

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

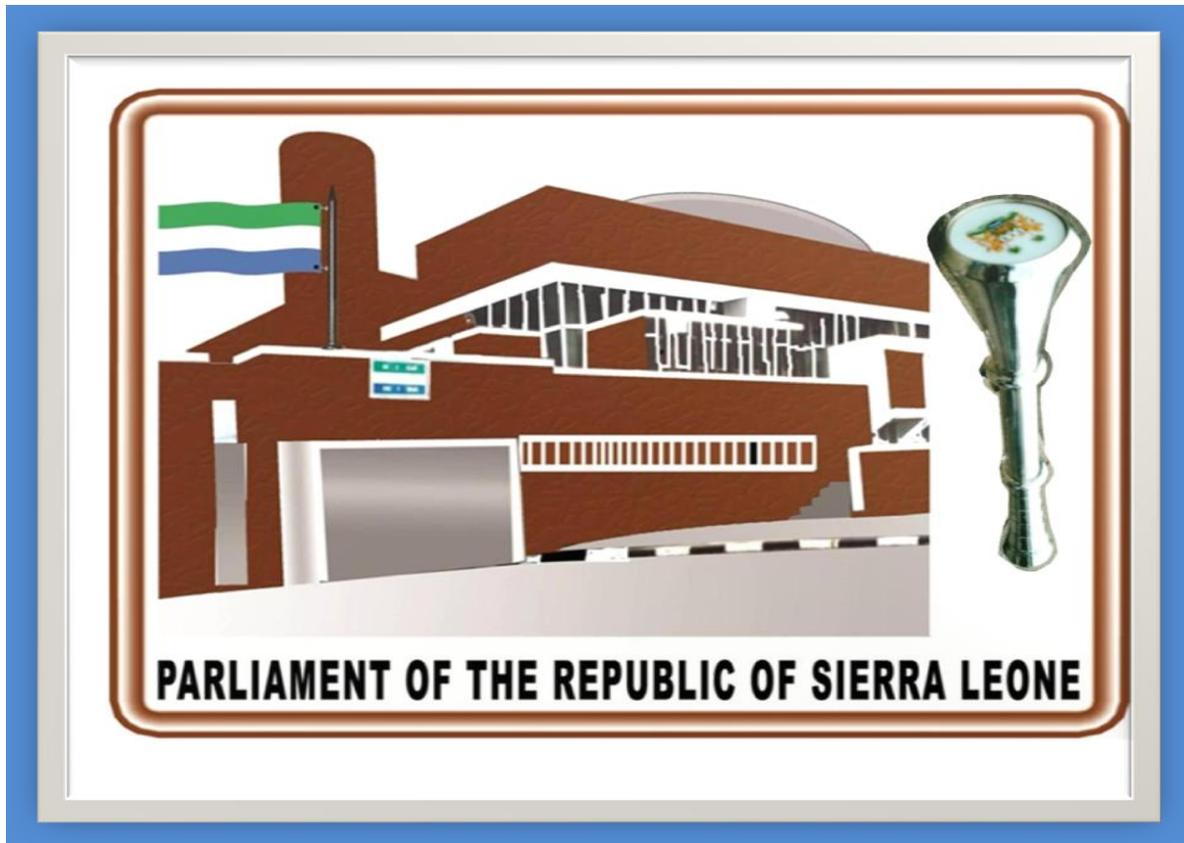
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 13TH MAY, 2014

SESSION – 2012/2013



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: II

NUMBER: 25

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 13th May, 2014.

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PROPOSER: HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA

SECONDER: HON. MUSTAPHA M. BRAIMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE DEBATE THE FOLLOWING REPORT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY 27TH MARCH, 2014.

REPORT ON AN OFFICIAL STUDY VISIT TO THE KENYA PARLIAMENT BY A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE SIERRA LEONE PARLIAMENT, FROM 16TH TO 20TH FEBRUARY, 2014



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 13th May, 2014.

The House met at 10:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH MAY, 2014

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of the Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 8th May, 2014. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no amendment, can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 8th May, 2014 be adopted as presented?

HON. P.C PRINCE LAPPYA BOIMA IV: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHASSAN JERO KAMARA: I so second.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 8TH May, 2014 was unanimously adopted as presented)

III. MOTION

Be it resolved that this Honourable House debates the following report which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 21st March, 2014: *Report on an Official visit to the Kenya Parliament by a parliamentary delegation from the Sierra Leone Parliament from 16th to 20th February, 2014.*

Proposer: Hon. Claude D.M. Kamanda

Secunder: Hon. Mustapha M. Braima

(CONTINUED DEBATE)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, according to the Order Paper, the debate is to continue, but from all I know and from the records that I have, the debate had been concluded, but a motion for the deferment of the debate has been moved and

accepted. So, we are going to Committee Room One (1) to continue the debate in camera (*Applause*). Mr Leader, do you have anything to say?

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is just to support what had already been applauded by our colleagues that most of the discussions should be in camera. This is because the discussions are internal and sensitive. They are so sensitive that they must be discussed among ourselves. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader of the delegation, do you have anything to say?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just to refresh the minds of Members of Parliament or draw their attention on the said document before us, that indeed this document was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 27th March, 2014 and the first debate we had was on Tuesday, 1st April, 2014. The report reflects the observations and what we learnt in Kenya on the Constituency Development Fund. Also, the report made recommendations on what we considered as best practice for us in Sierra Leone. The report never made conclusions, but it has made a platform or established the base for us to debate this report and get a model that would fit us as Sierra Leoneans. I must draw the attention of Honourable Members on the primary objective of the CDF. They are as follows:

1. to directly address poverty at the grass root levels by Members of Parliament; and
2. to encourage grass root participation in development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are expecting that the outcome of this debate will provide a framework for the necessary legislations and guidelines or procedures as to how the fund should be judiciously utilised to ensure transparency and accountability. Therefore, we are to set the:

- criteria for accessing the fund;
- criteria for implementing the scheme;

- Criteria on reporting; and
- Criteria on the role of Parliament in all these and also tie up this legislation to other existing legislations that talks about constituency development fund

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to caution Honourable Members that if we want to chair and serve as signatories... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Please, do not go into that at this point Mr Whip. Mr Minority Whip, I cannot see the Minority Leader or her Deputy. In that case, I am sure you would like to stand in for the Minority Leader, having regard to your position. Do you have anything to say before we proceed?

HON. MOHAMED SIDI TUNIS: Mr Speaker, I just go with my colleagues that we move to Committee Room 1.

THE SPEAKER: In that case Mr Majority Leader, after this sitting, we will have to meet again on Thursday, 15th May, 2014. Any announcement?

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, the first announcement I want to make is that the Minister of Lands and his team will be with us in Committee Room 1 to discuss the document already distributed to Members of Parliament, which is the new Land Policy. So, I want to encourage colleagues to know the sensitivity of land and what that means to us. Therefore, since the Ministry and staff will be here tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., we will encourage all Members of Parliament to come up with their questions so that we will have an opportunity to interact with the team and the Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are committee meetings scheduled to take place at the Members' Lounge. I want to bring this to the notice of Members of Parliament that the Members' Lounge is not a committee meeting room. Please Honourable Members, we have committee rooms that meant for Committee meetings. The Members' Lounge has different function to perform.

HON. IBRAHIM S. SESAY (*Clerk of Parliament*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the House that a pre-legislative hearing will be conducted on the Audit Service Act on Monday, 19th May, 2014 in Committee Room 1, at 11:00 a.m. All Members of Parliament are requested to be present.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also wish to inform the House that the Rogers family regret to announce the passing away of Alhaji Shamsu Deen Rogers, a former Minister of State Internal Affairs and former Member of Parliament from 1986-1992, which sad event took place on Tuesday, 13th May, 2014 in his home, Bumpeh Perri, Gallinas Perri Chiefdom, Pujehun District. Funeral arrangements will be made later.

THE SPEAKER: In support of that, Members have to realise that all Committee meetings are strictly official. Therefore, having Committee meetings in the Members' Lounge is unofficial.

Honourable Members, I have just returned from London to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) meeting. Honourable Members would agree with me that two very important bodies, the IPU and the CPA have to be reorganized. This means that there has to be a reconstitution of these bodies. That would have to be done in consultation with the Leaders of Parliament.

Secondly Honourable Members, when I was elected Speaker of this House, I did promise that we would have to meet on our own as Members of Parliament to discuss important issues. That meeting is scheduled for this Friday, at 11:00 a.m., in Committee Room 1. Please, you must make it a point of duty to be present at that meeting. It is very important. I would ask the two Whips, the Majority and the Minority Whips to take note. Any Member of Parliament that is absent would have to give an explanation for being absent. The meeting is going to be very important. From here, let us go to Committee Room One 1. For those that are not here, you please tell them to join us in Committee Room 1.

ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 11:20 a.m. and was adjourned till Thursday, 15th May, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.