

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

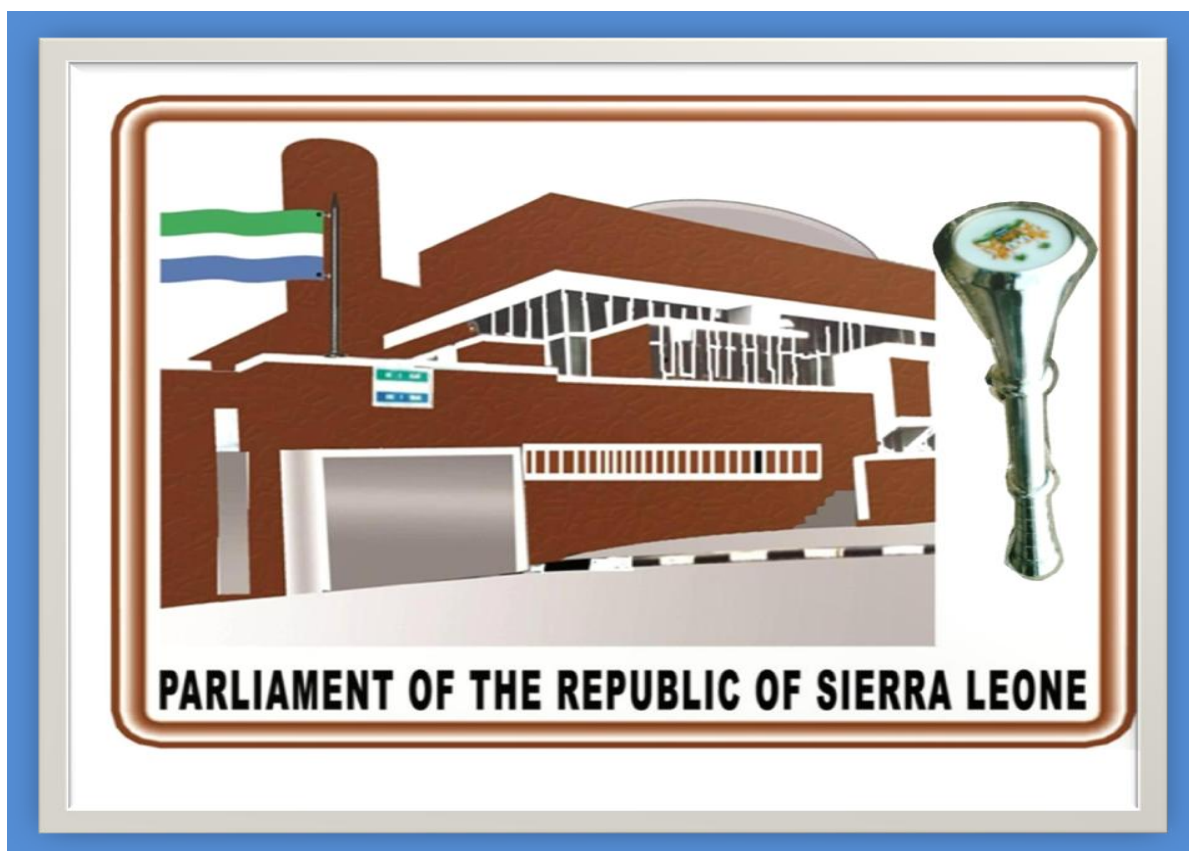
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held Tuesday, 25th June, 2024

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DESIGNING, DEVELOPMENT FINANCING, CONSTRUUCTION,
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ESTABLISHMENT OF SIERRA LEONE INDUSTRIAL ZONE**

V MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

**THAT THE SEVENTEENTH 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
RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED**

VI GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

BE IT RESOLVED:

**THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING
AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON
TUESDAY 4TH JUNE 2024:**

**ADDENDUM TO THE CONCESSION AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY
AND BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION, THE
SIERRA LEONE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY AND AUTOSPECT[SL] LTD
DATED 21ST JANUARY 2019**



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 SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Tuesday, 25th JUNE, 2024.

I. PRAYERS

[The Acting Clerk, Mr Gilbert Nhabay , read the Prayers]

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

[The Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON MONDAY 24TH JUNE 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as usual we go through the Record of Votes and Proceeding for Monday 24th June 2024 and we skip from pages 1 to 4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Can a Member please move?

HON. HABBIB KEIFA FABBAH: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. ALIE BAYOH: I so second Mr Speaker.

Question Proposed Put & Agreed To

RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR MONDAY 24TH JUNE 2024 HAS BEEN ADOPTED

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Proceed!

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Mr Speaker, I rise to amend the Order Paper in the absent of the Leader of Government Business whom I believe will be on his way in the shortest possible time, instead of item 2[1] to be laid by Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina will be laying it at the moment a document entitled Annual and Multi-Tier Elections Report 2023.

SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so second the Motion.

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To

[Motion for amending the Order Paper by the Acting Leader of Government Business has been carried]

IV. LAYING OF PAPER

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a Report entitled Annual and Multi-Tier Elections Report 2023.

II. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR REX BONAPHA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay in this Honourable House the following Paper; Draft Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms for the designing, development, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of a dry port with the establishment of Sierra Leone industrial zone.

MR SPEAKER STOOD DOWN THE HOUSE AT 10:20 A.M.

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 10:35 A.M.

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE DANIEL B. KOROMA

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone 17th Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service of the Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential Nominees to serve in public offices of State, met on Monday, 24rd June, 2024 and interviewed **two** Presidential Nominees for the following appointments:

- i. **Deputy Minister of Energy II**
- ii. **Board Member, Audit Service Board**

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its open hearing with live media trending to encourage active public participation, and within the usual framework of procedures. The Nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the required proven track records in pertinent work situations for appointments in such important offices of State. Further probing questions put to the Appointees covered wide ranging issues relating to declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for productive tenures. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

3. Twentieth Sitting of the Committee on Monday 24th June, 2024

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the vision of His Excellency and the Government of Sierra Leone is that within the next 3 to 5 years, to supply improved electricity access for at least 1 million people through driving increased investments in the renewable energy grid-connections or distributed renewable energy (DRE) and corresponding investments in productive uses of electricity, in both the urban and the rural areas.

This goal can only be achieved when the Ministry of Energy and the Electricity Distribution Supply Agency will be able to produce 300MW in new regeneration and 600 mini-grids, which would help to reduce carbon emission by 1.2 million tons. In tandem with this vision His Excellency has nominated Mr Edmond Benjamin Nonie an acclaimed energy expert to serve as Deputy Minister II to oversee the process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, fulfillment of its constitutional mandates the Committee interviewed the following Presidential Nominees on oath:

- **1. Engineer Edmond Benjamin Nonie -Proposed Deputy Minister II : Ministry of Energy**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer Edmond Benjamin Nonie is an experienced Engineer and innovation specialist, project manager and serial entrepreneur with over 10 years' experience in product development, drones data science, multi country entrepreneurship, and technology strategy.

He holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Mechanical and Maintenance Engineering from Fourah Bay College. He is currently pursuing a Project Management Professional (PMP) certificate at the Project Management Institute.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer Edmond Nonie is a highly motivated, performance driven, and result oriented development professional that has the following track record to serve in our Energy Sector:

- Drone Technical Specialist, UNICEF office of Innovation, Stockholm, Sweden: February 2021 to present
- Founder and CEO, Track Your Build Holdings Limited: September 2020 – February 2021
- Drone Corridor Consultant, UNICEF Sierra Leone Country Office: September 2019 – August 2020
- Investment Analyst, ManoCap LLC, Freetown, Sierra Leone: January – December 2016

Responding to inquiring question on his knowledge on the Energy Sector Mr Nonie opined that “during the eleven days total power shut down in Freetown the President in his wisdom convened a Presidential task force to come up with a holistic and sustainable energy policy and a quick fix solution. It was during this process that I had the opportunity to leverage my expertise and knowledge whiles presenting to His Excellency the President. A major way of solving the energy crisis in our country is firstly, building on the existing facilities and infrastructure ensuring that rehabilitation is done at the King Tom Power Station, the Bumbuna Hydro Power Station and the Dodo Dam in Kenema”. He furthered said that the Government should renegotiate the Kar Power Ship Agreement and enter into sustainable power Agreement with the

installations of Solar Energy, Hydro Electricity and Wind Mill for a sustainable power supply for the Country.

Questioned on mitigating power theft and protecting electrical cables, Mr Nonie said "the Government of Sierra Leone hired a consultancy firm from Kenya to train workers at the Electricity Generation Transmission Company to install machines that alarm and signal the illegal connections." He continued that this will take a strong hold as the project unfolds deeper into connectivity.

Mr Nonie further informed the Committee that plans are on the way for the Electricity Generation and Transmission Company and the hired private company to harmonize market prices. He also said that there are plans for the Government to procure stronger and durable cable that will forestall power outbreak and provide the needed leadership and vision for a sustainable power supply throughout Sierra Leone.

2. Madam Matilda Mattu Kormoh: Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Audit Service Board

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Matilda Mattu Kormoh is a professional Accountant and Financial Manager with ability to work proficiently under pressure. She is self-motivated, result oriented and well educated in her area of study.

She is a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants Sierra Leone (ICASL). She holds a Master's in Business Administration- International Business (MBA-IB) and a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Economics from Fourah Bay College. She has an exemplary work record to name just a few:

- June 2018 – February 2020: Finance Manager, Care International in Sierra Leone
- April 2017 – July 2017 : Finance Consultant, IBIS Sierra Leone
- June 2015 – December 2016: Finance Director, ACDI-VOCA-SNAP
- June 2009 – May 2015 : Country Accountant, IBIS Sierra Leone

- March 2005 – December 2006: National Finance and Administrative Officer, World Food Programme.
- April 2000 – March 2003: Regional Finance and Administrative Officer, Emergency Relief and Support Fund Project (World Bank funded), National Commission for Social Action NaCSA)

In her submission on her role on the Board Mrs Matilda Kormoh said “in contributing to providing policy guidelines for the Audit Service, she said it must be noted that the Service has more powers to ensure that people who misappropriate are brought to book. She furthered said that she will work collaboratively with other Members of the Board to ensure that employees of the service have a better conditions of work”. She concluded to draw on her expertise and experience to give policy advice for a better and productive audit service.

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.

1. Engineer Edmond Benjamin Nonie, proposed Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Energy
2. Madam Matilda Mattu Kormoh, proposed Member, Board of Directors Audit Service Board

5. **Conclusion**

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

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S Nyuma (JP)

Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question is that the 17th 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 recommendation contains therein be approved.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the said Report before us indeed represents a unanimous view of all Committee Members across the political Parties in this House. I personally participated in the interviews and I must say that the Nominees before us by my estimation is by no means a mistake. Engineer Nonie for instance after I went through his CV, his asset declaration form, his certificate from Fourah Bay College and other institutions and his achievement so far I am really impressed that such young man is in this country. I am proud to be a Sierra Leonean. What amazed me most is that he is a Drone Specialist, a Drone Specialist now sent at the Ministry of Energy. I want to inform this House that the Nominee before us has been given specific assignment to function at the Ministry of Energy and if approved will be the Deputy Minister 2, Ministry of Energy. I want to encourage particularly the Ministry of Fisheries to consider inter-ministerial coordination in terms of addressing a key issue that is affecting Ministry of Fisheries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you can agree with me that about a month or two ago we had an engagement with the Ambassador from Iceland and the information that I got on that day that our fisheries potential alone can take care of the entire Wage Bill of this country with no headache and all other sources of income can now be diverted to development purposes like 'Feed Salone' for instance. My point here is the Deputy Minister proposed is being specifically assigned at the Ministry of Energy but when we interviewed him, he made it very clear that if the Ministry of Fisheries so wish to consult

him on his expertise in terms of that drone been used to surveillance our waters he is more than available as a Sierra Leonean. If any staff from the Ministry of Fisheries is listening to me Mr Nonie is more than willing to give a helping hand because on that day I cannot remember but there is a Consultant working also with the Ambassador of Iceland and he is a Sierra Leonean as well. He informed us that the cost of surveillance far exceeded the proceeds from the surveillance. There is a machine that they use to go around the waters.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also raised an issue regarding the solar electrification project undertaken by this Government. We all know that is one of the flagship projects that every Chiefdom headquarters should benefit from solar electrification. It is ongoing and most Chiefdom headquarters have benefitted and I know of certain communities that are not Chiefdom headquarters but they are also qualified by way of their population size and they have also benefitted. Some are yet to benefit I encourage you to do a survey of all Chiefdom headquarters that have benefitted and the rest that have not benefitted please make sure they are not left out in this Government because no one should be left behind. In addition to that, there is an observation that those solar projects in various Chiefdoms even though the source is uniformed, the machines are uniformed but the costs of light per unit are not the same not to measure the consumption on the costs per unit are not the same because in one community maybe it costs 2 Leones, in another community it costs 3 Leones, and in another community it costs 5 Leones. I asked him if he is aware and he said he is not aware. I also asked him if he is comfortable he told me he is not comfortable to get that information of different prices at different Chiefdoms. Mr Speaker, Mr Nonie I believe you will be approved by this House let that be your first assignment to ensure there is uniform tariff for all solar electrification at Chiefdom levels.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at one time I was listening to one of our Ministers I am not aware whether it is during the APC regime or SLPP. I am not aware but one thing I know that the Minister made it very clear that our main problem in this country is not power generation but one of our key problems is power distribution. There is

power but there is no capacity to distribute. For instance, over the years the power lines are not enough but that is commendable now, not of those power lines that used to kill people is now a thing of the past. I commend this Government for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another problem is transformers because there are not enough transformers. I am aware of a particular transformer at Banana Water up Congo Cross very closed to Conex Petrol Station that transformer has been installed there for over four years and they are not using it. So I said to myself there may be many other such transformers being installed but they are not been used they are just installed and abandoned. Mr Speaker, Mr Nonie after being approved please verify this information a transformer at Banana Water by Conex Petrol Station at Congo Cross it has been there for over four years and they are not using it. It should be used because others are going without light thankfully I am connected by special line due to blessing of neighbors of high standing. I am speaking on behalf of those who are suffering from non-electricity as a result of distribution. On the issue of theft it is very disheartening.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the issue of the lady before us in fact when I look at her CV and her qualifications I think there is no issue you are more than qualified. The only institution I can vouch for that is still there is some amount of independent almost over 80% is Audit Service Sierra Leone. As you are coming into that institution please do what is correct. I do not doubt women; they can do what is correct. In addition, this Parliament is now headed by a brand new generation created by God so this is a different Parliament. This generation has been crying foul and the Deputy Speaker from the Fourth Parliament both of us have been trying for the debate of the Audit Report. Audit Report once it has passed through the Public Account Committee it should be debated by this House. We have been crying foul, it has never happened in the Fourth Parliament and in the Fifth Parliament. We are in the Sixth Parliament and I assure you that your activities as a member of the Board by this Sixth Parliament it will be debated in this House. It will be debated in the presence of all of us and it will be done live. We are now in charge and I do not doubt the Deputy Speaker as he is now the Chairman of the Public Account Committee once he completes

his work the Audit Report would be debated in this House. Every MDA will be debated and the necessary actions will be taken and a Motion will be moved to adopt that Report during the debate and once it is adopted it becomes Law, if you are required to refund you refund with interest. So let all MDAs be aware that this Parliament led by brand new hand made of God we will debate the Audit Report so on that note I encourage my Colleagues on this side and the entire House that we speedily approve these Presidential Nominees. They are of good standing and they are pride to this country. The proposed Deputy Minister of Energy you are a gem to this country and I urge the Ministry of Fisheries to consult you. There is nothing wrong with inter-ministerial coordination. You can help them to do the same surveillance and get the same result at a cheaper cost. Thank you very much Mr Speaker and may God bless us all.

HON. BEATRICE MAAYA KANGBAI: Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to add my voice to this debate. I want to confess to you that His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio is very intelligent from my experience in this House. The Nominees that have been here before us are highly qualified and again today the two we have before us here are fine Nominees. They are highly qualified and have the requisite experience that will enable them carry out the responsibilities been assigned to them. Mr Speaker, allow me to zoom out Mr Nonie I know him very well, he is very hard working and result oriented man. Mr Speaker, Mr Nonie I just hope when you get to that office do what you are expected to do even though at the moment electricity is a problem in this country so you have to work very hard. I remembered you said that when we were together by the end of President Bio's regime electricity will no longer be a problem in this country and I hope you will work towards it. With electricity in the country it will be a very big attraction to investors and having investors in the country the youth will be dually employed. When you are in that office do not forget about Parliament it is Parliament that is giving you the responsibility to go ahead with certain duties. Please do not ignore any Parliamentarian, talk to them nicely. Assist them with whatever request they ask from you. They will go to your office looking out for jobs for their younger ones

please attend to them, if you do not have a job to help them with please talk to them nicely.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Mattu, Audit Service Sierra Leone relies on you, you are highly qualified and you have the experience. You can do the job I am quite sure but please do not allow the men to overrule you. In most cases that is what the men do. Do not listen to them; use your own experience to make sure Audit Service is improved in this country. I am sure with your presence and you as a woman I know how women could be very strict with their work so please pay attention to the work you are supposed to do as a Board Member. I thank you very much.

HON. CHRISTOPHA K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always said in this Well the energy sector the stakeholders in that sector have never kept anything aside so that is why I am always prepared to answer any energy related questions and that is why I also crave the indulgence of other Ministries to open up to their Committees so in an event when issues arise if that Ministry is not there the Committee will be at liberty to respond to appropriate questions but when you do not do that we will expect you the Minister to be coming here all the times to respond to us. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have said it here in my several debates that energy generation transmission and distribution is capital intensive and most times when you have challenged economy you find it very difficult to actualize your dream. No matter the challenges or the difficulties we have encountered in the energy sector I want to tell you that since independent, President Bio has performed tremendously well than any other regime. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since independent no Government whether SLPP or APC has ever taken our own money to finish transmission and distribution network in one Chiefdom, no Government has ever done that since independent.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Vandy. Honourable Members, just to inform you that I have given the necessary instructions for a letter to be written to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to consider involving Members of Parliament on those Committees whenever there is travelling they should involve Members of Parliament to

get to the relevant Committees just for you to know. I will urge all Chairmen it is not just about you and your Deputies when you have opportunity to nominate Members of Parliament to travel with MDAs please think about nominating other Members. I have already given that instruction and the letter will be out soon. I thank you very much.

HON. CHRISTOPHA K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said since independent no Government has ever fixed transmission and distribution network in one Chiefdom headquarters town. It is President Bio led Government that has used our own self revenue to fix transmission and distribution in seven Districts headquarters towns in Kabala, Kambia, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe, Matru Jon and Kailahun. So when you look at the energy trend you will actually know in the midst of all challenges we are making a headway.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2018 when we took governance the energy access was 16% today we can boast of 36%. There has been an exponential growth. The proposed Deputy Minister of Energy will do everything humanly possible to electrify the whole of Sierra Leone in the next few months. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am advising the proposed Deputy Minister of Energy as a brother to go to that Ministry with an open hands to encourage those who are ready to work with him and do not work with those who are not ready to work with you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the proposed Deputy Minister of Energy, I want to encourage you to let us have our own generation asset, when we have our own generation asset the problem of Kar Power Ship will come to an end. Mr Speaker, it is frustrating I was in Bumbuna three days ago and the water level in the dam is so discouraging. It was 210.86 meters that is very small, we are expecting 232 to 438 because the maximum level should be 238 meters then we will get the required 50 megawatt from Bumbuna. As I speak to you it is struggling to provide 6.5megawatt out of 50megawatt the maximum output level is 50megawatt that is also another challenge for Government. We need to improve on the Bumbuna dam.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people using the solar mini grid are paying more tariffs higher than what we are paying in Freetown. Mr Speaker, Honourable

Members, as I said energy challenge is all over the place but the only thing I want to tell this House energy liability is not peculiar. The other day when the Kar Power Ship shut down there were lots of cries in the country. It was in this Well I was referred to as 'Chairman of blackout'. Mr Speaker, it was only in 2019, 2020 and 2021 we had a World Bank funded project called ESURP [Energy Sector Utility Reform Project] that was the time they started revamping the network that is why Honourable Koroma said there has been an improvement in the distribution because World Bank came in with energy sector utility project and the phase two is ongoing now towards Waterloo. Mr Speaker, Ghana is one of the countries to admire and Ghana energy liability today as I speak to you this morning is 1.8 Billion Dollars, Guinea Bissau 17 Million Dollars, and Lebanon 200 Million Dollars. Mr Speaker, the former Speaker told the Director General of EDSA and EGTC to step up on their games but if they fail to do so the House of Parliament will have no alternative but declare vote of no confidence in them. We still stand by that and I will repeat that one tomorrow S.O [2] 'na for kill dog before dog make e know say die dae'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Daniel Koroma spoke of a transformer at Congo Cross a very senior colleague that is why I like him because most times when he stands to debate he thinks nationally. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is only in Sierra Leone that Sierra Leoneans are vandalizing their own electricity assets and over one hundred transformers have been vandalized and destroyed. Why do we do this if we want 24 hours electricity supply? To the Honourable from Kambia you seem to be very active today but you know when we are debating energy the only thing I want to admonish each and every one on that side you have to be very careful of what you say.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, that sounds like a threat.

HON. CHRISTOPHA K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, it is not a threat. Mr Speaker, to the proposed Deputy Minister of Energy you are going there to follow the trend and you need to be keeping us abreast of things relating to the latest developments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I want to lay emphasis on again is the energy liability. Mr Speaker, a lot of MDAs if you calculate the bills they have to pay to EDSA is so huge. Mr Speaker, we will have to do something on that but when the Committee meets tomorrow maybe there will be some recommendations the Committee will engage you on that.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Vandy do not explain everything.

HON. CHRISTOPHA KEIKURA VANDY: On that note Mr Speaker, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House let us speedily approve these two Nominees and to you Honourable Daniel Koroma anytime you have any energy related problem you are at liberty to tell me when you tell me I will look into it just as I have done that with several Honourable Members. On that note Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to have very serious bite on this approval debate. I thank you Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Vandy. I will take three Members, then we round up.

HON. TAMBA S. JOHNNY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I am Honourable Tamba Simeon Johnny from Kono District representing the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party in this Parliament. First of all, I want to thank you for accorded me the opportunity to lend my voice to this approval of these Nominees. I see it necessary because when it comes to energy everything we do today in this world depends on energy and the CV of this man being somebody that is well grounded in drone activities I think he is one of the best approval we are going to make in this Well. His activity is not only going to be limited to EDSA as one of our senior Members of Parliament was saying but we want him to assist other Ministries including the Ministry of Internal Affairs because today the way things are going if we do not apply technology in our security system there is a lot of people who are undermining the system because of its vulnerability. Mr Speaker, I stand to challenge anybody inside this House and outside Sierra Leone that 70% of all houses including institutions are illegally consuming electricity or they have tampered with the system. I told the previous Minister that there are houses and even MDAs not

legally connected. I told him if he needs that I am ready to sacrifice and go on public and show him these people. These are the very people when there is a cut off because of payment of Kar Power Ship they will be making all sorts of statements just to criticize the system. Those that are illegally extracting electricity these are the people that have the mind to use heavy electrical appliances that you and I cannot use because we are buying it genuinely. So when you are going to that Ministry please make sure you put on a robust measure that if you are caught illegally extracting electricity the punishment that is meant to be administered to those people make sure you do it to the latter. There was a team setup at the Ministry of Energy to go and investigate people using electricity illegally instead of prosecuting you they would take money from you. I have witnessed it several times. Before I take my seat, I want to use this opportunity to thank President Bio ever since Kono was created as a District this is the first time that places like Nimikoro, and Fama are enjoying electricity.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member please hold on, yes Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, debate on Presidential Nominees we are to debate on the challenges, educate the Minister and encourage the Minister to be hard-working. Mr Speaker, I want to encourage that we continue in that trend. Let us focus on the Nominees and let us advise the Nominees as to what he or she should do to ensure that Sierra Leone is developed but if it goes political I am afraid that my auxiliaries will be unleashed.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member be guided by Standing Order 36.

HON. TAMBA S. JOHNNY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I was trying to appreciate what President Bio has done for us in Kono because some towns and villages are enjoying 24 hours electricity. Mr Speaker, I would talk about the mini grid electricity and Mr Minister please when you go there the challenge that is associated with those mini grids is a battery system. It will not last for more than 5 hours and there is no electricity and the people are paying for that. I have met with the service providers and I explained to them but the challenges they posed is that the thing is beyond their control so we believe with your expertise when you go to that

Ministry please make sure that all those who are in the habit of extracting electricity illegally are dealt with. Mr Speaker having said that, I want to thank the President for nominating such credible administrative personalities to occupy those offices. I thank you all.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was listening to the former contributors to this debate I talked to myself that maybe I have nothing else to say because they have almost said everything which I think I should have said but I will not be true to myself if I decided not to contribute to this debate because Madam Kormoh which we normally called aunty Matilda who is going to be a Commissioner at the Audit Service Commission has been my mentor. We worked in the same international NGO for 7 years and she was there as a Consultant in the head office and I was there as a Program Facilitator for a program called citizens' rights and responsibilities in governance. She has been providing us with a lot of advice not only limited to finances because she was there as one of the financial Consultants. I have no doubt in her, this is what we want in Sierra Leone we want Government to be looking at people and see the capacity in them to serve in positions. So seeing her today when I came this morning I was like what is aunty Matilda doing here but looking at the Report seeing her name I said this is one of the strongest women that has served this nation quietly and now she has been recognized by this Government. I want to thank the President for this appointment and I want to assure everybody here that aunty Matilda will go to that Audit Service Commission and perform very well. She will not jump her mandate but I believe she will work to the expectation of the President and all of us as Sierra Leoneans. Aunty Matilda I have no doubt in you and I believe you will continue to make us proud. I want to encourage all of us to approve the two Nominees especially in the area of energy. As Sierra Leoneans anything we do we need energy and having a young man in that capacity like Mr Nonie as a Deputy Minister he will put an end to the long black out we had in the last two months and it is because of that I believe this Government finds it very important to include him in the system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Nonie you know renewable energy is one of the sources that will enable us to fight climate change. Climate change as we speak you know for the past 3 or 4 months or even 6 months we have been suffering from it and those without electricity are suffering most. I believe they are trying to ensure because Sierra Leone is also part of the world to make Sierra Leone a renewable energy country so that every corner we go we will be able to use electricity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe these two Nominees from their CVs and their work experiences we have all read out that they are fit for the tasks and they will serve this country in the best way possible. I wish you well if approved and ensure that what you do will follow you even your children because what you do will be written either for or against you so ensure that when you go to your offices please give advice accordingly so that things would go well for the betterment of this country. On that note, I will encourage all of us to speedily approve the two Nominees. Thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I start by saying God help me because my area is dark already, maybe by the time I finish this debate I will continue in the blackout. Mr Speaker, I know the Honourable Chairman for Energy Committee a very senior Member of Parliament and he is very truthful to himself and today he demonstrated in his debate by saying under the APC led Government we gave 50 communities mini grids and under the SLPP it is only 40 meaning we gave more communities light than the SLPP. I thank you very much. I am talking about communities, I just want to make that very clear my community benefitted from it and we are enjoying it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have listened to everybody on the Government side on the area of energy whether it is the Chief Minister who told us that, the churches and the mosques are responsible for stealing light in this country and that is responsible why we are not having light so those who gave excuses of people not paying light bills it is left with you to decide because when APC was in power the people enjoyed electricity so do not give us excuses. I remember when you came to power it

was the Minister of Finance in this Well Mr Jacob J. Saffa who said they have negotiated the cost to reduce the cost of electricity even when it has been reduced now through the negotiation by Mr Jacob J. Saffa electricity is more expensive now than it was during APC regime. The people cannot still get the electricity and you are still giving excuses by saying it is the distribution lines.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Yes Mr Leader.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker, I employ the Honourable Member from Kambia to be guided being a very senior Member of Parliament to be guided and stick to the rules. We have more time to debate the Presidential Address and the Budget Speech. I thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KOROMA: Mr Speaker, it is this batch of Leadership on our side of APC that says when you bring in Nominees we do not praise sing them as you do but we highlight the issues they are going to meet so that they will be able to confront them and know exactly what is ahead of them unlike your own side but today you took the debate from that angle and you decided to make it political. I wish the Honourable Member of Kono who was saying they stole the elections from President Kabba. He was part of us and he was my PRO at the time so he needs to confess because he was making a true confession. He was not just APC he is a full blooded son of the APC, he needs to confess more just like his Leader Honourable Emerson Lamina. They were with us maybe in Kono they did something we never knew. I wish he was here to defend that but I will not glorify his comment.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, you know when we debate let us not forget that we are in the face of the Gallery you can criticize Government but those little things our people see we are all Leaders here we should encourage the unity of this nation so that whenever we debate we make sure that we do not go into those things that the ordinary people may misconstrue.

HON ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: I will Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable AKK.

HON. CHRISTOPHA K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, if you ask the Energy Committee you will know exactly why the Bumbuna phase two has not commenced so I cannot tell you here now because you have not asked me.

THE SPEAKER: It alright Honourable Vandy.

HON ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: You had the opportunity to debate...

THE SPEAKER: Maybe we will find time to get the Minister of Energy to come and talk to us because very serious issues have been raised. It was the first issue that attracted my attention is that one that has to do with the different Chiefdoms having different tariffs that is extremely very important as a Parliament. We should be interested in a thing like that and maybe if that is not corrected very soon we will have to invite the Minister here to tell us why. Secondly, Honourable AKK has raised another very serious issue it would have taken us 2 years to complete something instead we are paying attention to Kar Power Ship, well we will have the Minister to come here to talk to us that is why we are here. That is why we have been elected by our people to ask relevant questions relating to some of these issues.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, can I just come in?

THE SPEAKER: Yes hold on Honourable Member.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, let me just give you the reason why Bumbuna phase 2 is not functional.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Thank you Honorable Member.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright Honourable Member.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker, I am not too sure this debate will help us in any case if we are talking about Bumbuna. I will also refer you to 1965 and 1972 why Bikongor was neglected.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Honourable AKK please...

THE SPEAKER: Leader please hold on. Honourable Members, I have just talked with Honourable AKK he can make a reference let us not be divisive because even as we debate in this Well there are people listening to us. Please let us be the Leaders that we are and try to unite this nation.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, let the Minister come and tell us the revenue they are asking these private companies that are providing electricity in various areas. Mr Speaker, this is a direct investment from private sector for our people in those local communities if the Government is interested in the income they are getting from these companies, you do not expect the companies to ask for high tariff. So it behooves Government to also give up some of the taxes and give more tax waivers to these companies to encourage them to invest for our people to enjoy the benefit. Mr Speaker, I have said many times if we say MDAs are not paying electricity bills one will tend to ask two questions. Is it that the ordinary people are using prepaid and Government Ministries are not using prepaid? Secondly, are we also saying there is a different system that operates in certain houses that do not use prepaid system of electricity?

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable AKK, yes Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, the point I am raising as you said we are Leaders so the best thing you can give us is visual details. Because in the Ministries you said they do not have prepaid and in the house they have prepaid and let me tell you we have postpaid meters well distributed in the country. So let us use the appropriate platform to address some of these issues. I thank you.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I intend not in any way to do what you imagined. The fact is Colleague Members of Parliament raised the issue of theft of electricity by Companies, Ministries and Agencies. So, I am just asking a question: Are these Ministries operating a prepaid meter? If yes, how do they get electricity without buying top-up? Mr Speaker, let me conclude. We have a young person going to the

Ministry because over the period, we all craved for young people to be recognized and to have space in governance. Therefore, as you go into the Ministry of Energy, there are huge challenges. But, believe you me, all the challenges they have given are not up to the reason why our people cannot have electricity. Theft of light, we have experts. You can employ more people. If employing more people could raise more revenue for the State, why not? How can I distribute electricity that cannot bring much needed revenue to the Government? We have to pay and because we have to pay for this electricity that is why we need to be serious. Do we know the Ministries Departments and Agencies that own Government? And the Government is allocating budget to those Ministries. What is wrong to cut from their budgets? Why do we keep giving up excuses? And when these excuses keep coming up from the Members of Parliament do we have the powers to take such action? Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable AKK.

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 52

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all, let me congratulate the Nominees and assure them that they will be approved today and also let me thank His Excellency for the judicious decision to give us these fine Nominees. Mr Speaker, let me expunge two misconceptions that have surfaced so far in the course of this debate. One has to do with the mini-grid tariffs. Speaker after Speaker has come out with the fact that mini-grid users are paying higher tariffs than main grid users. It has to be so Mr Speaker, because to set up a mini-grid is not cheap at all. And the differentiation in the tariff as in different areas is a fraction of economics cost of production.

Mr Speaker, mini-grid use, [apart from Makaila that uses hydro], and they all rely on solar and when there is no sunshine enough to generate the power they have back-up generators. When I was there as the Director General of the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission, we actually did detailed investigation into the modus

operandi of mini-grids. These private individuals who are providing these services are actually taking risk. Mr Speaker, in the absence of huge subsidies from the Government, there is no way mini-grid users are going to pay low tariffs. It is just not possible. Take Senegal, Senegal is one of the countries that has actually made significant stride in that direction and when I was a member of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Body we carried out that studies. The first thing they will tell you, in the absence of Government subsidies, there is no way a private investor can come in. If you are going to install mini-grid in "Taibaka", first and foremost, you have to do household income survey. You have to assess their income capacity to pay and if you find out that they do not have the income to pay you have to install low meters. So, I want to lay to rest this perception that people in the rural areas are paying more than people in the main-grid. The main-grid is the transmission line supplying electricity by distribution lines. Mini-grids do not use transmission lines. They rely on distribution system. You put your poles, you have your batteries, you put your wires and you descend the electricity. So, that is one misconception we must lay to rest. It depends on what subsidies are provided to the mini-grid providers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second misconception I want to lay to rest is this business of debating the Auditor General's Report. Mr Speaker, I will refer you to Section 195 of the Sierra Leone Constitution. Let me read: This is what it says, "Parliament shall debate the Report of the Auditor General and appointment when necessary". When necessary, in the public interest, a committee to deal with any matter that arising there from. So, it is not for the Public Accounts Committee to debate it and bring it to us. No, that is unconstitutional. Those of us, we adhere and hear to constitutionalism. That is to say, respect for the Constitution. This habit of the Public Accounts Committee first debating the Auditor General's Report they are actually usurping our functions and it is unconstitutional. If that has been the practice it has to be reversed. We as Law Makers and we cannot be seen to be violating constitutional provisions because we are the Law Makers. And we do not have the power as a Parliament to derogate this Constitution. We simply do not have that power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, now, to the Deputy Minister of Energy 2, I am talking to you as someone who has spent ten years in the electricity sector. I was part of the team that unbundled the National Power Authority separating generational transmission from distributional supply. We created EGTC and created EDSA. Mr Deputy Minister 2, you are going to be approved. Let me say this, the problems with the energy sector is not really with the Government. For example the problem with EDSA is within EDSA itself. We did everything possible for the best of ten years to bring prepaid meters. When I joined the then National Power Authority, they were collecting money from customers, which I thought was a bad practice. We introduced a system of prepaid meters. King Tom Police Barracks, they had no prepaid meters, and we installed prepaid meters there. We went to the Military barracks, we were chased out. We ran away. Anyway, I do not know whether they do have prepaid meters. We removed the post-paid meters and installed EDSA meters. EDSA meters, you cannot tamper with them because they record what you consume and you pay for what you consume. So, my brother when you go to that Ministry, please pay attention to the internal workings of that Ministry. If you do that, you will achieve great goal. If you ignore the internal workings of EDSA, then you are heading to nothing. I tell you, this is from the horse's mouth. I am talking to you as somebody who actually understands the operations of that institution. We set up a technical audit unit; and as my brother from Kono said. We were using that unit because they are the ones who go to detect illegal connections and then arrest people. So, if you use all your expertise, your experience, requisite knowledge in engineering to pay attention to the internal workings the mistake we made, when we unbundled the sector, we did not pay attention to the internal workings of these two institutions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for instance EGTC is another example you should pay attention to because at the moment, it is almost moribund. Mr Speaker, we have nine megawatts of installed capacity at King Tom, we have about fourteen to fifteen installed capacity at Black Hall Road. We do not utilize them because the cost of producing power from generator is expensive. We use MFO. So, again that is another

area you need to pay attention to. For three good months, we were stationed in London negotiating Bumbuna phase two. There is an organ of the United Nations that provides insurance; no one was prepared to provide that insurance. And, even the Freetown Generational Project which has now metamorphosed into this Gas Power Station, I thank the Government for making sure that has become a reality. The tariff is another area the Minister has to pay attention to. And, Mr Minister, please pay attention to the regulatory body that has been created to ensure that those two sectors work effectively including the Water sector. The tariff approval, methodology, recently they have removed the social tariff completely. That is the one that helps low income families. The tariff is almost double. The question is: Why did they remove the social tariff? That is not a political question. You provide us with those information. My brother, Engineer Nonie, the energy sector (EDSA), there is no reason why Government should be putting huge sum of money into that sector. I will tell you why? We recommended and I wrote a paper. If we are giving concession to private individuals, divide Freetown into zones and divide the entire country into zones and just give it to private individuals; and then go into few sharing and arrangement with them in terms of infrastructure that already exists about distribution system, transmission system, like the energy in Ivory Coast. It mainly operated by private firms. By the way, I enjoyed 24 hours electricity under this CLG Project and thanks to A.P.C. Government by then [Undertone].

Mr Speaker, I just got a message a notification that power outage in Kono for three hours because they are doing the transmission line the one taking from Ivory Coast to this country. They are working on it; there is a fault. This is the way efficient utility system works. So, these are some of the problems. The proposed Deputy Minister of Energy, when you go to that sector, these are some of the problems you should draw your attention to. To conclude, let me again congratulate you in advance and as the other speakers have said, when you go to those places, do your best, leave a legacy. Perform better than your predecessor because that is the only way your country will remember you. Mr Speaker, on that note I thank you for giving me the Floor.

HON. MOHAMED CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Mohamed Conteh from Falaba District. When it comes to energy, Falaba is nothing to write home about. It is so sad for us. I am happy when the Chairman of the Energy Committee said that the mini-grid project was started by the former Government. I am happy about that. As I talk, Mr Minister, we are requesting for you to increase the Solar Mini-grid in Falaba District because, for those Mini-grid towns or Chiefdoms headquarters that have been there, they are few, out of thirteen Chiefdoms. We only have three or four if I may say. Most of our people there pay high tariff in which they cannot understand. Sometimes, they buy tariff; they cannot understand the type of tariff they have already bought. There is shortage of meters in the District; and we are appealing to you to help us. We need more meters. There is a meter scarcity in our various communities. And again, we have a lot of problems regarding the increase of the tariff.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, hold on, you started by saying that there is no electricity in Falaba, not so?

HON. MOHAMED CONTEH: Yes Sir, we are talking about the mini-grid.

THE SPEAKER: Okay Honourable Member.

HON. MOHAMED CONTEH: Mr Speaker, even if the District headquarters town which is Falaba District, we only have the mini-grid in Mongo Town to be specific it would be fined. You know that is a new born baby District. We do not have EDSA there, I am requesting to the Minister to please help us for the District headquarters town to have EDSA so we also can enjoy the facilities other communities are enjoying in various parts of the country. People go there and sell their local solar to our people. People bought these solar that are very expensive just to make life comfortable for them. We want Government to intervene so that they can extend a lot of these mini-grids facilities in various Chiefdoms so that we can enjoy the energy sector. And again, Mr Minister, from the community that I am staying at Devil Hole lacks electricity supply but other areas like Rokel and Waterloo are enjoying electricity facilities. I am requesting Mr Minister for

you to consider Devil Hole Community to have electricity supply so that we can enjoy as equally the same as other people that are enjoying in other areas in the Western Rural and Western Urban Districts. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Falaba District that I am coming from lacks energy supply. We are requesting for the Honourable Minister to try very hard for us to have electricity in Falaba District. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I bring you felicitation from the Sierra Leone Bar Association. The message is, they are happy and pleased that for the first time a member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association is the Speaker of the House of Parliament. For the first time, we have Lawyers, Judges being Speaker but this is the first time that we have a substantive member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association being Speaker of the House of Parliament. So, they have asked me to congratulate you and they are with you. They know for sure, you will succeed so that the stage is set for several other members to take that seat; and my prayer for you personally is after that time, that you will be made as Supreme Court Judge and if possible, the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone because you are qualified.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is always a good thing when His Excellency the President chooses amongst seven million people one of our kind, a young man, to serve in a very responsible capacity, our Nominee, Mr Nonie has been nominated to serve in the capacity of Deputy Minister 2 in the Energy Ministry. The Energy Ministry happens to be the life blood of several activities that this Government has actually embarked upon. When you take into account, the first flagship program of His Excellency, the President, which is education it heavily depended on Energy because if students go to school, they have to come back home to study; and if there is no electricity, you cannot imagine what would happen to them. Now, we are talking about "Feed Salone", even the agricultural sector it really requires huge energy and this Government has done extremely well in making energy accessibility a reality in Sierra Leone. Coming from Kailahun, I would say, almost all Chiefdom headquarters towns now enjoyed 24 hour solar electricity including Kissi Kama Chiefdom that I am representing and some other

towns in my Constituency like Nyadao Mbaimabo, Mende Keima, though they are not Chiefdom headquarters towns but they are enjoying 24 hours electricity.

Mr Speaker, so much has been said about the CLSG. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to give a brief history about this CLSG for Sierra Leoneans to understand. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the CLSG was initiated in the year 1999 specifically in December. We all know that it was the SLPP Government that was in governance, Pa Kabbah to be specific. And also, it was ratified by ECOWAS Heads of State of which Pa Kabbah was also a member and SLPP led President in the year 2006. After his second term, then we had His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma. Under His Excellency, Ernest Bai Koroma, Parliament indeed adopted the Agreement in 2013 and in 2014; the Loan Agreement was also ratified by Parliament. But even though the Loan Agreement was ratified by Parliament in 2014 and nothing was happened. The Agreement was taken and kept in the shelf so Sierra Leoneans never enjoyed from the CLSG electricity facility.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Point of Order Mr Speaker. I cannot sit here and allow my learned friend mislead this House [Undertone]. Mr Speaker, the CLSG Project is a World Bank Project implemented by the West Africa Power Pool. The Agreement was not put on the shelf. They had to get ECP contractors to construct the transmission line coming through far countries like Ivory Coast and Liberia.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. If you want to explain, you should have taken permission from the Speaker and you should stand on a Point of Order.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I had stated that since 2014 nothing happened with the CLSG Project until Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio took over the reins of power in this country in 2018. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the additional financing Agreement was ratified by this Parliament then I was a Member of this Parliament together with the shadow Minister [Honourable from Bo]. So, the additional financing of the CLSG was ratified in this Parliament and ever since then the CLSG project took off

the ground. And then, within three years of his governance, we started enjoying the CLSG electricity provision in Sierra Leone. So, if we are to actually lend credence or give credence to those people who have been at the helm of governance and who have actually make sure that the CLSG electricity materialized, I will say the political Party that we should really give thanks to is the Sierra Leone People's Party that operates on the slogan of "One Country, One People". Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to really say thanks to this Government for making energy accessibility a reality. Mr Speaker, I know you gave me five minutes.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, did I give you five minutes?

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Three minutes sorry for the slippery of tongue. Mr Speaker, the proposed Deputy Minister of Energy, we know for sure like my Colleague said, you will be gratified by Allah's grace. You will be approved very soon. I have a personal plead to make to you. His Excellency, the President has done well for Sierra Leone; he has done well for all Districts headquarters towns as far as electricity is concerned in Sierra Leone. He has done well for Kailahun, and he has made it possible for almost all Districts headquarters towns to have electricity. He has done well for the Kailahun District Township [District headquarters town]. But, we still need the technology to turn on our light. Under his leadership, four thermal generators were taken to Kailahun. They have installed all the poles, passed all the electricity cables. The Minister of Energy did extremely well [Hon. Kanja Sesay]. He did extremely well in attempting to turn on the light but, unfortunately, it was turned on only for five hours. The people are eager to start enjoying this industrial revolution that His Excellency has made possible for Sierra Leone. So, it is my message to you as you go to that Ministry that you do everything humanly possible for those generators to be turned on so that, Kailahun District headquarters town will start enjoying electricity like Kenema, Kono, Kabala, Karene, like all other District headquarters town. Thank you very much. I pray that when you go there, you will do us proud as you have been doing in your past engagements. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I have always insisted, we own a moral obligation to this nation. And whenever we have presidential Nominees, we should seize that opportunity to either conscientize them about the possible problems they will meet in their offices and prepare their minds very well. I have said it times without number we need not politicize debate on appointment because when ones they are appointed, their responsibility is to serve Sierra Leone, and not a specific political Party. All of us will benefit if they perform, and all of us will be constrained if they do not perform. So, we own that to our nation. That is the very reason for which I cautioned Members who intended to politicize this debate today.

Mr Speaker, let me first seize this opportunity to clarify a statement you made Sir. When Mr Speaker said that, he has written to MDAs to be including Members of Parliament on their trips it is because of our primary functions as Members of Parliament. We should be abreast with the operations of MDAs especially those that fall within the purview of the Committees. So, the Committees should not be strangers to the activities of the Ministries, Departments or Agencies. So, he did not say that because he just wants Members of Parliament to be flying; he said that because he wants Members to be abreast with the operations of their MDAs. One thing I believe is that as an Opposition Member of Parliament, we should not just be criticizing; we should proffer alternative solutions to the existing problems. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that tomorrow the Opposition will be having "Parliamentary Press Conference" in which we have expert panelists. [Honourable Tamba Kellie], he is one of the panelists tomorrow. So the Deputy Minister, if you have time, tune in to or watch us on Facebook where we have gathered panelists of three people who would be looking exclusively at alternative solutions and how far they went when they were in their offices. I have always said that, nobody has a monopoly of ideas. They say, "it is dangerous for anybody who does not know to assume that he knows everything". And when somebody who does not know reaches the stage that he has reprobated his mind not to listen to anybody else that is the most dangerous stage in life. So we would

proffer alternative solutions. What the Honourable Member has done here is just a tip of the ice bag. Tomorrow will be very extensive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the rural electrification project that was launched in my Constituency, I think; when it was launched I was even not thinking to be a Member of Parliament. We have seen how far it has gone. And again, there are existing problems with the rural electrification project. The solar are very expensive when you make comparative analyses with the amount they charge and the one we charge; you will see a big difference. I have heard communities in my Constituency that have expressed almost dissatisfaction on the charge and also most of the batteries are not well maintained. When the batteries go down at night, they will not get electricity. It is only for the day. So, we want Government to see how best we can be able to be partner with our friends to see how best our people can be able to enjoy from the Rural Electrification at minimum cost. For electricity again, we know the challenges. Not every area in the capital city would have electricity at the same time. EGTC and EDSA do what we referred as load sharing. Because of the distribution capacity, they concentrate on certain areas at a given point in time. Our capacity now cannot supply the entire Freetown at the same point in time. So, they have to share the load. This is a course for us to improve on our electricity generation; and I have heard Members of Parliament given their own opinions about electricity generation. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is even scary for us as a nation. Our main electricity generation is from two sources:

- 1) The CLSG, this is a foreign company. 2) The Kar Power Ship, it belongs to another Government.

Mr Speaker, CLSG and Kar Power Ship are not our own and we cannot be dependent on electricity supply from another country. We cannot! We should be thinking as to how we will get our own. That is why when we own them excessively; they switch us off, because it is theirs. So, it is high time, we invested in our own electricity generation. Mr Speaker, I want to talk to the Deputy Minister to see how best we can concentrate on our own. That is why the

phase two of Bumbuna, and secondly the power plant we have at King Tom and the one we have at Black Hall Road. How best we can be able to increase their capacities. Because, I am telling you, we cannot continue to rely on foreign supply of electricity.

And also, Mr Speaker, we also have to take it into consideration the consumers. Like I said, there has been a drastic increment in the cost of electricity and it is eating up our people. I know because these foreign entities charge us in Dollars and for us to be able to pay them back in Dollars, it is very expensive. So, we have to device ways to ensure that we do not put the entire electricity industry in our country into debt. So, we should try to see how best we can be able to work on our own. Like I have just stated the tariff increment also is very serious. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should try to the best of our ability to see how best we can be able to cater for the lay man so that they will be able to afford electricity. Basically, we know the difference between when you privatize electricity and when Government runs electricity. One of the essences for Government to run electricity is to ensure that Government does not make profit because we pay our taxes out of our salaries and also to ensure there is equitable distribution. When you privatize electricity, then the private institution that runs the electricity always looks for profit. They will always supply to where they are making more money and deprive those in the slum areas and those who cannot afford to pay huge sum. So, Government should have this at the back of their mind that in as much as we are supplying electricity, there are people we should be catered for. There should not be a Sierra Leonean that cannot afford electricity because is one of the fundamental things we should afford.

And also, Mr Speaker, regardless of the increment in the cost of electricity, I have always come to realize that there is also inability to produce this electricity. Because when you increase the cost, you expect more profits, and out of the profits you expect, you also have to buy fuel from the profits so that you invest more and make more profits. So, even though Government is making more profits, there is also a tendency that electricity is not available in places like

Lungi, Lunsar, Port Loko and some other places. And what is the reason for that? It is just because they cannot provide fuel for the constant running from the generators [the thermal plants] that are already in these areas. As of opinion, in as much there has been an increment, it should also go to the purchase of fuel. But I am suspecting one thing, Mr Speaker, we have now introduced the Treasury Single Account [TSA], and all Government revenues go into one account. Deposit from electricity generation all going to the same account with other deposits. And that account must be deliberately tied so that the deposit for the electricity is used to invest in electricity. Even at this point, we are finding it extremely difficult to pay our debt to the Kar Power Ship. We are finding it extremely difficult at the CLSG. So, if we are not deliberate about ensuring that deposits from electricity that go into the TSA are used to relief some of these debts. It will come a time, we will not be able to pay the debts we have in all of these foreign companies that are giving us electricity. So, I want to crave on the indulgence of the Ministry of Finance to take note of this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we have said, we have to do our best to ensure that we have the best for ourselves. When I was reading my Masters, one of the disadvantages of Government institution running or supplying electricity or also privatization is that for you to be able to be successful 100%, you do not need small time. Ten years is too small to invest in the electricity sector so that you will become successful in that; and most Governments do not want to invest and at the end of the day they are out of power and other Government comes and enjoys from what they have invested. Yes, that is what I read. I read it so I am talking from a position of authority. When it is privatized, they can invest because they know nobody can remove them. Also, the disadvantage when Government wants to increase tariff, people will tell Government if you increase tariff, we will not vote for you again and Government will be afraid. I need these people if I increase this tariff they will not vote for me again. Whilst the private sector does not take into consideration that they

increase tariff because they are business people and their primary motive is to make money. So, it is difficult.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in Moyamba and in Kailahun as mentioned by my elder brother Honourable Gevao the infrastructures are there. A test was conducted in both places. A test was conducted in Moyamba, the President went there and they switched on the electricity supply; and the people benefited from that electricity on that very day. No sooner the President left, everything was switched off and up till now they are without electricity. And it is the same thing that happened in Kailahun. When President went there, they switched on the electricity in Kailahun for five hours, after that five hours electricity up till now the bulbs are all useless. So, we should see how best we can be able to invest in this for the sake of our nation. Let me tell you, a country that is grabbing with electricity has a lot of things to be able to manage. So, you have been appointed to a very sensitive sector. Of course, Engineer Nonie is a young guy, very forward looking, positive disposition and I am sure with the kind of knowledge he has regardless of his age he would be able to make that difference. I have always said that where ever you go or wherever you are appointed, you do not only own it to the one that appoints you, you own it to the people you serve. Do not go into an office and been relieved from that office the same way you went into that office. You should have something to point at. And there is one significant disadvantage of being appointed when you are young. You have more years to see your handwork. You will live long to see your handwork. What did you do when you have this opportunity? What did you do when you were made Minister? What did you do? You will have to see your handwork. So the honor is on you, you are doing this for 'Mama Salone'. You are not doing it for the SLPP neither for the APC because ones there is electricity, the electricity does not choose which Party people to go to. So, you own this to our nation. And I want to employ you to be judicious in your service.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to Madam Matilda Matu Kormoh, of course we read your CV at the Committee and we were well pleased. Like I said, you

have a responsibility and I pray that you do your level best. I always say that when people are appointed is there they will attract curse and is there they will attract blessing based on how they comport themselves while in office. In our last debate here, I said, "Adam and Eve were appointed by God to serve the Garden of Eden". They were appointed by God to serve the Garden of Eden but they ended there with curse. So, you can get curse from your appointment contingent on the way you comport yourself in your office. This is the only country we have [Sierra Leone] and you are fortunate with 7 million people, they have chosen you to serve in this capacity and make sure that you do due diligence to our country. I wish you all well. I pray that you succeed and I pray that we go forward as a nation. I pray that God empowers you and give you the wisdom. You know, because at your age, there would be some people who will nurture some doubts but like I said, the age of Methuselah has nothing to do with the Wisdom of Solomon. So, just keep it up, be focused, do not concentrate too much on the politics and leave what you should achieve as a young person. I wish you well and may God bless us all. I thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I think we have one more item on the Order Paper. You know, all of these lectures, they should have been given to us eleven years back. Maybe, either the people of EDSA refused to listen or sometimes the leadership refused to listen to these brilliant ideas on the other side. When we started from the Income Electrics, at that time we had zero debt. They were so fresh and they came with the Income Electrics. We identified the problems, not even putting on Bumbuna because of certain technical problems. We left it at 98% and when they came, they said, S.O 2 " We go light ar". Well electricity is not cheap. Mr Speaker, Mr Nonie is a very intelligent man. Forget about the age, is your service, and how do you deliver. Mr Speaker, I read in his statement and he said, "we need to review the contracts" but he proffered solutions to make use of what we have at the moment. However bad it is, you have no other solutions so I listened to Honourable Kellie from Kono. He gave a

very laborious lecture. Imagined if I was in the Engineering lecture room at Fourah Bay College. The lecture he gave us, I started reflecting when we took governance, and there was a total blackout in 2018 in the whole of Western Area. We had to try to fix it up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have so many energy provisions in Sierra Leone. The human factor is our problem. We do not have people with good ideologies. We have brilliant people at EDSA. If you listen to Mr Nonie yesterday at the Committee Room, you will say the whole of Freetown will light in the next moment. But we are refusing to accept the other factors. This business of money, we are refusing to accept that electricity is not cheap. Mr Speaker, when we talked about electricity theft yesterday at Committee Room 1 he did not deny and he said, "We have challenges in the system". I proffered solution using the Kenya Company that we will have a technology that we will introduce to train the workers. You know, under normal temperature and pressure, Mr Nonie was busy giving us lectures on electricity grid. Mr Speaker, we are spending tax payer's money. When they had wanted to connect Kono, Honourable Emerson Lamina can testify. We are all living testaments, all over the social media. When we wanted to connect the grid, they were busy disconnecting it, destroying the transformers. Are our people sincere to themselves? You do filthy things; you think the situation will go like that?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we are in Parliament the service we render gives us platform for the future. Sometimes, be apolitical; sometimes be sensitive to human factors. You know, when my Colleague from Falaba said something here I was scared. Mr Speaker, you know what I admired about the Chairman of Energy, the day he became the Chairman of Energy in this Parliament, he took his time to study all of the energy sectors we have in this country. When he stands to speak about energy, trust me even if you do not want to listen, you will give him attention because he has taken his time to access the story. He was supporting something coming from the other side. Somebody said, I think the Leader of the Opposition said, "you cannot sustain

electricity when you do not have your own power grid". I turned and looked at him; he was saying it out of sincere terms and the sustainability of our energy distribution which Mr Nonie talked about in a professional manner that we should as Members of Parliament be sincere and know what we are doing. When my Colleague from Falaba said that, the energy in Falaba is not good to write home about. They truncated the District into Karene and Falaba. They did not put in place any existing structure. They have a renewable energy in Falaba. We were struggling with energy in Kenema District whilst people in Kailahun were enjoying Mini-grid 24 hours.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, electricity everywhere in the world is not cheap. Honourable Kellie will tell you that. I enjoyed his lectures. He was very sincere and said certain things and in-fact went beyond parliamentary protocols. In fact, I sensed something was wrong when he was in that Ministry. They refused to listen to him. I know him very well. He can be radical in his ideology even when he is on the other side, when something is good in his own opinion; you cannot change him so easily, to take him around like ducks is not easy. I can vouch for him under a very difficult circumstance Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, you can have the thermal plant, the Mini-grid, and the hydroelectricity, all of these are still under the emblem we called EDSA. We have in Falaba Town a mini-grid, Mongo Bendugu, Gbedi, Musayai, and Falayai. Do you think we are going to waste our time to talk about EDSA there? No!

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us go back to memory lane. Only a righteous person can reflect when it comes to memory lane. We are in this because of maladministrations for yester years. You think Mr Nonie is going to fix it within two days. All these lectures you have given us, you are just painting to the Galleries. The picture at EDSA is nothing good to write home about Mr Speaker. Let us stop painting the Galleries. We are in deep mess Mr Speaker. So, let us allow them to go and fix it up. The human factor is our problem at EDSA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the only thing I can proffer to you is that we should support the Committees. Let us be rough with our oversights if we want

to fix our energy factor. I am coming from Kenema; I know what we went through, more than half a decade without electricity in Kenema. We suffered but that is not my business anymore. Mr Speaker, you tell me if you are given one hundred mega-watts transformer and they destroy it, can you get light in the next two months? Where are you going to get the money to fix it? You think an ordinary person can interfere with transformer when there is electricity? Let us think about that. Bad people! Filthy minded people! If you are a patriotic Sierra Leonean, you will do the right thing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Kormoh and her husband are real professionals. Her husband is a Chemist. When he was teaching us Chemistry at Fourah Bay College; he was teaching us inorganic Chemistry, you know the complicity of inorganic Chemistry the elements are difficult for you to understand, you just have to memorize everything. So, Doctor Kormoh will try to explain to us in our different languages for us to understand the real inorganic Chemistry, but the best you can do is just to memorize and you go and pour it in the exam but these are professional people. Mr Speaker, Madam Kormoh her resume is very explicit and directly point to the job she is going to do. She is going to do a job that she is fit for and she can deliver. I do not even have much to say. She is a mother and she knows what she is doing. Going to the Audit Service I have heard people talking about her Mr Speaker, let me tell you one thing, I cannot sit here and see people trying to read funny things around. You are the Chairman for Public Accounts Committee I have heard people reading from the Constitution that we are going to debate the Audit Reports.

THE SPEAKER: I am still the Chairman for all Committees. All of those Chairmen of all Committees are only representing Mr Speaker; I can sit on any of those Committees if I want to, so I am still the Chairman.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I listened to them when they were talking about "we will debate." I am the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee; you have been doing a very good job. You know we are not coping with bad things; we are trying to refine things so that this issue of having through governance in terms of

transparency and accountability we are not even in a worry. Let us do not politicize Audit Reports, please go and do your best the rest we can handle it. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that the 17th Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointment and Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendation contained therein be approved.

Question Proposed Put and Agreed To

[Motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service moved by Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma has been approved .

VI. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR REX BHONAPHA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday 4th June, 2024, Addendum to the Concession Agreement entered into by and between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority and Auto-Spect Sierra Leone Limited dated 21st January 2019.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am grateful for the opportunity to address the House of Parliament on the operations of SLRSA in collaboration with Auto-Spect Sierra Leone, with regards to vehicle license products and their prices. To effectively do this, please allow me to give you an over view of the Auto-Spect Agreement and its associated services bordering around vehicle licenses and fitness regime. The original contract Agreement was signed in 2017, a reviewed was conducted in 2019 that adjusted prices in the initial Agreement over a period of three years as follows: 35% increase in 2023 initially it was 70% but then with the addendum we were able to negotiate and review it and brought it down to 35%, 20% increase in 2024, and 15% increase in 2025 from year four to year nine, price increases will be set at 5% of the previous year's price. The price of Life Card was at 40% as it is normally issued only

once per life time, profit sharing which was initially set at 10% in the concession Agreement, SLRSA's share has now been reviewed in addendum and rose to 20% from 10%.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agreement provided for in total number of nine fitness test to be constructed as follows: Four stations within the next four years, two mobile stations, and the remaining three stations will be completed by the end of the seventh year. I am pleased to update you that out of the four stations the first two have been successfully completed, one at Kissy Road and the second at Mile Six and both are in full operations. This Agreement has also made it possible for: 1. Up to 44 employees, from fitness 27 and license 17 employees of the SLRSA staff received salary paid by Auto-Spect including medical and leave allowances. A further 59 employees of the SLRSA stand to benefit from Auto-Spect payroll support to the Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agreement was further reviewed last year to make provisions for administrative conveniences and in its implementations; this review brought the following benefits to the SLRSA, previously agreed percentage of prices were further reviewed to reflect the following: Year one, 20% on heavy duty vehicles, like those twelve tyres, fourteen tyres or trailers as the case might be, light duty vehicles like the SUVs we use around and zero percentage on bike and 50% discount on commercial categories. Year two, 15% on heavy duty vehicles and light duty vehicle and 20% on bikes, year three, 35% on high duty vehicles and 15% on bikes, and year four, 35% on bikes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Life Card price has been reviewed as follows: Five hundred new Leones for motorcycles discounted at 46%, otherwise without the discount this would have been something like One Thousand, Five Hundred Leones. Eight Hundred Leones for light vehicles discounted at 13%, One Thousand Leones for heavy duty vehicles no discount applied. Auto-Spect will bear the cost of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand to print backlog of old Life Cards on behalf of SLRSA. Upon commencement of operations Auto-Spect has provided support to the Authority in

various matters. They purchase inspection tax for port vehicles, provided fuel for inspection vehicles and transportation of staff to the provinces. They established inter-connectivity with a new internet service provider and paid in full to maintain all operational processes and product of SLRSA, connecting 13 stations across the country. They pioneered fiber connections to our Kissy Road office with capacity of thirty megawatts with wireless connectivity. They have shared utilities for example electricity, water, fuel and publicity with SLRSA on 50/50 bases. They have also shared all security and rental fees for provincial offices on 50/50 bases.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure you that our Ministry has been robust in playing our supervisory role to the SLRSA and by extension the implementation of this Agreement. As you may be aware in August 2020, the U.N General Assembly issued a new resolution which pronounced that; the period 2021 to 2030 as the second decade of action for road safety, with a goal of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% from 2021 to 2030. In Sierra Leone our commitment to the course of the U.N decade of action on road safety has manifested through rigorous policy reforms, infrastructural enhancements and public awareness campaigns that the SLRSA undertakes. We have collaborated with key stakeholders, embraced technological advancement and implemented innovative strategies to ensure safer vehicles on the roads for all our citizens. The partnership with Auto-Spect Sierra Leone exemplifies our dedication to maintain vehicle standards thereby reducing accident and promoting a culture of road safety. We know that our work is far from complete; this is why the momentum we have built will be sustained and intensified. We will continue to invest in safer infrastructure, enforce traffic Laws diligently and educate our community about road safety. Collaboration remains key and we seek to strengthen our alliances with international partners, local stakeholders and the general public. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to once again say thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to this critical course, together we can achieve our goal of safe vehicles to enhance safety on the roads of Sierra Leone. I thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following Agreement which was laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday 4th June, 2024, Addendum to the Concession Agreement entered into by and between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Sierra Leone Safety Authority and Auto-Spect Sierra Leone Limited dated 21st January 2019.

QUESTION PROPOSED

HON. DR UNPHA SORIE GBESSAY KOROMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. My contribution to this debate is going to be really short and it going to come in a form of a question for the Minister. As I was reading the Clause and most specifically Clause 2.7, I noticed that it is stated five static stations and two mobile stations should have been constructed within four years and looking at this Agreement with an addendum which was dated 21st January 2019, but the Minister in his presentation stated that two static stations have been constructed or improved upon one at Kissy Road and the other one at Mile Six. So my question is we are in the fifth year what are the possibility that the next three static stations will be constructed and in which areas of the country will those stations come from? Secondly, the two mobile stations I did not hear you saying anything about that for the first five years? Then of course if that is so my concern is whether the rest of the stations that will come in the seventh year which will be four stations and two mobile stations? So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members to be brief those are my questions for the Minister. I thank you very much.

HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO: Thank you Mr Speaker. We have listened with keen attention to the presentation made by the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation. This Agreement is a concessional one where all Sierra Leoneans stand to benefit Mr Speaker, and the negotiation shows that they have reduced the cost. They have brought the burden of expenditure down on Sierra Leoneans and in that vein I want to beseech this Honourable House being that it is concessional that we hastily pass it. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes Leader of the Opposition.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, as the previous Speakers stated, we do not need to bother much on this Agreement because these are ways service delivery can be affected where Government lacks the capacity or the required resources. I only have one issue of which in my opinion I strongly contend with in the Agreement and I can make classical example in respect of the Toll Gate Agreement. The Toll Gate Agreement, of course it was done by the Fourth Parliament; and in that Agreement, we agreed that whenever the Dollar goes against the Leones by 10% the price will be varied accordingly and then over ten years plus that Agreement was never reviewed. I believe that by now for that Agreement to be reviewed but in the interim before the Agreement is reviewed the Minister of Works came to this House to at-least vary the prices of various categories of vehicles and some of those prices were varied which have cost a lot of burden on the community now. But what people did not know is that those variations were in fact far way below what was contained in the Agreement, because the Agreement says whenever the Dollar goes against the Leones by 10% the price will be varied and over ten years the Dollar had gone against the Leones for over 300% no variation was done. So just imagine if people bashed at Parliament for varying the price when the Dollar had gone against the Leones by 300%. How much more if Parliament had gone with the original text of the Agreement of 10% imagine what we would have obtained by now? Mr Speaker, I am seeing the same scenario here; page four, article 4.1.3 is saying the same thing as a responsible Parliament under your watch do we take this part? Or I move a Motion for deferment of this debate for an in House meeting; do we go this part as it is stated there?

THE SPEAKER: Where is the Leader of Government Business?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Article 4.1.3 is stated there.

THE SPEAKER: Call me the Leader of Government Business. This sitting is stood down for ten minutes I want to see the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister in my Chamber.

MR SPEAKER STOOD DOWN THE HOUSE AT 1:30 P.M

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 1:40 P.M.

THE SPEAKER: Yes Honourable Leader of the Opposition please proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I thank you very much Mr Speaker, for the style of leadership because this is how you proved to all of us that you are a listened Speaker and sometimes if there is room for clarification on certain issues you toe the line as you have just done. So on that note, I will continue my debate as stated in my opening statement and I am on record that there is no much issue to debate because if we check the entire Agreement from the parent Act to its addendum, the trend of the charges is downwards while the percentage that goes to our own institution is an increase which I believe is good for all of us in this country. As I said my problem is the fees being stated and will be taken into consideration, inflation as to the Dollar against the Leones that had been further edified. Of course, the Agreement is before me unlike any other Agreements. There are further qualifications and those qualifications must be taken into consideration as well before variation of price is being effected. There can be any justification of any increase in the fees regarding the Dollar against the Leones because in my opinion it is very important. It would have been the same terms and conditions together with the Dollar against the Leones we all know the speed at which the Dollar is going against the Leones and that was the mistake we did in the Fourth Parliament. We never took notice of that one but thankfully we have taken notice of this one and we have seen further qualifications. I have listened to other Members in the Chambers and indeed the reference that had been made regarding to the Agreement which is before all of us that there are further qualifications to any variation in terms of upward increment. So on that note, Auto-Spect prefers the 2017 model which as far as they are concerned is in their best interest, because every adjustment that has been made towards downward movement, lesser charges than the charges contained in December 2017 Agreement.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of my Leader here and we on this side I urge all Members of this House to ratify this Agreement on the condition that or with the understanding that it

point towards lesser charges in its entirety so as a result that is better for the people of this country. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Leader of the Opposition and over to you Leader of Government Business.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the contributors before me to this particular Agreement and also thank the Acting Leader of the Opposition for his candid opinion on this Agreement. Mr Speaker, it is assumed that there had been an existing Agreement and this is just an addendum to a concession Agreement entered into by and between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the Road Safety Authority and Auto-Spect Sierra Leone Limited. Mr Speaker, you can agree that, Minister Koroma did a very fine job in his days and it is this same Agreement continuing with 10% profit for Sierra Leone as at that time. The Agreement or this addendum we are looking today is talking of 20% increase of profit. Mr Speaker, the Agreement is like this:

- 1) It relates to development
- 2) It relates to operation
- 3) Implementation of vehicle licenses and inspection
- 4) Vehicle registration number

Mr Speaker, I have seen the benefits of B.O.T. I was privileged to be among Leone stars in Yaoundé some two years ago and I visited a lot of restaurants, recreational centers and I asked a question how did they come by it? I was lectured about the benefit of B.O.T. Chinese getting their shares in Yaoundé with a lot of B.O.T which is just not too different from the Agreement we are looking at today. The benefit of youth on transfer B.O.T. Mr Speaker, with time I believe Auto-Spect will improve having the privilege of riding around a very small city within Boston City with a flash of the Police at your number plate just gives your entire information without even stopping you just a flash at your number plate as it turns out and believe that Auto-Spect will reach that particular stage one day.

Mr Speaker, the partnership between Auto-Spect and the Authority will enhance tremendously on road safety and it will save many lives. Sierra Leone Police has a scaring statistics over the years when they outlined the number of accidents that would take place because of the carelessness of drivers without maintaining their vehicles or without passing proper inspection, very scaring statistics as it is annually read out by Sierra Leone Police. This Agreement will definitely give youths the opportunity for jobs; it will also bring huge benefits for Sierra Leone. I would urge MPs especially MPs that are in the Transport and Aviation Committee to do thorough oversight. By doing thorough oversight with this particular Agreement to hear from the side of Auto-Spect as well as to hear from the side of the Authority and the parent Ministry [Ministry of Transport and Aviation], and this Agreement will improve climate change. I begin to remember rapidity of dangerous gases being put out by vehicles, with this Agreement vehicles will be properly examined before even taking the route of Freetown as well as the provinces.

Mr Speaker, allow me to peruse a little on some important Clauses in this Agreement, page two it actually brings the binding effect of this Agreement, Clauses 2.1.2 it talks about the benefits of the Sierra Leone Government. I begin to see the benefits of having people that are willing to bring direct foreign investment in other land; the property will belong to the State. Without encouraging direct foreign investment I begin to wonder how will a country benefit from direct foreign investment. We have all the minerals but if you can imagine what can Sierra Leone do in bringing benefit of the minerals. How do we even have engine of machines without mining the iron? That tells you we have all these minerals, how will they yield benefit? Today, we are having a third party working with the Authority, Auto-Spect by name. In Clause Ten; in the very appendix, we noticed that profit earning by the State used to be 10% as I stated earlier on, this particular Agreement if passed today will give Sierra Leoneans the opportunity of bagging 20%, that is not small in terms of percentage. 10% by the time it started, today with 20%. When I watched the Mines and Minerals Development Act 2022, with specific reference to section 143 sub-section 4, it is saying at least 1% should be given

as community development agreement fund, can you imagine 1% in ratio as against 20% in this Agreement. I urge not only the Ministry of Mines but even other Ministries to copy from this Agreement. This Agreement is saying 20% of the profit the State will make. At least the writers or drafters of this particular Agreement were futuristic; futuristic in the sense that even if there will be increase at the end of the day it will not be over night, the Agreement had already put in place.

- 1) Inflation
- 2) Price commodity
- 3) The statistic result that Statistic Sierra Leone will give, all this will be consequence upon increase if it has to happen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the land will be leased and not on sales this is very important. Land lease and not on sale tells you it is the property of Sierra Leone. Some four years back I was privileged to be in the oversight of the Rail and Port at Pepel some unscrupulous Sierra Leoneans I cannot name them now, it was their intention that they get the Rail and Port; that the Government of Sierra Leone should now come and lease to them. I then told the then Minister [Timothy Kabba] was so very wise. I said you have to be very assertive that this is Sierra Leone's property and if any one that has interest to rent or to lease is the Government of Sierra Leone, and that Minister was a very strong Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreement will benefit Sierra Leoneans and within ninety days after signature will turn to fruition. Mr Speaker, I also admired page Seven that not less than a year this Agreement signs to be legal. The Agreement gives opportunity to oversee and even the Ministry or Authority to watch the B.O.Q very importantly; that is to scrutinize the B.O.Q. If you are saying you are investing one hundred cements bags on this garage or the side path, we should see, we should know the quality of the iron rod. It is not going to be secret that tells you this Agreement looks at sustainable development for B.O.Q to be exposed to those supervisory role is important and it should and must be done in a year. Mr Speaker, even the date of fulfillment it is stated there in Clause 2.7 and now this Agreement I am calling on Members of Parliament even for the establishment of garages is stated there in Clause

28 for fitness so that many of the careless accidents Sierra Leoneans had been dying from will be minimized. It is going to be fifteen years Agreement as stated in Clause 29 but also admired the stabilizing Clause; which has a very important stabilizing Clause. Look at Clause 2.10 what is it saying? That Auto-Spect will not sack SLRSA workers who are the technical people. Sierra Leoneans here and away should learn from the advantage of this particular Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I commend this Agreement so graciously and I commend the technical people from SLRSA, the Ministry of Transport and Aviation that at least I also encourage you to share a page across at your inter-ministerial meeting more so at Cabinet level that this Agreement is a shining one which Parliament welcomes and I commend the contributions all the Members of Parliament that have debated this Agreement. It is against this backdrop that I am urging all of us that we speedily ratify this Agreement, because it has no controversies attached to it. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

MR REX BHONAPHA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to thank all Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate. From my view point they did it from the platform of patriotism for our country. It is a very good one and I take every comment in good faith. Let me address the first sentiment expressed by the Member of Parliament concerning the building of the stations, the mobile stations and those of the static stations. I can assure you, we would not relent until we see them fulfilled, as we speak the CEO of Auto-Spect is out of the country negotiating with the suppliers of the mobile stations and he would be here tomorrow to give us update on that. Once he is back I will always keep updating this Parliament through the Committee on Transport and Aviation, but the one thing I can assure you, the comfort you can take from my speech here is that we would ensure they build those stations, because at the end of the day it will remain as Government property for the people of this country. Let me equally just inform Members of Parliament that the United Nations on road safety was here just last week, and I was privileged to chair that meeting with the Authority at the Mile Six fitness center and guess what? He praised Sierra Leone for

taking the right steps or strives in the right direction apart from Uganda. I think we are the second country in Africa that had got a proper United Nations standard fitness center at Mile Six and Mr Speaker, with your leave I would want to use this opportunity to extend an invitation to Members of Parliament to go and inspect with us the fitness center at Mile Six.

Mr Speaker, I will let you know when that time comes, I will discuss with my Minister and I would come back to you with the invitation and Mr Speaker when we get there I would want us to practicalize what we see there, by inviting the vehicles of Members of Parliament to do the fitness test; so that they can determine the potency of the machine that was brought into this country. Let me thank you very much for all the sentiments expressed, am gratified and we are grateful. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Agreement which was laid on the Table of this House on the 4th June 2024:

Addendum to the Concession Agreement entered into by and between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority, and Auto-spect Sierra Leone Limited dated 21st January 2019.

Question Proposed Put and Agreed To

[Government Motion by the Minister of Transport and Aviation has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: Yes Mr Minister, you may take your leave.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MISS ESTHER BOIMA: The Committee on Energy will be meeting with EDSA and EGTC tomorrow at 10:00 A.M, Members are encouraged to attend and on time.

Signed: Honourable Christopher K. Vandy [Chairman]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, do not forget next week Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. we are having a meeting at Committee Room One purely on the CPA. Do not forget to read the Report of the Legislative Committee, and the Bill so that you do not raise issues that had already been addressed in the Report. Please, I want us to go there and look at all of those issues you have problems with so that we address them in Committee Room One before coming to the plenary. The Criminal Procedure Act is bulky if we come here and begin to raise issues, we will spend the whole day here so to avoid that let have our meeting behind closed doors and later come to the plenary to pass that particular Act. So please Honourable Members, on Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. prompt we should all be in Committee Room One to look at that particular Bill. Thank you very much. Please, this is to encourage all Committees that went on oversight to do your Report. On Thursday next week, on the next adjourned date I expect all of those Reports to be tabled; please make sure you do your Reports. All those Committees that had gone on oversight make sure you do your Reports so that at the next adjourned date we table all the Reports to encourage the administration to engage other Committees to go. In as much as we have given resources to Committees to go and do their oversight, you cannot do your oversight and keep your Reports so come and table your Reports then that will create the opportunity for others to also be given resources to go out and do their own oversight. As a matter of fact against next year if we succeed in what we do, I even want Committees to be going on oversight at least twice within the session. We are pushing towards that to ensure we have enough resources for that so please when you go on oversight make sure you get your Clerks to do your Reports as quickly as possible and get those Reports to be tabled. Thank you very much Honourable Members.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER ADJOURNEED THE HOUSE TO THURSDAY 4TH JULY 2024

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 2:00 P.M.

