

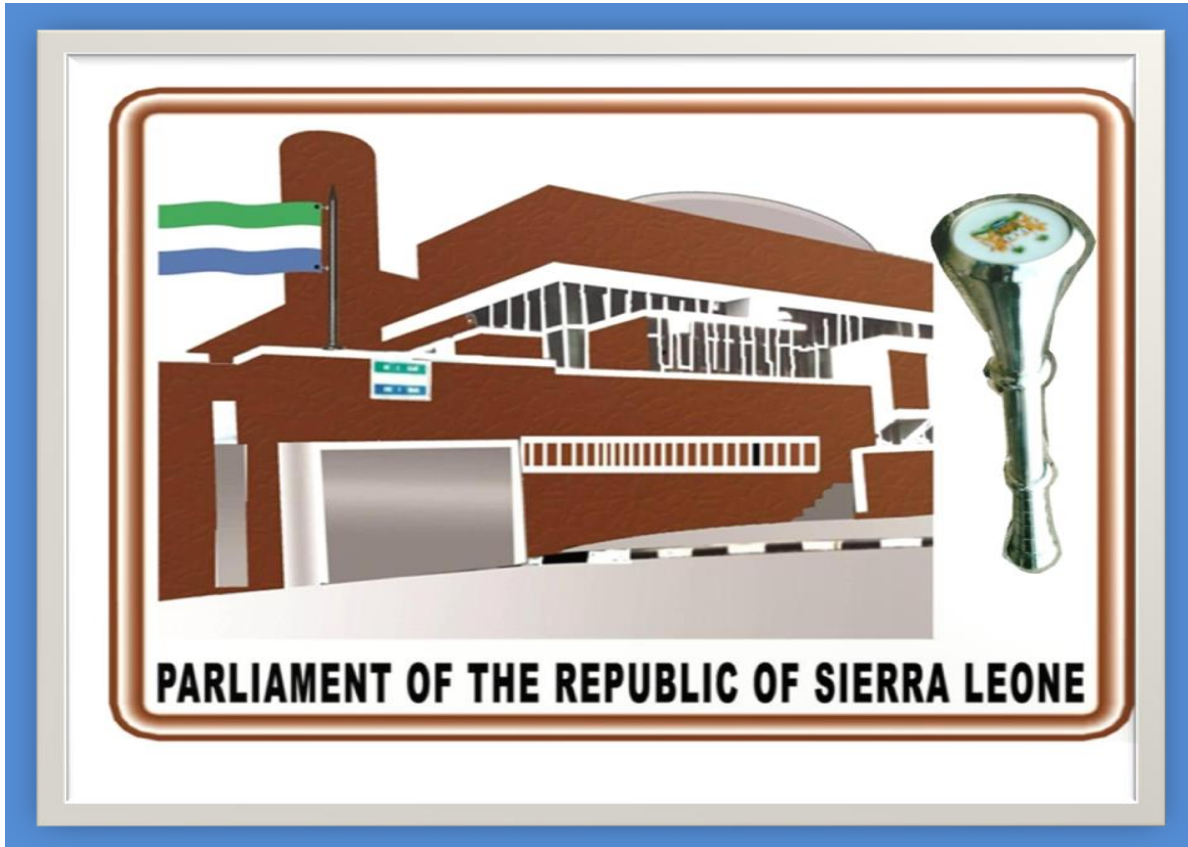
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
SIXTH SESSION –FIRST MEETING
FRIDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 2023**

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Friday 18th August, 2023.

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SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 18th August, 2021.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:25a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.]

[The Speaker, Hon. Dr Chernor Abass Bundu in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: I noticed at least one Honourable Member to be seated in the wrong place

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Amendment of Order Paper

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move that we amend the Order Paper.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have two Roman Figure [iv]; the first one, Announcement of Sessional Committees have been moved to Figure [vi], the second Roman Figure [iv] becomes the substantive Roman Figure [iv]; I move that the Proposer be Honourable Bashiru Silikie and the Seconder: Emerson S. Lamina; I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder to that Motion?

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to

[Motion moved by the Deputy Leader I of Government Business, for the amendment of the Order Paper has been carried]

II. THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST, 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we shall consider the Votes and Proceedings of the 12th Sitting of Parliament, held on Thursday the 17th of August 2023; starting from Page 5, any amendment?

HON. QUEE KOMBA: Mr Speaker, Page 2 [68] - the name is Honourable Quee Komba not Honourable Quee Kamba.

THE SPEAKER: If there is anything that has to do with the pages before 5, please refer your concerns to the Clerks at the Table and the necessary correction would be made. Page 5 again, any correction or amendment? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Thank you. Can someone please move for the Votes and Proceedings of the 12th Sitting of Parliament, held on Thursday the 17th of August 2023 to be adopted?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALICE J. KUMABEH: I so second Mr Speaker.

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To.

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 17th August 2023, has been adopted].

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the only announcement I have today is to say like the rest of you; I cannot wait for the commencement of the recess period of this Parliament, which will commence from today. Those of you who will be travelling out of the country, you have my best wishes for a safe travel and a safe landing. Travel with Allah's travelling mercies and return with those travel mercies back to your beloved country. Those of us going on Missions of one kind or another, I extend the same; but it is time for you to rest well and remember, that we went through a very rigorous period during the electioneering and since then, you have been kept very busy in Chamber, so it is time for you to go and rest and unwind; but do not do that which I will not approve of, I leave that to your imagination.

On a more serious note, it is my fervent wish that when we resume, the House will have its full complements of both the Ruling Party and the Opposition *[Applause]*. I have given my own view on this very crucial matter twice already, the last being yesterday; and I hope wise heads will see for them to consider very seriously the admonishment I have given both on the 25th of July it was, and again yesterday. There is no better

forum to air, to ventilate grievances, concerns, and interests, call it what you will than in this Chamber of Parliament. The only comparable area is the Court of Justice, but since that is not an option as far as I can see from reading comments in the social media that is no longer an option that is available; so the only option left is for those with grievances, with concerns, to voice them as vigorously and as loudly and clearly as they can within the hallowed walls of this Chamber, and due deference would be given to their concerns, not necessarily by Mr Speaker.

Democracy is a game, you either win or lose; it is not a war or a do or die affair, it is a game that is played according to rules and you must go into the game well-prepared, you should have practices well, make sure you understand the rules and play according to the rules; it is like the game of a football, sometimes you win, sometimes you lose but that does not still make the game a bad so I share the wish of reasonable minds – minds of the progressive side, so I call them; both within your ranks of the Ruling Party and within also the ranks of the Opposition they have progressives and they are many. I hope you will try and finish with the wise Council that they have been given; and I wish everyone well. We want our democracy to be fools-off by having both sides – the Ruling side and the Opposition side together, charting and planning the way forward; we realized the aspirations of the people of this country. They all have common interests and once again, I appeal to them to listen to the wiser Council and agree to come after the recess so that we can have the full complements of the House of Representatives of the people of Sierra Leone.

Lastly I want to employ those of you with friends and relatives across the aisle not to relent to extend the olive branch as required and persuade them that this is the place they belong to not outside of the Chamber. Whatever you say here is privileged, it cannot be even questioned in any Court of Law but if you dare say it outside, you will bear certain consequences. If I were in their shoes, I would choose obviously to be where I can say things without having any legal consequence meted out against me and for which after all, I sweated, I campaigned and spent money to get elected. I really pity the younger ones amongst them who have been waiting for such a long time in their lives to come to Parliament and bear the title: 'Honourable Member'. They have been denied and I hope only temporarily, denied that opportunity and credibility; and that when we resume, they will be with us as it is their right. So I wish all of us well in our travels, in our various endeavours during the recess period, I hope to see you all hale and hearty after the recess; thank you and God bless you.

Let us now get on with the day's business.

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

PROPOSER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

SECONDER: HON. SAA E. LAMINA

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Sixth Report of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointments and the Public

Service, be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Thursday, 17th August, 2023 and interviewed **Two** Presidential nominees for the following positions: i) Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
ii) Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained its usual consistency and established procedure 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 a sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

3. Eight Sitting of the Committee on Thursday, 17th August, 2023

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. Hon. Mima Yema Mimi Sobba-Stephens: Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Hon. Mima Yema Sobba-Stephens is a Human Resource Management professional, a critical thinker and skillful negotiator who has developed a number of successful early childhood and primary education programmes for this country. She graduated from Njala University in 2010, with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

She also served Parliament as a member of Staff from 2009 to 2011 and was personal assistant to the then Honourable Speaker. Hon. Mima Yema Mimi Sobba – Stephens was also a Member of the Forth Parliament representing the Sierra Leone People’s Party for Constituency 084, in the Moyamba district. During her tenure as a Member of Parliament, she served on several Parliamentary Oversight Committees including Chairperson of Public and Political Affairs Committee, Deputy Chairperson of Tourism and Culture Committee, member of Foreign Affairs, Water Resources, Works, Housing and Infrastructure.

Responding to questions on what she intends bringing to the ministry, the former Member of Parliament proudly said, “I am aware that Climate Change is at the heart of the President’s Big Five Manifesto commitments, hence, my vision is to see Sierra Leone become a pacesetter in Africa in achieving a sustainable renewable energy system for all Sierra Leoneans”. She promised going to the ministry with a mantra of “My Environment, my Friend” and concluded on the optimistic note, that her ministry would stand tall in the environmental sustainability drive.

ii. Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella: Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare

Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella is a trained and qualified Social Welfare Expert with over 15 years international experience in Child Protection, Youth development, social protection and gender development and mainstreaming.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Social Work, from Golds Smiths, University of London, United Kingdom. He also holds several certificates in Law and Leadership to his credit

Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella has served this ministry of Social Welfare from June 2018 to July 2023, supporting the then minister in strategic governance issues.

Articulating his plans for the Ministry where he has served for five years, he said “our government has a very strong approach to inclusivity across all facets of

social development. It is my fervent desire to work in collaboration with all stakeholders to review the disability Act amongst others and would ensure to consider Parliament always on the annual Hajj Pilgrimage quota to the Holy Land of Mecca”

4. Recommendations

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

- I. Hon. Mima Yema Mimi Sobba- Stephens: Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- II. Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella: Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Sixth Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Sixth Report** of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed.....

Hon. Bashiru Silikie

Deputy Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: I will give the floor first and foremost to the seconder of the Motion, before anyone else; please let us keep our contributions short, sweet and substantive. I would not want to impose a time limit at this point, but just take note of the fact that we would like to finish with this within one hour if not less; so go ahead.

HON. SAHR E. LAMINA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I need not belabour this House because I was at the Vetting Committee of the Nominees before this House this morning, they adequately prove to the Committee that they are qualified based on their Curriculum Vitae [CV] and we did not see anything fake at all. The only admonition I would wish to give to the Nominees, as

they would be working with Permanent Secretaries; and they need to know the relationship between Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. If you read in Section [107] [2][i][ii] that: Parliament may summon Ministers and not the other way round; Ministers cannot summon Parliament but Parliament, may summon Ministers to elucidate, the enquire, to request from them how Government policies are being implemented take note; Permanent Secretaries, do not have the 'locus candied' to stand before Parliament not even Bank Governors - Bank Governors, cannot address this House; Ministers can only address this House, take note; working Permanent Secretaries what is the relationship? You are accountable to His Excellency the President, the Chief Executive that appoints you as well as Parliament; Ministers and Deputy Ministers are accountable to His Excellency the President and to Parliament not to Permanent Secretaries in any case and if you know this definitely, conflict will come. If you read the thesis of Algha Thong, Algha Thong happens to be the father of Peace and Conflict Studies; he did say out of his 57 thesis written: that in all of these, conflict would come through but he actually picked out two - conflict would come based on what? The management of resources as well as authority; that is a conflict, would definitely face conflict as far as resources flows through that Ministry, as far as authority flows through that Ministry conflict must come but when conflict comes maybe, you as the Politician would want to see the five big changer be accomplished well for our 2028 easy and smooth campaign but it would be in the opinion of the Permanent Secretary for me to get more per diem [excuse me]; thank you very much although my boss is telling me to wrap up now but this information is very relevant for them.

It might be opinion of the PS, I want to make more per die so let me go on a trip, let me have more fuel for my vehicle; but you as the Politician would say no, I want to see the five big changer works, it must work and there comes in the conflict and if such a conflict arises, what you should do is that:

1. Ask the PS to put it in writing for the records, I have been an Administrator; put it in writing;

2. Make sure you inform when the need arises, inform the Auditor-General SO [2] 'for di bambai'. If he still insists, inform the AG, seek clarification from the Attorney-General's office that this is the law, this is the policy and I want to go this way and my PS is saying no, we should go this way so inform them; if all fails, the Public Accounts Committee [PAC] is here in Parliament let them know because when the time of reckoning comes, you will save your neck; that is the advice to most of you.

Shortly, to the Deputy Minister of Environment designate, a colleague; a member from this Noble House, what a lovely team to be part and parcel of this alumni. I will tell you that one of the greatest successes that the Ministry of Environment did was the passing into law in 2022 Environmental Act, a very important law which brings into law for scrutiny, for auditing, that before any Mining Company gets approval, it must go through the rigors of environmental scrutiny especially scooping as an erstwhile Chairman for Mining, I inherited seven large scale Mining Companies and today we have, twenty-five large scale Mining Companies can you imagine that? They did well otherwise; they were so selfish and bad so they would have frustrated potential large scale Miners – I inherited seven and today, we have twenty-five large scale Mining Companies and I would tell you that one large scale Mining Company would pay about **US\$700** for just a year which helps boosting the economy. When I calculated that for five years, the Mining Industry alone made a total of about **\$1Bln** as their contribution; so the environment has a role to play and the 2022 Environmental Act solved a lot of lacunas which was a big boost. There are a few challenges you may be faced with. I was privileged to head a Committee on River Pollution; we went to 'Kallay' in Tokolili, 'Ta yea' in Moyamba district as far as Bonthe, did a thorough research and came with recommendations but frustratingly, it is not Parliament that should implement so we gave beautiful recommendations in this House and the Ministry of Environment is still lagging behind to implement those recommendations, so take note; you will meet them on your desk.

Of course, rehabilitation of Mine sites, we would want to see a policy for a Miner to mine and not a 'fly-by-night' miner because he will degrade and destroy all our lands with... destroy our forests, secret society bushes 'Bondo bush' etcetera, with no compensation, our grave sites, shrines that are so sacred to the society with no compensation and at their loss, fly-by-night and would go to Lungi overnight - to overseas, destroy the land; we want to see stabilizing clauses so that we would not have 'fly-by-night' miners that would destroy our land environmentally and fly away. Deforestation, I need not to belabour myself on that much; so these are the few issues.

For the Deputy Minister designate of Social Welfare, SO [2] 'na ol cow na woreh'; she is not a stranger to that particular Ministry, and because you are not a stranger to that particular Ministry, follow-up on the Disability Act, which I understand is obsolete – is old, it is moribund, if not archaic because the Disabled or physically challenged people are cry every now and then even though they said they have an education policy which is free for them but they are still crying; so is it well implemented for all of them? That lacuna, bring out a new one as Parliament cannot wait to seeing the new law for a repeal so that they can be strengthened. I happened to be an erstwhile member of the European Union [EU] Parliament and we sometime converse with our colleagues and they will boldly tell us that for them in Kenya, they have a Disability Act; and in that Act, there is space for physically challenged people in the House of Parliament, go to Kenya, you will see Albino as they are considered to be disabled people.

Deputy Minister designate, Parliament cannot wait because 22 years ago, we were the 'gancai' at the forefront of the campaign for women to have the political space. As local consultant by then for the 50/50 group in Kono district - local consultant, we would go to the chiefdoms to avoid male chauvinism; we would go to the chiefdoms and encourage, motivate our women to come on board politically and today, under President Maada Bio, who did not pay lip-service and campaigned on the policy, brought it at Cabinet level and Parliament ratified it so as for the GEWE Bill to see the light of day; across West Africa, you must see GEWE Bill and very soon they would come to learn lessons from us how? The GEWE is here, GEWE Bill, the Public Elections

Act of 2022, they are there; that is the novelty President Maada Bio did, women now have space we have about 30.4% of our women in the House of Parliament, 35% in the Executive there is work done, what are you doing for our Disabled, our Physically Challenged folks; they have a space in the Kenya Parliament, I cannot wait to join you on the campaign so that our Physically Challenged can have a louder voice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on colleagues that we join together for a speedy ratification of these fine nominees so that they can go to their offices and work in peace; I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I need to take only four speakers and then we wind up the debate; looking at the place of origin of the nominees, I will take two from Moyamba and two from Kenema that is all. *[Undertones]* I had my 'pemahun' before coming so I do not need another here. Moyamba yes, not more than five minutes.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to take part in this morning deliberation. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, for appointing these two nominees before us this morning; I believe they have gone through the Committee on Appointments and we believe in the Committee as most of the members there are our Leaders and trust in the work they have done and are here to the Plenary for approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make it very clear to the Nominees seated before us this morning, that the big five changers is the broad objective of this government; but the specific and key objective rests with you to implement. If we are going to succeed as a government, the onus lies with you – Appointees as Ministers and Deputies who are really going to handle the day-to-day activities of this government so that we can be able to achieve and deliver to the people of this nation. I want to zoom in on one nominee who happens to be my constituent and I was her constituent in the Fourth Parliament and today she is here before us for approval; she is no less a person but the Honourable Mima Yema Mimi Sobba-Stephens from Babura, Moyamba District *[Applause]*. I would like to inform the House a little bit about the nominee before us; she is a very beautiful, hardworking and carefully educated lady from Moyamba District.

In 2018, the Honourable sitting here this morning and I were running for the Parliamentary seat to come to this Parliament again to represent our people though on different platforms and different political parties. She is so kind hearted and disciplined to a point that we had to meet during campaigns but we never used invective on each other. Even when I won, she called and congratulated me; some of my colleague Honourable Members wanted to prevail on her but she said, let us leave the young man because I have served, this is his turn so let him go and serve our people. This is the kind of person seated here before us this morning, I dug my hat to her; she is a very kind hearted and hardworking person, I trust her and I believe she has served both as a staff and a Member of this Parliament, so she knows exactly what is expected of her as a Deputy Minister. Moyamba affairs is our business and especially for the Environment Ministry, both the Minister and Deputy are coming from Moyamba and the people of Moyamba District are very happy and blessed this time round for them to be in that Ministry. Thank you very much His Excellency the President, for appointing these two fine carefully educated people to lead that Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to also zoom in on a Parliamentary friend who is no less a person but the Deputy Minister designate Mr Haji-Kella, who happens to be a friend of this Parliament [*Applause*]. Mr Haji-Kella is one of the few luckiest people in this government, he has served as Deputy in that Ministry and he is also coming again to serve as a Deputy; he is a lucky person. He has served a female Minister in the first regime and he is also coming for the second time to serve a female Minister. Mr Haji-Kella, I know you have the qualities and attribute to deal with women especially when they are your boss at the helm of affairs. As a Member of Parliament, we have had meetings and engagements with Ministers and their Deputies so we know their relationship and I believe you have managed very well over the years which probably, has led to your re-appointment to that Ministry to serve another female Minister; thank you for your astute Leadership you have observed over the time. You are a Parliament friend, and we would be knocking at your door; and you know that there are times in the year, we are always at your door and you are always ready to give us the utmost attention we deserved by either the staff of Parliamentarians. Mr

Kella, we know that you are ready for the job and when that time comes, you will re-double your effort for us the Parliamentarians so that we would be able to deliver for our people and I will be one of the Alhaji's come next Haj.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Minister and Deputy Minister designate, I want to say this to you that if given the chance as a Member of Parliament to make good use of it in ensuring that I perform *[In Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is part of the Five Pillars of Islam and I want to fulfil that the four have already been fulfilled; and I want to fulfil that so at the end of the day when I meet my Maker *[Undertone]*, if Mr Speaker wants to follow me he can when the right time comes, but I am ready for now as it should come out of his own volition no one has to force someone to go to Haj; it is coming from my heart – Mr Speaker, 'Alawuakbar' *[In Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members as a rounding up,

THE SPEAKER: I cannot follow you because you are violating the Standing Orders, what you have done is contrary to the SOs; and you are a two-timer you ought to have known that.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Pardon me Mr Speaker; as a way of rounding-up, I want to congratulate you in advance and I encourage you that when you go to these Ministries there are structures and systems set-up there, so make sure you work with those structures because you cannot achieve without the Public Servants – the Civil Servants have been there for ages, they can make and unmake you; if you want deliver you have to ensure that you work with them especially in terms of technicalities because they are the technocrats in those Ministries, take their advices and work with them so if you say you are going to do otherwise, it will be difficult as some of them have served for over ten to fifteen years in those various Ministries and Departments as Directors and Deputy Directors. You would only be there as the Political head so you have to tailor that which you are doing to suit them as they are the Professional heads. We have seen and noticed that over time, when the Permanent Secretaries [PS] and their Deputies are not in cordial working relation with the Ministers and Deputies, it is sometimes it is between the Ministers and their Deputies and sometimes between the

Minister and the Permanent Secretaries; so you would have to ensure that you use your managerial skills, you are a lucky man because out of about **7Mln** people in this country, His Excellency the President has selected you to go and serve them so make sure, you do not disappoint him and the people of this country. On that note, I want to thank His Excellency the President, and encourage all of you for us to quickly approve them so that they can start work; I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I will now give the floor to the Honourable Member from Kenema.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees are qualified of course, they were interviewed and by the presentation of the Deputy Leader, they are more than qualified. I know the Honourable Mimi Stephen, we were in the Fourth Parliament, and I know her as a very industrious and hardworking person; I have no doubt that she will serve well in her new appointment if approved by this House.

The Minister designate Mr Haji-Kella is my elder brother from Kenema; he is a leader, he was one of the stakeholders during the recently concluded campaigns and he led well and of course, he served as Deputy Minister in the last regime and he served his boss well. There are lots of issues and challenges in the areas you will be serving, there are lots of social ills in the community for example, and across the country; and one of those is drug abuse, which I am sure is a social ill because you cannot as a Ministry deal with it alone but with culminated efforts along other Institutions. I have no doubt that with the experience you have gathered over the years you can be able to work with these Institutions. The police for example, the Ministry of Health on seeing how you can rehabilitate our young people in this country who are dealing in drugs today. If nothing is done about this situation, the future of Sierra Leone particularly so if we depend on the young people of today, we will be challenged; I have no doubt that you will work well in those areas.

Climate Change Honourable Mimi, your boss the current Minister was here and we gave him the same pieces of advice that we are giving you today. Climate Change is a global phenomenon all over and Sierra Leone is no exception; so we expect you to work with

your boss and the Ministry and the Presidential Force appointed by His Excellency the President; so that together, we would solve the Climate situation in Sierra Leone and across the entire world. I wish you well in your new endeavours and I hope this House will approve speedily, these nominees; I thank you.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Speaker, Colleague Members of Parliament, today [*Undertone*]...

THE SPEAKER: Not quite from Moyamba, but very close

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: [*In Laughter*]. Thank you very much Mr Speaker Honourable Speaker, Colleague Members of Parliament, today is a special day as we have nominees in our midst that have been qualified being nominated by His Excellency the President, and vetted by our Committee members, seasoned and senior Members of Parliament, have done their job we are just adding our voices to it so that they can take their respective positions.

Honourable Speaker, Colleague Members of Parliament, today is a special day for Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella No. 1A Country Road. Honourable Speaker, I called this No. 1A Country Road because, when I came to London at Victoria Park, I was to go to him but I lost my wallet and I have no address of him but I remembered No. 1A Country Road but I was standing at the door of No. 1 Country Road instead of No. 1A and he met me standing there so he said what are you doing there and whom are you coming to and I said, to Mr Kella and he said this is me and we went down to his apartment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this gentleman is a man with empathy and a servant to people, he is a man with respect, a man willing to accommodate Sierra Leoneans; this is why I said I was happy in catching your eyes so that I can speak to this particular nominee. He navigated our way in England to many other places until I finally; I could get my own place to settle down. So I want to say I once more remember that kindness of you at that crucial moment; I stood there with no address and nowhere to go and it was cold Mr Speaker, I was standing by the door and knocking at the door of somebody else's' completely different little may I have been in

the hands of the police that I was trespassing somebody's premises and he came and rescued me.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt that this nominee would perform...

THE SPEAKER: You could be easily identified for a vagabond

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Honourable Speaker, Colleague Members of Parliament, you are facing a very tough task according to the Appropriation Supply, you have 157 MDAs that came for the last financial budget and you have 149 Members of Parliament; I believe, when we come back from recess, our colleagues would join us and several of them will knock at your door. So please Honourable Mimi and Mr Haji-Kella, be ready to accommodate us, we are there to represent our people, we are there to add our voices to plead with you so that services will be delivered to the respective communities where we come from; we have no resources, we only have the acumen to speak to be able to lobby with you so that collectively, 2028 elections would just be a work over. When it comes to the election period, people are so jittery but it is now that we have to render services to people so that they can look at us and say well done, let us give them another time and these are my colleagues – my in-law seated there will be on the permanent opposition seat [*Undertone*] yes, he is my in-law sir; we are a very universal people, we cut across Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to colleagues that we speedily approve these nominees so that they could take their respective positions in governance and that they would deliver the services that this country has entrusted to them in a few hours. I thank you very much Mr Speaker and Colleague Members.

THE SPEAKER: I think I will have a lady not because of the geographical nexus it has, but because of the gender balance.

HON. MARIAMA M. ZOMBO: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for considering the gender in this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I would like to first of all congratulate our Deputy Ministers proposed - Social Welfare and Environment and Climate Change. Today is a refreshing set of Deputy Ministers considering where they

are going to work and serve. Let me start with the Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Mima Yema Mimi Sobba-Stephens. Honourable Mimi is a seasoned educator; she has served in this Parliament and owns a school which is one of the best private schools in this country. I am pleased that His Excellency the President, in his wisdom has chosen Honourable Mimi Sobba-Stephens to join the team in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. As we all know that Climate Change is a global issue and an emergency in some countries; as such, Climate Change education is becoming more and more necessary for countries in sub-sahara, including Sierra Leone. Honourable Mimi Yema Sobba-Stephens, I would love to see a Ministry involving young people and children in schools on Climate Change. Climate Change education is important from primary schools because that is when the kids understand the impact, the mitigation strategies and adaptation; how our communities can adapt to Climate Change. Currently, young peoples' voices are not heard in public and political discussions on Climate Change and all over the world they are fighting for climate justice because they are the ones that are most vulnerable and who are going to be more affected by Climate Change - all the beauty we see around, air, land and sea would change; we may not feel the impact right now but our kids, our young people would have to feel the impact of Climate Change so they are the ones that should lead in climate justice and they should be crying out for climate justice so I would really love the government in line with the Human Capital Development Agenda or Game Changer to include Climate Change in the Curricular from Primary School to Tertiary level every child should be aware of what Climate Change is and how it is going to impact us, in Sierra Leone.

Another person I would like to talk about is my brother from Kenema and Pujehun; although Honourable Mimi is also my sister from Moyamba but Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella, is a seasoned Social Welfare expert with both national and international experience who has served for five years, is a man to admire – his patience and love for the job he has endured for five years and I am pleased that His Excellency the President has trusted him again to give him another five years to serve Sierra Leone. I know he is not going to disappoint us because he has never done so in anyway. Mr Haji-Kella is focusing on

disability, and I am very excited that disability cuts across all the Game Changers which are Gender and Disability that cuts across; so for every Game Changer, I am expecting that disabled persons would be given a chance to give their voice and their lives would be better.

Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella, I would like you to focus as a Ministry more on girls and women in disability; these are the most vulnerable all over Sierra Leone - in the Deaf and Dumb school we are seeing girls being impregnated, in the Blind School they are impregnated and abused and a lot of times people do not talk about it but it is prevalent and we know that those who are physically disabled with their limbs are also suffering from a lot of abuse in this country so please focus more on the girls and women this time when reviewing the Disability Act and when putting laws and strategies in place for them, we would remember that they are the most vulnerable for which research has shown that they would always be and we would join you to fight so that they are protected in ways we think that are necessary to ensure that this country moves forward: 'disability is not inability', we know that they can do a lot; and in terms of education, they can reach university if given the opportunity and the services so I am expecting that the review of that Disability Act would take into consideration, services and facilities that would ensure that they get the right education and awareness to protect themselves. I thank you very much, and I hope that this House would approve these people quite speedily; thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank all those who have taken the floor in this important item; we shall now wind up the debate starting with the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members this morning again, we are here to approve a set of Ministers; I think the last set of Presidential nominees on Ministerial Appointments. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have done all we can; the Appointments Committee, we have looked at their CVs, their experience, we have asked necessary questions and for us, we think they are qualified to serve in their respective offices. I want to urge the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, there is much talked-about when it comes to scholarships for Haj; from the general public, as majority

of them are saying that most of these scholarships, some are coming from foreigners especially Guinea, scholarships meant for our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters - our people, we sourced out to Guinea as was heard. I want to advise you that in the future, work with the Committee in Parliament, and give them the names of the Scholarships so that we can help and scrutinise them here and whenever approached by the public and brought in such complaints, we would have something to say to them; without that, there is a public perception and you know what that meant so please Mr Deputy Minister do that for this House of Parliament, do that for your office and do that for His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said we have done our own bits, and believe you me, these nominees from all the records we have, they are fit and qualified to serve in their respective positions; I urge you all to approve them speedily [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, over to you Ag. Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking new Members of Parliament who have contributed to the debate; to the Ministers, you have heard the Members of Parliament – these are representatives from the people, they have spoken the minds of their constituents.

To the Honourable Mima Yeama Mimi Sobba-Stephens, you darkened this Well with us in 2012 but it was unfortunate, we could not see her in 2018 that is the handwork of God for her to be promoted, you have been considered by His Excellency the President, to join him in actualising his dream for this Republic. Of course, the environmental challenges you already know; timber logging, building houses at forest reserves. But one thing I have said in this Parliament, and I can say to you as a message to the Ministry is that; when they were making the roads from Hill Station/Regent to Jui, we were told in this Well of Parliament I can recall you were here, that on the right side of the road they would not be building houses on that side. Today, if you travel from Regent to Jui you will see houses; even the forest reserves, all have been encroached

upon. Going through Lumley to No.2 River, there are no forest reserves because people are burning the bushes overnight and that is very hazardous because climate change, is the order of the day and we are now feeling the heat, the rain these are things you should consider; mudslide and other environmental hazards. You have a very big task at hand, please work with your Minister so that you can actualise your dream; I know you are not the Minister but you will be supporting him as this is a Moyamba team as was said by the Honourable Member from Moyamba – both the Minister and Deputy are coming from Moyamba so if you fail, you are failing the people of Moyamba and if you succeed, then kudos to you all. Thank you very much.

To my brother Haji Kella, he has always been in that Ministry; he is our own man, he knows the challenges, he knows the question that was asked Parliament is interested in the following-ups. Of course, that is close to our Constituents as year in year out they call on us Honourable, 'scholarship nor dae' SO [2] and that is the only way we would apiece them because most of them supported us; they are waiting, I hope you will consider them. You have been doing well, please improve on that because we know the quota we have been enjoying; add to it, we know you are a positive man. The Minister has assured us and we asked you the same question, so also assure us in joining the Minister to support this Parliament. Thank you very much Honourable Members, you are wished well in your new offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Sixth Report of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, Proposed by Hon. Bashiru Silikie and Seconder by Hon. Sahr E. Lamina has been approved]

THE SPEAKER: It now befalls on me to have the last say by extending my own congratulations to the two Nominees; to the nominee for the Ministry of Social Welfare,

like some of you have already noted, I am also related to the Nominee by marriage and I know him to be eminently qualified for the position to which he has been approved. I wish him the very best of luck, he is not going there for the first; he will go there to repeat his earlier successful performance and I hope he will continue to live up to the expectation of this House, as well as that of His Excellency the President.

With regards to the nominee for the Environment Ministry, I must confess that the name Sobba-Stephens brings very happy memory to me; I do not know whether she is related to the old man, I served with him in this Parliament. When the Honourable from Moyamba was recounting his encounter with the young lady having contested together or against each other in Moyamba and you having won, she lost; and she, telling her supporters that it is his turn, it is so ordained by God let it be. What you have seen was a shining example of the DNA of which she is made; the father was such a brilliant debater in this House [*Undertone*] in the 80s yes, and those who forget history are always condemned to repeat history. I never forget my history so I am not surprised that with the DNA shining the way it did in that Moyamba encounter, I am sure we will continue to see more of her qualities in the new assignment. Again like all of you, I have no doubt she would excel in discharging the duties and functions assigned to her new office and I join all of you to wish both of them well, and with great success in their new locations; congratulations and heart felicitations to both of you. Go with the blessings of this House to endorse entirely what His Excellency has decided to appoint both of you, I think the choice was a brilliant one; and as you have heard from the few speakers, we all hold you in very high regard and of course, we expect the highest performance from both of you. Good luck and God bless. You may now take leave of us so that we can continue the rest of the business. You can do the rest outside please, as we want to continue our business.

IV. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO: FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY, DEBATE CONTINUES:

THE SPEAKER: Let me start with the Honourable from Western Area, Marry-Conteh

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY-CONTEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to join Colleagues in thanking His Excellency the President, for a very good speech in fact, I consider that to be one of the most important Presidential Speeches ever. The reason for that is simple; the manner he used to compress the problems of this country into five big game changers and this is going to set this country on the right track for development in becoming a middle-income country. It is very clear in Paragraph 9 when he said: 'In the tapestry of democracy, continuity is pivotal intricately woven with threads of stability and progress'. There is no way you can talk about stability and progress if you do not have sustainable development side by side; this is very clear in what he decides to start with is "Feed Salone". The most important thing I want to draw our attention as Honourable Members to is that, we have to take the step by moving beyond debating the President Speech. Sometimes maybe, we would debate the President Speech to score political points – both Ruling and Opposition; but what do we do to actualize the Presidential Speech? If we fail to monitor the progress of this Presidential Speech, next year again we would receive another Speech and then we would forget about the things we have already debated on this year. 'Feed Salone' is very important because the only way you can restore the pride and dignity of a nation is when that nation fail to feed itself; when you fail to feed yourself as a nation, the other nation that would manage help you would even want to tell you what to eat on a daily basis. We are all nations, the only difference sometimes we have bigger nations and we have smaller nations; but the sovereignty of Sierra Leone is very very important. As Members of Parliament, we have to ensure that we also redoubles our efforts to ensure that the President's dream come true. Let us go to Paragraph 27; to emancipate ourselves from the shackles of food import dependency which endangers vulnerability and compromise our sovereignty we must work to achieve that but there is also very important questions because already, there is work in progress; we have to ask the question because if we are going to formulate the policies that fosters competitiveness in local rice production, this is not new what happened to the previous policies that we had? We also have here; invest in research to enhance useful priority crops such as rice, what happened to the Rice

Research Station in Rokuprr? This is not new, the nerica rice; we have heard Professor Monty Jones and some other people they have done their own work so we are not reinvent the wheel, so let us start from where we have stopped before. As Members of Parliament, when we go on oversight let us use this Speech as part of our checklist; from time to time, we will summon these Ministries to monitor the update on the progress in achieving the 'Big Five'. Paragraph 32 Mr Speaker, our focus on the pledges - extending free healthcare services to all school-going children nationwide. Free Quality Education is a success, but we have to continue making it a success when the children are healthy; so I want to again encourage Members of Parliament to ensure that a pledge like this is achieved. Paragraph 45 Mr Speaker, time in time out, we have heard Members of Parliament talking about the effectiveness of the Public Servants; Public Servants, they provide support to the political heads so if they are not effective to that point, then we have a problem. We have a pledge that says on objective: 'strengthen the performance management of Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] by reviewing existing frameworks and developing robust performance management policy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we go you these MDAs; let us ask for this policy. There used to be a performance tracking table filled by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] previously but I think along the way, it died a natural death; let us revive it and ensure that we push people to be efficient, to avoid a situation wherein, what is supposed to be done in an hour is done in a day and what is supposed to be achieved in a day, is achieved in a week and then of course finally, when you want to get a paper signed they will tell you the person to sign this paper is on leave. Performance is key, paragraph 53 Mr Speaker; one of the objectives is to establish a National Data Centre and Cloud computing infrastructure for hosting government data and content. When we have poverty of information, development is doom; now that we have the information, I think we should push the Ministries to ensure that the necessary information is sent where it is supposed to be sent. You cannot develop without a data again, this is not new; there is government porter but are we sending the right information there? Honourable Members of Parliament, we now have our task; we can just go to some of these places and we can get all the

information, but guess what? Each and every Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] have their websites but most of them are dead. Again, in every budget we receive, you would see the line for communication, website, and the websites are not working; it would save government so much money if we have a centralised system for data and then, we would be able to cut down on some of these back-passes as far as websites, development and maintenance and hosting is concerned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members finally, let me come to paragraph 62; let us not ever take the peace and stability we currently enjoy for granted, look around us both our continent and worldwide and witness the devastating consequences that unfold when political actors fail to resolve their differences with maturity and respect for the law. You would only attain sustainable development in a peaceful environment, let us stay away from the politics of deception, let us stay away from the politics of scaring others; we have only one country and we have to work together to ensure that we reach or achieve our potentials but with no sustainable peace, development is doomed. As Members of Parliament, let us push the other organs of government – the Executive and the Judiciary because, we are a team and of course, the Opposition. I want to thank my colleague Member of Parliament from Western Area; yesterday on the other side, for that fresh mind-set we have to change the narrative, we have different ways to develop this country, we might not be sharing the same colours but development has no colour; the only colour for development is progress *[Applause]*, so let us maintain that spirit. I want to thank you very much Mr Speaker, for giving me the time *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to the debate; I will now take an adjournment, since nobody seems to catch my eyes *[Undertones]*. I am not going to follow any list because if I do that, I am yielding to my own discretion being determined by lists; and I have seen nowhere in the Standing Orders, that tells me so. Let me give the floor to the Honourable Member from Kono.

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

Suspension of S O 5[2]

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, for the speech delivered and at the same time, appreciate Colleagues who have taken the floor before us, and I want to believe that the five Game-changers or the five Agenda of President Bio's second term in office is a genuine agenda for a real change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to confirm to this House that during the last five years, we saw huge development and data to support those development; and this is the more reason why the President managed to navigate irrespective of the two international shocks we have to make sure he delivered based on his Manifesto promises.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the President's first five years agenda meaning, the National Development Plan for Sierra Leone and the International Agenda's alignment to those documents, you can understand why the President decided to look at the five Game-changers. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of such developments is the Human Capital Development which is No.2 in the Agenda; if you look at the Sustainable Development Goal, no poverty which is the SDG 1, has been taken to Agenda 2, if you go to 'Feed Salon', it is being taken out of the Sustainable Development Goal zero-hunger, which is on bullet 2, cluster 2 and bullet 1 in the Midterm National Development Plan.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reality here is that the Agricultural Sector is very critical in this country; we agreed that lots of improvement has been made and we still have lots of challenges. Mr Speaker, if you visit Tormabom for the last Parliament, lot of things have been said around Tormabom; and I want to submit to this House that Tormabom is making a lot of progress but as a Parliament, we also have to do our responsibility when the Committees are constituted. The simple reason is because I can vividly remember the Blue Tech Investment Company in charge of Tormabom told us

that they have surveyed 94 or 95 thousand hectares of land and from Pujehun's report, they have over 20,000 hectares of land for rice cultivation, Kambia – both the Rokuprr Research and the Cobia Research also have more than 20,000 hectares.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to confess to this Honourable House that industrialisation in this country I think the Rtd. Brigadier or the SLPP Government is the only legitimate government that would have that legitimacy to talk about industrialisation; the simple reason is because 57 years down the line, every agricultural system that has happened in this country has been called 'farming' not industrialisation despite the trend that has been removed, despite the SLPMB that was removed, I vividly listened to my colleague yesterday - the Honourable Member from Western Area, who said that we should forget about the past and think about the present; it is true but Mr Speaker, until we go into history then we would talk about the future and until we talk about the present, then we will talk about the future. The only way government will succeed in 'Feed Salone' is with a very strong collaboration and alignment between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Works, the SLRA and the rest of the other Line Ministries that has to do with roads, and other infrastructural development because Mr Speaker, the land is available and we have seen reports saying onions can do well in Port Loko, Karefa and Moyamba districts. I want to also report to this House that even Kono District onion is doing well, so we still need research to really guarantee the areas we can cultivate different agricultural product; but to say onion is only doing well in Port Loko, I do not want to agree with such report because I have seen people from Kambia cultivating onion as well as in Kono District. Also Mr Speaker, pepper is being grown all over in Sierra Leone and it is doing well; so we want the Agriculture Ministry to pay serious attention in the area of cultivation across the country not to only earmark one district for one produce or whatsoever.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to shift to health; why health? This is because Mr Speaker, a lot of improvement has been done during the last five years; we have seen huge Tertiary hospitals coming up – some are completed and others still under construction which is a clear manifestation that for the last 50 years, we still have

problems with health infrastructure. The Honourable Member from Kailahun was telling us about the risk facing this country in the area of health, but Mr Speaker, I pray that the next Health Committee Chairman focuses on a robust oversight; but if you go to Kono now, you would see the maternal health of excellence going on; if you go to Kailahun, you will see the Jujuma hospital, if you see the Kerry Town 100 bed hospital, the Lumley 100 bed hospital, the excellent construction going on at Wilberforce, if you go to Lungi and see the Referral hospital going on, if you go to Port Loko you will see the 100 beds going on; you would really see the strategy of this government considering the area of health. Mr Speaker, the consolidation of these structures is what we as Members of Parliament are looking at and I want to believe that the Legislative Arm of Government has the mandate to scrutinize government and report to the people who voted us in; so that is why in the Fifth Parliament when you address this House, you always tell us that this Parliament, is not a Rubber-Stamped Parliament and it should not be Parliament as usual. Mr Speaker, we need to pay more attention to Committees; if you go to Roads, in five years, this government surveyed over 11,300 Kilometre roads, this government gave contracts to 1,800 Kilometre roads for re-graveling but Mr Speaker if you see what was done to some of those roads, you will not be happy and it is because Ministries, Department and Agencies [MDAs] I would not say lack, but some of them do not want to be patient and do their oversight roles. This is the more reason why if we want this Five Big Changers to succeed, Parliament really needs to focus on robust oversight to help this government to succeed. I would not want to be a Parliamentarian forever, but to continue serving this country as you have done for ECOWAS and for Sierra Leone; and the only way it will happen is to continue to see my government in power, and the only way this government will be in power is for us to deliver and this is the more reason why we want to see Parliament as a robust institution to really see Ministries, Department and Agencies [MDAs] do their work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members on that note, if you look at the current infrastructures even when the President was going on his campaigns Mr Speaker, the boundary between Karene and Port Loko, Kambia as you know, the temperas ferry was commissioned Mr Speaker; in Kailahun the Manowa ferry was commissioned, Mr

Speaker the Bumpah almost **\$9.5Mln** project was commissioned for the Bumpah bridge Mr Speaker, the Mattru-Jong bridge was commissioned. This is just to tell you that the government is committed to making sure that the 15 crossing points we have in this country that have a 60 years old ferry should now come to bridge a two-way lane not even one risky lane for vehicles; so the only way some of these projects would be completed as heard from the President's speech: he said, I have given 18 months for some of these projects to be completed. The only reason why I am reminding you is because 2020 December, the Committee on Economic Development Planning, did five days oversight for: the Mabang Bridge, the Gbere Bridge, Moyamba Junction and Moyamba town road with two other major bridges and the Bo to Liberia/Gendema highway and we made it very clear to the contractors that we cannot sit and wait for another ten years for these roads and bridges to be completed because these contracts were awarded in the last ten years and they cannot be completed so this is the more reason why Mr Speaker, even the donor partners that are implementing projects in this country, we need to follow them because some sit in baling and other places and say we have spent a billion or two in agriculture in Sierra Leone; so they need to explain where they spent those monies and all of these responsibilities cannot be left in the hands of the Executive and that is why I just want to submit to this Honourable House that Parliament has a lot to do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me end by saying that the President said in his speech here that; with your leave Mr Speaker, let us not take the peace and stability we almost enjoy now for granted. Mr Speaker the people of Kono, has never taken the peace of this country for granted; that was why when the former Vice President was overthrown at exactly 2:00 o'clock and the maid was overthrown at about 1:30 we decided to go to the ballot box to pay those who did it. We want to apologise to our Colleagues, let them come to the House; this is the House of Laws, this is the House where people speak for those who voted them to hear their voices we know that no political party in this country will teach SLPP the rule of law, SLPP is a democratic political party that knows how to manage the Constitution of this country, knows how to deal with the people of this country for the peace of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members on that note, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution; Let me give a lady the chance, and then I will come to the Chiefs.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, for the speech delivered and

THE SPEAKER: May I just sound a note of caution; let no Member take advantage of my absence over the last few days by seeking to speak for the second time on the same matter, it is contrary to the SOs.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice in appreciating His Excellency the President, for the speech he delivered in this House on the occasion of the State Opening of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the President for the Female Parliamentary Caucus [*Applause*], I want to start my intervention with female issues – talking about Gender Equality. At this point Mr Speaker, please allow me to be a bit discriminatory; because I know that when we talk about gender issues, I should be talking about both male and female. But Mr Speaker at this point, because of the patriarchal nature of our nations world over, I want you to allow me to talk about our women; I know there is a law in our Constitution that is why I am asking with the leave of Mr Speaker to be a bit discriminatory. And at this point Mr Speaker, I want to appreciate and congratulate His Excellency the President on behalf of the Female Parliamentary Caucus, on his second mandate that the people of this country has given him to rule for another five years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thinking of the population of women in this country, I want His Excellency, to know that the votes he received were more from women of this country [*Applause*] and the votes we gave to His Excellency the President Mr Speaker, is by a way of just reciprocating to what he has done to us; he has done a lot of things for us as women of this country, he has paid fees for our children over the

years, that is a big relief from the women of Sierra Leone. Since the war in 1991, women Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, have been responsible for a lot of homes, they have been manning a lot of responsibility in the homes including payment of fees for children. So through your office Mr Speaker, through your desk, I want to appreciate His Excellency the President, because he took that big mandate of paying fees for our children; that is a great thing for which I want to say thank you to him for that great work he has done. Yesterday, I heard a colleague saying: 30% is an understatement and indeed, it is an understatement; because when you look at all the enactments, we are not talking about 30% but we are talking about at least, 30% which is not the threshold – 30% is not the threshold, we need more than 30% and I am sure the nation is prepared for that, through His Excellency's office; he has demonstrated that during the last elections, we now have a greater number of Female Legislators ever in the history of Sierra Leone the Female representatives here present can attest to His Excellency's efforts to see women at the forefronts, he has demonstrated that even in the Executive Arm and I want to appreciate him for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the stage is set for us as women; His Excellency has set the stage for us and we must respond in a very positive way, women of this nation let us know that this stage that has been set, this opportunity that His Excellency has given us, we must make use of it. As women of this great noble House of this Sixth Parliament, I want to assure His Excellency that we would make moves to partner with other female counterparts; we want to partner with them, we would want to partner with other female-friendly Organisations to see how we can move female issues forward – I am going to use the word female this time not just gender. I want to use it because I want us to make sure that this particular statement I am making has to do with women of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency has helped us greatly that I can reiterate; he has helped us greatly. He has ensured that our GEWE Bill is passed in this country; there are very few countries that have ever taken up this kind of endeavour. I want to thank him greatly; we would continue to trumpet it so that women of this

country would appreciate what His Excellency the President, has done for us. We have faced a lot of challenges of course, for us to have that Bill passed, but at the end of it all, he encouraged even our male Members of Parliament - he encouraged them to give us that platform. And I want to say thanks to him and also encourage our womenfolk to see that we change the narrative; what His Excellency is looking forward to, is for us to come together in governance, see how we can change the narratives to better the lives of Sierra Leoneans and Sierra Leonean women more especially; and that is why with me in the seat of Presidency of the Female Parliamentary Caucus Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would make sure we partner with Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] I would make sure we partner with them so that we would move the female agenda forward. We would partner with the Ministries to see that gender responsive programmes are achieved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a lot of gender issues particularly that has to deal with 'women in agriculture'. Women are very good at agricultural activities – they are very good at it; history will tell that even before this time when crude or primitive agriculture was practiced, you had a lot of women that worked in the farms for our forefathers or grandfathers although mechanised farming is now what we were looking forward; to but I want to say that we would encourage our women-fold, to see how we can encourage them into these agricultural activities - they can be very good at it, so let there be space for us, let there be funding for us Mr Speaker because agriculture goes with money I am doing it myself Mr Speaker, I have started some work at Tormabom; I am doing a 10 acre rice production at Tormabom so I know how expensive that would be and so, not all women would be able to afford that amount, can be able to access some of these machines but if His Excellency through His office can create space for women, at least to have access to these machines, to have access to land because we have passed the Land Act Right that has to do with women equally, to give us the right to own lands, to give us the right to involve in agriculture, to own some of these activities. Mr Speaker, I am pleading that such facility is given to us as women in agriculture, in mining; even in mining Mr Speaker, there are women who are very active in mining, very active and they can earn their living from mining activities;

so they need to be encouraged, there has to be space for us to do that, we must access land for mining activities, we even want to practice fish-farming, we want to be part of the electricity - the grid energy we are talking Mr Speaker, there has to be space for us to see how we can reduce the emission in this country. We are all talking about climate change, and most of us are almost always involved in cooking, using fire wood and so on, so there has to be space for us to see how we can reduce this emission through cooking, and the use of gas in our homes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members having said that, I want to quickly talk about agriculture; which is the No. 1 Flagship of His Excellency the President. I have made mention of it just in passing with the few statements I have made; but I want at this point to talk about agriculture as a laudable venture which His Excellency has decided to take as His Flagship. Mr Speaker before this time, this country has been feeding itself and it used to be through Corporative Societies; Tormabom was run by Corporative Societies and we achieved a lot by then, we had a lots of success stories to tell about Turmabum and we used to feed ourselves and even have reserved and even sell to other countries like Banjul, Liberia, we used to sell our rice products to these countries. There was enough food for us, there was no hue and cry about food until when Turmabum was closed either to respond to the Chinese call by then, for the Youyi Building and the Stadium...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have a very long list of speakers.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: I know Mr Speaker, I have only involved to three minutes; I am watching that is why I have my headphone with me here...

THE SPEAKER: What clock are you using?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: I have my phone with me here Sir, I have my phone. Mr Speaker like I was saying; until that time, this country used to feed itself, so I see no reason why at this time with such a laudable venture that His Excellency has pronounced, we should not pick that up as a country to make sure we enhance whatever that will bring food to our table...

THE SPEAKER: And with that?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to make sure that this agriculture is practiced by all of us even as Legislators, let us endeavour to be examples of what His Excellency is looking forward to.

Finally Mr Speaker, I want to quickly talk about the Youth Empowerment Programme which His Excellency has even talked about. When I was in the Council - the Bo City Council which I served for four years, I was in charge of the YES Programme [Youth Empowerment Scheme] it was a very successful one; I still appreciate the Minister of Youths for introducing this Car Wash, it helped a lot of youths in our communities but moving forward, I want to encourage His Excellency to see how we can re-establish the YES programme the one that you used to employ so youths and since he is looking forward to employing five thousand youths, you will be able to achieve that one through the YES programme. So I want to encourage His Excellency the President, he has done so much for the car washes through his Ministry of Youths but to make sure that we reintroduce the YES programme, so that we can put smiles on faces of our youths and make sure that you remove or reduce our crime rates because we all know that the idle mind is the devil's workshop. Having said that Mr Speaker because I know I do not have much time, I want to thank you for your attention and I thank His Excellency once more; thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Paramount Chief from Kono, he will be followed by another Kono person and the Honourable Member and then the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh; in that order.

HON. PC PAUL NGABA SAQUEE V: I am Honourable Paramount Chief Paul Ngaba Saquee V, from Kono, and I want to thank Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President, for the speech that he delivered here in this Chamber on the 3rd of August, 2023. As a new Parliamentarian, I was bracing for a long speech that day but when the President was able to deliver a speech in forty-five minutes, it just confirmed to me that sometimes, new things come in small packages. On the 3rd of August His Excellency the President, outlined his vision for us as a nation

for the next five years and even beyond. He told us about the Game-changers in his view that he believed to propelled this country to higher heights; but before he gave us those highlights, I want to draw your attention to the foundation that he laid it is true that foundation that he believed that would be able to attain these lofty ideas. I want to draw your attention to paragraph 8, and this paragraph is so poignant that I want to crave the indulgence of the Speaker to allow me to read it in its entirety and I quote: "The Sixth Parliament presents an opportunity to show the maturity of our democracy", the absence of a **two-thirds** majority by any political party, necessitates constant engagements, encouraged us to amplify all voices and engenders a more harmonious, stable and prosperous Sierra Leone by fostering collaboration, cooperation and negotiation; you can transcend political divides for the ultimate benefits of our people".

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my maiden speech to this House, I made a case it was my observation that this country is sadly pluralise, sadly, but that is the fact; and on that day, I made a case that it is incumbent on all of us as a nation – be it in Parliament, outside of Parliament, to see how we can be able to bring all of us together. As a Paramount Chief Member of Parliament, I believe... but before going further, I want to thank Mr Speaker, for the respect you have been according us, Paramount Chief Members of Parliament since our arrival in this Chamber; I want to equally thank the Majority Leader, Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, he has always been recognising our presence here and he has been challenging us, I do not have any reason to believe that the other side of the aisle does not have similar sentiments when it comes to the institution of our Chieftaincy. If that is the case, sometime last week when we were having our induction, we had various panellists and there was a particular day that was very interesting, two of the Panellists were people who have served in this House in both capacities – Honourable Bernadette Lahai, she had been an Opposition Leader here and also a Leader of Government Business, the other Panellist was Honourable Ibrahim R. Bundu; he had also been an Opposition Leader here and also a Leader of Government Business. Their appeal to us was as Paramount Chiefs especially, to see what role we could play in trying to bring our people together; and I think it was my colleague Paramount Chief from Falaba Tongors, Honourable Tongors who asked him

point blank, he said do you trust us? He answered in the affirmative that yes, they do trust us and from all indications here, you Honourable Members, both the Leadership and the other Members of Parliament, have shown us great respect *[Applause]*; you people are spoiling us even in lines when we meet you standing in lines to eat, you always allow us to go at the front... we take note of that. It is on this note; that I want to call on all the Fourteen of us that are representing the various districts as Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament, to see what role we could play especially during our recess to see... I am sure, I am from Kono District and I have three APC Members of Parliament elect and seven SLPP Members of Parliament, who have already taken their oath of office; I am sure the other Honourable Paramount Chiefs in this House they also have APC Members of Parliament, let us see how we could engage them to see *[Applause]* how we can be able to have what Mr Speaker called this morning: 'a wholesome our democracy'.

I would want to now pick on one of the Game-changers of His Excellence the President; apart from being a Paramount Chief, my other occupation is a farmer. As I stand here, I am not aware of anyone that has a bigger oil palm or cashew plantation than I am in Kono District *[Applause]*, so I am speaking from a position of strength.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for us to be able to reach the height that we want to reach in terms of agriculture, we have to utilize the institution of Chieftaincy quite frankly; I think this institution has been side-line or side-steps on a lot of issues: some nefarious people would take advantage of that, and I cannot understand for example; how government tractors would be traversing up and down in my Chiefdom without me having any knowledge about them whatsoever. And the Institution of Chieftaincy, I would want to draw your attention to the 2009 Chieftaincy Act; if you look at Section [29] Sub-section [1] of that Act, it speaks to the functions of a Paramount Chief. Amongst them that is D, states clearly that: 'to all intent and purposes', to serve as an agent of development in his Chiefdom; so that is our function, not only to get married to a lot of wives, as we have been misconstrued a lot of times, or eat lots of goats; but to serve as 'Agents of development'. So I want to appeal to His Excellency the

President, to get the Paramount Chiefs of this country deeply involve if we are to make any meaningful achievement in this regard *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I know we are constraint for time but before I take my seat, I want to state here that many years ago when was in high school, I read a book 'Things Fall Apart'; I am sure most of us in our fifty's and sixty's here are familiar with that book, and if you are wondering as to how a little cow learns how to chew grass, read that book - Achebe tells us that, it is by the young ones looking at the mouth of their mother, that is how they learn how to chew.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the Ministers of His Excellency the President, have been watching the mouth of their boss when it comes the idea of 'Tok en Do'; it was only two weeks ago, when the Minister of Finance was in front of this House with his Supplementary Budget, and I think it was Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara-Sam that made a plea that the University of Science and Technology in Kono is in jeopardy; of not been up and running *[Applause]*, I want to report to this House that when the Minister went back, he disburses the money and not only that, we are inviting all of you here to Kono District tomorrow, where the Consultants are going to sign the actual agreement for the construction of the University of Science and Technology in Kono

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members finally, finally, I am not a politician but as a Paramount Chief, we are very proud of His Excellency the President, this is the first time in the history of this Republic, for the direct son of a Paramount Chief to be elected President of our nation *[Applause]* yes, other leaders have come from ruling Houses - the Margai's were from ruling Houses possibly, President Earnest Bai Koroma's brother was from a ruling House; but for the direct son of a Paramount Chief, somebody who was born in a Chief compound, grew up in a Chief compound to be President of this country, this is the first one; we are so immensely proud of him, we would work towards his success. Yesterday, when the Honourable Paramount Chief from Kenema was giving his speech, he was concerned as how the other side of the aisle would look at them if they start saying favourable things in favour of this government, my contribution to him will be; do not get worried about it we did it for them, that is our duty, that is where the smallest unit of administration begins in this country - at the

Chieftdom level, so it is incumbent upon us to give support to whatever government that is in power, so as that the aspirations of our people will be met. Once more Mr Speaker, I want to thank you immensely for this opportunity; I thank you all *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the revered Paramount Chief from Kono District, for his brilliant contribution to the debate. I thought you were busy on the phone, so I was going to pass the baton on to somebody else; but if you ready, you have five minutes. I am now going to time every speaker, five minutes.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would only delve on paragraph [55] with your leave Mr Speaker: this is the only paragraph that I am going to elucidate on. Today, we are gathered here to reflect upon the important of cohesion in politics and to recognise the paramount significant of unity and collaboration in our noble endeavour to serve the people; that is the only paragraph that I will delve on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is deliberate that I will not come closer to the five big changers; it is deliberate because, I have earlier encouraged the Minister of Agriculture that successive governments have spent so much on agricultural productivity yet, it is like throwing water on duck back. We have learnt from history that Port Loko has been a district that has produced the two best maybe the two best Ministers of Agriculture, in the persons of Dr Abass Chernor Bundu and S.A.T. Koroma. They did not see the nation but they nearly because of the strategies them employed; if we want to feed Sierra Leone, there are two options: one, is that we employ foreign farmers for a joint venture investment China, India, Vietnam; can be available. The Chieftaincy Act or the Land Rights Act is very clear; in this Parliament, we can make our Paramount Chiefs to be millionaires how? They have the available land and if they have the available land, they can invest by buying shares with foreign farmers to till all the land; and at the end of the day, overnight Paramount Chiefs will become millionaire because in that Customary Land Right Act, we now have Sectional Committee, Village Committee, Chieftdom Committee superintending over land; so that could be the best strategic - employ foreign farmers. I will not talk on consolidating human capital; it is in

the hands of various MDAs, to promote the middle manpower learning rather than the Grammar school system of learning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also want to talk on YES [Youth Empowerment Scheme]: it is in the hands of the Youths Minister, to capture all our idle youths to carry them to an island wherein they would not go and come without a boat; train them for years and they would come out capacitated [*Applause*], so that they could be viewed as utilized youths.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk on professionalism in the Public Sector; it is in the hands of the various Ministers, for them to compete with International Governmental Organisations [INGOs] and National Governmental Organisations [NGOs] staff. We would appreciate if His Excellency the President, would employ again in his first year, the strategy of on-the-spot check at Youyi Building, to know whether Minister are working or not, or whether they are on their duty posts or not. We employ His Excellency, to rekindle that exercise as it would help us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk on technology and road infrastructure in his first coming in, the blue-print was already laid; I will only talk on peace and national cohesion, which is the only topic I would want to dwell on.

Mr Speaker, we should be worried about as a nation when we see a former President still refuses to congratulate his successor, it threatens peace; we should be worried as a nation, when you see important ceremonies like Independence Day, could not be attended by the former President, Statesmen. We should be worried when important ceremonies like State Opening, the conspicuous absence of former President of this nation we should be worried oh yes; we should be worried when a hole political party boycott, match-out from the ratification of Peace – the Independent Commission for Peace National cohesion that a very important document that has united Kenya, Rwanda today, very important document. It was in this Sixth Parliament, the Opposition who were supposed to have stolen the day to say yes, this is our take if we want to actually achieve peace in this nation, this is the way to go, make your contributions; but when they frown at the pilot, the person that piloted that Bill and say no, we do not

love him so how can you? Because of that person who actually piloted a particular Bill, you say no, we are going to match-out, boycott, so we should be worried as a nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should be worry as a nation when Parliament's role according to Section [48]; to remove, pass vote of non-confidence over a Vice President, but that was left solely in the hands of the President to say you are sacked; we should be worried. In South Sudan, we were told Rak Mashell and Salvakeu - three thousand people were killed when that happened, can you image? South Sudan three thousand people were killed in a month's time and the President sacked the Vice President; the people jumped to the streets saying no, we will not allow that to happen. We could have actually gone to that fearful scenario, but sets of people from a particular region, held their peace - they tried the Supreme Court, they tried ECOWAS Court for the peace of the nation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should be worried with all of those negative patterns; when we see the voting pattern of a nation concentrates on two Regions as against two Regions, we should be worried. In all of these things, His Excellency the President, is so wise and so peaceful he said no, we need peace and national cohesion if we are to thrive as a nation; that is important - peace and national cohesion. His Excellency the President demonstrated that when he was a Military Leader who dare you, to bring Foday Sankoh from the bush; but he said no, let me be the sacrificial lamb. Foday Sankoh where are you on the borders of Sierra Leone? Come out, tell your people that we need peace after 22 years ago or so, he has demonstrated it again and he is now here as a democratically elected President. I did not shy away to have presented His Excellency the President, to the European Union [EU] Parliament that he is the best candidate to man a non-permanent seat in the United Nations, because his profile is tailor-made, as a security man.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have gone through all of these and what is expected of us as a nation is that, we cannot hold back; if the Executive is working well, the Judiciary is working well, as Legislators, we cannot sit back - come back home prodigal sons, where are you? Come back home, it is an old adage that says: 'bad bush

nor dae for trowae bad pikin', what does it mean in English? There is no limbo, into which a dis-owned child could be thrown, that is the interpretation; that there is no limbo into which a disowned child could be thrown come back home. The Press, are you there? You have a role to play, when you see mis-information, half-truth being told over the electronic media - whether television or radio, the print - newspaper then, our peace is threatened, when we see set of people booing at Constitutional elected or Designated Leaders in a nation, they will boo, they will provoke then, our peace is threatened; when we see mis-truth, incitements, it was fearful. When we went to Rwanda, I and the Honourable Speaker, we were in Rwanda for fact-findings; how do they arrived at their peace? When they told a story of the media's role, the dangerous role the media played, let us be careful as to what comes out from the media; their role is not only to entertain, to educate or to inform, but also to persuade and to build peace, so add it to your Terms of Reference [TOR]; to build peace and to persuade. In Rwanda, we learnt lessons - the Right Honourable Speaker and I, on fact-finding Mission; when I confronted the President through privilege conversation I asked, how many Oppositions do you have here? He said Honourable Member, we do not talk that language here 'Opposition', so we call them Minorities; that is the language they called them here, the word 'Opposition' will create tension. He said we do not want to hear that language because in Rwanda, we call them 'Minorities'; I also asked him as to how many tribes they have in Rwanda, he told me that they are all Rwandese and we do not talk anything about tribe in this nation so forget it. I also asked him critical questions such as: how many religions do they have and he said Honourable Member actually, we frown at religious begot, we do not talk about religion yet, I will give you the statistics in Rwanda; we have 90% Christians - mostly Catholics, and 10% Muslims so we tolerate each other, we are the same; in Rwanda, they do not even talk at the top of their voices; if through privilege conversation you begin to shout, they would ask to know whether you are okay, they are not used to it because they speak in low tones in order to maintain peace, that is the peace.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, the note will soon come because, I did promise you that I would only delve on paragraph [55]; this is the nation.

THE SPEAKER: And you have strayed far away from that paragraph

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency the President's clarion call; are we joining to lure our compatriots in the red - come back home, represent your people, for this is your rightful place for which your people voted, that you should be within this five years; come back home. I will reiterates Nelson Mandala, 'no man is born hating one another, people must hate'; and because no man is born hating one another because of religion, tribe, political beliefs, people must hate; if they hate, they can be thought how to love, for love comes more naturally than its opposite. I thank you very very much, Mr Speaker [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you are next; follow by Honourable Veronica and then, I will end with Honourable Kaisamba. Take note.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to join colleagues in thanking His Excellency the President, for his speech that he so graciously delivered in this Chamber of Parliament. Mr Speaker, much have been said by my colleagues on the President's aspirations in his second term; and it should be a disservice to go over what they have said, it would also be boring for us to be repeating ourselves continuously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take the time to look at a very critical facet in the President's aspiration to transform Sierra Leone, to a middle-income country by 2035; which is the Public Service Architecture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President was very clear about the Public Service, the Public Service is the bed-rock of our aspiration as a country moving towards a middle-income status; but that cannot be archived Mr Speaker, if we fail to accept some of the realities. The first reality is the fact that, the President in paragraph [43] emphasizes that: 'my government is fully committed to revitalizing the public service emphasizing delivering, fostering a culture of professionalism, meritocracy; Mr Speaker, I will not continue on the other phrases. Why do I choose professionalism and meritocracy? It is because, our public service is being depleted by politics, our public

service is losing face every day because of political changes and democratic changes in governance; sometimes, we have on several occasions, removed, **highnallele** and take out the best in our public services because of political alignments, the public service is free from politics, it is not to say that as a human being Aristotle once said: 'by man by nature, is a political animal'; being political, cannot affect your professional conduct in the Public Service. Mr Speaker, we have seen people that are very good in doing their jobs, but they were removed because they do not belong to a particular political party; if we want to enhance the Public Service architecture Mr Speaker we have to remove politics from the public service and we have to encourage public servant to be non-partisan because, it has become a vogue now in Sierra Leone Mr Speaker, that if you are to keep your job in the Public Service you have to align yourself with politics, that is wrong...

THE SPEAKER: No, I find it intriguing though; you say Aristotle said that man by definition, by nature, a political animal; I think then, everybody is a political animal but if you are serving a particular area called the Public Service, you up to sublimate your political intentions or desires.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, that is what I am exactly saying; but if you look at a situation, it is said: 'to thyself be truthful', we have to be honest because it is in this Parliament that the President pays a lot of obeisance, he revered this place and it is only in this place that we can decide the path for Sierra Leone and if we are to do that Mr Speaker, we must acknowledge that it is us, the politicians that are forcing the public servant to become politicians; even though they have a political nature, that they have to keep within themselves and demonstrate their political will in the ballot box. But sometimes, we demonstrate and push the public service into politics and if you look at their role in the Public Financial Management Act of 2016, it is so huge Mr Speaker that if they are not devoid from politics, achieving every political aspiration of any President including President Bio, will never be possible; because, you either undermine or you support, you either be a grand-slander or you be an hypocrite but in the public service

like every other country Mr Speaker, they belong to a political party and they have political aspiration but the issue of country first, is number 1 in their agenda [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker let me talk about democracy before I take my seat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President in his concluding paragraph spoke of democracy, and he recognised the role of our international partners to collaborate in building a sustainable democracy Mr Speaker let no country lecture us from democracy no body, let no country lecture us for democracy after 200 years of practicing democracy today there are four indictment against the former President of the United State who challenged the result of Presidential elections of the United States, let nobody lecture us about democracy. Mr Speaker in the European Union Hungary and the European Union are battling because the Prime Minister in the European Union is seeking to have his powers to ensure that the appointment of Judges in Hungary, is done in line by his own powers, so let no one come here and tell us as to what democracy should be or not ought to be because we are a democratic country and they must respect our democratic principle. Mr Speaker we have learnt in school, while we are in school that: 'democracy is the power of the people, by the people and for the people'; but it is only in the United States that a candidate would pull the majority votes and that candidate is not President; let nobody come to lecture us about democracy, let people respect our democracy, and let people respect our democratic beliefs because, in Section [164] of the Public Elections Act, the role of Election Observers is clearly defined Mr Speaker, let nobody transcends the borders of understanding their role as Observers, into trying to dictate to us, or engendering an agenda to say: we do not want this government, it is not you; because 'democracy' is in the hands of the people of Sierra Leone and they have decided, and their vote matters. No election is perfect, not even in the best of democracies in the world; so in Sierra Leone, we are going to continue to correct those in perfection but our democracy is sustainable, our democracy is transparent, our democracy is fair, and our democracy must be respected by everybody; thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I Thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I think there is one thing that underlines what he has said especially the later part; is interference in the domestic affairs of our countries of two kinds - we have the interference that is warranted, by being invited by the host country, by being tolerated by the host country; so it is the host country itself that is asking you to come and partner with itself but the unwarranted one is also to be recognised and no country can tolerate unwarranted interference, in its domestic affairs none, and that is sanctioned by international law; you cannot interfere in the domestic affairs of a sovereign country. I will give the floor to the 'Mama' of the House.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to be last on the list and the last day for His Excellency's speech so delivered; it is because I had wanted to give chance to the new ones, the new Honourable Members who were eager to speak and for their voices to be heard by their people and to also show that we the old-ones S.O [2], give chance to the others so that they would learn from them as time goes by; thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this year's speech that was made by His Excellency the President, was short and to the point because all the Five Pillars were highly expressed in his Speech. I would want to quote the former President S.O [2] of blessed memory he said: 'bod wae dae eat rice na farm, eh nor dae tok buku'; meaning, if there something to talk about, there is no need to start beating around the bush to say this, just go to the point and say what the people wants to hear, and that was what he did.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the man is just liberal, he is honest to himself, he knows what he is doing and that is why in the first page Clause [iv] and [v], he mentioned and appreciated Parliament, that shows the importance of Parliament; without Parliament, you can do whatever you want to or say whatever you feel like saying – policies, written grammars; but for the benefit of this country, except you come to Parliament for final arbitration; even those who have been appointed, nominated, by the His Excellency, he sends them here to be approved by Parliament.

So in appreciating Parliament, I want to thank him very much because it is good to be making tributes while people are alive, so the very day he spoke about Parliament and he appreciated us, I felt good and I know that all the other Honourable Members too, felt good because, that shows how important we are.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come first to this 'feed Salone'; you know we are very much lucky because, some other countries do not even have soil for them to plant, they go to other parts of the world to collect soil, or fertilizers to come and do their cultivation. Here in Sierra Leone, we have six months of rains and six months of dries, we have vast land everywhere; you go to the North we have bolly lands, you go to the South you will have enormous places to cultivate and also there areas for certain plantations like if you want cash-crop where do you go? To Kailahun, in the east; if you want ginger as my colleague mentioned the last time, for rice, go to the North and South and you will get all these things so the dice is always cast. So Mr Minister, the choice is yours, you have a lot to do but it is easy to identify areas of production; if you want rice, cash-crops you know where to go. Sierra Leoneans mostly depend on rice, as our staple food but there are other foodstuffs; if you go to other countries you have yam, maize and the likes, so to feed Sierra Leone we have enough and to spear and I am happy that His Excellency the President, has taken that as his flagship programme. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my only appeal to the Agriculture Minister, is for him to give the machines, and the varieties; the same at the time for production, and make sure you do follow-ups.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members to the Youths, I want to say good and hearty thank you to His Excellency for bringing our youths on board, we are leading and they follow; so we have seen the importance because he started from youth age to be a solider and now he has learnt a lot and that is why he wants to shift the baton to the youths. Again, I always tell the youths that they have to change their attitude; with five thousand jobs now to be created, you have to change your attitude - you cannot be making 'shaba' S.O [2] or you have something in your head and to go to the office to say I am here for a job; change your attitude, be descent, and presentable we are

there for you, we are here for you, we are your mothers go and do the needful so that would be part of it. I want to say to the Youth Ministers, you have to do justice, to lead; your other colleagues are there waiting for you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, women's empowerment and I want to say a big thank you for giving us the inspiration, for giving us the strength, for standing by us and the leadership of this Parliament, to work with us to make sure that we achieve the 30% we are crying for. Although it is not 30% per say, it was close to 30% - from 12% now we are boasting of 28.1%, I must say thanks to you because you were the stage manager, the Clerk and the Leaders of the various political parties including our **heForshes**; they did very well, and I want to say a big thank you to the Honourable Members. I am happy, my sister has taken up from me to be the President of the Female Caucus and there I would work by you, with you, and to make sure we achieve more *[Applause]*; yes, we will do like Oliva Twist, we have got that but we still need more; so that we can do more in the other areas: for, behind any successful government, there are strong women, women of substance and not of circumstance; and behind any successful man, there is a woman and I know all the Honourable Members here my brothers, you have successful women who have made you to be here. Mr Speaker, the importance of women: we women are makers, we are multipliers, we are strong developmental partners; give us the helping hands, for us to show you what we can do, and that is why His Excellency has thought it fit to just do the needful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go right to paragraph [70] to say: the man is just liberal, he is honest, he is respectful, that is why on paragraph [70] Mr Speaker with your leave, he said: "gratitude must be extended to our Security Forces, the Judiciary, the Media and Civil Societies; they have been pillars of strength in advancing the course of democracy in Sierra Leone, I pledge to uphold their independence, for there can be no democracy without the rule of law, no democracy without security and no democracy without a constructive Civil Society and a free Press that informs, educate and hold public office holders accountable. Just look at this, the man is liberal, he has appreciated the efforts of all these people especially the Security Sector; now we

can sleep, although there are some information in the social media or whatever but the security apparatus that we are having here, I think we should say thank you to His Excellency, for even appointing the honest and dedicated security. To the security out there, we dove our hearts to you people, we rely on you and we say thank you for spending your time especially the Soldiers, they would be down in the bushes watching and looking out for bad people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we too in Parliament, we are appreciate all of you; and to my brothers out there, you have heard from our colleagues and you have heard from the other people who are saying come, the Olive branch is there; and not even the Olive branch, it is your right for God sake, it is your right come and exercise your right you have to oppose constructively, we have to disagree to agree; you know why we went to Bo, I think for the old Honourable Members, you should be there to tell the others; some people are just selfish, but we want you to go by the Bo declaration so that we can come together to work for the benefit of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members with that, I just want to say thank you to His Excellency, the speech was good, it was short and precise it has all the S.O [2] "the yea yeas", people out there wants to hear; we say thank you and we want to make sure that all those who have been placed in positions of trust, live to the expectations of His Excellency, he cannot do it alone and also the women we are in it together, we should be in it together; even the people the women at Abacha Street, even the women in Dove Cut, Congo market, and all other areas; we should in this together so that when they say 'woman', it is woman there is no other name, no other surname, 'woman is woman' let us come together, do not be selfish, do not be carried away, do not be pushed to the corner to go and demonstrate, you have a role to play, you have your children, they would become Honourable Members in time to come, please my sisters, the business people, let us come together to fight for the benefit of our beloved country; thank you very much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable lady; my last speaker for the morning is Honourable Kaisamba from Kenema.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to talk on the debate of the speech as delivered by His Excellency the President, Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, on the 3rd of August this year. As we have been aware, these are annual or sessional statements that the President would come to present to the Members of Parliament; and in those speeches normally, the President will recap on achievements done in the previous years. In this circumstances for example, the past five years what were his achievements, what were his challenges? He spoke on the flagship project which was free quality education, human capital development; and we all saw that 22% of GDP was contributed to education and as he speaks, I am sure that is a success story. He equally spoke to infrastructural development, a lot of infrastructural development be it on road, on bridges, on electricity, were done in the past five years; and so in conclusion he did say, that he was very factual I am sure, that in the five years he delivered on almost all of the manifesto promises he made and in this statement he now put out what will be his program for the next five years. And of course, we may have heard of the five Game Changers; it has been stated by Members of Parliament over and over again and I am sure, he may have looked at critically, the challenges of this country, what are our problems? Year in year out, this should not be politicised we have problem with our food, our staple food which is rice, we cannot produce that; we have to import and we use millions of dollars to import these food into Sierra Leone, and we do not have the required foreign exchange, we do not have the supply to continue to import. And now, countries around the world for example India, have put a ban to exportation of their rice; the President has identified that if we have to become a prosperous country, we have to begin to feed ourselves and before now, in the history of Sierra Leone, I am sure there were times when this country was feeding itself and we were exporting the excess, and earning the required foreign exchange for all those are now history what went wrong? So the President is saying 'feed Salone' agricultural productivity, food security, should be our flagship for this five years and I am sure as Law-makers, as Stakeholders, as Leaders in our own right we have to be very serious about these things. He has spoken to doing mechanized farming, bring more techniques and

training people with regards all of these, so that in the next five years, we can be able to produce enough rice, enough of other food that will be required for consumption so that we could be comfortable in eating them and if they are sufficient enough, we can export them and get the required foreign exchange and probably, do some other developmental activities. Like I mentioned, nobody should play politics with that because no political party, no government will succeed, if we do not have this right; and I am sure, it does not matter which political party you belong to, we have to support His Excellency the President, and the people of this country, to ensure that we succeed in feeding ourselves. He again pointed out, to human capital development; of course, for the past five years we have been on that – ‘free quality education’, contributing 22% of the GDP; that shows how serious he has been. But our education in this country largely, has been ‘white colour’ wherein we just want to use coat and sit in offices; the missing gap has been the middle-manpower training, it has not been there but where people have been trained to the 21st Century jobs that are available now, that is what we have not been able to meet with. However, we have to ensure that we train our educated folks, our young people, into the middle manpower that is why through the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education, there are lot of skills training institutions provided across the entire country so that people can be trained in demand-driven skills so that they can be easily employable and they can produce more and the country can benefit, we have to be very serious about that. The President went further talk on youths and we believe that the future of this country lies in the hands of the youths but we have to very sincere with ourselves, let us look at our youths today the young people, whom we call the future; are they taking the right training, are they on the right trajectory to take over tomorrow? I am not pretty sure; most of them are not even doing the correct training and their social behaviours are not helping the matter, they are involved in drugs that is pervasive across the entire country and we have to be very serious and ensure that our youths are industrious, our youths are given the required training and our youths are employable. So the President has put in place a lot of things to ensure that our youths get the required training so that they can be able to take over this country tomorrow, they would have the required training to do that and

we can be safe with them. And he spoke about employment - we are talking about five hundred thousand jobs to be provided; one hundred thousand everywhere, that is a huge chunk of jobs and a very serious business. So we may equally want talk to the Ministry of Labour and Employment that there are jobs already; let us try to retrieve those ones that there are qualified Sierra Leoneans who are supposed to be shopkeepers, who can ride tractors, who can do other things, has been done by some other persons in this country as we speak. So we want to encourage the government, there are laws already; encourage the Ministry of Labour and Employment to retrieve those jobs and equally, government should encourage the Private Sector because the Public Service cannot absorb everybody, strengthen the Public Sector, widen all the Public Sector so that they can be able to employ people - qualified youths; the Public Sector can equally do that. We urge the Ministry of Labour to ensure that they use the required laws in the country to help His Excellency President Bio, achieve this; in all of these, it does not matter how much manifestos he has, how much good your program is, those who implement all of these policies are the Civil Servants, the Public Servants and we have agree that the Public Service has a lot of challenges that is the basic fact, they are challenged with the required skills and training, they are challenged with equipment, they are challenged with even some of their very behaviours. So for us to succeed in all of this five Game-Changers, the Public Service has to be properly trained, and their mind-set should be different, they have to be motivated, their emolument - thank God we have passed the Wages and Compensation Bill in this country; it has been set-up and we look forward to its implementation so that for example, if you have a Bachelor of Arts [BA], or Bachelor of Science [BSc.] in one Sector, your salaries and emoluments would be the same across with some other person at the other end, so these are the reasons people are moving from one job to the other because of inequalities in the job cadres in the salaries and emoluments, looking forward to that. But when all of these have happened, if we have the required Public Service I am sure, they will implement all of these, and this country and its citizenship would benefit. To conclude, the statement by His Excellency the President is fruitful, it is nice, and as Law-makers, as leaders in Sierra Leone, I am sure we would join the President to

ensure that we implement this; because if Sierra Leone prospers, we all would prosper and our children and children's children will be better. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution and want to thank all those who have taken the floor up to this point; this House will now stand adjourned to 3: 00 P.M.

[The House resumes]

[Continued debate]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am very pleased to announce that I can only accommodate six speakers and then we wind up the debate. Blame it on the inclement weather; the weather is inclement, and we should be heading home *[Undertones]*.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: I can only accommodate six speakers; and strictly five minutes not a second more than that. Let me start with the lady at the far end there, you?

HON. MARGARET FEIMATA JOHNSON: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank His excellence the President, for a well detailed, précised, speech. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency's Speech, was a blue print for us and it is a blue print; it highlights the five big changers, the Game-Changers for us and we are able and willing to support these five game changers, we would have a nation that is self-sufficient in the future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to focus on the human capital development; but they say 'charity begins at home', I have heard my Honourable Members speak about health; and of course, health is one of the core key for human capital development. My name is: Margaret Feimata Johnson, I have a background of health - mental health trained and a Psychotherapist Masters trained; coming to Parliament, I feel that there are things that we are lacking of here that we need, we have staff members we have quite a lot of staff and Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is appalling that our health facility here is, I want to say it is non-existing but it is lacking a lot of facilities and it will be sad for us to be highlighting health and hold the resources, and important percentage that we are having; but we have not really thought about our Parliament's health facility and it is needed, it is seriously needed because we are all here healthy looking, but there are people with physical health conditions and also probably, physiological conditions and nobody is aware of it. But God forbid, if we have an incident or crises, how many of us here can say we are sick, or we are trained or first-aid trainers? Do we even have allocated person for us, to say that we can call if something happens. I have heard about the Health Facility but have not actually seen it; it is not fully functioning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is one thing I would want His Excellency to be aware of; that we, as Members of Parliament, are asking for our own facilities to be remembered in the human capital development, and the revamping of the Health Facility.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I represents two Chiefdoms; the Kpeje Bongre Chiefdom and Penguia Chiefdoms - the Penguia Chiefdom is at the end towards Guinea border. I am very happy that His Excellency the President in his speech, is highlighting that the health facility; he is going to ensure that we have health facility, and everybody will have access to healthcare centre in a three-mile range. I am praying that our own Chiefdom, will be remembered and I want to thank His Excellency because he has remembered one; and the health facility by the grace of God, will be launched very soon this year in Penguia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am passionate about mental health because it is one of my field, and it is the area of mental-health that is stigmatised; and it is not looked at fully because we have Disability Act, and our Honourable colleague speaking to our Deputy Minister, who was appointed and approved today, about revamping Disability Act; but I have only heard one of my Honourable Members highlighted that, our Mental Health Act, needs to be urgently looked at - it is out-dated, it is discriminatory, and it of the 19th Century and we are in the 21st Century and we live in a

country that have had severe crisis and trauma events; from Civil War, Ebola, and Mud-slides, have made most of Sierra Leoneans are living with this trauma and we are talking about the drug use, but nobody has thought about the underlined issues of the significant increase of our drug-use in this country. We had Civil War, and that has happened almost probably 20 years going now, we have had Ebola; people have lost their lives, people have lost family members, they are traumatised and sometimes, people use drugs to self-medicate. So while we are looking at legal framework to stop the drugs coming in, I want to ask and appeal to this, that we really look at the rehabilitation areas and active campaign in terms of policies for the drug use, people who are suffering from it; you cannot just tell someone to stop drugs, addiction is a condition and it is a problem there are various ways people are addicted to things and I think psychologically, we need to be able to find a way as to how to help these people who are going through this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency in his speech, talked about having every school-going children, to have access to health care; now we have at the moment, His Excellency has done very well for us in the healthcare where he has recruited over 5,000 healthcare workers; we have about probably, 10,200 and something schools both primary and secondary, and if His Excellency is hoping that we have every school-going child to have access to healthcare, we need to recruit more nurses and each to be assigned to schools. School nurses are vital, it minimise the hospital going and young people would have access to health; that is one of my requests. He also talked about emergence services, now we are living in a country and we have quite lot of road traffic accidents; emergence services are good but we need to thing about the highways. I am thinking and suggesting, I am putting this to His Excellency, let us think about hubs, accident crisis hubs in the highways, it would save lives *[Applause]*; by the time you think about it, if we have fatal accident in the Kenema/Bo highway, by the time somebody removed you out of your car, it is not the accident that kills you, it is actually the trauma that your body goes through before you get to the hospital. So we need to think about that, while His Excellency is thinking about having increased accidents and emergence services, I would recommend that he

thinks about points at the main highway roads, to have accident emergence hubs with trained nurses mostly sometimes, but in the middle where it will be certain mile range from the point to the hospital *[Applause]*; and this would also help the Communities around that area. We are saying access to affordable, quality healthcare, these are things we should recommend to His Excellency to add and it will help us because, every one of us do use the highway to travel to our Chiefdoms and some of us some people, do drive fast and we have had a large level of road traffic accidents and would save lives; and so, His Excellency needs to really think about that for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank everyone for listening, and giving me this opportunity; thank you Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable lady for her very brilliant suggestion. It is rather unfortunate, I do not know how it came about that on this particular occasion, we do not have senior Civil Servants in attendance from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs]; that used to be a routine for debates of this nature you should be attendance to take notes and to listen to the various suggestions coming from Members of Parliament. Just as we have heard from the Honourable Lady, I would have like to see an official from the Ministry of Health, take down note for the attention of the Minister of Health that has not happened; I do not know what happened because I was indisposed when this debate started unfortunately, I would have insisted on that they cannot all just be absent like that. I also noticed that the leadership row is empty, does anyone know the reasons why I am not seeing them *[Undertone]*? No, the primary question is why, and their officials from the Ministries in attendance? Okay, I will reserve it; until I see one of them come in. But that is normally the routine; they should be here to take down notes for the attention of the Ministers...

HON. WUYUTTA B. SONGA: If I may, from what I heard in the Well the other day when we started, the Deputy Speaker did request for that and there was an excuse given that they were on workshop or conference in Bintumani with the President for two days; that was on a Monday and Tuesday, I believe...

THE SPEAKER: All the directors?

HON. WUYUTTA B. SONGA: No, it was a conference for Ministers and Deputy Ministers I believe...

THE SPEAKER: Yes

HON. WUYUTTA B. SONGA: But then, that was for Monday and Tuesday

THE SPEAKER: All we were... no, no, no.

HON. WUYUTTA B. SONGA: They would have to tell us why Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, there was nothing.

THE SPEAKER: I can very well understand for the Ministers for the Deputies; but I cannot understand if looking around and seeing no Director, no Civil Servant at the director's level, right through this debate.

HON. YUSIF MACKERY: Yes Mr Speaker; in my opinion thinks that

THE SPEAKER: I want fact; opinions are free but facts are sacred

HON. YUSIF MACKERY: But thanks be to God; as the other day, you said we have rights to our opinions

THE SPEAKER: Opinions are free; I have so many of them myself.

HON. YUSIF MACKERY: Okay, facts.

THE SPEAKER: Give me facts

HON. YUSIF MACKERY: Yes, because in your absence Mr Speaker, we requested their presence here; so to me, they have no respect for the Parliament because on Wednesday, I also raise that particular point for them to be here, *[Undertone]* yes. Mr Speaker with your leadership to make sure yes, whatever we says here have some amount of authority so that they would be able to know that this is not a Parliament that they can joke with Mr Speaker; I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, your point is well taken; I will look into this.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Mr Speaker, there was a ruling; the Honourable Deputy Speaker ruled that, all Directors or Representatives from the respective Institutions

should come the other day; and the Clerks can confirm that, there was also a ruling on that.

THE SPEAKER: *[Undertone]* I will reserve that question for the Leaders. May I now give the floor to the Honourable Umu Pyne she here okay you have the floor five minutes.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Is she here?

HON. UMU PYNE: Yes Mr Speaker, I am here.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, you have the floor; five minutes.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to the Motion of Thanks to the address that our President graciously delivered in this House on the 3rd of August 2023.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President for the legislation that he achieved, most of the critical Bills that he achieved in this past five years like; the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment [GEWE] Act of 2022, that was a good one for this House and for the President. I want to actually acknowledge the remarkable stride that the SLPP government took during the last five years, to give the lam-light on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, through agriculture. During the last five years, women were actually focused on in agriculture the National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA], was given the task to actually look at farmers who were women especially in the Ribbi Chiefdom; about 80% of women were actually engaged, they were monitored, evaluated, and gained most of the agricultural facilities that they were supposed to gain. Despite our Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security [MAFS], I presumed, plan very much on paper instead of implement out in the field. NaCSA, embarked on giving women leadership role, we have Master-farmers who are women, they were given credits, and in the Ribbi Chiefdom, we had about 15,000 hectares of bolly land and about 10,000 IVS; NaCSA did not actually till all of those land for the women because they lack machinery, but that which they were able to do, they did.

One thousand five hundred women in Ribbi Chiefdom actually embarked on agriculture and that was because of NaCSA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Women's Empowerment Bill has actually given 30% of women in the Rural Areas, I don't know for the other districts but actually in the Moyamba district as I said, in the Ribbi Chiefdom, to embark on farming. So the 'feed Salone' program is not actually strange to us there and the President actually took a good initiative to talk about the 'feed Salone' programme when we, in the Ribbi Chiefdom, have actually started embarking on that. The five initiatives that the President spoke about, which is feed Salone programme, being the first, I want to say to this House that we have been on it since the first term of this government. When it comes to agriculture, we have a system wherein our farmers have a middle-man instead of meeting the agriculture office itself; which is a Service Provider. And I want to say to this House that we have one service provider in each district I presume; like for our district, we have one service provider there, who is not actually easy to contact we has all of the machineries, and whenever you want something from them, they would refer you to their office and when you go there, it is nothing to write home about. So I want to actually say, if our government wants to feed Salone, we should depend on NaCSA, if we depend on agriculture - the office itself that is the Ministry, I think we would not be able to feed Salone. I have an example here, where 20 tractors were given to Moyamba district; when we needed the tractor mostly at that time, we never got the tractors because the Operator himself refused to go and take them why? He said because he was not paid. I want us, in this honourable House, to actually look at especially the Oversight Committees that are with agriculture, to follow the system as to how they implement their work; they were not time-bound, if farming start in February, they cannot give you seedlings until after two month, so how can we plant? When we want machines to go and till our bolly lands, until rains and water takes over the whole place before ever you can get the machineries. In one of my area in my Constituency, when we applied for tractors we never got it until water took over that area; so I am standing here this afternoon, to actually plead with my Honourable Members, to let us actually focus on timeline of agriculture in our areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have already spoken about NaCSA; they did not only focus on women, and what they should do, but they also focuses on Feeder Roads, because they know that they have spent money, they would monitor and evaluate as they wanted those materials to come to Freetown. They embarked on repairing 10KM road at the Ribbi Chiefdom so that the products can easily come to Freetown or Waterloo *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say here that when we would have embarked on women because of gender equality, and women's empowerment, we can feed Salone; but we just have to do that. In conclusion, I stand before you today, to whole-heartedly support the President's address and the achievement of the SLPP government in promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment [GEWE] within the Agriculture Sector through initiatives like; 'feed Salone'. As a Member of Parliament, I am proud to be part of a government that recognises the pivotal role women plays in the nation's progress; and it is dedicated to creating opportunities that uplifts the citizens. Together, we shall continue this journey towards a more inclusive and prosperous Sierra Leone; I thank you Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable lady for her contribution; very incisive and insightful. She reminds me of my day as Agriculture Minister, and though I would be announcing very shortly, the Membership of the Sessional Committees before we close today; maybe, what the lady before her said should be noted by the Health Committee and also what the Honourable Umu has just said, should equally be noted by the Agriculture Committee; and thankfully, Agriculture is presently the flagship project of His Excellency the President. I just want to endorse what she said for the edification of all of us, so that when we divide you up into committees, you would bear some of these points in mind. One lesson that I took away from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in the 80s was, government is certainly not a good producer of food; I am not even aware whether government is a producer of anything in fact, you can create the environment, we can create the framework – legislative, administrative or otherwise; but to actually dabble with the actual process of production, government is certainly not

a good candidate for that. What she said reminds me of what the Tractor Operators used to do exactly; people would come, farmers would come to the Ministry or the sub offices, paid for ploughing, and they would never get the tractors. And after I learnt that bitter lesson in my first year, in my second year I would tell you what I did; I privatized all the tractors, and gave them directly to the farmers, encourage them to form themselves into groups and cooperatives, and take control of the tractors. And the moment you do that of course, you are going to offend the official norm, but you are going to create an atmosphere of improving productive because, there is no farmer who would buy a tractor and let it lie fallow, no way; or a group of them contributing towards the purchase of a tractor, will never allow that tractor to lie fallow, they would make use of it to produce because, our livelihood depends on it, than profitability depends on it. So I think, the Agriculture Committee should begin to take note of some of the points that Honourable Members are making so that during oversights, they can actually use that to question the validity of some of the policies that are being implemented. We should encourage our farmers to take ownership, direct ownership of the inputs - be they machineries, fertilizers or seeds, and we would see the difference of productivity; if you leave it in the hands of government employees forget it, it will not happen. Let me now give the floor to the Honourable Habib Fabbah

HON. HABIB K. FABBAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by extending my sincere appreciation to His Excellency the President, for his concise, succinct and well-loaded address given in a gift-jiffy, on the occasion of the State Opening of the Six Parliament of the Second Republic in the Chamber of Parliament Building.

THE SPEAKER: Is your neighbour, Honourable Mackery? You are directed to take two seats to you right [*Undertones*]; take two seats to you right, do not distract the Honourable Member.

HON. HABBIB K. FABBAH: Being a respecter of time, I would be very brief; as a result of that, I will go down straight to the five game changers the feed Salone, the human capacity, capital development, youth empowerment, enhance public service,

architecture, technology and infrastructural initiative. Basically, this manifesto promises or I look at them as the government strategic direction...

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Speaker, point of order; Mr Speaker, they are distracting the Honourable Members, all of them; they are just giving serious undertones.

HON. HABBIB K. FABBAH: As a flagship programme of His Excellency the President's initiative...

THE SPEAKER: Endure them for now; we only have a few hours to go, by the time they return, they would see where they will be seating.

HON. HABBIB K. FABBAH: To tackle the food importation dependency, food production, and food sufficiency, through agriculture tackles in the country *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I accept the five Game-changers, particularly with absolute certainty reason being that, our President is accredited for doing what he talks *[Applause]*; being more or less, he is a 'tok en do' President *[Applause]*. Basically, we can envisage the direction the President is taking this country to, based on his priorities; Mr Speaker, may I get your attention please? Basically, we are seeing that we are moving in the right direction...

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Point of order! Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Not allowed, overruled; go on.

HON. HABBIB K. FABBAH: Mr Speaker, any government that takes the step in the direction as planned by His Excellency the President, he has planned to move the country qualia of under-development *[Applause]*. It is crystal clear that our priorities...

THE SPEAKER: Keep doing this, I am watching every one of you; by the time you come back from recess, you would wonder what happened to your seats. Carry on.

HON. HABBIB K. FABBAH: If we are talking about going forward as a nation, I think youth empowerment, is not only limited to creating jobs for the youths, but even assuring the nation of permanent security and stability *[Applause]*; for the human capital development. Basically, if we are trying to catch up with the skills for the 21st

Century, I think the allocation government has placed and the policies which government has have in place for this; I can say the strategic plan is really crystal clear, that we are moving in a direction wherein we would see this country one day in a situation which we are all yearning for.

THE SPEAKER: Wonderful! On that note...

HON. HABBIE K. FABBAH: On that note Mr Speaker, I thank you so much for the opportunity granted me to add my voice to the Presidential Speech; thank so much.

THE SPEAKER: Very good. I will now give the floor to the Western Area *[Noise]*.

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. That is my Leader; thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to thank the President for a laudable speech given to this House; we do believe he is a President that is determined to deliver this nation. Whenever you sit and dine with the President, you will know that he is a Person that has a very good heart for this nation *[Applause]*; he is a President that wants Sierra Leone to be like any other state, even like the United States of America or the United Kingdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we will not talk about infrastructure without mentioning either the Western Urban, or the Rural; meaning, we have not said anything in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, looking at the past five years, and what the President has done within the Western Urban, you will know that he is a President that has no district limitation; he looks beyond what we think. Like our past regime, they only looked at Makeni, but our President looks beyond Makeni.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the road from Sussex, Borbor, to Tokeh; you would know that this President, is a President that is ready to deliver *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you look at infrastructure, and talk about Western Urban, what the President has done, you will know that this President is a President that meant what he says. When you look at the work of our President, not

only that but even our First Lady, look at the 34 Military hospital, you will know that the President is a President that is determined and ready to work; looking at the 34 hospital at time, there was nothing to write home about but looking at the hospital now - the 34 Military Hospital, you would know that our First Lady has determination for this nation, she is a First Lady that is ready to deliver this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our President is a President that is ready to deliver to this nation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we talk about education, our President is really determined to transform the lives of the youths. In my Constituency, the Western Urban during the last five years, about 350 young men and women were given scholarships, to study at the perfect [technical] Institutions and most of these young people have transformed themselves in terms of making refrigerators, construction of houses, electricity; those are the things that have been imparted into those young people *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our government is not a government that believes in giving drugs to young people in order to destroy their lives, our government is a government that is determined to transform the lives of people; our government is a government that is ready to transform the lives of the youths like some of us *[Applause]*. When you look at our President, he has a descent family, is a family that is ready... Mr Speaker, are you with me? Mr Speaker, I want you to pay attention to me...

THE SPEAKER: I am not only with you, but I just want you to know that you have exhausted your five minutes.

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. So I am calling on all my Colleagues; as I was saying, our President is a President that is ready to transform the life of the youths, so I am calling on my colleague Member of Parliament, and even the police, as we are going on recess at least, to see how best we can engage our ghetto boys, our Attaya boys, so that we can talk to them to avoid this particular drug that we call 'Kush' that is destroying the lives of our people.

On that note Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity that you have given me; sometimes, you see me as one of your bad boys but I believe that I am a good boy for you. So on that note, I want to say thank you very much Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I will now give the floor to the Honourable Gentleman in blue, you; and my last speaker for today before we windup will be, the Member from Daru.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Sorry sir, Mr Speaker please; I want to observe something. During lunch time, few of my female colleagues were being disadvantaged perhaps; because of the position... *[Undertones]* please allow me to talk please. They are being disadvantaged because of the position; they are at the back *[Undertones]* no, I want to bring it to your attention Sir please. Because initially, you started with a list sir and later on, you said you are not going by the list because it is neither in the Standing Order, nor in the Constitution. There is an Honourable Member at the back, Honourable Juliana Fatorma; she met me and wanted to at least, if not a maiden speech, but a little contribution towards this debate, so I am pleading on her behalf Sir, please.

THE SPEAKER: Can she identify herself please?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: She is at the back.

THE SPEAKER: Are you sure Madam that you have never spoken? I can remember your face, so to say you have not made your maiden speech; I think it is not quite correct. As people would say, you have been economical with the truth. You have the floor.

HON JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am Hon. Jibrila Surmoijueh from Bonthe District. Honourable Members, Colleagues please.

THE SPEAKER: Order, order. Go ahead.

HON. JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by registering my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the President; Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio, for his speech that we are debating today. When you look at that speech, the President catered for not only the Five Good Changers, but he was able to discuss the way forward to have peace in this country; for which I admire

him so much. As a peace and developmental practitioner, there is no way we can have a sustainable development if we are not at peace. That is one big thing as Members of Parliament of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, we must be grateful that we are having a reasonable and considerate President. I watched a video where someone was saying, when SLPP boycotted the Parliament sometimes in history, and the APC were dancing and jubilating in this town. Today, it is our business as Sierra Leone Peoples Party to ensure that our brothers come and take their seats, so that we would have a full composition in this House for us to have a better Sierra Leone *[Applause]*. That is the kind of President we have, that we are not concerned about what people would say but for us to go ahead and develop this country; we need a space for us to dialogue. During the campaign, three big things people considers as a challenge:

1. The price of fuel
2. The price of food and
3. The increment in dollar, the inflation.

And if today we are talking about the five big changers and the 'Feed Salone' which is the flagship project, meaning; it is one of the biggest three things that people do consider as a challenge. And if that is so Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would then want to assure this House that if we can feed Sierra Leone, we would then have the right path to a sustained prosperity as stated in Paragraph [15] of His Excellency's speech. But the question is, how do we feed Sierra Leone? I have carefully listened to my colleague debaters here, my colleague Members of Parliament; we have been talking about supporting farmers with seeds, fertilizers and the rest. I asked myself this question; is it not the same model we have been practicing all these years? The community we consider today to be highly engaged in agriculture, if you go there, the same way they are selling a cup of rice, is the same way that they are selling a cup of rice here in Freetown; meaning, we need a model that is different from the subsistent farming. From your speech just now, when we were talking about where the government cannot be the better producer of food, I will agree; but I want to say that we possibly need to develop policies where we need a centralized farming mechanism

wherein we can use that as a complement to the subsistent farming our people are doing. The community that I am coming from does not know any other activity except agriculture but yet, we are still struggling with the prices in terms of buying rice. If you go back to statistics report, they can tell you that the merchandized import, 32% of that is on food commodity alone. As it stands, we are talking about **\$200Mln** of import bill of rice alone...

THE SPEAKER: No, but surely we cannot get rid of subsistence farming; that is why the President in his speech, has made it quite clear that you need now to graduate and elevate farming into an industry.

HON. JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: Okay; that is exactly what I am trying to say, we are complementing that which they are doing. Let us now look at the Tormabum rice farming that we are talking about here; in history, we have that particular structure feeding this country - at some points, feeding the Boarding schools, the Prisons; and today, we have up to about ninety-two thousand hectares of land and we are not investing in that part of the country. Somebody was talking about feeder roads, linkages, to our products; somebody can now drive from Bo to Tormabom, and I will assure you, if you go there once, you would not want to return there again. We have Eighty-two kilometre roads from Koribondo to Mano Kweganya; and if we cannot construct or rehabilitate those roads, how then can we even concentrate on establishing the agricultural activities in that part of the country? Therefore, I am saying that we must intensify the mechanized farming system; let us inject some of the monies that we would be appropriating here for the Ministry of Agricultural to have a system - the only way we can feed this country like we were saying; is when we can produce rice that we can sell at a low cost that everybody here can afford. But if we are still talking about supporting farmers by the time the year goes round, the rice that is produced cannot feed even the community that is producing it then, we are still not feeding this country.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now go to where we talk about youth empowerment program. Youth Empowerment Program is something that is very key and if we must achieve that, then it has to go with programs that are being designed to

involve youths, as we are now talking about 'green jobs' - the Agriculture Sector. Over the years, somebody might say that Njala University produces Agricultural Students or Agriculturists; but they do not even have a university farm because, some of the courses that are designed for us to undertake are not matching up with today's industries demand. And if that is so mind you, we are talking about having a system where we can introduce the Middle-Manpower Capacity Trainings that will fit in today's demand in terms of the agriculture that we are talking about, and also in terms of technology. If you now go to social media, you will see the millions of dollars that the youths are making in using the social media. What are we doing in Sierra Leone? Except we depend on using WhatsApp or face book. When you go to schools today, looking at the social media, they are comparing the kind of education we have in Africa and Western cultures because, we are not exposed to the technologies the world is presently surviving on. And if that is so, we can actually say to this House and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] which are not here today; for us to see how they can be redesigned for example, Secondary Schools in some of the Communities that we are coming from, there is the need for us to have a computer lab. From the early stage with growth, they can discover the potential that the world is driving at. But if we cannot do that and we are still focusing on the old system then, we are not making progress. The gender in this context, I think I would make a summary on it; over the years, the problem that we had with gender inclusion is as a result, women coming into the mainstream, are victims of men who are already surviving there. By nature, last year for example, when the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Bill was passed, some male Parliamentarians could not return because, some districts needed to have female Members of Parliament; and if that is so today, we are saying the five hundred thousand jobs in the Youth Empowerment Scheme, let us see how best we can start practicing the equity so that the women who have been at the back for long, will now start to have a system where they can come to the same quota as men [*Applause*]. But the one that is already in existence, if we say we are going to impose the gender empowerment from that direction, then most men

would be disadvantaged; and I tell you, it will face a very different challenge. Thank you so much...

THE SPEAKER: Were you deriving the GEWE Bill as a result?

HON. JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: No, I am recommending *[Undertones]* that the buffer that we have now, the five hundred thousand jobs, let us practice equity in that direction. As most jobs are being occupied by men, we cannot evict them; but as we are planning in the next five years to roll-out the five hundred thousand jobs, let us see how best we can concentrate in giving the jobs to women so that they can come to the radar as the men have been over the years; that is my submission. Thank you so much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I would now give the floor to the Honourable Member from Daru *[Interruptions]*.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker Point of order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Points of order overruled; you can carry on *[Undertones]*. Do you want to see the man on crutches; he has already shown you the bandage, you are still not satisfied. After adjournment, anyone of you can become a sojourn and he would subject himself. Honourable Member.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for defending me. At this point, I want to start my debate by thanking or appreciating the President, for giving himself selflessly, to serving this nation. I also want to thank him for ruling this country beyond colours, beyond party lines, beyond regionalism, beyond whatever discriminating factors; I want to appreciate him for that. I also want to thank him for taking his time for putting this fine document together which dictates the pathway, for the next five years. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is no secret *[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: The hat you are wearing, is it part of the dress?

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Sir?

THE SPEAKER: The hat, is it part of the dress?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, you remind me of Honourable Abel Strong, during the days Honourable D. M. Kamanda; that was exactly how he used to dress and that is the question Mr Speaker used to ask him.

THE SPEAKER: Go on. I hope the bandage is not round your waist as well *[Laughing]*?

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: No sir; thank you very much Mr Speaker. Again, it is no secret that as a country, we do face numerous challenges. But again, let me reassure this House, that these challenges became worsen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that affected us as a country; and secondly, the on-going Global Crisis between Russia and Ukraine.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most of the Members of this House preferably, Members on the other side, are of the opinion that, the global crisis has no effect to the current situation that we are faced with as a country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me say this; even countries that are developed, are being affected by this global crisis between Russia and Ukraine, not to talk of crippling nations like Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, had it not been for the prompt intervention of the President, we would have been facing more demeaning situations than the one we are in; but as a result of the deliberate actions of our President, he was able to intervene to cushion the wrath effects, that would have affected us as a country. So I appreciate him as a President, and I see him as a President who is deliberate in whatever he wants to achieve as a President; and he has succeeded in ruling beyond all negative factors, amidst all other step gallops that were created artificially, by our brothers on the other side.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members deliberately, we saw in his last administration that deliberate efforts were made by individuals just to disrupt his governance; but he was so smart not to focus on those distractions, he was so smart to focus on his goal and to achieve what he promised the people of Sierra Leone. And today, we are a proud

nation that the President was able to achieve his promises to this country. The list of numerous challenges we face as a country are enormous; it is a daunting list.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as members have reemphasized over and over again, I have every reason to be confident that the President we have, and as a people and as a country, we shall overcome these challenges or better still, we would be able to minimize these challenges one after another, and together.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the speech provided to us by the President, you would realize that he summarized his focus so much that as a Parliament, we would be able to guide the Ministers; but it is rather unfortunate, that the MDAs are not here to listen to some of the recommendations that we are going to proffer. And again, that discourages us as Parliamentarians, because it appears as if we are just talking to ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly rush to this whole flagship project of 'Feed Salon'. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before going to the speech proper, let me give you some statistics about what we face as a country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a country *[Interruption]*...

THE SPEAKER: Are you still on your preamble?

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members as a country, we have a situation wherein agriculture, contributes about 60% of our GDP and two-thirds of members that are engaged in productivity, are from the Agriculture Sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members if you check the statistic, we have **5.6Mln** hectares of land very viable for agriculture in this country *[Undertones]* **5.6Mln** hectares. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, that shows that we have enough land for agriculture and if you look at the natural tendencies that we have as a country, it shows that the President's ambition to feed ourselves in the next five years, is possible; because, this is a country that has enough rainfall which is also good for agriculture. We have so many rivers supporting the cause of agriculture, so much irrigation; and it is discouraging to know that 80% of what we consume as a country is from import, we

import our consumption which is more the reason why we must embark on this 'feed Salon' Project [*Interruption*].

THE SPEAKER: Wonderful.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members again, let me just hasten to say; if you look at this document, it actually states that: The President is very much passionate for us to be able to feed ourselves; what he has given us is a framework and I believe, for the Agricultural Ministry to succeed with whatever ambitions or aspirations that we have as a nation, seven factors must be taken into consideration:

1. There must be what we call 'partnership' between and amongst MDAs. There is no way we can succeed without making the Transport Ministry efficient because, we need enough transportation to transport raw materials from the production center to the market; and for you to say that you are successful in terms of feeding yourself as a nation, three factors are import;
 - a. You must be able to produce.
 - b. Utilization of those products.
 - c. Availability access.

If those factors are not present, then forget it; you will not be able to feed the country...

THE SPEAKER: On that note.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members on that note, that is why I believe that there is so much of efforts needed for us to succeed as a nation. This is the more reason, the Minister has to negotiate or partner with other MDAs like the Energy Sector; because we need electricity and thank God to the current Minister, he has been able to give us some adequate amount of electricity that will support whatever strikes that we want to achieve as a country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members to finally to conclude, if you briefly look at the Youth Sector, let me just conclude on this; take a look at paragraphs [35] and [36], page [6]

of his speech, you would realize that it shows that the President is very much aware of what is going on with the young people in this country; because, if you go through paragraph [35], it states that: 'Young people in the Western Urban are neither in Universities, nor school-going and they are not engaged in any productive work service that shows that, the President knows about it.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, if you go to paragraph [37], you would realize that again *[Undertones]*, some of the reasons that are responsible for the brain-drain of young people coming from the Rural to Urban settings, is because there are no adequate facilities for young people in those rural settings *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Overruled.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members...

THE SPEAKER: Do you also want to go paragraph 38?

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Paragraphs [35] and [36].

THE SPEAKER: On that note, you have exhausted your time.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Yes, thank you very much Mr Speaker. So in conclusion Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: No.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: I am just wrapping up.

THE SPEAKER: No.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Okay, thank you very much Mr Speaker. Before taking my seat, *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: The last speaker on my list before we wind up is, Honourable Sahr Koutu Momodu.

HON. SAHR K. MOMODU: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I was looking forward to this moment; I have been here for about a month now, and I have stood up severally but finally today, you have caught my eyes; I thank you very much for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I want to thank His Excellency the President, for his flagship program which is: 'feed Salone'. Also, I bring greetings from Kono - I am Honourable Sahr Koutu Momodu, one of the Honourables representing Kono District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go straight to the speech. The President has done so much for this country and we have to say thank you to him especially for us, Konos. I do remember in 2018 when the flagship program was 'Education'; from 2018, our President was the first President that said, Kono District has gone through injustice in terms of education. He has helped us a lot on that because since 2018 till now, he has helped us with a University of Science and Technology which is currently going-on in the district, and we thank His Excellency the President for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the flagship program which is; 'FEED SALON. Talking about Feed Salone, Kono has been one of the basket bread-winners of this country; and so, I have to focus my debate on Kono. The reason why I am focusing my debate on Kono is because; if Kono has been part of the bread-basket of this country then, talking also about agriculture, we must also think about Kono *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have my recommendations; in particular to this House is inclusiveness. We have to include everybody in, to make sure that the President succeeds in this 'Feed Salone', how? I will lay my foundation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a graduate from Architectural Interior, and that means; I cannot say anything without talking about foundations. My foundation here is, for us to include everybody for example; we have to call on all the District Chairmen - from every district: Kono, Kenema, Kailahun, you name them; we should call and engage them as that will help the President to succeed in his program *[Applause]*. Also, we have to ensure that we include Members of Parliament in this Flagship program - Feed Salone. For instance, the people of Sierra Leone are looking up so much to the Members of Parliament for them to deliver; how can we deliver to our people? It is in the sense that for example; when we were campaigning for the 2023 elections, we spoke about all of these things; the President promised us that we will have abundant

food in this country, and that was one of the promises we gave to our people and now...

HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker point of order. I did not remember in any platform where the President said he is going to give abundant food to this country; the President did mention in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 about agricultural productivity, talking about food security; but in none of his speech did he mention that he is going to provide abundant food for his people, so we need to put the records straight. He is coming from the government bench that is why I am concerned Mr. Speaker, so I want him, if he is quoting from the President, let him make reference on the document clearly, so that we can understand that at this point in time, the president did make such statement. But if he has made his promise during his campaign, let him say so, that when I was campaigning, I made a promise to my people that I will give them abundant food; so it is for the records Mr Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I know, like all other new Members going through the learning curve, but when you are attributing statements for anyone - both in and out of the House, please make sure you do so accurately.

HON. SAHR K. MOMODU: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I understand that but the only thing I would want to say here is that; I campaigned that I will make sure my people go into farming *[Applause]*, why am I saying that? I want to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture to help us, the Members of Parliament, so as to minimize our responsibilities because; our people are looking forward to us in terms of development. I think if we embark on that at least, our people would have the tools to do the work and that would help us greatly. For example; we the Members of Parliament, need to have tractors, so that we would be able to help our people *[Applause]*; the reason why I am emphasizing on Members of Parliament is because, they are not responsible for development but for the mind-set of our communities are that; Members of Parliament have all the riches and so, they are

supposed to be part of development. And most of them are looking forward to us in terms of help.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members on this note, I want to say thanks to His Excellency the President, as we the Kono people are so grateful; thank you *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank all the Honourable Members who have taken the floor. We will now wind up the debate as I give the floor to the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MOHAMMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to make my contribution very short but rich in content. Mr Speaker, when His Excellency the President entered this Parliament, and sat over there to deliver what we call 'State of the Nation's Address, he surprises many of us *[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: State of the Nation.

HON. MOHAMMED BANGURA: State of the Nation, as we call it again; States of the Union Address, he surprised many people. It was short but directly to the point. Many of us were expecting the President to come here to catalogue all what he has done as usual, we used to clap; but he did not do that instead, the President among many things, he anchored his speech on 'Reconciliation' so that is where I am going to anchor today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President's speech on paragraphs 55, 56, 57 58 and 59, he emphasized on the point of reconciliation; and I have to say this, I have to commend Honourable Ibrahim T. Conteh, Western Area - the two Honourable Members from Western Area for their patriotic speech this afternoon. They spoke here like true nationalists of this country, and that is what the President is calling for; if we want to talk about reconciliation, we have to start here in this Well. The speeches we make have a long way to go and that is why when the Honourable Member from Kono spoke here this afternoon, he started cataloguing all what the APC did that was wrong to this country. I said to myself perhaps, he was not here when the President was delivering his 'State of the Nation'; he was not here. We do not need to talk about the past anymore, that is why the President is calling for peace and reconciliation; we do not

need to, we already know them my colleagues Honourable, we know the problems of this country so we have to move on, we have to forge ahead, let us think about tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President said in this very Well of Parliament, where no party attains majority, we need to dialogue for everything that would cause controversy in this Well, for everything; that is what the President spoke about. I am appealing to the Leadership of the Ruling Party that Mr Leader henceforth, please; I know you have tried in the Fifth Parliament, but in this Sixth Parliament, henceforth let us hold meetings, call Members of the Opposition, the Chiefs, Ruling Party Members, that whenever we have topical issues to be discussed in this Well, let us have meetings first, and debate, let us disagree to agree before coming to the Well; as that is the only way tensions can be reduced. I am saying this because, I know why I am saying this because come September, or whenever we shall have come from recess, I know the Leadership of this Well will have the full complement of the APC; I assure you of that Mr Speaker - the full complements of the APC, you would have it in this Well. I hate to see the Sixth Parliament, engulfed in rancour again; I do not want to see the Speaker being guarded by Police Officers or to walk out of this Well like it happened in the past, it will never happen again in this Sixth Parliament, and all of that depends on how we dialogue, let us talk. I have specific request for the President, I have been doing that privately and now, I want to do it in front of the cameras for the people to know that some of us here, have been playing a role for this country to progress. Mr President Sir; in-as-much as you have spoken about reconciliation please:

1. Help to remove the travel ban against the APC people, please Mr President; because I have been saying this, that most of them are facing Commission of Inquiry - they are in Court as well as their properties which means, when once has his/her property in court and wants to travel out of the country, he/she must be able to go and come back freely, without going through the Police for any clearance again; Mama of the House, I expect you to join the President on this reconciliation okay?

2. Mr President, during elections, there are people who are now behind bars on elections related issues. Please, I would want us to sit together and see how best these matters can be withdrawn from the Courts, from the Police Stations.

Mr President, my Colleagues over there were contemplating as to how to talk about peace and reconciliation when in fact, the former President did not call to congratulate the present President. I am not going to that direction again because, my colleagues are not aware of what is happening behind the scene; that was why they asked to know *[Undertone]*, I will not. All I can say is that, the President Dr Julius Maada Bio has put behind him all that have happened and he now wants to forge ahead and we must help him *[Applause]*; we the Honourable Members sitting here, we must help him. *[Undertones]* No, I tell you; that it is not when we spend most of our time being given to us by Mr Speaker, to contribute on the President's speech; we should be picking on the APC here and there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Committee on paragraph [67] - the reforms in the Electoral Commission. The President, made it very clear about the challenges that they are facing; most of them are man-made challenges, this I will tell you for free. That is more the reason why we are having a section of the population today, not being happy with the elections result and I have to say it. Even I, standing here, a representative from Karene District, I have issues with the election result but life has to move on; we now have a President, so life should move on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the President, that in as much as he spoke about this Committee having the Vice President as Chairman; yes, he is the President and has made his own pronouncement but I am appealing to him, this is an appeal coming from the Acting Leader of the Opposition *[Applause]* that in order for us to have peace and reconciliation; please Mr President, let us have an independent somebody to chair that Committee, the reasons are very clear. Mr Vice President with all due respect, you are a member of the SLPP and I am saying; no member of any political party either the APC or SLPP should be the Chairman of that Commission, this

is a direct appeal I am making to the President. He has the right to go with the Vice President, but this is a plea I am making to him [*Undertones*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, let me briefly talk about the initiative of the President of: 'Feed the Nation'; which takes us to agriculture. I am saying in this Well that we must make use of the Military and the Police to take part in agriculture. In the past, if you go to the streets of Freetown, you hardly find a Military Officer [*Undertones*] but you were a young child by then; I am talking about us, in our days. Mr Speaker, during his days, you hardly see a Military Officer, let them be taken to the farm, let them own State Farms, let them be sent there to work in those farms. They even have professional team in the Military that do road maintenance, so what is happening about that, the Engineers? We are spending so much money on Contractors, when we have educated and qualified people here to do those jobs; so let us make use of that. If we do, honestly Mr Speaker, we will be able to feed ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members on that note, I am again appealing to my Colleagues over there to let us please remove the lens political parties. If we want this nation to succeed, let us remove the heart of political party and do the right thing. I want say again, thank you Honourable Jawah Sesay, thank you Honourable Conteh, for your speech here this morning; they were very nationalistic and to the point, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Acting Leader of the Opposition. It is now the turn of the Leader of Government Business to wrap up the debate; and I will kindly ask him to take note of the fact that, I want to rise by 5:00pm.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, you don't know me for wrapping up a debate for only 15 minutes; if you talk of two or three hours, that is better. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you all for your numerous contributions; it has been a long five days, in trying to see how best we can digest the speech of the President; we have tried our best to be nationalistic. Some of us were very passionate about it, some of us were futuristic and some pessimistic; thank you all for your numerous contributions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a special thanks to join the President of what he said in paragraph [4]; we want to thank you very much for what you have done, for he actually congratulated you because of your re-election. Mr Speaker, I want to be reciprocal in using paragraph [4] to say His Excellency the President, the democratic President of Sierra Leone; the man who transformed from a Military rule to a Civilian rule, the man who said I will bring Foday Sankoh from the jungle and put him on a negotiating table, as I am yearning for peace. I will make a pathway for peace in this nation; that brings about the negotiation peace at the Yamasoko Peace Accord – that was what he did, a very reconciliatory man; thank you Mr President, as we are today enjoying democracy because, you started it as that is why people call him 'father of democracy', I salute you and I thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join my Honourable Colleague on the other side; as I said, I have tremendous respect for you, I do count on you so Do not look at those who have their own agenda, but look at the spirit of the Constitution; Section [97] Sub-section [B]. You have not alienated yourself from your people but rather, align yourself based on your people's aspirations; it is very clear in the Constitution, and I do admire you. I met with you a long time ago at the Stadium Hostels since then, we have been interacting. One thing about you is that, you are a man held in high esteem, somebody who can speak the truth; I can never be a hypocrite because, I always serve my conscience and God, and give respect to people. Thank God, we have passed in the hands of Mr Speaker sited here, he knows me very well; when he sees me in a desperate mood, he knows the language that he speaks to me and I know when he is desperate too, so there is no need for hypocrisy in this House. But let me join you to re-echo the voice of President Bio; in 2022, paragraph [155] Mr Speaker, can you allow me, I will wrap up in the next five or ten minutes? The closing of my speech will be 'reconciliation'; Mr Speaker, may I read the words of President Bio in paragraph [155] of the 2022 Presidential Speech? Permit me with your leave, to cross this place, in order to shake the hands of my Honourable Colleague from the other side, and to extend the sign of reconciliation in this Well; with your permission [*undertones*], we will meet there then, thank you. Mr Speaker, I told you I will wrap up soon; I have explained the

language that we use in paragraph [7] - Representation of Women. I have quoted the Gender Empowerment Act and the Political Parties Registration Commission [PPRC] giving powers to women, the Public Elections Act making reference to Section [58] on how we have empowered Women in the Fifth Parliament to help President Bio to address the issue of Gender Parity. I would not want to go back, but with this statement of my closing remarks, I want to be very considerate; paragraph [155] and I read Mr Speaker *[Undertones], [You have not been paying attention, so it is not my 'cup of tea'; it is because you have failed to listen to your Leader when he is speaking so that means, you are a sinner].*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, President Bio's Speech in the Chamber of Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown; on Tuesday, the 10th of May, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the morning. In conclusion, paragraph [155] page 36; you have heard a lot about my government accomplishment but the job is far from over, our challenges can never be disappeared but together, we can create new dreams and hopes. Instead of new fears and crises, we can step out of our past and become architects of the future; together, we can elevate our national conscience, improve the economic and physical health conditions of our nation, and affirm the greatest of our nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in addition to this, let me take you to the current speech as a sign of reconciliation; paragraph [63], in the 2023 Presidential Speech Episode [62] in the current Presidential Speech [62]; let us never take the peace and stability we currently enjoy for granted. Let us take a look around us both at our continent and worldwide, we have witnessed the devastating consequences that unfold when political actors fail to resolve their differences with maturity and respect for the Law. Mr Speaker, I have decided to be very reconciliatory, and use the words of President Bio because, we have had illustrious aspersions and innuendoes after the elections; but when the time of peace comes, we should consolidate peace, we have had war and we have yearned for peace; if we have peace today, it is our business to consolidate peace. The big five we are talking about can only become a dream and a reality to us, when there is peace; it is only when there is peace, we can talk about

development. In the first half of this year, we have spent so much only to enhance job creation and food security, up to **Le18.5Mln** in the new currency; we can only continue to achieve if we yearn for peace and national reconciliation. I have used the words of President Bio so that we can look at ourselves; the man best inspection is the conscience and the best judgement you can get is within your conscience and God, and the only witness you have at night is the pillow. So let us look at ourselves as not even in a dream because, the pillow can never speak to you Mr Speaker. But let me assure you that, if you serve your conscious and serve your God well, you can only be a righteous man, you can stand upright and defend any issues in the interest of any nation like Sierra Leone. We have heard so much about Politicians but the question we should ask ourselves is: are we sincere in what we say and do? The law is the law, reconciliation does not mean you have to bastardise the Rule of Law; in fact, to reconcile and make it more solid, you have to do it with the rule of law because as a nation we should stand united, we should be respecter of the rule of Law; So that is where we are today. We have had exchanges from Ruling government to Opposition and from Opposition to Ruling government; I have served in all of these, I have been there and I am here, no man stands alone. But to our friends, those who think that political platforms are used to destroy the beauty of a nation and the good aspirations of Sierra Leoneans, I will use the words of Bob Marley; politics are about policies, not about making enemies. Let me send these words to you from Bob Marley, he said; 'emancipate yourself from mental slavery' [*Undertones*] yes. Mr Speaker, let us depend on policies in order to make our nation great, and let us rise up to the occasion for a changed nation; that was what President Bio said, let us change the trajectory so he brought in the 'New Direction'. All of these human capital developments, from the spirit of the Constitution are about how we can reform ourselves, our internal structures and our out being - both how we think and react. So it is always good for us to say we Politicians, in the 70s and 80s; but those days have gone. Mr Speaker, you have experienced it, so you are a living testament for a real reconciliation in Sierra Leone; I have listened to you made speeches since you started this debate, calling on our colleagues, talking to them to serve the interest of their nation because our political

parties are just a micro aspect of the macro features that we have, and we can only survive by making good policies. When Liberians were killed for rice, we were here having enough essential commodities because of good policy. Under the macro-economic budgetary performance in 2020, I repeat Mr Speaker: Under the macro-economic Budgetary Performance in 2020, we introduced what we call 'Quick Action Economic Recovery Program' (QAERP), in order for us to get essential commodities in the market. So policies are there towards shaping the lives of your people, whiles people are yearning and struggling to get essential foods, we are having them in abundance because of good planning and policy. Let me use these words again; 'you can fool people sometimes, but you cannot fool them all of the time'; that is the signal we are sending to the people. Today Mr Speaker, I have made all of the citations here: consistencies in policy drive, President Bio has been very consistent in 'Feed Salone'. Look at all the speeches he has made in this House - consistent in food and agricultural production, food security. Mr Speaker, you were not here when we were talking about agric-credit facilities given to people in the interest of allocating **SLE80.8Bln** in the old currency targeting twelve thousand farmers in the last rice subsidy production, we were able to do something. All of these we are talking about, can only be good for us if we can come together as Sierra Leoneans and stays together. So let us believe in our Institutions, and let us respect them; we cannot be bastardising them and yet, talk about reconciliation, so if we bastardise them, we are also bastardising the very root of reconciliation. There is no perfect structure that we can boost of, there is neither any perfect law nor any perfect human being; the only perfect being or spirit that we have is God, because He, is a spiritual being - we cannot even see or feel it, but we do worship God. Those who are Muslims will follow the footsteps of Prophet Mohammad [Peace and Blessing be upon him], that is in fact, when you are talking about education - the Hadiths and the Quran talked about education for those who are Muslims. The only way we can transform our nation Mr Speaker, is for us to use the Hadiths to talk about education and it is by education that we can talk about reconciliation; that is the backbone of our reconciliation in this nation [*Undertones*]. I am a fervent Catholic

Christian and a Knight for that matter; so I do not compromise my faith for anything and that is why I always stand tall to talk about the things that I want to talk about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me entreat you with these words that we as Christians, if you fail to educate a nation, you fail to educate your very self because, you have failed to educate the people. As you fail to drive the Congregation with you, you have failed to pass the message of God the father and you have failed Christ; but we cannot be allowed to fail Christ, so we take our Congregation with us. In our political drive as Politician, we depend on political holiness; what is this political holiness? To think aloud, think with your people, suffer with your people and find solution for them *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I will go on and on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I started by following the speeches of President Bio, follow the speech of the Constitution, enhancing and praising Honourable Mohammed Bangura as a very smart Sierra Leonean; he has made his way and he is a vibrant man. I remember on several occasions, he was over 98.1 challenging people, talking about Maada Bio; because it is politics and about your interest at the moment. Today, he has seen the interest of the nation first, that is why he is here; so I support him with the spirit of the Constitution, of Section [97]. I have also talked about the spirit of the Quran and the Bible; I made mention of the problems in Education, as to how we can move along with our Congregation. I will now end by reading paragraph [63] with which I started when I opened the debate. Mr Speaker, it falls upon our shoulders, to safeguard this democracy, to support our citizens, as we propel the economy further and to create safe and stable atmosphere, where every Sierra Leonean can flourish; holding their heads high with pride on the global stage.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I will end with the principles of liberty, with the principles of looking at Sierra Leone, in assuming independence in order to beef up ourselves, but not to mortgage our country or ourselves to any nation. To believe in the spirit of oneness in 1961, we asked for freedom; but let me again... I had wanted to wrap up but what I am coming up with is very important Mr Speaker. In 1961, we fought for our independence and that is the time we had it; not by violence, but by

using our conscience, our might as human beings, as Sierra Leoneans. In the likes of the late Sir Albert and Milton Margai's; I will use the same paragraph [61] to remember Sierra Leoneans about civil liberty in the President's speech: Paragraph [61]; 'We have long since departed from the darkness of conflict and embrace the eliminating light of freedom and democratic principles'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, let this Parliament... that was why I said let me end. That was why I had to cross half-way to the Mace in order to embrace my brother from the other side, because he has called for reconciliation and the President Bio too has called for reconciliation; but that does not mean that we are going to compromise the principles of democracy, which includes the 'Rule of Law' but we can still be reconciled. In reconciling, it is obvious that your right will be your right but it should be done under the rule of law; Mr Speaker, let this Parliament, this beckon of hope, continue to lead the way, exemplifying dedication, to the noble task of nation building. Thank you very much, and thank you all for your contributions; may the good Lord bless us all
[Applause].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, let me move. Mr Speaker, I move 'saful' SO [2]; as I concluded saful, saful SO [2]:

Be it resolved that we the Members of Parliament here assemble, wish to thank His Excellency the President for the address he so graciously delivered, on the occasion of the State Opening of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament, of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, in the Chamber of Parliament, on Thursday 3rd August, 2023. Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of Government Business for his Motion.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President Dr Julius Maada Bio, proposed by the Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma has been carried].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me just consult with the Leader for one second.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SESSIONAL SELECT COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as Chairman of the Selection Committee of this Sixth Parliament, and pursuant to Sub-Section 93[i] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991, Act No. 6 of 1991 and SO [70] paragraphs 1a, 1b and 13a of the Standing Orders of Parliament, I will now wish to present to you for adoption, the membership of the Standing Committee provided for by that section of the Constitution. And with your indulgence, I will call on the Honourable Member from the Western Area; the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, to do us the honour of reading out the membership of the respective committees that have been proposed for your consideration and approval. Over to you Honourable Tawa.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members; list of Sessional Committees as per the provisions read by your good self are as follows:

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chairman – Hon. Matthew Sahr Nyuma.

Deputy Chairman- Hon. Bashiru Silikie.

The following Honourable are members of the Committee;

Saa Emerson Lamina,

Ibrahim Tawa Conteh,

Nenneh Lebbie,

Mohammed Bangura

One other slots for the APC and

P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberek III.

SECRETARY AND CLERK.

Paran Umar Tarawally.

STANDING ORDER COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Hon. Speaker, Dr Abass Chernor Bundu.

Deputy Chairman: Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas.

The following Honourable, are members of the Committee.

Hon. Bashiru Silikie (member)

Hon. Dickson Momoh Rogers (member)
Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma (member)
Two slots for the APC and
P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah [III] (member)

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE

Chairman –APC

Deputy Chairman- APC

The following Honourable are members of the Committee.

Bashiru Silikie

Mathew Sahr Nyuma.

Ibrahim Tawa Conteh.

Saa Emerson Lamina.

Two slots for the APC.

P.C Haja Fatmata Bintu Meama Kajue Koroma (member).

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

Chairman- APC

Deputy Chairman- APC.

Four other slots for APC.

The following Honourable are members of the committee.

Osman Wurie Jalloh

Hindolo Moiwo Gevao

Mohamed Kanneh

Nenneh Lebbie

Amie Nyava Moriba.

Brima Mansaray.

Mariama Munia Zombo.

Rugiatu Tarawallie-Mussaffa

Fatmata Sarah Soukenah

P.C Alhaji Masakama Kanamanka [III]

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman - Hon. Abdul Suleiman Marray Conteh.

Deputy Chairman - Hon P.C Cyril Foray Gondor III.

The following Honourable are members of the committee.

Charles Osman Abdulai

Hindolo Morrow Gevao

Ibrahim Tawa Conteh

Alice Kornya Sandy

Alpha Fodie Madie Jabbie

Margaret Feimata Johnson

Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara

Six slots for the APC.

Hon. P.C Paul Ngaba Saquee

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Chairman- Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas

Deputy Chairman- Hon. P.C Desmond Mahayei Kargobia II

The following Honourable are members of the committee.

Hawa Roseline Saifa

Bashiru Silikie

Emilia Lolloh Tongi.

Dickson Momoh Rogers

Jibrila SurMojjueh

Francis Amara Kaisamba

Three Slots for the APC members.

P.C Haja Fatmata Bintu Meama Kajue Koroma (member).

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairman- Hon. Francis Amara Kaisamba.

Deputy Chairman- Musa Mustapha Sellu

The following Honourable are members of the Committee.

Ibrahim Tawa Conteh

Mohamed Tawallie Fofanah

Ishmael Yillah Sankoh

Rebecca Yei Kamara
Momoh Bockarie
Christopha Kekura Vandy
Habib Keifa Fabbah
Alfred Ayodele Thompson
Five Slots for the APC.
P.C Desmond Mahayei Kargobai [II]

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

Chairman- Hon. Mohamed Bangura
Deputy Chairman- Alfred Ayodele Thompson
The following Honourable are members of the committee.
Sia Mahawa Habiyama Tommy
Abdul Karim Bangura
Boston Munda
Bernedette Wuyatte Songa
Emilia Lolloh Tongi
Mohamed Kanneh
Mohamed Billoh Shaw
Ambrose Maada Lebby
Alice Kornya Sandy.
Four other slots for the APC
P.C Kandeh Paria kawaleh [II]

COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

Chairman- Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina
Deputy Chairman –Hon. Bintu Fatmata Bockarie
The following Honourable are members of the committee.
Mohamed Sidi Tunis
Bashiru Silikie
Tamba Simeon Johnny
Musa Fofanah

P.C Alhaji Masakama Kanamaka [III]
Fatmata Sarah Soukenah
Edward George
Alfred Ayodele Thompson
Five other slots for the APC
Hon. P.C Paul Ngaba Saquee [IV] (member)

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Chairman- Hon. Bernedette Wuyatte Songa
Deputy Chairman- Racheal Mariatu Sesay-Pessima
The following Honourable are members of the committee.
Dickson Momoh Rogers
Yusuf Mackery
Mariama Munia Zombo
Tamba Simeon Johnny
Sarty Banya
Umu Pyne
Margaret Feimata Johnson
Six Slots for the APC
P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah the third

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman-APC
Deputy Chairman- APC.
Four other slots for the APC
Hon. Juliana Aliematu Fatorma
Hon. Musa Fofanah
Hon. Amie Nyava Moriba
Hon. Adama Bangura
Hon. Hawanatu Alice Kallon
Hon. Charles Osman Abdulai
Hon. Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh

Hon. Hawa Roseline Siafa
Hon. Hindolo Moiwo Gevao
P.C Bai Farama Tass Bubu Ngbak [IV]

COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

Chairman- Hon. Joseph Williams-Lamin
Deputy Chairman- Hon. Shiaka Musa Sama
The following Honourables are members of the committee.
Ibrahim Koroma
Sahr Emerson Lamina
Musa Lahai
Francis Amara Kaisamba
Alice Kornya Sandy
Abdul Sulaiman Marray Conteh
Capt. Rtd. Sylvester Arnold Maxwell Boima
Six slots for the APC.
P.C Capt. Rtd. Bio Prince Lansana.

COMMITTEE ON BASIC AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Chairman - Hon. Alpha Fodie Madie Jalloh
Deputy Chairman - Hon. Hawa Roseline Siafa
The following Honourables are members of the committee.
Christopha Kekura Vandy
Nenneh Lebbie
Konkofa Farah Mansaray
Beatrice Maaya Kangbai
Foyoh Tholley
Ibrahim Koroma
Umu Pyne
Six slots for the APC.
P.C Paul Ngaba Saquee

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES.

Chairman- Hon. Nenneh Lebbie

Deputy Chairman –Emilia Loloh Tongi

The following Honourables are member of the committee.

Hon Sia Mahawa Habiyama Tommy

Sarty Banya

Mariama Ella Goba

Beatrice Maaya Kangbai

Quintin Konneh Salia

Amara Momoh Kargbo

Brima Mansaray

Mohamed Bangura

Five slots for the APC.

P.C Sheku Terenah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Lai Marrah the third.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Chairman- Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh

Deputy Chairman - Hon. Joseph Bash Kamara.

The following Honourable are members of the committee.

Mohamed Sidie Tunis

Jibrila SurMojjueh

Sheikh Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo

Yusuf Mackery

Mohammed Billoh Shaw

Mohammed Rahman Sherriff Coker

Abu Kemokai

Six slots for the APC

P.C Foday Stephen Faba Kpakra

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Chairman- Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay

Deputy Chairman - Hon. Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh

The following Honourable are members of the committee

Komba Quee

Adama Bangura

Osman Wurie Jalloh

Rugiatu Tarawallie-Mussaffa

Fallah Kenewah Tengbeh

Beatrice Maaya Kangbai

Tamba Simeon Johnny

Six slots for the APC and

the P.C from Pujehun, to complete the membership.

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Chairman - Hon. Alex Mattia Rogers

Deputy Chairman- Hon. Cpt. Rtd. Sylvester A. M Boima

The following Honourable are members of the committee.

Shiaka Musa Sama

Abdul Suleiman Marray Conteh

Alpha Fodie Madie Jabbie

Konkofa Farah Mansaray

Juliana Aliematu Fatorma

Princess Kadie Daramy

Abdulai Karim Kanu

Six slots for the APC

P.C Cpt. Rtd. Bio Prince Lansana

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Chairman - Hon. Abu Kemokai

Deputy Chairman - Hon. Sarty Banyu

The following Honourable are members of the committee

Charles Osman Abdulai

Momoh Bockarie

Tamba Quee

Hon. Cpt. Rtd. Sylvester A.M Boima
Veronica Kadie Sesay
Abdulai Karim Kanu
Musa Lahai
Six slots for the APC
P.C Cpt. Rtd. Prince Lansana Bio

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Chairman- Hon. Christopha Kekura Vandy
Deputy Chairman - Hon. Charles Osman Abdulai
The following Honourable are members of the committee.
Sahr Emerson Lamina
Amara Momoh Kargbo
Massay Ngahiteh Aruna
Princess Kadie Daramy
Ibrahim Kabba
Sahr Koutu Momodu
Beatrice Iyamide Langley
Six slots for the APC
P.C Haja Fatmata Bintu Meama Kajue Koroma

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Chairman - Hon. Boston Munda
Deputy Chairman-Hon. Mohamed Kanneh
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Alie Bayoh
Bashiru Silikie
Ibrahim Koroma
Veronica Kadie Sesay
Mohammed Sidie Tunis
Jibrila SurMojjueh
Ambrose Maada Lebbie

Mohammed Bangura
Five slots for the APC
P.C Baba Keiha Kandeh [III]

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Chairman- Hon. Ambrose Maada Lebbie
Deputy Chairman - Hon. Momoh Bockarie
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Musa Lahai
Mohammed Kanneh
Margaret Feimata Johnson
Boston Munda
Bashiru Silikie
Alex Mattia Rogers
Dickson Momoh Rogers
Mohammed Bangura
Alfred Ayodele Thompson
Four other slots for the APC.
P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberah [III]

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE

Chairman - Hon. Mohammed Sherriff Rahman Coker
Deputy Chairman - Hon. Massay Ngahiteh Aruna
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Mohamed Billoh Shaw
Alie Bayoh
Amie Nyava Moriba
Ibrahim Kabba
Idriss Sahid Kamara
Beatrice Iyamide Langley
Fatmata Sarah Soukeneh
Six slots for the APC

P.C Bai farama Tass Bubu Ngbak [IV]

COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Chairman- Hon. Musa Lahai

Deputy Chairman- Hon. Fallah Kenawah Tengbeh

The following Honourables are members of the committee

Hawanatu Alice Kallon

Alie Bayoh

Amie Nyava Moriba

Habib Keifa Fabbah

Konkofa Farah Mansaray

Juliana Aliematu Fatorma

Fatmata Sarah Soukeneh

Six slots for the APC

P.C Cyril Foray Gondor [II]

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Chairman - Hon. Musa Fofanah

Deputy Chairman - Hon. Edward George

The following Honourable are members of the committee;

Saa Emerson Lamina

Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo

Mustapha Sellu

Cpt. Rtd. Sylvester A.M Boima

Hindolo Moiwo Gevao

Idrissa Moiwai Dauda

Ahmed Joseph Kanu

Six slots for the APC

P.C Kandeh Baba keiha [III]

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Chairman - Hon. Rebecca Yei Kamara

Deputy Chairman - Hon. Amie Nyava Moriba

The following Honourable are members of the committee

Abdulai Karim Kanu

Habib Keifa Fabbah

Amara Momoh Kargbo

Foyoh Tholley

Umu Pyne

Musa Fofanah

Emilia Lolloh Tongi

Six slots for the APC

P.C Kandeh Baba keiha [III]

COMMITTEE ON LANDS HOUSING AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Chairman - Hon Quintin Salia Konneh

Deputy Chairman - Hon Benjamin Turay

The following Honourables are members of the committee

Bintu Fatmata Bockarie

Alex Mattia Rogers

Yusuf Mackery

Ibrahim Kabba

Massay Ngahiteh Aruna

Ishmael Sankoh Yillah

Abdul Karim Bangura

Six slots for the APC

P.C Bai Farama Tass Bubu Ngbak [IV]

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Chairman – Hon. Dickson Momoh Rogers

Deputy Chairman- Hon. Feimata Johnson

The following Honourable are members of the committee

Umu Pyne

Abdul Karim Bangura

Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
Idrissa Sahid Kamara
Osman Wurie Jalloh
Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
Adama Bangura
Abdul Karim Bangura
Six slots for the APC
P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberah [III]

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

Chairman – APC
Deputy Chairman- APC
Four other slots for the APC
The following Honourables are members of the committee
Ishmael Sankoh Yillah
Joseph Williams Lamin
Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
Beatrice Iyamide Langley
Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
Idrissa Moiwai Dauda
Rugiatu Tarawallie-Mussafa
Aliematu Fatorma
Princess Kadie Daramy
P.C Kandeh Baba Keiha [III]

COMMITTEE ON WORKS AND PUBLIC ASSET

Chairman – Hon. Bashiru Silikie
Deputy Chairman- Hon. Habib Keifa Fabbah

The following Honourables are members of the committee
Farah Kenewah Tengbeh
Rugiatu Tarawallie-Mussafa

Saa Emerson Lamina
Ambrose Maada Lebbie
Boston Munda
Joseph Williams Lamin
Ahmed Joseph Kanu
Six slots for the APC
P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberah [III]

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS.

Chairman – APC
Deputy Chairman- APC
Four other slots for the APC
The following Honourables are members of the committee
Hawanatu Alice Kallon
Idrissa Sahid Kamara
Sia Mahawa Habiyama Tommy
Alice Konya Sandy
Sahr Koutu Momodu
Idrissa Moiwai Dauda
Tamba Quee
Mohamed Tarawallie Fofanah
Edward George
P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah [III]

COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS

Chairman – APC
Deputy Chairman- APC
Four other slots for the APC

The following Honourables are members of the committee
Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
Musa Peter Moigua

Veronica Kadie Sesay
Ibrahim Tawa Conteh
Rugiatu Tarawallie-Mussaffa
Alice Kornya Sandy
Mariama Munia Zombo
Rachael Mariatu Pessima Sesay
Mohammad Tarawallie Fofanah
P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah [III]

COMMITTEE ON NACSA AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Chairman – Hon. Mohammed Billoh Shaw
Deputy Chairman- Hon. Mariama Ella Goba
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Tamba Simon Johnny
Bernedette Wuyatte Songa
Rachael Mariatu Sesay Pessima
Hawa Roseline Siafa
Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara
Sahr Koutu Momodu
Mohammed Sheriff Rahman Coker
Six slots for the APC
P.C Sheku Terenah Thor Thor Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Lai Marrah [III]

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Chairman – APC
Deputy Chairman- APC
Four other slots for the APC
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Princess Kadie Daramy
Joseph Williams Lamin
Adama Bangura
Tamba Quee

Ahmed Joseph Kanu
Abdul Suleiman Marray Conteh
Dickson Momoh Rogers
Musa Peter Moigua
Brima Mansaray
P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah [III]

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairman – Hon. Yusuf Mackery
Deputy Chairman- Hon. Mariama Munia Zombo
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Abu Kemokai
Beatrice Iyamide Langley
Brima Mansaray
Rebecca Yei Kamara
Habib Keifa Fabbah
Mustapha Sellu
Sahr Koutu Momodu
Six slots for the APC
P.C of Pujehun member

COMMITTEE ON SPORT

Chairman – Hon. Hindolo Moiwo Gevao
Deputy Chairman- Hon. P.C Paul Ngaba Saquee
The following Honourables are members of the committee
Hon. Ahmed Joseph Kanu
Hon. Abdulai Karim Kanu
Hon. Idrissa Sahid Kamara
Hon. Amara Momoh Kargbo
Hon. Massay Ngahiteh Aruna
Hon. Foyoh Tholley
Hon. Musa Peter Moigua

Hon. Quintin Salia Konneh
Six slots for the APC
P.C Foday Stephen Kpakra Faba

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CIVIL EDUCATION

Chairman – APC
Deputy Chairman- APC
Four other slots for the APC
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Brima Mansaray
Bashiru Silikie
Benjamin Turay
Tamba Simon Johnny
Veronica Kadie Sesay
Bintu Fatmata Bockarie
Dickson Momoh Rogers
Musa Lahai
Ibrahim Kabba
P.C Cyril Foray Gondor [II]

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES

Chairman – Hon. Sheku Thor Thor Terenah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanho Lai Marrah [III]
Deputy Chairman- Hon. P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberek [III]
The following Honourable are members of the committee
Dickson Momoh Rogers
Christopha Kekura Vandy
Saa Emerson Lamina
Veronica Kadie Sesay
Quintin Salia Konneh
Joseph Williams Lamin
Alpha Fodie Madie Jabbie

Mohammed Bangura

Five slots for the APC

P.C Foday Stephen Faba Kpakra

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the sessional Committees read, be approved by the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

[Membership for the respective Sessional Select Committees as announced by Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, have been approved].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me just add a caveat that the membership being read out, is not immutable. If you feel that you have the capacity to serve in any committee for which you are well qualified and equipped, please come forward after the recess and let us know.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House was adjourned to Thursday, 12th October, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.]