



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

FRIDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Friday, 15th January, 2013.

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PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE MATTHEW TEAMBO

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE THIRD REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE ADOPTED.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

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

Friday, 15th January, 2013.

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

I. PRAYERS

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

[The Speaker, Hon. Justice Abel Nathaniel Bankole Stronge, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we commence with the Order Paper, I would want to wish all of you a happy new year. We hope to make more progress this time than we did last year.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY, 20TH AND FRIDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 2012.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as usual, I will go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 20th December, 2012 page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 20th December, 2012 be adopted as presented?

HON. IBRAHIM M. BANGURA: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 20th December, 2012 was unanimously adopted as presented.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we now move to the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 21st December, 2012. I go will through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 21st December, 2012 be adopted as presented?

HON. KESS E. S. BOYAW: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALIMAMY G. KARGBO: I second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER:Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 21st December, 2012 was unanimously adopted as presented.

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE S.B.B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE MATTHEW TEAMBO

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House):Mr Speaker, with your leave, I would like to draw the attention of the Clerk's Office to the records of Votes and Proceedings. I want the dates to be indicated on the cover pages, instead of the inside pages for easy reference.

THE SPEAKER: I am happy you brought that to the notice of the Clerk. It gave me some strains just now.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is now my privilege to read the Second Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

INTRODUCTION:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on the 10th and 11th January, 2013 and interviewed a total of twelve Presidential nominees for appointments as Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State.

PROCEDURE:

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Inquiring questions put to the nominees pertained to their educational backgrounds, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful tenure of office. Allegations of malpractices in public offices and or unsuitability in terms of character to hold such high offices of state were closely looked into.

Third Sitting of the Committee on Thursday, 10th January, 2013

The following nominees were interviewed:

(i) *Hon. Mrs Marie M. Jalloh, Proposed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security;*

Mrs Marie M. Jalloh has an outstanding professional background in Agriculture, with many years of work experience in community development. She is an accomplished gender activist and politician, and has served Sierra Leone in several capacities.

Mrs Marie M. Jalloh viewed her appointment as a call to national duty. She assured the committee that she would work to the best of her ability and with dedication for the success of the ministry and the nation at large.

(ii) *Captain Momodu Allieu Pat-Sowe, Proposed Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources;*

Captain Pat-Sowe is a licensed sea captain for all categories of vessels, with unlimited growth tonnage. The nominee acquired his training in several countries, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia etc., and had a wealth of experience in maintenance, management and training of technical personnel in the areas of ships, ferries, tugs buoys and slipways. Captain Pat-Sowe has served his country in very important positions like: 2010–2012, Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment; 2007–2010, Deputy Minister and later Minister of Transport and

Aviation;1994–1998, Operations Manager, Sierra Shipping Company Ltd, England; and 1979–1985, Harbour Master, Sierra Leone Ports Authority, Freetown.

Questioned on his functions in the light of the current rampant poaching in our territorial waters, Captain Pat-Sowe said that poaching has been depriving the government and people of Sierra Leone of the much needed revenue from our marine resources. He said: “as a Sea Captain and Master Mariner, I have established the Joint Maritime Committee to address the issue of poaching and surveillance” while he was serving as Minister of Transport and Aviation. That Committee, he said, would have to be re-enforced by surveillance so that poachers will be arrested. He promised to ensure that marine monitors are capacitated, enhanced and well-paid to make them corrupt-resistant. “I will also endeavour to raise revenue to boost the low salary situation of all public officers, including Parliament,” he said.

(iii) Mr Moijueh Emmanuel Kaikai, Proposed Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs;

Mr Moijueh Kaikai is a successful politician who has merited the privilege of Presidential appointments. He was previously appointed as:Deputy Minister of Labour, Employment, and Social Security from 2009–2010;and Resident Minister, Southern Province from 2010-2013.

Responding to questions raised by members of the Committee, Mr Kaikai said that as former Deputy Minister of Labour, he had had the unique opportunity to work with several UN Agencies, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, WTO etc. He had even lobbied those UN Agencies to provide a well equipped school for the blind in Bo. He promised to draw on his experience and expertise for the success of his new assignment in the Ministry of Social Welfare.

(iv) Mr Charles Siamy Rogers, Proposed Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources;

Mr Charles Siamy Rogers is an Agricultural Economist with extensive work experience in management, monitoring and evaluation. From 2007 to date, Mr Rogers has been the Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).

Reacting to issues raised by members of the Appointments Committee, Mr Rogers said that he viewed his role to be that of an assistant and partner to the substantive Minister in service delivery of the Ministry. The Ministry, he went on, has two major challenges that he would be pre-occupied with. "One of them is the control of our territorial waters against foreign poachers that are causing enormous loss of badly needed revenue," he said. The second challenge, he said, "is our inability to access the fish markets of Europe. We still have to improve on the sanitary and hygiene conditions of our fish to meet European markets standards." The nominee promised to pre-occupy himself with these two challenges until success is attained.

(v) *Alhaji F.B.L. Mansaray, Proposed Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; and*

Mr Mansaray is an accomplished professional economist with a proven track record in programme management and facilitation for economic integration. He has amassed a lot of work experience in the civil service and other institutions that include: 2010–date, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance & Economic Development; 2004–2007, Member, Board of Directors of the African Development Bank; 2002–2004, Deputy Minister of Finance; 1996–1997, ADB Program Officer, UNDP, Freetown; 1992–1993, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Communications; 1989–1992, Deputy Financial Secretary; and 1976–1987, held various positions in the Mano River Union Secretariat.

Reacting to questions raised, Mr Mansaray pointed out the fact that this was the first time he was appointed "Minister of State," which he believed, would give him a little bit of clout over the Deputy Minister in taking decisions in the absence of the substantive Minister. "The Minister will always be in the cabinet. I will only step in when he is absent," he said. Giving his candid opinion on the nation's economy, he said: "there

was a time when Sierra Leone was considered a failed state. Those were the days when we were shying away from our debtors because we couldn't meet our financial obligations internationally. From that period to date, taking into consideration that this nation has gone through a ten year civil war, I think the economy of Sierra Leone is doing well; and I see prospects in the horizon based on the confidence we enjoy from our development partners. I think we are doing well. If we continue doing so, I see no reason why, within the shortest possible time, Sierra Leone cannot become a middle level country."

(vi) Mr Mustapha Bai Atilla, Proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs.

Mr Mustapha Bai Atilla is a household name in Sierra Leone. He is a media practitioner, (Radio Journalist) youth activist and a renowned promoter of disability issues. In his interview, Mr Atilla acknowledged the fact that he was going to a Ministry that has enormous challenges; a Ministry that is responsible for the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable groups like women and children. He noted that he was therefore determined to improving the performance of the Ministry. "I have identified areas we can improve on. One such area, he said, "is to drastically reduce or eliminate the presence of the physically challenged from begging in the streets by providing them vocational institutions that will provide skill trainings for them to be self-reliant." Mr Atilla promised to do his best along that and similar lines.

Fourth Sitting of the Committee on Friday, 11th January, 2013

The following nominees were interviewed:

(i) Mr Alie Doyle Kamara, Proposed Resident Minister, North;

Mr Kamara is an experienced politician who held the position of Resident Minister of the Northern Province from 2007 to date and is seeking Parliamentary approval for the same position.

In his interview, Mr Kamara informed the Committee that he has served well for the last five years as Resident Minister of the Northern Province. "To the best of my knowledge I have served productively. I believe I was reappointed because of my performance." Mr Kamara promised to work to the best of his ability to actualize the President's 'Agenda for Prosperity.'

(ii) Mr Musa Tarawally, Proposed Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment;

Mr Musa Tarawally is another successful politician who has merited the privilege of many Presidential appointments and has served as: 2010–date, Minister of Internal Affairs; 2007–2010, Resident Minister, Southern Province; and 2003–2007, Member of Parliament.

Under a barrage of questions relating to the Shears Moses Commission of Inquiry Report and the attendant White Paper, Mr Tarawally opined that "the Report was on an incident that occurred in Gendema. It was presented to government, and the White Paper that came out was clear. Recommendations were made on banning me from holding public office but the White Paper was clear on the recommendations. My understanding of the White Paper is that it is not in the law books of this country. That is, it has no legal locus, precedence and no foundation."

Answering to further questions, Mr Tarawally said: "if approved, I will be going to the Ministry of Lands as a Minister with the fear of God because land is a natural gift from God. I will supervise and coordinate the activities of that Ministry with the fear of God. I know there are many challenges, particularly the legislative and regulatory challenges." He promised to work with all stakeholders to build the capacity of the Ministry to perform. He further promised to harmonize the nation's land tenure systems and to enforce biometric registration of title deeds.

(iii) Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi, Proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development;

Madam Diana Konomanyi is a gender activist and a politician that is well-known for her community development activities. In 2010, Diana was elected Chairlady of the Kono District Council, a position she held until her nomination.

Questioned on how she was going to work with Paramount Chiefs and the Local Government Councils, Madam Diana Konomanyi said that her appointment has offered her an opportunity to work with Paramount Chiefs nationwide. "I grew up working with them. I grew up relating myself to the traditions of this country. I want to assure this Committee that I will do all within my powers to ensure that the institution of Paramount Chieftaincy is well protected, guided, preserved and capacitated. With regards to the Local Government Councils, I have had the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the Kono District Council, during which I accomplished a lot of things." She promised to work assiduously for the success of her Ministry.

(iv) Mr Momodu E. Maligi, Proposed Minister of water Resources;

Mr Maligi has a professional background in International Commerce and Policy. He has held several management and executive positions in very credible institutions. He is a skilled implementer and trainer in 'Quality Management Systems and Procedures,' Organisational Leadership and Customer Services.

During his interview, Mr Maligi said that he has given a lot of thought to the challenges that confront the new Ministry of water Resources, particularly in the current situation of "water is everywhere, but no water to drink." He said: "the current system is only supplying 59% of the population with portable water, mostly in the Freetown. The system is however, far outdated." "If approved," he went on; he planned to work with development partners to develop the established system and to do so in a sustainable manner. We need to win the trust of the people. "Sierra Leoneans," he said, "have lost confidence in the water utilities and people do not pay their bills. My initial effort would be geared towards making Guma Valley Water Company more customers focused." He also promised to look for private partners to create systems that would enhance sustainable water supply.

(v) Mr Muctaru Conteh, Proposed Resident Minister, South; and

Mr Conteh is a politician and eminent ruling party activist in the Eastern Region of Sierra Leone. In 2007, he was appointed a Member of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Leone Road Transport Authority (SLRTA), a position he has held to date.

Questioned on what he was going to do as Resident Minister for the Southern Province, Mr Conteh said, "as Resident Minister, I would be above party colour politics. The colours I am going to display in the southern region would be the green, white and blue. I want to assure you that if approved, the southern region would be the most peaceful and the cleanest in the entire country. We are going to ensure that our women and children are highly empowered. I will do that through community development schemes. I will use the Paramount Chiefs, Chiefdom Councilors and Local Councils to realise the Agenda for Prosperity."

(vi) Mr Theo-Nicol, Proposed Deputy Minister of Information and Communications.

Mr Theo-Nicol is a media practitioner with a wealth of work experience in Journalism, Marketing, Public Relations and Mass Communications. He has held various positions in several institutions, both nationally and internationally: 2009–date, Managing Director, Choice Media Consultancy Ltd., Freetown; 2007–2009, Marketing Manager, Premier Media Consultancy Ltd., Freetown; 2005–2006, Marketing Director, Fidelity Global Communications Ltd., Freetown; 2002–2005, Public Relations Consultant, BETTA, Lagos, Nigeria; and 1982–2000, held several positions as Public Relations Officer and Editor for several Media Houses in Nigeria.

Answering to questions on the Freedom of Information Bill, Mr Theo-Nicol said that the freedom to information is the right of every citizen, and not necessarily meant for journalists alone. He said: "Freedom to information is everybody's right. Therefore, I support it 100%. We should have the right to access information, even though the

government must also have the right to declare certain information as classified for security reasons.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) Mr Momodu Allieu Pat-Sowe, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources;
- (ii) Mr Moijueh E. Kaikai , Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children’s Affairs;
- (iii) Mr Musa Tarawally , Minister of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment;
- (iv) Mr Momodu E. Maligi, Minister of water Resources;
- (v) Mr Alie D. Kamara, Resident Minister, Northern Province;
- (vi) Mr Muctaru Conteh, Resident Minister, Southern Province;
- (vii) Mrs Marie M. Jalloh (Nee Conteh), Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security;
- (viii) Mr Foday B. L. Mansaray, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Economic Development;
- (ix) Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi, Minister of Local Government & Rural Development;
- (x) Mr Mustapha Bai Attila, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare Gender & Children’s Affairs;
- (xi) Mr Charles S. Rogers, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources; and
- (xii) Mr Theo-Nicol, Deputy Minister of Information & Communications.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have before us a crop of refined and performance-tested men and women, selected by the President himself to help him actualize his ‘Agenda for Prosperity. ‘It is now my privilege to say that all of the

nominees successfully went through the rigorous vetting process. This is an indication of how carefully the President had selected them.

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

HON. TEAMBO: Mr Speaker, I rise to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed)

HON.MATTHEW TEAMBO (Majority Chief Whip): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to start this debate. Mr Speaker, the governmental system of the Republic of Sierra Leone is yet incomplete in the same that the Judiciary and the Legislature are both ready for work. However, no one at this time can say the same for the executive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees that were interviewed by the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service to ascertain their administrative and professional responsibilities for the jobs they have been nominated for are almost approved. Very soon, these nominees will assume their respective responsibilities as ministers and deputy ministers. But this will be impossible without the approval of this noble House. These nominees have gone through the interview, which I personally found they were suitable for the positions they have been nominated for. During the interviews, the nominees demonstrated maturity, self-discipline, professionalism, and remarkable communication skills to serve this nation. These nominees before us, if approved, will be the agents to promote the 'Agenda for Prosperity'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution will be shunned if I failed to refer to the integrity and ethics connected with their offices. The positions these nominees will be taking soon entail a lot of work. The expectations of the people are very high. There are lots of external temptations that will be coming their ways. As a public servant, nominated by the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, interviewed and approved by this noble House, you should have the integrity to resist external and internal temptations. Always be cautious while doing your work. Communicate effectively, both verbally and written. You should be tenacious in resisting temptations. Work hard with your staff. It is very common in this country, based on my observation that people find it very difficult to follow simple instructions. You have to be insistent and firm in your decisions. Make sure that people follow the right instructions. You are going to work with people that will circumvent your instructions to suit their interest. When that happens, you the leader in-charge must know that you are there for a long period. Therefore, be cautious in your job. Do not execute your executive duties in a hurry. Be patient and never sign any document in a hurry. If you sign any document that you have not properly scrutinised, you have signed a document that will take you to Pademba Prison (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have to say this. It is very important for the Members of Parliament sitting here. We yearn for the collaboration of the ministers to work with us. We are in this together. Legislators will not be able to function alone. We count on the cabinet ministers or the executive to give us the support we need in order to execute our functions and to bring the goods and services to our people for which we are elected. It is not a question of supremacy of authority. We are only asking for mutual understanding and respect. Today, we are sitting here in a brand new Parliament. It is different from the past. The question of the former Honourable Members is very simple. It was not because of their inability to perform, but because they lacked the support they needed in order to execute their functions. Be assured that if you fail to deliver, the voters will be merciless when the time comes. Therefore, I want you to go to your offices after your approval and do your work diligently. I want

you to remember that we would be coming to see how far you are utilizing government revenue. We will not be coming to ask for anything fiscal, but we are coming to ask for your support so that we will be able to carry out our respective responsibilities in our different constituencies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to end by saying that all the nominees are qualified to the positions for which they were nominated. I commend them to the House for approval. This is my humble submission.

CHIEF BANYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't have any special nominee from Kailahun district, but I have people whom I know have done very well for this country. I should commend them today and urge Parliament to approve them. From what I have seen before us, the President has nominated quality men and women with experience and expertise, whom I believe will be able to serve us well. I want to make particular reference to Mr Musa Tarawalie. Mr Musa Tarawalie is a very active man. His duty cuts across the board. In addition, he has been moving from one place to another, solving problems between people. He is one of those that respect people, particularly the paramount chiefs. This is why I have special interest in him. He is somebody that can be entrusted with many duties. I have no doubt that he is willing to serve this country very well. He is going to head a ministry that is always full of people, problems and crisis. He is the right man for that ministry. The President has done this out of his own wisdom. Mr Musa Tarawalie is ready to serve this country with honesty and sincerity. With those few remarks, I want to urge Members of Parliament to unanimously approve these nominees. Thank you.

HON. EMMA SOWA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to congratulate my former colleague, Honourable Mrs Marie Jalloh for being appointed as Deputy Minister of Agriculture. When she was here, she worked tediously and tirelessly for the betterment of Sierra Leone. She worked in the interest of the women of this country. She was part of the Female Parliamentary Caucus. She had no boundary about party colours. She used to be in different committees, apart from HIV/AIDS Committee. She used to be very hard

working when she was a Member of Parliament. I believe she will perform in that ministry when she assumes full responsibility. I want to assure you that female Members of Parliament will give you all the support you will need. We know that farming is more connected to the provinces and other municipalities. I want you to realize that the ministry that you are going to be deputizing after approval is a ministry that has lots of demands, especially the Honourable Members that are coming from the provinces. I want to say also that 70% of the people in my constituency are farmers. The same goes for the other constituencies. We will be coming with new ideas to discuss with you. We hope you will not close the door at us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't know much about the Resident Minister South, Mr Conteh. But we look forward to working with him in the southern region. From your description, you will be working with the paramount chiefs and local councilors as well. I hope you would work with Members of Parliament also. We hope to see the southern region continues to grow. It will be in the interest of Green, White and Blue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next person I would want to talk about is Madam Diana Konomanyi. I don't know much about her, but as a female, I hope you will continue to work hard as you have said. Your ministry is another important ministry in this country, especially those in the rural areas. We hope you will work with us and communicate with us in whatever aspect. I thank you very much.

HON. KESS BOYA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, incidentally, I know almost all the nominees before us this morning. Most of them have been serving in the last government. And because of that, there is no reason why they should not continue to do the job they have been doing. This has convinced the President to re-nominate them. I wish them good luck for the next five years. I also like to remind them that the whistle has blown today. I want them to understand that the people of this country are watching them. The President is watching all of them,

including the various committees of this honourable House. Therefore, once the whistle is blown today, please don't look behind, go straight and do your work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out one of the nominees. The person I want to single out is Madam Diana Konomanyi. She is going to take over the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Most of us know her. What I want to say to my sister is that Kono has been a place of neglect. We don't want that to continue this time around. We want you to use your new office to ensure that you put all the stakeholders in Kono together so that we stop hearing negative things about Kono. We don't want the same problems to continue to surface. Kono District has been neglected from the development projects for years. But again, when I looked at what the problem was, I came to realize that we were also part of the problem. We should try by all means to do the things that are right so that we will be part and parcel of all the development programmes. I am urging my sister to ensure that the bad image of Kono District is expunged from the annals of history. I will team up with you, including my colleagues on the other side in ensuring that Kono is not left behind in terms of development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't want the problem at Koidu Holdings to be trivialised and underestimated. I don't want us to underplay with that problem at all. I hope to see the Minister of Mines in the next couple of days to give him the same message. Please Madam Minister, we need Koidu Holdings as we need our people in Kono. This means that the mining company and the local people should be able to understand themselves. But that cannot happen until we the stakeholders are honest with ourselves and take the part that is required of us. I want you to make that as your first priority. I don't want you to waste any more time. Please ensure that Koidu Holdings and our local people see the same direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge all the Members of this House to support the nomination of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. I thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are about to approve the nomination of several people that the President has deemed it fit to nominate new people or reappoint old ones for the various positions for which they would be approved. The people that are about to be approved here today (except for one or two) I almost know all of them. Honourable Marie Jalloh has been my mentee for a very long time. I was happy to see her in Parliament in 2007. She is still looking up to me as her mentor. We have had a very good relationship when she was a Member of Parliament. And when I heard that she has been nominated, I was very much elated, particularly for the ministry that she will be working in, the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a very important ministry. I am happy for the first time in the history of Sierra Leone a woman is being put in the Ministry of Agriculture (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we talk about Agriculture in Sierra Leone, it is synonymous to women. Women are the backbone of our agricultural economy. For a long period, that ministry has not reflected that at all. I hope that she will ensure that women get the feasibility that they are supposed to have.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the last three years that Captain Momoh Pat-Sow has been a Minister in that Ministry, almost all the Members of Parliament have been in his office. He was a straight forward politician; and I hope he continues to be forthright. Above all, he was very friendly, respectful and cordial in his relationship with Members of Parliament (*Applause*). Therefore, I have no doubt that he is going to perform. He is moving from the Ministry of Lands and the Environment to the Ministry of Marine Resources. With his professional career as a sea man, I know he will expedite his expertise and experience to overcome the perennial problems that the Ministry has been encountering.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Moijueh Kaikai. I saw him growing in Pujehun District. I also saw him when he was attending the Holy Family Primary School in Pujehun District. Let me tell you something you might not know. There was a woman who had to appear before his son in the law court. Her son was

the presiding judge for the case his mother appeared for. As part of the ethics of the legal profession, the Judge (the son of the mother) had to ask for the mother's name, even though he knew that the woman standing before him was his mother. He asked: "what is your name Madam"? Do you know what the mother said to her son? She said: "are you asking for my name, the woman who gave birth to you?" The son said: "oh yes, mama. You gave birth to me, but this is my office and in this office, this is what we do." The mother showed his son her name (*Laughter*). I have known the Minister to be. I have worked with him in Pujehun District. What I am trying to say here is that, I don't know you when I am doing my work (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have worked with Mr Charles Rogers very closely when I was working at the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). I was the Consultant for the National Women's Project of Port Loko and Kabala. I have also worked with him when I was working at the World Food Programme (WFP). He was later moved to the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have also known Mr Alhaji Mansaray when I was working at the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). I even stayed in his house at Sekonia. I have slept in his house for months. Therefore, I know him very well (*Laughter*). As a former Deputy Minister of Finance, we have been looking at him very closely. He executed his duties very well. Therefore, I have no reason why he cannot continue his work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't know much about Mr Attila. All I know about this man is that he is a musician by profession. Those who love music can attest to that. They must have enjoyed a lot of his night programmes on radio. He used to be very vocal and nice. Anytime I think of Mr Attila, I think of our former colleague, Julius Nye Coffie who was a Member of Parliament during the last Parliament. There was a time when Mr Attila told Mr Coffie that he was going to contest against him. When I asked him why he wanted to take that venture, he said: "Mr Nye Coffie has done nothing in that

constituency." I asked the blind man softly: "how do you know when you are not seeing?" All of us laughed. But that was just a physical challenge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I learnt when I was a student at Fourah Bay College was that, I happened to be in a class with a lot of physically challenged students, especially the blind. But Mr Speaker, those blind students were very intelligent. Being physically impaired does not mean that their senses are impotent. They are very intelligent, especially the blind. Therefore, I have no doubt about his ability to perform. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs is the ministry of his heart. I want you to pay special attention to the physically challenged. I want you to know that the physically challenged are not a homogenous group. This is because women are part of that category of people. Women have also been marginalised, especially the physically challenged ones. They face the worst marginalization in this country. I want you to pay critical attention to them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our Resident Minister in the North has described himself as the Resident Minister of New York. He hails from Makeni, where massive development is going on. Makeni has been the citadel of development. And because Makeni is in the north, the northern region is termed New York. You have worked well in that part of the country. We have attended several meetings with you in Makeni. You were very hospitable to us. You hosted us well. Therefore, I have no doubt that you will continue with your good work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to say something about a friend, a son and a younger brother to me, Mr Maligi. We have worked with his father in this House, Honourable Sam Maligi. He was a former Member of Parliament. I have personally worked with him on different capacities. Mr Maligi, you are very young. You are going to head a very challenging ministry, the Ministry of Water Resources. This is the first time in the history of this country that water resources is going to be a ministry on its own. I want you to know that water is life. Water is a cross-cutting issue everywhere in the world. I want you to ensure that Freetown is free from water shortage.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to turn to our sister, Madam Diana Konomanyi. I don't know her much. But I think she has been one of the few women in this country that has sat on one of the highest local councils in Kono. I am very happy for her. She is very enterprising. I hope that she will bring her enterprising ability to the Ministry of Local Government. The Ministry of Local Government is a very challenging ministry, particularly for a woman. It is also challenging Kono District and other parts of the country, where women do not occupy the position of Paramount Chiefs. That is going to be a very big challenge for you. I want you to take that as a challenge. Please, we want you to look at the Local Chieftaincy Act as well. Ensure that the Local Chieftaincy Act is improved. There are challenges in the Act that you need to work on. We want you to look at it critically. Don't forget that Local Government has now got a new decentralisation policy. One of the provisions of that Policy is that, Members of Parliament are now members of the 'Ward Development Committee'. That is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament are now members of the Ward Development Committee. This is because what has been happening in the past is that, since we were not members of the 'Ward Development Committee,' our Councilors (most of whom are now Members of Parliament) had to fight Members of Parliament for party symbols. And local councilors are responsible to take developments to the wards and the constituencies. They failed to offer information concerning what is happening in those wards. They personalised those development programmes. That affected most of our former colleague Members of Parliament. Honourable Members had to put up fierce contest with those councilors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament should be seen to be members of those committees. We expect you to invite Members of Parliament, after you would have put the Ward Development Committees together to the inaugural meetings of those wards. We must be part and parcel of the people that would determine the development issues of the various wards and constituencies. We must know where the potentials and difficulties are. We must also be involved in developing

or prioritizing those development areas which would now be sent to the local councils. We should be part of the budget and development planning programmes. This time around we want to make sure that we take what is rightfully ours. That is where our impact can also be felt. We must know what is happening in our constituencies. If Members of Parliament are involved, they would be able to stand and point to different ministries the inefficiencies in their wards. If you fail to do that, you are shooting yourself in the leg. This is because at the end of the day, the councilors personalize all development programmes. And it would be very difficult for you to say I did this, or I influenced this to happen. I want my colleague Members of Parliament to take note of what I am saying here today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now turn to Mr Theo-Nicol, proposed Deputy Minister of Information and Communications. Mr Theo-Nicol, I want you to know that information is power. I don't know you much but I have looked at your resume. I hope you are coming in to improve that ministry. You will meet some challenges in that ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy that I didn't know the Residence Minister South until the day he appeared before the Committee. But you are very unassuming. From my independent investigations, I came to know that you are very reliable and resilient. You waited patiently until God's own time. You should be an example to some of us that roam from one place to another or from one political party to another. What I have learnt from your patience and resilience is that there is a reward for being loyal. Today, you have been rewarded for your loyalty and patience.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate all the nominees in advance. They have gone through the horrors of the interview panel. They were thoroughly drilled during the interview exercise. The chairman of the Appointment Committee told us that he had no regret of the whole exercise. I told him that we were only doing our work. I can assure this Honourable House that we have done our work. We are now sending

them to their respective ministries. I want them to work for the betterment of this country. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it may be invidious to single out one or two people where all the nominees are worthy of praised, commendation, and above all where all of them deserve approval by this Honourable House. But Mr Speaker, I want to single out one or two people. I don't want to comment on every one because of time constraints.

Mr Speaker, please allow me to single out Alhaji Foday B. M. Mansaray, proposed Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Mr Speaker, most of the time people are appearing before this House, I use to tell this Honourable House that this man was my junior in school or I taught him in school. But this time around Mr Speaker, Mr Mansaray was my senior in the university. Alhaji Foday B. M. Mansaray was my senior at Fourah Bay College, during the sixties. Mr Speaker, I have said this here that when we were at Fourah Bay College during the sixties, seniority was not only respected but was admired and revered. We use to have so much respect for our seniors. But as I have been saying Mr Speaker, this is one of the paradoxes of life. Yesterday, he was my senior; but today...-(*Interruption*). I had to interview him, despite he was my senior. And in interviewing this man (let me confess here that), I was doing so with a degree of reputation because I reflected; SO(2) 'pa, dis na bi mi bos oh. He used to call me small boy. But allow me to say to Alhaji B.L. Mansaray that today I am not a small boy because I interviewed you (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next person I would like to talk about is Captain Momodu Alieu Pat-Sow. We attended the St. Edwards Secondary together, but he was my junior. But he was a very powerful junior because in those days some of these junior boys were so presumptuous that they thought they could even be what we were. They wanted to be what some of us were. But he was a very progressive and intelligent boy. He was intelligent because when I was Senior Prefect and Head Boy, if I went to any class and there was no teacher, I would step-in and teach. That was how I

came to know and teach him. During that period, I found him to be particularly intelligent to a point where I had to delegate some of the classes to him. He was very brilliant Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, talking about Captain Momodu Alieu Pat-Sow, I want all ministers in this country to take a leave from the book of Pat-Sow. When I said to take a leave from the book of Pat-Sow, metaphorically Mr Speaker, I am saying that they should copy from Mr Momodu Alieu Pat-Sow. They should copy him because this is one man that has always shown respect and regard for Members of Parliament (*Applause*). Mr Speaker, I wonder what some of these ministers think of themselves. When Members of Parliament knock at their doors, they think Members of Parliament are there to beg. That has been their impression. We have what we call a representational function. And in the exercise of that function, we have to ask certain ministers questions. Therefore, ministers are our partners. Any time we come to meet you in your different offices, there should be no protocol for any Member of Parliament. Why should there be protocols? Unless you want to be otherwise, but if you want to be true to yourself as I have always said here: "to thyself be true," you will appreciate Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament are the ones approving you today; otherwise, you will be sitting there without occupying your office. Therefore, you have to realise that Parliament is supreme and that Members of Parliament have to be reckoned with. You must reckon with them whether you like it or not (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me send another piece of advice to ministers. Today, we have Deputy Ministers and Ministers of State. Mr Speaker, in the past, we used to have so many complaints about the relationship between substantive ministers and their deputies. Mr Speaker, a substantive minister must be working with his/her deputy. Deputies are not nonentities. I repeat that deputies are not nonentities! In fact, some of the deputies could even be more intelligent than some of the substantive ministers. This fact has to be accepted. It should be noted here that being junior or deputy to a substantive Minister does not mean that you are inferior. Substantive ministers must work with their deputies. The deputies are your partners.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity of openly saluting the Honourable Marie Jalloh. I salute her in the name of every Member of Parliament, particularly Members of Parliament that were here from 2007-2012. I am sure not only female Members of Parliament but all of us that are here are looking forward to that prospect of being moved from here to the executive. Mr Speaker, experience has taught that people who move from the Legislature to the Executive are always found to be doing extremely well. Mr Speaker, those of us that are here have no doubt, particularly those of us that have known Honourable Marie Jalloh over the years that she will excel in that Ministry. She was one of the vibrant Members of Parliament of the APC.

Mr Speaker, somebody was saying that she has not known Madam Diana Konomanyi. That is very unfortunate. I want to say that 'Diana Konomanyi' is a household name in this country. And in the APC, we call her 'Iron Lady'. That name means many things. When you refer to a woman as an Iron Lady, particularly at a time when we are talking about the empowerment of women, we are referring to an enterprising woman as the Minority Leader has said. That is what Madam Diana Konomanyi is.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Muctaru Conteh. Mr Muctaru Conteh used to grumble a lot, particularly to us the old party people. But we used to tell him using the words of a poet entitled 'Hope' that says: "All good things come to those who wait long enough".

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to commend Mr Musa Tarawalie for his nomination. As somebody was saying, it is very true that Mr Musa Tarawalie knows no boundaries, whether you are black or white, green or red; he is always ready to work with people. He is indeed a mixer. You have to accept him. Therefore, I want to commend him and the rest of the nominees to the House for approval. Thank you very much.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been ratified.

(THE TWELVE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES WERE UNANIMIOUSLY APPROVED).

THE SPEAKER:Ladies and gentlemen, the Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone has approved your nominations.You have to go and do the job for which you were nominated and approved by this House. The expectations of the people of this country are very high, sometimes unrealistically high.You have todo the best you can. Make sure you deliver to the best of your ability.Your best might not be good enough for other people, but that is the best you can do. I congratulate you and I wish you well in your new appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.22 a.m., and was adjourned until Friday, 18nd January, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).