search of them at all. If we do this, the issue of traffic congestion and theft in the city would be reduced. This was the reason why my colleague Honourable Member was appealing to the Minister of Finance. It is not that we are jealous of having electricity in Freetown. We only want him to consider the provinces. We are representing the people in the Provinces. We want light in Shenge. If you provide light in the schools of Shenge, we will say that the APC Government is working. The people voted you in. They should enjoy part of this national cake. Mr Minister, this is just an appeal that whenever you have another Grant of this nature, we want you to consider the provinces. Mr Joe Vamboi in the village should enjoy part of this national cake. I thank you.

HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, unfortunately, I am not going to pay a lip service to this important Grant (*Applause*). What I will do is to make sure that I do justice to this country. The people out there voted us in so that we would represent them well. That is what I am going to do this morning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was almost tempted to give up the mike. But when I saw my uncle from the other side of this House weeping, I said to myself, how can you weep more than the bereaved. He was pointing fingers at people from this other side of the House that they came from the provinces, and that they do not have light in their villages. We have this Grant before us to ensure that we ratify it and allow the people of Sierra Leone to benefit from electricity supply. We should not be pointing

fingers at other people. Instead, we should be looking at the interest of this country. Freetown is the capital city of Sierra Leone. This is the city where most of the investors and most of our development partners first visit before they go to the provinces. And if there is any place to first of all develop, I think we have to give preference to Freetown before we take the development to the provinces. The provinces will definitely enjoy the benefits of electricity supply that we are talking about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have in this Agreement is very important. I was busy taking notes when the Minister of Finance was making his presentation. I am a student from the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology. I know what it means to take notes as a student. For Fourah Bay College, all I can say is kudos to those who attended that institution. But I am proud being a product of the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister said that some part of this project is going to be extended to the rural communities. He said we are going to extend this Project to rural communities. Kailahun, Bo, Pujehun, etc., is part of the rural communities where I am coming from. An illustrious writer, Chinua Achebe says in his *Things Fall Apart*: "*The sun will shine on those who stand before it will shine on those who kneel under it*" This means that we have to tell our people the truth that the development of this country cannot be done in a day if we are true to ourselves. Let us go back memory line Mr Speaker. Six to seven years ago, all the donor partners were very active in Sierra Leone, and yet, what we are now talking about is bringing electricity not only to Freetown, the capital city, but also taking it to the rural communities. I am going to associate myself with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Power. He said that upon his visit to the Kailahun District, he saw a glut of people fellowshiping under the solar light. And Mr Speaker, if I could remember, I called on the Honourable Member of Constituency 002 to attention. I told him to listen to his Paramount Chief when he was speaking. Mr Speaker, do you know what his reply was? He said that this is one good thing that we must celebrate about. I can sit here and enjoy electricity at night. It is indeed a new gift to that part of this nation. This is

because the SLPP Government was not able to do this during their 11 year.... -
(*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please tailor your speech to the subject under discussion.

HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON: Noted Mr Speaker (*Laughter*). But there was nothing like light in the Kailahun District. My uncle can testify that in Pujehun District and beyond. Mr Speaker, the importance of this Grant cannot be overemphasized. I therefore urge this Honourable House to put aside all indifferences and face the reality of life and say to ourselves that we are all Sierra Leoneans. If we can have a Government, headed by President Ernest Bai Koroma, and Minister of Finance to secure such a Grant for the development of Sierra Leone, I expect all of us to say Kudos to this Government. We have to say thank you Mr President.

On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage everybody, including my uncle and the Chief from Moyamba to know that it is only when we start in Freetown that we can move to the provinces. That was what we did in the road constructions. We started the road constructions in Freetown. Today, road constructions are everywhere. Mr Speaker, this is not a lip service at all. It is a reality. I therefore say thank you very much.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI, (Deputy Minority Leader of the House): I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleased to see this Grant being brought to us. It has not been the first Grant that is brought for us to ratify. There is another commitment that the Government of this country and this House ratified in 2004. We are bound to complete all of the programmes of that commitment by 2015. I am referring to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Every city, and the entire district headquarter towns must have electricity by 2015. They must have water supply and good roads in the cities and the district head quarter towns. I am pleased to inform this House that since 2007, when this Government came to power, I have been observing that this Government has been implementing development projects of the

previous SLPP Government (*Applause*). The business of Government is the business of the nation. We must ratify this Grant. We must make sure that this Government implements what is there to implement. The previous Government committed itself to ending the war. The SLPP Government succeeded in doing that. The SLPP Government made sure that people were repatriated to their natural habitats. Those who did not return are those who are now over populating the city of Freetown. They must go back to their natural habitats. This is because they don't belong here. Let them go back to where they came from. This country has to be developed evenly. I thank this Government for this \$16 million Grant. It is a move in the right direction.

Mr Speaker, honourable Members, as far as I am concerned, I recognise and approve this Grant. I want to recommend also that we must put our hands together and make sure that the development of this country is put above all else. I want the development to be evenly distributed. The small resources we are getting from our natural habitat and from the donor communities must be properly utilised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one Honourable Member on the other side of this House made mention of Pujehun District. Do you know the time I got solar street lights in Pujehun District? In 2003, the war has just ended; and I made sure Pujehun District had electricity, including street lights. Mr Speaker, what is now celebrated has long been celebrated in Pujehun District (*Applause*). As far as I am concerned, I want us to think of Sierra Leone as a whole. Let us make sure that all of us hold every bit of this country. Let us stop looking at it as if only one section should benefit. It is our cake. I do not care the Government that is in power. But by the 2015, our commitment is to make sure that we electrify our towns and cities. We have to do that Mr Speaker. I am sure the Majority Leader of this House will agree with me that this nation belongs to all of us. We must work assiduously in making sure that the people of this country get that which they deserved. I want to thank Minister of Finance for tabling this Grant. I thank you very much and please extend my felicitation to the Minister of Energy and Power. Let him carry out the programmes that he has inherited from the previous Government, so that we can meet the goals that the previous Government set in

developing the infrastructure of this country. I thank you Honourable Members. Let us unanimously ratify this Grant today. It is good for the people of this nation.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I first want to react to the observations made by the Honourable Komba Koedoyoma. He is a very senior Member of this Parliament. I am doing so in my capacity as Chairman of the Business Committee. Mr Speaker, the Order Papers were distributed yesterday around 2:00 pm. When you come to this House as Member of Parliament, it is a full time job. There are some people that are always here till 7:00 pm. I do consider the point and I would like to take some blame for not telling the House as I should be doing from time to time. This was because we are expected to go for vacation by the end of this week. I went through the Notice Paper and found certain things that were not been in place. Some Ministers would come and deposit certain things, but they do not follow them up. But in our own quest to see things done, there are times when we have to send to them and ask, are you serious about this? Do you want us to do this? That was why I did not have time to announce this sitting in the Well. I take responsibility for that Mr Speaker. But I should tell you that the Order Papers were available yesterday by 2:00 pm. We have to make it a point of duty to always look in our pigeon holes before we leave this Parliament. If we have to leave Parliament by mid-day, then, those of us who do that would only blame ourselves for not having been responsible enough.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Grant is a very small amount. \$16 million is too small. Relatively speaking, when I say small, it must be relative or comparatively. Mr Speaker, we should not forget the fact that about 85% of the loans and grants we have ratified in this House have been meant for the provinces. The President has been talking about this West African Power Pool. This is the development most of the provinces, Kailahun and other areas are benefiting. I always like to refer to the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie since he is an economist. The other day, I did tell this House that my economics was at 6th form level, but believe you me I can take on anybody. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie knows that when you talk about development,

it is everywhere. The President, Dr Ernest Koroma is committed to developing this country. He wants to develop every loop and corner of Sierra Leone. But in achieving total development, the process has to be done in phases.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so much has been said about Freetown. Honourable Isata Kabia used the phrase Cosmopolitan area when she was making her presentation. I hope all of us know what that means. Well, 'Cosmo' means anything. Some would call it a Metropolis. These are words similar in meanings. Almost all the tribes are in Freetown. When we said this amount of money is for Freetown, we should not forget the fact that Freetown consists of everybody, including Parliament. Parliament is in Freetown, and parliamentarians represent those in the provinces as well. You come from the provinces; and you are here for most of the time to attend Parliamentary sittings. Don't you want some of the conveniences? Certainly you do. If you do, why are we talking about other things? I want us to forget about the past of the SLPP (*Applause*). Do you know why? Mr Speaker, there is one thing I want to say by way of assuring this House that the SLPP Members are now ready to team up with us. They are now ready to identify themselves with us to develop this country (*Applause*). This is because they know that they will certainly not be able to develop this country. That has been demonstrated during the 11 year of their reign. The Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai said that we are implementing what they have planned. That is what we call 'political ineptitude'. They plan, but they could not execute (*Applause*).

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I rise on S. O. 33 (*Applause*).

THE SPEAKER: Let us go to S. O. 33.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker... - (*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minority Leader, please read S. O. 33 for me.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the elucidation matter raised by the Honourable Member in the course of his speech provided that the Member speaking is willing.... - (*Interruption*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: I am not willing Honourable Member (*Laughter*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Majority Leader, are you willing?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: I am not willing Mr Speaker (*Laughter*).

THE SPEAKER: Please proceed.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: The Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai always likes to talk about history. And he was a very good historian at the St. Edwards Secondary School. I must say that. But there are times when he loses sight of his history (*Laughter*). I am saying this because a good historian should always be able to recollect events. Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai, you always talk about the 11 year war. But the amount of money that was pumped into this country was too much. If that money had been used judiciously and astutely, we should have been in Paradise by now (*Applause*). I want us to forget about the past. We are ready to cooperate with you. I know that you are ready to join us. Join us to develop this country. That is why each time there is a loan or grant, they are always ready to support us. Without reservation Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the ratification of this Agreement.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, would you like to comment on the issues raised?

MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the whole debate has been generated by the fact that this Grant is focusing its attention on the Eastern part of Freetown. But I did mention that it will cover some rural areas. Honourable Bliss Osho-Williams actually made the case as to why we have to put investments in Freetown. The only point he left out was that historically, the energy asset has basically concentrated in the Western Area. We have to maintain that because if you look at what is happening now, we are trying to improve on that. You cannot allow them to deteriorate at all. But that is not the response I wanted. I was here on Friday when the Honourable Deputy Leader did comment that we should not be lecturing Parliament. It was Honourable Kaifala Conteh who was trying to explain the

details of the agreement. So, I was circumspect. I was also circumspect this morning. I did not go into detail. But what happened on Friday and what happened today presented an energy programme for a loan of 75 million euro for the provinces, covering Kenema, Binkolo and Kamakwe. Today, I am presenting a programme of just \$16 million for just a small section of the Western Area. Can't we put it on the same level and see what is going on? In other words... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, let us have some decorum.

MR MOMODU KARGBO: Mr Speaker, as has been said by both the Minority and Majority Leaders that development is a holistic approach. But it has to be prioritised. And that is what we are doing as a Government. That is what I got to say in response to that. On Friday, we dealt with the provinces and it was a substantial amount of money that is involved. Today, it is a Grant. Both are going to accelerate the development of energy in this country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I once again move that this Honourable House ratify the following agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Friday, 5th July, 2013: "*The Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund Grant Agreement (Energy access Project) between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Development Association (Acting as Administrator of the Sierra Leone Infrastructure Development Fund), dated 20th June, 2013.*" I thank you.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Government Motion by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development has been ratified.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to announce for the information of the House that two new Members of Parliament, representing Constituency 29, Bombali District; and Constituency 62, Tonkolili District would be sworn in on Thursday, 11th July, 2013. I would ask Members of Parliament to show some understanding in this regard. I was even going to announce what is going

to be on the Order Paper, but we have not been able to get word from the Ministries concerned. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENTS

(The House rose at 11.30 a.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 11th July, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)