

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

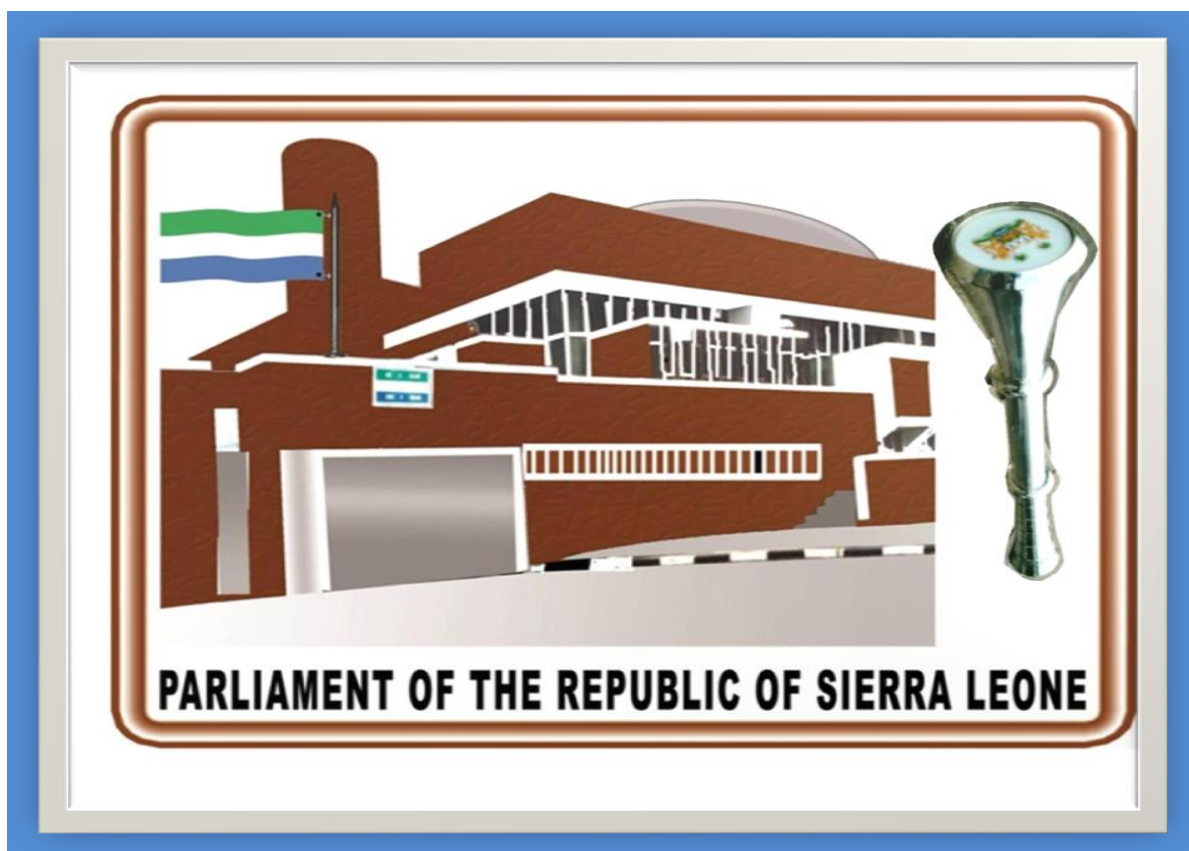
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, 17TH JULY, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 59

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 17th July 2025

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Ms Esther Bioma, read the prayer]

[The House met at 10:13 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 15th July 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we now go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 15th July 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4 and start with Page 5? Do you have any amendment to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Page 7, the penultimate paragraph, which is a statement by the Chairman of the Mines Committee, Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina. He referred to Section 144 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act and not the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 as it is stated here. This is because Section 144 of the Constitution is talking about official documents and it is Section 144 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act that talks about revenue. The Clerk should take that into consideration.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 8? If there is no further amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 15th July 2025 as amended?

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON IDRIS S. KAMARA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Records on Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held Tuesday, 15th July, 2025 has been adopted as amended]

III. AMENDMENT OF THE ORDER PAPER

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that item IV, which has to do with Laying of Paper by the Minister of Mines and Minerals Resources, it should now read as the Leader of Government Business, instead of the Minister. I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so second, Honourable Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I recognise the following Members of Parliament who have been extremely diligent in their service to the Republic of Sierra Leone and this House by coming to the Well of Parliament in time. This is for the attention of the public. If your name is called, please stand up for recognition by the public.

Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin

Honourable Alpha F.M Jabbie

Honourable Umu Pyne

Honourable Alie Bayoh

Honourable Ibrahim Kabba

Honourable Alhaji Yusuf Mackery

Honourable Fallah Tengbeh

Honourable Sarty Banya

Honourable Mariama Ella Goba

Honourable Neneh Lebbie

Honourable Edward George

Honourable P.C Almameen Kanneh

Honourable Tamba Simeon Johny

Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh

Honourable Amie Nyava Moriba

Honourable Musa Fofanah

Honourable Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh

Honourable Lucinda Kellie

Honourable Bamedette Wuyatta Songa

Honourable Marie Kamara

Honourable Fatmata Sarah Soukenah

Honourable Suliaman Abdul Marray-Conteh

Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura

Honourable Allusine Bash Kamara

Honourable Haja Miatta Amara

Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara

Honourable Mariama Zombo

Honourable Abdul Karim Kanu

Honourable Musa Lahai

Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina

Honourable PC Alhaji Musa Bambam Jalloh III

Honourable Mohamed A. Jalloh

Honourable PC Foray Cyril Gordon II
Honourable Daniel Brima Koroma
Honourable Bashiru Silikie
Honourable Ahlaji Abu Kemokai
Honourable Beatrice Maya Kangbai
Honourable Abdul Kargbo
Honourable John Sarty Kargbo

This is for the information of the public. The Members of Parliament that have just been mentioned are those who have taken their work very seriously in this House and those are the people who are serving this nation based on what this work requires. So, if you want to write against Members who are not coming to Parliament, please exclude these ones I have just mentioned.

V. LAYING OF PAPER:

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following Paper:

The Debt-to Equity Swap of Agreement [First Amendment to the Agreement of 16th July 2012 between the Government of Sierra Leone and Sierra Mineral Holdings Limited]

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE BASHIRU SILIKIE

SECONDER: HONOURABLE SAA EMERSON LAMINA

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to request, through the Speaker, that the leaderships both sides of the aisle meet in the office of the Speaker before commencing the debate on Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. It is a request, through your office, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Leaderships from both side of the aisle let us meet in my Chamber for ten minutes.

[The House stood down at 10:40 a.m. and resumed at 12:00 p.m.]

[Suspension of S.O. 5[2] being 12:00 noon]

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential Nominations- July 2025

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations, met on Wednesday, 16th July 2025 and interviewed **ten** presidential nominees for the following positions:

- v. Executive Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre;
- vi. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- vii. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Technology and Innovation;
- viii. Deputy Bank Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- ix. Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region of the Electoral Commission, Sierra Leone;
- x. Auditor General, Audit Service, Sierra Leone;
- xi. Chairman, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust;
- xii. Members, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank, Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO] and the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, respectively.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained as usual, its strict consistencies and established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to lead such important offices of state. Probing questions covered wide ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. Mrs Francess Aina Mildred Nyuma: Proposed Executive Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Center

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Francess Aina Mildred Nyuma is a dedicated and resourceful result-oriented person with a critical mind to initiate critical work related ideas. She is a professional with 18 years' experience in National Security issues with resounding expertise in transnational organized crime. She is a heavy weight in strategic leadership, effective coordination, and analytical skills in addressing security

issues. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Rural development from the Njala University and further possesses several professional certificates that have enhanced her capacity in the security sector thus:

- Certificate in countering transnational and organised crime from the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, Garnish, Germany.
- Risk Analysis from the Spanish Police Academy, Avila, Spain.
- National Security Capacity Building, Criminal Investigation Police University of China, Shenyang, People's Republic of China.
- Countering Violent Extremism/Threat to Finance, from West Africa Regional Training Centre, Accra, Ghana.
- Detecting and Investigating Money Laundering and other Financial Crimes for Law Enforcement Agencies amongst others.

Prior to this appointment, she has served as Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinating Centre, where she acquired enormous knowledge to spearhead the operations of this great office.

From 2007 – 2020, She held various strategic positions, including Assistant Director, Serious Organized Crime Coordination Directorate, whilst serving in the Office of National Security [ONS]

In her response to the Committee on the trajectory she intends taking to the Early warning Secretariat, the soft spoken but confident nominee said "I know the Secretariat requires reforms and these will demand collective inputs from all stakeholders. With God being my helper, I will work with colleagues to execute the mandates of the institution with your assistance and as by law requires", she concluded.

ii. Mr David Fortune, Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Mr David Fortune is a conscientious professional social worker with a track record of over 25 years work experience in humanitarian services. His competence in peace building and reconciliation and security building, mediation for peaceful coexistence of communities in conflict is notable. He has vast knowledge and experience in resolving domestic conflicts and supporting communities in crisis especially relating to handling of victims and resettlement.

He holds a Master's degree in Sociology from Njala University. His long career in peace and conflict resolutions enabled him to serve in the following capacities:

- Supervisor, Child Protection Programme, International Rescue Committee, 2000-2001;
- Assistant Programme Manager, Child Protection Programme, IRC – 2001-2003;

- Programme Manager, IRC Kenema and Pujehun, 2004;
- Capacity building officer, Arms for Development, United Nations Development Programme;
- Programme Manager, Caritas;
- Justice and Peace Commission, 2010 – 2020;
- District Coordinator, Covid 19 Emergency Response Centre, Bo, 2020-2022; and
- Senior Disaster Management Officer, National Disaster Management Agency, South Region, 2022 to date.

In his submission to Members, he said all his life has been spent on peace and security building and would therefore go as Deputy Minister to Work collaboratively with the Minister of Internal Affairs to achieve the routine security normalcy of the state.

iii. Mr Paul Hingha Augustine Charles Tucker, Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Technology and Innovation

Mr Tucker is a humble personality with a plethora of working experience spanning over a decade in public institutions. He has an excellent Communication background, coupled with coordination and project management skills. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and is currently pursuing an MSc. Degree in Diplomacy and International Relations at Fourah Bay College.

Prior to this state assignment, the nominee worked as Deputy Director at the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority [SLPTA-2023-2025] and the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation –2018-2023 as Deputy General Manager.

Responding to what he would be taking to the Ministry, the nominee said” I will be taking loyalty as hall mark and readiness to learn on the expanding trend of technological innovations, and work with the Minister to execute the mandates of this new Ministry”, he concluded.

iv. Mr Alex Pat Labib Saffa, Proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region of the Electoral Commission, Sierra Leone

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alex Pat Saffa is quiet and unnoticeable personality at most times. He is a seasoned administrative professional with over 20 years of success in resolving customer concerns and inquiries at renowned Commercial enterprises. He is a supportive character and well vast in electioneering processes and elections management and administration.

He holds a Master Degree in Public Administration [MPA] from the Njala University and has worked variously with credibility thus:

- 2020–present: Executive Assistant, Office of the Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman, Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone [ECSL];
- 2019-2020: Financial/Protection Adviser, Owl Financial, London United Kingdom;
- 2014–2019: Deputy Managing/Operations, Marks and Spencer, London Westminster; and
- 2002-2007: Personal Assistant, Minister of Housing and Technical Maintenance, Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Committee on contemptuous issues surrounding elections conduct and credibility, he said “the world over, elections are contemptuous especially when fiercely competitive. The Sierra Leone Electoral system is well structured and has rules and procedures. I will work with colleagues to diligently deliver the will of the electorate”, he concluded.

v. Mr Abdul Aziz, Proposed Auditor General, Audit Service Sierra Leone.

Mr Abdul Aziz is a Management and Audit Consultant with plethora of credible experience in conducting financial, compliance and performance auditing. He has expertly conducted national audits that enhanced operational efficiencies and identified discrepancies in both government and local authorities. He is proficient in risk management and internal controls, especially in demonstrating accuracies and attention at all times. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Audits Management and Consultancy from University of Central England and a Bachelor of Science Degree with honours in Accounting from Fourah Bay College in 2005 and 1992 respectively.

In the Audit Service, he has held several positions as noted below:

- 2008 to date, he has served as a steady rock in his capacity as deputy Auditor General;
- 2007–2008, assistant Auditor General, East Regional Office;
- 2005–2007, Principal Auditor [Head of quality Control and Assurance];
- 1999–2004, Senior Auditor [Head of branch].

Responding to Members of the Committee on his value addition, the proposed nominee assured that he is going with a renewed vigour, energy and passion to support institutions to improve on their operational efficiencies and maximise utilisation of their limited resources. “Having served this institution for several years, I am aware of the numerous challenges facing institution. Therefore, I intend working in close

collaboration with relevant line ministries including the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the limited resources of government are utilized judiciously.

vi. Mr Alfred Wonneh Basith Sannoh, Proposed Deputy Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone

Mr Sannoh is an economist of great repute. He has spent more than two decades in the banking environment and with greater part at the Bank of Sierra Leone. He has risen through the ranks from a Banking officer [1999 to 2003] through to Assistant Director, Payments System Division, Banking Department [2011-2020] and Director, Banking and payment Systems Department at the Central Bank. Recently he performed as Senior Director, Monetary stability with an oversight responsibility to the Research, Monetary policy and Banking. He is a quiet and unassuming fellow personality that produces quality and timely results.

He holds a Bachelor Degree in Economics from the Fourah Bay College [1996] and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Institute of Public Administration and Management [2006], University of Sierra Leone.

In his response, he said: **"we work as a team to improve on the stability of the economy through strengthening the reserve base, exchange rates and stringent policy implementation."**

vii. Michael Johnny, Proposed Chairman, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT]

Mr Speaker, Hon. Members, Dr Michael Johnny is an agricultural Economist with decades of experience in development and has worked with diverse institutions including multi-lateral, non-governmental and governmental organizations. Dr. Michael Johnny is one of the architects of the then very famous German Government – funded multi sectoral project called the Bo-Pujehun Rural Development Project, where he served for 12 years as Senior Rural Development Officer and later Senior Adviser for planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from University of Giessen, Germany in 1985. As the West Africa Regional Technical Advisor for Agriculture at the Catholic Relief Services, Dr. Michael Johnny provides technical guidance to the agency's Country Programmes in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, The Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger.

- From 2019 to date, he has served as Director, Cabinet Implementation, Monitoring and Support Unit, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Sierra Leone.

- 2012 – 2013: Farm Liaison Officer, N2 Africa, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture IITA Sierra Leone.
- 2009 – 2011: Principal Research Fellow [Rural Development], Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute [SLARI].
- 2000 – 2002: West Africa Region Technical Advisor [for Agriculture], Catholic Relief Services.
- 1990 – 1999: Senior Adviser, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Bo/Pujehun Rural Development Project.

Mr. Michael Johnny promised to bring his long standing expertise to the NASSIT Board especially in the monitoring and evaluation of the numerous NASSIT projects.

viii. PC Amy Tator Kallon Tibbie II ,Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the inclusion of several Paramount Chiefs in main stream national governance is now gaining momentum as institutions are gaining from their wealth of local administrative knowledge. P.C. Amy Tator Kallon Tibbie II is the Paramount Chief of Njama Kowa Chiefdom, Moyamba District. Our revered young Paramount Chief is a devout Christian with a strong interpersonal relationship in serving people. She is currently the stake primary President at Latter Day Saint Church, Sierra Leone.

She promised to work with colleagues and administration on the SALWACO Board to execute the priorities of the institution.

ix. Ms Sally Yeama Myers, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ms Sally Yeama Myers has wealth of experience in Leadership, Investment Promotion, private sector engagement and operational efficiency. She has a proven track record of fostering collaboration across diverse teams and cultures. Her dedication and professionalism have earned her recognition as a result oriented and culturally attuned motivator. She has worked with development partners and investors across Africa, Europe, USA and Asia, promoting Sierra Leone's Investment opportunities while providing strategic guidance in policy formulation and implementation. She is currently a pupil barrister at Tejan-Cole, Yillah & Partners.

Her previous work experience places her advantageously to work in such established Commercial sector. She promised to give legal advice on agreements, contracts, etc. at Board level as may be required

In his submission to Members, he said all his life has been spent on peace building and would therefore go to the Independent Peace Commission to work with colleagues to achieve a 'peaceful nation' through frank dialogue and justice.

x. Mrs. Nancy Veronica Ann Smart, Proposed Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion.

Mrs Nancy V.A. Smart has 30years spanning professional experience in development and advocacy, coordination, research, evaluation, planning and project implementation especially with multilateral donors. She has a double Master's degree in Rural Development from the Njala University(2006) and University of East Anglia, UK(2007) respectively .She also merited several trainings certificates from various International bodies since 2001 to 2023.

Her job experience prior to this job cuts through Educational research Consultancy [2024] with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, governance relating to Citizens' participation for good service deliveries in various local and International organizations.

In her response to the Committee, the development specialist said," development only thrives where peace is permanent and wholly embracing, everything being equal. I promise to work with colleagues to achieve the nation's aspiration of a stable and peaceful co-existence", she concluded.

3. Recommendations

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

- i. Mrs Frances Aina Mildred Nyuma, Proposed Executive Director, National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre;
- ii. Mr David Fortune , Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- iii. Mr Paul Hingha Augustine Charles Tucker, Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation;
- iv. Mr Abdul Aziz, Proposed Auditor General, Audit Service, Sierra Leone;
- v. Mr Alfred Wonneh Basith Sannoh, Proposed Deputy Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- vi. PC Amy Tator Kallon Tibbie II ,Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO];
- vii. Michael Johnny, Proposed Chairman, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

- viii. Ms Sally Yeama Myers, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank; and
- ix. Mrs Nancy Veronica Ann Smart, Proposed Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion.

EXCEPT

Mr Alex Pat Labib Saffa, Proposed Electoral Commissioner, Eastern Region. He was opposed by the Opposition, All Peoples Congress Party on the grounds that the aforementioned nominee was allegedly a public officer, employed by the Electoral Commission in question at the time of his appointment, contrary to 32[4b] of the 1991 Constitution. However, the ruling SLPP Members maintained that **Public officer** in this case, does not include the nominee as in Section 171 (4) of the same national Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with the aforesaid, I therefore move that the **fourteenth Report** of the Second 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. Bashiru Silikie

Deputy Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to inform you that we lost a brother; Honourable Ibrahim Conteh and his body will be laid in this House at State Hall today. We have lost a former Member of Parliament and I have been informed, and I do believe that his body is here. I know that most Honourable Members would want to debate, but we do not want to keep the body waiting. So, I urge every Member of Parliament to be present. I told you the other day that we will all leave this world some day and when you eventually die, you are expected to be accorded with some respect. So, immediately after this sitting, let us go there and give him the last respect. As a Member of Parliament, he was representing the Tonkolili District, Constituency 053. The body is here now and I urge you to be present immediately after sitting.

Honourable Members, I also wish to recognise the presence of certain great personalities we have here this morning. They are worthy of recognition and we cannot

allow them to go without informing the public. This is because these people are serving the Republic of Sierra Leone diligently as we are doing. Let me start by recognising Her Excellency Dr Francess Anderson. She is Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Turkey. She is the sister-in-law to the Leader of Government Business. She is my sister from Bonthe District. I would also like to recognise the presence of Mr Mohammed Konneh, the Chief Electoral Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Mr Kabineh Kallon, Minister of Transport and Aviation and currently, he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the National Revenue Authority; Mr Ansu Samuel Tucker, the Director General of HRMO; Mr Mustapha Amara, a Consultant; Loyasha Kawa, Chairman of Audit Service Sierra Leone Board; Madam Fatmata Bah, the Secretary to the Audit Service Sierra Leone Board; Mr Kewo Bah, Chairman of Public Service Commission; Mr David W.S Banya, the Chief Executive Officer of the Wages and Compensation Commission and a retired seasoned public servant. He is retired, but not tired. I also recognise the presence of Madam Roselyn Brown and Madam Hawa Lebbie. I recognise the presence of Aamans Silikie, a strategic employee of NaTCA and a great friend of this House. She is the wife of the Deputy Leader of Government Business. I also recognise the presence of Feimata Tucker of the ACC; Miss Esther Johnson, the Deputy Director of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Stephanie Nanaya Anderson, daughter of the Ambassador to Turkey. She is also my niece; Simonet Bengesh; Patricia Jones; Anita A Ganda; Sullay Katta; Aria Nyakeh Angra; Victor T Biadoma, Board Secretary to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank; the Inspector General of Police; Dr John Karimu, the very first Commissioner General of the National Revenue Authority [NRA]; madam Emma Akin Turay, member of Bank of Sierra Leone; Madam Elizabeth Neneh Mansarey, member of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Aria Gbondo Tugbawah, Deputy Auditor General; Alfred Gbessey, member of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Rebecca Fuller, Manager of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Leimata Moriba, Manager of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Elizabeth Dove, the Senior Admin Assistant to Bank of Sierra Leone; Mohammed Mustapha of the Audit Service; Deborah A. Dekah, Auditor; Oloshogo A. David, Executive Secretary of the PPRC; Hannah Lamina, the wife of the Deputy Leader of Government Business II.

Honourable Members since we have our brother's body waiting at State Hall, I will just take two from either side of the aisle and we round off.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be brief in my submission. We should thank President Maada Bio for actually demonstrating Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, which gives him the latitude and the authority to create offices. He has the power to terminate at any time. We thank him for appointing these nominees. In most of his appointments, he always considers gender. You hardly see his appointees without fulfilling the condition of gender equality. Today, the set of

appointees presented to us is a clear indication of his commitment to promoting women.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the enjoyments of running a dual Parliament is to compare what other legislatures do to what we do as a Parliament. I am sure that is why myself, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, who is the Leader of Delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament and Honourable Abdul Kargbo are privileged to be Members of the ECOWAS Parliament. We use the lens of evaluating and comparing what other countries are doing to what we do here. President Maada Bio stands tall in terms of gender parity with regard to his appointments. In the Economic Community of West Africa States, it is only Senegal that precedes us in terms of gender parity. They have **49%** in terms of gender parity. In this Parliament alone, we are about **30.4%** and even in the Executive. This makes President Maada Bio the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of States. His compatriots within the sub-region have a lot to learn from him in terms of success. This Parliament has ratified eight four [84] legislations under his leadership.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this Sixth Parliament, we are also progressing in terms of ratifying legislations. The President has a lot to learn from and with his rich democratic credentials, the rest of ECOWAS countries has a lot to learn from His Excellency the President. In his appointments today, he has given us nominees who have strong academic qualifications in their various fields. I came to know this when I censored their Curriculum Vitae during the interview.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will only appeal to the appointees to go and show leadership. It is noted that the leader shows the right way the followers should follow. Your followers should look at your footsteps regarding what you do and what you intend to do. You should set the bar high and even higher, so that your followers will follow. Apart from the general performance contract that is normally given by the government, I want to urge you, within your domain and within your institution, to apply the performance tracker. If approved today by this House, all of you will be leaders in your various domains and I want you to set the bar. Please set the annual evaluation in order for us to know that you are working. We can have excellent reports show to the people of Sierra Leone that indeed President Bio's administration has done a lot. That is the message I have for all of you.

Mr Speaker, as you have already highlighted, we cannot spend much time to shower praises on all of them because we are bereaved and we have to give the last respect to our colleague. Therefore, I speak to the nominees who are appointed as deputy ministers in the various offices: the Deputy Minister of Communications and the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. I want them to know that deputies can always be deputies. In the forty eight [48] Laws of Power, written by Robert Greene, the first law clearly

states that 'you should not outshine your master.' I want you to be the support base to the substantive Ministers. You might be cleverer, more intelligent and more skillful than them, but you need to be an ancillary or a helping mate to the substantive leader. Give them the skills that you have and if they carry the praises, definitely the praises will cover the entire institution. Let deputy be always deputy and avoid unnecessary competition. However, deputies are not slaves, but rather supporters to the substantive leaders, so that the institution can make a name.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to speak to the proposed Board Members of SALWACO, NASSIT and the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. Most of the time, Board Members instruct those who are running the day to day administration of the offices and what you tell them is what they do. So, you have a great role as Board Members to even direct and suggest developments that can be achieved, taking into consideration the proximity and population. Therefore, you can direct those that are running the day to day administration of the offices. I am speaking specifically to the Board Chairman of NASSIT because he has a backlog of huge developments in Kono District. When I was a Mayor, NASSIT has an acre of land, but it was carelessly handled. That land was carelessly lost. Today, the people of that area asked me to tell you that they have given you another beautiful plot of land.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to inform the proposed Chairman for SALWACO that the 2025 budget clearly shows that at least the government should deliver one hundred solar boreholes. So, you have a task to engage the Director General of that particular institution for speedy implementation of that project. You are Board Members and that is the role you should be playing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Auditor General has done well so far and he has made this nation proud. Sometimes, auditors are being referred to as witch hunters even though I am in support of witches to be hunted because I do read the Bible. The Bible says suffer not the witch to exist. We want the witches to be hunted. If you are a witch in a particular institution, you will be hunted. You have done well for this nation and the Public Accounts Committee [PAC], headed by the Deputy Speaker of this Parliament has been romancing with you very well. I am sure through your effort and his effort, the burden of Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] has lessened; and for this reason, I want to commend Members of the PAC. They have recovered a lot of money for the government of Sierra Leone due to the good relationship between the PAC and Audit Service Sierra Leone. His role is to audit public institutions and the Auditor General is so protected by the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. He is not easily fired.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want the Auditor General to independently work for this nation. I want to rhyme with the idea of the people of Rwanda. Four years

ago, I was in Rwanda and I learnt a lot of lessons from Rwanda. From their public service, I understood that their Audit Service has a role and if a particular institution for three times has an unqualified audit opinion, the government of Rwanda gives power to the Audit Service to recommend that that Vote Controller of that particular institution be fired. In Parliament, Section 104 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone gives us the power to be the supreme Legislative Authority; and if the Audit Service brings their proposal, we will give them that mandate like we did for the ACC. We gave the ACC prosecutorial powers and that provision is in the Constitution. So, if that will make your work easier, this Parliament, pursuant to Section 104 of the Constitution, will look into it and give you that power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to speak to the proposed nominee for the Electoral Commission. Section 32 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone gives the President the power to appoint you. He does not want to take that particular power from you. Many a times, we do see lacuna in consultations and many people cry foul that they were not consulted. I think that will be in the review of the new Constitution that is coming up, so that the issue of consultation will be made clearer. There will be no issue where somebody will be pointing fingers or will be crying foul due to the lacuna in respect of consultations. Many years ago, I was a PA to a particular politician where I made to understand that consultation can just be hey, let us do this or that. However, that was done in writing and not verbally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the work of the Electoral Commission requires integrity. As a meticulous follower of elections over the past fifteen years, those who are from the East, especially what I see in Kono, I must say that the officers who are normally in charge of the elections work less in terms of public relations; they do less in terms of training aspirants. Sometimes politicians do the work of these people. We buy airtime to call people and teach them how to vote. I am sure that should not be my role, but the role of the officials in that district. This is something you need to work on immediately this House approves your appointment. You have to build a capacity for yourself and training is very important. I admire you because from a very humble beginning, you have been elevated. You have always been there and from your CV, I came to understand that you were the Executive Personal Assistant to the incumbent Chief Electoral Commissioner. Owing to that humility, you are here today and you will be managing the East part of Sierra Leone after your approval by Parliament. If you were humbly serving as the Executive Personal Assistant to the incumbent Chief Electoral Commissioner, I can tell you different Executive Personal Assistants who actually attained substantive positions, such as the former President to the late President Mohamed Buhari was Executive Personal Assistant. He rose to the position of Vice President. The Deputy Chairman of the All People Congress [APC] today was a

former Executive Personal Assistant to the former President Joseph Saidu Momoh. Also, one of the great legal minded leaders in Kono District, Abuya Koroma was Executive Personal Assistant to former Senior Bartha Macauley and he rose to be a great leader in Kono District. In fact, he even became the Attorney General of this country. The current Inspector General of Police in this country was the Executive Personal Assistant to the former late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba; today, he controls the police. This man comes from a humble beginning and I do admire you. I am convinced that very soon, you will be a great leader and this is a lesson many Sierra Leoneans should learn from.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to round off with the Bank Governor. In 2023, Sierra Leone rose to **54%** of inflation; but today, we are around **15%** of the inflation. This means the Bank Governor has done a great job. With **40%** of lending in those days, Members of Parliament were crying that their interest rate was high, but that has been reduced to **15%**. This is his job in terms doing oversight on the monetary aspects of the bank. I want to commend the Deputy Bank Governor and he should maintain that trend. Most times when countries submit their reports at the ECOWAS Parliament sittings, you will definitely know that Sierra Leone is doing very well. With the **15%** lending, you have done a great task and will encourage you to maintain it, so that our records to reduce the dollar rate will be easier. It will be possible based on your techniques in managing the office. To my understanding, the record at the Bank of Sierra Leone turning to a domestic asset is good. Today, the net bank credit of the Bank of Sierra Leone is also good. You only need to improve on your reserve and I look forward to seeing legislations where you direct those in the Extractive. I am part of the Extractive in my capacity as the Chairman of the Committee on Mines. I can tell you that bringing legislations, wherein **40%** of the revenue from the extractives is repatriated to our reserve, the cry of the Dollar, dwarfing the Leones will be something of the past.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will summarise with Madam Frances Nyuma. Her position is deliberate and she is very close to me. Fifteen years ago, when I was a public servant, not even a politician, we have been working very closely. I know her as a strong academic and a multitask person with excellent atoner's records. During our days at the ONS office, she would request for relevant piece of information for the whole country and would act upon it and that information would be given to her. Madam Nyuma, you have been in that particular institution and you have created a mark. A song write once said, "you would only be remembered on what you have done." I am a member of the ECOWAS Parliament. Today, the early warning response that is centered and built is only enacted in Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana, but Sierra Leone has joined the queue. Nothing progressive in a country is done by accident. I can tell you that she is here to serve and I want to encourage her to work with the

Chiefdom Security Guard [CSG], POSG and the Office of the National Security Board. This is because these offices are very important. You would have to provide the necessary information needed. We understand that there are countries today that are battling with military administration and they are bereft of the Early Warning Response Mechanism Act. If you go to Niger, Burkina Faso or Mali, such Act is not seen in their jurisdictions and that is why they see themselves in the hands of the military administration. By right, the military role is to be subjected to the civilians. Madam Nyuma, you assisted greatly in piloting that particular Bill and you are a very strong woman. I admire you and I believe you are going to make the President proud. I thank the President for giving these fine nominees to the people of Sierra Leone. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the Paramount Chief Members of Parliament to swiftly approve these fine nominees. I thank you very much.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am confident that my friend, the Inspector General of Police, is here. I will start my submission with the Early Warning Mechanism. Madam Nyuma is a strong woman and we can depend on her in terms of doing the things this nation wants. This is because most nations that are engulfed into conflicts have lost their democratic credential.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me at this point recognise the presence of Mr Mohamed Dabor, Secretary to the Vice President and Mr Korba Musa, the Mayor of Bo city. Honourable Member, please proceed with your submission.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: We depend on this institution to keep track of political, economic and environmental situations. Most times when you talk about early warning mechanism, people just focus on the political aspect of events. As a nation, our environmental situation is threatened. If you go to areas like Tonkolili and look at the Rokel River, you will see the dangers befalling our nation. It is the only river now that is close to the city in terms of sustainable water. That river is being polluted and it is a call for early warning if we must exist as a nation. Our capital city will expand if we have pure water to drink and the Rokel River is the only answer. We are waiting for a time when the Rokel River will be no more. Many other rivers in Sierra Leone are almost extinct. The Papana River is extinct due to illicit mining. This mining is not bringing anything to this nation. Madam Nyuma, as you go to that office, I want you to use your skills and develop that river. I am sure no man born of a woman in this Well will deny going to that office. The only thing I am going to say is congratulations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I listened to the Deputy Leader of Government Business [II] and I wish we had time. My Leader is a mixture of many things; he usually comes from where you do not expect. Consultation is good for the National Cohesion; consultation is an effective tool to calm down the nerves of our people. As a political

class, whatever you say, if we do not have time to meet and agree, it is a problem. I want you to know that our disagreement should be the weapon of strength as a nation. If little things like consultation we cannot manage at the political class level, it means we are not showing good example for our people to understand what peace is all about. We are not saying you should ask us to appoint; we are only saying you should give us the opportunity to sit as political class. If that is too much to do, then you should ask yourself what message do we send to our people? The political tension around the country is created by our attributes, our behaviour and our responses to national issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to uphold the 1991 Constitution. We are here as Members of Parliament and we exist as a nation because we have a Constitution. It is dangerous if you twist the Constitution. I sometimes say you are not going to be there forever. We are only playing our part for national development. The former NRA boss, Mr John Karimu has played his own part and we will be like him one day. What history will remind us is what we did when we were in positions of trust. In their own days, there were no internets to keep records. If you keep twisting the Constitution, there will come a time when we will be playing your videos. You are not doing well for yourselves. As young people, we are not on the good side of history because the internet is keeping everything regarding what we do. If you think I am joking, type your name on Google and see what will come up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to speak to the Auditor General. His situation would have been a very difficult one and the expectations of the people out there would have been a mixed bag. If I told you the truth, after being an Acting Auditor General for three years, I will say nothing has changed in the Office of the Auditor General. The report came as expected. The level of professionalism is unique. The figures are as raw as they are and what you have added to that office is the level of professionalism when it comes to figures. It is not just the money lost, but even the performance audits you do. I read the 2025 budget on Youth and Agriculture, and it gives us in depth understanding about Agriculture. If you continued to tell me about Feed Salone and look at the 2025 Performance Audit report, I will tell you why the Agriculture sector is not succeeding. I am sure **90%** of the political class does not read the audit reports and that is why they do not know what is happening. You said in the 2025 Performance Audit Report on Agriculture that all the machines bought from 2018 to 2025 are all faulty and they were bought with that condition. They do not know that; all they know is *S.O 2 eh, wi dey kam Feed Salone*. They are with the banners. If you look at the Performance Audit Report on the Ministry of Youth Affairs, you made it clear for us to understand that even the boats that were bought are not good. The boats were rotten even before they go to the sea. The collection mechanism for the youth in fishery is poor. We have to understand that as politicians. This is why they do not want

us to debate the audit reports. For me, it is like a Bible and I want you to continue doing the good work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, ever since the inception of NASSIT to date, all their investments are very poor. Please do not politicise this issue; it is very serious. Let us take responsibility as a nation. Today, I came to realise that even the Chairman we are about to approve is an agriculturist. The knowledge base of the person being appointed as Chairman of a particular Board could not be adequate. If he does not have enough experience in that area, what do you expect, Mr Speaker? I know they expect me to have many brains. I know there are people who have worked in that institution and were card carriers of the SLPP. You have to bring them back because they know what to do better. Do not say because of this reason, I will not call them. If you kill institutions that are meant to work for this nation, the nation will die. We cannot have buoyant economic institution if institution like NASSIT has no viable investments. NASSIT cannot say they cannot construct a toll road. If you continue to put square pegs in round holes, the answer is not productive. I am sorry, but I have to say it. I have just assured you that the Inspector General of Police is here, so I am safe. He is my friend.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I followed keenly the Afro-barometer report and the rating given to Parliament as the third most corrupt institution in Sierra Leone. The first corrupt institution is the police, my friend's institution and the second is the Business Executive. Do you know why? This is because Parliament has not done enough for this country. Thank God for the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee [PAC], but Parliament has not done enough in fully implementing the recommendations in the audit reports. We have to name and shame those who are thieves. The people are now saying that we are corrupt; and the ones who are taking away the resources are also saying we are the thieves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when they called the man from the Bank of Sierra Leone, you now understand why we need to support our civil service and the domestic workers. He has gone through the ranks at the Bank of Sierra Leone. This will give hope to our young graduates, that regardless of political affiliations or region, the institutions will keep them and until we are able to keep our professionals away from political intimidation, our country will not grow. Show me a country that has grown in Africa and I will tell you that their workforce has been kept away from politics. If your region or your tribe determines your employment, that nation is bound to fail. Today, we have Mr Aziz who is going to an institution where he has wealth of knowledge. He was groomed there and he confident with his workmates. He is going to build that institution and this is the same with the man going to the Bank of Sierra Leone. If they were kicked away because of their names and their tribes, what would you expect to

have happened to our nation? It is sad that even when I am making the statement, he is confirming that only the SLPP can drive away people from their offices. The Alhaji for Mecca did not understand what I was saying. However, it is serious that as a nation, we can only compete with other nations when we are able to maintain our workforce. Those in the political class will change, but let us allow our civil servants and our public servants to be civil servants and public servants.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will talk about the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. I want to say, not all rejection is demotion. Your story should tell people that God's destiny is different from what man proposed for you. He was rejected in his House, but he came again with a bigger promotion and was accepted. If you do not give testimony and say thank God for Parliament, God will not bless you again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to SALWACO, you will find out that year in and year out SALWACO dishes out contracts. If you go to Lungi and Kambia, through extension project, every year as we get the Budget, we give out contracts, but it will interest you to know that, as Chairman of Water Resources, even the Lungi contract that was awarded to provide water and to other major towns in Sierra Leone, not even up to **10%** of those moneys have been paid. We cannot continue playing politics when there are no resources. You give contracts that cost ten millions dollar **[\$10,000,000]**. You would agree with me that if you delay in the disbursement of funds, the cost of the project will go up to fifteen millions dollar **[\$15,000,000]**. This is where you will blame the contractors for doing poor works. We should allocate what is available. We cannot keep making promises when the funds are not available. We are awarding contracts when we do not have the resources. This is killing the economy because we will be left with more debts. Projects cost increased because we failed to implement on time. This is common with SALWACO and other water agencies. So, as you go to SALWACO, let us know the money that the government is allocating to that sector a year before signing new contracts. We cannot continue to sign agreements and giving people hope that they are going to have the services when the services are not forthcoming.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want tell all the nominees that as they go to their respective offices, we clap for them; we celebrate them; and their families are proud of them, but I tell you the bulk of those responsibilities is in your hands. When you fail, the same people that are clapping for you today are going to bash at you. Those who have come from those institutions you are going to head are here because of their selfish and personal gains. If you failed, your children are going to bear the name *S.O 2 na wudat dawan dey? Na Mr Aziz ihn pikin dem. Ahh, dawan dey we ihn Papa bin dey na da position, natin ihn nor do*. So, be proud of who you are. I always say that as Christians, when the Bible says, "in the name of Jesus, you shall do great exploit." It is

not just the name of Jesus, it means if you have authority, power and well seated, your children must be able to use your name to do great exploit. If you damaged your name and reputation, which name will they use? Maybe they will use the Kush name. I want the proposed nominee for the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone to know that by qualification, one would have asked him to go in peace, but we deal with technicalities as Members of Parliament. When something is wrong, we say it is wrong. It is painful to say at this time that we wish we would have done the right thing at the right time, but as it is, it was not right and it will never be right. My Leader will conclude on that matter. It is painful to see a brother in this kind of quagmire, but the truth and the Constitution speaks clear to it. I wish we would have done the right thing for you. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we cannot keep the body waiting. We have to round off the debate.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before going to the specific purpose of why we are here, I would want to read our position paper on one of the nominees.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. You said you have a Position Paper. Do you mind sharing it with us? Maybe we would like to respond to it. Mr Speaker, I do not know the ruling you have to make to that.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: This is the second copy that I am handing over to you sir.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Can you hand over that to Mr Speaker? I requested, but do you mind sharing the paper to the Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament and the Speaker, so that they can have a copy.

THE SPEAKER: Please give me a copy.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Interestingly, the Leader of Government Business is so deliberate. He is doing this in the event we do not have sufficient copies to prevent me from reading the Position Paper. Surprisingly, I have more than enough and I will give you copies. Mr Leader, I hope you are okay.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we have the Deputy Speaker who is different in terms of leadership from us. So, I need a copy for the Deputy Speaker. I need two more copies. I do not know if my colleagues on this side need copies as well.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Interestingly, Parliament has improved because we are now going paperless. You will agree with me that even the Votes and Proceedings are not served on hard copies, they are now served on soft copies and they are on our tablets.

So, for that very reason, Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma, who is my Deputy II will share the Position Paper on our WhatsApp group.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, we do not have an official website group.

THE SPEAKER: Leaders please, we should not waste time on this issue.

HON. BSHIRU SILIKIE: How can we act on a Position Paper when we do not have copies?

THE SPEAKER: I am sure you have a copy.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I do not have a copy, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, please give him a copy. If you do not have a copy, please share with the Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I want to be selfish here. I do not want to share my copy. The Leader said that Parliament is going paperless, but for the sake of progress, let us proceed.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we assume to be law makers and if we are law makers, we should be pacesetters in respect regarding the content of the laws that we make. This is why we have not been progressing. I could remember on several occasions, we have been very competitive and very supportive, especially when it comes to Bills that are not contentious and we do so because we are Sierra Leoneans, regardless of our political affiliations. We have been in Sierra Leone for quite a while and we have seen governments changing, but Sierra Leone remains as a country. So, our support to progressive laws and agreements is contingent on the fact that Sierra Leone will still exist after this government. I will go quickly to the Position Paper and maybe, I will do that on three nominees.

POSITION PAPER READ BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

This is the Minority Report of the Opposition in Parliament on the appointment of Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa, proposed Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region, dated 16th July 2025, presented by the Parliamentary Minority Leader on behalf of all the Members of Parliament for the All Peoples Congress [APC].

Ref. Presidential Appointment of Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa, proposed Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region.

INTRODUCTION.

This Minority Report is presented pursuant to the responsibility and rights of Members of Parliament, under the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and the Standing Orders of Parliament. It records the objection and rejection by the Opposition Party, particularly

the All Peoples Congress [APC] party on the recent appointment of Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa as the Electoral Commissioner of the Eastern Region.

BASES FOR REJECTION

Violation of Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitutional of Sierra Leone. Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone states that: "The members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament." From the correspondence I have from the Secretary General of the All Peoples Congress [APC] Party, there had been no consultation with the Opposition and the Constitution clearly states that the appointment of the Electoral Commissioner should be after consultation with all registered political parties. I underline the word 'all' registered political parties. To date, no such consultation has been made with the leadership of the All People's Congress [APC] or other opposition parties. The appointment was merely conveyed in a letter dated, 30th June 2025, which was neither officially served to the All Peoples Congress [APC], nor did it follow any known consultative mechanism. This violates both the spirit and the letter of the Constitution.

1. Breach of section 32[4B] of the 1991 Constitutional of Sierra Leone. Disqualification due to Public service status.

(4) A person shall not be qualifies –

(b) To hold office as member of the Electoral Commission if he is a Minister, a Deputy Minister, a Member of Parliament, or a public officer, or if he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the vetting process by the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, Mr Saffa publicly admitted that he is currently employed by the Electoral Commission as Executive Assistant to the Chief Electoral Commissioner. He further stated that he went through the former recruitment process and receives his salaries from the consolidated revenue funds. By his own admission, therefore, Mr Saffa is a Public Officer as provided by Section 171[1] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. 'Public officer' means a person holding or acting in a public office. His appointment is in direct violation of Section 32[4B] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and it is unconstitutional.

2. Ignoring the Tripartite Committee Recommendations.

I am happy that we are endorsing the appointment of the iron lady who is going to head the Early Warning. These are all specific early warnings for the stability and peace of our nation. The appointment further disregards recommendation nine [9] of the Tripartite Committee Report. The Unilateral and handpick appointment of Mr Saffa is

not only unconstitutional, but also undermines the consensus and good will through which the Tripartite Committee made their recommendations. It reflects a disturbing pattern of Executive outreach and manipulation of democratic institution. Mr Speaker, from the last Parliament to date, we have had more than five Commissioners that have gone through this House and we have expressed concerns relating to consultation day in and day out.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. For the Members of Parliament who do not have copies of the letter he is reading, I have noticed that in the process of reading, he is making extra comments that are not in the document he is reading. This will confuse Members of Parliament who do not have copies of the letter. I want the Honourable Member to concentrate on the letter before making comments. This will help those who do not have copies to understand exactly what he is reading.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Are you done sir? Most times when people only focus on the paper and read exactly what is on the paper, it means... - *[Interruption]*.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Sorry, you told us that you were going to read a Position Paper. Can we listen to the Position Paper? Mind you, there are Members of Parliament who do not have copies.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Are you done, sir? Do I have the Floor? Do I have the laxity? Again, I am reading and at the same time making addendum based on the fact that this came exactly and directly from us. Nobody wrote it for us. So, we are reading verbatim and at the same time making comments to this document. I do not even think that anybody has the right to regulate how I do my presentation. That is my sole right as the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Opposition is alarmed by the continued erosion of institutional governance under the current government, the refusal to consult, the appointment of ineligible individuals to high offices and the disregard for national reforms process, collective presentation of dangerous shift towards authoritarianism. This appointment is yet another example of how this government undermines the trust and democratic processes, and further damages the integrity of the Electoral Commission. Let me read our recommendations from the Minority Bench.

RECOMMENDATION

We, the Minority in Parliament, hereby reject, in full, the appointment of Mr **Alex Pat Labbie Saffa** as Electoral Commissioner of Eastern Region. We demand the immediate refusal of his appointment and call for a fresh nomination if possible and also follow procedures in full compliance with Section 32 [3 and 4] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. We call for urgent institutional reforms in line with the Tripartite

Committee recommendation to safeguard our electoral integrity in Sierra Leone. We also want to notify the public our intent to ensure that we take full legal actions relating to this appointment that is seemingly unconstitutional. We have made our position clear on this and they are fully determined to ensure that we follow it to the letter. Interestingly, I have followed most of the campaign messages of Members of the ruling bench.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: You are wasting my time. We have a function after this sitting. You will come and respond immediately I am done.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I know, but we should be guided. This is the House of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: I cannot have two Leaders standing up at the same time. Leader of the Opposition, can you please sit down? What is your Point of Order?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, when the Leader started his debate, he said he was going to read the Position Paper. He even gave us copies of the letter and that was why I said he should make the position letter available to all Members of Parliament. He provided the Position Paper to us the Leaders of Parliament, but I have noticed that what he is saying now is not in the Position Paper. The Members of Parliament who do not have copies are confused because they do not know what is in Position Paper. We expect him to read the Position Paper, but he is making statement that is not in the Position Paper.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Are you done sir? I wondered which paper you are holding because I was referring directly to the recommendations that are contained here. If you looked at your paper, you will see the recommendation I am referring to. Interestingly, you were not even on the page I was reading. That was what that happened to my uncle. He went to Church and the Bible that he was holding was upside down. When they say turn to John 5:16, he would be in Revelation.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, this clearly shows that the leader is trying to confuse this House.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Please allow me to complete; we have a function immediately after this sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, give him one minute. Honourable Leader of the Opposition, please be guided

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Our position as an Opposition is that we are not going to vote in favour of that appointment and as an Opposition, we reject the appointment. I now

go to the appointees. I would start with the nominee for the Early Warning Mechanism. Most people are of the opinion that she was appointed because her husband is the Leader of Government Business in this House.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we are not going to obstruct this time around because we are fully concentrating.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed!

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: We should pass the level where competent people are deprived because they are affiliated to prominent people in society. Regardless of the biological connection, she has the capability, competence and the wherewithal you can think of. I went through her resume and it speaks volume of her ability.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, are you talking about the first nominee?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes, I was specific and very clear. I am talking about Mrs Frances Amina Mildred Nyuma. After her interview by the Committee on appointments, I went through her qualifications and I came to the conclusion that she is competent and because of that, we the Members of Parliament should expeditiously approve her nomination. She has a herculean task to perform. We are in a democracy where the Opposition and the Ruling are in most cases in disagreements and these are all early warning signs. So, regardless of any body's affinity, *S.O. 2 di pa ihn sef sef*, you should ensure that you do your job professionally to keep the balance. We are all Sierra Leoneans and nobody should be deprived because of the region he/she comes from; nobody should be deprived because of the political party he/she supports. All of us cannot be members of the SLPP. God forbid, but you should be able to accommodate members of the APC because they are Sierra Leoneans. Nobody should suffer because of his or her political affiliations. There will be no elections if all of us are in one political party. So, nobody should be humiliated or molested because of the political party he or she belongs. This is one key issue we should take into consideration. Please do not treat the undertones from Members of Parliament seriously. We, Members of Parliament, are friends. We talk and we do things in common. Mostly when we relate, there is no iota of political resemblance on our relations. In the Fifth Parliament, I went to Bo and I spent the night at Maada Lebbie's house. When I was in his house, he cooked food for me and gave me his vehicle. I prayed in his house. However, on a very serious note, that is the relationship that should exist.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are people who, after getting the position, they see the members of the APC as enemies. They will try by all means to destroy them. You cannot eliminate them. Our relationship should transcend political affiliation

for Christ sake. There has not been any government that has been in Sierra Leone for a very long period of time because government changes. We have seen and witnessed that over and over. What do you think people will say about you when the SLPP leaves office? We were saying that we will not leave office, but today we are in opposition. Mr Speaker, I want to be a bit authoritative here. There are members of the SLPP who hold very high positions in the SLPP who are friends to members of the APC and that what we should protect at all cost. Regardless of our political affinity, they are friends to us. Those who think because the SLPP is in governance, members of the APC are their enemies, you have to rethink about it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the nominee for position of Deputy Bank Governor. You have enormous role to play. I have had some exchanges with some of the staff who have retired and they are waiting for their severance benefits. I came to the realisation that most of them have not benefited from what due to them. Mr Deputy Bank Governor, you should know that there is a Regulation Act that was extraordinarily published and gazetted on the 14th March. There is also there the Employment Regulation Act, 2023. These Acts provide the schedule as to how severance benefits are calculated. Please ensure that those Sierra Leoneans are not deprived of their benefits. You have a role to play in terms of ensuring that we make the economy of this country better for our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to talk about Mr David Fortune, proposed nominee for the position of Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. I am happy to approve you today and I wish you all the best. Today, I am a Member of Parliament, but there will come a time when I may not be a Member of Parliament again. What I did when I was a Member of Parliament matters. What will be on record of your service? These are things we should begin to think about seriously. You are holding a very sensitive position as the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. I wish you all the best in your office. I wish you will display professional reasoning at your peak. I could remember you were here for approval, but I noticed that you were contesting for the position of Organising Secretary for your region and you were being nominated to the Peace Commission. It was against the Act that whosoever that is appointed to serve as Peace Commissioner should not be involved in internal party politics. I spoke with the leader on the other side and I stood my grounds that he should not be approved. You were so discouraged, you were so disappointed and you went without knowing that, a better appointment will come your way. I want to show our unanimity and our consensus in approving you for this very position. Please make sure that you do your best because your family is watching and everybody is watching your steps.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to Paul Hinga Augustine Charles Tucker. I have known you for quite a while. I do not have any iota of doubt in your ability to perform. You have been appointed into a critical office. Please do your best to make Sierra Leone proud; and do your best to make your family proud. Whenever or wherever you need the intervention of Parliament, do not hesitate to reach to some of us, so that we can give our meaningful contributions to ensure that you succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominee for the position of Auditor General, Mr Abdul Aziz, we have gone through your qualifications and we have gone through your work. Your documents are part of our daily readings. For Members of Parliament to show their relatives that they are doing great work in Parliament, they have no book to work with, but the Audit Service report. This is because it is voluminous. So when they go to their constituents, they will tell them *S.O 2 wuna see watin we dae pa do na Parliament, wuna fil say na fun or gladiness wi go pan? Dis all, na inside two days na ihn wi for read am. If you nor read am inside two days, Speaker dey call you.* However, your work is great and regardless of the fact that you are being faced with this herculean task, the details in your reports are still encouraging. The cash loses have been condemned by Members of the Opposition on several occasions. Please ensure that you are strong in your job. You may face several challenges and several intimidations, but I want you to be prepared to serve this country; be committed in your work and do not be intimidated by anybody. Make sure you serve God and your country; make sure you do everything within the limit of your powers to ensure that if you are told to be accountable, you will do it unhesitatingly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the nominee for the Board of Directors of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. Most times when we have appointees before us, we do not look at their political lineage; we look at their level of competence and what they can deliver for Sierra Leone. So, your party colour is not really considered, but what you will offer. I have noticed that you have previous work experience which placed you on the advantage to work at such an established commercial sector. You have enormous experience in policy formulation and implementation. You are currently a Pupil Barrister at the Tejan Cole Yillah & Partners. Please, when you go to that bank, ensure that you do due diligence. Most of you think that you can do whatever you think and go free without being judged or without posterity taking its course over your actions. I want you to know that whatever you do, you will have to give account of it. We have living testimonies of politicians whose sons and daughters have gone into drug abuse because they did not manage state resources properly. We have seen politicians who have ended very badly because of how they conducted themselves when they were in offices. Therefore, whenever you have a responsibility, note that at the end of the day, you will be accountable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the rest of the nominees, I give my nod to you and I want to plead with my colleagues to expeditiously approve them, with the exception of the Electoral Commissioner of the Eastern Region who is in violation of the constitutional provisions I have stated earlier. So, from the side of the Opposition Bench, we always maintain that we will support the Government where deemed necessary and we will criticise the Government constructively when the need arises. We have no fear and we are not afraid of anything. I have seen candidates who have contested for executive positions in the SLPP and making sarcastic statements against the Opposition, but if you want to contest for any position, you have the right to tell the people what you can offer to them. You should have the right to tell the people what change you would bring to the SLPP, but not to bring conflict and instability. You should not use words against the Opposition because we would respond. I want to make this very clear that the Opposition is over prepared for 2028. I thank you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Today, I am very happy. Having listened to the Chief Whip of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition, it shows clearly that the people of Sierra Leone made no mistake in 2018 and 2023. Today, they spoke like Opposition and that means they are very good in being in the Opposition Bench. I want to say clearly that Members on this side of the aisle were in this new government and most of what the Chief Whip of the Opposition said is going to be taken very seriously. We will act on them and we will make sure that we advise the various actors to speed up. Mr Speaker, I could vividly remember when we came to this House during the Fourth Parliament in 2012, we were on that side, providing advice to them. We were debating like them, but because they were on this side, they refused to listen. Today, they have taken that position, but we will listen to them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the nominee for NASSIT. I know you have listened to what the Chief Whip of Opposition said. Please make sure you bring new policies that will enhance the work of NASSIT. We are going to listen to them because that will keep us where we are. So, to those who have been admonished by the Opposition, please listen to their advice. We are all part of the governance system and there is no way we run Sierra Leone without the Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President for presenting these nominees to us. That is what is enshrined in the 1991 Constitution. He has done the nomination. It is only when Parliament approves them they will be entitled to take their various offices. As I always say and I will continue to say that whatever you do, you are doing it for us. Unfortunately, the President will not be on the ballot paper in the next election, but with this Parliament, a lot of us will be on the ballot

paper. So, whatever you do, you are doing it for us. Of course not everybody in this Parliament will be on the ballot paper, but I am very sure that a lot of us will be on the ballot paper. Therefore, whatever you do as nominees, you are not only doing it for His Excellency the President; you are also doing it for us. If you perform, you are performing for us because at the end of the day, we will be campaigning your performances. If you failed, we will have nothing to campaign with, but if you succeed, all of us will succeed.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, we have listened to the Opposition Leaders and they said that they are prepared and they are ready. We the Members on this side, together with you the nominees should be extremely ready to stay where we are and that readiness should come from you. Your performance should be part of that readiness.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about few of the nominees and I am going to conclude with the Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region. I want to talk to the two Deputy Ministers. Of course, I am a Deputy as well in this House and you should have advised yourself. A Deputy must be a Deputy and you should be very active if your boss wants you to be active and you should be subordinate and respectful to your boss. This is because that will allow your boss to give you more opportunities. If you see me in good working relationship with my boss, it shows I have accepted and I have agreed that he is the boss and I am the Deputy. So, please make sure that you know your position. I am very proud of you. The two deputies are from my constituency. They are coming from Baoma chiefdom. I congratulate you on behalf of the people of Baoma Chiefdom. We did well in the last Presidential and Parliamentary elections and we gave the SLPP **96%** votes. I wish the two deputies well in their offices. You have our supports and you have our prayers as a community. You have our support as Parliament; please go and work with your leaders and make sure you perform well for His Excellency the President. We do not want to hear any confusions or issues between your boss and yourselves. If you perform, we will have the glory.

Mr Speaker, let me zoom in the boss of our boss. Of course, we know that the boss is in this Well. The boss of our boss is the person whom it has pleased His Excellency the President to appoint her as the head of Early Warning Mechanism. Madam, you are wished well. Of course, we know that you will be advising our boss. This is because if our boss comes to the office and he is not happy, we will know that he has been treated badly at home.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Leader, what I know is that, your boss is well-behaved when he goes home.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Madam, we want to thank you very much. You are wished well and of course going through your resume, this is not favour because you have the experience, expertise and the education. You have worked at the Office of National Security [ONS] and you attained the rank of director. Today, you have been nominated by the President. This is not a favour and nobody in this Well will think it is because of Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma. It is based on your hard work His Excellency the President has decided to nominate you. So, you have the full support of this House. I can assure that when you assume office, whatever problems you encounter that requires the support of this House, please call on us and we on this side, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including the Paramount Chief Members of Parliament will give you the maximum support you required. You are wished well and we hope you will perform for all of us. Madam, early warning signs are all over, but we will make sure that we handle them. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have known Ms Sally Yeama Myers for a very long time. She used to be our wife and she is still our wife. You are wished well and please when you go to your office, you should work as a team. You are a Board member and there are other members on that Board. I want you to work as a team and deliver for the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. In the last five years, they have done very well. Please support other members of the Board, so that you can elevate the bank to a better status.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the nominee going to the Bank of Sierra Leone, you have gone through the ranks and you have done extremely well. This appointment will give a lot of confidence to other staff of the bank. Today, your performance has been celebrated by you being elevated to the rank of deputy bank governor. So, please make sure you work with the two governors. You have been serving them, but now you are going to work in collaboration with them. Make sure you work with them and also for the people of Sierra Leone. Already, the two governors and yourself have been head of operations; and you have been doing extremely well. You have stabilised the exchange rate. For the last few years, the exchange rate has been 22 and 23 and for the longest time, we have not reduced that one. Please make sure you reduce it further. Thank you very much and we hope you will do well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I listened to the Opposition Leader when he was making his presentation. Thankfully, I was the Acting Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service. During the interview, I perfectly agreed to what the would-be Commissioner said. It was true that he was recruited and he went through the recruitment process. We asked him if he was a public officer. He told us clearly in the interview that he did know because he could not tell whether he was a public officer

or not and that was clear, and it is on record. We went to Committee Room one to investigate. We wrote to Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone, requesting them to present to us the offer letter that they gave him. Mr Speaker, I would like to tender the offer letter that was given to him in 2020. To be specific, let me read the letter. The offer letter was dated 9th November 2020 and it reads:

HRL/ PF20/008

Mr Alex P.L Saffa.

14th Hill Station Quarters

Freetown

Dear Mr Saffa,

Letter of Appointment

The National Electoral Commission [N.E.C] is pleased to offer you the undermentioned position on contract. The terms and conditions are as follow:

Tenure of appointment--This is a contract appointment, effective on the 2nd November, 2020, but subject your adherence to the staff rules and regulation of the National Electoral Commission which are contained in the Standing Order. It is also tied to the term of the office of the Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairman, and renew on annual basis.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. The Honourable Member interrupted me when I was debating. There should be that level of reciprocity that when you disturb me, I should disturb you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, I am speaking as a Leader of Parliament while you were speaking as a Leader of the All People Congress.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Acting Leader. Please proceed, Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, the point I want to make that is essentially clear is that when you are a public officer, it does not matter whether you are on contract or you are on regular appointment. A public officer is a public officer.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, this is a public secret that when we have Commissioners coming from the National Electoral Commission, this has been the usual behaviour of the Opposition. We should use to it now. Mr Speaker, with this letter, I want to say that we are a very proactive Committee. After the interview, we did not just rely on what they have told us, we went further to do our investigations. The Electoral Commissioner is here. We wrote to them and this was their response. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I want to tender this letter as evidence.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Leader. At this stage, Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the presence of Honourable Hassan A. Sesay. He was the former Whip of the Opposition. I also recognise the presence of Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Deputy Ambassador to Guinea.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again Members of the All Peoples Congress have stood their position. I could remember in the last Parliament, our brother who has just been introduced, was the Leader of this type of debate.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Mr Speaker, I just want to acknowledge that the former Opposition Chief Whip was a priest.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that letter being tendered, it is extremely clear that the Electoral Commissioner appointed for the Eastern Region was not a public officer before his appointment. He was just a contract staff. As a lawyer, you can interpret this in this House that a contract staff is not a full time staff and he is not entitled to any benefit. For the Opposition to say the man was a public officer is not tenable here. They are just finding faults because they are faults finders. They spoke about consultations. I have evidence of the letter written to the leaders of all political parties and I will also tender them to you, Mr Speaker. I am sure that is left for State House to determine because our business here is to make sure that the candidates are properly fit for the offices they are being nominated to serve. With your leave, let me read one of the consultative letters that was written by State House to all political leaders. This letter was addressed to the Chairman of the All Peoples Congress party.

Dear Sir/Madam,

***APPOINTMENT OF MR ALEX PAT LABIB SAFFA AS ELECTORAL COMMISSION
OF THE EAST. DATED; 27TH JUNE, 2025.***

I write to inform you that His Excellency the President, Brigadier Retired Julius Maada Bio, has considered the appointment of Mr Alex Pat Labib Saffa as Electoral Commissioner of the Eastern Region. By copy thereof, all registered political parties are advised accordingly.

Mr Speaker, let me tender this letter to you. It was addressed to the Chairman of All Peoples Congress party. We have a letter that was addressed to the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Leader, in our statements, we clearly stated that no letter was served to the party. If the leader wants to substantiate that we expect him to come here with the way book that bears the signature of whosoever received the letter on

behalf of our party. So, coming here to display a letter with the inscription of Chairman of All Peoples Congress does not necessarily indicate that the letter reached the political party. So, I was expecting the way book to be brought here.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: You are using my time to debate?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, I am not debating. I am interjecting and making clarification which is part of our parliamentary process and procedure.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: But that is not procedural, sir.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: You did that to me. You did what was not procedural when I was debating.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I am the Acting Leader of Government Business.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Thankfully, you are acting and I am the Leader of the Opposition. That letter, as indicated in our report, was not received by our party.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: You are debating, Honourable Member.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, I am just making clarifications. Mr Speaker, let me make this clear and I hope we will never get to the point again where we debate over consultations. The President should just call them and consult them. No opposition has the right to choose Electoral Commissioner for the President. That is the sole responsibility of the President as stated in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. Nobody will take that function from the President. I am talking about consultation. Who you consult with we not have the right to dictate to the President on whom to appoint. That is the right of the President. So, when we say consult that is just what we expect as political party. We have been on this time in and time out and there has not been any substantial evidence of consultation.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you. Mr Speaker. Can I have the permission please? Mr Speaker, consultation is not defined anywhere in our law books, even the popular one did not define consultation in relation to public offices. The reason I decided to speak is because this is not the first time we have approved Electoral Commissioner. We have done that in the North and the West. I have done all of those that are requested by them. In the Fifth Parliament, I brought the Way book, but they rejected it. It is not our responsibility to say they were not consulted. When you accuse us of not doing the right thing, bring your evidence before us. I was expecting the Leader of the Opposition to produce their Way book. There is nothing of such, but for us, our Way book is simple. We have the consultation letters, but that is not the point. We have asked them couple of times to go to the Supreme Court for interpretation. In all our interpretation, we have done that in a more formidable and formal way. This is

not anything that is strange again. So, for you to say the President should consult, it is no. That is the style of consulting people from the other side of political party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were on the Opposition Bench when Victor Foh and others called me and they said *S.O 2 Bo wi call yu normor fr tell yu say, wi dey appoint the Electoral Commissioner*. And that was Christiana Thorpe, the lady who told us *S.O 2 go police*. Today, the President did it in a more respectful than just calling you on phone. You know, we have a high degree of respect for the Rule of Law and my colleague knows that very well, except he wants to talk about the McMillian or Oxford definition of consultation. We have looked at the political scenario back and forth and through President Bio, we have defined our own method of consultation by writing to the Chairmen of various political parties. The All Peoples Congress refused to act and we wasted over four months. In the Public Election Act, 2022, they said they removed Section 92 of the Public Election Act, 2022 and they translated that in their own words. Instead of polling station results, they said disaggregated results. They are now asking for electoral justice without going to court. In 2012, when Christian Thorpe said "*Go police*", we went to court. I just wanted to remind them, maybe they have forgotten. You have been discrediting people coming here because of consultation. I will tell you this again to seek for commissioner justice and that is the better way to have an Electoral Commissioner. Go to court and have the interpretational meaning of consultation. Mr Leader, I have tremendous respect for you. Just write to the Supreme Court and get the proper definition of consultation. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this issue about consultation is becoming a sing song in this Well. Each time we have to approve any appointee that has to do with consultation, we argue. The Ruling Bench will argue and say they have done the proper thing, the Opposition will say no; the proper thing was not done as far as consultation is concern. I intend, very soon, to do a ruling on that particular matter for the sake of this House, so that going forward, we will all know the meaning of consultation from the parliamentary point of view. This is to ensure that we do not have this argument anymore. Until the 1991 constitution is reviewed, this House will go strictly by the ruling I will deliver in this House relating to consultation. This is for the edification of the Executive. Members of the Ruling Bench and Members of the Opposition Bench, I will look at both arguments and find something that will not cause us to continue to argue on this issue of consultation.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I respect your judgment and you are a lawyer of high standard. With that, I respect your legal understanding with regard to matter relating to Parliament. However, when looking for the meaning of consultation, in order

to give your final ruling, please bear in mind that anybody who is consulted before taking a decision, that person should know the decision before it is taken. Thank you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I have said that, we are listening and that is why we are reviewing the national Constitution and when it is passed in this Well, it should be able to define the word 'consultation.'

THE SPEAKER: Certainly, Honourable Member.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I also want to tender photographs taken by political party in relation to the appointment of Mr Saffa.

THE SPEAKER: Can I have them? Have you served your colleagues?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, but I am giving you for the benefit of this House. I do not have enough copies.

THE SPEAKER: How many copies do you have there?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: You see how unjust you are. You were asking me to provide more copies when I wanted to read the Position Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on! How many copies do you have there?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I will bring more copies at the end of my debate.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, I have seen this. Mr Clerk, please give this to the Opposition.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Allow me to conclude. We are political leaders.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, I am talking about the document you are presenting to the House.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on! Honourable Leader of the Opposition, have you seen that?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I have seen it, but if we go to the very clause in the Constitution, it says the President can appoint after consultation with 'all' political parties. I underline the word "all" political parties. I am sure from these photos, not all political parties are here.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mind you, I have also presented the letter written to all political parties.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: These are very old photos. Just look at the photos, they are very old photos. They may have downloaded from the internet and the President is not even on the photo. This was taken on a launching programme.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. The Chief Electoral Commissioner that is sitting here was there.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this was how we went with the consultation process. I believe the issue of consultation is not tenable and if you looked at the letter, you would realise that the position paper has no stamp and it was not signed. It has no letter head.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Are you referring to the document I presented to the House?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: The position paper is not stamped, no signature and there is no letter head. Mr Speaker, I was deliberate when I was asking for this Position Paper. Please the media should not take this serious.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I wonder where you get your copy from. Let the Leader of Government Business show you his copy. He has the authentic copy. Mr Speaker, he is talking about signature and stamp. The photo he has just presented has no stamp and no signature. The President is not in the photo. He wants this House to take it as an authentic document. The document that I handed over to him was read by me, the author and he doubts the document, but he wants us to believe the photos.

THE SPEAKER: Noted. Let us conclude this debate.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, the reason I said this document has no letter head or stamp is because, when the Chief Electoral Commissioner was appointed in the last Parliament, there was a former letter written by the Secretary General of the All Peoples Congress with a letterhead and it was signed. That was the position of the All Peoples Congress. Today, we do not have a position of the All Peoples Congress, but we have a position of Honourable Abdul Kargbo.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Again, let me make this clear. The Party's Secretary General has formally written a letter.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Where is the letter?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I am in possession of that letter and it is not for you. In fact, our position paper is a macrocosm from that letter, which is the microcosm.

THE SPEAKER: Can we conclude this debate?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I have said that the people of Sierra Leone made no mistake in 2018 and 2023. Today, you can see exactly what the Leaders of the All Peoples Congress party in this Parliament are doing. It shows that what they did in 2018 and 2023 was just the reality of what they are doing today. Thank you very much, the people of Sierra Leone. The Position Paper was written directly to the Parliament of Sierra Leone. Today, the Position Paper the Leader is talking about was written by him as Leader of the All Peoples Congress party in Parliament. This is because any letter that is written to this House should be addressed to the Speaker of

this Parliament, but the Speaker would tell you that he has not received any such letter from the All Peoples Congress party. So, it clearly shows that there is a huge disconnect between Members of Parliament of the All People Congress and the party of the All Peoples Congress. This is because it is extremely clear that the party is in collaboration with what the His Excellency the President factored. When they were not in collaboration with what His Excellency did about the Chairman, they wrote formally to the Speaker of Parliament and to the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I did not deny that State House did not write a letter to our party. I said, the letter was not served to our party on the appointment of the Electoral Commissioner. I am speaking with the consciousness of my choice of words. They may have written, but the letter was not served to our party. So, it does not necessarily mean that if you have not received a letter, that letter has not been written. I was copied in that letter that I am referring to. Our party has a position on this very issue.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I am rounding off now. It should not be back and forth on the issue. It is not parliamentary at all.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: This is because you are referring to us. You should have gone straight with your debate.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I want you to keep your comments for the press.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, not for the press. I am going to correct them as you bring them out.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I could remember when the All Peoples Congress was not in receipt of the letter His Excellency wrote for the appointment of the Chief Electoral Commissioner, they wrote to His Excellency and they told him in clear terms that they were not consulted. Today, they have not written such letter and that means they are in receipt of the letter for the appointment of Mr Pat Labbie Saffa as the Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region. This is very simple. I have said that there is a huge disconnect between Members of the All Peoples Congress and the Members of Parliament of the All People Congress. I know you are struggling with leadership, elections and conventions. I can understand, Mr Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: How can there be any iota of disconnect when I am authoritatively asserting that the party has written? Let me state here that our Position Paper is reflective of the party's position. That is what I said. It does not mean that if you have not received a letter or you have not seen a letter, there is no letter. I am in copy of that letter and it is on my phone now. If you want it, I will send it to you. The hard copy is in my office. So, there is a letter and I want you understand that clearly.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I think we should be rounding off with the issue of consultation. This is because we are on air and the public is listening to us. It is clear that the President has consulted and he has done exactly what he was supposed to do. I will now react to the tripartite recommendations. This is Parliament and there has been no document known as tripartite that was laid before us. So, when you have a Position Paper as Member of Parliament and you referred us to the tripartite, I want you to know that we are not signatories to any tripartite. Tripartite arrangement is between the All Peoples Congress and the Executive. This is the Legislative Arm of Government and we are not part of the Executive. So, whatever agreement the Executive entered into with the All Peoples Congress is the business of the Executive and the All Peoples Congress; otherwise until those documents are brought to us, we will begin to react to it officially as Members of Parliament. So, for us to receive letters and you start making comments relating to the tripartite, I believe that is unparliamentary. We should be dealing with documents that have been laid before us. The Tripartite has never been brought before us; and therefore, we should not make reference to it.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, let me make this clear sir.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, you cannot respond to everything.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I know, but this is so important, Mr Speaker. I was just going to say that we would never have been in this Parliament if not for the agreement of national unity and the tripartite agreement. So, for a senior Member of Parliament in the leadership to treat the tripartite or the agreement of national unity with this level of disregard is scary and it is a sign for early warning.

THE SPEAKER: Can we conclude this debate?

THE SPEAKER: At this stage, I recognise the presence of Mr Mohammed Gbondo, Deputy Director General of NASSIT.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, when we started in the Sixth Parliament, we started by electing our Speaker, even when our brothers were not here. Having said that, I believe that there is no cause for alarm. The issues raised are issues that are not tenable before this House. I understand that they want to appease their brothers and fathers. We should all bear in mind that we took oath as Members of Parliament. I have always been advising them and I will advise them again that when Electoral Commissioners came here and they vehemently refused them. I want you to know that these are the people you will be interacting with during elections. Let me remind you that in the Third Parliament, they rejected a lot of Electoral Commissioners here and

when we came in the Fourth Parliament, the Members of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party walked out during the debate. When we came in the Fourth Parliament, we learnt from what the Members in the Third Parliament did and we encouraged and supported the Electoral Commissioners, including Mohamed N'fah-Alie. We did not walk out; we did not say we do not want him; we supported him to the fullest. It was the All People Congress who said they did not want him. Today, they are rejecting the Electoral Commissioner as if they have not learnt in the Fifth Parliament. They rejected all Electoral Commissioners and they are where they are today. They have not learned any lesson. Try to build relationship, befriend with the Electoral Commissioners. These are people you will be working with.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, this is un-parliamentary and this is a House of rules. Please, I am wrapping up. You can give the rest to the media.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: You interjected me while I was making my presentation. The Motto of the school I attended is 'ut sementem feceris ita metes' [you reap what you sow]. We are where we are today because we rejected Electoral Commissioners.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I have given you a lot of reasons concerning where you are today.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader, that is why when he was rounding off, you had no reason to interject him. However, you have to use to it.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: He said we are where we are today because we rejected Electoral Commissioners. I want to give them a gist. When they are appointing the next Electoral Commissioner, whoever the person is, let them consult. If you consult and we put up the same attitude, it means we are against the person or against the processes and procedures. This is our concern. Do the right thing and we will support. We have supported all the nominees.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I think we cannot go back on your ruling. In fact, your predecessors have ruled on the same matter, but they still did not vote for the Commissioner. It is noted that two political parties can never be synoptical because of the policies, ideology, etc. You can also give an interpretation, but I am sure that even if you give us interpretation, we are going to interpret it in our own ways. We need to respect institutions. This is not the first time and it has been happening even in the Fifth Parliament and this Sixth Parliament. I have respect for my comrade brother of the Auradicals. You have the right to go to the Supreme Court and seek for interpretation of the word 'consultation.' Solomon Berewah did it. We actually do not want to go to that extent, but we are convenient with what Solomon Berewah did. We do not want to go back and forth with this and we should respect the dead. That is why

they should go for electoral justice. In terms of appointing Commissioners, we are always having problem with them. Since they have not gone to court, we cannot use this platform to have a definite explanation. All what I can say here is that maybe they are using Michael West regarding the definition of the word 'consultation,' while we are using the political lens to define consultation. I am pleading to both sides of the aisles to please proceed with the debate. We are going to vote at the end of day anyway. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to advise all the nominees that the people are here to support you and I want you to treat those offices with utmost care and respect. Fortunately, those offices have been occupied by people and I want you to treat those offices with care. I am saying this because some nominees, when they occupy these offices, they think they are gods and they believe these offices are theirs forever. Yesterday, somebody was there, today you are going there and tomorrow, it will be another person. Mind you, the way you treat people while occupying these offices is the same way people will treat you when you leave that office. There were people who had occupied sensitive positions, but today, they do not even mingle neither come to the public because when they were in office, they thought they were demi-gods. Today, they are even ashamed to face the public. Please treat these offices as if you are passerby and treat Sierra Leoneans well. This is because it was their votes that these offices are being given to you. There are some nominees even when they go to their offices, they do not even open their doors for the people; they do not even talk to the people. They think that these are their permanent offices. Please treat these offices as if you are passing through.

With that being said, Mr Speaker and because we do not have the formal agreement with Members of the All Peoples Congress, I move that the Fourteenth Report of the Second Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service be adopted and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, do you maintain your position relating to the Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes and I want to suggest that we approve the other nominees.

THE SPEAKER: Of course.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: We still maintain our position that based on three reasons; we are not going to approve the Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, with the exception of Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa, proposed Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region, has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, on behalf of Parliament and the Republic of Sierra Leone. Go to your offices and help this nation. Thank you very much, you may leave with the exception of Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, with your leave, let them stay so we will leave together because the place will become chaotic.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service relating to Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa has been approved]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me at this stage take this opportunity to inform you that going forward, all Committees, when you go on oversight, you go together with members of the Press Gallery. Please engage members of the Press Gallery in your oversight activities. They are journalists, but they are attached to Parliament and I think they can do our report better than other journalists from other areas because they have been with us. So, when you go on oversight, involve them. Deputy Speaker, even with the Public Accounts Committee and other Committee Chairmen, when you go out, try to involve them.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1:18 p.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 22nd July 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]