

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

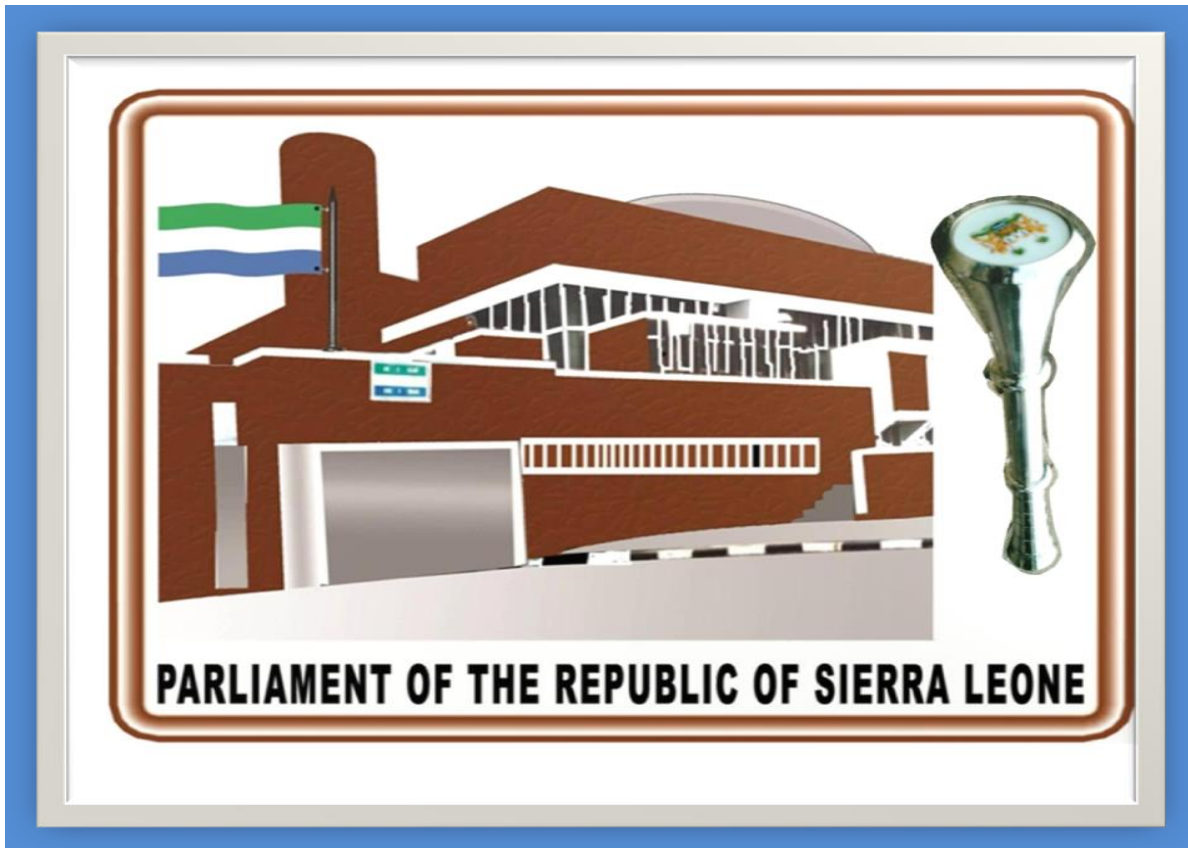
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2023

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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Second Meeting of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 12th October, 2023.

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MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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V MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

BE TI RESOLVED:

THAT THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECFOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIRST SESSION – SECOND MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday, 12th October, 2023.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Edward Lebbie, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:30a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Dr Abass Chernor Bundu the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST, 2023

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we shall now go to the record of Votes and Proceedings for the 13th sitting held on Friday the 18th of August, 2023. We shall skip Pages 1 through to 4 and start from Page 5. Any amendments?

I have just been advised that the Clerks at the Table were not able to identify the seconder of the Motion. Who seconded the motion? Very well, let us return to the Votes and Proceedings. Page 5, any amendments?, Page 6?, Page 7? Thank you, can somebody please move for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Friday 18th August, 2023.

HON. HABIB FABBAH I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. MOHAMED KANNEH: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put, and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary Sitting held on Friday 18th August, 2023 has been adopted]

II. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the very first announcement I have is to welcome all of you back to this noble Chamber of the House of Parliament. I had hoped quite sincerely that this time today, instead of welcoming just one side of the House back, I was hoping with the help of God Almighty that I would have done so together with the Members of the Opposition; all of them. But as the old adage goes, it is always better late than never. I understand from the great vine that the Members of

the Opposition are on their way coming but the only thing is the pace at which they are coming is at a snail's space, and only heaven knows how long it would take them to reach their final destination. But let me recognise the Acting Leader of the Opposition who now doubles as a Member of the ECOWAS Parliament. And on behalf of the House I want to extend our very hearty congratulations to him as a newly sworn Member of the House of the ECOWAS Parliament representing our Parliament [*Applause*]. I have not seen the other Member, is he around? Oh yes, and I would invite the other representative of this Parliament to the ECOWAS Parliament to please stand and be recognised. The Honourable Emerson Lamina, congratulations to both of you.

Now let me come back to the thorny issue of the Honourable Members for whom my arms are still widely stretched to welcome. I would welcome them heartily whenever they come, and please Acting Leader of the Opposition convey this; let them remember that the invitation I have extended to them to come and take their seats is not open ended. This is a House of laws, we make the laws of this land, and make no mistake, and we must be the first to respect the laws of the land for other people to follow. And when you respect the law it means respect for the law; the sanctity of the law- nothing more, nothing less. This sitting today since we started will be the 23rd of this 6th Parliament. I repeat, the 23rd sitting of this Parliament. What this means is that we have only seven more days [sittings] to go to the date of closure. So I am ready to welcome the absent Members of Parliament provided when they come, their coming would be consistent with the provisions of the law. If their coming takes place outside of the ambit of the law then I am afraid they would have only themselves to blame, not Mr Speaker, nor the Clerk, not any other Member of Parliament. This is the third time I am urging them to come and take their seats [*Undertone*], thank you, the third and final one, so says the Acting Leader of the Opposition. Well you know, let me use the analogy of a child and parent. If the parent warns the child once, and he does it a second time, and he is forced to do it the third time, I am sure we all know, bearing in mind our cultural practices what the consequences will be. **S.O 2** "*den go say, you don pass mark*". So for the third time I am urging the absentee Members to please come.

So on behalf of Members of Parliament and on behalf of my humble office as Speaker, I charge you the Acting Leader of the Opposition to kindly convey my message to your colleagues. I am yearning to see them take their seats; it would be a great pleasure for me and the rest of the House to see them take their seats. But time is running out and we are running against time. I have analysed very clearly to tell you how many sittings we have made and how many remain. And you know, in order to avoid saying tomorrow Mr Speaker, please compromise, please be lenient, let me again remind the Honourable House that this is no ordinary law. This law about absenteeism is contained in section 77[e], and it should be read in conjunction with the Standing Orders 77[2]. The reading of the combined provisions convey a very clear message and that is the message I am asking the Leader of the Opposition to please deliver on behalf of the House and more particularly, on behalf of Mr Speaker. I thank you very much for your attention.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Acting Leader of the Opposition, I want to reassure this House that the Honourable Members of Parliament of the APC are currently consulting with the government, and I am pretty sure that this week ending they would be taking their seats. So I am sure your warning today will be the last because I know they would be here, Mr Speaker.

IV. PAPERS LAID

[A] HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA,

MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

REPORT ON THE REDENOMINATION OF THE CURRENCY OF SIERRA LEONE.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable colleagues, I beg to lay on the Table of this House:

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE CURRENCY OF SIERRA LEONE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY THE 6TH OCTOBER, 2023.

[B] THE MINISTER OF ENERGY

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY [Alhaji Kanja Sesay]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers:

- [i] THE **148.5**MW POWER PURCHASE AMENDMENT FOR THE WESTERN AREA POWER GENERATION PROJECT, [KISSY]
- [II] THE **15**MW SOLAR AND STORAGE POWER GENERATION PROJECT, [NEWTON]
- [III] THE **28.2** MW BETMAI HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT [PAMPANA RIVER]

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

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECFOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, the Seventh Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Tuesday, 10th October, 2023 and interviewed **seven** Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- [i] The Chief Executive Officer of the National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]
- [ii] The Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority [SLCAA]
- [iii] The Executive Director, National Public Health Agency

[iv]The Commissioner, Youth Commission

[v] The Chairman, Monuments and Relics Commission

[VI] Chairman, Board of Directors, National Public Health Agency and

[vii] The Chairman, the Environment Protection Agency [EPA]

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained its usual consistency and established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experiences to lead such important Offices of State. Probing questions covered wide ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

3. Ninth Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 10th October, 2023

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

1. Mrs. Musayeroh Barrie- Proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority

Mrs. Musayeroh Barrie is an adoptable result oriented driven person with an outstanding background in Company Management, Business Development and Cross – Cultural expertise for conducting both local and international transactions. She is capable of managing supply chain disruptions and building relationships with relevant stakeholders. Prior to this appointment, she served as Country Director, Westminster Sierra Leone; an international security outfit of the Lungi International Airport that has given more security credibility to the Airport, by assessment of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO].

The nominee holds a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Brunei University in the United Kingdom, a Master Degree in Business Administration [MBA] from the University

of Leicester, UK and a Diploma from the Chartered Management Institute in Strategic Management and Leadership.

In her response to the Committee on what she would deliver at the Civil Aviation Authority, Mrs Barrie acknowledged that the Aviation Industry was a constantly changing world with emerging legal ramifications daily, but that she was going with an open mind set to learn and work with the already established team to realize the expectations of the government

2. Mr Fodie Jangah Konneh - Proposed Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority-[NPPA]

Mr Fodie Janga Konneh is a renowned Accountant and Procurement Specialist with vast experience in management and policy relating to procurement and Supply Chain Management at local and Ministerial levels.

He holds a Master Degree from Robert Kennedy College, Manchester, UK in Procurement, Logistics & Supply Chain Management and a plethora of International accreditations at various learning Institutions worldwide on Procurement related Courses and trainings.

Mr Konneh has worked with many government and Development partners with creditable reports. From 2014 to date, he has been managing the procurement cadre of the central Government and Local Councils in assessing value for money in all procurement dealings.

In his response to the Committee, he said he was happy to have the opportunity to work at the regulatory body, and emphasized that capacity building for staff across all sectors was key for both manual and automotive procurement solutions. On the issues of the Procurement Directorate in the Ministry of Finance, the nominee said it was a Civil Service creature that raised much concerns in 2016 but the NPPA still remains the regulatory body.

3. *Prof Foday Sahr -Proposed Executive Director,National Public Health Agency [NPHA].*

Professor Foday Sahr is a fine soldier, a renowned professor and a public health specialist with a plethora of proven scientific research records globally exhibiting astute competencies and exceptional management skills. He is currently serving as Head of Department of Micro-biology, College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, University of Sierra Leone. He is the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sierra Leone.

He has 149 research publications to his credit and most of which he co-authored with Professor Aiah Kpakima, the proposed Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Public Health Agency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominee's outstanding research attracted world attention at the height of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, when he used the infected blood of Ebola survivor on Ebola patients who were in critical conditions and were later labelled to be recovered.

Responding to the Committee on what he would be bringing to the NPHA, he said he was quite aware of the Health Sector and promised to work with the Board and health professionals to realize the dream of the Public Health Act.

4. *Prof. Aiah Albert Kpakima - Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, National Public Health Agency(NPHA)*

Mr Speaker, Prof. Aiah Albert Kpakima is a seasoned Lecturer and Scientific Researcher with vast experience in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology for decades in and out of the Country.

As an outstanding Lecturer and Researcher, Prof. Kpakima has involved in many WHO researches and training seminars globally in the field of disease control, prevention and other interventions.

Prof. Kpakima also served as focal person and consultant in key health institutions such as USAID, Global Fund, HIV/ AIDS, West African Health Organization to address disease conditions of Malaria, Tuberculosis, etc and environmental water systems.

Apart from many volunteer and consultancy services, the nominee served as a Country Director, USAID and provided training and supervisory role in making sure that staff safety and health conditions were maintained.

He later served as Minister of Technical & Higher Education from 2018 to 2021 to support and strengthen the technical and Vocational sector in the middle educational system to achieve human capital development and resourcefulness.

Prof. Gbakima is still recognized as a key corner stone in the Country's educational transformation system and health interventions drive for which this appointment in the Health Agency is like '*bringing the professor home*'. He has done extensive research with his former student and now co-researcher; the current proposed Executive Director for the same Agency in question, Brigadier General Prof. Foday Sahr.

Responding to the Committee's inquiry on his contributions to the NPHA, the learned professor said he would work with all professionals to build a strong public health structure in Sierra Leone.

5. *Dr. Joseph Kaifala – Proposed Chairman , Monuments and Relics Commission*

Dr. Kaifala is a Lawyer, Writer and Consultant in many freelance consulting services in the area of International Law and Human Rights. Mr Kaifala started his early education at the Sierra Leone Grammar School and proceeded to acquire his Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French, Skidmore College, USA in 2008, MA International Relations, 2011 and Juris Doctorate, Vermont Law School United States, 2013.

He is an outstanding Writer with several Honours and awards internationally in the fields of education, conflict resolutions, gender, human rights and hosts of others. The Committee was very interested in his passion for relics and monuments exhibited over the years, especially when it was discovered that prior to this appointment, he was

serving as the Principal for Centre for Memory and Reparations; a transitional justice institution facilitating remembrance and collective narratives around the brutal Sierra Leone Civil War, [1991-2002]. He is currently the Director of **Joseph Kaifala Consulting** in the area of human rights and Justice.

From his considerable experiences in Project Management, the young educationist promised to attract world attention (especially UNESCO) to the rich and seemingly unnoticed Sierra Leonean monuments and artifacts.

6. Mr Ahmed Atata Mansaray-Proposed Commissioner, National Youth Commission

Mr Ahmed Atata Mansaray is a Barrister at-Law and a communication expert with in-depth knowledge on policy formulation and implementation on youth's programs and plans for integration into National Development Agenda.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Field Manager, Ministry of Youth Affairs where his key responsibilities were to plan field visits and projects and expedite monitoring activities of all projects.

The articulate lawyer promised to live to the expectations of his Excellency in job creations, and promised to challenge and rehabilitate youths engaged in drug abuses, wage war on drug dealers and reduce the increasing illegal youth migrations to foreign countries.

7. Dr. Abu-Bakar S. Massaquoi- Proposed Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr. Massaquoi is a seasoned consultant and educationist with admirable experience in environment and development as well as climate change phenomenon, both locally and globally.

Prior to this assignment, he was a Consultant, Policy and Institutional Analyst for Coastal Zone Management of Wetlands International Africa. He has a profile of Academic Degrees and Research Papers to his credit.

Dr Massaquoi promised to strengthen the upward trajectory of the EPA's progress on Climate Change and Environment Protection as espoused in the Environment Policies of the Country.

4. Recommendations

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

- i. Fodie Jangah Konneh- Proposed Chief Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]*
- ii. Musayeroh Barrie – Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority [SLCAA]*
- iii. Prof. Foday Sahr - Proposed Executive Director, National Public Health Agency*
- iv. Joseph Kaifala - Proposed Chairman, Monuments and Relics Commission*
- v. Prof Aiah Gbakima - Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, National Public Health Agency*
- vi. Mr Ahmed Atata Mansaray- Proposed Commissioner, National Youth Commission*
- vii. Dr Abu-Bakar S. Massaquoi- Proposed Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency [EPA]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Seventh Report** reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Seventh Report** of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma [JP]

Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of Government Business, any seconder?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I so second, Mr Speaker

[Question proposed, Put and Agreed to]

THE SPEAKER: I think we can comfortably dub this day as the day of the health professors but minus their Microscopes. I only hope that they will not leave the Microscope too far behind when they go into their new offices. I now give the Floor to the seconder of the Motion

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting these nominees for approval to the House. Mr Speaker, what the President has done is within his mandate as par the Constitution, and what we are about to do is also enshrined in the Constitution

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as representatives of the people, we are bound by conscience and by morals to do due diligence because His Excellency has decided to choose from the many Sierra Leoneans these nominees to help him in achieving his agenda.

To the nominees, you have been selected from many of the people who voted for His Excellency and those that did not vote for him in order to achieve his agenda. So you are expected to perform and not to disappoint His Excellency the President. If you disappoint His Excellency the President, you would not just be disappointing him but you would be disappointing this Parliament, and by extension the people of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleased whenever I see young people presented to this Parliament for approval. It shows that some of us who came in very early have been able to stand the test of time and we have encouraged the leadership of this nation to believe that young people too can perform. Ever since we took over

governance, we can boastfully say that the Executive arm of government is **60%** or more of young people.

Thank you His Excellency the President for believing in young people. No President before now, and I stand to challenge those that will be coming to be bold and brave enough to bring young people in the fold of leadership.

To the young people selected, you have been selected to represent us. You are the guinea pigs; if you succeed, you succeed for the young people of Sierra Leone; if you fail, you fail the young people of Sierra Leone. So please do us proud, please deliver because young people have been left behind for too long. His Excellence is moving us from the position of future leaders to leaders of today. So please, the fact that His Excellency has bestowed his confidence in you, make sure you deliver.

Mr Speaker, when appointees come here we hip praises on them. Some of them will perform to expectation while some will fail. If they fail at the end of the day, we the Members of Parliament will be the greatest losers. Few years down the line we would be presenting ourselves to the people of Sierra Leone to be voted for. These appointees will not be presenting themselves and it is us the Members of Parliament who will be answering questions on their performances.

On our side today, we have 30 or more MPs that did not come back because they were unable to answer questions put to them during the election. So if you fail we will be the losers; we will have to face the people to answer their questions, and some of the questions we would not have answers for. But I want to assure you that this is a new Parliament, I have said and I want to challenge this Parliament that going forward, we should make sure we perform our oversight functions without fear or favour.

Mr Speaker, when this appointees are nominated, you see them coming around Parliament behaving as if when they go to their offices they would respond speedily whenever we call them. But Mr Speaker, it is heartrending at times to see Members of Parliament calling on appointees and they don't even pick their calls, Member of Parliament visiting appointees and they keep the MPs in their Waiting Rooms. The

appointees should know that they are by far junior members in terms of governance, and when Members of Parliament visit their offices, they must know that the MPs are not there to beg; they are visiting you to talk for their constituents or bringing issues pertaining their Constituencies. If you fail to listen to them or their cries, which means you are not listening to the people of Sierra Leone. We are the only persons that the people know; they know our phone numbers, they know our addresses and they know our offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our constituents do not know some of these nominees. So when Members of Parliament visit please open your doors and please pick your calls; treat MPs with the utmost respect they deserve.

To the Committee Chairmen and Members, we have said in this Well that Committees are now going to be given based on performance. That is why the Constitution is very clear; these are Sessional Committee, if you do not perform you are not going to retain your position as Chairman.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zero in on few of these nominees and I will begin with Fodie J. Konneh. Mr Speaker, Fodie J. Konneh and me entered Bo School the same day, same year [1992] and the same class but he is my small boy.

Mr Speaker that is why I said the President is brave and bold enough to believe in us. I have been a Member of Parliament for ten years or more, and I have been a Leader for almost four years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were in class group in Bo School, Fodie J. Konneh was **FODIE**, today he is a very strong man and he is **PHODIE**. That means with time and with growth even the name has grown from **FO** to **PHO**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, me and Fodie J. Konneh went to the same University. One thing I can say for sure is that Mr Konneh is a very intelligent young man. When we went to the University he did not do Procurement but after University he was very personate about Procurement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can say here without fear or favour that Mr Fodie J. Konneh is the most renowned and senior Procurement Officer in this country. Mr Konneh, based on your experience and education, you have been selected to regulate the Procurement Institution

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the leakages in Sierra Leone is done through procurement processes. Mr Speaker, whenever we do oversight or embark on committee on supply and ask questions, it would interest you to know that the procurement institution is ripping off this country. Mr Speaker, if you see the amount institutions put for just Air Ticket it would surprise you; they always inflate prices.

Mr. Fodie J. Konneh, you have done the good, you have done the bad and you have done the ugly. Today you are in the position to regulate, you have seen all the things that have happened; of course you have seen the challenges and you have been part of the problem. Today you are now in charge; you are in charge to correct the wrongs. Sierra Leone will not move forward if we cannot save this country economically.

Mr Speaker, when we do our Committee on Supplies and you see the rate at which Sierra Leoneans and the nation is being ripped off through procurement process, you would begin to wonder whether those doing the procurement job are Sierra Leoneans. An item that may cost **Le10** for example, can be priced at **Le50** by these people. So Mr. Konneh you have seen it all, please save this nation. The person that occupied that seat before you did his best.

Mr Speaker, we knew the challenges between NPPA, the Ministry of Finance and other Authorities. Mr Konneh you have been there before so please help us. The country is starving, the economy is not good, Procurement Officers should be cautioned. I was happy when you said capacity is the problem and that you are going to strengthen capacity because lack of knowledge breeds corruption. Bad procurements have been done before, that is why I am calling on you to go there and make His Excellency proud, make this Parliament proud, make the Class of 1992 proud and make sure you deliver for His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the lady going to Civil Aviation is young; I don't envy her at this moment. Mr Speaker, in terms of air transportation, travelling to Sierra Leone is the most expensive.

Mr Speaker, when we did the SUMA contract in this Parliament, we had expected that with the new Airport and facilities air transportation should have been reduced. But Mr Speaker, today we are losing a lot because many Sierra Leoneans are travelling through Liberian and Guinea because the taxation at our Airport is huge.

Mr Speaker, few days ago I bought a ticket **\$850** just to go to Ghana; that is too expensive. Mr Speaker you can spend twice of that amount if you want to go to America through Guinea and save almost a thousand Dollar. So Mr Speaker you would notice that people are now moving to Guinea or to Liberia and travel from that route.

So Madam, the position you are taking is not an enviable one; you would be faced with challenges of that nature, you would be faced with a situation in which you would have to challenge the Airport Authorities. What is the problem? We have passed a lot of regulations in this Parliament and we were told that when these regulations are passed into law air transportation will be reduced.

Mr Speaker, we have enacted a new Act of Civil Aviation, we have strengthened the Airport Authority, what have we not done as a Parliament? In doing all of that, we expected that prices of tickets to Sierra Leone would be reduced. In fact we have not seen Tourists coming to the country for the longest time because it is expensive. If you go to Gambia and Ghana you would see lots of foreigners going to those countries. Even some of our brothers and sisters that want to come for holidays cannot afford the air tickets.

So Madam, you have a lot in your plate. I don't envy you because I know that the sector you are about taking is very much challenged. You are young, your predecessor tried his best and we hope you can do better. We now have our players; even our international players are using other routes other than our airport. Look at the inconveniences, please make sure you deliver. Engage, this Parliament is available;

whenever you have challenges there is a Committee responsible for transport. Face the Committee Members, talk to them, they are here to help you. What we do today as young people will be part of our report in the future. The greatest challenge we have as young people is that if we fail now, we have so much time to deal with that failure. The difference between us and the aged is that if they fail, they have less time to die but if we fail, we may live longer to see it as young people.

Mr Speaker, the worst is that as young as we are, we have occupied the highest positions of state. The only thing that will keep us at that level is performance, because if we fail we will not die early, we still have time and people will tell us we failed and our children will tell us we failed the country. So please perform for us, perform for yourself, and perform for your family. You know the situation, you have been working at the airport, and you know the challenges, so please perform. Every day we travel we cry, every day we buy tickets we cry, every Sierra Leonean, even government officials cry because the price is too huge.

So Mr Konneh, you are wished well and you will have the support of this Parliament. I can assure that this Parliament will give you its fullest support in whatever you want to do to enhance your job. I am speaking on behalf of the Leadership of this House that we would give you the fullest of support because every Sierra Leonean is grumbling about air ticket. So please, we know people are happy for you; everybody is here to celebrate with you, but after today they will be grumbling about you if you do not perform.

Once more, you are wished well in your new office. Whatever your challenges are, there is a Committee responsible. If at all you cannot meet the Committee, come to the Leadership of this House and we would give you the maximum support.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my younger brother, Dr Massaquoi who is going to the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is a very young and intelligent man. Mr Speaker, I personally did interview him, he was able to mesmerize the Committee and we were very impressed. He is top notch Mr Speaker, he is on top of his game, and he has been in that industry for the longest period; from college to date he has been part

of that industry. You know the challenges, you know the problems, you have been a consultant and you have served in that institution.

Sierra Leoneans, look at the climate situation. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], WETLAND, our wetlands are gone; people are back-filling the rivers, go to the slums, people are back-filling the rivers and building up the hills without recourse to the EPA. The Mining sector is also ravaging our lands; Climate Change is the vogue today.

Dr Massaquoi, you have told us you have done a lot of research and paper works around that, please make sure you save us. Look at the rivers, there was a Committee formed in this Parliament to look at the rivers. Now when you go to our villages the rivers are now brained. People are mining illegally, and sometimes they do that in collaboration with your staff. We have a lot of Chinese around; foreigners mining illegally. They have polluted our waters; today diseases are all around the communities. So you have a lot to do, Dr Massaquoi.

At this point, I am pleased because His Excellency is bringing in young people who have the energy, and he is challenging us that if we fail, as young as we are, we may still be alive and people will tell us that we failed. Trust me if we fail we are going to live with it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know Dr Massaquoi will perform because he has the experience, the zeal and the courage. We saw the passion in him through the manner in which he was answering questions.

Mr Massaquoi, the Committee is here and Parliament is here. Whatever laws you want us to review for the enhancement of that sector, come with them; we will support you because this is a period of the young people. Let us not disappoint His Excellency; let us do the things our elders were not able to do so when we become elders, we will sit and tell our young ones what we did to change the face of Sierra Leone. His Excellency has challenged us.

Dr Massaquoi you are wished well, we know you will perform because you are very serious man. I have known you from University; of course you have done a lot of

research around the topic so you know the problems. Parliament will support you; this Parliament is very progressive and willing to support you.

Mr Speaker, as a son of a Military Officer, I will now zero in on Brigadier Professor Sahr Foday. Mr Speaker, Professor Sahr is a very astute officer. Professor Sahr and my mum used to work at the 34 Military Hospital. He is a father figure; he has sojourn a lot around in the Military and in the Educational sector, and now he has been brought to his field.

Doctor Foday Sahr, you have been chosen to serve this very important office. When we were doing the Bill and creating that office, I asked the Minister who pioneered that Bill that why do we want to give the position of Director General to the president to appoint? He told me in secret that they want to reserve that position for the most senior Doctor in that direction. Today you have been chosen, you know what happened in Ebola; we were not prepared, and as if we did not learn, Corona came in again. Now we have an institution like the CDC in America. We should prepare in time, look at the buildings, they are dilapidated structures. Monies have been spent and trainings have been conducted. Make sure we now prepare for any eventuality and use the office well.

Let me now turn to the man going to the Board, Professor Kpakima.

Mr Speaker, whiles I was seated and the Leader called on Professor Kpakima, what came to mind was that when you are a Minister or even as Members of Parliament, when creating Boards you should bear in mind that these Boards are our offices because when you retire tomorrow you may serve in those Boards. But Mr Speaker, we have a situation wherein Ministers look on Board Members as if they are inferior, forgetting that these are their positions tomorrow. Today if you are a Minister, know that the way you treat your Board Members today is the same way your Minister will treat you tomorrow. If you treated Board Members badly, expect the same, but if you treated them nicely, Ministers will treat you nicely tomorrow.

So to the Ministers, Board Member positions are our future positions, so treat them well. If today you are a Minister, tomorrow you can be a Board Member.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reason I am saying this is because we have Ministers who have no respect for Board Members. Some Ministers even deal with Director Generals instead of Board Members just to make the Board look very redundant. So this is a learning course; nobody is too big or too small to learn.

So please, Boss man you are wished well. Know that the same way you treated others is the same way you will be treated today. We wish you well and we hope your Minister will work with you. We used to go to you from this Parliament for SLG, the way you treated us then will be the same way they will treat you today *[Applause]*. If you have not been opening your offices for us they will not open offices for you. So please, this is just to inform all Ministers and Deputy Ministers that when you occupy offices you should treat people nicely because these are not your permanent offices; they are just temporal offices. When some people occupy offices or make laws, they behave or make the laws as if they are going to stay permanently in those offices, forgetting that His Excellency can change them at any time.

So Ministers be careful, we are here permanently for five years because we were elected. In fact we benefit when we hear or see Press Releases saying *'as it pleases His Excellency'*; we know we would interview because our business is to interview and approve. So when you hold offices and pretend as if you are our bosses, you are not; you are very junior officers to us. Ministers you behave to Members of Parliament as if you are our Bosses. Whenever it is time for your interviews you will be running after us all over the place begging us to approve you. When once you are approved and we go to your offices, picking your calls or opening your doors to us become a challenge- you are far our juniors to treat us like that. That is why we are praying for His Excellency every day; those that are not performing please drive them, and those that are not picking our calls please drive them, we don't need them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when our party people go to visit them they don't talk to them and these are the people that suffered for us. You are Appointees but our party people suffered for us; they were the people campaigning, these were the people going under the rains and travelling on bad roads campaigning for us. Because you

were fortunate to be appointed, when they visit you, you treat them like filthy rags. Please treat people with respect because the offices you hold now are temporary offices.

To my younger brother, Atata, I know you are a grass root person, you have been chosen to lead young people at the National Youths Commission [NYC]. You know the problems, and I know you for long in opposition; I know the way you cried when you suffered. If you behave like others we will remind you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Atata is a grass root young man and he has suffered for this party. This is a man who traversed this nation for us to be where we are, and he has been rewarded with a position to represent the young people and to save us. Atata, if you behave like others, we will remind you. We know people who have suffered but when once they are given positions they forget that they have been suffering. As a junior brother, I would advise you to respect yourself because if you behave like the others we will remind you. Be creative to provide jobs and trainings opportunities for the youths. Lack of capacity and drug abuse are the orders of the day Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me say this; the level at which young people are taking Kush in my village is unbearable. Mr Speaker, the future of our youths has been ruined. What is the NYC doing about that? No more sensitization.

THE SPEAKER: I keep hearing this word '*Kush, Kush, Kush*'. Honourable Member, I say this with all seriousness and I hope during the contributions of your colleagues they will educate some of us about the composition of this *Kush*. I keep hearing this word *Kush* and I have seen the impact and effect of *Kush* on videos but what is it made of? Are the ingredients local or foreign or both? So please, if you are able to elaborate please do so for our own edification.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I am happy that the Inspector General of Police [IGP] and the Minister of Internal Affairs are here. Mr Speaker, it would surprise to know that even the Police are involved in this Kush thing, trust me. It's no joke, our children are dying and the police officers who should be arresting the perpetrators are also part of the game. Mr IG and Mr Minister of Internal Affairs, you need a lot to do.

Mr Speaker, as things are currently it seems we have no future. In those days, **S.O** [2], *'den say Jamba bad'*. In fact Jamba is now far better.

THE SPEAKER: In all seriousness, one of the things I have indicated from the very beginning of this 6th Session is that I am going to institute Question Time and senior Officials of Government would be brought to this Chamber to answer questions. It is about time we take accountability to that level, go ahead.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Inspector General, when I went to my village for instance, they told me that **80%** of the young boys are drug addicts. Mr Speaker, this has made the rate of petty theft in those villages has increased greatly. Somebody told me that theft has increased to a level that some of those boys can't even spare their mothers' pants. A Teacher recently came to me and said **S.O** [2], *'Aaaa Honourable, mi pikin don done'*. The Teacher said when one of his son's best friends died of Kush and he decided to caution the boy, his response was, **S.O** [2], *'Papa all man get in yone way for die'*.

Mr Speaker, this is unbearable because our children are dying; the future leaders are sinking. The Police should step up, maybe we are not feeling the pinch in the city but if you go to our villages the situation is terrible. This Parliament also should step up and NYC must embark on sensitization; explain the harmfulness of these drugs. Mr Speaker, we may be laughing at it but this is alarming and very serious. I nearly shed tears few days ago when they explained the situation to me in my village. Mr Speaker, this is extremely serious.

THE SPEAKER: Listening to you, it really reminds me of a key provision of our Constitution; maybe we have reached the time when we should be considering implementing section 29 of the Constitution. This simply means, if we have reached the point as he has described, this House should seriously consider supporting a Motion for the declaration of a Public Emergency to address this issue *[Applause]*

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I support you whole heartedly on that and I would advise His Excellency the President to consider that. This Parliament will give him

the fullest support. NYC, this is for you; if you don't address that one, even if you create all the jobs and training institutions nobody will make use of the facilities because the youths will be no more. So please help the young people. It is not just about occupying these big offices or driving in big vehicles; go to the grounds, go to our villages and the ghettos, go to the Universities, go to the colleges, go to the schools, go to the slums and enlighten the youth about the dangers of those drugs.

To the man going to the Relics Commission, I want you to know that our culture is gone. I am happy that your dress shows you are very traditional.

Mr Speaker, you might have noticed that I have never worn a coat for the longest of time. I have been wearing Africana all this while to show that I am a traditional Sierra Leonean. So please Dr Joseph Kaifala revive our culture. Our culture is gone; everything we are now doing is western, even our attitude is western. All our monuments and relics are gone and we have nothing to show as Sierra Leoneans. Go to the beaches, places that were once very lively are now full of Bars and with nothing to show about our heritage.

Dr Kaifala, you were able to convince us at the Committee and I can assure you that you have our support. Whatever you want us to review, please come with the Bill and we will help you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want these Appointees to know that they are answerable to us. And Mr Speaker, if these Appointees fail we have failed and we will therefore not allow them to fail.

Mr Speaker, this is the 6th Parliament and the final term of His Excellency the President. This is the period for us to leave a legacy so we are going to follow up on these Appointees; we shall be doing our oversights. We are going to work with you, we are going to follow you, we are going to support you because if you fail we will be voted out, and we will not remember His Excellency for anything. The President has challenged us in his final term; he has brought in young people. There are lots of grumblings, lots of challenges, everybody is crying but His Excellency believes in you. Do you know the pressure His Excellency is under? So please save him, and the only

way you can save His Excellency from the grumblings of our party officials and other Sierra Leoneans is when you perform well. But if you fail, you will put His Excellency to shame, so please perform, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: After listening to the Deputy Leader, I was not expecting...
[Undertones] No! No! No! Let's be frank here. He has raised a number of salient points
[Undertones] no, no, wait a minute. You know, this is not the occasion where everybody needs to have a bite at the sherry. I don't think I will entertain more than four [4] speakers after the Deputy. He has said most of the things that I am sure all of you want to say. Your numbers are increasing; I would therefore only entertain two Honourable ladies, two Honourable gentlemen and one Paramount chief, if any. I would give the Floor to the Deputy Whip for one reason; he is representing the Western Area and that is where this Kush business is most prevalent *[Laughter]*.

HON IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, I would want to start my submission by looking at the Clock.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, with the House continuing in the spirit of the Standing Orders, I would want to start my submission by looking at a critical issue raised by the Deputy Leader [1] of this House; the issue of the price for Air Tickets

Mr Speaker, let it be known and let the public understand that us in this 6TH Parliament, and for those of us that were in the 5th Parliament, we already met the 4th Parliament had passed an Act in the Finance Act of 2017, on section 5; 'the Foreign Travel Ticket Tax Act of 1975' was amended. And it was that amendment that introduced an increased in Air Ticket Taxes, ranging from **\$25** for Economy, if you are travelling to ECOWAS country, is **\$50** for Business Class and **\$75** for First Class if you are travelling across the ECOWAS Sub Region. And if you are travelling beyond the ECOWAS Sub Region, you are going to pay **\$55** if you are buying an Economy ticket and **\$170** for Business ticket and **\$250** for First Class.

Mr Speaker, why did I start here? The fact is, the public and our colleagues in the opposition enjoyed using the bad laws that they have passed, and place the blame on the SLPP; that Air Ticket prices are sky rocketing because the SLPP has introduced new taxes, Mr Speaker that is not true. It is incumbent on this Parliament, and thank God we are very close to the budget circle, to ensure that when the next Finance Bill comes to this House we look at the 2017 Finance Bill that was passed and signed to see how we can amend some of these taxes so as to ensure that it reflects on the prices of Air Ticket.

That notwithstanding, as we make the amendment, we must consider whether it should be on the Bill or not. But as we consider it, we must also look at the fact that we have Sky Handling Partners, Westminster Security partners and Securi-port at the Airport. All of these agencies have entered into a concessional Agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone. And in all of those concessions, the means of repaying or recouping their investment in those securities comes from taxes levied on Air Tickets.

Mr Speaker, virtually almost all of us have travelled. It is impossible to go through any Airport without proper security management. The major challenge with Air Ticket pricing in Sierra Leone is the fact that Sierra Leoneans don't travel. If you go to Guinea you would have five or six flights full going to France, United States and other countries. But in Sierra Leone, a flight leaving the country would have to stop either in Liberia or go through Burkina Faso or Ghana and by the time you get to Addis Ababa from Sierra Leone you would have spent twelve hours. You would take two and half hours from Freetown to Accra, you would have to spend close to another two hours in transit, and you would have another seven and half hours flight to Addis Ababa because Sierra Leoneans don't travel. That is why most of the flights that used to come to Sierra Leone are down scaling. In fact most of the people that travel in and out of Sierra Leone are non-Sierra Leoneans. So as a result, the business of Air Transport is not making money. In the days of Ebola, Air Cote d'Ivoire was one of the two or three Airlines traversing the globe to come to Sierra Leone, they were making huge sum of money. At the end of Ebola, when other flights resumed their schedule, Air Cote

d'Ivoire shut down because they did not have enough business as they had during the Ebola.

So Mr Speaker, it is incumbent on this House not only to consider the review, but to also ensure that if we are going to improve on our travelling pattern we must first of all improve on our local tourism.

Those of us coming from Western Area, I challenge you that not many of us know beyond two districts in this country because we don't go anywhere; we stay in our houses.

And Mr Speaker, what discourages the hospitality sector the more in Sierra Leone is, **S.O** [2], '*na Chop Money*'. People don't go out and buy food in Sierra Leone because they think that buying food at any hospitality joint is expensive. So what they would do is to give **Le30, 000** to Mamie Fatu to prepare their food. So '*Chop Money*' has discouraged hospitality and tourism in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I move away from '*Chop Money*', I will also want to continue in the vain of talking about money and relate it to the Kush crises. And in that light, I want to address the Commissioner designate or Commissioner in waiting for the National Youth Commission.

Mr Speaker, if we are going to work on Agriculture; if Agriculture is going to succeed, if Feed Salone is going to work, we need enough man power in the field. Those of us that are motorists, those of us that have vehicles and are affluent, that usually give handouts to boys on the street paths that form groups, set clubs and cocoons around junctions, let us realize that we are suffocating the president's idea of Feed Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have made very pertinent points but before you veer on to the other issues, I thought you were going to dilate on another critical factor. There was a time not too long ago, when our country was a high risk destination

for air travel. The War Risk Insurance aspect that saw a marked increase in air fares; I thought you were going to deal with that issue.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Sorry Mr Speaker, I noted it but I do not want to monopolize the Floor, and I know by the time the Bill comes to us we will look at all those dynamics in order to take an informed decision. Coming to Sierra Leone, whether it is via Airport or through the Seaport, the insurance cost and the risks attached to our ports are very high. So whenever a flight moves from whatever destination to Sierra Leone, the cost... *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: But the war ended in 2002.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Hence the reason a recent assessment of our new airport shows that we have made marked progress. Before now, we were scoring 17, 23, and in the last assessment I think we were 2 points away from meeting the ICAO standard. The assessment is like an exit audit report; they would provide you the audit exceptions and what they have seen, and your response will either increase or decrease your mark. I am sure the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority has responded, and their response is favorable to ICAO, and we believe those responses will solicit the 3 or 4 points that is in variance for us to meet that criteria to be removed from the list of high risk countries. So Mr Speaker, I would want to end on that and continue on the issue of handouts.

Mr Speaker, if you go to Lumley, the first junction at the Lumley Bus Stop where the church is, you have one group there; if you go towards the Bridge, there is another group there; if you come towards Safecon there is another group there also. In each of these groups you would have not less than five boys chasing after your vehicle just for you to give them **Le5, 000** or **Le10, 000**. This is not only happening in Lumley, it's happening right across the city; if you go to Aberdeen Road Junction, there is another base there; you go to Aberdeen village, there is another base there.

Mr Speaker, the only way we can discourage those Bases is to ensure that collectively as a nation, we frown at the act of giving free monies so that we encourage our people to go to the field and work. There is no free lunch in Finance; you pay for whatever you receive. Yes, I know it is a political stunt; it is a political trick, but let us stop doing politics now and help our people. If we give them free money you are aiding them to go and buy Kush. Kush is **Le5.00**, with all respect to those that are selling marijuana, they have maintained a stable economy for a very long time; **Le1.00** [*Undertone*]. Because I have lot of ghettos in my Constituency, I go around and talk to people; I do economic research, and when you do economic research you go to the basement and find information and that information make you strong, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, in the 80s to the 90s, Kumbayara was made fearful to us, but Kush is now ten times fearful than Kumbayara. Mr Speaker, what is happening now is that those that are bringing in Kush are known by the police. Like the Deputy Leader said, we are all aware that the police know those that are bringing in Kush. That was why I like the response given by the Commissioner designate; that he would not support the act of punishing those that are taking Kush, rather, we should go after those that are bringing in Kush. Even though Kush is not manufactured or grown in Sierra Leone, but the concoction that produces the final outcome called Kush is brought in by people that we know and people that the police connive with. I know police men that are also selling Kush, I know that police will take Kush exhibits to the Police Station and those exhibits will never be displayed, they will never be taken to the Courts, and those exhibits will disappear naturally. What are they doing with them? I know policemen are also taking Kush; we have seen it, but the point is, it is eroding the human capital.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, my colleague is a very senior Member of this parliament and he is making a very serious accusation to a dedicated force of this nation. I am not a Police in any form or shape but I am just observing. So please let him take note of that.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let us be clear; I agree with you, he is a very senior Member of this House, but so is the Deputy Leader of Government Business, and he made similar accusations against the Police and I did not see you rise. What I want to take note of is that when the Deputy Leader was speaking, fortunately for this House the IGP was here, and I hope he has taken note of what was said here in the Chamber of this House for him to address that burning issue of Kush and the involvement of the police. Is the Minister of Internal Affairs here? I hope Mr Minister you are taking note? Thank you, carry on please, Honourable Member.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I take the Honourable Member's point, and I would let him know that it is not an accusation so let me defend the Deputy Leader accordingly. These are facts, these are sacrosanct. If you want us to help you, if the police don't have lead, let them come to us we will take them to the places instead of them going around picking up these little boys that are buying Kush. Let us go into the hub and clean the hub *[Applause]*. So please, if we want to clean let us clean faithfully.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about esthetic and typifying characteristics of Sierra Leone culture. So I would want to address my brother, Dr. Kaifala.

Mr Speaker, most people in this Chamber and outside would realize that our people in the provinces seem to be monolithic because our customs and traditions are sacrosanct. Because we have lost our identity, our Monuments are rendered unimportant, and we have lost that semblance of true understanding of our culture.

Mr Speaker, taking a closer look at the typifying characteristics of the Soweï Mask, it will tell you the real reason why today's marriages don't last long. The esthetic accentuating features of the Soweï Mask train women about the culture of respect. Take a look at the eye lids of the mask, they are bent downwards; depicting that women have to be respectful. Look at the ridges on the neck; showing beauty and prosperity, look at the hair style; telling you that Peruvians cannot succeed in our customs. But today,

Peruvian and Brazilian Hair have taken over; that is why our Monument is dying, that is why today if you go to the Slave Steps you would realize that people are using the Slave Steps to defecate because we have lost the original identity of respect.

Mr Speaker, when people talk about our culture all they speak is evil; saying o, they are doing this or that, but nobody is saying that is a traditional school. Mr Speaker, that was a school meant to train girls in the art of childbearing, how to take care of your home, singing lullaby to your children etc.

Mr Speaker, I was invited to a sport meet, and there was this event called '*Carrying your Doll*', and the teachers were mad at the kids for not knowing how to carry their Dolls. I had to come in and said no, we should not pressurize the kids because even their mothers did not carry them on their backs when they were young. So how do you expect those kids to carry Dolls on their backs? If their mothers had gone through the institution and were properly trained, they could not stand in public and insult their husbands.

So Dr. Kaifala, your work to ensure the revival of the Monuments of Sierra Leone starts from the very beginning that our customs and tradition are respected. Let people don't buy their ways to desecrate our tradition; our tradition is sacrosanct like every other tradition across the world. When England wanted to go to the World Cup in 1998, the then coach of England, Sven Goran Eriksson took them to a Vodi Priest, they washed their hands and feet in blood- that is a tradition. Can we accuse them of defying or Witched Craft? No, we respect their tradition and let them respect ours.

Mr Speaker, it seems we do not have any of our Monuments and Relics. We have Bounce Island, we have the Slave Steps, we have the old Fourah Bay Collage building at Cline Town and we have Plantain Island but nobody is looking at them. We have a lot of monuments that are running down and are raying waste.

So Mr Speaker, I would want to call on Dr Kaifala to pay attention on our tradition and to build our Monument and Relics.

Finally Mr Speaker, let me end with the two Professors as they are both sharing similar characteristics; one is still and the other was a past Vice Chancellor and Principal of Fourah Bay College. Both of them have gone through that office and now they are going to work together.

Mr Speaker, in the interview I was concerned that Brigadier General Foday Sahr is being taken away from Fourah Bay Collage. Brigadier General Foday Sahr has removed courses like Ancient and Medieval Political thoughts at Fourah Bay College [FBC] because they are no longer relevant to us. I can still not fathom why we still have courses like that in our University Curriculum.

Mr Speaker, the late Joseph Lansana Kormoh, May his soul rest in peace, knew the American History more than the Americans themselves, and we sit here as Sierra Leoneans and up to date there is not a line written about the Civil War in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, we have children who were born after the war and have grown up into adulthood and do not know anything about the war. You ask them about Foday Sankoh, they don't know him, and that is a problem. And if you are taking away somebody like Brigadier General Foday Sahr who has introduced modern courses in the University, with all due respect to Professor Aiah Kpakima, it raises concern to some of us. Brigadier General Foday Sahr has changed many things at Fourah Bay College. Taking such a man away from the University to serve at the Public Health, I know they are going to do a fantastic job at the Public Health Agency. When you look at their Resumes and their working relationship you would know that they are going to perform well at that Agency.

Mr Speaker, now that Brigadier General Foday Sahr has been taken away from the University, somebody else should replace Brigadier Foday Sahr at Fourah Bay Collage with similar mentality and leadership vision so as to maintain the gains that have been made at Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, I want to thank you for the opportunity you have given me, and I want to say these nominees have our blessings today to go and serve His Excellency. So please, after your approval continue to respect Members of Parliament; continue to respect us because had it not being for us, you will not be in the designated positions. My grandmother normally says, S.O [2], *'na me lite, u see Cape'*. If we do not have Parliament, you cannot be approved. So when we call you, we are not calling you to beg. Whenever a Director or any authority at a Ministry call a Member of Parliament, that Member of Parliament will at once pick that call. If at all that MP did not pick, he or she would later return that call. But if a Member of Parliament calls a Director, talk less of the Head of that Institution, they would not pick and they would not return their missed calls. And it is our Constitutional mandate to provide oversight, to represent and to make Laws, and we cannot provide oversight if we do not discuss. So please, as you have our blessings, when you go to your offices respect us and let's work together. On that note I thank you, Mr Speaker [*Applause*]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I want to thank you for your very constructive contribution to this debate. There is just one thread in your presentation that I want to take and amplify a little on, and invite the nominee, Dr Joseph Kaifala to take note. Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, you mentioned something that is so true and so poignant.

Those of you who have visited Rwanda, the moment you go to Rwanda, Kigali for the first time, where do they take you to? They take you to the Genocide Monument. The Rwandans have preserved; you would even see the skulls of the hundreds of thousands of citizens who were killed during their genocide. They preserved those skulls for people to see; for visitors to see, for the Rwandans themselves, the children to go and see. Do we have a similar monument to remind us of the Civil War from 1992 right through to 2002? No! So Doctor, that is a point for you to take note of; we need a constant reminder of that nature. And I would tell you the impact it would have on the young. When you go now to Rwanda and you ask what tribe are you, do you know what they

will reply? I am a Rwandan. They have forgotten about being Tutsi or Hutu, is no longer in their vocabulary; that is the impact that that Genocide war has done to Rwanda. Unfortunately, because we have not preserved the history of our own war, we still speak the language of tribe, of region, of language. I just say this to buttress the powerful point that the Member has made. I would now give the Floor to the Member from Segbwema.

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: Mr Speaker, thank you. I promise to be very brief with my contribution. Mr Speaker, I think all I wanted to say has been said but I want to continue on a very different line. Before I do that, I just want to say to Atta that I will always call him 'Atta SLPP'. I have never met you but anywhere we hear your name from the grassroots. Atata SLPP, please do the grassroots proud when you go into your office. Compare notes with all people that have been there and the ones that are there now, you will do well.

Mr Speaker, I want to quickly zoom in on my sister, Mrs Barrie. Madam Barrie, all has been said about the Air ticket. For some of us that travel regularly to see our families, we know what we have gone through. Very recently, I had an encounter at the Airport, I will not go into the details but Mrs Barrie, before her appointment dealt with that very swiftly and I was very impressed. She called me on my WhatsApp even when I had left the country to make amends on the issue that happened. I just want to say Madam Barrie, continue with what you do best. You are a very fine lady; I have known you not personally but through work line and I know the things that you are capable of doing and I know you will do well in that Department; I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, I want to focus on the two gentlemen that my Leader just spoke about; the two Professors. I don't know them personally but they are going into an area of great interest to me; the Health area.

Mr Speaker, I am a Public Health nurse and Public Health in Sierra Leone has been gradually doing well but is still of great concern to us. Having the Professors going there to serve, we are hoping that things will go on swiftly and we can see huge improvement in the health sector, especially the Public Health aspect.

Mr Speaker, I want to focus on what is happening in the next few months; early next year. I want to use this opportunity to inform this House that early next year we would be having series of vaccines, very important vaccines. From last year to this year a lot of us complied with the Covid-19 Vaccine.

Mr Speaker, let it be known to this House that the Ebola and Malaria Vaccines will be available in this Country. The Ebola vaccines will be available to persons from 18 years and above. Due to what is available at the moment as a country, we will be focusing on the vulnerable groups, the front-liners; the nurses, Doctors, the Police - people that are mostly dealing with the community. I believe the Minister will tell us that we the MPs fall under that vulnerable group because we interact with our constituents.

Mr Speaker, by next year March we will be having the Ebola vaccine available and the Malaria Vaccine also available for infants in this country. I am bringing this to the fore because normally when these vaccines come out, a lot of people may not be aware of them.

Mr Speaker, when the Covid-19 vaccine came out, I remember getting calls from my constituents asking, **S.O 2**, *Honourable, you don yeri bot dis vaccine, nor to kill den wan kill we eh? Aw is it, leh we take am?*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, People were curious and anxious as to whether they needed to comply with the Vaccine or not. Such anxiety would have been mitigated by having the Public Health Sector educating the public. I know a lot of work was done on that in Freetown but not in the Provinces. Let us this time round engage the Radio, let us use every platform for Public Health Education in the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the right time when you go to your offices to start the work on the vaccines that are coming early next year so that we don't encounter the same issues encountered during the Covid vaccines. People must be well informed; they should know the effect, side effect and why they need to comply with the vaccines. This is general information that we are entitled to as citizens of this country. People should not just go down the Provinces and start administering these

vaccines without the knowledge of the MPs who can probably engage the services of their Community Radios to educate their constituents. As the people's representatives, whatever information MPs give out to the people it will sink down very well.

So Mr Speaker, I just wanted to use this opportunity to educate this House that those vaccines will be coming, and also to inform this House that we now have a Mental Health Help Line in this country that is very effective. I tried it yesterday and it was responded to, and the number is 5116. If anyone is struggling with Mental illness or any other psychological problem and needs counselling, just call this line and you will be supported; you will get somebody who will visit you. It is important we know that as a country we are moving forward; we did not have that before now; it was launched by my abled Minister just two days ago during the World Mental Health Day.

THE SPEAKER: Who knows, maybe you need to repeat that number again *[Laughter]* what is the number?

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: The number is 5116.

THE SPEAKER: 5116, Honourable Members, take note. Carry on, Madam.

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: Mr Speaker, I said this during the World Mental Health Day that every human being has mental illness; we all suffer from Mental illness. It is only when it cannot be controlled then it becomes an issue but we all suffer from it. That Help Line is very effective, I sat in the meeting on that day and I tried the line and somebody picked it and asked how they could help me. That is a positive move and I just wanted to inform this House about the necessary changes that are coming to the Health Sector. We are moving swiftly and I will continue to inform this House about future developments.

Mr Speaker, I want to call on the Professors to please do their work diligently. Please make us proud, we need great reforms when you go to your offices. Work with the Ministers and let's start to see swift changes in the Mental Department, the general health and especially the Paediatric areas. We need great improvement in those areas, thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution. I want you to make the decision for yourselves now. The ladies may take their seats and leave the gentlemen standing please, because whoever I choose will be the last gentleman to speak before we wind up the debate. So ladies please take your seats. Now Honourable Members, help me ask yourselves, must you talk?

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Yes, Mr Speaker....

THE SPEAKER: I would not ask you for your reasons but search your consciences; must you really talk? First of all the nominees know you well, You have already congratulated them, and soon you would be repeating the same congratulations *[Undertone]* good, thank you, thank you for your understanding *[Undertone]*, if that is your only justification, no.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: No, Mr Speaker, we have something substantially different from what other speakers have just said.

THE SPEAKER: Let me take somebody from the East

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Nobody has spoken from the South.

THE SPEAKER: You will speak the next time. Honourable Gevao, you have the Floor.

HON. HINDOLO .M. GEVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I have harkened to your admonition, I will not be recapitulating what other speakers have said and I will be talking on issues of national interest.

Mr Speaker, I will want to talk on the issues of drugs, and I want to come from the point of view of proffering solutions.

Mr Speaker, the Leader did say the Police have been arresting people that they find with Kush for consumption. Mr Speaker, it is my view that the Police can actually go to the source and get the Importer. Once we are able to arrest the Importer that brings Kush in, we will be able to solve this problem.

Also Mr Speaker, declaring a State of Health Emergency for the issue of Kush will bring a quick a quick solution to the problem.

Mr Speaker, for those of us that interact with the public, we know the exact effect of this drug on the young people. The other day I was driving from my house to town, I saw a young man dead with a stump of Kush in his hands along Mama Beach.

THE SPEAKER: I am happy to hear you speak that way; maybe we can rely on you to come up with a Private Member's Motion, urging the Executive to come to this House with a Motion for the declaration of Kush as a matter of Public Health Emergency *[Applause]*.

HON. HINDOLO .M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, with that said, I will work on those Papers and I am sure we would get the Executive to come and do the needful.

Mr Speaker, as for the nominee going to Civil Aviation Authority, I am not here to shower praises on this young lady. Mr Speaker, I have come to know Mrs Musayeroh Barrie for the past five years. Mrs Musayeroh Barrie is a Sierra Leonean who worked in her area of employment with a microscopic eye for the advancement of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, while she was Country Director of West Minster Aviation Security that had its Headquarters in Lungi, I came to admire this woman. I admired her during the Ebola outbreak when she was able to convince her Bosses to maintain Sierra Leoneans on full salary even when the company was shut down for almost two years. She was able to get her company to be the highest employer in that part of the country, thereby engaged young people in a meaningful and gainful employment. That was why Lungi was extremely peaceful due to the manner she chose workers for that company.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Barrie is a patriot who has saved this nation from a great deal of embarrassment regarding this very drug issue we are talking about. Lungi is a place where these drugs we are talking about most times transit. We all know that Kush is not manufactured in Sierra Leone. The last time I dealt with Kush matter in Court, I came to realise that the actual leaf called '**Marshmallow leaves**' come from China and some of them enter Sierra Leone through Lungi Airport or Gbalamuya Check Point. The Importers or distributors then use Acetone and other chemicals to mix it here in Sierra Leone to give you synthetic Kush. So if those who are

working at the Borders or at the front gate of Sierra Leone; Lungi Airport and the likes are able to come together to arrest the importation of Kush, we would be able to control it even before we can pass the Law for State of Emergency.

Mr Speaker, the other day there was an incident of drugs worth Millions of Dollars at the Lungi Airport and the arrest of the drugs attracted the attention of all the security apparatus; the head of the Military, the head of Police, head of NRA, head of ONS who converged at the Lungi Airport to discuss the issue of drugs coming through the Lungi Airport.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the ones bringing these drugs into Sierra Leone are not middle class people; they are people that are really wealthy in society.

Mr Speaker, I am therefore calling on the Police to stop focusing on the poor guys that consume these drugs and go after the big Vons; the rich guys making millions of Dollars out of the drugs in this country. This is a very big cartel with well to do Sierra Leoneans involved.

Mr Speaker, some of us would not want to call names now but if they do not stop and continue to destroy the lives of our citizens, we would have no option but to stand in this House where we have immunity to debate and name them out. Maybe when we expose and get them investigated, they will stop.

Mr Speaker, with that said, I want to now focus my debate on the young Doctor going to the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]. I want to beseech all Sierra Leoneans to embark on healthy environmental activities.

If you listen to the news, in the past two months we have had incidents around the globe where countries have been losing hundreds or thousands of their citizens as a result of environmental effects. In Sierra Leone, I would say without excitation that we are all victims of not practicing healthy or hygienic environmental activities. You would see a well-educated person littering the street of Freetown after drinking a sachet or a rubber of water.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that plastic itself is a pollutant. If that plastic finds its way into the sea it will affect every aquatic organism in that sea.

Mr Speaker, when you watch documentaries depicting the effect of plastic waste onto the sea, you would realise that fish and other sea animals are dying as a result of pollution. I am therefore calling on the Sierra Leonean populace to stop or control our plastic wastes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mining is another activity that pollutes our waters. Like somebody earlier said, if you travel through Kenema or Kailahun, you would notice that almost all of the river beds are drawn because many well to do Sierra Leoneans are engaged in the mining of minerals right in the heart of the rivers. For example, the Sewa River has been banked in the middle and people mine in it.

Mr Speaker, if such practices are not stopped, our poor people in the villages are going to be affected the most because they don't have pipe born water; most of them drink from the water that has been already polluted. This in the end affects their health and they die most times prematurely.

So Doctor, this House is looking forward to seeing that you do your job with a nationalistic lens after being approved today. There are Legislations in place, and if you follow those Legislations, coupled with the structure that you have, you will definitely succeed. I know for sure that you have capable hands; people who are very passionate about environmental issues that can help you succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also touch on the two Professors. Like Honourable Tawa said, both of them have contributed heavily in the Academic Field and they are well known for education. I want to support the Motion of Honourable Tawa who said if you are taking Professor Foday Sahr from the University of Sierra Leone, you really need to replace him with somebody who has similar passion for University Education as Professor Foday Sahr.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it goes without saying that we now have our children trying every year to access the University at all costs. In a situation like this, if

we do not have somebody with the requisite knowledge ready to regulate those Institutions under the University, we would end up having graduates who cannot really deliver. For example, we would end up having people who claim to have read Humanities or Economics but cannot draft simple letter of solve simple calculation.

Mr Speaker, I therefore beseech this government to ensure that the person taking after Professor Foday Sahr has similar passion and capability to handle that University.

To Professor Kpakima, I know he did well when he was a Minister of Education. I remember vividly when attempts were once made to establish the Faculty of Law in N'jala, at a point he had to put a halt to it because he wanted to do due diligence and make sure the infrastructure is right before that course actually kicked off in that particular institution.

Professor Kpakima, going to the Health Sector, I am aware you have done loads of research in that area. Public Health is not a newly emerging area but is one area that is really affecting the global population today. Few days ago, I met a former University colleague and I asked him whether he was still in Clinical Medicine and he said no. I then asked him why is it that most of them who graduate as Medical Doctors actually don't practice Clinical Medicine after two or three years, only to veer into other areas? His response was that the attention required in areas like Public Health and other disciplines is far much greater than Clinical Medicine.

In Sierra Leone, all what we know is the Clinicians; I have Malaria, I have Appendix and I want to go for operation. But Mr Speaker, what is actually killing us in this country is things that have to do with Public Health, Hygiene and other conditions.

So, I am happy that this House passed an Act relating to Health issues that is about to be implemented now. One thing I know about the Institution where professors Foday Sahr and Kpakima are going is that the Institution has not yet been set up. It is for them to go and start it from cradle, and I have no doubt in their knowledge and expertise; they are going to start that institution and bring it to the level that is required and then train up young Doctors to take after them.

To my brother Konneh, I have known you; you are somebody that we have known for excellence. You are going to the Procurement sector but like the Deputy Leader said; if Sierra Leone is to succeed then we all have to be in the position to fight graft. We all know that when people submit procurement documents the prices are always over bloated. That is why we want you to go there and see how best we can checkmate all of these things. People should not say an Air Ticket from Sierra Leone to Ghana that goes for **\$800** is now **\$3000** just because it is going to be paid for by the government. We must know that that money is not money won by lottery; government money is also hard earned money. People should not just focus on enriching themselves. Where are you taking the **\$2,200**? Let us get people making quotations that actually mark the true value of the product that they are making the quotations for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, everybody wants to go for government contract because when you go for government contract you can over blot the price and put more money into your pocket. I am sure the Anti-Corruption Commission will be working very closely with you and this House will be watching. This is the 6th Parliament, and like my Leader said, we are the ones that will be going to account to the people based on the way you people deliver.

So Mr Konneh, please go and open your eyes to those loopholes. People have been manipulating figures and the like, make sure you control all of that.

Mr Speaker, let me now go to the young lawyer, Mr Mansaray. My brother, you have the zest to go into the area where you have been nominated for. One thing I admired about you is that even after your nomination you continue to practice the law. I request that you blend both your legal and field knowledge to deliver in that area you have been nominated to serve. I know you are a young man, you have been there and you have heard clarion call of your compatriots, so go there and do the needful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, back to the Aviation Authority, I know is an area that is highly challenging. Madam Barrie, I know you were able to meander your way from the institution you came from. For a young lady to start from a junior staff level

and ended up as Director General in a British Investment Company in Sierra Leone is not an easy task.

Madam Barrie, we know the challenges that you are up to, Honourable Tawa Conteh in his debate highlighted some; high taxation on Air ticket etc. We want you to go and work with other institutions because the Aviation Authority has several institutions to work with. I saw the Minister of Transport and the Deputy here.

Madam Barrie, going to that Authority as a patriot, I am sure by December or January next year you would be able to clear up the backlog or issues that have been affecting all Sierra Leoneans. We don't want to be living here and going to Guinea or Liberia to board flights. We want to see more flights coming in; we don't want to hear about flights pulling out or flights not coming directly to Sierra Leone because of high taxes. If these taxes are cut down, situation may change positively. The more you cut down on taxes the more impact it would have on the populace, especially those that travel with their families. So, by cutting down on taxes, you are not doing it for the institution, but for the comfort and convenience of the Sierra Leonean populace, which is the mandate or governance. All about Governance is for the people to actually have a very easy life style.

So Madam Barrie, when you go there no matter how difficult the institution is, I beseech you to use your qualification in Psychology and your Administrative background to make an impact on that institution within the shortest possible time. We have no time to regain our numbers again at that particular Airport.

Madam Barrie, also bear in mind that serving as Director General, you also have direct bearing on the control of this very burning issue; importation of drugs. It's no secret that illegal drug importation and exportation has been around the Lungi Airport. The other day somebody told me that the moment a plane from Sierra Leone lands in Turkey, you would see the Turkish officials dashing at that particular plane because for the past six months drug incidents in Turkey have been high. So please, when you go there work with all of those institutions like Sky Handily, S.H.P and the likes so that we are able to reduce this incident. I am sure the police have heard all the allegations or

aspersions cast at them. I believe the I.G.P himself is going to call his junior officers to attention, and with the commitment of this House, we would all put hands together to control these drugs incidents in the country. With that said, I want to wish you well and I beseech all my colleagues that we hastily approve you so that you go back to work, thank you *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. It is now the turn of the Honourable ladies of the House, and I am very pleased to observe that they have consulted among themselves, and I can only see one lady seeking to catch my eye. At this point, you have it, madam.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know the Leaders and other senior colleagues have said a lot and I think we should say there is no need to continue but we still have a lot to say again.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I happened to be part of the panel that interviewed these nominees, and from what I heard from the different nominees, I was inspired to say the president has done so well to appoint them in these different positions.

Mr Speaker, I want to start with Doctor Joseph Kaifala who has been nominated to serve at the Monuments and Relics Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the interview, when the Panel enquired from Mr Joseph Kaifala regarding how prepared he was to serve at a Commission that is faced with several challenges, Mr Kaifala responded in a way that I was really in support of. Mr Kaifala in his response said that our culture and tradition as Sierra Leoneans have been thrown away.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in our native dialect, Kono, we have an adage that says, S.O 2, '*Batama-kanjay-neh*', meaning we are Sierra Leoneans but we prefer practicing other cultures; we want to be Europeans but we can't cope. For example, we have some of our children who have come from the provinces to acquire education but have completely transformed themselves from their culture. You may come across a Kono child named Sia Komba, for example, and if you try to speak with that child in her

Kono language she will tell you '*I am a Freetown Kono*', meaning she can't speak the language. This is clearly telling us that we have totally lost our tradition to an extent that we have people who are not proud of their culture and where they come from.

THE SPEAKER: We love to mimic.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: That is it! And we can't cope, you know. So I believe Dr Kaifala was trying to say that we need to revive what we have. He also talked about the need and how to identify areas. If today this place is called Freetown, it is because this was one of the places where Freed Slaves were brought. Our Chiefs in those days really accommodated those Freed Slaves but we do not have that story out there, and our children cannot talk about these stories. Like somebody mentioned, we do not have any place or Monument to show that we have been through an eleven years old war in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, if you go to Kono District, Kamarah Chiefdom, there is a place called Savage Pit where people were murdered during the war. After the war, people went and collected all the skeletons and put them in a place called Savage Pit Monument.

Mr Speaker, the question now is how many people are visiting that place? Who do we have there to explain exactly why those bones are in that house? We do not have them. So Mr Kaifala, I know there are a lot of such places out there, I know you have not come to say oh! If there is no money I can't work. This is a stage where you have come in to ensure that we look out for our Relics and Monuments and see how we can put them together so that people would know that we have our history. We have a history that we should talk about, I know it would be difficult but I encourage you to go out there and find out about them. There is a place here at Fisher Street where they called '**Coalbaya**'; that was one of the houses where the slaves were brought to stay but somebody has now claimed that big house as his property. When you enter that building you would really see the rooms as slave rooms but nobody has identified that house and nobody is talking about it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am also one of the persons that would tell you that I have not been to the Museum three times, and there are people in Freetown, Sierra Leoneans who have not been to the Museum or know about what is happening there about our history.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you know I have my topic of interest which many of my colleagues have identified me with, and that topic is Climate Change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before we interviewed Dr Massaquoi, I spoke with him and I discovered that he is one of the fine gentlemen in Sierra Leone that have worked very hard for Sierra Leone to be recognised as one of the countries fighting against Climate Change. I am really happy for that because Sierra Leone is already in a deep Climate Change problem.

Mr Speaker, you would realise that nowadays the place is very hot, even in the Raining Season. This is not anything natural; it is as a result of the activities going on in our country. I remember when growing up, Raining Seasons used to be one of the moments when the place really got really cold. Nowadays, the place gets even hotter during the Raining Season and that is because of Climate Change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if the issues of Climate Change are not addressed in Sierra Leone, our Tourism and Agriculture will be greatly affected. We are now saying Agriculture or food security is our Flagship but if the Climate Change issue continues in Sierra Leone, people will be willing to do Agriculture but they would yield no fruit because of the effect of Climate Change. So all of us have a stake to ensure we minimize the emission rate in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Climate Change also affects good health. When the place gets hot, people resort to the use of Air Conditioners and Fans, which in turn may have other health implications. Climate Change can even affect our nutritional level because it impacts on our marine products. That is more the reason we have few and costly fish in the markets today.

So Dr Massaquoi, from our discussion, I believe you are the right person to serve in that office. You highlighted your plans in ensuring we have very good NDCs, but the implementation of those NDC should not just stop on papers; they should be extended for people to understand the impact of Climate Change on whatever we do in this country. Remember, I told you that even we as Members of Parliament, we need to be trained in order to be capacitated on the issues of Climate Change so we too can go back to our Constituents and tell them about the negative impact of Climate Change is already having on us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when colleagues talking about Professor Kpakima and Professor Foday Sahr, I said to myself, **S.O** 2, '*Den pipul ya na Science man dem o*'. They have done a lot of Research and those Researches are not only recognized in Sierra Leone but internationally, and which we should be proud of.

I believe these two gentlemen are here because of protocol or procedures, but we know they have done a lot for Sierra Leone and I believe they will be doing a lot more in the Health Sector because we need them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make one request to the Professors. We all know that diagnosis in our health sector is very poor. I do not know where our health workers manufacture the disease called Typhoid-Malaria. When you visit most of our health facilities they will tell you to do Typhoid-Malaria Test. Is there anything called Typhoid-Malaria? They do it to an extent that people get confused regarding the actual treatment to take. Maybe you have to do more research to really ascertain if there is anything called Typhoid-Malaria.

Also, many Clinics or Private Health Clinics in this country will tell almost all their patients that they have Ulcer. For example, my husband went to one of these Private Clinics as a result of pain in his leg. After going through all the prescribed tests, he was told that he has Ulcer. I know my husband to be a very good eater, so I begin to imagine where his Ulcer came from. In fact my husband has taken that diagnosis to mind and it has started playing on him. He now complains regularly to me saying, **S.O** 2, '*Honorable Becky, now ar kin fil dis mi chest to mi back dae warm*'. I would say my

dear, you told me about pain on your leg but since the day you went to that hospital and the Doctor said you have Ulcer, you have never stopped complaining about Chest burn.

So Mr Speaker, I think we have good Health Centers but it seems their diagnoses are only geared towards Malaria, Typhoid and Ulcer. Another cause for concern is the way and manner we are using Anti-Biotics in this country. Almost all of our drugs are Anti-Biotics but with different names. People will tell you I have taken this drug and it does not work and they have prescribed another one for me. When you take a look at it you would realize it is Anti-Biotic. Maybe the Health Sector will help us in that area so that our people will stop taking too much Anti-Biotics.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk to Mr Atata going to the Youth Commission. I know already there is some fever around the forthcoming Youth Council Elections; tempers are flaring. In fact, it has been politicized to an extent that some people have started saying you do not belong to our party, you belong to that party etc.

Mr Atata, if you are approved, and by the grace of God you will be approved, please go round the districts to talk to young people that the election is not war, and that it is for them to choose the right people to represent them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to end up with my sister who made me feel very good when answering to questions posed to her by the Committee and I am of the firm conviction that she will make it.

My sister, President Bio has appointed a lot of women in this Government, and you will help us to get more women in subsequent Governments if only you do your work. I know you will not be able to do everything, you will not be able to change all the wrongs but you have to make your mark. You have to do your best so that people will always think of you that when Madam Barrie was here she was able to do this, this, and that. Let there be pointers for people to always remember you and be proud to say it was good that woman was in this position. It is sometimes not easy to face challenges

but I know God will see you through. Try to be flexible and ensure that you create more human relationship to make your work easier and lighter.

On that note Mr Speaker, I want to join other colleagues in ensuring that all these nominees are approved. I also want to encourage the nominees to go and work not for themselves, not for the SLPP but for the people of Sierra Leone so that we change the dynamics of whatever is going wrong, thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable lady for her contribution. We would now wind up this debate, and it is indeed my pleasure to recognize the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ALFRED AYODELE THOMPSON: Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank His Excellency for nominating these beautiful ladies and gentlemen of the Republic of Sierra Leone because it is about putting our people first, and I want to wish them the best of luck.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these people are well educated; they have studied throughout their lives and I think His Excellency picked the right people. It is not about party lines, it is about picking the right people to make sure that our people get the best.

Mr Speaker, I want to keep my speech very short by talking on only two things. I want to talk very shortly about a personal friend of mine, Mrs. Musayeroh Barrie. Madam Barrie is not just young, but she is well educated and I have known her for a long time and I know that she is the right person with the right experience for this job.

Also to Professors Foday Sahr and Kpakima for the Public Health Sector, I want to wish you guys the best of luck. I hope that you guys monitor the illegal herbs that are being brought to our country because they cannot do it in other countries. Make sure that our people are kept safe and not used as experiment or as a lab just like the **Toxkeigy** experiment that America faced in 1932 to 1972, when they used Syphilis to experiment it on blacks. I hope that both Professor Sahr and Professor Gbakima would look into

that and make sure our people are being taken care of. Just like my colleague from the SLPP side, make sure that not any type of Vaccine can be administered on our people. We must ensure that the same Vaccines being used overseas are used for our people. Vaccines like the Johnson and Johnson and the estrogenic Vaccines. You guys should make sure that these vaccines that are coming out soon are the same standards that are given to our people.

Again I want to thank His Excellency, and I want to thank all the nominees. I know you guys are well educated, and your families and friends are all here to support you. I wish you guys the best of luck because you have studied throughout your lives for these positions and I hope that you do the right thing for our people because our people come first. I know His Excellency did not appoint you just because you guys are SLPP, he appointed you because you are the right people for the job and I wish you guys the best of luck.

Back to Professor Sahr and Professor Kpakima, we need to prepare ourselves in case of any outbreaks, not depending on WHO or foreigners to come to our help. We have to put strategies in place in case of any type of outbreak.

On that note, and I want to cut my debate short by thanking His Excellency for his appointments, thank the Speaker for this opportunity and I wish you guys the best of luck.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the acting, Acting Leader of the Opposition. Over to you, now Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S NYUMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you colleagues for your wonderful contributions towards the various nominees. We did our best to interview them and bring them before this Chamber for approval.

Mr Speaker, as I read the presentation, I realized that academically they have their own right to be where they are today, but administratively, yes, they might have done it somewhere but two offices can never be homogenous. Human beings are very dynamic

and there are certain sectors that are very difficult to deal with. So is good to see some of the nominees like Dr Kaifala who was very passionate before this time in working with the Monuments and Relics Commission. And if you have been following him carefully, you would notice that even before this appointment he has been doing a lot of work at the back scene and also gearing towards promoting Sierra Leone. In fact during the interview, Dr Kaifala said he intends to promote the Relics Commission, particularly to UNESCO in order to prove that we can do something better and that Sierra Leone is a place to be in terms of Monuments and Relics. Dr Kaifala went as far as telling us that Parliament needs to have its own Monuments. That was just to tell us that we all need to work together to support him. When you have passion for something is different from you just coming in to do your own bit. Our discussion with Dr Kaifala was very educative and intriguing. We realized that as a young man he spent all his life in consultancy and doing freelance work for other institutions. Not everybody looks for money in everything he does; at times you need to promote society with the knowledge and skills you have.

Dr. Kaifala, you have been working for Sierra Leone in so many areas, so thank you very much for that. As you see him in his attire, Dr Kaifala is a very proactive Sierra Leonean, he does not mix matters. Looking at his profile, he has gone through the length and breadth of all the sectors of education, so we just need to support him. Some of these things can give us a lot of praises globally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes we look low upon ourselves as Sierra Leoneans, but there are some Sierra Leoneans who have made themselves very superior locally or globally. So I am very proud of these two professors we have today in the House; Professors Sahr and Kpakima. They have not just contributed in the Journals of Sierra Leone, but they have contributed in so many journals relating to Academics and the Health Sector. I really do not need to go over their achievements. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to bring to your attention one of the things we deliberated on at the Committee level. During the outbreak of the Ebola, people were afraid to feed the Ebola patients. We were made to understand that it was

Professor Foday Sahr and his team that introduced the tube method of feeding the Ebola patients.

Also, I personally enquired from Professor Sahr about the rationale for him taking the specimen of all Ebola patients. I told him that there must be an underlying circumstances or conditions. Professor Sahr in his response explained the screening process through which he was able to cure some of the victims.

So out of the lot, Professor Sahr was very successful, and it is on record today that they did a great job for Sierra Leoneans.

I also asked Professor Sahr as to whether it was true that he was called to Uganda to go and do some work and he responded in affirmative.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should be proud of such a Sierra Leonean who has done one hundred and forty-nine [149] publications. And what is interesting in the field is that the Chairman and the Director for the Health Agency have been working together for quite some time. Professor Kpikama has been like a superior in terms of monitoring and mentorship of Professor Sahr. We have looked at their publications and we realized that they even co-authored some of their research works. So it is good for us as Members of Parliament to give a lot of support to these two professors. We have heard about these two professors; academically, they are doing well. During our interaction, the two professors pledged their continued efforts and supports for Sierra Leoneans. That is how it should be, and I am very proud of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the two professors acknowledged that they are indeed going to face some challenges in the Health Sector. They know very well because they have worked in the Health Sector for far too long. They are aware that there are people who will never accept reforms because they want to have it their own way. So as far as the problem regarding diagnosis is concern, as was raised by Honourable Rebecca, and the issue of the application of the correct vaccines raised by

Honourable Thompson, I have no doubt in Professor Kpakima that he will address those concerns appropriately because he has been working with this institution.

So Honourable Thompson, just as you said, president is a very careful and tactical man. He has put them together to ensure that they are able to combat these issues that have been happening. Indeed they can do it because they are not strange to what is happening. So to fix the Health Sector is not merely talking about it, but it has to take somebody who knows how to go about putting everything together in terms of research and even working relationship.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when there was an outbreak of the Corona Virus, Professor Sahr was brought in because he had the experience of Ebola. So if we are now talking about Health Agency we cannot leave them behind. So our only option as a House is to approve them. As Members of Parliament, we need to support them not by rhetoric; if we see that people are not complying to the Act accordingly, it is the responsibility of Parliament to bring them to book. Some of these people are very professional and cannot go after you much because they believe they are on records for doing the right thing. That is why the president in his wisdom has given them the opportunity to serve. I salute you people, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to take our Health Sector very seriously. If you diagnose correctly you will have a solution but if you do wrong diagnosis you will have the wrong treatment that eventually leads to early death; that is the formula. With the right diagnosis, you will have the right treatment and your life will be secured. So let's think about it and see how best we can give support.

Let me now focus on Mr Konneh, the man who has served most of his time at the Procurement sector. During the interview, Mr Konneh said the issue of appointment to positions is no longer about age but what you are capable of delivering. Even though he is in his early thirties, Mr Konneh has been in the Procurement cycle for far too long. He said he was at the Directorate of the Ministry of Finance to ensure value for money. Mr Konneh said if offices are created by the Civil Service, and as a creature of the Civil

Service, he had no alternative but to work for the institution. That shows he is a personality with humility, strength and is a humble servant; he cannot argue his superior but to serve. I think that is the challenge we have been having with the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Speaker, if I could recall, when they brought in the Finance Act we had a lot of confrontation. Parliament is always willing to bend backwards to accommodate issues or services that have to do with national interest. Mr Konneh has proven to us that he did not interfere with the regulatory body; he was very professional to critically examine what was going on in the Procurement sector. If we want to fight corruption it starts with procurement process. And because President Bio is serious to fight corruption that is why he said he was not going to take any person from outside. So he decided to nominate someone who has been in the system so as to follow the good trend of his predecessor.

So Mr Konneh, administratively I don't have any doubt in you because you have been at that level where you served in the Ministry of Health. Even at the Committee Stage, Mr Konneh took his time to slowly respond to critical questions posed by the Committee Members. He was very much cooperative and he clearly explained issues to our full understanding. So Mr Konneh, thank you very much for that brilliant presentation at the Committee level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since I came back from the recess I have started talking about this issue and I will use this Platform today to talk about it. Colleagues, we are affected. We are here today because we have the platform to serve and we are called Honourable Members. Woe upon us if we fail to protect the coming generation because they would end up chasing us in our corners, and that is exactly what they are supposed to do because we failed to protect them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going directly to Atata; a comrade, a friend, a lawyer who is going to serve at the National Youth Commission. It is not about rhetoric this time round; it is about reality. Very soon we would present to this House the steps

that Government is going to take in combatting the intake of harmful substances like cocaine, marijuana, the cracks, the Kush etc.

Mr Speaker, there is so much noise about Kush, but the question we should be asking ourselves is what are we doing to combat this menace in our society? In responding to some of the concerns raised by the Committee, Mr Atata told us that we should not be only talking about the issue of taking Kush or other forms of harmful drugs, but that we must also focus on how not to abuse the poor victims. Most of these guys are going through so much stress. We need to look at the consequences of the Civil War. We have ignored our young people because of cheap politics. Mr Atata, the Minister and the other people are still focused on the bigger picture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the question is why do we need to arrest and incarcerate the victims? There are people who are calling for the arrest of these victims because they are Kush smokers, failing to target those who import and distribute these drugs. Those who bring in these drugs are wealthy and they do not smoke it but they intoxicate our young people. When Kush enters the country, the importers or distributors add some chemicals to make it more potent, thereby letting our young people start behaving strangely. Look at the way our guys behave whenever they take Kush; they move or behave like animals. So what do we do? Do we keep on telling them that **S.O 2**, *'den don take Kush, Na tif man dem?* Is that the way we are going to describe them? These are the people that voted for us. What are we doing as Legislators? That is why I like the statement from Mr Atata when he said we need to take these from the Correctional Centres and rehabilitate them. They are stealing because they are under the influence of these drugs which makes them to do anything at any given time. So as Law Makers, we should not only focus on legislating but also how the laws are enforced.

So for me, we should be advocating for them to be taken out of the correctional centres and be taken to the rehabilitation centres. Let me say tell you that these guys are not going through any correctional processes; they are being manhandled, misused and victimised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was once a youth and today I have a better platform because my father brought me up the right way. Some of us have the opportunity to be where we are today, so if they do not have such opportunity, society must provide for them.

Therefore Mr Atata, I am talking to you as a comrade, a brother and a friend. I know you are an aerator, do not fear anybody; let us fight for these young people. Forget about votes and protect their future. Let us go after those importing the drugs because they are not better than anybody and they are not above the law. These drug barons are more of a disaster in our society than anything else. Those drug dealers infecting our young people are cancers to our society. When once our youths take these drugs and start misbehaving, we look at them as if they are useless; they are not useless. God created all of us the same way irrespective of our sex or identity.

Therefore, if society becomes unfair to them we must stand tall to protect them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for that reason, I want to stand tall and plead with the government to release those who have been taken to the cells for smoking Kush. They need not be incarcerated because they are just victims of circumstances. If you check them thoroughly, you would find out that they did not commit any crime because they were under the influence of drugs.

Mr Speaker, let me tell you what has been happening; Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of cheap politics and because we want to popularise ourselves, instead of coming down our vehicles to caution these youths not to take drugs, we deep our hands in our pockets to give them money which they eventually use to buy these drugs. By giving them pittance you are not helping them; you are taking them to the same centres where they take Kush. That is not a popularised move; instead it is making you infamous. Let us start taking them to the rehabilitation centres or provide jobs for them. You cannot be a good politician if you cannot take care of your young people. Good and successful politicians are known by the way they handle their prisoners. If prisoners are not handle well the society can never change because after

they serve their terms they will come back to society and commit the same crime or even worse.

So Mr Atata, you have a very big challenge. Some of these things we have to say them, politics is gone and president Bio knows that. This is time for our people and that is why we are saying we go after our people. Gone are those days when we when people embark on rhetoric because they want to get votes. This is not voting time; this is time for development, time to change the structure of our country and this is time to change the trajectory. It is a combination of us in government and the people that voted us to make our country a better place.

So Mr Atata, we are proud to have you, if you are approved we believe that you will succeed. Fear the law but fear nobody.

Mr Speaker, I will end up with the lady, and it is deliberate why I am ending up with the lady. People should not feel as if they are above the law. Even us as law makers we are not above the law. We should not have compromises when it comes to the laws, we should not make ourselves as if we are champions if there are mistakes. That is why in Democracy we don't believe in people but in institutions and the fundamental pillar of these institutions is the Rule of Law. What is happening is that when we are growing we want to have a progressive state wherein we have synergy between one department and the others. There are others with different motives, but they failed to realise that there are laws protecting every institution.

Madam Barrie is somebody who has served in that sector and has proven some skills which brought some amount of respect and integrity to our Aviation Industry.

Mr Speaker, there is no vacuum in appointment. When we started these appointments I read Section 62 of the Constitution for every nominee, particularly for the Minister. I told them that if there is no Director of a Department or a leader at a particular sector at the moment, it is the responsibility of the Minister to take charge. It is clearly enshrined in section 62 of the Constitution. I have read that in the Committee and in the Chamber.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we had this appointments earlier on, I don't know whether by mistake or by design, somebody was chosen to act in the capacity as a Director General for the Civil Aviation Industry. Why do you have to appoint somebody in acting capacity? I told one of the Ministers that such act is wrong. There is no lacuna; there is no reason to get somebody acting. So you are moulding the water before she gets in.

So Mr Speaker, whatever law has given them that provision to put Acting capacity for this particular position that has to do with the Director General of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority [SLCAA] is a null and void because the Constitution makes provision for a Minister to come in when there is a gap. In fact we are in a transition; the transition is very clear that she is waiting for us to approve her. According to section 171, sub section 15 of the 1991 Constitution, giving that power to an individual to act in that position whiles we are waiting for the lady to come for approval is void. That provision makes it very clear and there is no law greater than the Constitution. So why do you need to put somebody in acting capacity?

Madam, when eventually you are approved, go to work and do not be afraid. Anything they have done to undermine your authority as long as it is not by the Minister, cancel it and then come to Parliament we will support you.

Mr Speaker that is the reason I have quoted the provisions. At times mistakes do happen, but when there are laws, the law takes precedent. We follow the laws; the laws are there to protect Institutions. We do not believe in jungle Democracy; we believe in pure Democracy. So we cannot be waiting to have our nominees and they are busy doing other things.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Barrie has served in a better capacity; we should give her the support and we should not be seen undermining her.

Mr Speaker, this issue of political nomenclature, I don't need to put on colours to show that I am SLPP. Even by my mere argument and presentation you would know that I am a better man in the SLPP. When you employ people, you are employing them

because they are Sierra Leoneans, and that is how it should be. Yes, I can favour you because you are my friend, but I believe you must be qualified and fit into that position.

So you have no reason to undermine the authority of the people or the authority of anybody going in that capacity. So let us work together, let us look ourselves as Sierra Leoneans and let us serve in the interest of this state; in the interest of '*one people one country*'. There is nothing going to change, I don't need colours but I need to support the ideology and philosophy of the Political Party in conjunction with the view of the people I am serving.

On that note, I want to thank you very much Mr Speaker for arbitrating us. To my Colleagues, I am very happy that you have given us time to assess these nominees. I don't want to dwell in too much on the other nominees because we are going to have an exhaustive discussion on climate change where MPs will come on board and take a centre stage in fighting climate change.

Mr Speaker, let me talk to those who think money can fight climate change. I believe we can only fight Climate Change when we put humanity in the forefront. We have not been putting humanity in the fight against climate change; all what we have been putting is jargons that have to do with climate this and climate that, and climate financing is deceiving. They have skewed climate finance into their own interest; they have not put humanity first.

So Mr Chairman to be, if you put humanity to fight climate change we can succeed. Let us allocate climate change resources where necessary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a time when resources were allocated to vulnerable countries but they failed to mention Sierra Leone. I had to challenge the people that if they were talking about climate financing and they put the face of humanity first, Sierra Leone should be at the top of the agenda but why I did not see Sierra Leone among the countries? They said Sierra Leone was there and they referred me to the UN presentation but I deliberately refused to Google it, and after a while the white lady came and showed me Sierra Leone and I said we should discuss Sierra

Leone because we are the most vulnerable country. I told them that Sierra Leone is one of the least industrialised countries that emit less in the climate but we are the most affected by climate change. In fact when these big Vons do climate financing, they give themselves more allocations and they forget about us. So this business of rhetoric is not only in Sierra Leone but all over the Globe.

Mr Speaker as I said we have a huge task ahead but if we as MPs do our oversight functions very well and we give the necessary legislative support, I think we can succeed as a country. So with that, thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you all and may God bless us all *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, I move that the 7th Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointment and Public Service be adopted by the House.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service has been approved]

THE SPEAKER: It is now my pleasant duty to add my own voice of commendation and congratulations to the chorus of congratulations coming from Members of this Honourable House. There is no question whatsoever that the nominees we have before us are all without exception, they are all exceptionally qualified for the positions to which his Excellency the President has nominated them and this House has just approved them.

We now look forward to them taking up their new responsibilities and living up to the trust and confidence that both the Head of the Executive and this Parliament have reposed in all of them.

Speaking for myself I have no doubt looking at the pedigree and the background, the resume of each of the nominees that they will not disappoint this nation let alone this Parliament. So I join all of you who have spoken to wish them the very best wishes in their new assignments and to go there with the good will, trust and confidence of this House and we look forward to nothing less than the highest achievement by all of them.

Go to your new offices with our blessings and God's blessings and we wish you well, good luck.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker adjourned the House to Thursday, 19th October, 2023 at 10 a.m.

The House rose at 1:50pm