



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 14th MARCH, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 14th March, 2013.

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Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 14th March, 2013.

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

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

MR IBRAHIM S. SESAY (Clerk of Parliament): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I announce the unavoidable absence of the Honourable Speaker of Parliament; and pursuant to Standing Order 10(2), it says: "When Mr Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk at the Table, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair in the House and shall be invested with all the powers of Mr Speaker until the next sitting of the House or for the duration of Mr Speaker's absence as the case may be. And in tandem with Section 88, Sub-section B of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, there shall preside at any sitting of Parliament, the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker."

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: With your leave Mr Speaker I would want to make an amendment in respect of the Order Paper for today, relating to item III. The caption under item III is 'Laying of Paper.' I would now want that to read Laying of Papers. The amendment is seeking to include the laying of another paper that necessitates the adding of an 's' to Paper. Project Paper on the proposed Africa Catalytic Growth to become III(a). So, I'm now asking for the insertion of item III (b).

That paper would have to be laid by the Honourable S.B.B. Dumbuya in his capacity as Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business in the absence of the Minister. Mr Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture the Minister of Finance cannot lay that paper.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT

Memorandum of understanding and Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and SOCFIN Agricultural Company SL. (Ltd.), April, 2012. This paper would have to be laid by S. B. B. Dumbuya.

THE SPEAKER: Is that all Mr Leader?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker that is the amendment Sir. And also Mr Speaker, on the request of the Clerk of Parliament, there would have to be another amendment. We already have Roman VI. Announcement of the members of the

Steering Committee of the Africa Capacity Building Fund Project (ACBF) becomes Roman figure VII.

THE SPEAKER: Is that all?

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Yes Mr Speaker. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we've heard the proposed and suggested amendments. Are there any objections to the amendments on the Order Paper? If no objection, then, I will take it that all of us have agreed and we can now proceed.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that we put it in the form of a motion. The procedure is that, amendments are normally accompanied by a motion. I have moved the motion and somebody has to second the motion Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Is there any seconder to that motion?

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

HON. ANSU J, KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, I would have asked your indulgence that the second amendment be set aside. This is because in my capacity as the Deputy Minority Leader, we are not au fait with the second amendment. That has to do with the operations of Parliament and I therefore crave your indulgence that it be at least postponed until after consultation with my colleagues on this side and the leadership on the other side.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Majority Leader you've heard what the Deputy Minority Leader has said.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: I did hear the Deputy Minority Leader but perhaps the Deputy Minority Leader does not know that on that list is the name of the Minority Leader. The Deputy Minority Leader might not have known that on this list is the name

of Dr Bernadette Lahai in her capacity as Minority Leader. So, she had as a matter of fact acceded to this.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Majority Leader what I gathered from the Deputy Minority Leader is that they did not consult themselves as a Party. That is what I gathered from what he said.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Well, if that is the case that is not my own business on this side. If the Deputy Minority Leader is saying that they were not consulted as a Party, meaning that they might not have been consulted by their own Minority Leader. I don't take responsibility for that. However, I would respectfully suggest that the matter be put in abeyance.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: I thank the Majority Leader. Indeed, the matter should be held in abeyance.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This means that item vii is deleted from the Order Paper. I presume there is no countermotion. Mr Deputy Minority Leader, I presume that since items VII has been deleted from the Order Paper, you have no more objections.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: I thank the Majority Leader for that which he has just done and I do agree with him that it be held in abeyance.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. But we still have III (2), Laying of Paper.

(Question Proposed, Put and agreed to)

(The Order Paper was amended as suggested)

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH 2013.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the records of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6th March, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Honourable Members, since there are no amendments, can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 6th March, 2013 be adopted as presented?

(The record of Votes and Proceedings was adopted without a mover and a seconder)

III. PAPERS LAID

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(a) PROJECT PAPER ON THE PROPOSED AFRICA CATALIC GROWTH FUND ADDITIONAL FINANCING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5.690,614 TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE FOR A REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECT PHASE II DATED 9TH AUGUST, 2012.

MR MOMODU KARGBO (*Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand before this Honourable House to lay on the Table the following paper:

PROJECT PAPER ON A PROPOSED AFRICA CATALYTIC GROWTH FUND ADDITIONAL FINANCING IN THE AMOUNT OF US \$5.690,614 TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE FOR A REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECT PHASE II DATED 9TH AUGUST, 2012. Thank you.

(b) HON. S.B.B. DUMBUYA

Memorandum of understanding and Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Socfin Agricultural Company SL (Ltd.) dated April, 2012.

HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA (*Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following paper on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and in my capacity as Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business:

Memorandum of understanding and Agreement between the government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Socfin Agricultural Company SL (Ltd) dated April 2012 (*Applause*).

IV. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENT AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S.B.B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE IBRAHIM R. BUNDU

HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to present to the House the Eighth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary Vetting of Presidential nominations:

Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Thursday, 7th March, 2013 and interviewed six Presidential nominees for appointment to the following positions:

- (i) *Ministers;*
- (ii) *Minister of State; and*
- (iii) *Deputy Ministers.*

Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Inquiring questions put to the nominees pertained to their educational backgrounds, track

records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure. Allegations of malpractices in public office and or unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices of State were very closely looked into.

THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY 7TH MARCH, 2013

The following nominees were interviewed:

(i) *Honourable Mathew M. Teambo, Proposed Minister of Labour and Social Security*

Honourable Matthew Teambo has previously worked in the United States of America. He was a Lecturer and Professor of International Business and International Finance (Graduate and Undergraduate students) Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California, USA. The nominee was also an international banking specialist and has a wealth of management work experience.

Responding to questions, he said that *"in terms of my interaction with my constituents and other political parties within my constituency, I see myself as a peaceful person, a person who sees the world as one; a person who has spent so many years overseas and has always been told, because of my skin, that 'you are an African.' I finally came back home with the spirit and understanding that I only know a Sierra Leonean. I do not know tribes and I would always do the things that would bring the different groups together in harmony. I could spend all my life doing that and I have done it in my constituency."*

(ii) *Mr Augustine Nyuma Kortu, Proposed Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security*

Mr Kortu has executive managerial work experience (in Sierra Leone and Liberia) in a number of private and public institutions. Mr Kortu expressed his determination to work collaboratively with the Minister to strengthen the structures and systems within the Ministry so that there would be effective coordination of activities.

(iii) Mr Karamoh Kabba, Proposed Deputy Minister of Political and Public Affairs

Karamoh Kabba is a writer, novelist, researcher, social commentator and political analyst who have a number of publications to his name. He is currently the Director of Political and Public Affairs in charge of directing the key mandate of the Ministry i.e. to develop policies and programmes geared towards promoting democracy and good governance in Sierra Leone.

Reacting to outstanding allegations of misappropriation of funds of the 'Open Government Initiative' (OGI), Mr Kabba submitted that he had left OGI on his own volition. Explaining the circumstances under which he lost OGI funds, he said, he had departed Freetown with five other persons, on board his Pathfinder jeep, to implement OGI activities in Kono. Before leaving Freetown, Le.38 million out of the targeted Le.58 million had been spent on overnight allowances, fuel, transportation and other things. *"I had the Le.20, 000,000 left in my bag."*

A few miles after Magburaka, he said, they had an accident. The vehicle somersaulted. This attracted about 40-50 villagers to our rescue. The rear window of the vehicle was shattered. "In the process of lifting the vehicle, my bag that had the Le20, 000,000 disappeared. The President was by then in Makeni and we were meant to go ahead to receive him in Kono. Calls were made and the Mayor of Makeni came to our rescue and sent us a vehicle. We were all brought to Magburaka and treated for minor injuries. The matter was reported to the police and statements were obtained accordingly. When the accident occurred, I was more concerned about the lives of those traveling with me. I

called each one by name and helped them to vacate the vehicle as quickly as possible for fear of an explosion. The thought about the money did not really cross my mind at that point in time. *"When news broke out about the accident in Freetown, it was reported that Le58 million was lost in the accident. The press even went further to say that I faked the accident to get away with the Le58 million. But is it really worthwhile to sacrifice a Le60 million jeep and five lives for Le58 Million? I telephoned Paramount Chief Saquee in Kono to lend me Le20 million to implement the OGI programme. We successfully implemented it as if nothing had happened. I later repaid Chief Saquee. I explained my story in an interview that was published in the AWARENESS TIMES newspaper."*

(iv) Mr Alimamy A. Kamara, proposed Minister of Youth Affairs

Mr Alimamy Kamara is a youth activist of eminence. In 2007, he was elected Member of Parliament for Constituency 029, Bombali District. He was re-elected to Parliament in the November 2012 elections.

In his interview, Mr Kamara submitted that he had contested the 2012 election to be a second-term Member of Parliament. He did not see anything precarious in becoming a Minister because he viewed his nomination as a call to national duty. *"As someone who believes in serving humanity, I don't normally pay attention to titles. If it pleases Mr. Speaker, the Clerk to this Committee told me that a few lines have been communicated because of problems with the computer so I would read the lines that have been left out and would graciously ask Members of Parliament please to include what I'm reading now. if it pleases His Excellency, the President to appoint me as Minister, I believe it is God's will and I accept it wholeheartedly."*

Questioned on how he was planning to handle the high expectations of the youths of this country, he said: *"I believe I have a pragmatic character. I have always been truthful, honest and sincere with the youths, those in the ghettos, the universities, those at the business level, you name them. I have been working with them and I have*

known their needs, their expectations and their aspirations across regional and political lines even before now. As I speak to you, I am the Chairman of the "All Political Parties Youth Association. I believe I know the concerns of the youths and they know we cannot meet all their expectations. With sincerity, objectivity and fairness, the youths would understand that which we would be able to do and that which we would not be able to do."

(v) *Mrs Kadija O. Seisay, Proposed Deputy Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs*

Madam Kadija O. Seisay is a Certified Medical Assistant with a wealth of hospital work experience in London and the United States of America. In 2007, she was appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The nominee promised to work assiduously to be the best of her ability (please have that corrected as I read) to the best of her ability for the success of the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

(vi) *Mrs Harriett Turay, Proposed Minister of State, Office of the Vice President*

Mrs Harriett Turay of the 50/50 Group fame is an 'Iron Lady' who has stood her ground for the empowerment and equality of women to men in all spheres of life. Mrs Turay also has a wealth of work experience in the Airline Industry Spanning 1967-1986.

Giving an opinion on the status of women's demand for the 30% quota representation in governance and how her appointment could help, Mrs Turay said that *"the 30% quota was delayed because the issue was not effected before the 2012 General Elections, when it was most needed by the women."* Mrs Turay promised to use her new position as Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President, to work with the various Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Social Welfare, *"to see how we could work together to fast-track the issue of 30% quota for women. I know that in spite of the work that some women have done, particularly the female Members of Parliament and*

other women's organizations, there has been a bottle-neck in the promotion of the 30% quota and that is going to be one of my priorities."

Responding to further questions, she said that the 30% quota women were demanding was not a question of civil liberty but one of right. *"There have been more male leaders than women and we want to catch up so that there could be a balance in representation. It is our desire, as an organization, for women to work alongside the men in the development of our country."*

Recommendations

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

- (i) Hon. Matthew M. Teambo, Minister of Labour & Social Security;*
- (ii) Hon. Alimamy A. Kamara, Minister of Youth Affairs;*
- (iii) Mrs Harriett Turay, Minister of State, V.P. Office;*
- (iv) Kadija O Seisay, Deputy Minister of Tourism & Cultural Affairs;*
- (v) Mr Augustine Nyuma Kortu, Deputy Minister of Labour & Social Security; and*
- (vi) Mr Karamoh Kabba, Deputy Minister of Political and Public Affairs.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eighth Report reflects the view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Eighth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya, Chairman.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU (*Deputy Majority Leader of the House*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to second the motion put by the Majority Leader of this House.

(Question Proposed)

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: This House is again charged this morning to do a very important function. We are charged this morning with the responsibility of approving the nominees of His Excellency the President to various ministerial appointments. I speak not as a member of the Appointments Committee but as a citizen of this country. I am again, like I always say, I am a very happy man. At all time, any appointment made to this Parliament my interest come into play. And this time, a lot of interests have come into play. I must say thanks to His Excellency the President for making these appointments. But it must be stated that the process of appointing persons to positions of authority involves procedures. The President merely nominates and this House approves or sometimes disapproves. But I am happy to note that this time, we have been able to agree with the President's nominations.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, whom are you referring to as 'we'?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: I am referring to the Appointments Committee Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: We on the Appointments Committee have agreed. We on the Appointments Committee have agreed and we are now recommending these nominees to this House. Why am I a happy man this morning? At all time but today, I am extremely happy. I'm happy because I see my product many years ago. I had been a teacher for many years. The number of years I had taught could be older than some of us in this Well *(Laughter)*. Therefore, when I talk about my product, I do so with authority. This morning Mr Speaker, I am happy to join in presenting to this House one of such products which this country is proud of. I am pretty sure that the President did not have any hesitation for being proud of that individual. I am talking about Honourable Mathew Teambo who is now being recommended to this House for approval to the position of Minister of Labour & Social Security. I did teach Mathew

Teambo and I say it with authority. I am saying so because there are unbelieving Thomases in this House. I am happy that my efforts then as a Pupil Teacher did not go in vain. As a Pupil Teacher, I infused in this young man the attributes of leadership and I am happy even before he is about to sit on that sit of authority, proved his wealth of experience and his leadership qualities when he was a Member of Parliament. We all know that before his appointment, he was the Chief Whip of the Majority Party in this House. We also know that before his appointment, he was the Chairman of Transparency Committee. We also know that before his appointment, he was hard working member of the Public Accounts Committee. We on the Public Accounts Committee regret that we would be missing lots on his experience and expertise. But we do hope that what he learnt in the process of his stewardship in this House would help him immensely in setting up the Ministry of Labour & Social Security. We do not have any doubt that he will not be able to do this job. We are only appealing to him that we are not too happy with the operations of the Social Security Division of the Ministry he is going to manage. I am requesting that this House approves his appointment so that he will assume office and look into the social security arrangements of this country. The Social Security is an organisation that has to do with our lives, particularly those who are contributing to the Social Security network and to our many youths who are here to give support to their newly appointed Minister. I will continue going to your office after your approval for the Ministry of Labour & Social Security. That Ministry is a very serious Arm of Government. This is because if the social security network is not properly handled, all the contributions we are making now in the form of NASSIT contributions would go down the drain. Please learn from the Ghanaian experience so that we don't have an occurrence of what happened there. If this House agrees, let me in advance wish you well in your new appointments.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I am again happy this morning to talk about the former Member of Parliament from Bombali, Makeni to be precise. I know that as soon as the President made the announcement, a number of people have come forward to replace him. I am talking about Honourable Alimamy Amara Kamara (*Applause*)

Honourable Alimamy Amara Kamara is not a representative of any political party as he sits there now. We have noticed that he has the qualities of bringing the youths together across party lines (*Applause*). When I was coming up this morning, I saw a number of youths and I was wondering what is happening but when I came and looked into my pigeon hole, the Order Paper suggested to me that the youths of this country are coming to give support to Honourable Alimamy Kamara. I want to tell Honourable Alimamy Kamara that he has a big challenge. He is going to be faced with the problem of controlling the youths. Giving them leadership responsibility is an enormous task. It is not a task to be toying with at all. Honourable Alimamy Kamara is almost going to sit on a time bomb, even though he has accepted the problems of the youths, but let me warn you that you have not known any problem of the youths yet until you occupy that position. You will begin to see the problems as soon as this House approves you. You will begin to feel the problems of the youths of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are few reminders about the new functions he is going to assume. In Parliament, we are talkatives. We are always here to talk. But that Ministry needs more actions, particularly meeting the demands of these angry youths. The youths need jobs. They have come here to give you support so that all what you have said here would be realised. It is my conviction that you have the capacity and it is also my conviction that you need reminders so that you don't fall asleep in the course of your duty. If it pleases this House to approve of you, let me also wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to my brother, Mr Nyuma Kortu. I say so because he is my Kissi brother. If I should stand here and do not say anything about him, I will be remiss in my duties, in my relationship with him. I want to thank His Excellency the President for making this nomination. This is because we would have felt as part of Sierra Leone not belonging to the centre of authority if we have been left out of this nomination process. But I am happy that at least apart from those of us who are in this House, a Kissi man by tribe is going to be approved within few minutes. He is going to sit in the Executive Arm of this Government. We are very proud and I don't

think the new appointment has replaced anybody. It is at the pleasure of His Excellency to make appointments to people whom the President is pleased to appoint. He would do so without any compulsion. I am happy for you my brother. You are going to sit with my student in the same ministry. You are going to be greeted with array of labour issues. Our people at the Guinea border are yearning for jobs. We hope you would open the door and I have no doubt that your experience with our neighbouring country which also has a large number of our brothers will give you some leverage in solving these problems. My happiness does not only stop at this. It goes beyond this Mr Speaker. I come from a district which for many years has not been politically recognised. But this morning, I am happy that His Excellency the President has recognised the importance of having the Kono people in the Executive (*Applause*). I am talking here not as a politician, I am talking here as a senior citizen of Kono District. I am talking about two persons here. I am talking about my sister, a woman who has shown the way for women in this country (*Applause*). I met her in school. She was my senior many years ago. During those years, I have keenly watched her (*Laughter*). I have keenly observed her progress in life.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, don't mind them.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the protection. I have keenly observed her progress in life and I said as an elder sister, let me also do likewise. She has not fallen along the line. She has worked hard and I'm proud to say that she was one of the first Airhostesses this country had produced. Later, she flew in the British Caledonia which later metamorphosed into several other organisations and ended up in the Sierra Leone Airlines. She continued to work with the Airline Industry for a very long time. Along that profession, she was also involved in creating awareness among women, particularly in Kono District, where women are always seen in the backyard. Hence, the issue of women occupying chieftaincy positions in Kono is yet to be resolved, particularly for women who come from chieftaincy houses. We hope that what she has started would be continued on a more vigorous basis so that our women in Kono would also be given recognition in occupying chieftaincy positions. This is not to

say that our male partners would not occupy those positions but our women should be given the chance to also vie for such positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Kabba. He is my nephew Mr Speaker. I am happy for him. He has worked hard for this position and I think for any good work you do, you must have a reward. We must thank the President for this promotion to the post of Director of Political Affairs. You are now going to be an overall director because you were just a small time director in the then Political Affairs Ministry. But you are now going to be Deputy Minister and I am sure the Minister you are going to work with would give you a level playing field to be able to carry out your duties effectively and efficiently.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wouldn't leave Madam Kadija O. Seisay from my discussion. We met many years ago when she was driving her jeep in Magburaka. We spoke briefly. I asked her a few questions about herself. She drives more than a man can do. That is all I know about her (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker, I think we now have somebody in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism whose expertise will be used to improve that Ministry. That Ministry has been in limbo for the past years. We have not had much to write home about as far as the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs is concerned. But I'm pretty sure with the experience and expertise of Madam Kadija, if this House approves her nomination, she will energise that Ministry to greater success. With these few words Mr Speaker, I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. I hope that future speakers would be brief than the few words being used by the last speaker. We should not forget that we are on the Appropriation Sub-committees hearings. All of us must attend.

HON. DAUDA J. B. KALLON: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here today in this Honourable House to say few words about the nominees before us. I am going to be very brief Mr Speaker. I want to start by saying or reechoing the voices from my constituents. They said to me that this is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. And today you can sense the

demonstration of that Mr Speaker. The celebration is in the faces of all those seated here. Our duty is to ensure that these nominees before us go through this House. We are going to give them tickets to serve in the respective Ministries they have nominated for. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me single out one of the nominees here this morning. He is no lesser person than Honourable Matthew Teambo. Honourable Matthew Teambo has been a respectable father in this House. He has been a father who was willing and was committed in promoting the interest of young people in this country. This he has done in this House. As he moves over to his new appointment, if approved by this Honourable House, we know that we still have a reservoir of knowledge to tap from; an encyclopedia when we need more information in this Honourable House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am moving you straight to the man of the day, the man of the hour and the man whose presence here today has brought so many young people from all corners of this country. We appreciate him very much. Mr Speaker, I am talking about Honourable Alimamy Kamara (*Applause*). When the President came to this House in December, 2012, he said: "*I am going to dedicate my lives to the youths of this nation. I am going to commit myself to the aspirations of the youths of this nation.*" Some people were of the opinion that those were mere words. Today, we can sense it from every appointment in this House. For every appointment made there must be a young man or woman to be recognised. We have with us the Honourable Member who is now going into the cabinet and represent Sierra Leone as the Minister of Youths Affairs. He is going to represent us as the Minister of Youth Affairs. I know the youths of this nation are more than happy. We are more than willing to work with him. I know that the youths from Kroobay, those in the Universities (the National Union of Sierra Leone Students), the National Union of APC Students and the young generation of the SLPP are all ready to work with Honourable Alimamy Kamara. All of us are going to enjoy the stewardship of this noble man. He has proven to be one of the many fluent speakers in this House. He was one of the Lead Advocates for youths in this House. Thank you very much my brother. I know within few minutes from now, this

Honourable House will approve you and you would be called the Minister of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot talk much about Honourable Harriet Turay, proposed Minister of State in the Vice President's Office. She is my constituents and a mother to me. And that alone speaks volumes of the commitment of His Excellency to the 30% Quota for the women of this country. The last time, we had with us here the Minister of Local Government, the very first woman to hold that position in this country. She is Madam Diana Konomanyi. Today, we have with us here Madam Harriet Turay. She has worked for the APC party and for this country. And today, her appointment did not come as a surprise to us at all. We believe that women are given space in the governance of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when His Excellency the President appoints somebody to serve this country, I need not say I don't know the person. This is because Christ said once; *"if you know me you will know my Father."* For all of us here, I think we know the President and therefore we know that he is a man that cannot appoint people who are not capable. He is a man that cannot appoint people who are not willing to serve this nation. Therefore, I want to say to this House that we approve all the nominees before us so that they can go to their respective Ministries and do what is right for this nation. On that note, I want to say to all the nominees that they will have our support. And we will ensure that this House gives you the necessary support in your endeavours. Thank you very much.

HON. ISATA KABIA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you this morning to talk on the proposed Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ministers of State. I want to firstly assure you that I have no product among the nominees. But I think this House is charged with a very important duty to perform. The President in his wisdom nominates but this House must do its homework to ensure that we get the best people to serve this nation. The proposed Deputy Minister of Political Affairs, to you I say congratulations. This appointment is an acknowledgement of the

work he has done as a Director. A great deal of expectation has been placed on you. This means that you can do more. In life, people must talk. But let those things that are said about you are actually not true. Let all other things fall by the way side so that you can prove yourself to the world. If we are willing, the accolade today in terms of our political governance system for freedom of political assembly is due to the work of the Political Affairs Ministry. We want to assure you that we've seen what you've done for our country. We really want to assure you that we are going to be with you as you take up this appointment. I would like to implore the Minister, through the Deputy Minister that you position yourself in such a way that you are able to advice our Foreign Affairs Ministry so that we will have a cordial relationship with both friends and neighbours.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have few words for the proposed Minister of Youth Affairs, Honourable Alimamy Kamara is a true Honourable Minister of Youth Affairs. The evidence speaks for itself. But these people are here to support you today. The youths of this country have great expectations from you. Such responsibility is not a light load at all (*Applause*). If our President has committed his life to the youths, I'm sure he is taking you along on that commitment. That is why he is giving you that responsibility.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am particularly interested in the Ministry of Labour & Social Security. I am sure because of the stewardship in my constituency; we have the potential for employment at this moment without the proper structures. I would like to implore on the proposed Ministry of Labour to ensure that amongst its first duties, he must arrest the situation where expatriates are taking our jobs. We don't want a situation in which our youths remain unskilled and untrained (*Applause*). Where our Government has opened up the employment opportunities, your job is to ensure that you provide these opportunities for Sierra Leoneans to realise the benefit of their labour.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Deputy Minister of Tourism and the Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President. I would like to thank his Excellency the President for his commitment to the 30% Quota for women. Even in the

absence of an Act, I would like to assure you that those of us in Parliament will give you the necessary support you might need. And we are looking forward to your leadership. We want you to ensure that we attain not just the 30% Quota, but we go beyond it for the sake of Sierra Leone. This is because in this age, there is no development for any nation where 50% or more of its population is left out. It's our responsibility if we want Sierra Leone to fully develop to include all sectors of our community, especially we the women. The proposed Ministers sitting before us today are charged with the responsibility of unifying our nation. I am saying this because if our political divide is to be closed, it's going to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Political Affairs. If our country is to be peaceful, it is going to be dependent on the Ministry of Political Affairs. It is the responsibility of the Ministers to create jobs and provide opportunities for our youths.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the area of tourism, we've seen the potential revenues that are generated in our neighbouring countries who may not even have beautiful beaches as Sierra Leone. But I know that under the stewardship of the Deputy and the new Minister of Tourism, Sierra Leone would realise its full potential and would see the dividend of this particular division if Parliament approves you. I thank you
(Applause).

HON. ALICE M. FOYAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Today is a very special day for me. I am very much happy. I am overwhelmed why? I am saying this because among the nominees, I have brothers, sisters and friends. The President has also fulfilled one of my wishes. And I would like to thank the President for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start with somebody who is committed to the betterment of our society, somebody who has high integrity. She is a role model and that person is Mrs Harriet Turay. Mrs Turay is a gender activist. Any time you mention 50/50, the name Harriet Turay reflects in your mind. We would not have been able to succeed in forming the Female Parliamentary Caucus in this Parliament without her. Mrs Turay and the other activists were with us at all times. They were and are still with us

in chatting the way forward for the women. Mrs Turay, you promised to make sure that the 30% Quota is achieved. We are looking forward to seeing that realised. And I know you will do it because you have it in your mind. You are a result-oriented person. As my sister just said, we will always be with you as you have always been with us to put us in the right track. When I heard that Mrs Turay was nominated by the President, I jumped because I was so overwhelmed. I said yes, he has done it. Who has done it? The President has done it again. What did he do? He has searched into the area where we have qualified women but are hesitant to come forward into politics. At times when they are asked to come, they always say, S. O. 2 Mr Speaker *"mi de go insay pɔitiks?"* Therefore, I thank Mrs Turay for accepting the President's offer. There are so many questions that do come up when we talk about the 30% Quota. If we have qualified people, our President has given us the answer. And I know that more are coming to serve. And as long as Mrs Turay, who is a state woman, is in that office as a Minister of State, she will encourage her sisters to come out and serve. We have more than enough qualified women in this country to push the 30% Quota. And this is why I am going back and will do that again because I'm pleased and will be always pleased and thankful to the President for keeping his word for the women of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Turay and I met in Kailahun and there was something not favourable going on among the women of Kailahun District. She took her time to put us together. I pray that Mrs Turay will join us in politics. I know she did extremely well in the OGI. She is an iron lady Mr Speaker. She is a woman of substance. She looks like a very modest person but she is a pusher. She believes in what she does and says and that's what makes her strong. That's what makes her an Iron Lady Mr Speaker. And I am convinced that there are lots of Mrs Turays around us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me turn to a person who is so disciplined. He is a gentleman that is straight forward. He is a man of his words and that is no other person but my Honourable Matthew Teambo (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, standing here and talking about Honourable Teambo, I have a mixed feelings. Should I let him go or should I keep him? (*Laughter*) He has done his job here so well Mr Speaker. But again, the

President needs him somewhere else. I know he can do it again. I have that confidence in him. Therefore, I wish him good luck and let me caution him that he should not shut his door at his sister. I am your sister. I met this gentleman in this Parliament. We had so many things in common (*Laughter*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I'm sure we want to know all those things that they do share and have in common (*Laughter*).

HON. ALICE M. FOYAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, both Honourable Teambo and I were 'JCs' from the Diaspora. When we came to Parliament which is common to any new parliamentarian here, we had a feeling that we were here to represent our people; and that, we were here to do our best. And we tried to organise ourselves so that we can improve the lives of our own colleagues in Parliament. Today, we are enjoying that. Sometimes we returned home late in the evening (*Laughter of suspicious jokes across the Floor*). We do come here on weekends. Mr Speaker, am I protected Sir?

THE SPEAKER: Proceed Honourable Member, you are protected.

HON. ALICE FOYAH: I'm not going to say much... - (*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: The less you talk the better Honourable Member.

HON. ALICE FOYAH: Honourable Mathew Teambo, that Ministry is a huge Ministry with many challenges. But I know you can handle those challenges. You are from one of the constituencies with many challenges. But you were able to surmount most of those challenges. If you did at Mile 91, I know you will do it in your new Ministry. I have no doubt about him. I wish him good luck.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move over to a very pleasant young man from Kailahun District Mr Kortu (*Applause*). Mr Kortu is dedicated in helping this country. He was my first Chairman in the Kailahun District Council. When I came to Parliament Mr Kortu was always ready to answer my questions. He was ready to work

with me at any time. We both have a very good work relationship and even when he was nominated, he came and we had some discussions. He was looking for his boss he is going to work with. And I directed him. I am convinced that the President did not make a mistake at all when he chose Mr Kortu to represent Kailahun District. Mr Kortu, thank you for accepting the nomination and I know you're going to do well in that regard. I know we are going to work together again because you and I have this connection. You and I have a common goal; and that is, to see that the lives of our people in Kailahun District are improved. We have to work together so that the people of Kailahun are included in the "*Agenda for Prosperity*." Like what we said the other day, when the time comes, we will separate and each person will take his or her own party colour. But for now, we have to work for the country, especially for the people of Kailahun District. Mr Kortu, I wish you good luck I have no doubt that you can perform well in any capacity you are called to serve. The team is a great team in the Labour Ministry. I know that this team will change many things in that Ministry for the better. Both of you have a lot in common. I wish you good luck.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to Honourable Alimamy Kamara. He is looking at me. I call him my son because he calls me mum. Honourable Alimamy Kamara, you are representing the youths and your mother here is representing the women of this country. Both the youth and the women have been discriminated for far too long in this country. I think we are fighting for the same course. You are such a young man with a lot of energy inside. I want to remind you that if approved today, you would be given more responsibilities. You will need to change your way of tackling problems. There is a saying that 'silence is golden' in some cases. It always pays to keep quiet and listen and most times when you listen, you end up being a winner. I'm talking to you as a mother and I will be checking on you to see how you will be doing (*Laughter*). I am talking to you now in this Well as I used to talk to you when we meet in certain corners. In those corners, I used to advise you to calm down. Alimamy, you are no longer a youth leader. Maybe, you continue to be a Youth Leader but you have

to change to a new direction. The responsibility is huge in that Ministry. Therefore, you need to listen to people. Listen to those who've been in that Ministry before you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the nominees are qualified for their different positions. I therefore recommend them to the House for approval. I thank you Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

HON. P. C. MOHAMED SAMA KAILONDO BANYA IV: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be brief in my intervention in talking about the nominees of the President that are before us today. I will start with Mr Kortu. Mr Kortu is a decent, peaceful, honest and hardworking man. He was once the Chairman of the Kailahun District Council. I remembered I have moved with him out of Kailahun to visit other chiefdoms in the district. He was so caring, particularly about the welfare of the people of Kailahun District. Now that he has been nominated to occupy the seat of Deputy Minister in the Labour Ministry, I have no doubt that he will extend his experience in Kailahun District to the entire country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Kortu's human relationship is enviable. He is very good. He thinks not only of himself but of the people around him. I believe that's the right Ministry the President has nominated him to occupy as Deputy Minister. But Mr Kortu, let me say one thing to you at this point that Kailahun District was a small place. You are now coming to handle the affairs of the workers in this country and people's hopes are in the hands of the Labour Ministry. The future of our children lies in that Ministry. This is because when they deduct NASSIT from our salaries at the end of every month, we go with the hope that at the end of the day we will continue to bring up our children. We are always of the view that we are making some savings. You are going to that Ministry with a hardworking man. He is an honest man in the person of the proposed Minister whom we have known him here for nearly six years. I have no doubt that this is a very good combination. I believe, you will not let us down with those who are nominated from Parliament. I would say you have been Members of Parliament for some years. You are going out there if this House approves your

nomination as Ministers. You still have your colleagues here. We hope and believe that when we go to your Ministries, those formalities that are attached to the ministries would be waived off. Like our Majority Leader always say that Members of Parliament should have no protocol when they go to these ministries. I hope you would observe that. You should set the example for the other ministers to imitate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I turn to Mr Alimamy Kamara. I know you are very happy to be the Minister of Youth Affairs. But I want to tell you that you have been nominated for a very challenging job. We have one group among the youths that is very challenging. That is, those without education, employment or training. That's the group you should target first. If you go round this country, the slogan, 'u bɔrbɔ de o' is everywhere in the country. They always sit by; doing nothing. They want to live on income received but not earned. This is very bad. Recently, with due respect to my colleague Paramount Chief, when we went to Kono, I saw youths begging in Kono. Kono has been a place I think a thing like begging would not exist. When we were in the convoy, very young child was begging for money. Mr Speaker S. O. 2, 'uncle gi mi wan thousand liyons ya.' That's very discouraging Mr Speaker. It is very disheartening. I hope that you will try your best to make sure that you encourage the youths that are not on training, or without employment and education to realise the very fact that there is dignity in labour. We have virgin fields in Sierra Leone. Every day we cry of hunger. I want you to encourage the youths to use their energy, especially those that are not in schools to go back to the fields to work for this country. I know they would not like what I am saying, but this is good for this country. Try very hard to discourage those youths from begging in the streets. It would not help us as a country at all. You can beg today and get your living but if you are sick today in your house, how would you live? How can you take care of yourself? You will not have the ability to go out in the streets to beg. So, your job is a very difficult one Honourable Alimamy Kamara. I hope you will do it because I found you to be very energetic, hardworking and highly devoted young man. So, I don't have any doubt that he will really stand up to this task and perform it very well. Like I said Mr Speaker, my own intervention is very brief. With

these few remarks, I want to urge colleague Honourable Members of Parliament to approve this group of people that have been nominated by His Excellency the President. I think it's a fine combination of people and I think they will represent us very well in their respective ministries. I thank you (*Applause*).

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we Members of Parliament are carrying out our mandate as stipulated in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone; i.e., when the President appoints, Section 56(1) of the Constitution states that all nominees are to be sent to us and the Appointments Committee recommends to this House for plenary approval. Those whom the Appointments Committee believes are competent enough to serve in His Excellency's Executive branch of Government will be approved. Today, you have one of such reports before you. I am a member of the Appointments Committee and am pleased to inform this House that I interviewed all of these nominees. I'm pleased with all of them and I'm sure my colleagues in the Appointments Committee are also pleased with them. But I have to say this, particularly for certain people or certain nominees that were sent to us by His Excellency the President. First of all, Alimamy Kamara let me say that I am really pleased that he was nominated and that he is going to be tested. Others that have served in that Ministry did not pass the test. I hope that he will do well in that Ministry. He is an overactive young man. He must abide by the rules and regulations of the Cabinet. If he is approved by this House today, I say this because I am calling on this House to approve this young man. We will miss Honourable Alimamy Kamara. He is my younger brother. I have been guiding him and have been passing information to him during his participation in sensitive debates in this House. He is a young Member of Parliament who is very difficult to control (*Laughter*). I wish the President well. He will be a good Cabinet Minister because I want everybody to know that when you are loyal to your President in this House and once you go to Cabinet he would be one of the best performers (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't have much to say about Mrs Harriet Turay because I have known her for a very long time. She hails from Kangama Ngolama

naturally but she also happened to be the wife of my late uncle, Justice Katta Turay. She is a good woman. She was so good that since my uncle passed away, she still maintain herself. Since her husband's death, she has never needed the help of another man. She is completely loyal both to her domestic and external obligations and i.e. her life as a public servant in this country. I admire her a lot Mr Speaker. I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to know Madam Kadija Seisay immediately after the elections in 2007. I came to know her by way of a complaint I received from a former cabinet Minister Mr Okere Adams. I asked her to really tell me her own side of the story. I went back to let my brother, Okere Adams know that he has to make up whatever disagreement they had after the 2007 elections and they did. She is a good woman (*Applause*). One can easily misunderstand her if you don't know her well. But I am telling you Mr Speaker that this woman is a good woman (*Laughter*). She will perform well in that office. She has been in that office for a brief period. She is going to perform. Her physical presence will help her in making sure that she performs better than she did previously. I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say few words about Mr Augustine Kortu. I heard that he hailed from Kailahun District. I also heard that he was the Chairman of the Kailahun District Council. After your studies, you decided to come back home. You need to muster all you can when the time comes. But for now, you have to make a living. You are going to do well because you proved it in the Kailahun District Council. Kailahun is a tough district but you proved to the people of Kailahun and the entire country that you are a good man. Now, you have the ability to serve in Cabinet. Please, don't let us down. After your term of office has finished, you have to come back home. You should know that you are on loan to the APC. They know that Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Karamoh Kabba is a good soldier. Your substantive Minister is a good brother of mine and it was some time ago, through him I came to know you. In the last five years, I have watched you closely. I have read your writings, your opinions on issues. Being the Deputy Minister of Political and Public

Affairs means that you have just being promoted from Director to the post of Deputy Minister. It is just a change of nomenclature. I am sure you are going to carry out the same duties that you have been doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would end up with my fraternal friend, Mr Matthew Teambo. I asked him why he wanted to leave Parliament. I told him to remember Victoria Saidu Kamara. Mr Speaker I told her not to go. I said I have a reason why I stayed in Parliament. I have been in Parliament since 1996. I have the opportunity to go but I did not go because I preferred longevity. I preferred serving my country here in the Well of this House. I tried to convince her but she did not listen at all Mr Speaker. I said you are educated, job experience unmatched and character impeccable (*Laughter*). Your output here on the Floor of the House is superb. Why do you want to go? She said: "*call of duty.*" Well, call of duty is like when the Lord calls you. You have to answer. The President has called you, but the President was here in this Parliament. He occupied Minority Chair on this side of the House whilst I was occupying the other side of the House. And a few times I asked him a question: "u na banchelor we u join kaka dɛbul dans?" Least did I know that he would perform well as President of Sierra Leone. But I have my doubt because the man's way of doing things here when he occupied this chair was somehow on average. He is performing well because I have to qualify it. He met an agenda he decided to continue only that he changed the nomenclature from PRSP to '*Agenda for Change.*' And now, another PRSP has come and he has called it the '*Agenda for Prosperity*' when the Agenda for Change is not completed. The two of them are all mixed up together. But let me go back to you Honourable Mathew Teambo. Because of you, I do make frequent stops at Mile 91. There was a time when I was passing, I had to bow under the front seat of my car. But for your sake, I feel safe in Mile 91. I am pleased to inform you that I will be in Mile 91 on Saturday to grace your occasion. You have performed well here. You will not let us down at all. If I have my way, you will stay in this House. You will not go at all. But this is beyond my powers. I wish you well and I'm sure my colleagues on both sides of this House wish you well. I am sure the Majority Leader of this House when he is given the

opportunity by the Speaker to make his contribution on this motion, he will agree with me that you are one of the finest gentlemen that is going out of this Parliament. I thank you Mr Speaker (*Applause*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (*Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a few corrections precedent to my contribution. There is no mix-up in the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity' (*Applause*). No mix-up or box-up at all. There had been an Agenda for Change and what has happened is a transformation from the Agenda for Change to the Agenda for Prosperity (*Applause*). The Agenda for Change is giving way to the Agenda for Prosperity there has been a declaration on that. And that is going to happen because the APC is known for one thing that once we say this, we are going to do it. We have proved it well that is the correction Sir.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Minority Leader also made a comparison. If I want to be more classical, I would say something of an analogy between Victoria Saidu Kamara and Matthew Teambo. In philosophy, we say circumstances alter cases it does not necessary follow that because it happened to Saidu Kamara it is going to happen to Matthew Teambo. We don't argue like that, especially as Legislators. You are an experience parliamentarian. The Deputy Minority Leader is wishing Alimamy Kamara well to go. Does it mean because Alimamy has been a bone in the flesh of the SLPP (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker, we would all agree that Alimamy has been a pain in the neck of the SLPP in this House. So, they want him to go. He is going but I would assure you that he is going to shine where he is going (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me say it here that Mr Kortu is not going on loan because there is a saying SO2 "if u want betε, kam na APC" (*Applause*).

THE SPEAKER: I want to inform our guests from the Gallery to observe some decorum.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, if you want prosperity, you have to come to the APC. And once you are in the APC, you will never go back to the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today as all of us can see, we have a galaxy of women in this appointment. They are all here to support their women nominees in the persons of Harriet Turay and Kadija Seisay, my very friend. Honourable Komba Koedoyoma for whom I have the greatest respect for had said it all. When you see Madam Kadija, believe you me what some people will say S. O. 2; Kadija, "*u na woman bot to God u pas man.*" This is because she is always energetic. She is always full of dreams. She is very vigorous in whatever she does. That is why I would agree with the Honourable Alice Foyah that when she goes to that Ministry, believe you me she is going to give light to a Ministry that is fast becoming moribund. Harriet Turay is a golden name in the 50/50 Group. They have been agitating for so long about this parity of representation that they are now coming very close. And with President Koroma, their dreams are going to be realised in due course. President Koroma is a person that all of us have to rely on. I am saying this because once he says that he is going to do something, certainly, it is going to happen. On the question of women empowerment, the APC really has been doing tremendously well. And when we talk about women empowerment, when we talk about appointing women to certain positions, it is not any woman. We have to be very selective and in being selective today, the lot has fallen on two people, Kadija Seisay and Harriet Turay. We have no doubt that they are certainly going to do well in their new positions. Mr Speaker, so much has been said about these nominees. I need not waste too much time because as the Speaker has said that we have something else to do. The Appropriation Sub-committees hearing are ongoing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Kortu. We have a lady in this Parliament by the name of Honourable Alice Foyah. I have the greatest respect for this woman. There is one thing about her that if she says she is going to criticise, she has some justifications. There are times when she becomes very critical about men. But in your case today, she has paid you very warm compliments that alone speak volumes. I will not add to what she has said. But you can be sure that as long as you have been

commended by no lesser person than the Honourable Alice Foyah, you will have the blessing of this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Kabba of the OGI has been taking Parliament to task. Most of the time whenever there is a gathering of the OGI, the OGI officers will tell people, S. O. 2 "*una tɛl una Members of Parliament wetin den ɔɔ du en watin de fel ɔɔ du*" that is not the business of the OGI as far as I am concerned. Parliamentarians have three principal functions. I want the OGI people to know that. Let them go and tell them the three principal functions of parliamentarians. They are: legislation, representation and oversight. Members of Parliament are not responsible to build hospitals. We don't have any special funds for that. Therefore, the OGI should not be poisoning the minds of people against their Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament are doing what they are supposed to do and what they know they will do and that is precisely what they are doing (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is our day. This means that we have two recruits from Parliament, in the persons of the Honourable Dr Matthew Teambo and Honourable Alimamy Amara Kamara. I will have to say something about them and I will have to proffer a bit of advice to them. Alimamy Amara Kamara has made his mark in this House as one of the vibrant parliamentarians (*Applause*). His contributions to parliamentary debates on a variety of issues have been remarkably impressive. No doubt about that Mr Speaker. If you know him well, I can tell you that Honourable Alimamy Kamara is one person who always wants to succeed in whatever he does or in whatever he is involved in (*Applause*). This Alimamy is behaving as somebody who has a mission to fulfill that explains why he's always seems to be in a hurry. He is always in a hurry Mr Speaker (*Laughter*). Because he has a mission to fulfill more often than not Mr Speaker, Honourable Alimamy Kamara is always in disagreement with people who are lethargic. Alimamy Kamara is almost invariably in disagreement with people who when given the opportunity, fail to perform or fail to deliver. On the other hand, Alimamy Kamara likes hardworking, resourceful, purposeful and result-oriented people. He likes people who have the keen sense of commitment; people who will serve at any

time when called upon to do so. Perhaps, this is why Alimamy Kamara is such an ardent admirer of President Ernest Bai Koroma. President Ernest Bai Koroma admires him, and therefore, he wants other people to perform as well simply because he is also a performer (*Applause*). Alimamy Kamara is a performer Mr Speaker. As President of the APC National Youth League, if you would like to know of which I'm a founder member and as Chairman of the All Political Parties Youth... - (*Interruption*).

Suspension of S. O. 5(2) being 12:00 p.m.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, as I was saying, Alimamy Kamara as President of the APC National Youth League and as Chairman of the All Political Parties Youth Association and also as an active participant in many youth activities, Mr Alimamy Kamara's contribution to youth empowerment has been inculcable. His abiding dream is to see that the youths take their rightful place in society. I can assure you Mr Speaker that Mr Alimamy Kamara has never relented in this pursuit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the light of this Mr Speaker, I submit that if His Excellency the President's determination to transform the youths of this country into very useful and powerful citizen is to become a reality, the President needs men, he needs people or better still he needs youths of positive orientation, youths of the resourcefulness, youths who have the endowment of Honourable Alimamy Amara Kamara (*Applause across the Floor*). Mr Speaker, as I look at you without telling anybody your age you are a youth (*Laughter across the Floor*).

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, for the benefit of all present I am not (*Laughter*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: But Mr Speaker, you have a youthful appearance (*Laughter*).

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much for that observation.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Honourable Matthew Teambo. Mr Speaker, there are some people in life who never

trust themselves into public notice but without whose quiet and intense backroom activities; many a great achievement would never take place. Many a great achievement would never be made and one such person is the Honourable Dr Matthew Teambo (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Matthew Teambo hails from a constituency in Tonkolili District, where no previous Member of Parliament had returned a second time (*Applause*). Only exception has been Honourable Matthew Teambo himself (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, this eloquently attests to his massive popularity with acuteness and dedication as a Member of Parliament. As you all would agree with me that Honourable Matthew Teambo is a likeable person. He has elegant manners as well as a pleasant and decent disposition. He is a brilliant man with a quick and acute perception of things (*Applause*). For those of us who have been in this Parliament with Matthew Teambo, you would agree with me that he is articulate, knowledgeable and he is thorough. Honourable Matthew Teambo is a man of unimpeachable sense of duty. He has always scrupulously carried out any responsibility assigned to him. I can readily testify to that as a Leader of this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, out of Parliament, many people feel kindly towards Matthew Teambo. Some have openly talked about his sincerity. Others have talked about his sense of humility and modesty and this is where I like him. His sense of humility and modesty has been superb. He is very respectful. Mr Speaker, talking about his sense of humility, to me is a striking characteristic of Matthew Teambo. Mr Speaker, I am reminded of a great writer by the name of Venn who said: "*Humility is the greatest ornament of an illustrious life which goes a great way in the character of even the most exalted princess.*" And in another breath, another writer once said: "*Humility is the root, the mother, the nurse and the solid foundation of all vices.*"

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of his humility, his amiability, his simplicity and readiness to serve his people, he succeeded in preparing himself to serve almost everybody in the constituency. Mr Speaker, Honourable Matthew Teambo is going to be

missed sorely by his constituents. As I said, there are two recruits from Parliament. They have been with us and they are now going to serve in the Executive arm of Government. But let me remind them that we have been here. All of us have been very critical of Ministers, particularly Alimamy Kamara. We have been critical of Ministers in this House. You are now going to serve as ministers. And mind you if today you have been able to catch the eyes of the President is because of your performance here in this Parliament. So, it is Parliament that has in fact helped to make you what you are. Therefore, by way of a piece of advice to them, I would want to quote Julius Caesar with reference to my professor Bu-Buakei Jabbi... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Momadu Suma Morie is not here today.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: In Act Two of the book, Julius Caesar (i.e. the development of the conspiracy against Caesar), Brutus said: *"But it is a common proof that loneliness is young ambitious ladder whereto the climax awkward turns its face but when he once attain it utmost rounds, he turn into the ladder turns its back, looks into the cloud scornly paced by which he did ascend"* Mr Speaker, S. O. 2, *"wi get sɔm pipul na dis kɔntri we de wan pawa, de de mek saful saful, de de mek nays to u, den de go it wit u en mek so, bot di mument de gi dem pawa, den de chang pan u."* That is the interpretation from what I quoted from Julius Caesar. So, Alimamy and Matthew Teambo, you are recruits from Parliament. We have been critical of these Ministers because some of them don't provide the necessary access to Members of Parliament. Don't join them in that habit. You have to be different and let them know that you are coming from the legislature. Let me also proffer a piece of advice to the substantive Minister. I have said it times without number in this House that deputies in these Ministries should be treated with the greatest respect. Deputies are not nonentities at all. We have already started receiving complaints in that regard. Substantive Ministers have to work with their deputies. Some of these deputies I submit may even be enlightened and more educated and seniority does not mean that the other man is inferior. He/She is your deputy. You have to work with him/her. You must reckon with your deputy. You are all part of the big game. And as a piece of advice to Matthew

Teambo and Alimamy, more for Alimamy with all sincerity, the Deputy Minority Leader has said it all. Mr Speaker, according to Massinger, He says: Be wise soar not too high to fall but stoop to rise." This is even evident in the Bible. Mr Speaker, I am a Muslim but I have always said that the Bible says: "*blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.*" Mr Speaker, it pays to be humble. I therefore recommend all the nominees for approval to this House. Thank you very much (*Applause*).

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been unanimously ratified)

THE SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Members and Staff of Parliament, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to you and wish you well in your new endeavour. I would encourage all of you to copy from the words of the Honourable Paramount Chief when he was making his statement about Mr Kortu. He said: "*his human relationship is enviable.*" I want to encourage you to practice such so that you yourself will get that reward. I wish you well and good luck (*Applause*).

V. AMENDMENTS TO THE SITTING ARRANGEMENTS

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I go on to make the announcement, some people have left and there would have to be some adjustments.

THE SPEAKER: Order!

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker certain people have left and there would have to be some adjustments in the sitting arrangements. First and foremost, I will now ask Madam Patricia Brown to come and occupy the front seat (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, this is all in line with the empowerment of women by the APC (*Laughter*). Other adjustments would be made later.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of few changes, these few changes have necessitated some amendments to be made in respect of certain Standing Committees and certain Sessional Select Committees. I start with the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. Mr Speaker, Dr Matthew Teambo was a member of the Appointments Committee. And since he is going to serve as Minister in the Executive Arm, he will be replaced by the Majority Chief Whip, Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda (*Applause*). The Deputy Majority Chief Whip is the Honourable Songowa-Bundu (*Applause*). Honourable Alimamy A. Kamara would be replaced by the Honourable Veronica K. Sesay of the SLPP. She is now a member of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. On the Committee of Finance and Development, the Honourable Matthew Teambo would be replaced by the Honourable Rosaline J. Smith. The Honourable Alimamy Kamara who was Deputy Chair of this Committee would be replaced by the Honourable Foday I Suma and he will be the Deputy Chair. In the Public Accounts Committee, the Honourable Matthew Teambo is now going to be replaced by the Honourable Alhassan Jero Kamara. Honourable Alimamy Kamara, who was a member of the Internal Affairs Committee would be replaced by Honourable Dauda J. B. Kallon. In the Committee of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Honourable Alimamy Kamara's place is now going to be taken over by the Honourable Ibrahim Pateh Bah, the man who was sworn in recently. In the Transparency Committee, Honourable Matthew Teambo, who was Chairman of that Committee is now going to be replaced by the Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda as Chair. In the Legislative Committee, Honourable Foday I Suma's place has now been ceded to Honourable Kemokoh Conteh. In Health and Sanitation Committee, formerly chaired by the Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda, is now going to be chaired by Honourable Mabinty Funna. Committee on Lands, Country Planning and the Environment, Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda, who was a member will now be replaced by the Honourable Ibrahim Pateh Bah. In the Human Rights Committee, Honourable Mabinty Funna would be replaced by Honourable Michael Michelle Sho-Sawyer. In the Foreign Affairs Committee, Honourable Dauda J. B. Kallon has ceded his place to Ibrahim Pateh Bah.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to the Standing Orders Committee. Two more members are to be added to the Committee according to the Standing Orders. Mr Speaker, according to S. O. 70 (3a), two more Members are to be added and these would now be given to the Majority Chief Whip, Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda and the Minority Whip, Honourable Mohamed Sidi Tunis. Honourable Dr Matthew Teambo was a member of the Public Petition Committee. He is going to be replaced by Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu. In the Public Accounts Committee Honourable Ansumana Jaia Kaikai would now be a member of this Committee. In the Business Committee, there was also a mistake, particularly in the composition of the membership. Honourable Dr Matthew Teambo's place is now going to be taken over by the Honourable Claude D. M. Kamanda and two more people have been added to make up for the full membership, consistent with the relevant Standing Orders. And these two people are Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu of the APC and Honourable Sulaiman M. Sisay of the APC according to the Standing Orders 70 (2a).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Second Report of the amendments of the Sessional Select Committee list in accordance with Standing Orders 70(b) portrays the collective view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Second Report on the Sessional Select Committee with the various amendments be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to second this motion.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would not ask for a counter motion based on the application before us. What we have heard is coming from the Business Committee. That Committee comprises of Members from both sides of this House.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(Amendments have been ratified).

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION.

MR IBRAHIM S. SESAY (*Clerk of Parliament*): There is hereby established the Parliamentary Service Commission, pursuant to Section 2, Subsection 1 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 2007. Mr Speaker, pursuant to Section 4, Sub-section 4 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 2007 states: "the Chairman and other members of the Commission shall hold office for the duration of the Parliament in which they were elected. I hereby submit for the approval of this House the following to constitute Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission, pursuant to Subsection 1 of Section 4 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 2007. The Commission shall consist of:

- a) Hon. Abel N. Stronge, Speaker of Parliament as Chairman;
- b) Hon. Chernor M. Bah, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chairman;
- c) Hon. S.B.B. Dumbuya, Leader of the Majority Party, Member;
- d) Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai, Leader of the Minority Party as Member;
- e) A representative of Members of Parliament who has been elected as Independent candidate. Mr Speaker we do not have any Independent Member of Parliament;
- f) Hon. P. C. Brima Victor Sidi Kebbie, representative of the Paramount Chiefs in Parliament; and
- g) five other elected Members of Parliament nominated by Members of Parliament reflecting as nearly as possible the numerical strength of the political parties in Parliament and general balance. It consists of:
 - h) Hon. Ibrahim R Bundu, APC;
 - i) Hon. Patricia Brown (Mrs) APC;
 - j) Hon. Hassan Sheriff, APC;
 - k) Hon. Ansumana Jaia Kaikai, SLPP;
 - l) Hon. Gladys Gbappy Brima, SLPP;
 - m) Hon. Claude Kamanda, Majority Party Whip;

- n) Hon. Sidie Tunis, Minority Party Whip; and
 - o) Hon. Ibrahim S. Sesay, Clerk of Parliament and Secretary to the Commission.
- Faithfully Submitted by Ibrahim S. Sesay, Clerk of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I'm sure we all heard the list as was read by the Clerk of Parliament. so I'll put the question again. That this Honourable House adopt and ratify the names of Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission as presented by the Clerk. All those in favour say Aye?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

(The names of Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) as were read by the Clerk of Parliament were unanimously approved).

ADJOURNMENTS

(The House rose at 12.30 p.m. and was adjourned until Thursday, 21st March, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).