



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

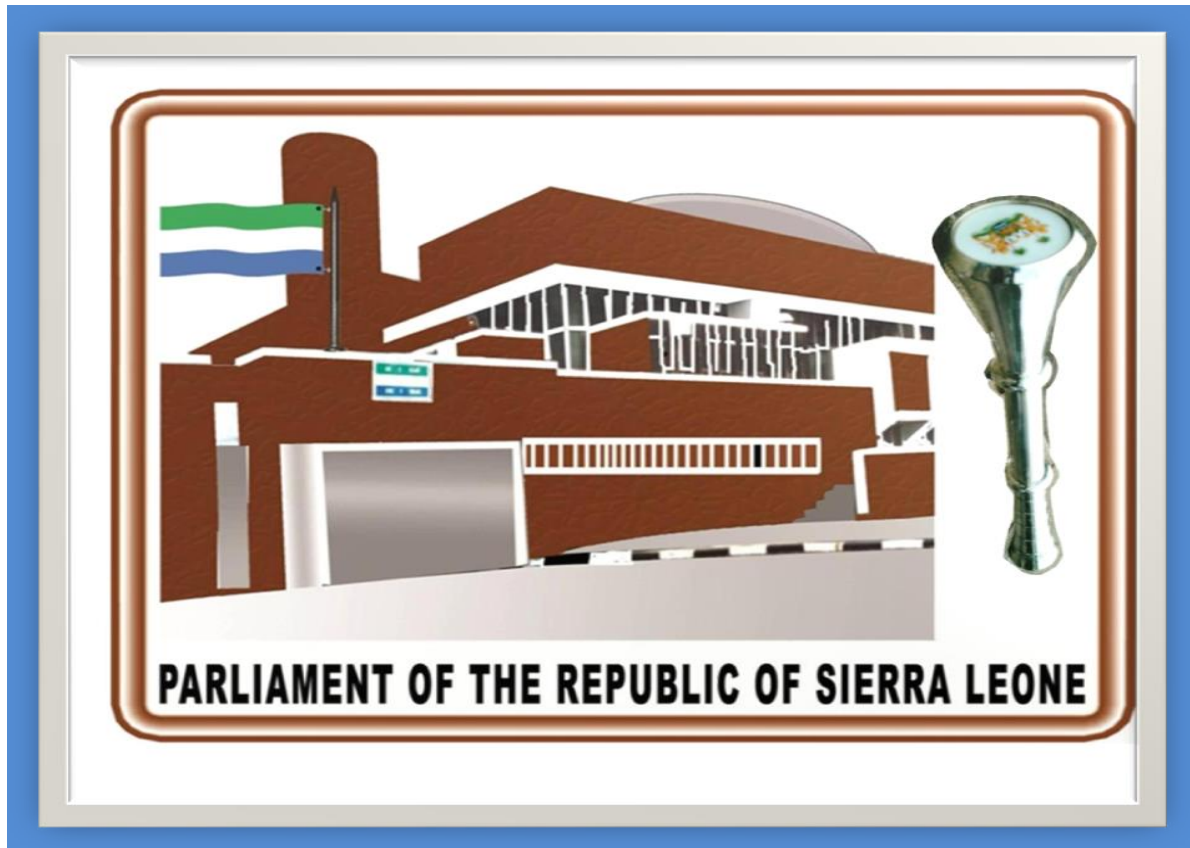
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2023

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 16th November, 2023.

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PROPOSER: HON MATHEW S NYUMA

SECONDER: HON AARON A KOROMA

BE it resolved:

That the Tenth Report of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.



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

Thursday, 16th November, 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 Speaker, Hon. Dr Chernor Abass Bundu in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2023

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have our Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Friday, the 10th which was unusually short for reason you well understood. That was the day of the Budget, so we just considered two pages. Page 5? Any amendment to Page 5? Page 6? Can someone move for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Friday, 10th November, 2023?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker I so move,

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Mr Speaker I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for parliamentary sitting held on Friday 10th Novembers, 2023 has been adopted as presented]

III ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me start by commending most heartily all of you that are present in the Well today, in order to commence our proceedings at 10:00am as dictated mandatorily by S.O5 [2]. The last time you did that, I commended those present and this time around, I am commending those of you who are present on time. I propose to continue doing so until all of us learn to imbibe the culture of punctuality. I know it is an onerous task, but I will never be tired. Let us change our BMT to GMT. Nowhere in any dictionary, you will find BMT; it is not recognised, but Greenwich Mean Time is recognised in the World and human activities are determined and assessed by GMT and Sierra Leone is not an exception. I want especially to commend the new Members of Parliament. I repeat, I want to specially commend the

new Members across the isles for demonstrating a sense of responsibility and punctuality. Similarly, I want to commend the old Members not all of them but those of them, particularly who were with me in the Fifth Parliament and who are equally responsive to the demands of S.O 5[2]. You know I will never stop preaching. Most nations in the World that we respect today for their development have done so because of their sense of duty and sense of patriotism to their countries. All of us in this Chamber are being looked upon as leaders of this country both individually and collectively. As the adage goes, "to whom much is given, much is expected." So I want to urge all of us to continue to demonstrate leadership by good example. It does not come easily; it comes with dedication and determination to succeed. That is why the New Members are here early to join the old ones who have transitioned from the 5th Parliament to the 6th Parliament and your transition means success in your political career. So to all of you once again, I commend you for your action this morning and I will encourage all of us to continue to demonstrate good leadership by example for the rest of mankind to follow. I thank you all. Yes.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before moving to the next item, I stand on S O.26 for now. I want to use this opportunity on behalf of my leader, who was out of the country and he is just joining us now, I would like to step in his shoes to observe the order of this House, especially from this side. I want to use this opportunity therefore, to commend the Deputy Whip from the ruling side; Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh and also our Whip on this side. They were all over the place this morning to ensure we have a quorum. From my observation, I know we have different set of Whips this time and you will not be disappointed. Now, I speak on S.O 5[2] in tandem with Section 97, Paragraph (a) and (d). I want to join you to encourage the Whips in order to keep up their good work. They should be here latest 9:30a.m so they would be able to mobilise and inform our Members of Parliament to be here before 10:00am in order to start the proceedings at 10:00a.m. based on our constitutional mandate. I thank you very much the Deputy Whip, Honourable Ibrahim

Tawa Conteh and our Whip on this side, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara and I encourage you on behalf of my leader to please keep it up.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me also add my voice not only for what has happened today but I particularly want to single out the Honourable Member from the Western Area, Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. He has been exemplary in the discharge of his responsibilities as Whip *[Applause]*. I hope the Whip on the other side will emulate his fine example. Well, it is a matter of subjective judgement which I do not want to delve into this a point. I have come to consider the view of Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh over time. I want to use the same time to be able to judge your Whip.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, for the fact that you have seen that, I want to join you in commending the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. Similarly, we have our internal arrangement in which our Whip has been very much effective. For you to see the huge turnout of Members of Parliament on this side, it is not by mistake... *[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Who is your Whip by the way?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara is our Whip.

THE SPEAKER: Well, I will agree on one thing

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes sir.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Abdul Karim kamara that I see now is certainly a new one

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes Mr Speaker, the new edition, Abdul Karim Kamara Pro-Max. Mr Speaker, I want to similarly seize this opportunity on behalf of us on this side to commend Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, Honourable Zainab and Honourable Kemoko Conteh for the hard work they have done. If it were not for them, we would not have had this turn out. So, they also need to be commended.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I take due note of the new Abdul Karim Kamara and the emphasis is on the word new. I am certainly seeing a new attribute from him. I would reserve my commendation with regards to the discharge of his duties and allow myself to observe how things will be from now on. You have drawn my attention to a very important point, I will have no doubt going forward that, between Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh and Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara are two of special kinds and I expect nothing less but diligent discharge of their responsibilities as whips for this August Body. I thank you, let us get on with today's Business.

IV MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. AARON A KOROMA

Be it resolved:

That the Tenth Report of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

HON. MATHEW S NYUMA *[Leader of Government and leader of the House]:*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone Tenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations 2023.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service cognizance of its constitutional responsibility of vetting and approving of qualified candidates for important offices of state met on Monday, 13th November, 2023 and interviewed six Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- i). the Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL),
- ii) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]
- iii) Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)
- iv) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA),
- v) Chairman, Board of Directors, National Mineral Agency (NMA) ,
- vi) Commissioner, Western Region, Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) and
- vii) Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA)

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted as usual the hearing within its set framework of procedures and the Presidential nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to effectively perform in the various positions appointed. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to a litmus transparency probe on their track records in the Public service and other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into.

3. TWELVETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2023

The following Presidential nominees were interviewed on oath:

I. Dr Ibrahim Stevens, Proposed Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone

Dr Ibrahim Stevens is an icon of modern day banking and financial specialists who has spent more than three decades of his professional life experience in economic policy analysis and central banking both home and abroad. Prior to this appointment, he was

the Acting Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone, the position he has held since March 2023. He was the first Deputy Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone responsible for Monetary Stability after the enactment of the Bank of Sierra Leone Act of 2019 by the Fifth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during his first term as Deputy Governor, the dynamic economic policy analyst and banking expert led series of projects aimed at improving the monetary policy implementation framework and operations. In his quest to ensure financial stability in the country, he oversaw the central bank's move to a risk-based supervision framework and worked closely with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other donor partners that yielded desirable results.

His work trajectory in the banking and finance world reveals the following:

- August 2013 to July 2014 - Country Programme Director, International Growth Centre, London School of Economics
- August 2012 to July 2013 – Macroeconomic Adviser to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, Rwanda
- April 2010 to August 2012 – Senior Economist, Monetary Analysis, Bank of England
- October 2008 to October 2009 – Director of Research and Senior Policy Adviser, bank of Sierra Leone
- October 2002 to May 2004 - Senior Financial Economist at the G10 Financial Surveillance Division, Bank of England.

Dr Ibrahim Stevens holds a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in Economics from the Fourah Bay College (1993, a Master Degree in Business Finance from Brunel University, London(2004) and a PhD in Financial Economics from Durham University, United Kingdom.

Responding to questions on regulating the Commercial Banks to reduce interest rates

and promote capital financing for the Feed Salone project Dr. Steven said “The most important thing is to collaborate well with key partners like the banks and Ministry of Finance to ensure we give the right advice to the President in relation to policy framework to leverage the needed financing loans and investments into the agricultural Sector”.

On the disproportionate rise in the exchange rate, the proposed Governor furthered Thus; “the exchange rate is very important for the livelihood of every country however the golden rule to reduce rate is to increase productivity. It is only when you export for example cash crops which is purchased in foreign currency then you will be able stabilize the exchange rates. The government policy of prioritizing the agriculture sector and encouraging commercial bank to lend in foreign currency will ease the tension on exchange rates”.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, furthermore on the currency re domination, Dr Stevens said the old Leone ceases to

be a legal tender on the 31st December ,2023 but emphasized that citizens in possession of the old Leone after the stated date can exchange it at the Central Bank or any Commercial Bank and would be given the same face value of the new Leone.

The Committee encouraged the Nominee to pay keen attention and monitor the following: the rising interest rates, proper regulatory framework with the commercial banks, making investment accessible and lowering the interest rates on loans.

ii. Ing Alfred Jalil Momodu ,Proposed Director General ,Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)

Ing. Alfred Jalil Momodu is one of the Country’s outstanding engineers with enviable

track records of credible performance. He holds a degree of Master of Science in Road Management and Engineering from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom (2010). He is a Corporate Member of the Sierra Leone Institute of Engineers and the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation.

He has served the SLRA with diligence through steady hierarchical growth as condensed
Thus:

- January, 2023 to date, served as Deputy Director General at the Sierra Leone Roads Authority where he provided leadership and demonstrated administrative and technical capabilities in his overall supervision of engineers in all 16 districts of Sierra Leone.
- From January 2020 to December, 2022, he was a Director in Operations and Management Department, Sierra Leone Roads Authority. During his tenure, he facilitated the Public Private Partnership Agreement for Trunk Road Rehabilitation Works; Koidu-kainkordu-Kamiendor-Guinea boarder road; Savage street bridge reconstruction works etc.
- September 2019 to December, 2019 – Acting Director, Operations Management Department
- November 2012 to July 2019 – Chief Engineer, Maintenance Department
- November 2010 to November 2012 – Acting Chief Engineer, Maintenance Department
- July 2009 to November 2010 – Acting Chief Regional Engineer, Bo Region

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer Alfred Jalil Momodu's resume speaks to the fact that, he has spent almost all of his professional life at the Sierra Leone Roads Authority and no doubt would serve as a sound institutional memory and technocrat that will be vital to the performance of the SLRA.

Reacting to questions from the Committee on the changes he would institute under his authority as Director General if approved, Engineer Momodu said that he would commit himself to ensure the institution attained positive projects implementations as required.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer Momodu was praised across party lines for his assiduous work relating to the fixing of roads interconnecting towns, districts, and provinces in a bid to promote trade and commerce within the axis of Bo to Yele, Moyamba to Shenge, Songo to Mabang and several other towns.

iii. Mr Augustine Julius Jemeel Tommy ,Proposed Deputy Chief Executive

Officer, National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA)

Mr Tommy is a procurement specialist, financial, business, Credit and risks analyst. He is a researcher and Public Policy expert with a plethora of academic degrees viz;

i. Master's in Governance and Leadership (2018 – 2020) from IPAM, University of Sierra Leone

ii. Executive Master in Business Administration (MBA Executive) 2014-2016 from Njala University

iii. Master of Science in Economics (MSc. Economics) 2012 – 2014

iv. Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance (2006-2010)

He has held lots of Consultancies in finance, administration and procurement. He is currently awaiting his PhD from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

On his plans to make the National Public Procurement Authority more effective

Mr. Tommy said "My first priority is to do procurement assessment across the board and forward recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer for the necessary actions".

On compliance, he continued "I have been an auditor, a director and finance manager

all with a procurement unit under my supervision .Over the years, I have built the requisite experience to handle issues around non-compliance procedures relating to procurement”, he ended.

The Committee admonished the nominee to work in consultation with his boss to achieve the mandate of the institution.

iv. Alhaji Mustapha Turay, Proposed Chairman Board of Directors ,National Minerals Agency(NMA)

Alhaji Mustapha Turay is one of the Country’s foremost rough Diamond experts of no mean standing with more than five decades experience in the diamond industry. He was trained by the esteemed De Beers in the sorting and valuing of Sierra Leone’s diamonds during the days of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust – SLST – Mining Company - 1972 to 1984. His wealth of experience at De Beers was very useful in Sierra Leone’s rewards from the diamond trade. He holds a Colored Gems Diploma from Gemological Institute of America, London, United Kingdom.

From 2002 to 2018, he was Director and Senior Independent Diamond Valuer in Sierra Leone for Diamond Counsellor International (DCI).

From 1998 to 2002, he served in the same position for DCI in Conakry, Guinea and Luanda, Angola

From 1995 to 1997, he was General Manager and Diamond Valuer, Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO) Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Mustapha Turay and DCI recently developed a new digital computerized state of the art electronic Diamond Pricing System that

ensures the availability to diamond valouers, current world market prices. The new Diamond Valuation System Software (The valouer) is an online live diamond valuation platform that renders the latest diamond pricing mechanism in the world diamond market.

Answering questions on the value he would be adding to the National Minerals Agency, Mr Turay said “I have served on the board for over four years and I know a lot about minerals and precious minerals. I will be using these experiences to proffer advice on policy guidelines for the Minister and the Director General of the National Minerals Agency. There are many concerns that need urgent attention and these include human resources and new policy guidelines for both the Ministry and the National Minerals Agency on granting licenses and other issues”.

On the current granting of exploration licenses and NMA monitoring, he added” when a company applies for a mining licenses we do a thorough background check on the technical, financial, and human resource and weaknesses before we proffer advice to the Director General and the Minister for a no objection”, he concluded.

He was hailed across party’s lines for his dedication to duty and upholding a strong sense of nationalism.

v. Mr. Abu Bakar Carew, Proposed Commissioner ,Local Government Service Commission, Western Region.

Mr. Abu Bakar is a veteran Civil Servant with an extensive and credible work records in the Sierra Leone Civil Service. His experience trajectory in the Civil Service can be

summarized thus;

- May 2004 to September 2006: Chief Administrator, Western Area Rural District Council
- December 2008 to March 2010: Deputy Secretary and Head of Procurement Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
- April 2010 to June 2011: Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.
- June 2011 to April 2014: Senior District Officer, Bombali District
- April 2014 to April 2017: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Aviation
- April 2017 to November 2017, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender Affairs

His last assignment in the Public Service was in 2018 when he served the government of Sierra Leone as Provincial Secretary in the North West region.

Responding to questions relating to the value he would be bringing to the institution, he said addressing the recruitment, promotion, and placement problems of Council workers were of concerns and assured "I will do my best to ensure I collaborate with the Chairman and other Members of the board to comply with the provisions of the new legislation on local governance to address some of those anomalies hindering the equitable placement and distributions of human resource within Councils"

The nominee was encouraged to utilize his administrative prowess to ease tensions between the Commission and the main Ministry.

vi. Sheik Mamoud Foday Sesay, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone

Ports Authority(SLPA)

Mr Sesay is a devout Muslim cleric with a seasoned background in trade unionism. He holds several certificates to his credit from the International Labour Organization (ILO), Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and has worked extensively for twenty years spanning period at the Sierra Leone Labour Congress, where he served as a strong negotiator for the terms and conditions for the country's workers in relations to the Wages and Industrialization Act number, 18 of 1971. He was held in very high esteem by colleagues for his assiduous work ethics. Until this nomination, he served as the Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Health Services Workers' Union (SLHSWU), the position he held with great creditability.

Responding to how he would use his trade unionist ideas to create the ideals of sanity for Ports workers, he explained "My primary objective on the board is the workers' interest. I will use my experience to provide policy guidelines to the board in addressing emerging labour issues of the Ports in relation to the Labour laws and Congress expectations" ,he concluded

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i. Dr. Ibrahim Stevens, Proposed Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone
- ii. Ing Alfred J. Momodu, Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority

- iii. Augustine J.J Tommy, Proposed Deputy Chief Executive Officer, National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA)
- iv. Alhaji Mustapha Turay, Proposed Chairman Board of Directors ,National Minerals Agency (NMA)
- v. Mr. Abu Bakar Carew, Proposed Commissioner, Local Government Service Commission, Western Region
- vi. Sheik Mamoud Foday Sesay, Proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority(SLPA)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Tenth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that, the Tenth 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.....

Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma,

Chairman & Leader of Government Business

Mr Speaker, I cannot claim to be a knight in this mission. I am a baptised and confirmed Catholic. I married in a Catholic Church. I was knight and this weekend, I will be Noble by the Arch Bishop of the Catholic Mission in Sierra Leone; Arch Bishop Tamba Charles.

THE SPEAKER: Are you allowed to bring the regalia here?

HON. MATHEW S NYUMA: Mr Speaker, that is beyond your jurisdiction and I beg to differ. I have to go through the General of the knight of St John International. I do not just dress because I feel like dressing except on special occasions and the last time you were invited to see how I appeared, myself and the Clerk. I am a knight and do not joke with that Mr Clerk. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to this motion?

HON. AARON A KOROMA: Mr Speaker I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, before I put the question, I would stand the House down for five minutes.

[Mr Speaker stood the House at 10 :55]

[The House resumes at 11:00a.m]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, kindly take your seats. Can I have the decorum in the House please and put an end to your small meetings in the Well! There can only be one meeting. I will now put the question.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: I will give the Floor to the Honourable from Mile 91.

HON. AARON A KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank God for a day like this because, with 70% of the economic affairs of this person, I am sure it would be a very important day. The Bank Governor, the roads and the like.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the market reaction upon the appointment of the proposed Bank Governor is enough for every Sierra Leonean to know that, there is hope in him because before his appointment the Dollar was chasing 2,500 but just upon his appointment we saw some gradual decline and that is a very good reaction. So we are hopeful upon his approval. We are going to see more decline in the exchange rate, inflation and instability in our economy.

THE SPEAKER: In other words, the strengthening of the Leone against foreign currencies.

HON. AARON A KOROMA: Against foreign currencies, those are some of his responsibilities under the monitoring policies which fall under his purview. Mr Speaker,

Honourable Members, I will not just be lavishing praises on nominees. The Bank Governor's Office is a very crucial office....*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: It is better to give that jurisdiction only to the Central Bank rather than both the Central Bank and the Commercial Banks. That needs to be watched very carefully. The Central Bank after all, we know it plays a pivotal role with regards to the value of our currency. There are some people who may be huddling the old currency in quantum that may be beyond imagination waiting for what we do not know. When the rush comes after December 31, let it be directed to the Central Bank alone and not to any bank. I will give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Bo, the one with the hat.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, I thank you for given me an opportunity to have a brief bite on this important debate *[Undertone]*. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are happy because we have some dignitaries before us here waiting to be approved. Prior to that, I want to make specific comments on them, I want to admonish them generally; today you are before this Honourable House for approval, the President nominated you because we practice Separation of Powers in Government. It is the responsibility for the Legislative Arm of Government to approve you. The President is the Executive head and he has the responsibility to nominate. If you are not approved then you will definitely not take up those offices. Most times, the sooner you are being approved in this Well, you start thinking that Parliament is an inferior institution. Many people who were being approved did this. So we want to crave your indulgence this particular time because I am seeing a lot of people of substance. All of you here are people of substance. I know some of you and I know your background. Let me use the opportunity to do it one after the other.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to toe line with a very senior Honourable Member from Mile 91. I want to thank him very much for his concerns and when it comes to economy, we are talking about the daily bread of every Sierra Leonean. We are not going to politicalise it at all. Each and everyone one of us has to put our handson deck to make sure that our economy is revived. Despite the global situation

that is happening everywhere, let us focus on our country Sierra Leone, which is our primary concern. Let us work by putting hands on deck and make sure that the economy is revived *[Applause]* and I want to assure you with the 2024 Bill that has just been enacted by this Honourable House, there are a lot of things there and I hope and pray that, you are all going to help us to make sure that our economy is revived.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a little thing about Dr Stevens from the Bank of Sierra Leone. Dr Stevens, you have been nominated to act as the deputy Governor in the Bank of Sierra Leone. We all know the role of being a deputy. As a deputy, you do not have the absolute saying. You are working under the direction of your superior. Today, we are advocating for you to be approved. When you are being approved, you have no excuse to give to this Honourable House, you have all what it takes, you have the powers, and you are now the substantive Bank Governor. If you have a way of implementing the S.O [2] "munku" politics to revive the economy; practice the "munku" economics and revive the economy. You went to London College of Economics and you have all the qualifications like my learned Speaker from Cambridge. The Honourable Speaker is from Cambridge and he is maintaining it. He is really telling us that he is from Cambridge; thank you very much Mr Speaker that is why most times when I stand to speak, I always thank you because you have supervised me for almost 6 years now and you have trained me in the way that fit for purpose.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bank Governor, you know we have a difficult economic situation in the country and that is not your fault, because you did not create it. We have global shock and some internal problems. In the first place, when your predecessor came up, he took up that office when we were facing austerity and for you to take us from austerity, it means a lot. It is a very difficult situation, but we are here to help out. That is why when we talk about Government, we talk about continuity. Government should be continuity but most times, people do not want us to say these things. The time when the economy is flamboyant, that will be the time you create a resilient economy so even when you have external shocks, you will not go down. We actually do not want to see that happen, but we want to crave your indulgence in the

midst of all difficulties. We know you pay attentions and you listen to other people, you have a team that you are working with, you have to listen to your team, especially good ideas, not everybody that you will be taking advice from, because some people will give you wrong advice. I am advising you to work hand in glove with Honourable Members in this House. Not always, but most times, some of my colleagues will visit the Bank Governor and they must come and give us update on the economic situation. If you work hand in glove with the Committee of Finance, all your activities will be in their bosom. Most time even when you are not there, the Committee of Finance will be called upon to explain what is happening in the economic space. I have always sited an example even when the Minister of Energy is not here, the Deputy is not here, EDSA Director-General is not here, and any crucial matter related to Energy, if you ask me, I will answer to it because we have a very good relationship. That is why we want other sectors to handle their Committees in this Parliament, let Parliament be abreast with all your activities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Bank Governor as I said just now, there is a document we approved here three or four weeks ago seeking Energy Projects. That document is right before you, we want to make sure that we provide sustainable electricity for the people of Sierra Leone. This also laid emphasis on energy in the Western Area, 30 Megawatts in the Eastern part of Freetown and 10 Megawatts in Lungi; it is right before you. I want to crave your indulgence Mr Governor, please treat it with every amount of urgency, because the people that are funding that project are waiting for that document. I am craving your indulgence and I am not urging, when you are in your office you actually know what and what you will be doing, make sure it is expedited.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, secondly, the good thing about the Finance Act, 2024 is going to do for us will make the situation little bit better. It is going to help you to a very large extend. Mr Speaker, previously since 2021, it was expunged for the Mining Sector. The repatriation was expunged; I spoke about it in 2016 in my first debate, my maiden speech in this Well,

THE SPEAKER: 2016?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: It was in 2016.

THE SPEAKER: Because you were not here in 2016.

HON. JOSEPH A.B KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I was not here. but I will tell you that Twenty-two Mining Companies were accessed and those Twenty-Two Mining Companies were only able to repatriate \$72,000,000 a very small sum. Sierra Rutile was only able to repatriate \$6,000,000, Mr Speaker that is an insult, but with the 30% that is now enacted in the 2024 Finance Bill, I hope and pray you are going to use all strategies to make sure that the 30% are repatriated, otherwise things will not be good next year. When we were in Committee Room One, I said it, we want when you come here next year to tell us how much was repatriated by these different mining companies. It is not just putting it in a black and white, we want to see them implemented; once those things are implemented, then it will start pushing our economy because repatriation of 30% will bring many million dollars and the money will stay with Bank of Sierra Leone. Sierra Rutile they are not paying their staff in foreign currency; let us assume you have \$30,000,000 as repatriation, when you want it, Bank of Sierra Leone will give you in local currency to go pay, then the Dollar remain with Bank of Sierra Leone; after one or two years, can you imagine what will be actualised? So those are the concerns for you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to my brother, Engineer Momodu of SLRA *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a man I have admired, because of his disciplinary nature. Mr Speaker in 2019, I lobbied for a project, I lobbied for a project and I was denied to do the project directly. I was told that they were not going to give me the money directly, but through SLRA. According to them that was what the law prescribed. So the money was transferred to SLRA; there was some delay in the implementation, it was Engineer Momodu that stood his ground to ensure sure that the money was disbursed. Mr Speaker you can imagine for an Honourable Member who is just coming to Parliament. I have assured my people that I had lobbied for the project and there was money for the project, so getting it delayed was disturbing. The day

Engineer Momodu told me that he sent an Engineer there, Mr Speaker, I spoke all the beautiful English that my people can hear and my people told me, Honourable S.O [2] “na English u dae teach we now? E luk lek u don advance oh” because Engineer Momodu is a disciplinarian. My colleague Honourable Member raised a question that like the road leading to the President’s home, the road leading to Gbinti and the Bo-Matotoka road, Engineer Momodu want those roads to be fixed within the shortest possible of time. The problem we had is that SLRA itself does not have the resources for themselves, they have to be funded from the Ministry of Finance and the IMFA. Mr Speaker, we needed SLRA and IMFA together to make sure these are sister’s institutions; let them work hand in glove because most times the IMFA mobilizes resources and support SLRA. Mr speaker, we thank God that the Bank Governor is here and when the Minister of Finance comes for the budget debate, I would tell him that we want them to capacitate the SLRA because they need money; if they do not have money how are they going to make the Gbinti road Mr Speaker? They want the required resources to do road work. If Engineer Momodu is being provided with money and the work is not done, then we would bring him to parliament for questioning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer to another sufferer. i do not need anybody to ask me what do I mean by that, but the individual knows what am saying. Mr Speaker, this person I am referring to as a sufferer is no less person but Augustine Tommy. Mr Speaker, Augustine Tommy is a hardworking Sierra Leonean, a very young man and he is also a disciplinarian. Mr Speaker, the Leader of the opposition most times used to applaud me when I am making a contributions here, but today, I can see he wants to deviate. I will not allow that to happen Mr Speaker, because the Leader of Opposition is a good friend and has always been a good friend to me.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Honourable Member can you give me a minutes so that I can applaud you [*Applause*]?You may now continue?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, the Leader of Government Business said something; we have our own quarter that is far beyond your comprehension. Mr Speaker, I and the Deputy from 91, we are very close.

THE SPEAKER: Since when?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY : Since 2018 Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: That is within my jurisdiction then.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: We are very close both in and out of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Since 2018, were you within this jurisdiction?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY : No problem, you are my mentor I accept Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is it prior to 2018?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Accepted, for the fact that you are my mentor, so whatever good comes my way you are a contributing factor. I thank you for that Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: And remember what Section 97 says.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: I know you have the laws in your bosom, so I there not stand your way Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: In and out of Parliament, you are subject to the ethics of parliament

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Always Mr Speaker! Mr Speaker, even when I was not a Member of Parliament I was under your directives. When a Honourable speaks and who knows between his left and right, I need not to urge him to speak like somebody who is just coming to the Well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I refer to Mr Tommy just now that he is a young man going to NPPA and NPPA is one of the institutions that we expect to help the Government to reduce unnecessary spending. Mr Speaker, it is in this Country that most times you go to some offices, they are costing exercise book about Le30,000 to Le50,000 [Old Leones]; things that you know that cost Le10, for NPPA, they would cost it about Le25 or Le30. His predecessor Mr Swarray stood his grounds, he saved the Government in the Fifth Parliament and he saved this Country a huge sum of money.

We want you to follow suit because that is the essence of the establishment of that office, you work in the interest of this Government. Do not just leave things as they are loosed like that, especially when you are operating with civil servants. You have to take your time, otherwise they will land you on a regret wharf.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Abubakarr Carew of Local Government Service Commission. Mr Speaker, I was in the Local Government Committee in the Fifth Parliament and at one time,, we had serious headache with that Commission, but thank God, the then Chairman knew his left and right and he had had very great experience about Local Government system. So hadn't been for the Chairman we had then, those people, most time they wanted to go into blows in our presence. Mr Speaker, can you imagine the seriousness of that problem in that Institution? The Local Government Service Commissioner felt he was superior to the Minister; the Minister felt he was superior to the Commissioner too. There was one time the former Local Service Commissioner said he does not take directives from the Minister. He did not take instructions from the Minister, he most times usurp powers. So we met on their matters several times. I do not admire CVs, but performance; some people have very rich CV's but their performance levels are very low. Mr Speaker, the level experience we had in the Local Government Committee is top notched. We have of experienced people that have worked in the Civil Service and those are the people that were breaching the Local Government Act. It was breached on several basis.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to thank all other nominees for their appointments by His Excellency the President. Therefore, I plead with this Honourable House to quickly approve these fine nominees. My colleague that just went out made mention of President Bio that he is not somebody that practices tribalism, sectionalism, and regionalism. As long as the resources are there, he is ready to inform everybody. Mr Speaker, in your presence, I stood in this Well when it came to teachers' recruitment and how it was distributed, beyond regional lines. As an MP, I will also tell you the latest development on the budget. President Bio is ready to satisfy everybody in this

country, whether you are coming from the North, South, East or West. Let us give praises where praise is due.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Kailahun Road was done under the supervision of President Koroma, but funds for that Project were sought by John Benjamin as the former Minister of Finance then in 2007 and it was implemented by President Ernest Bai Koroma; we want to thank him for that road. Before I thank President Koroma's led Government, I want to thank President Kabbah's led Government as well and the former Minister of Finance, John Benjamin for sourcing funds for that Kailahun road. So, I thank President Koroma and his team for the implementation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I want to thank you for given me the opportunity to have my say on these nominees. So I want to thank you very much for given me this opportunity to have a bite on this all important debate. So I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House for the speedy approval of these nominees; I thank you for your attention *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to the debate. Let me recognise a lady at this point; after the lady, I will recognise the Deputy Leader to my left and then the Member from Kenema in that order.

HON. AMIE NYAVA MORIBA: Thank you Mr Speaker for given me the Floor. Mr Speaker, I want to first of all congratulate all the nominees here this morning and I want to say by the grace of God, you all will be approved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my name is Honourable Amie Nyava Moriba from Bo District. Mr Speaker, I want to specifically talk about the Bank Governor. Mr Speaker, the President believes in the proposed Bank Governor, so that is why he has given you that difficult office to handle. Mr Speaker, because I am new here, I will be brief in my debate. Like my colleagues said that the new MPs do not talk for long, but my concern is the dollar rate. I want to wake up one morning and see Sierra Leoneans refusing the dollars. Yes, because for example, if you go to China and you want to change dollar to

Yuan, they will refuse it. They do not want to see the dollars, because they have value for their currency...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, no, you have gone too far. Let me help you by citing an example from Africa, about three weeks ago, I was in Luanda, Angola and what I am about to tell the House can be confirmed by the Honourable from Kono. You cannot go to any shop in Luanda with dollars and expect to be received with your dollars; they will show you the road to the nearest bank to go and convert your dollars into local currency. Neither the hotels nor the business houses accepted foreign currencies. They accepted only their own currency, so do not go too far to China.

HON. AMIE NYAVA MORIBA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are countries, if you do not even show your passport for inspection, they will not convert your dollar, but in Sierra Leone, we are not protected. Our money is devalued. Like for example, when you are charging us for house rent, they charge us in dollars. They do not even want to know the equivalent of what they are given us in Leones as per the exchange rate. When they say this House is Six Thousand Dollars, they are expecting you to pay in the equivalent of the dollar rate at the black market and that is not what is given to us as MPs to pay our rents. So Mr Bank Governor, please I want to wake up one morning and see Sierra Leoneans transact their businesses in Leones, rather than dollars, especially in the western area. Mr Speaker, this is my first time of coming to stay in the western area. I have never paid a house rent in my life this is my first time. So I feel so bad yes...

[Suspension of S.O 5 [2]]

THE SPEAKER: Madam you may continue.

HON. AMIE NYAVA MORIBA: I want to applaud him, because for the few time he has stepped into that office we see the dollar going down, but he has to do more the dollar is killing us anything you want to buy in this country they charge you in dollars. Honestly, I would want the Minister to work on this issue that whatever is due to MPs, particularly let them stop converting it into dollars, because the outside idea of our

constituents is when they hear they gave them six thousand dollars for rent they magnify it. Sometimes those six thousand dollars does not even pay the house we want to have. So am appealing to the Bank Governor to please work hard that we wake up one day and hear Sierra Leoneans charging our house rents especially in the western area in Leones instead of dollars.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the SLRA boss, the SLRA boss you have a lot of job to do most of the roads in this country are dilapidated our constituents are not happy with us. They believe it is our duty to fix roads as Members of Parliament and that is not our duty, we are not responsible for development. I believe even before I came to this Parliament there has been no development fund giving to MPs that has being stopped long ago but their expectations are too high. So we are pleading that you pay attention not only in the big cities, roads in the big cities to our villages and our towns, so that we can breathe a good air in our constituencies. Of course your appointment is a plus to Bo District, because you are coming from Bo District, and we are very proud of you. For Mr Tommy of NPPA, is a very challenging institution you are my son, you too you are coming from Bo District your father was a very hard worker, so please when you go to that institution give contracts to deserving people, because contracts are going to the wrong way and the blame comes back to government. It comes back to government because of the people who are manning those offices, and you don't take responsibility that we were the ones who awarded those contracts to the wrong people. They say government did not pave the road, so please I want to appeal to all of you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the Local Government man, that Ministry is challenged. There is always personality conflict between the CAs and the Chairmen, and the Mayors there is always personality conflict you have to go and look into that one too, otherwise much will not happen in those Local Councils. Even the functions are not devolved everything is still centralised in Freetown, and the Local Government was supposed to devolve functions to the Local Councils in different provinces, so most of you are going to handle offices that have very big challenges. I pray that God guide

you, I pray that God directs you, and please like my colleague said don't overlook the MPs. It is true that when you want to be approved you will be here 24 hours, but when once you are approved you don't even pick our calls but we march into your offices knock at your doors and remind you that we approved you that is why you are seated here. Like I always say the President always consults this House to approve you, but when he wants to fire you he does not consult anybody, he does not owe anybody an explanation. He will fire you at his own will, and he knows his reasons. So be very careful and do not forget these people up there who are here to cheer you up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of them have travelled far and wide just to come and cheer you up. Some of them do not even know you personally, but your names and you are coming from their districts have encouraged them today to cheer you up, so please I am asking this House that we ratify these fine nominees that are here before us this morning. I thank you all *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for her contribution to the Debate. I now call on the Honourable Member from Koinadugu.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members as you can see am not supposed to speak through this mic I am rightly placed here, but since Fifth Parliament this mic has not been working, so I plead with your office that this time round to please fix this mic. I am supposed to be there with my mic on, not over here, but with the indulgence of my Leader, I speak through his mic. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the report before this House based on Page Eight, the last paragraph of page eight is a unanimous decision of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service and it is a recommendation urging us MPs to approve the report. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not here to tell you what to do, but as a Sierra Leonean, I have been tempted to guide or to suggest and to request having listen to our Honourable Member from Mile 91, you would agree with me and I am even more embodied now to do this request that as long as approval of Presidential nominees is concerned, I humbly request you hear more from this side, because once this side from their opening statement to our closing statement urge Members of the House to

approve, then what else do you have to say? I know we are all Members of Parliament, but it gives even more credence to the individuals, especially from this side...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: No, I am sorry you stick a pin on that one, I will find it very difficult to adhere to your advice, because to my right there are also Members who are not Members of the Appointments Committee that will want to take the Floor. What will you say about that?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, that is why I am saying, am not saying you should not listen to them, but at least like 55, 60% from this side...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Leave it to my discretion.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Much obliged Mr Speaker, on that note I go straight to the point. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without wasting time I will be zooming on only one Presidential nominee for management of time, and that is the proposed Director General of Sierra Leone Roads Authority. I have been looking for this opportunity like a missing diamond, and today I have it I believe you are perfectly fit for this responsibility of which you are before us for approval you are fit, you are qualified and we will approve you, what do we need we will approve you. But after approving you am encouraging you to take note of the following points as one of your principal responsibilities. Number one since Adam and Eve this terrain from Model to Parliament I believe it is part of State House Avenue. And for the past three or four Parliaments since 2002 to date that road has been a perpetual road for all Speakers successively, by divine providence previous speakers including the present has been located on the west side of Freetown, they perpetually use that road to come to this Well to perform their constitutional responsibilities including Members of Parliament.

But Mr Speaker you will agree with me that right from your house, and even Members of Parliament from the west side the most bumpy area is this short road from Model to Parliament's precincts, it is the most bumpy area even though very short. I am using this opportunity through your office Mr Speaker, that my proposed Director General

after been approved please consider this small distance it forms part of State Avenue, remove those bumpy roads it is very short it doesn't cost much, but I think by the time you come to Parliament's precincts let you know that I am now around Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, secondly, the issue of Bumbuna you will all agree with me that Bumbuna has being the bread basket for years in this country, it has being the principal source of electricity for over twenty years. As it is now it is at its highest peak we rely on electricity from Bumbuna, but when you check the road from Magburaka to Bumbuna it is one of the most deplorable roads it is unfair, and the road to Bumbuna is not political, is not based on regional, is not based on tribal, is not based on any political party interest it is based on fairness. Bumbuna needs constant supervision, timely supervision of that source of light at the dam which is now currently operating it is but fitting that the road from Magburaka to Bumbuna is fixed in fact it is long overdue. And when you talk about the mining industry since 2013 to date Bumbuna has being the principal mining industry after Kono, because Kono is going down it has being the bread basket of mining industry for years but now it's going down Bumbuna has propped up. Mr Speaker, you will agree with me that supply of iron ore even our only railway to transport from this country is directed straight to Bumbuna, and for proper supervision of our iron ore mines, for proper oversight by Members of Parliament, by committee of works and infrastructure it is but fitting that Bumbuna Road be fixed. And even up to Bendugu Road as our Honourable Member from Mile 91 earlier said, Mr engineer Sir I have assured you by the power of God we will approve you. But when approved please give priority to Bumbuna, if I have my way even the Magburaka Bumbuna Road, and Bumbuna to Binkolo Road I will fix both if I have my way. Bumbuna deserves both, but if you cannot do both do one within the shortest possible time, it will be good for the benefit of this country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in 2013 when I was a Member of Parliament of the fourth Parliament I mobilised my constituents at home and abroad to commence 84 meters bridge project, that bridge project serves as a link between Koinadugu and Kono, between the north and the south, between constituency 46 and the Sandor

constituency I have forgotten the number, but it is an inter-regional bridge, inter district bridge, inter chiefdom bridge, inter constituency bridge. I can recall very well you are on the records we have our written records that even you Mr Speaker you contributed towards that bridge you gave your resources personal resources to ensure that bridge was completed. Even our Honourable Deputy Speaker here gave his personal resources.

THE SPEAKER: So have you completed it now?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker that is why I have brought it now, in late 2019 Mr Speaker when power change hands our brother Umaru Napolion Koroma who is now the current Secretary General of the SLPP, he pleaded with His Excellency the President to take over, and mercifully the President accepted and took over that is the good news I have for you. But my problem is since the government took over for which we are very much grateful from 2019 to 2023 it is yet to be completed, and President had instructed payment long since and the money has being paid and awarded to a contractor, but up till now the bridge has not being completed. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, through the Committee of Works, I am speaking directly to your office Mr speaker and also to SLRA as a supervisory entity as for all bridges in this Country that money had being paid it to be completed and above all one of the pillars if the bridge has collapsed. I will show you the picture Mr Speaker, our President has approved our President has paid the money, His Excellency President Bio has paid the money, but now one of the pillars has collapsed. When some of us want to probe into it they will say its politics it cannot be politics Mr Speaker you will agree with me it is not politics. We have received contributions from SLPP, from friends and well-wishers of which you fall under that category, as a friend and well-wisher you contributed the Deputy Speaker contributed, but up till now it is there to be completed. So Mr Speaker through your office to SLRA as a supervisory body, I am urging you that having being approved please pay attention to that bridge project. We do not want that money to be wasted government has paid and we are expecting a finish product.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, finally, I was zooming only on one nominee to save time, when I was a small boy I was willing to learn to spell your name in my social

studies class. There was what we use to call public works department PWD which was replaced by SLRA. Mr Speaker, you will agree with me that when Public Works Department was in full operation with staff recruited at every chiefdom level, they were mandated to fix all the road problems within their jurisdiction, within their chiefdoms and it worked well. But since that department was cancelled and closed, for now, roads that we consider as feeder roads that are not trunk roads are bad now, they are dilapidated and no more maintenance. I cannot say with any degree of confidence the way you have said it, but let me say these things have deteriorated at that time. In fact, I gave them the meaning of the acronym instead of Public Works Department. I called them in the Well of this House, Public Waste Department some time ago. Honourable Members, let me tell you something when they was PWD you see their engineers on the road pretending to work only very close to the end of the month when salaries were due to be paid. At one time, I observed the PWD workers on my road to Gbinti and guess what, I never saw them again after pay day. You would only see them two or three days before pay day, pretending to be working. The moment they receive their salaries, they would then disappear into thin air. I do not know much about Koinadugu, but frankly speaking, my experience was not good and it was different.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we were to be honest to ourselves, for me, I must confess that it worked in my chiefdom as compared to now. In fact, it is an attitudinal problem in Sierra Leone. Most of us are eye witness and it cuts across. When your boss is around, you work, when he is not around, you do nothing. It is sad for our Country and it is not only happening at one institution or PWD, but almost all institutions. That is why there is room for administrative arrangements and supervision in my chiefdom. The supervisors used to have Bikes and indeed they supervised. It was working. I cannot dispute you; we have never been to Gbinti in the first place. So I cannot dispute your fact, but you will agree with me that every human being needs supervisors. We need someone to monitor us. Otherwise, they will go out for their salaries but they will not earn those salaries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is just a concern. If there is a way, let us reinstitute the PWD system as it was before. The work that they use to do, of which there is a vacuum now, I am urging the proposed Director General of SLRA to consider the work that they used to do at PWD. There is a gap now and as a result, the roads are not being fixed on a daily basis. Think about that and see how best you can solve that problem. Otherwise, things will be going from bad to worst.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, on behalf of my colleagues from this side and my constituents, I urge my colleagues on the other side to join Mr Speaker in approving these nominees. I thank you very much and God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. It is a regret that I have to introduce a new rule to the debate. It is not entirely new. It is always there for me to use. I would not have loved to use it at this time but I think that the air conditioners are not working as efficiently as they should, and I can feel the heat even from where I am seated here. And I can imagine that the good number of you are feeling the same way. So I am now going to impose a time limit on your contributions. Not more than three minutes per speaker. I will endeavour to accommodate as many as I could, but I will have to limit your contributions. I did say after the Deputy Leader, it was going to be the Honourable Member from Kenema and this new rule will apply from you, so Proceed!

HON. FRANCIS A KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees before us are suitably qualified for the positions for which they were nominated by His Excellency the president. They did very well, in the Appointment Committee as per the report presented by the Leader of Government Business.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for reminding me. Do not bother to try to catch my eyes if you are a member of the Appointments committee.

HON. FRANCIS A KAISAMBA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, honourable Members, like I said, they are qualified, but they have responsibilities. There are

challenges in the offices that are appointed to. As Sierra Leoneans, we want to see those problems fix by these highly and qualified nominees as soon as they occupy those offices. I will probably say few words on some of them. The Board of Director of the National Minerals Agency, by his resume has been in the diamond industry in the Mineral Sector in this country for a very long time. We can remind ourselves that minerals have been around this Country for quite a while and the benefit we get both as a government and as the people are too small for all these years. Until recently when we have better legislations, magnanimous government, even the mining communities have started realizing that the government is doing extremely well. Definitely, we are not as powerful as countries that have minerals all these years not only in Africa, but in some other parts of the world. And so as board chairman of NMA, and other board members, I want you to join hands together to provide for the policy guidance for that institution so that, the administration will move on well and the communities and government shall benefit from our mineral resources in this country. I think you are qualified based on your experiences that you have acquired and all the education that you have in the mineral polishing etc. I want you to use them for the benefit of our people and the government so that the government will have the money to pay for services such as roads, hospitals, to pay for our medical staffs and to recruit more teachers. These are the things we are talking about. The Governor of the Bank of a Sierra Leone, you are in charge of the monetary policy. You know the functions in the Banking Act, 2019, that was passed in this House. You know your functions. You know you should collaborate and work with the Minister of Finance who is charge of physical policy and of course, Parliament particularly with the Finance Committee which by law, provides an over sight. We are aware of the autonomous clause you have in your Act but that does not exclude institutions like Parliament for example the Finance Committee from overseeing you. They will not necessarily interfere into your operations but definitely, they have to do general oversight.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is up Honourable Member.

HON. FRANCIS A KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, can I plead for One minute please! Let me just round up.

THE SPEAKER: Half a minute!

HON. FRANCIS A KAISAMBA: Thank you Mr Speaker. So please the Bank Governor designate, you have the responsibility to make sure things work. To the Director General of SLRA designate, a good chunk of roads have lot of potholes now. The road from Masiaka to Bo has a lot of potholes that can cause a lot of accidents. Government has spent a huge amount of money to amend those roads.

You have to look at them, work in collaboration with the road maintenance to see that those roads have been fixed. Also all of the roads that are in the budget as presented by the Minister of Finance please look at them and ensure their implementation.

THE SPEAKER: And with that?

HON. FRANCIS A KAISAMBA: For example the road from Kenema to Zimmi, it is a very crucial road, because of time, I may stop here. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: If you know you are a Member of the Appointment Committee, please take your sit, I have sent for the list. I will give you the floor, you are not a member.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is a unique day [interruption]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ibrahim Tawa, take your seat.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, we have fine nominees seated here. Dr: Ibrahim Stevens, Ing: Alfred Momodu, Augustine Tommy and others that are here are all fine nominees. Much have been said about the road works. It seems like someone is dreaming comfortably sitting in his chair, watching New York movies, seeing the beautiful roads in the movie and conclude that, this is exactly what you will do in your village. Of course, the person has no idea of what he is seeing in the television and the time that was spent in making those roads. I agree with the Honourable Member from Mile 91 to some extent, we were there with the Works Committee. One

day, I woke up from bed at exactly 2:00am and I arrived at Jui Junction at 4:00am in order to carry out an effective oversight and above all, I used my vehicle. When I came from that trip, I spent Six Million from my pocket. Because of national duty I spent such money on my vehicle for maintenance. When we look at things in the television, we keep on dreaming and imagine the realities, but let us remember that this Government inherited over Six Hundred Billions Leones and these monies were taken from the Bank of Sierra Leone to do road works and the SLRA have paid these monies they inherited from the last government. Notwithstanding that Mr Speaker, if you put Road Maintenance Fund and Road Development funds together, you will have something like 18. 1 Billion Leones for 2024 Budget. For the roads we are talking about, if you put these monies together, Six Hundred Thousand Leones per kilometre is good for the Country. We are very considerate and we have done roads for Five Hundred to Six Hundred Thousand Dollars per kilometre. In the previous government, we talked about over a million dollars per kilometre. So if you look at these figures, there is no way Engineer Momodu who is going to be the Director General if approved by this Honourable House is expected to do over One Hundred kilometre roads in Sierra Leone. When we have a budgets that have been put together, the Road Maintenance Fund and the Road Development Works budgets, if put together, we will give a little amount of about Eighteen Million Dollars. Note that this is a just a proposal and it is an estimate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no where someone will be saying that the money is laying somewhere that is supposed to be used for road works. So we have given you a difficult task and I hope and pray that God Almighty helps you to achieve in your new offices. But it is still a very difficult task I must tell you.

THE SPEAKER: And with that?

HON JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: With that, I want you and the Bank Governor to do as much as you can to do the needful for Sierra Leone to move forward. Also to the rest of the nominees that we have in this House I want you to do the same. I also encourage all Members in this House to speedily approve these nominees so that, they will occupy their positions. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I will take just two more. I will give the floor to Honourable AKK. He is a new man. The new AKK. After him,

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, the paramount chief is trying to catch your eye.

THE SPEAKER: Oh yes. The paramount chief from Kono, you will be next. That completes the two on this side and the Honourable Lady will be the third. I want it to be in that order and three minutes each.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone is a country that has a history.

THE SPEAKER: And a very rich one.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. If you could calculate the age of the current Speaker and when he was first elected [interruption]

THE SPEAKER: In 1982. Where you born by then?

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: One year old Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You were one year old.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: When I darkened these corridors.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Thank you. And that was the time when we had challenging moments in our economy. That was the time when we need young people to save this country. In 1991 and in 1992 when we had the civil war, we recruited young people again to save this nation. It is not a doubt today, almost in all ministries, in parliament, MDAs, you will see young people.

THE SPEAKER: We are celebrating them.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: It means we need to save this nation now. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no iota of doubt when it comes to the credentials of the people that we have appointed in this House from the fifth Parliament to the sixth

Parliament. Credential is not our problem, qualifications is not, experience is neither the problem, the problem we have here is performance. What we have problem with, is saving our economy. The Bank Governor is qualified but I have series of doubt. The Bank Governor worked with the administration that declared us austerity. He worked with the administration that has allowed the dollar to fly as high as it is. He needs to give us assurance that heading that institution this time around, we will see better than how he had served in the previous two administrations. I have no doubt in his resume neither his experience and the time he has spent in that institution. The time preceding the two administrations was the worst economic time in the history of Sierra Leone. As the Honourable Member from Western area was saying, I remembered when the professor came to this House to defend the current trend during the time we were approaching Corona, this deputy governor that is going to become a governor within few hours from now, was the key adviser to the governor. And that is what the Act says. So I see no reason why I should not bring him in to say; I hope he will not act upon the advice he gave the outgone Bank Governor. Let's state it clear.

THE SPEAKER: A good point but with the following caveat. The board does not stop with the advisers.

HON: ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I am advising. I am only advising, I am not blaming him.

HON IBRAHIM T CONTEH: Mr Speaker, sorry he is my boss. Point of order sir and let me add to what you have said that the grundnorm speaks to the fact that on section 53(4) of the 1991 constitution says; anybody that is required to seek and solicit advice, the person that you are advising is not bound by the outcome of that advice. He has the option to take.

THE SPEAKER: We are saying the same thing. Proceed.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, if as Parliament we cannot advice the nominees, instead of approving, then we are not doing due diligence to the people who have elected us to this office. We should not defend them. They are going to work for

us. Let's tell them and show them where the loopholes are and what we are expecting from them. To the man going to NPPA, in the last five years Mr Speaker in this Well, we received reports from NPPA and the person, who was there is now at NRA. That promotion was not out of connectivity. It is not because he was connected to the president. No! When he was in NPPA, the reports he had made in this House, speaks to seven million dollars for this country. So the person who is going to that office must know that he is a gatekeeper of the nation's resources. We will not celebrate you because you are a young person, we are saying go and do more than the man who was there. I am not a celebratory for nominees because I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly. To our brother that is going to SLRA. You know when you are talking about roads in this country; they are connected to health and Agriculture. The president is going to have Feed Sierra Leone as his major project. I will call one road of which, it is one of the areas President Bio has allocated and it has to do with major harvesting and production of rice. The Samu-Kchom road. I am saying this with no hesitation. One of the things that allow the people of Samu to reject Kandeh Yankella in the previous election was because, that was the only thing that they asked him to do and he failed the people of Kambia district. Today, Samu-Kchom is one of the places that we are doing the cultivation of rice. We need that road to be fixed.

THE SPEAKER: I think I owe it to the Honourable Yankella to protect him. He is not here to defend himself. So what you have just said is your own opinion.

HON: ABDUL K. KAMARA: And that is what I stated Mr Speaker. My own opinion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON ABDUL K. KAMARA: So the road going to Sama is very important for the Feed Sierra Leone project. Mr Speaker, when the Honourable from Bo was talking about the Kailahun road, that they met the funds and the APC administration implemented the roads. Thank you very much for reminding me. That was the same with the Tonko Limba road. There were funds and they were approved in this House. They started the road from Kamakwe coming to Kambia district. And that was going to open the new region North-West Region, as we speak, Tawa will tell you the story; Honourable

Ibrahim Tawa from Tonko-Limba, he is representing Western Area but his from Tonko-Limba. Our roads are bad in Kambia District and that road was already awarded and when we were going for the bye-election, they took Machines including the Mayoral Candidate of SLPP in Western Area is also from Tonko-Limba Gento, they took the machines, they gave us confidence that they were going to make the road, funds are already available as I speak. I pity the Speaker, if you go to....the road leading to his resident in Freetown is bad, the road leading to Gbinti is bad, the road leading to Parliament is bad *[Laughter]*....

THE SPEAKER: *[Laughter]* Honourable Members, forgive the new AKK. You know it is the human tendency although he is cloth in clothing for the Sixth Parliament but occasionally he lapses back to the Fifth, carry on....

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: You know this is not just the Speaker, if you go to the home leading to the home town of the Vice President, bad road, terrible roads and these are the key people in this nation. The President has bad road, the Vice President bad road, the Speaker three bad roads, Parliament Bad road, going to State House from Parliament bad road; you know Mr Speaker we are saying this but the truth is it shows how much we depend on SLRA for us to have good roads in the last five years, whether is the Presidential Speech, the Budget Speech, we always mentioned roads that are going to be paved; I will tell you for the last five years, not even 1kilometer road has been paved in the North. Not even one. I am not saying this because I am from the North-West, I am saying natural resources need to be distributed equitably *[Applause]*.

Let me end by thanking you SLRA, you know some of us are dual; we are in the Provinces, we are in the Western Area; in my community, Mount Aureol Community when you were making the hill bye-pass road, you constructed one nice school for us and that has elevated the educational standard of our people in that area, the Hillside bye-pass road. Crime rate in that area was also high, today we can boast of our protection by SLRA; that is good but I want to ask, what is happening with the Wellington-Waterloo road constructed by the Chinese? That road was also meant to

carry along goodies for the people, the markets; what about that, the MPs from Western Rural Areas they are here...

THE SPEAKER: Okay, you will complete during the debate on the Budget.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker before I end, new offices bring good tidings and privileges

THE SPEAKER: You've done more than 3minutes...

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: As I conclude Mr Speaker, the Bank Governor, NPPA, the Road Authority, it is not your personality that we question, we need more; you're exemplary of what people expect of the young people of this nation, if you fail, we will not just call you out but it will be a shame on us as a young people. Both President has trusted this nation into your hands; I am sure in the Seventh Parliament the Speaker is going to be much younger than the one we have now...thank you very much
[Laughter].

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member from Kambia, you know he always leaves us thinking, like him or hate him.....oh yes the Honourable Paramount Chief.

HON. PC. PAUL NGABA SAQUEE: I thank you very much Mr Speaker...

THE SPEAKER: And then after you, my last speaker before we wind up will be the Honourable Lady.

HON. PC PAUL NGABA SAQUEE V: Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for giving us these fine Sierra Leoneans to serve in various capacities to carry our nation forward. I know we are constrained with time so I'm going to be very brief. As I urge my colleagues for us to approve their nominations, I want to zoom in on just two of them for time sake. The first person I want to zoom in on is Alhaji Mustapha Turay. Alhaji Mustapha Turay is a household name from Kono, he hails from where my mum comes from; another thing we share in common is that we share the same Alma Mata, Jaima Secondary School where Umaru Fofanah I saw him around a few minutes ago where he also went.

I can say with any fear or hesitation that I don't know any Sierra Leonean leaving here in the country at the moment that knows about Diamonds more than Alhaji Mustapha Turay and also he is the man that has a duty of community and he has integrity in abundance. I recalled seventeen years ago when I was elected as Paramount Chief of Tankoro Chiefdom, I think it was the first month that I was elected; somebody came with a parcel to me containing diamonds, I think to the tune of about two hundred carats; five carats, ten, Fifteen and what that person needed to do was to ship these diamonds out of Sierra Leone but he has no licences but the law permits for you to go to an exporter, somebody that has an export licences and you can export your diamonds through him for a 3% fees. I went with my hesitation his office and show him the diamonds, just by looking by them one look, he gave me the diamonds back and he said Chief, these Diamonds are not from Sierra Leone without even putting it through any form of machines....these are not diamonds from Sierra Leone go and give them to whoever gave them to you, I returned them and he saved me that day. So can you imagine what other person would have done but he manifested the highest form of integrity that day, he earned my respect, I had a lot of respect for him because he is a man that is contempt.

I also want to zoom in on the SLRA, Engineer Momodu. About a month ago Honourable Emerson Lamina stood under S.O [23] in this Well to bring to the attention of Members and also to the SLRA that the Kono Matotoka Highway, there is a portion just after Jaima Sewafe that is not in good shape and I want to bring that to your attention Sir so that you can look into it because Millions of Dollars were spent on that road and I can say without any fear or hesitation also that when the Minister of Finance read his budget last week here, the three APC Members of Parliament here, the seven SLPP Members from Kono and my humble self who is a Paramount Chief Representative, we were little disappointed but we leave that for the debate on the budget because not a single road in Kono was captured and I note here that Mr Momodu you have knowledge s about roads in fact last year I could recall, I saw you on that road, Koindu-Kainkodu

up to the Guinea Border; like I said we will raise those issues when we start debating the budget soon.

So once again I want to urge my colleagues for us to approve these fine Sierra Leoneans for them to help push our country forward. I thank you Mr Speaker for this opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief from Kono. I now give the Floor to the Honourable from Bonthe District.

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Honourable Bintu Fatmata Bockarie from Bonthe District. Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity again today.

THE SPEAKER: Let me advice, the last time I saw you speak, I was not here but I had the privilege of seeing you on social media and you must have seen it?

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Yes Sir....

THE SPEAKER: And be guided by that please.

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want to say thank you to His Excellency for these fine nominees sitting before us this afternoon. Mr Speaker Honourable Members of Parliament, I want to zoom in on the proposed Director General of SLRA and to draw the attention of him concerning our roads more especially in Bonthe District; the road leading to Imperi from Jamgba junction to Imperi is not good and the road leading from Matru to Bo is not good and that is the road of the President so please Mr Director General you have to pay attention to those roads
[Applause]

Bonthe District is the pride of Sierra Leone and that is the home of the President and that road is not good at all, our people are not happy, they are not happy at all for that road our people are not happy, they are not happy at all and let me tell you Mr Speaker Honourable Members of Parliament, I will continue to speak in this Well of Parliament until my voice is heard so that, those roads are fixed; I am here representing my people.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, two thing; one you have exhausted your time, two the Honourable Member from Mile 91 I don't think you were in the Well when he spoke; he spoke so eloquently in drawing the attention to the State on the road leading to the President's home so you don't need to remind us again.

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Thank you Mr Speaker but that is my place to emphasize it Mr Speaker, thank you if I am here sitting as a sitting Honourable Member of Parliament representing my District [interruption]

THE SPEAKER: And you have done so, so take your seat now.....

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Thank you very much. To the other appointees sitting here, I wish all of you the best.

THE SPEAKER: You've exhausted your time.....

HON BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Thank you very much *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: I now give the Floor to the Leader of the Opposition

HON SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker I did request I am here please Mr Speaker. AKK is also part of the Appointment Committee and he spoke, I did request.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable from Kono with due respect to you I will not give you the Floor for the simple reason that you are a Member of the Appointment Committee,

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: AKK is also part of the Appointment Committee and he spoke Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No he is not....

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Honourable Abdul Karrim Kamara is not a Member of the Committee and Mr Speaker firstly, let me give a very strong advice, when our Honourable Member of Parliament from the other side is talking I believe there should be decorum. There are times our attitude influences the way they speak, let us comfort ourselves whiles we listen to our colleagues, we are here to protect ourselves and quite apart from that she is a woman and she must be accorded that respect *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: Let me respond to that, I bear ultimate responsibility for this entire House...you know that and I know you know what I mean...good, when you rise to speak you are representing the House to outsiders; make sure you prepare yourself well before you catch my eye to speak because the image of your representation is what will convey to the outside world the kind of image we have and that I have an responsibility to protect, go on...

HON ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the first debate on Appointment I am participating as the Leader of the Opposition and Mr Speaker Honourable Members, most times I see Appointees jubilating, they will come with trans fare, T-shirts are printed, they dance all over and people are excited; little do they realize that any appointment comes along with two things; an appointment will come with a blessings, I mean generational blessing and an appointment will attract a curse, I mean generational curse.

You will agree with me, Adam and Eve were created and appointed by God to superintend over the Garden of Eden. They ended there with curse depending on how they comported themselves while holding the very office and Mr Speaker Honourable Members, you and I will have vivid examples of previous Civil Servants who have critical positions in this country and how they ended up, how their families ended up, it because of how they comported themselves while they held offices given to them.

Mr Speaker, this House has a responsibility and our responsibility is to make sure that we speak to these Appointees so that when they assume office they will know that they have a goal to achieve. It is always a blessing when you're appointed amongst your colleagues, out of Seven Million Sierra Leoneans you've been appointed; so the welfare of those who are even putting on these T-shirts on your behalf are on your shoulders, are on your heads. How would you make their lives comfortable after assuming office should be our question, how do we see their interest should be our utmost priority but most times when people are appointed into office, they particularly concerned about their own personal life and their own personal families at the expense of the people they are to serve and this when the curse comes in.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all those who have been appointed has moral obligations to perform by the way I am an Engineer by profession and I also studied Public Administration. In Engineering we have the law of motion; it says that an object continues its state of rest for uniform motion except it is acted upon by external force. So meaning the institutions that you go to will continue as they were, nothing will change if you yourself don't change into those institutions; by the way induction is a borrowed term in Engineering, it is a soft topic under a broader topic called Electromagnetism and it is defined as a process of getting an uncharged body charged by bringing it closer to a charged body Mr Speaker. They are the charged bodies, they should influence changes in their communities, they should influence changes in their institutions; it is appalling to note that somebody may be appointed and until he leaves the office, there is no change, no improvement.

It was Reverend Achi Chundu that once said 'if you are in this society and you do not positively influence this society, you are a minus to this society, it will have been better you never existed in this society'. So some people are not fit for purpose Mr Speaker. The mere fact that you are here and you've been appointed means you owe a moral obligation to our people...yes; Mr Speaker Mother Theresa also said life cannot be worthwhile if it is not lived for others, so there are others who should benefit from your own life. If nobody is benefiting from you, then you're not worth existing. Mr Speaker today we all know the status of the country and we all know the situation of the economy, the Bank Governor and the Minister of Finance both have a very critical role to play, to change the economy of this country. Remember the economy doesn't affect one political party or Members of one political party, it affects Sierra Leoneans regardless of their party affiliation that is why it should not be politicized and that is why we should always seek to promote the interest of ordinary Sierra Leoneans.

When I read statement from the Ministry of Finance, in their micro fiscal policies, they talked about stabilization of the economy. They talked about how the economy will gain its rightful place in the coming years, but when you read also the monetary policies from the bank of Sierra Leone it is different. The bank is saying in 2024 the exchange rate will

be 28.95; now it is 22.24, they are saying in 2024 it will be 28.95. You have a moral obligation to ensure that the projection made here is defeated. If the exchange rate goes to 28.95 things will be extremely difficult for our people. They say only a nija can stop a nija, you and I are in our offices they pay us on monthly basis so we don't feel the economic crutch that the ordinary Sierra Leone feels *[Applause]* we don't feel it. There are people who find it very difficult a day to have a meal, some people have even decided to change their staple food because of the economic crutch, because we don't buy fuel we have our cars and everything is okay there are times it very difficult for us to identify with the ordinary Sierra Leonean. So Mr Speaker, it is my prayer that the Bank Governor that we are about to approve is my prayer that he succeeds. If he succeeds it is for the betterment of Sierra Leone, if he succeeds it is for the betterment of our nation.

I have said it that all of our people are suggested to the same economic conditions regardless of their party, so he needs the support of this House, he needs our backing because this is the only country that we have.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have also learnt that one of the reasons that is affecting the banking system is the way they adjust their rate. Bank Governor you are there not to serve the Government of Sierra Leone but you are there to serve the people of Sierra Leone. So when they set the rate in the bank, let it don't favour the Government, let it be realistic and let it be what is obtaining on the ground and let the people feel and see what are the rates. I have known that on several occasions for things to be very palatable they cook up the inflation rate by even including the free quality education into it, they cook up the exchange rate and they cook up the interest rate Mr Speaker. So they look good but ideally the reality of the ground is different, so Mr Bank Governor you owe a moral obligation. The welfare of the people of this country is in your hands.

I have always made a comparative analysis between Sierra lone and other neighbouring countries. When you talk about global, global, global, all of these neighbouring countries are subjected to this global conditions but take a comparative analysis

between Guinea and Sierra Leone their exchange rate. In 2018 when I went to Guinea just with \$100 I was given 150 Guinean franc, in Sierra Leone the same \$100 you go to Guinea with the same \$100 you will get less than 35 Guinean francs. The difference is not as a result of global because Guinea is part of this globe is as a result of poor monetary policies. *[Applause]* don't take decisions that will deteriorate our economy any further, we should be conscious and very careful. Make the business people your friend, work on the interest rate for these business people. Recently I have seen businesses closing in Sierra Leone and go into Guinea to operate, cold storage is a vivid example. Mr Governor, you have a responsibility, you have a task don't think nobody will question you even if us as a Parliament don't question you because of your political affiliates posterity will judge you for the conditions you subject our colleague Sierra Leoneans to. *[Applause]* So this is not the appropriate time to jubilate, this is a time to reflect on what we have gone through as a nation. Our economy and see how best you will proffer workable solutions for the betterment of this nation. I wish you well, I pray that you succeed. I pray that the economy of this nation changes.

THE SPEAKER: Changes for the better.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes Sir! All of those who are seated at the gallery will be very happy to see a very flamboyant economy they will be proud of you.

To SLRA Engineer Momodu, I know one thing about engineers, engineers are like utility they can fit into anything, engineers can fit into any circumstance, engineers are adaptable just because of our rigorous course in the University the only course that can take you five [5] years in University is engineering *[Undertones]* yes engineering Fourah Bay college, I took five years not out of stupidity but because I was intelligent and was promoted to Honours class so I had to spend an extra one year.

So to you the Engineer you have a moral obligation to this nation. If we go through state opening addresses of the President from 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, there are roads mentioned in almost all of those state addresses that have never been touched, even in the budget year in year out allocations are made for certain roads and they are neglected and disregarded. The Conakry road is one every year is in the budget,

Gbintin is two so the first obligation you have is to ensure that these statement that the president have made publicly about constructions of road, you look at those roads so that at least the President will keep to the statements he makes to Parliament. look at them and what I have learnt also is the politicization of our institutions, there are some institutions they look at you, they look at where you come from and they don't give you responsibility, remember we are all Sierra Leoneans all of us can't belong to the same political party there should be some political tolerance accept and respect people for where they belong it is not a crime to be APC *[Applause]* it is not a crime I will say the same thing when APC comes to power that it is not a crime to be SLPP *[Applause]*

Some professionals in certain institutions are victimized because of their political party affiliations, because of their surnames, because of the region they come from shame to anybody who is engaged in those act they don't like Sierra Leone, they don't like our country, all of us can't be from the same region, all of us can't be from the same tribe, all of us can't be from the same political party but all of us have elements in us that will promote this country. Let us utilize them disregarding our political affiliations *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if anybody is praying for these Appointees not to succeed that person does not love Sierra Leone, is our prayer that they succeed.

Mr Alhaji Mustapha Turay proposed Chairman Board of Directors National Mineral Agency [NMA]. A lot of Members of Parliament have stake their necks for you, they have said so many good things about you, and you need to prove them right when you assume the office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I have always said, success is another form of failure if we don't prioritize our priority and our priority should be the people of Sierra Leone, our priority should be making things easy for the people of this nation. Political parties will come and go but the people will always remain. Today it is SLPP and I can assure you with every alacrity, that the next election will be APC *[Applause]*. The leader there met me personally he said he wants to come to APC, I said you cannot be switching political parties all the time stay there *[Laughter]*.

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Mr Speaker, he told us the same thing that APC was going to come in 2023 it will be a dream maybe after five [5] decades.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I like what you said, we also said when we were in power that we will be in power for over ten decades so you are repeating the same thing. And when once a political party begins to say that they are very close to exiting power *[Applause]* that is what you said when we left power.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this entire House to speedily approve these Nominees they are all fine personalities and I am of the opinion that this country will benefit from them but when you get there don't think about, yourselves and your families only make the people your focus may God bless you. *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his contribution to the debate, over to you acting leader of Government Business.

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Members for the contributions, thank you the Appointment Committee for doing due diligence for presenting these Nominees to the House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will begin by reading section 75[D] of the Constitution.

THE SPEAKER: 75 what?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: 75[D]

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker with your leave I read, 75 [D] the side notes, qualification for membership in Parliament. Section 75 subject to the provisions of 76 any person who [D] is able to speak and to read the English language with a degree of proficiently sufficient to enable him to take an active part in the proceedings of Parliament. Mr Speaker I am saying this because for some of us who have been here before now we have seen Members of Parliament whose contributions have been

extremely very bad or the messages are very unserious. So let us bear with ourselves as Members of Parliament as representatives of our people *[Applause]* and the Constitution did not qualify the level of education that one should possess to come to this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate. When I listened to my colleagues from the other side I noticed they raised very salient points and I have said this even before coming in this sixth Parliament that these are the issues I want us to raise because at the end of the day our faces as Members of Parliament will be on the ballot paper. If these Nominees fail, will not just be failing themselves but they will be failing us as Members of Parliament and at the end of the day we are the ones that will face our people asking them for their votes and the questions that will be put to us are the answers that these Nominees should answer even before we face them. So if we don't tell them the reality when they are here, then we are not doing ourselves justices because today I can we have more than fifty [50] Members in the fifth Parliament who are not fortunate to come to the sixth Parliament because some of them were not able answer the questions that were put to them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of the issues that have been raised, have been raised to the wrong persons, I notice the Bank Governor have been put under a lot of pressure a lot of questions have been put to him but I believe some of these questions should be answered by the Ministry of Finance and some of these questions should Also be answered by this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have challenge this Parliament before now that if we can do our oversights through taking cognisance of this Constitution we can be able to save this nation and development will reach the door step of our Constituents. As Members of Parliament we are charged with the responsibility of providing oversights simply what the bank does is to regulate the banks and to keep our monies but the rest of the development functions monies that goes out we should provide the oversights and when we come here we blame the executive they are not doing this, they are not

doing that I am also challenging again this Parliament and the various Committees that going forward it should not be business as usual, I want to see Parliament taking its rightful place in governance *[Applause]*. If we take our rightful position as per this Constitution I am sure we will change the narrative.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know the issues the problems that have been raised the challenges about roads that have been raised to SLRA these are problems that should be settled by the Ministry of Finance I can tell you here Mr Speaker, Honourable Members without fear that the personnel in the SLRA are extremely very professional. Before the beginning of the year, they have a work plan and in that work plan all the roads are factored but you cannot do if you don't have the resources *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, I was in this Parliament in 2012 and 2012 through 2018 all of the roads have been paved per paper when the former President his Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma comes to this Parliament he will give us a lot of assurances all of these roads that we are still struggling with were on paper that the Government will do before 2018 *[Applause]*. There was no presidential speech that the former President will not assured this House and by extension this nation that he will not pave. In fact we all know that 2012 through 2018 was the governance that was concentrated on doing roads. If today some six [6] years down the line after he had left office we are still struggling with these roads he should have constructed then it means we need to do more. We as a Government we are also making our promises that these are the roads his Excellency would want to construct and I believe SLRA they are doing their own bit, they are doing their feasibility studies, doing their surveys, doing their work plans and we submit these work plans to the Ministry of Finance for support but if there is no resource they do nothing. So SLRA I would talk to the Director General continue doing the good works and I will ask this Parliament to beg the Ministry of Finance to support these roads, if there are no funds these roads will not be constructed. SLRA they have the professionals they are ready to send the bid out, they are ready to do due diligence and

they are even ready to award these contracts. As a Parliament we are ready to do our oversights but when monies are not available then these roads will not be constructed.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, Bank Governor you have a huge responsibility. The Member of Parliament from Kambia said it, we were part of the team that ends up in austerity you were also party of the team that took dollar to le 2300, le 2400 thousand. But it has being said you are a deputy we saw the mistake that the governor did whiles we were in deputy you gave your advice but he did not listen. Today you have been given the opportunity to be on top to be in charge you have seen the mistakes made by your predecessor we have seen two bank governors before they were given advice but they did not listen to you have seen the challenges you have seen where they made mistakes you have seen where they did things correctly you are now at the helm to correct the mistake they did you were part of the mistake so if you don't correct the mistakes if you continue with the mistake your predecessor did then you will be disappointing yourself and you will be disappointing His Excellency the president, with the experience you took over as since Deputy 2014 I was here and I approved you, 8 or 9 years down the line you have been the Deputy and you have seen Two Governance, you have seen where they went wrong, the things that they should have done, that they did not do you have seen, the things they did and did not go well you now have the opportunity to correct all of these challenges. Mr Speaker, honourable members, Excuses will not be tolerated you will be the worst if you don't succeed because you are not new in that system you know what has being going on if you disappoint us you would have disappointed His Excellency. We hope you will not disappoint his Excellency we hope you will not disappoint this Parliament and by extension the people of Sierra Leone. To the SLRA Director General, you have spent the bulk of your adulthood at SLRA you have a lot of experiences considering you have spent more than 21 years at SLRA you have gone through the ranks and you have the experience you have seen where they went wrong you have seen the things they did correctly, you have seen SLRA at its peak you have seen SLRA where it is today you have the responsibility to bring SLRA to where it is supposed to be. SLRA used to be an

enviable institution before now, it used to be an enviable institution, every engineer will want to work at the SLRA but today you know what we went wrong in that system you have seen the a days of SLRA you have seen were they are today you are now in charge now you have your colleagues that you went with at SLRA at the same time you have does that are senior to you but today you have being blessed by God through His Excellency, not because you are the most professional or because you know more than them you have being blessed and use that blessings for the good of that institution and for the good of sierra Leone you have a responsibility to bring everybody on board , you have senior engineers you have junior engineers you have new ones coming to join you, make sure you work with everybody I know definitely some people will not be appreciative these are positions everybody wants but work with them carry them along, these challenges are not unique to you, it will not be unique to you but carry them along make sure you are focused is to succeed and you must succeed. If you don't succeed as a young man you are failing the young people of sierra Leone , because as a young man you will be the youngest Director general in that institution and your performance will make road for young people to occupied that office but if you fail you will be failing we 5the young people and in the future no President will be bold enough to appoint a young people in that office please do us proud, please make his excellency proud because the confidence the president has in young people is extremely huge we have very senior engineers who should have occupied that position but his excellency believe in you. Mr Speaker when they were talking about road distribution I listen to the MP who said the road to his Excellency's home is not good and agreed with him entirely that is why the sixth parliament has taken the responsibility to help SLRA and the contractors we were on the ground some few days ago the Honourable from Bo can attest the Honourable from Tonkolili a cross section of members of the committee where on the ground to have a first-hand information about what is happening from the day we went to that ground there have being a huge improvement because I am calling on a daily basis to see what is happening, but Mr speaker, Honourable members, when we talked about distribution I want my brother to just tap his excellency and say this is a good President. Because I was in this Parliament in 2012 and we know how the

distribution went I can say it of head that when we have money when the bank of Sierra Leone was doing well, the ministry of finance was doing well I know how roads were distributed 38 kilometre given to the Makeni Township in the north and seven kilometre was given to Magburaka township ,5 kilometre was given to Lunsar in port Loko, in the same port Loko 7 kilometre was given to Port Loko in the same Port Loko 5 kilometre was given to lungi and in Bo District 4 kilometre was given to Bo town in Kailahun 3 kilometre was given to Kailahun, in Bonthe District 3 kilometre was given to Bonthe, so if we talked about distribution we should bow our heads and tap his excellency the president, and at that time the priority was road construction, but when his excellency come he said we are going to give free and quality Education, we distributed evenly every District enjoys the free quality Education we did not go to Bo or Kailahun our strong hold and give them more, we gave every district as per the statistic result so Mr speaker I want to thank everybody who have contributed and for the road leading to Parliament I will appeal to you director general please insert that in your work plan, this is the house that's makes the law and this is the house that approves you on a yearly basis his excellency comes to this house to give the state of the union address and this road is so please make sure you capture this road in your work schedule and we will help you to talk to the ministry of finance to support we know I know as a chairman of works SLRA what we do is just to make work schedule, but the financing of this roads are not with SLRA the financing is being done by the government of sierra Leone through the ministry of finance so all of the problems all of the blames anywhere we go we will see road bad roads we call SLRA because people don't understand that what SLRA does ,they cannot do unless monies are available to them so we want to thank all does who have being appointed or nominated Mr Turay the Honourable Emerson told us in the interview that6b we will see Umaru Fofana here today and today when he told us in the interview today Umaru Fofanah is here sir he said you are and admirer of Mr Fofanah that has being manifested, we heard what the paramount chief has said haven listen to the Kono MPs they told us that you are a very good man in Kono and you are an expert in diamond, your CV speaks volume we are wishing you well, at the interview you heard questions the challenges that were brought

up please make sure you listen to them please make sure you take note of them we will be following up I have challenge this parliament that committees should not be a game committees should do there oversight base on the constitution. As a leadership we are going to give our committees the support that they need the support they deserve so that we can hold the executive to account because if we come here day in day out and begin to blame the executive whiles we have the power to provide oversight we will not be doing ourselves good and we will not be doing the people of Sierra Leone good so as a leadership we have said we are giving you the free hand to perform your duty and make sure we hold the executive to account so to the man going to the local government commission you have being part of the civil service for long you know the challenges at the interviewed you were able to explain to us the challenges of the local council and the local government pleases go make sure you do well the man who's stays at container area and is going to SLPA as a board member please you are representing the labour congress please make sure you serve them well serve the workers and serve very well at that board and Mr speaker Honourable members I want to thank all of cause when we talk about our roads in the rural area we also should bear in mind that we should also begin to tasks we should also begin to challenge the councils because some of this roads have being devolved to this councils I will encourage the committee on local government to begin asking questions to this councils, what are they doing. Mr Speaker Honourable members I use to say that the people are still with the convictions that we members of parliament are responsible for primary development at the end of the day the questions that are put to us [so2] {wetin u don du for u pepul dem} because this is what they believe members of parliament should do like roads feeder roads have being devolved to this councils so I will challenge the committees responsible for local Government to be asking questions to these councils what are they doing because at the end of the day our councillors believe they are principal assistance to us, they are not council is an autonomous institution, they should carry their own responsibility and we should asked them to answer if you go to our constituencies some of this councillors are responsible for the demise of members of parliam3ent so honourable members I want to thank you all I

want to congratulate you are wished well we will be following up on you members of parliament will be coming to your offices please open your office pick their calls they are not coming to beg they are coming to advocate for their constituent please don't go and keep them in your waiting room this are very senior members of state today when you have being nominated you are running after us for approval you come to our offices you give us phone calls when once you go to these offices when members of parliament call on you , you don't even pick their calls when they visit you don't even open your offices and it is wrong we have said all of the appointees that are fortunate to be appointed in this sixth parliament most of you ,you have come we have approved you if for any reason you treat the members of parliament badly in future if you are appointed this parliament will not approve you because we will treat you the same way you are treating us we are getting the report on a daily bases when they go to your offices they called us as leaders and this is how you treat them please treat them with utmost seriousness they deserved. They don't go to you to beg they go to you taking into cognisance if they don't perform for their people they will be kicked out thank you very much Honourable members thank you very much for your contribution thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker in that vein I moved that be it resolved that the tenth report of the first session for the sixth parliament on the committee on appointment and the public service be adopted by the house and that the recommendation contain therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service

has been approved]

THE SPEAKER: I wished to add my own voice, to the chorus of recommendation approvals that have being echoed and re-echoed right through the debate on this report and all I can say is to say indeed the appointees will go in with the full knowledge that the confidence reposed in them by His Excellency the president has

being replicated by the entire house of Parliament. So it is now their duty to go and prove their mettle and in deed demonstrate that the confidence that we have all reposed in them is not misplaced. I am confidence that the appointees will definitely live up to our expectations so on behalf of the house we extent our very best wishes to all of you for your success and for the great contribution that this Nation expect from all of you good luck in your new assignment and you go with the blessings of this house and with Allah's blessing. With those Honourable Members I will stand the house down for five minute for us to returned and deliberate on the last item on our order paper.

Mr Speaker stood the House down

At 10:55 am

The House resumed at 11:10a.m

The house resumes continue proceedings, Tribute to the memory of the late Honourable PC Brima Victor CD Kebbie former member of the Sierra Leone parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, kindly take you seats. In case you are wondering why we have being required to do this tribute in the well of the house, I believe I owned the house a little bit of explanation. As you are all aware, especially the old Members of the house the old Member's tribute of this kind are always paid in Parliament in the state hall of Parliament not in the Well of Parliament, following the demise of Honourable Chief Kebbie while arrangement have being made to perform the ceremony in the state hall of parliament, A head of performing the traditional rite, in his chieftdom I received a call from the Minister of Local Government, after he has received representation from the Council of Paramount chiefs and in that representation the council of Paramount Chiefs expressed their disapproval of any attempts for the remains of the late Paramount Chief to be laid in the state hall prior to the execution of traditional rites in his chieftdom, so we were faced with a dilemma, and the best way I thought we can resolved the dilemma was to allow the remains to be taken to his chieftdom and laid to rest according to tradition, and then we in Parliament will find an opportune moment to pay tribute to the late man, and in doing so we will

have cause to inform his family in advance for them to be present where tribute has being paid that was the compromise I was able to make to carry out the obligation by Parliament as it is traditional that when we lost one of our own that appropriate tribute will be rendered to the deceased especially the deceased being a sitting Member of Parliament. That is the rule when we lose a sitting Member of Parliament the remains are usually laid in state in the State Hall just at the entrance of Parliament. We could not do that because the Council of Paramount chiefs raised a very serious objection. So instead of doing it on that day we allowed the tradition to proceed and take precedent and then we will find a time as I have promised for us to pay tributes to our late colleague. So this is why this item has found itself on the Order Paper for today's sitting. I hope I have the concurrent of the House that we acted or I acted properly on your behalf in this particular instance. So with that said I would now wish to invite you I do not know how many people will like to speak on the Government side at least one at least another one from the Opposition but I would definitely want to hear also from the Members of Parliament from His home district Pujehun to also have the opportunity to have their say. So this is the first time we are doing it so there is no hard and fast rule here the only thing is that I will limit tribute to 5minutes per person so that we can rise early enough to go for lunch so we can start with the Members of Parliament of his home district and I will give the Floor to the Honourable Shiaka Sama from Pujehun district. I just want to find out. Is the family here? Very well you are most well.

HON. MUSA SHIAKA M SAMA: Mr Speaker I left Bo this morning little did I know I was going to be ask to pay this tribute to an elder brother and Paramount Chief and the man I have known for over 42years. When the Honourable Member and Paramount Chief representing Kailahun ask me to pay this tribute I willingly agreed to perform this duty to somebody I have always known to be my Paramount Chief and elder brother. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I decided not to write any script I did not want to speak from the script but wanted to speak from my heart so what I am going to say here this morning I am reading from my heart. Mr Speaker on 13th October 1980 a very young man about 22 years old was elected Paramount Chief of SahrMalen

Chieftom 179 tribal authorities voted and that young man got 117 votes representing 65% votes I have with me here the letter that was written to State House by the Permanent Secretary describing the young man then as the youngest Paramount Chief in the country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members when someone is ask to pay a tribute you are expected to make a statement to show gratitude, respect, admiration for the deceased. Mr Speaker I want to tell this House that I have a lot of gratitude to show this man who we are going to miss for ever. This man has done a lot of good deeds to our Chieftom for which I want to express my gratitude. He is a man I have a lot of respect for as my Paramount Chief and elder brother. He is a man that has a lot of admiration. At the time of his election in 1980 I must say here that this man was the most admired Paramount Chief in the country. He was the man of the people he was a footballer and plays Football with his subjects, he went hunting with them as a young man in Bo school we admire him a lot Mr Speaker. This man made a lot of good decisions for which I will be for ever be very grateful. This man was a human and I was never perfect for his mistakes or the things he fails to do we forgive him Mr Speaker. I had the honour of been hosted in his home and have meals there about 5 times. One thing you cannot take the memory of that man, he was full of fun when you were with him you always laugh. This man was very generous and has a lot of influential friends. Mr Speaker we will forever miss this man and one good news I want to report here is that the people of Sahr Malen have been united till his death and we hope that we are going to push forward the things that he started but did not complete. Mr Speaker last week I have a meeting with the General manager of Sucfin one of the things we remembered him for is bringing Sucfin to our chieftom. Mr Speaker something has been very controversial our project but we all believe that if you are to come together and to look at the operations of Sucfin there are a lot of things our people have stand to benefit in the project so that we are very much happy when I had the opportunity to meet with the General manager of Sucfin in the office of the Leader of Government Business today at 3:00 pm I have another meeting with the general manager and we hope to look at the project again to see how we can correct some of the wrongs to ensure that our people get maximum benefits. When this is done Mr Speaker we owe

that to the memory of this man I have known him to be an elder brother, this person who at the age of 22 was given the responsibility of steering our Chieftdom. This man is no other person but my elder brother and my Paramount Chief Honourable Brima Kebie the III Mr Speaker. Now my family plays a very important role critical role in the election of this person, my dad the late Mr Musa Sama was one of the champions of his election. Mr Speaker when he passed away I visited the two homes the one in Freetown and the one in Sahr Malen to extend condolences to his family. And Mr Speaker on behalf of the people of Sahr Malen I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and we want to assure then that we will continue to remember our brother our Paramount Chief in our prayers, he was not a perfect person he did a lot of good things and he did a lot of mistakes and I want to say here that for whatever has transpired between myself and the Paramount Chief I ask Allah the Almighty to forgive him and forgive his mistakes to grant him jannah Mr Speaker. He was not a perfect person he did a lot of good deeds and a did a lot of mistakes but those mistakes we forgive him and I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the wife and other members for the family. We will continue to pray for him and we hope to meet one day and God will continue to forgive his sins and to reward him for the things that he did and to forgive him for those things that he failed to do as human, thank you very much Mr Speaker I speak from the heart, I am Honourable Shiaka Musa Sama, thank you God bless.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his tribute.

HON. ALEX MATTIA ROGERS: I am on this side as a Parliamentary Caucus Leader from Pujehun district I should have spoken before Hon: Shiaka Musa Sama

THE SPEAKER: You have the Floor.

HON. ALEX MATTIA ROGERS: I am compelled to give this tribute on behalf of all the Parliamentarians from Pujehun district alongside our people from Pujehun district. Because normally the tribute is just like a statement in respect for somebody or someone who you admires so much and have contributed in your life immensely and it is within this line that I would like to give this tribute to late Paramount Chief Victor

Kebbie. Chief Victor Kebbie made lots of developments for the people of Pujehun district and the most recent one I must confess contributed immensely to some of us if not almost all the Members of Parliament from Pujehun district their victorious for coming to Parliament. If you could remember my colleague will agree with me Honourable Sama when Chief Kebbie was contesting for the PCMP almost in all the Chiefdoms, he was the only man I ever saw Honourable Speaker in each Chiefdom where he spent over 50,000 new Leones, number of bags of rice for the first time for Tribal Authorities. I am talking about Tribal authorities receiving and appreciating a good amount of money, we cannot call that corruption and that culture is what must people are now admiring from the late paramount chief, may his soul rest in perfect peace. Quite besides that sustainable development plan you can consider him as land mark in almost in every Chiefdom in Pujehun district I am saying this with authority one could attest to that I can even attest to that every Chiefdom. It is against this background that he has now open a serious contest for the position of the PCMP in Pujehun district but thanks be to God we have resolved it for which I may not want to explain that here. The approach we would be using to have his successor yes but the culture he instituted honestly speaking is what we admire. I remembered when we just came to Parliament here it was me as the Parliamentary CAUCUS Leader he admires and for the first time, I attempted to resolve the fracas between him and his brother Honourable Sama you know I took them to my office, you have given us an office here so that we can bring peace between the two of them and both of them accepted that. Five days to his death he accepted that in good faith and Honourable Sama also is a very kind man and he is our in-law both of then accepted before Chief Kebbie died and a day for him to bring all the Paramount Chiefs together to meet at State House the following day Chief Kebbie died overnight. So we never had that meeting. But at least some understanding was preached. So therefore because of all of the developmental thrives he made in the Pujehun district, let me now use the opportunity to join the people of Pujehun district to pay this tribute to the late Chief Kebbie. I thank you very much for introducing this kind of culture in Pujehun and I hope we will examine this. God bless.. We thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member any other tribute from Pujehun district? Ok then I can hear from other Members of Parliament and then is the Leader of the Opposition here? Ok and the Leader of the Government Business you will be representing him very well.

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I am Honourable Fofanah from Kono CACUS Leader for Kono Members of Parliament. On behalf of the Members of Parliament from kono district and on behalf of the people of kono district we want to joint colleagues who have taken the Floor before us to say the Honourable Paramount Chief from what we learnt from colleagues and former Honourable Members of Parliament, he was a good man indeed. I think he has been one of the Paramount Chiefs who we learnt that he was a career Member of Parliament in this Well. For a Paramount Chief to lead a district for three or four terms I think it demonstrates that the Paramount Chief was a fine Paramount Chief and blessings to Pujehun district. On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members from a heavy heart from the Members of Parliament from kono district, from the people of kono district we as Muslims we always believe that when somebody passed away the best way you have to do is prayers and I want to take this opportunity to have a "Quran recitation for the Deceased."

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, Yes Honourable.

HON. KARGBOBAI P.C DESMOND MAHAYEI: Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I came to know Chief Kebbie in 2010 after my election in 2009 in one of our rotational regional meetings he took the leadership and funded that meeting by providing us cows and other logistics so since then I decided to become very close to him because I learnt to understand that by then he was the youngest in age and oldest in chieftaincy as far as the south was concern. So I had wanted to tap on his experience so that I can use some of his ideas to implement projects in my own chieftdom, alongside why we were moving with Chief Kebbie he became more or less a mentor for all of us because he had the traditional knowledge at the same time he was representing Pujehun district in this Well since 1996 up to 2018. He has one term break

and then 2023 he came back again and because I knew he is very good I was still with him moving with him to learn from him not until the 14th of August when he passed away. Before he passed away on that day, my vehicle was having mechanical problem he took me to this Parliament, he gave me a ride after the Parliamentary meeting we went home together and about quarter to eleven his driver went to me and said your brother has got an attack. We are taken him to the hospital by the time I got to his home he was already at Choithram hospital and we discovered he was no longer alive. So I join the family to move down to Sahn Malen to plan about his funeral that was the time I knew indeed Chief Kebbie was a very nice man. In that gathering the whole Chieftdom authorities told us that we do not need anything from the family because Chief has done everything before he died. They told us in that meeting Sahn Malen is one of the chieftdoms that contributed greatly with regards local tax but all the money was paid by Chief. They have a lot of taxpayers but the moneys always come from Chief Kebbie. So because of that they told us for some of them to become Chief, Chief was always taking the lead to pay for their welfare to campaign for then, Chief Kebbie is gone but I think he is not forgotten by the family and by all the Paramount Chiefs, I think it is one of the major source of revenue for the country the local tax. I do not want to prolong my tribute thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: For the benefit of the Clerks at the table would you kindly give us your name

HON KARGOBAI P.C DESMOND MAHAYEI: Hon Kargbobai P.C Desmond Mahayei, Bo District.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Paramount Chief Member may I now give the Floor to this side of the House yes.

HON. DANIEL B KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I stand here to give tribute to our departed brother, friend, dad and on behalf of this side of the aisle. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I came to Parliament in 2012 and I met the Late Chief Kebbie we sat together for 5years, He was the Paramount Chief Member of Parliament representing Pujehun district. He had been

in Parliament way before that time in fact that was his fourth term in the fourth Parliament he was doing his fourth term so he was very experienced and for me I learnt a lot from him and one thing I can never forget of course he was very eloquent in fact he was sitting at the front roll, the third seat was allocated to him by the then Speaker Abel Strong a seat he retained until the end of his term and then he went out from 2018 to 2023 and then in 2023 again he was re-elected but fortunately he was called by the Almighty may his soul rest in peace. One thing I can never forget about him any time he stands up to make his contributions if Honourable Ansu Kaikai was also seated on the third seat from this side. I remembered when the late Honourable Osho Williams was called home, he was replaced by Honourable manly Spain. At that time, we had some clips of his previous debates. Before we started the tributes, those videos were displayed on the screen. If we had done that today, you would see Honourable P.C Kebbie live. Although sometimes, things are dynamic, it might not have echoed to the Honourable Speaker. But it would have been good that we all see some of the videos of the late man when he was alive here and debating as a front bench Member of Parliament. One thing I also know about him, he is a friend across political parties. His background never dictates to him regarding his political orientation. He was non-political as the institution of the chieftaincy rightly calls for. He will cut across that. He was a friend of the former president Ernest Bai Koroma. He was a very good friend. As a result of that, he used his friendship to ensure Sahr Malen chieftdom benefited from the fundable Techvoc that is operating now in the chieftdom. He also used that opportunity to attract a fundable investor name Sucfin. I think the agreement might have been modified now and would bring this House again for another rectification. I have seen it in the notice paper. So we are preparing for that. That happens as a result of the lobbying power of P.C Kebbie. The soil of Sahr Malen was not a suitable soil for all plantations, there were other suitable places. But he lobbied and ensured that the chieftdom benefited from that investment. Also, that investment has reached its peak. The investors will leave one day and the plantation will remain forever and ever for the people of Sahr Malen. In fact, I was a one time member of the agricultural Committee and we went there to do oversight. P.C Kebbie took us to a Boliland land, a Boliland

land that I could not even estimate the size. But I saw over fifteen tractors each, at least Fifty acres apart ploughing for the people. In the entire headquarter of Sahr Malen town, all the local farmers who were able to do farming for themselves, were given those places, with those tractors, together with seeds. The tractors will plough the place for you, they will till the ground for you, and you will do the planting and harvesting as well. There were companies that would harvest for the people as well. Finally Mr. Speaker, one time, I attempted to seek for a job for one of my friends. I went through P.C Kebbie to get the job at Sucfin. In less than two weeks he got the job for me. He did it for as his colleague Member of Parliament. That shows how magnanimous P.C Kebbie was. The person that I got the job for is benefiting from that Job over six years and till date. P.C Kebbie was also a friend the All People Congress Party. He did so much to ensure the APC succeeded during the tenure of Ernest Bai Koroma for the past ten years when Ernest was the president of Sierra Leone. He gave him advice and I believe that is the role of Paramount Chiefs. They are not political. They are government of the day to advice you on the right things. If you did a mistake, they would correct those mistakes and advice you to keep it up for the right things to be done. So on behalf of the APC party and on behalf of Members of Parliament on the side of the eye, we wish him God's mercies and may his soul rest in perfect peace. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member from Koinadugu who has spoken on behalf of the opposition. Over to you now.

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with a heavy heart, I pay tributes to the memory P.C Victor Cyril Kebbie. I am a traditional man Mr Speaker. Paramount Chiefs do not die; they joined the company of their ancestors. They do not die at all. If I pronounce the deaths of paramount chiefs in my district Kono definitely, I will pay a fine for that. This is because, paramount chiefs do not die. Mr Speaker, those who read the Bible will tell that in Job 14 vs. 14, it says; if a man die, shall he live again? On the days of my appointment time, will I wait to see my maker. It is a living elusion not that, you will not die. How do I know? At the ECOWAS Parliament

where the living who has joined his ancestors, spent about fifteen years in his good work as a fair debater, still lingered within the walls of ECOWAS Parliament. A career politician, some body that has spent 21 years in Sierra Leone Parliament. A person can go to the university and spend four years and make a career for him or herself whether as a teacher or a engineer. That is a career part. Four years in a university reading law, you also create a career of becoming a lawyer for yourself. Twenty one years that man spent here. It was an arguable that indeed he was a career politician. Personally, I had not met him until he came in the sixth parliament of the republic of Sierra Leone. Interestingly when he came to the sixth parliament and found out that I was Emerson Lamina, he was shocked. He asked if I were the Emerson that was sent by the Speaker on the Five Five mission to Pujehun district? He was surprised on the first day we met in the six Parliament. At a particular time when Mr. Speaker summoned a special committee to investigate the Merit between the Member of Parliament in Sahr Malen and the living paramount chief. In that special committee, I was given the privilege to chair members from both eye and the late paramount chief was also in that committee. I set up the timetable. After setting that up on the very day I was engaged, the civil society was engaged, paramount chief was engaged, the Members of Parliament were engaged, the community people were engaged and the mining company was engaged as well. And then my clerk Marrah communicated to us. He was so passionate but I told him not to worry because i am an emperor, let him be an arbiter in this particular case. So he had to call Marrah the clerk telling him that his chairman was so difficult and trying to establish one of our standards between him. He told him that he came purposely to Freetown to see him but I could not see him. I actually did not want to prodigies the investigations report. That is the man. When he came, he told that he had tremendous respect for me. As it turns out Mr Speaker, I had to suspend that particular investigation at that particular moment. Honourable Members, with the late man's activity in bringing Samalen's Agricultural investment closer to the people, Pujehun district has lost a great son. I will tell you Mr Speaker, the fifth Parliament did a lot by passing two novel Acts in this parliament which are:

1. The Customary Land Rights
2. The National Land Commission.

In those two Acts, the living Paramount Chief was one of the greatest beneficiaries. This is because in that particular Act especially the Customary Land Rights Act, it places paramount chiefs at the pedestal for the arrangement and agreement of all Lands. Especially for the late man that served as a role model to have a big agricultural investment in that particular Pujehun district. Today he is not here but he would have been a fine beneficiary. But his memories will speak. He served as a legend for the people for the people of Pujehun to benefit. If the people of Samalen could benefit anything today from their agricultural investment, it was as result of the late man and kudos must be given to the living man. He is a living man because I still hold on that belief that he has just joined his predecessors like William Shakespeare's wife; Macbeth who actually crossed the stick before the time. I am talking to those who read the story of Macbeth. A grammar text called Macbeth written by William Shakespeare. In that particular text, we were told that at the moment of stress when Macbeth was to face Macbeth in the final battle, it was the time the greatest consoler lady Macbeth gave up the ghost and she made a comment with a very red face saying; oh oh oh, I would have died year after the battle not now. And that is how the late P. C Kebbie joined his predecessors. At the time he is supposed to benefit from the Customary Land Rights that will give opportunity to the white investors to promote operation Feed Sierra Leone. And to see white farmers getting land and the paramount chiefs will be buying shares from those investments to actualize operation Feed Sierra Leone. That is the time MP Kebbie has joined his forefathers. On behalf of the leadership of Sierra Leone People's Party across the country, we are expressing our deep felt condolences to the Kebbie's family and I am urging them not to give up. The great replacement of P.C Kebbie will come before long. I thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. He is the last speaker on my list. I will now like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire House to let my own voice to the chorus of tributes that have been paid to the Honourable Paramount Chief; Brima

Victor Cyril Kebbie. Unlike those who have spoken, whenever the privilege of crossing with the late paramount chief in this House, I think I came to the House and left the House before his tenure as Member of Parliament. But on behalf of the entire House, I will like to take this opportunity to pray that God almighty forgives his mistakes on Earth and grant his gentle soul eternal rest in his heavenly kingdom. We also pray for God almighty to grant his family, friends, and all of us his colleagues in this Parliament the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss that we all suffered. May his soul rest in perfect peace. May I now invite all of us to rise and observe a minute silent in honour of the deceased? Again, we pray that his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Thank you.

HON. MATTHEWS. NYUMA: Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on a second.

HON. SOLOMON PAUL SENGEPOR: I am Paul Sengepor, an uncle and family member to the late Chief Kebbie and these are the family members. First of all, I want to thank you Mr Speaker for allowing the family to declare a vote of thanks that you have made on these great tributes that you did on behalf of the late paramount chief. What you have done goes as a big testimony for the respect that we already have for the late chief. All what you have said and your contact with him in this Parliament, is an evidence of what he did for the chieftdom. We want to thank everybody in this Well to realize that, the role of a paramount chief as part of law making cut across the eyes that you have already demonstrated and the present paramount chiefs in this Well will imitate the good example that the chief did. Paramount chiefs are supposed to be beacons of development in their chieftdoms. Chief Kebbie showed an example of that. We definitely want to extend these thanks to the president who is not here. But after the dismissal of Honourable Kebbie, the president took the opportunity to go to the house. Our Speaker with his leadership also went to our family to give his own condolence. So we want to thank you and hopefully, this will be a shining example of what will be done for the departing of other Honourables in this Parliament when they would have done during their tenure. I am hearing people grumbling about this. But this is an example the Speaker has done. You need to think about it and to respect the

good works that some of you are doing in this Parliament. So I thank you very much for this.

THE SPEAKER: I thank you Mr Sengepor. That vote of thanks on behalf of the family, we appreciate it. Any announcements? I give the floor to the leader of government business.

HON MATTHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I have given the internal notice paper to the leader from the House. So for Business statement, I stand on S O 16 to make a business statement in the House.

Internal Notice Paper.

1. Government motions.
 - a. The Minister of Trade and Industry. Agreement between Government of Sierra Leone and Sucfin Agricultural Company Sierra Leone dated November, 2022.
 - b. The Minister of Finance: Agreement for the establishment of the African export, import AR freezing Bank.
2. Bills:
 - a. The Appropriation Act, 2024: The Minister of Finance..
 - b. The Industrial Relation and Trade Union Act, 2023: The minister of Labour and Social Security.
 - c. The Anti-Money Laundering and combating of Financing of terrorism and financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 2022; the minister of Finance.
 - D. The National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency Act, 2023. The chief minister.
 - E. the Public Financial Management Act, 2023; the minister of Finance.
 - F. The State Own Enterprises Ownership and Governance Commission Act, 2023: The Minister of Finance.

That is what we have on the internal notice paper. Mr Speaker going back to item two of the Bills talking about the Appropriation and the Budget, the budget will take as normal in the Standing Orders of the five allotted Bills. I want to start on Monday but

through instructions Mr Speaker, there is another announcement that is going to start on Tuesday. But we are not going to interfere by suspending any of the provision in the Standing Order that has to do with the five allotted days. Mr Speaker, we are going to make an addendum to the announcement. I should have moved the motion for us to sit on Monday but I have been advised that we are going to sit on Tuesday not Monday. He will now do the addendum in terms of the Appropriation as well as the Budgeting. Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me the floor.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of Government Business. As he has rightly pointed out and we have had consultations, we were going to meet on Monday but I have an engagement with the Generated Guide by the Minister of Social Welfare. I think all the female Parliamentarians will be involved in that activity. We will be engaging with the female Members of Parliament in Committee Room One on Monday to debate the Budget. It will commence on Tuesday, next week.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 2:50pm and was adjourned to Tuesday, 21st November, 2023 at 10:00a.m]