

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

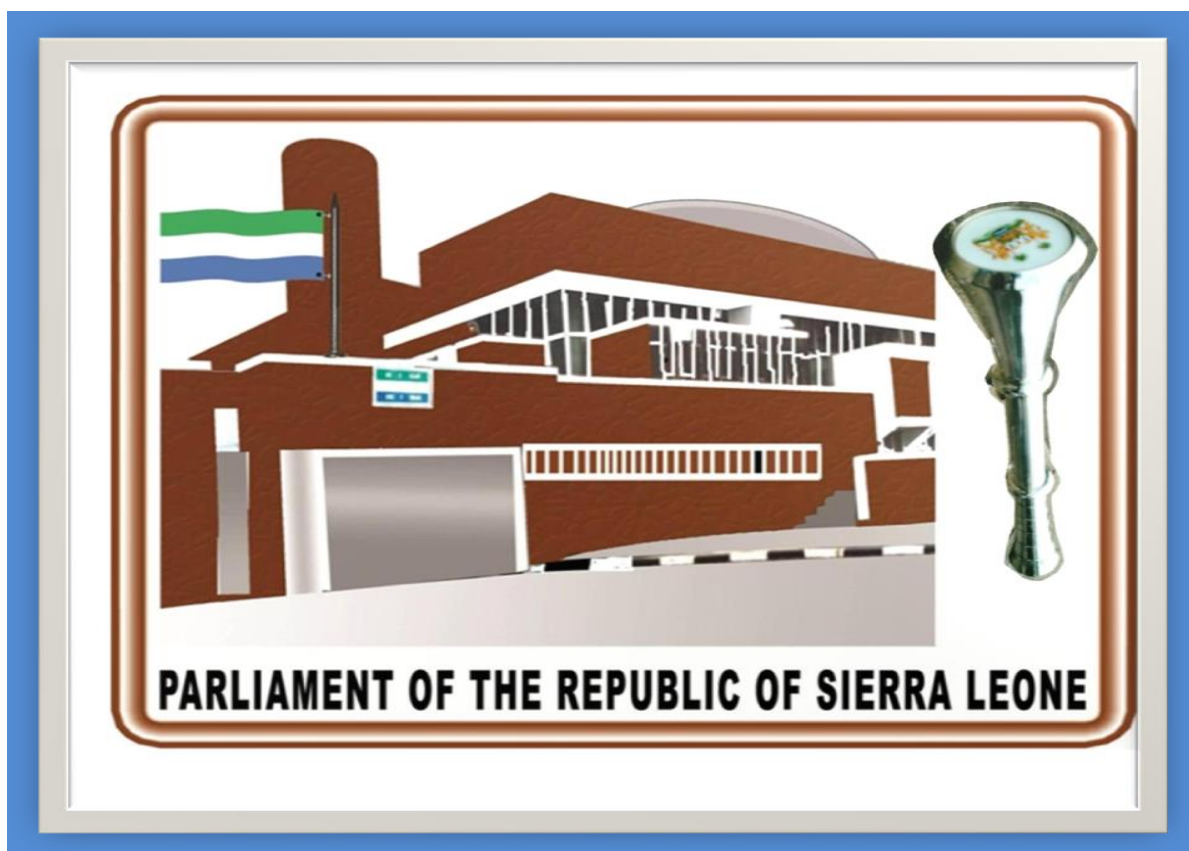
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 2023

SESSION – 2023/2024



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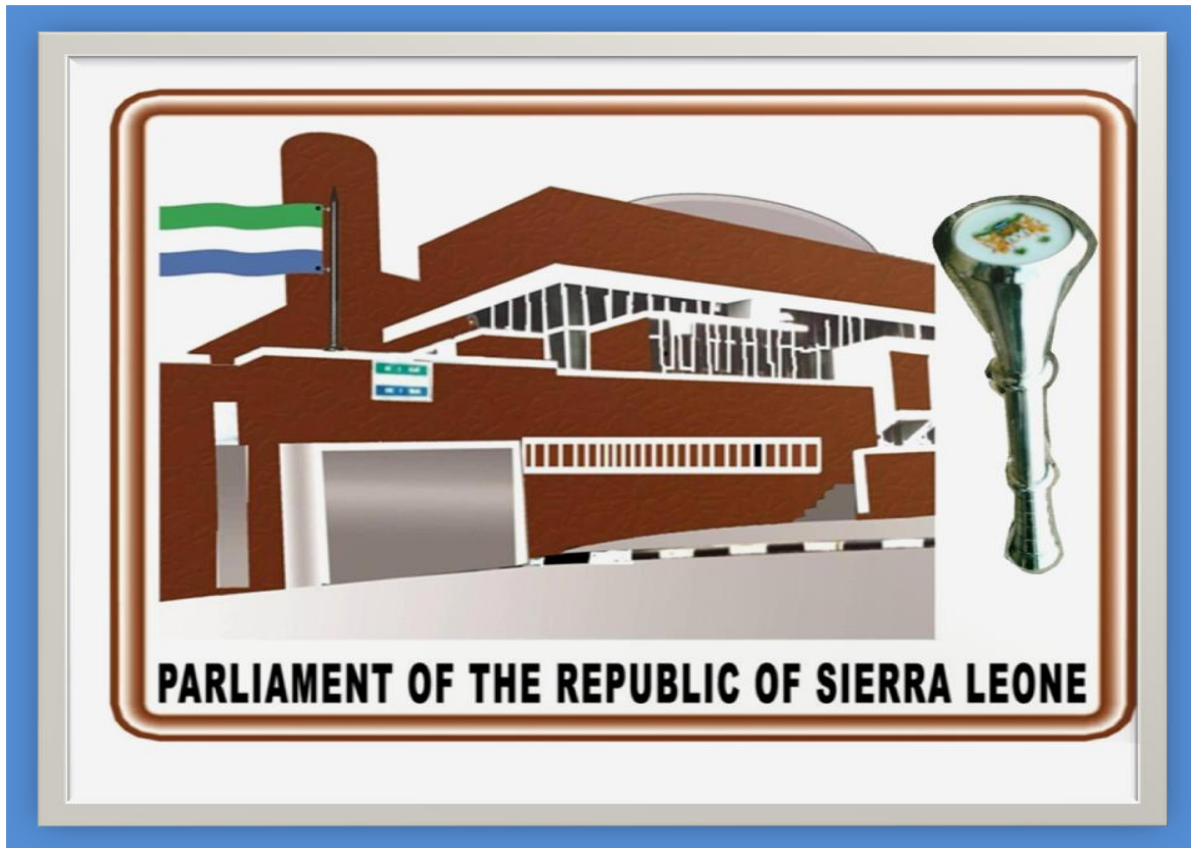
First Meeting of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held Friday, 15th December, 2023.

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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

Friday, 15th December, 2023.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mrs Bintu Weston, read the Prayers]

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

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

The House was called to Order

BILL

THE APPROPRIATION ACT 2024

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, today is Friday I know you all know what that means; some of our Colleagues would want to go for prayers. Before prayers, we should have completed our work for today and anything that is not necessary let us ignore please.

TABLE CLERK: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I pronounce the following vote heads and the corresponding estimates for group one stand part of the schedule. 106.01, 106.02. 106.03, 106.04, 109.01, 110.06, 116.01, 135.02, 138.01, 201.01, 207.01, 210.01, 314.01, 315.01, 404.01, 416.01, 701.01, 701.01.

MR SHEKU AHMED FANTAMADI BANGURA [THE MINISTER OF FINANCE]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following vote heads stand part of the schedule. 106.01 Office of the Chief Minister **Le24,115.700Mln**, 106.02 Office of the Presidential Infrastructure Initiative **Le1,500.000Mln**, 106.03 Governance Advisory Unit **Le752.700Mln**, 106.04 Delivery and Performance Tracking **Le1,131.600Mln**, 109.01 Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion **Le5,906.700Mln**, 110.06 Independent Media Commission **Le2,097.500Mln**, 116.01 Parliament **Le60,000.000 Mln**, 135.02 Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation **Le3,960.700Mln**, 138.01 Statistic Sierra Leone **Le7,921.500Mln**, 201.01 Ministry of Defence **Le441,035.303Mln**, 207.01 Sierra Leone Correctional Services **Le156,983.600Mln**, 210.01 Office of National Security **Le17,474.600Mln**, 314.01 National HIV and Aids Commission **Le2,829.100Mln**, 315.01 Teaching Hospital Complex Administration **Le2,602.800Mln**, 404.01 Ministry of Transport and Aviation

Le86,581.800Mln, 416.01 Civil Aviation Authority **Le76,315.700Mln,** 701.01 Western Area Rural District Council **Le6,771.677Mln,** 701.01 Kenema District Council **Le8,234.124Mln.**

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that the following Vote heads and corresponding estimates as pronounced by the Minister of Finance stand part of the schedule.

TABLE CLERK: Report of sectoral Committee under consideration by the Chairman of Group one [1].

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I am happy to report on behalf of Committee One. Committee of Supply report on the Appropriation sub Committee One is going to be presented by Honourable Dickson Rogers.

Mr Chairman, our report is divided into two, we have part one and part two. Part one will give you the table of contents and part two will give you the specific findings and recommendations.

Mr Chairman, you have already given us a notice and you informed us that today is Friday and all of us know that today is Friday and I am going to be very brief.

A. Introduction as stated. B. Votes head and amount as stated. MDA's heads including the sub heads for 2024 fiscal year as stated. Procedure as stated, mandate as stated. Mr Chairman, following the queue of my colleague MPs who read their own reports yesterday, I want to briefly introduce Members of my Committee, myself Honourable Dickson Momoh Bompeh Rogers, Honourable Kekura Vandi who is the Chairman for the Parliamentary Committee on Energy. Mr Chairman, I am happy to report to this House that because we have the Chairman of Energy Committee since we started our probing into MDAs we did not experience blackout, thank you very much Mr Chair. We have Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao, we used his IQ as Lawyer to make sure that we probed into those questions and answers given to us adequately. We have Honourable Abdulai Osman Charles, Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray, Honourable Mariama

Bangura who was very much great and I want to thank her very much for her contribution, she actually helped our Committee to work faster. We have Honourable Sama Musa Shiaka, Honourable Hawa Rosaline Saffa, because of her NGO background we were able to probe better into some MDAs that deal with NGOs, we have Honourable Fallah Kewa Tengbeh, Honourable Hamidu Hollah Mansaray, Honourable Mohamed Kamara, Honourable Alex Mattia Rogers and Honourable P.C Sahr Quee [V]. We also have the secretariat, Augustine Sesay who was the Lead Clerk, Bernadette Sorie Assistant Lead Clerk, Sidratu Deen Kuyateh and Gladys Mark Turay.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we have some acknowledgement but we are not going to read through because of time so as stated. General observations and recommendations Mr Minister please because of time factor we have two sets of recommendations, we have the general recommendations and the observations and recommendations. As a Committee we did not write our report together but you will find out that almost all the recommendations and observations are the same so please look into those observations very seriously. General observations and recommendations as stated. We go straight to page 9 we have specific observations and recommendations and they are also similar to all the Committees because almost all the observations from every MDAs are almost the same. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and Mr Minister I want you to pay specific attention to the Ministry of Defence, look at their recommendations very seriously that is vote head 201.01 Ministry of Defence as stated. Vote head 138.01 as stated Statistic Sierra Leone. We have vote head 314.01 National HIV and Aids Commission and vote 210.01 Office of National Security. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and Mr Minister please we have time constrain but I want you to look into ONS very seriously and please help in giving them money to do more recruitment, because we do not need to sit down until things happen before we start to look for ways to solve them. The ONS is very under staff Mr Minister and their role is very pivotal in the society taking into consideration where we are today, they need to do more

recruitment please note that Mr Minister. We go to page 15 vote 416.01 Civil Aviation, page 18 vote head 109.01 Independent Commission Peace and National Cohesion. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and Mr Minister, I want you to look into the recommendation we made for this Peace Commission, they are actually under staff and not only under staff I think they are underfunded and therefore they are under utilized taking into consideration the present trend in the Country we need to make sure that those people are well taken care of. You go to page 19 vote 207.01 Correctional Centre I think they also have the same problem Mr Minister of course you know and everybody knows in this country now that the Correctional Centre needs attention as read Mr Chairman. We go to page 20, Teaching Hospital Complex Administration Vote 315.01 as stated. I move you to page 22 110.06 Independent Media Commission as stated. Let me take you to page 24 vote 116.01 Parliament, Mr Minister you were here yesterday, we had very heated debate on Parliament budget and as far as our Committee is concerned the budget Parliament presented to the Ministry was not what they approved and if you want this Parliament to function as they are supposed to function as one Arm of the Government we need to pay serious attention to Parliament. I can tell you for free Mr Minister that a lot of Committees did not go on oversights this year because our budgets were not met. I think Mr Minister is very unfair to us like the Deputy Leader is saying we sit here as Parliament, we approve budget for MDAs they are paid and when you come to Parliament we are underpaid. You have been a very good friend of Parliament please continue on that. I am really tempted to go by the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh's recommendations yesterday but I don't want to come to that yet until we listen to your response. Mr Chairman, I take you to page 26, 404.01 Ministry of Transport and Aviation as stated. I take you to page 28 Office of the Chief Minister, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, when you look at the Office of the Chief Minister and when you put all of those budgets together you would find out that they are by far outweighed the one for Parliament and the work of Parliament, we supervise all of those MDAs. We are not questioning the budget that was allocated to those MDAs but what we are appealing for is for you to please

reinstate the budget we requested for if not in this budget but please we are appealing for supplementary budget. And when you are doing supplementary budget in this Well if at all you have to, if Parliament is not there you can rest assured that we will not even debate it, thank you very much. Page 30 701.01 Western Area Rural District Council as stated, page 32 Kenema District Council 701.01 as stated.

Conclusion, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee hereby recommends the adoption of the report of Appropriation sub Committee One by this Honourable House and that the budget heads including sub heads of MDAs listed below stand part of the schedule in respect of budgetary provision of the fiscal year 2024. I thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, your views in two minutes please.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Mr Chairman, my view is a continuation of what I stated yesterday and today am relying on sub section 4 of section 74 since section 40 of the Public Financial Management Act cannot allow us to increase expenditure in the Budget presented to us. It is but wise that we rely on 74 [4] and remove Parliament Budget so that we can add our Public Investment Budget or Public Investment programme for Parliament to improve the edifice of this Parliament.

Mr Chairman, it is shameful we don't have offices, I was told by the Honourable Sheridan from Kambia, when he was fighting to come to this House he was expecting that when he comes he would have office but it surprises him when he came he was seated at the Canteen or he could find himself in the Lounge sitting there to discuss with strangers and other people that will just come to Parliament unsolicited. Mr Chairman, I would crave on your indulgence that we take out Parliament budget since we don't have the power to increase the expenditure under the Law but I will remove Parliament budget and we set out our Public investment programme for submission to the Ministry of Finance *[Applause]*.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. We listened to the Motion moved by the Honourable from Western Area yesterday and the Leader of Government Business came and the Motion was put in ambeyance and we agreed with him, but we all know the economic situation in the World today of which Sierra Leone is part of.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I will advise that after the end of today's meeting

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: So basically before the Leader rose up, the Leadership of the Ministry of Finance has been very cooperative to the best of my knowledge about Parliament because we have discussed almost all of these and we have agreed on them and they have applied so I think we should deepen our decisions probably outside this Chamber.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, am actually constrain with 65[2] I want you all to address your minds to 65[2] if you can take a look at 65[2] and I want to go in line with the Chairman, that we will meet immediately after here let us have some deep decision or conversation on this. Please address your minds to 65[2].

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I will advise that the Chairman for Committee 11 keep his report for next week until our decision is met.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will not put the final questions.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I know what I am saying, the report has recommendations
[Interruption]...

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: We will basically not conclude the first reading because there are 11 Committees and we did three yesterday there are about five ready for today if time can permit us, so we will definitely conclude by next week.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I am saying for Committee 11 specifically that is dealing with the Ministry of Finance to keep your report until after our meeting with the Ministry of Finance and we will allow other Committees to present their reports.

THE CHAIRMAN: You know this is under Committee Group 1, under group 1 we have Parliament.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No! No! I am not talking about Parliament they have read Parliament. I am saying Committee 11 that dealt with the Ministry of Finance should keep their report for next week until after our meeting with the Ministry of Finance.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why Ministry of Finance?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I know what I am saying.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Chairman, invite him to talk to you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Approach me.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you very much because I am not sure if we can hold the Ministry of Finance's budget that is my view Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I don't know what you are going to report to us from the conversation you have with the Deputy Leader, but I think because we are talking about Parliament here we have read Parliament report but we can suspend the approval of Parliament's budget for now and we approve the Ministry of Finance's budget.

THE CHAIRMAN: Exactly, we are putting the one relating to Parliament in abeyance until after our meeting with the Minister. So Mr Minister when you read leave out Parliament.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We can approve all vote heads and for the time being leave Parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN: With the exception of Parliament until after our meeting.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes we can approve all vote heads.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay Mr Minister let me hear you.

THE MINISTER: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. The report is advised to pay attention to Defence, ONS, Peace Commission, Correctional Services, but also Parliament is noted, I just want to note that the budget provisions for Parliament are more than 95% considered as presented. The adjustment we made were rationalized within the over all resource envelope in allocation across the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, ignore the one relating to Parliament proceed with others.

THE MINISTER: Fair enough, we really did consider based on the on-going consultations but I will leave that as advised. And just to know that we proceed in our own move that the vote heads and corresponding estimates are as amended by the discussions stand part of the schedule.

[Question Proposed]

TABLE CLERK: The following vote heads and corresponding estimates as pronounced by the Minister of Finance with the exception of Parliament has formed part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which other group?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, in order to expedite things, may be before or during this presentation can they give you serially the list to be presented, the list of Committees so you will announce early to the Chairman, so they can prepare themselves. While we are going along the list let them give you the list.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree. Who is the Chairman for group 7 are you here? Okay you are here.

TABLE CLERK: Group 7 Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I pronounce the following votes and the corresponding estimates for group seven to stand part of the schedule 409.03, 417.01, 112.01, 426.01, 305. 01, 428.01, 413. 017.01, 124.03 01, 401.15, 108.01, 214.01, 302.01, 323.01.

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed Mr Minister.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following vote heads stands part of the Schedule 409.03 Department of Corporative Le2,158.000Mln, 417.01 Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority **Le7,097.400Mln**, 122.01 Human Resource Management Office **Le5,092.400Mln**, 426.01 Sierra Leone Seeds Certification Agency **Le3,480.400Mln**, 305. 03 National Tax Force And Human Trafficking Secretariat **Le2Mln**, 428.01 National Investment Board **Le6,610.600Mln** 413.01 Sierra Leone Electricity And Water Regulatory Commission **Le1,358000Mln** 701.12 Tonkolili District Council **Le12,924.517Mln**, 403.01, Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources **Le1,972.500Mln**, 701.15 Bonthe Municipal Council **Le4,428.596Mln**, 108.01 Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission **Le4,3300Mln**, 214.01 National Cyber Security Coordination Centre **Le3,631.600Mln**, 302.01 Ministry of Sports **Le5,526.500Mln**, 323.01 National Public Health Commission **Le10Mln**.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that the following vote heads and corresponding estimates as pronounced by the Minister of Finance stand part of the Schedule.

TABLE CLERK: Report of the Sectoral Committee under consideration by the Chairman of group 7.

HON. ABDUL LATIFF SESAY: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am here to read the report of Group 7 for the Sub Appropriation. Mr Chairman, I want to go straight to the Committee Members that form part of this Group that is Honourable Abdul Latiff Sesay, Chairman, Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura, Deputy Chairman, Honourable Alpha Amadu Bah, Honourable Komba Quee, Honourable Habib Keifala Fabbah, Honourable Alfred Ayodele Thompson, Honourable Ibrahim Kabba, Honourable Sia Mahawa Tommy, Honourable Paul Samba Conteh, Honourable foyoh Tholley, Honourable Lucinda Finda Kelly, Honourable Massay Ngahiteh Aruna, Honourable P.C Kandeh Barba. Mr Chairman, I want to do as my colleagues did to skip certain areas that you think are generic and we go to the specifics. Let me start with the first vote head that we looked in to that is the vote head 409. 03 Department of Cooperatives.

Mr Chairman, when we looked at this institution we realised that they are faced with a lot of challenges and those challenges are making them not functional as the way they are supposed to be. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommended that the 2024 Budget of **Le2,158.000Mln** to be approved and requested the Ministry of Finance to make full disbursement of same to the MDA in 2024. Considering the inadequacy of this amount for the MDA, the Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Trade should hold a bilateral dialogue on how the Budget ceiling could be increased going forward and to discuss the viability of the institution. The Committee encouraged the Registrar to continue to tap into Donor partners and Global cooperative organisations for support. The Cooperative Society Act of 1977 to be reviewed it is very old Mr Chairman. The Ministry of Trade and Department of Cooperative worked together to resuscitate the National Cooperative Development Bank to help cooperatives society. We go to vote head 417.01 Nuclear Safety and Radiation I go straight to recommendations.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, amidst the enormous challenges in the institution still faces however, in order to increase fund generation in the 2024 financial year NSRP proposed **Le7,092,400Mln** budget is adequate. We go to vote head 122.01 Human Resource Management Office. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we consider the prevailing Global economic situation the Committee considers this allocation fairly adequate, the Committee recommends supplementary allocations contingent on improved revenue generation above what has been budgeted. Vote head 426.01 Sierra Leone Seeds Certification. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee noted that Agencies failure to generate revenue from quality control and certification and seed testing activities for two consecutive financial years including 2023 due to seed actors non compliance with regulatory requirement as reported by the Commission during the setting. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommended that the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture conducts an Oversight to investigate the reason for the non compliance and in the light of the forgoing, the Committee considers the 2024 Budget of **Le3,480,400Mln** adequate and recommends for its

approval. Vote Head 305.03 National Tax Force for Human Trafficking Secretariat. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considers supplementary budget provisions for this Secretariat taking into account the setting up of office and Staff recruitment and postings. A supplementary Budget requests within earlier Budget submitted is hereby recommended because is a new institution. Vote Head 428.01 National Investment Board. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, to enable this Agency drive and compete with similar institution in the sub region, the Committee recommends that the allocated amount of **Le6,610.600Mln** be disbursed on time and that a supplementary provision be granted in event of clearly proven demands and contingent on the availability of additional resources. We go to Vote Head 413.01 Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we observed that the Commission started paying monies into the Treasury Single Account in October 2023. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that these regulators for the supplies of Electricity and Water always fails to comply with section 25 [1] of the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission Act for the payment of 1% of their gross operating revenue from the supply of their regulated service. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considers that the 2024 Budget of **Le1,358.000Mln** allocated by the Ministry of Finance fairly adequate and recommends its approval. The Committee of Energy and Water Resources of the Parliament of Sierra Leone to jointly investigate the non compliance of Guma Valley Water Company and EDSA on the statutory tariff payment to the Commission and report to Parliament, that the utilization of revenue generated by the institution should be done in accordance with the Law. We go to Vote Head 701.12 Tonkolili District Council. Key findings, during the cross examination the Committee noted that Council faces the following challenges in their revenue generation collection drive, huge tax invaders, lack of mobility for revenue mobilization, and poor revenue collection. Recommendations, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and the Committee considers the 2023 Budget of **Le12,924.517Mln** as adequate and recommends its approval and timely disbursement. We go to Vote Head 403.01 Ministry of Mines and Mineral Recourses. The Committee considering the strategic role of the

Ministry in policy formulation and strategic mining policy drive recommends supplementary Budget provision on a clearly identify deliverable during the current fund laminations. We go to Vote Head 703.15 Bonthe Municipality we recommend that the Committee urge the Municipality to apply the laws to the fullest and ensure that there is compliance on tax generation or collection. The Committee considers the 2024 Budget of **Le4,482596Mln** as inadequate and recommends for a supplementary Budget if available. Then we go to Vote Head 108.01 Sierra Leone Small Arms Commission. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the Commission to retain a certain percentage from revenue they generate, details of this can be discussed between the Ministry of Finance, NRA and the Commission.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the proposed 2024 allocation for the Commission is considered inadequate and recommended its approval, the Committee further recommends that this institution institutes vigorous measures of registration and license of fire arms to boost revenue generation. Vote Head 214.01 National Cyber Security Coordination Centre, this is a new Institution and Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considers supplementary Budget provision for this Agency taking into account the sensitive nature of its operations and the need for it as information technology advances. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observes that since the centre was created in 2022 is yet to have an established office space and thus recommends that because of the sensitivity or the sensitive nature of its operations the Ministry of Communication and Innovation together with the Ministry of Finance facilitates the acquisitions of office space for the centre. Vote Head 302.01 Ministry of Sports. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in light of the following the Committee considers 2024 Budget that is **Le5,526.500Mln** adequate and recommends its approval. Vote head 323.01 National Health Commission it is also a very new Commission. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considers the Budget inadequate taking into account the sensitive nature of the Health sector and the need for it at this particular time and recommends timely disbursement.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in conclusion I here recommend that the report of the Appropriation Committee 7 be adopted by this House and that the Budget Vote heads including sub heads of MDAs as listed below stand part of the schedule in respect of the Budget provision for the financial year 2024.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Chairman. Honourable Members, your views in two minutes please.

HON. SALIA QUINTIN KONNEH: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Just a very short one with regards to the Councils, we all know the Government has some challenges in order to provide adequate funds for all MDAs but again in the same vein some of these MDAs have been given the authority to generate revenue for their operations and every year the Councils are faced with the challenges in terms of generating revenue and if you look at the mandate of Councils there is a whole list of areas for revenue generation but yet every year they come with the same challenges. There are no strategies brought forward in terms of going around the challenges to make sure they are able to generate more revenue but yet they depend on the Central Government for disbursement of funds for their operations. So it is a concern for us as Honourable Members, if you have been given the mandate to generate revenue for your operations and you are not doing anything so we expect that the delegated Officials of those Councils sit down quietly to develop strategies. How do we mitigate the challenges? How do we minimise the challenges in those areas so that they will be efficient in whatever they do? It is a concern that we really need to engage the Chairman responsible for the Local Councils Committee in Parliament. I think the Chairman should be thinking in that vein to start checking the Councils on what strategies they are bringing forward in terms of actually making sure they are able to generate revenue. I thank you.

THE MINISTER: Thank you very much Mr Chairman, Honourable Members. Thank you Mr Chairman of Group 7 your recommendations are well noted. We would ensure that the MDAs are priced accordingly. But I do take note of the matter with the Councils, the Government through the Local Government Act has actually devolved and assigned

clear mediate for own source revenue mobilization. It behoves the Councils to be innovative in ensuring that they do something about it, they can actually make effort in mobilising from many sources whether it is property taxes which I think predominantly the domain of Councils to mobilise resources. There are some of the Councils that I think are doing well in that area that can give them a lot of resources but beyond that I think there are other sources of revenue from business licenses, taxes and the like that I think they have to take advantage of. Other area is to ensure that they work very effectively even with the NRA in making sure that these assignments are done. So deeper engagements are required and I take note very well the contributions by the Honourable Member in that respect.

Mr Chairman, I do take note of the issues around EDSA and Guma Valley the legal issues around their contributions. I think we will take that up with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Commission itself and dig into it and try to understand exactly how we could resolve that. Those are issues that I think are pertinent added to all the other recommendations that have been put forth by the group and on that note Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the Vote Heads corresponding estimates stand part of the schedule.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreement To]

TABLE CLERK: The following Vote heads and corresponding estimates as pronounced by the Minister of Finance form part of the schedule.

TABLE CLERK: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I pronounce the following Vote Heads and Corresponding estimates for Group 3 to stand part of the schedule.

428.02, 107.01, 124.02, 405.01, 424.01, 421.01, 423.01, 408.01, 124.05, 137.01, 112.04, 419.01, 701.14, 701.09.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following vote heads and corresponding estimates stand part of the schedule. Committee of Supply Group 3, 428.02, Sierra Investment And Export Promotion Agency **Le5,884.500Mln** , 107.01, Ministry of Local Government And Community Affairs **Le10,861.300Mln**,

124.02, Administrator and Registra General **Le7,431.900Mln**, 405.01 Ministry of Tourism And Cultural Affairs, National Tourist Board **Le6,110.800Mln** various Guma Valley Water Company, 410.01, National Protection Area Authority **Le5,500.000Mln**, 424.01, Sierra Leone Petroleum Directorate **Le34,40.600Mln**, 421.01 Small And Medium Enterprise Development Agency **Le4,150.100Mln**, 423.01, Sierra Leone Petroleum Agency **Le39,638.400** 408.01, Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure **Le47,913.800Mln**, 124.05 Legal Aid Board **Le8,200.000Mln**, 137.01 National Commission for Democracy **Le3,847.600Mln**, 112.04 Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Secretariat **Le2,500.000Mln**, 419.01 Local Content Agency **Le3,621.200Mln**, 701.14 Bo District Council **Le8,718.308Mln**, 701.09, Kambia District Council **Le9,978.549Mln**.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

TABLE OF CLERK: Report of Sectoral Committee under considerations by the Chairman of Group 3.

HON. SALIEU OSMAN SESAY: Thank you very much Mr Chairman, Honourable Members. I am the Chairman of Group 3 Salieu Osman Sesay from Bombali District. Mr Chairman, pages 1, 2, 3 and 4, as listed I want to crave the indulgence of the House to move to page 5. Page 5, vote head 428.02, Sierra Investment and Export Promotion Agency [SLIPA] as stated. Recommendations Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance approves the recruitment of Staff in the 2024 Budget, second the National Investment Board negotiates for increase in salary of SLIEPA, third the Ministry of Finance procures and provides vehicles and other logistics support for the Agency. Fourth, that the Ministry of Finance realises disbursement on timely basis. Five, for Audit purposes accountability and transparency and prudence it is hereby recommended that the Director of Finance and Administration for SLIEPA paid the Director of Finance and Administration for the NIB Secretariat since there is an on-going negotiation to operate as a single Centralised Accounting system under the NIB. And final recommendation the Committee views the allocation as adequate and recommends its approval. Vote head 107.01 Ministry of Local

Government and Community Affairs as stated. Page 7 recommendations, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance provides funding for medalling for Tribal Heads and a symbol for Authority and bells for Head Men in Western Rural Area District as a sign of a motivation and respect. Second, recommendation is that the Ministry of Finance provides adequate funding to construct court 'barrays' in all the 41 newly amalgamated Chiefdoms. Looking at the proposed expenditure of the Ministry, the Committee considers the financial year 2024 allocation to the Ministry as inadequate and recommends a supplementary Budget. Vote 124.02 Office of the Administrator and Registrar General observations as stated, findings as stated. Recommendation, the condition of service for staff should be improved by the Ministry of Finance in the financial year 2024 while the Committee views the allocation as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. The Committee also recommends that the Ministry of Finance allows detention of certain percentage of the revenue collected by Registrar General. Vote head 405.0 Ministry of Tourism, National Tourist Board as stated, page 9, key findings as stated, key recommendation in light of the above findings the Committee recommends as follows: Ministry of Finance and donor partners to support the Board in the area of vehicle and logistic to enhance effective mentoring and supervision, timely disbursement of funds, National Tourist Board and its Ministry to review and strengthen the laws of Tourism revenue generation. The Ministry of Finance to approve the employment of contract Staff, the committee views the allocation on the Board as adequate and recommends for its approval. Various, Guma Valley Water Company key findings as stated. Recommendations the Ministry of Finance should increase funding for Guma Valley and prioritise water delivery services to the residence of Freetown. The Committee recommends debt swapping between Guma Valley and NRA in order to augment the long standing arrears. Mr Chairman, as you know this Ministry is suffering from collecting revenues from key MDAs so there is huge trunk of money in the hands of Government so we are recommending that there is a swap between the Guma Valley and the NRA so that these long standing arrears will reduce. And finally on the recommendation the Committee recommends a supplementary budget and timely realised. Vote Head 410.01 National Protected Area Authority [NPAA]

as listed key finding and challenges as stated. Recommendation the Committee the following disbursement of amount allocated for financial year 2023 that the conservation trust fund is given a separate vote head by the Ministry of Finance going forward. The Committee view the Authority allocation as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

Mr Chairman, vote head 424.00 Sierra Leone Petroleum Directorate key delivery as stated, key findings as stated. Recommendations in order to increase revenue generation by the Directorate the existing surface should be captured in the model petroleum Agreement and any suggested news steam may affect the stabilization Clause included in this Agreement. Two, while the Committee considers the allocation of **Le34.04Mln** as adequate the recommendation for its approval the Directorate is hereby urge to employ aggressive marketing strategies and intensify consultations and collaborations with good international oil companies. Vote head 421.01, Small Medium Enterprises Development Agencies as stated, page 15 as stated. Recommendations the Committee recommends the Ministry of Finance to provide mobility to enhance monitoring of MUNAFA Funds. The proposed allocation is good as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. Vote head 423.00, Sierra Leone Petroleum Regulatory Agency as stated, key finding as stated. Recommendations, the Committee recommends that the Government must invest in tank farms and introduce regional tanks farms across the Country. Following the lessons learnt from the twin Global shocks leading to the Cabinet approval it is compelling that the Agency be funded accordingly for the establishment of State owned authority in the short term 2024 this State owned petroleum Authority will participate in fuel importation storage and retailing. This Authority is expected to serve as Government arm external petroleum trade Finance and Government to Government product borrowing.

The Committee view the allocation adequate and therefore recommends its approval. Vote Head 408.01 Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure as stated. Recommendations in order to ensure value for money in public Finance Management the Committee recommends that, the Government constructs its own building for some

MDAs in order to reduce huge expenditures on rent. Two, to give adequate and timely release of Budgetary allocation. Three, The Committee views the allocation of this Ministry as adequate and hence recommends for its approval and the Ministry of Finance should look into the challenges of the Ministry.

Legal Aid Board Vote 124.07 as stated, key findings as stated. Recommendation, the Committee views the allocation as adequate and recommends for its approval and the Ministry looks into the above challenges. Vote Head 137.01 National Commission for Democracy [NCD] key findings and recommendations as stated. The Committee recommends for the Commission to effectively perform its function, the Committee reviewed the allocation as inadequate and recommends for supplementary budget. Vote Head 419.01 Local Content Agency as stated, findings as stated. Recommendations, the Ministry of Finance should allocate more funds to the Local Content Agency and release them on time. The Ministry of Finance should approve the man power plan requested by January 2024 financial year. The Local Content Agency is encouraged to do continuous public education on their mandate and expectation from them. The Committee viewed the allocation of the Agency as inadequate and therefore recommends a supplementary budget to enable training and skill development of our youthful population.

Bo District Council 701.00 as stated, key findings challenges as stated. Recommendations, the Committee recommends to the central Government institution to release the staff to the devolved sector of the Council to ensure complete revolution to increase funding to the Council for project implementation and service delivery. Three, the proposed allocation for Bo District Council is real as inadequate and hence recommends for a supplementary. Vote Head 709.09 Kambia District Council as stated, key findings as stated. Recommendations, to increase funding to the Council for project implementation and service delivery that 1% of Gbalamuya border revenue collected to be given to the Council for project implementation in the District. We realised that the Council is not benefiting from the border revenue generated in as much as we recognised that is a Government generated institution as NRA we believed that if some

amount of the money is given to the Council, it will help the Council in the development project so the Committee is recommending that at least 1% of the revenue generated be given to the Council for project implementation in the District. Four, proposed allocation of Kambia District Council is viewed as adequate and hence recommends its approval. With that Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Report submitted by the Committee, I want to thank Honourable Members, for their attention and the Minister. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Honourable Members your views in two minutes.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as my Committee Chairman has just said, we should carefully look at those documents and especially the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Bo District Council and Kambia District Council. Mr Chairman, I was very impressed with what I saw in their books in spite of the financial difficulties, these Councils are doing extremely well and at the end of the 30th September in that report there were balances outlined in their books and also we meticulously looked at their documents and in compliance with the financial Management Act like my learned Banker is always referencing the Honourable Member from Lumley. I want to add my voice to what the Chairman has just said that in spite of our financial difficulties in this Country that the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, the Bo District Council in particular and Kambia District Council like in our previous years I commended the Pujehun District Council for their meticulous documentations and reporting.

So on that note Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the Ministry of Finance, as you allocate funding please make sure that timely disbursement of funding goes to these Councils. I thank you very much Mr Chairman.

HON. LOLLOH EMILIA TONGI: Mr Chairman, I want to zoom on the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Mr Chairman, we are losing so much money in this Country. The Banana Island for example, this area could bring enough money in to the Ministry and also get employment for our youths.

Mr Chairman, the cotton tree in Freetown should serve as a monument wherein people can come and look at it which we can be able to generate money for this country. Mr Chairman, I would like the Minister of Finance to really look in to this one because when Tourists come in to this country all we have is our beaches. If we can well construct these areas, Bonthe Island, and Banana Island, they are extremely very important because it is good for our economy. I thank you.

HON. UNPHA G.S. KOROMA: Mr Chairman am just going to highlight two Agencies in this Report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on! I am not going to turn this into a debate after you Honourable Sellu, and that will be the end. Do you want to say anything after the Chairman? We are done with this.

HON. UNPHA G.S KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Legal Aid Board for a country that is plagued with justice and access to justice and also for a country wherein the poor people both women and children cannot get access to legal services because of financial constrains I want to highlight that the recommendation by the Committee be taken into consideration by the Ministry. Secondly, the Local Content Agency I also want to highlight that, be given the due recommendation by the Committee. We have an Agency the [SLPMC] for years now has not taken off it is just on paper and Government is spending money paying staff but the Local Content Agency hence SLPMC to date does not have any investment that they can write home about. Mr Chairman, those are the two Agencies that I want to highlight and recommend that the request given by the Committee be taken into cognisant by the Ministry. I thank you.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Chairman, I want to look at Vote 428.02, Sierra Investment and Export Promotion Agency there is a table here that shows the budget analysis for the financial year 2023. When you look at this opening Bank balance as at January 2023 is **Le4,844Mln** meaning that was what they carry over from 2022. You come to actual budget received for the quarter is **Le5,180Bln** so when you come to closing bank balance as at 31st September when this report was done is 1.421, meaning this particular Agency was in fact what they requested for and what they have as their

bank balance is over 40% increase on this line Sir. And when you go down they further requested that their budget was cut when in actual fact in 2023 they did not even utilize 20% of their budget allocation because the essence of this Appropriation is to actually check what was allocated to you and how it was spent and why do you need more or less in the subsequent year. But if you cannot even spend 20% or 25% of your budget allocation in a particular year then the roll over is equivalent to some money that should be allocated to some MDAs, I think it is something that we need to look at very closely. Then under the same recommendation, they are asking for this same MDA for staff salary to be increased and when the Minister was presenting his budget here he was talking about one of the strategies of managing the wage bill is to manage that particular aspect of salary increment across MDAs and so let look at that critically.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I think Section 118 [7] of the Constitution is very clear on Grants, Loans and Donations but over the time we have seen during Committee meetings, MDAs do receive Grants that the Minister responsible has not been making it clear to this Parliament. Those monies should be declared here to us by the responsible Minister but at the end of the day, they will request like **Le4Bln** from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Finance will not be able to capture the money received on behalf of Sierra Leoneans from the Donors, and what is allocated to them by the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Sellu please don't over hit the point. Mr Minister please take note of that it is for you to inform all MDAs that whenever they have Donations or Grants, they should inform the Ministry accordingly and you too inform this House because that is the Law, that all Grants or Loans everything relating to funds to the State must be brought to Parliament. So please take note of that it is a very serious point. Parliament is interested in everything that comes to the State.

HON. FRANCIS AMARA KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. On the point of **1%** revenue collected at Gbalamuya to be given to the Kambia District Council. I think we should all know that Government is struggling to collect revenue to support various programs across the Country. Gbalamuya is one of the major NRA collection

points, 1% is chunk of the revenue that will be collected by NRA. The Local Councils have been around since 2004 and I think Government has been encouraging them to be able to collect taxes on their own and Government has supported them so far, but we have not seen much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Money matters are serious matters you don't commit such errors or mistakes.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, it is not 1%.1% is different from even 0.1%, it is 0.01% please.

HON. FRANCIS AMARA KAISAMBA: Mr Chairman, we want to encourage Kambia District Council to be able to collect revenue for themselves and they can improvise a lot of things around the Kambia area. But I think at this moment Government cannot afford Gbalamuya being the second most revenue collection point to be going only to the Kambia District Council. I will even recommend that Government should continue to strengthen Local Councils so that they can be able to collect revenues on their own across the country and with time probably Government can even leave them on their own because up till now Government is supporting them with subvention. I am not sure we can afford those recommendations because it remains the bigger revenue coming in to offset all the expenditures which we are struggling with as a Government. So am not sure that recommendation is prudent Mr Chairman. I thank you.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, when you look at the revenue collected in Kambia and other crossing points what perhaps the Council was advocating for the leakages around the Kambia District alone are more than the 0.01% this is what they are asking for. When you involve the Council in having that 0.01% it also involves them to take active part in the mobilization of the resources. The Minister knows what we are saying, in Briama alone from his own area the porous boarder crossings Government is losing revenues in those areas and it is not much what the local people are asking for. If we have a percentage it also means the Council will be able to recruit more people to parade the frontier because the revenue is coming to us, but if you are saying it is too much the problem is as much as Government needs more revenue

Government must also give incentives to people who can help them get more revenue and I think what the Council is asking for in Kambia is not unrealistic.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is all right. Mr Minister, let me hear you please and sit down please Honourable Members.

THE MINISTER: Thank you Mr Chairman. Chairman of Group 3, for the report findings I want to take note of the issue around Donations and Grants. We have always as the Ministry of Finance informed Parliament of those Donations and Grants that actually do come through us, we bring them to Parliament and table them for Parliament notification. And equally so, we do take note we will try and ensure that we work with all MDAs.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, I don't understand.

THE MINISTER: Ministries, Department and Agencies.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on! Do you want us to believe that there are certain Grants or Donations that do not come through you?

THE MINISTER: Yes there could be.

THE CHAIRMAN: So how do you ensure that you are informed about them?

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, there are certain MDAs who reach out to partners and they are supported for programmatic purposes. It could be NGOs and we officially bring those Agreements and lay them in the House of Parliament. I understand the extent of the issue that he is talking about because certain NGOs do provide resources to some MDAs supporting their programmes and we should be seen as the Ministry of Finance certainly by Law we should entertain the due process by Law to bring them and lay them here in the House of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, let me address the issue of the Kambia District Council and the proposal and recommendation for using percentage of resources mobilized by NRA to specifically giving to them. We have the Local Government Law that is treating all the Councils equitably and the revenues that are generated by the State. We allocated the vertical

transfers from the Central Government to the Local Government system for the devolution or the decentralization of powers between the national Government and the sub national Government. We have sat down and determined revenue measures that could be given to them and an expenditure responsibility that will be given to them for the revenues generated at the national level will determine the size this Government will allocate to them. We allocate and share amongst them as per the formula that we have established to be fair. To take just one Council and then allocate special revenue to them, we will be distorting the entire process, so Kambia is accorded its fair share of that bulk resources. Now the only way Kambia can get anything extra revenue is from the mining sector that is the community development fund can be a special allocation from the companies to these communities. I believe Kambia has an opportunity like what is happening in Tonkolili, Moyamba and other places that have mining companies. So the Local Government system is very well structured and I think it is fairly allocating the resources to them. We would support them for revenue mobilization. We can assist in ensuring that those borders are effectively marked. They are supported administratively but also even for the delivery of functions so we would encourage them to cease off that responsibility and see exactly how they will be able to mobilize revenue from other sources. I think there are opportunities. I would really want to push or advocate that this particular recommendation not be taken along in my view giving the fact that there is an express Local Government system for allocating resources to the Councils.

Mr Chairman, I take note of the opportunities in Tourism, and to encourage investment we have started doing something as a Government. We did mobilize resources from the World Bank close to **\$40Mln** more than half of that is going towards economic diversification and expressly so in the Tourism sector. There are several Tourism areas in the Country, Leicester Peak, Tacugama and all of these places and some other beaches across the Country that we are actually investing in. I heard the whole issue around monument and relics, I think the Ministry has some programs to do more investment in developing some of these areas to attract investors. Parliament did pass a

levied under the Finance Act I think it was last year for us to be able to levy. Is it tourism? We did say we would use that levy to express this operation of the Tourism sector so I think it is well noted and we would push along accordingly.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I take note of Legal Aid Board Advocacy and also Local Content Agency as well as SLIEPA. There was push for a moratorium on salaries for SOEs and some subvented Agencies whose salary levels are completely distorted relative to the rest of the public or Civil Service. I think we are doing some rationalization of wages within the country through Wages and Compensation Commission that has been established.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on the matter of retention for the Administrator General, they are not the E&C Agency as it is right now. The Government is taking onboard all responsibilities for their staff and the likes and they are providing resources for them to be able to do their operations at least to run the administration. I am not sure the revenue they are collecting will be sufficient enough to run that entity it is not on their own, they have to rely on Government's allocation from the Consolidated Fund. So they brought a budget it was defended and we have provided allocation for them accordingly.

Mr Chairman, the recommendation on PRA is well noted. The Cabinet is aware of it I think that is the direction of the Government such as establishment of State owned authority petroleum. I think this work is far advanced and I believe such institution will be brought for Parliament's ratification or approval.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, all the other comments and recommendations are well noted and then we will work on them appropriately. That been said, I move that the Vote Heads and corresponding estimates stand part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Minister, I just wish to reemphasize the point raised by Honourable Sellu. Mr Minister, let me reemphasize the point raised by Honourable Sellu relating to Donations and Grants. Please I urge that you direct all MDAs to report Donations and Grants to you for Parliament approval. Thank you very much.

[Question proposed put and agreed to]

TABLE CLERK: The following Vote Heads and corresponding estimates as pronounced by the Minister of Finance form part of the schedule. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I pronounce the following Vote Heads and corresponding estimates from Group 4 to stand part of the schedule. 41401, 12701, 13301, 14201, 13303, 31002, 40302, 41801, 30001, 30502, 20901, 32201, 40904, 70106, 70106.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Vote Heads stand part of the schedule. Committee of Supply group four [4], 41401, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Nineteen Million Four Hundred and Sixty Four, Two Thousand, Two Hundred Leones, 12701 Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Fifteen Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy Thousand One Hundred Leones, 13301 Ministry of Information and Civic Education Six Million Four Hundred and Thirty Six Thousand Leones, 14201 National Public Procurement Authority Eight Million Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Leones, 13303 National Council Civic Education and Development, Three Million and Twenty One Thousand One Hundred Leones, 31002, National Youth Commission, Three Million Six Hundred and Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Leones, 40302 National Mineral Agency, Four Million Two Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Leones, 41801 Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute Ten Million Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Leones, 30001 Tertiary Education Commission, Six Million Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Leones, 30502 National Commission for Persons with Disability, Three Million One Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Leones, 20901 Central Intelligence and Security Agency, Fifteen Million Eight Hundred and Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Leones, 32201 National Land Commission Sierra Leone, Four Million Five Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Leones, 40904 Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company, One Million One Hundred and Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Leones, 70106 Kono District Council, Eight Million Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Leones, 70106 Karene District Council, Seven Million Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy One Leones.

QUESTION PROPOSED

TABLE CLERK: Report of the Sectoral Committee under consideration by the Chairman of Group [4].

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present the report of Appropriation Sub Committee of Supply Group [4] presented by my very self Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. Table of content as stated, introduction as stated, scope MDAs accounted including sub heads for 2024 financial year as presented by the

Minister, Procedure, objectives as stated. The Committee comprises my good self Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh as Chairman, Honourable Abdul Suliaman Marray Conteh, Deputy Chairman, Honourable Mohamed T. Fofanah, Honourable Adama Bangura, Honourable PC Sheku Terranatungu Nyakonkrobifambuli Marrah III, Honourable Aruna papay Solomon Lakoh, Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara, Honourable Ahmed Joseph Kanu, Honourable Soriba Alhaji Turay, Honourable Memunatu Jalloh, Honourable Ernest Dura Koroma, and Honourable Mohamed Papay Bangura. Support staff, James T. Lahai Lead Clerk, Halimatu Shriff Assistant Clerk, Mustapha Sillah, and Fatmata Metzger. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, after thorough scrutiny of all MDAs under its purview the Committee arrived at the following general observation and recommendation.

1. The Finance Act of 2020 of Sub Section [1] of Section [40] stipulates that the end of the 10th month of every financial year the Minister shall with approval of Cabinet prepare and lay before Parliament for its information a fiscal strategy statement which contains the provision on sub section paragraph [a] to[k] of sub section [1] of section [23] the Public Financial Management Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Tawa Conteh there is a pattern here, just follow the pattern. I think Honourable Members have this and they can read for themselves.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: I take the queue Mr Chairman, general observations as stated, but Mr Chairman, there are some general observations I want to take your permission to read.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay proceed.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: I know you have them, but there are some general information that you will need to take due note of, and one of them is that the Committee recognizes with concern the failure by Agencies to meet their payment obligation to other entities of the State for service already provided or enjoyed by Audit Service Sierra Leone, Guma Valley Water Company and EDSA etc. The Committee recommends that section [54] of the Public Financial Management Act of 2016 on deduction be utilized by Accountant General and the Minister of Finance to deduct from source payment from the allocated budget of those culpable and transfer them to the respective entities.

[Suspension of S.O 5 [2]]

Thank you My Chairman, and for this recommendation we have attached a list and we have submitted to the Minister of Agencies that owe particularly the Audit Service Sierra Leone for audit carried out for several years. The provision is already in the Law, and

the final one is that the Committee also observed that some MDAs are involved in huge cash transaction including withdrawals from the bank. The Committee recognizes the fact that the country to a large extent is a cash economy, but also has huge concern over the ramification of such a practice which further contravenes the Bank of Sierra Leone limit on withdrawal across counter of Fifty Million Leones, as in some instances Two Billion Leones plus was withdrawn in an account with one cheque. The Committee therefore recommends that the Bank of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Finance established a third treasury account with rural Community banks to reduce the risk of carrying huge cash. The Financial Secretary should put out a notice or regulation to control huge cash withdrawal by MDAs.

Ministry of Water Resources as stated one recommendation, review of estimate for financial year 2023 shows that the Minister of Finance allocates funds to Water Resource Management Unit and Water Resource Management Agency under the vote of Ministry of Water Resources, the Committee observed that both Agencies refused to attend Appropriation Sub Committee hearing and hence there is no way disburse for 2023 can be accounted for. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, considering the vital role of the Ministry mandate with respect to providing clean and affordable and with sanitation added to the Ministry portfolio the Committee recommends that the requested amount for 2024 be approved by the House. Ministry of Planning and Economic Development as stated one key recommendation and one key finding also. The Ministry of Finance allocates funds to the National Authorizing Office through the vote of Ministry of Planning and Economic Development the Committee observed that NAO was not allocated to any sub appropriation group for this year's appropriation exercise hence there is no way funds can be accounted for. Recommendation that the 2024 proposed budget allocated for the Ministry of Planning and Development be approved, and that the National Authorizing Office budget be withheld.

Ministry of Information and Civic Education, as stated key recommendation against the backdrop. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee suggested the budget submitted for the Ministry of Information and Civic Education be considered for approval. National Public Procurement Authority, as stated Mr Chairman with your leave there are other key recommendations that are vital to the House that I would want your permission to read.

1. That Parliament of Sierra Leone enters into a memorandum of understanding with the National Public Procurement Authority for deployment of their staff to Parliamentary Committees during oversight duties to provide technical support on issues relating to procurement and contracts. That Parliament of Sierra Leone enters into a memorandum of understanding with NPPA for the

training of Members of Parliament and Clerks of Committees in procurement procedures and practices that would enable them hold MDAs accountable during oversight functions especially for the award of contracts. Finally that the requested budget for 2024 financial year be approved and fully disbursed in four quarters for effective operation of the Authority.

National Council for Civic Education as stated, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, considering the current socio-political situation in Sierra Leone, and the need for engagement at national and community levels the Committee recommends that the 2024 budget be approved. National Youth Commission as stated, recommendation the Committee therefore recommends that the remaining 40% of the submitted budget for 2024 be considered for inclusion in the supplementary budget if the funds are available. National Mineral Agency as stated, the Committee therefore recommends as follows that the proposed allocated budget of **Le4.2** Million Leones be approved by this House to enhance the effective functioning of the Agency. Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute SLARI, as stated recommendation Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the institute expedite the implementation of projects for which funds are already available in their bank account, and further recommends for the approval for the 2024 financial year budget. Tertiary Education Commission as stated, recommendation, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee therefore recommends that the proposed budget for 2024 financial year be approved. National Commission for Persons with Disability as stated, recommendation in this regard the Committee recommends for the National Commission for Persons with Disability. Central Intelligent and Security Agency as stated, recommendation, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, considering the very critical role this Agency plays in the context of our current security situation the Committee recommends that the original budget of Twenty Million One Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand and Forty Two Leones submitted to the Ministry of Finance be approved. National Land Commission as stated, giving the historical problem within the land administration in the country, and the urgent need to address this problem the Committee recommends that the allocated budget of Four Million Five Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Leones for 2024 financial year be approved. Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company as stated, the Committee is of the view that SLPMC like every other Government Agency should not be set up by a Cabinet paper, but by an Act of Parliament and needs to be done very soon. The Committee therefore recommends that the Managing Director initiates the process in presenting a Bill to Parliament as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee acknowledges the critical role of the company in the government flagship programme of feed Sierra Leone, and therefore recommends the approval of the proposed budgetary allocation of One Million One

Hundred and Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Leones allocation to cover administrative and operational expenses. Kono District Council as stated, the Committee therefore recommends that the Council revisits their proposed expenditure as against proposed revenue. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having looked at the document presented to the Committee recommends as follows, that the proposed expenditure for 2024 be reviewed in line with the realistic revenue projected. That the proposed budget be approved by this House to enhance the effective functioning of the Council. Karene District Council as stated, recommendation that the Council revisits its proposed revenue and expenditure for 2023 financial year, that the proposed budget be approved by this House to enhance the effective functioning of the Council.

Conclusion, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having conducted the inquiries and reviewed votes for various MDAs the Committee here by recommends that the report of the Appropriation Sub Committee [4] be adopted by this Honourable House, and that the recommendation contained therein on the budgets heads including subheads of MDAs listed below are as read by the Minister be approved, faithfully submitted by Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, pardon me what is it? Okay let me here you one minute please.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. On page ten [10] Mr Chairman of the Committee I heard you saying the National Authorizing Office is an Agency that is supporting government through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, and I am sure they implement most of the EU projects in this country. You did say their budget should be withheld, but I have gone through the extract I have not seen anywhere where such recommendation has been proffered. And if that is what you said then those are very serious actions taken by Parliament, but we must exhaust all other avenues before those actions are being considered. And the fact of the matter is monies have been allocated to them, but they have been represented probably by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, so you have to make clarifications on what you said but I haven't seen in the extract where they are tallying the statement with the extract. At any rate after the clarification probably I have a comment to make, if they did not come but the Ministry appeared on their behalf probably in future we will see what we will do, so that is the clarification I was asking.

THE CHAIRMAN: So Honourable Tawa Conteh, Honourable Sellu, do you want to say anything after this, okay?

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. He is right at the report the recommendation to withhold the budget of NAO is not included, but as a

Committee what was agreed was that we are going to withhold their budget, because we made frantic effort to reach the managing person at NAO he could not respond. We sent him text messages but he refused to come to the Committee, and money from the consolidated fund was allocated to the NAO, it was expended by the NAO. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development was asked to provide explanation during the Committee hearings but could not provide the explanation, and they asked us to bring the NAO. Considering the fact that the budget scrutiny exercise is to proffer solution for the management of expenditure and prudent use of tax payers' money. It is the view of the Committee that the NAO accounts for monies received from the consolidated fund otherwise their budget would be withheld.

THE CHAIRMAN: Chairman of Finance what is the matter?

HON. FRANCIS B. KAISAMBA: Like I was saying I guess they are represented by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development so in such case these are serious matters but such should have been reported to the Committee and the Leadership of Parliament, so that we make our own effort to reach out to them, but such action at this moment is very rigid.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me hear from the Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA Thank you very much Mr Chairman. So if I can read his text to the plenary the Ministry of Finance allocated funds to the National Authorizing Office through the vote of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development of course we have the Vote Controller who is the Permanent Secretary Sir. The Committee has observed that the NAO was not allocated to any sub appropriation group for this year's appropriation exercise hence there is no way funds can be accounted for. Recommendation that 2024 proposed budget allocation for the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the National Authorizing Office be approved I rest my case.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, so we can not go beyond that, because if you are saying Honourable Tawa Conteh if your report is saying that we should approve then we cannot go by what you are saying now in the plenary. The report is saying something different from what you are saying, so we only go by the report.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Yes Sir, like the Leader of Government Business has said it all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do not talk about NAO we are done with that, Honourable Member what is it?

HON. BILLOR M. SHAW: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I want to make an observation or raise a concern with regards to the Ministry of Water Resources, or Guma Valley whichever one. Going down this hill towards State House a lot of water has been wasting there for nearly three weeks now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you leave that for S.O. [23]?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Before that Sir, trust me I have been reading this report and for me I think that is the view of every Chairperson that was in charge of the Sub Appropriation Committee being the substantive Chair of the Finance Committee we believe in value for money that is still our question we are posing to the Ministry. We are not underestimating your professionalism, but what we are saying we will want proper oversight and thorough review. The reason why we are not reading the report, if we really look at this report presented by Honourable Tawa Conteh we can realize that they did some work even beyond what we are expecting, they went as far as stating the class of procedures they used. Looking at the percentage received by Ministries, and how they were expended and gave their recommendations, and in fact somebody raised the issue of Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation. He propounded so many things about it and key findings were also highlighted. So we are saying Mr Chairman, let us take this report to that Ministry, it is good for us to take the report to review some of these recommendations. Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh's report is one of the best reports. They made their recommendations very fine so it is good for the Ministry to look not only the expenditure and the allocated figures but let them look at our key recommendations. That is some of the things we are recommending to them, so Mr Minister in as much as you have been very proactive, one thing I can tell you for free you did yesterday I asked the Committees to be looking at their estimates but yesterday there was an error in the budget, but you took out the actual estimates which give the actual figures. Let us look at our recommendations and go through the Committee you can even use the Committee of Finance to come and see the next financial year. Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me the Floor.

THE MINISTER: Thank you Mr Chairman. Thank you Honourable Members, and Chairman for Committee Group [4] thank you very much for the report and your observations. Let me attempt to make some corrections on few statements that I think are really very strong, and we would do the needful as recommended. Clear observations around MDAs on services they rendered. I think that is serious. I know that EDSA, GUMA Valley, Audit Service do render services for which entities do not pay for those services and I will actually implore the Financial Secretary that we do pay critical attention to recommendations of such and to have discussions around this, and take those onboard. The recommendation on the movement of cash is noted and we

will engage the Bank of Sierra Leone to ensure rural banks are engines of economic growth.

Mr Chairman, on the matter of budget and actual revenue performance, and the allocation but also transfer or honouring those allocations. That is where the budgeting management and budget operation really it is a difficult job and it is the reality of the day. I will just say for this year alone in fact actual revenue collected we have huge short falls. We would try to be as realistic as possible in the projections we make on the revenues we expected to be mobilized in the country. Shocks will happen, and those revenues may be affected. It is based on the expected revenue collection that how we program the budget, that is how we limit what is allocated to MDAs. There were short falls where some of the assumptions that we had on those revenue lines did not materialize. I think that is really the issue the difficult side of the job Mr Chairman. Shocks do happen I will give you example few days back we had curfews the system was shut down in those days revenues were not collected as was projected, so that is the reality of economic management for couple of days we could not make revenues.

Mr Chairman, so I just want to inform the House of that understanding, and we are ready to engage, and what is even important in the mid-stream of the year it is important that we have engagement through the Finance Committee, so that the House is apprised of how we are evolving the implementation of the budget. We do this in the Cabinet, we do this at the EMT, I think the House must be ceased with that opportunity to know even midyear, quarterly, or even half yearly. In fact I think it is important, so you get to gauge the sense of how we are performing in revenue mobilization, but also the allocations that are going to Councils. On the expressed issue of NAO I saw your recommendation; NAO is clearly budgeted for very clearly their allocations are clearly giving and their budget lines and everything they required whether its salaries other operational technical deliverables are clearly budgeted for, so it is here and you can always have access to it. It may not have been clearly identified in the Appropriation Bill, because it is under the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, so I would ask that the recommendation as giving does not go through as such because it is covered already in the budget.

Mr Chairman, there are several other recommendations for specific MDAs here they are all noted, and we would engage appropriately. We will encourage the respective committees of the House in the course of the year you engage with them. I think it is a way to drive the improvement of our institutions in the country, and what you are looking for is accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having said that I move that the Votes Heads and corresponding estimates as recommended stand part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that Votes Heads as pronounced by the Minister of Finance stand part of the schedule.

[Question proposed put and agreed to]

[Votes Heads and estimates stand part of the Schedule]

THE CHAIRMAN: At this time the Leadership of Parliament I mean the entire Leadership of Parliament present here including the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the team of the Ministry of Finance let us have a brief meeting in my Chambers before we conclude. This Sitting is stood down for ten minutes.

[MR CHAIRMAN STOOD THE HOUSE AT 12:35 PM]

[THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 12:45 PM]

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us deal with Parliament.

THE MINISTER: Thank you Mr Chairman. Committee Group one [1] I move that the vote head 11601 Parliament Sixty Million Leones stands part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that the vote hhead relating to Parliament as pronounced by the Minister of Finance stands part of the schedule.

[Question proposed put and agreed to]

TABLE CLERK: Group Eight Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I pronounce the following votes and corresponding estimates for Group Eight to stand part of the schedule, 10601, 30701, 14101, 40303, 12403, 10703, 31601, 30101, 30601, 10801, 10702, 70100, 70100,11011.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following vote heads stand part of the schedule. Ministry of Energy, Nine Hundred Million Eighty Six Thousand Leones.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you please read the vote number and division?

THE MINISTER: Sorry, vote number 106 division 01 Ministry of Energy Nine Hundred Million Eighty Six Thousand Three Hundred Leones, vote number 307 division 101 National Medical Supplies Agency Eighty Three Million One Hundred and Four Thousand Four Hundred Leones, vote number 141 division 01 Government Printing Department

Four Million Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Leones, vote number 403 Sierra Leone Mines and Mineral Development Management Cooperation, Fifty Million Leones, vote number 124 division 03 Justice Sector Coordination Unit Three Million Two Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Leones, Vote number 107 division 03 Provincial Secretary East Kenema Four Million Three Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Leones, vote number 316 division 01 Civil Service Training College One Million Nine Hundred and Five Thousand and Three Hundred Leones, vote number 301 division 01 Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education Forty Four Million Four Hundred and Ninety Four Thousand and One Hundred Leones, vote number 306 division 01 Ministry of Lands and Country Planning, Seven Million Three Hundred Thousand and Two Hundred Leones, vote number 108 division 01 National Commission for Social Action NaCSA, Eight Million Six Hundred and Forty Thousand and Eight Hundred Leones, vote number 107 division 02 Provincial Secretary Office South [BO] Four Million Two Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand and Four Hundred Leones, vote number 701 division 00 Bonthe District Council Seven Million Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Leones, vote number 701 division 00 again Bo City Council Three Million Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Ninety Two Leones, and finally vote number 110 division 11 Public Sector Reform Unit Three Million Two Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand and Eight Hundred Leones.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

TABLE CLERK: Report of the Sectoral Committee under consideration by the Chairman of Group Eight.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I will try as much as possible to follow the queue and to do justice to all of us so by all means we are going to avoid all of the initial pages and we start with the area that starts with the Members of the Committee which I will quickly read. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members for the benefit of us all I will read Members of the Committee as well as the supporting staff that supported the process. For the Honourable Members we have Honourable Emilia Lolo Tongi, Honourable Tamba Kelly, Honourable Ibrahim Koroma, Honourable P.C. Prince Lansana Bio, Honourable Amara Momoh Kargbo, Honourable Adama Conteh, Honourable John Sartie kargbo, Rt captain Sylvester Boima, Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah, Honourable Amie Nyava Moriba, Honourable Beatrice Nyava Kangbai, Honourable Sattie Banya and my deputy Honourable Mustapha Musa Sellu and head of operations, and of course the astute and erudite Chairman Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh.

On the side of the secretariat the supporting staff we have Alie Kamara who served as the Lead Clerk, Hannah Massaquoi Assistant Lead Clerk and we also have Haja Fatmata Kemokai the PBO staff. I will quickly just move to the general observation I know other Committees have not been going through this area, but this area requires the attention of the Minister. We realize for most of the MDAs that came to us they grumbled a lot about the untimely disbursement of funds which to them actually limited their performance level, because according to them they were ready to work but there were no funds available, so that is an area that we need to look at, and secondly we realized that so much money was spent on maintenance, and fuel we realize most of the MDAs spent so much money on maintenance, fuel and the like, so as a Committee we said if it is possible for the Ministry of Finance to actually device a system for that. So we believe in as much as so much was spent on fuel, vehicle maintenance used by Directors and the like we believe that is taking so much money. We said if it is possible for the Ministry to device a measure where these vehicles can be given to them where they pay for these vehicles little by little until they pay off, so that we minimize cost on those vehicles. And the last one we realized even for the Councils we said the Committee also observed that there were variances in the opening and closing balances. That is also very much key for most of the MDAs the opening balances were never equal to the closing balances, and we know that contradicts the accounting model, so you have to look at that again as a Ministry. We want to know why is it that the closing balances were not equal to the opening balances for the preceding year?

Mr Chairman, we go to the actual specific observations, Vote 124/ 03 which is the Justice Sector Coordination Unit as stated, but again what we realize this particular institution actually received a Grant, and we realize that particular violate Section 118 of the...

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you reading the report? Please pay attention to the report.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Chairman, in 2023 financial year Justice Sector Coordination Unit submitted a budget am also very much concerned, and they received a Grant of Seven Hundred and Fifty Four, Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Thousand Leones, and that particular one did not go through the Ministry, and it did not come to Parliament for approval. And if you realize the next paragraph they actually used all of those in terms of vehicle maintenance, fuel, trainings and the like that is a concern. But again in terms of the recommendation as stated, we go to 14101 Government Printing Department as stated, recommendations we realize there are vacancies I mean in this particular department, and we believe speedy actions must be taken to actually fill

those vacant positions but in terms of the budget allocated we believe it is adequate and should be approved.

Mr Chairman, we move to Vote 10801 National Commission for Social Action as stated recommendation as stated. We go to Vote 701/00 Bonthe District Council as stated recommendation as stated. We go to Vote 300/00 Public Sector Reform Unit as stated recommendation as stated. We also go to Vote 31600 Civil Service Training Centre College as stated in terms of the recommendation we realize they are doing so much because they operate on grantees and they train public institutions, civil servants and the like, so no adequate budget is giving to them so as a Committee we think so much attention should be paid to them because what they are doing for the service for the State is so much, recommendations as stated. We also move down to Vote 107/03 Provincial Secretary Office Kenema as stated recommendations as stated. We also move down to Vote 30701, National Medical Supply Agency as stated recommendations as stated. We also move down to Vote 306/01 Ministry of Lands, Literature as stated. Again Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for this Ministry we realize this Ministry is doing so much, and we believe they require so much attention by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Chairman, it may amaze you to know that ever since the creation of this Ministry in terms of revenue generation in 2017 the highest that Ministry could actually generate was between Five Hundred to Six Hundred Thousand new Leones, old Leones Five to Six Hundred Million Leones, but it may amaze you to know that from January to date this Ministry through the Minister has been able to actually generate up to Sixty Billion old Leones and Sixty Million new Leones. This is so much effort by this Ministry, and that is because they have been able to transform the operations from paper base to digital. So things are now moving, and they have so much interest in actually improving services in that Ministry. Like right now the Field Officers are not mobile the only person who is mobile is the Minister, the Deputy, the Directors, and the operations team. So we believe as a recommendation from those monies generated all we want to recommend is that 30% of the monies generated by the Ministry is being retained by this Ministry for its operations.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I stand on S.O. 34. Mr Chairman, we expect the Chairman to read the report and wait for the debate, but the fact that he is reading and running commentary is not good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I do not really know what you are doing, just go to the report.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. For the Ministry I think I have said so much, in terms of recommendations stated. And for Vote 301/01 Ministry of Basic Education as stated in the recommendation, Vote 701/00 Bo City Council as stated and recommendations as stated, votes 406/00 Ministry of Energy as stated recommendations as stated.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order Sir. I don't know if you are going to summarize thus far. Recommendations should not be as stated we believe that we should read the recommendations to be very honest with you, because recommendations are the things that we want the Ministry to take onboard.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much Mr Leader. I think I took the leave of this House before reading my report, and I said for most of the recommendations it is just about confirming whether the budget allocated is adequate and we therefore ask the Ministry to approve I believe it is generic clause. What I said for those areas that required special attention I can read so that you know the special recommendations made by the Committee, and so I proceed with the leave of the Chairman.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman, with this report there is no recommendation maybe my eyes are deceiving me, so I want direct or specific recommendations.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you do not have recommendations say so.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman, just direct us to the recommendations. So can you just take off your recommendations please? I am not saying they are not there but I said maybe my eyes are deceiving me that is the direct clause.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: At the end of every Vote head you will see, for instance if you look at National Medical Supply Agency, and towards the end you see whilst considering the Agencies 2024 allocation as adequate and therefore recommends those are the recommendations. It is not clearly stated as recommendations, but towards the end of every Vote Head there are recommendations at the end.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much Deputy Leader, you see it is not always good to follow the trend we decide to be creative this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude now.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Chairman, Votes 10702, Provincial Secretary's Office South as stated, again the Committee recommends for the approval of the

budget, but strongly cautions the office to improve on its public financial management reporting. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in conclusion we have said pursuant to section 111 sub section 3 [1], and Standing Orders 66 [1] and [2] the Committee on Finance unanimously recommends that the entire budget heads including sub heads listed below stand part of the schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved in order to enhance effective service delivery for the nation. Thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, mine is an appeal to the Leader, whilst we were going round supervising the various Committees. One of the things we found out is most times as Parliament we send the questions to the MDAs, and what they give us in return do not reflect actually what we desire, we do not get the actual information. So my request to the Leader is as we send out the questionnaire at least we have a day or two for the MDAs to come to Parliament and have a kind of session with the Finance Committee otherwise we would have a situation in which people will tell you we just receive the questionnaire yesterday. They do not come on time and every other thing, and it is very serious. We know of Committees where some MDAs will not come after the allotted days, it is all because they do not understand the questionnaire that is the excuse they give, or they receive it late so let avoid that for next year's budget that is my concern.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Chairman, normally after the processes there are institutions that will engage MDAs to tell them how to answer questions in the questioners and how to approach the information they are supposed to be having. We have be doing that over and again, and the questionnaire are very perusable and understanding, I do not see any serious MDA that will tell me they do not understand the questionnaire. I thank you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I was also a Chairman for a Committee, my appeal I will make to the Ministry of Finance is that the budget should be read very early so as to allow the Finance Committee to be on course. We know the Finance Committee was constrained considering the questionnaires went very late. We debating the Second Reading, and we were to start the Committee Stage the next day, and MDAs were not prepared, we had to delay. So for us to have an effective Committee of Supplies, I will encourage the Finance Committee to know fully at the end of the year the budget will be read and to Committee Stage. They should prepare questionnaires, and the Ministry of Finance the budget estimates should be prepared on time, and in fact we expect the budget estimates to be very detailed.

This time we noticed that the budget estimates were not detailed as previous years. Previously what happens in the budget estimate you can see what was really disbursed to the MDAs, and the proposed disbursement in the future. So when we go to Committee Stage we will take the budget estimate. We looked at what was really disbursed if MDAs are trying to mislead us we always refer to the budget estimates. This time round we were constrained, because in the budget estimates the real disbursement was not captured, so whatever the MDAs gave us is what we went with, so we will encourage the Ministry of Finance to give us an extract in the budget estimates of what was disbursed, because what have been disbursed is what we are investigating how was it utilized. But if you do not give us what you disburse, and when we ask questions, and what the MDAs tell us is what we rely on, so the budget should be read on time, Committee on Supply, the Second Reading should be done on time, and the Committee on Finance in this Parliament should send the questionnaires like two weeks to allow the MDAs to fully prepare. Because we are asking for detailed documents including bank statements and other supporting documents, so you give ample time to the MDAs to prepare themselves, to come and face us, but we are constrained we had to shift time to accommodate MDAs, so that is just my recommendation to the Finance Committee and to the Ministry of Finance. I thank you very much.

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. As Chairman for Local Government and Community Affairs, I have listened carefully from Colleagues who have said a lot of things around Councils. Mr Chairman, I want to reaffirm to this House that indeed we have Councils who are struggling with finances, but yet still we have other Councils that are doing very well technically because they have benefitted from a Grant from the government and EU way back in 2019, and such Council is the Pujehun District Council. And the reality around the **5,000,000** Euros that was given to them was to generate income. The Pujehun District Council if am not forgetting, they implemented a project they are doing a three star hotel. Kambia also asked for the similar project I don't know if Kambia, was successful because this is way back in 2019, but I just want to say a **25, 000,000** Euro project that was given to those four Councils by the government of Sierra Leone and EU, and Two Million Euro extra was sent to Karene and Falaba District Councils. So I just want to say if for example Kenema District Council, Kenema City Council is mobilizing their own source revenue and have constructed over sixty stores just to expand their revenue base I think other Councils can do the same.

Mr Chairman, I agree with the Ministry of Finance that they will support. Bombali District Council also received **5,000,000** Euro I know what I am saying because I was Chairman in 2019. I made statements in that particular program. In fact the project was

launched in Bombali I was there and I made a statement. Let the Ministry of Finance assist these Councils to work on their cadastral system. Kenema District Council is doing a survey now to expand their base to establish another one hundred and fifty stores from their own source revenue. So we agree that some Councils like for example my District Council is struggling maybe because their cadastral system is still small. They do not have those maybe expertise to look into revenue generation. I agree Port Loko City Council do not have an office they are paying rent for their office I know Karene District is the same, as well as Falaba District. I can vividly remember those things, but I want the Ministry of Finance to know that the only way these Councils will leave government Grants is to support them to expand on their revenue base. They have lot of ways to make revenue, but the Ministry of Finance needs to pay attention to this.

Mr Chairman, as Committee we are willing to do our own part of oversight, but the Ministry of Finance needs to bring experts that will assist Kenema District Council. They hired university students to work on the survey with all the revenue they are collecting is just 15% yet still they have fenced the Police Station and they have done a Metro Police Office. They have completed a huge City Hall in Kenema that was started way back in 1985 is only now it has been completed. So the City Councils can do better, but as a Ministry we also need to do our job, so the Ministry of Finance should pay attention to build the capacity of these Councils to expand their revenue base. I thank you Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, do you want to say anything Chairman?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Yes, on the City Council Hall he is referring to the Ministry of Finance paid a lot of money to complete it equally I will confirm that, so we say thanks to them because they supported that project.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay it is alright, Honourable Sellu you are the last person.

HON. MUSTAPHA MUSA SELLU: Mr Chairman, this one is for the Ministry of Finance. Mr Chairman, I take you to Vote 110.11 Public Sector Reform Unit. This unit was formed just after the war by the Act of Parliament in 2022, but this Agency when they appeared before the Committee Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and the five big game changers I think revamping the public sector is one of the key areas that the President is focusing attention on, and we cannot do without this particular sector, and this sector presented the budget for 2023 not even 40% of the allocation was given to them. And they are very key in terms of revamping the public sector architecture in this governance system.

THE CHAIRMAN: Minister, are you taking note?

HON. MUSTAPHA MUSA SELLU: So, we have to take this very serious for this kind of Agency because we will be putting huge money into agriculture, into health, into education where the public sector needs to be revamped they are not even equipped. I think they only have a vehicle all their monies when we were looking at the resources they used is on vehicle hiring to go round the country.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay noted Honourable Sellu.

HON. MUSTAPHA MUSA SELLU: Mr Chairman, before I resume my seat the Lands Ministry also I think the Ministry of Finance needs to look around that Ministry. They generate so much money over Fifty to Sixty Billion old Leones they need to give them some relieve in terms of what they retain even if is 1 to 5% it cannot be 30%, but within 1 to 5% so that they can do more that can motivate them to generate more income at the end of the year. Mr Chairman, they also have just two vehicles in that Ministry, Ministry of Lands. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

HON. KEKURAH VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, this budget exercise before I came to Parliament you can attest to that when you also came to Parliament before me the problems that are existing now existed when you came to Parliament the very first year. But what I hold on as a Parliament to make sure these things stop otherwise it does not make any sense as if we are not doing anything. MDAs come here this year all the mistakes they made this year the other year again the same mistake will continue only to give excuse that we were not supplied with the information or the questioners on time, so we want to crave on the indulgence of this House I know you are a disciplinarian. I also want to crave the indulgence of the Leadership of this House making sure next year that these are done on timely bases.

Mr Chairman, how are we going to withhold budget at this point in time? This budget needs to be approved before we close down next week but I will not take my seat Mr Chairman without talking about energy. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, of course it is in this report I am not saying out of context it is on the report this very report Honourable Members. Mr Chairman, I want to compare the Karpower Ship is not enough even Bumbuna at its peak load during the rains gives us 50 megawatt, 50 megawatt is not even enough for Freetown. So what I am saying here is like the Karpower Ship Mr Chairman we are buying 25.5 cent kilowatt hour that is an IPP does not belong to government and Bumbuna we are buying less than 3 cent kilowatt per hour because it is ours, so can you imagine if we have three or four assets on energy owned, we have at least 250 to 300 megawatt all these expenses will be reduced.

Mr Chairman, Bumbuna phase two is not government owned we have our own asset, Dodoh is government asset the capacity has dwindled. It used to give us eight

megawatt or above as I speak to you Mr Chairman it is giving us one megawatt because of maintenance. If Dodoh is revamped I assure you Bo and Kenema will not even require CLSG, CLSG will come directly to Freetown coupled with Bumbuna that will also help to reduce on the financial burden on the government. So I want to crave on the indulgence of this House and the Ministry of Finance because they have done frantic effort Mr Chairman I must attest to that. Because EDSA itself whatever they are generating cannot take care of them effectively, it is the Ministry of Finance that has been coming in to subsidize. Institutions are coming [IPPs] are coming most of the other countries that have sustainable energy today they used that model. When it becomes government owned those are most of the ways we will be getting energy assets for the government itself.

On that note Mr Chairman, I want to thank you so much for giving me the opportunity, and we also want to crave on the indulgence of development partners Mr Chairman. Once more, our people that are using the mini grid in the villages in the suburbs are suffering because tariff is so expensive for our people. We want development partners to come to our aid, so they will subsidize for our people otherwise we are not helping our people. I want to thank you very much.

HON. TAMBA KELLY: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, the Civil Service Training College is providing pro-bonor service in training all the Civil Servants in this country yet none of them are paying that institution a penny. What my Chairman did not emphasize that the trainees must be paid, and the fees they pay for their training must be deducted at source. Mr Chairman, you know what they call continued professional development as a Lawyer, if you don't satisfy those requirements within any giving year you are not giving your practicing certificate, so that must apply to Civil Servant as well. There is no point government starving that institution when they are training the very people who are running our country, so it makes sense for them to pay at source. It is good for them personally because is a pathway to promotion, but it also contributes to the economy of the country, because if it is efficient that brings about economic development.

Mr Chairman, the Civil Service Training college should not be providing pro-bonor service to institutions let them be paying that institution for the training they are receiving, because as I say it is a matter of personal benefit for themselves, but overall in the grand scheme of things it also benefits the country. Mr Chairman, I thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, just an observation for the Ministry of Finance, if you go to Kambia District the Honourable Fofanah from Kono was talking

about the implementation of the project of the EU. Mr Chairman, the original design we had for that project the market that was to be built in Kambia and the guest house that was to be built and what they are building now are two different plans. It is not as a result of the fault of the Council nor EU, but what we have over the years is a situation in which projects started in 2020 by the time we got to 2023 when it actually commenced the cost of items would have far gone beyond the cost. As I speak in Kambia when the design was changed there was a whole lot of problems for our people to understand that the Council has not embezzled their money, or the people implementing the project are not the people who have embezzled, their money so it comes with a huge issue of morality and trust. The integrity of people implementing those programs are always on the front line when there is a delay and a redesign of the project.

Mr Chairman, so it is just an appeal that we engage the organization that is helping us when it comes to local Councils, or else you see a huge fine design but when it comes to the actual implementation what is being put on the ground is different from what the project calls for.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything Mr Leader? Mr Minister please proceed I thought you people still wanted to talk.

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Committee that worked on Group Eight, and we take each and every recommendations, comments and observations that you have made very seriously, and we will work to make sure that we implement as best as we can. I just want to comment on one or two observations or recommendations, as it pertains to the Ministry of Lands and Country Planning where the Committee recommends that at least 30% of the revenue that the Ministry has mobilized or is mobilizing in the coming year to be set aside for their use. First of all, I just want to also take this opportunity to say thank you to the Minister for a job well done. We at the Ministry of Finance are aware of the efforts that he and his team have made especially this year, and the digitalization that they have embarked on. So we need to say thank you to them, and we encourage other Ministries to follow suit.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I just want to remind Agencies that are created by an Act of Parliament they can have money allocated to them directly. As for Ministries like Ministry of Lands all monies raised must go through the CRF only because the Ministry of Finance pays salaries and takes care of all of the other expenses, so the recommendation made in the report of 30% of the monies that they raised should be set aside for their use would not be possible as I said only because they are not an

Agency they are a Ministry like the Ministry of Finance. However, as I said the Ministry of Finance would continue to work with them to just make sure that they have necessary tools that they need to make sure that they continue to do the job that they are doing, and we encourage other Ministries as well to follow suit to just make sure that they all come on board to help mobilize revenue.

With that said Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I once again move that the Votes Heads with corresponding estimates stand part of the schedule. I thank you.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Chairman, just before you put the question, just a quick one Mr Minister again I appreciate your comments, but again the 30% the Ministry of Lands is asking for is not a novelty, if you check with the Ministry of Mines all monies generated by the Ministry of Mines 30% is left with the Ministry of Mines, so that they are capacitated to take actions, you know it is not a novelty it is just a concern.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that the following Votes as pronounced by the Minister stand part of the schedule.

[Question proposed put and agreed to]

[Vote heads and corresponding estimates stand part of the schedule]

TABLE CLERK: The House resumes.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister you may leave.

ADJOURNMENT

**MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER, 2023
AT 10:AM**

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 1:30 PM.

