

AU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

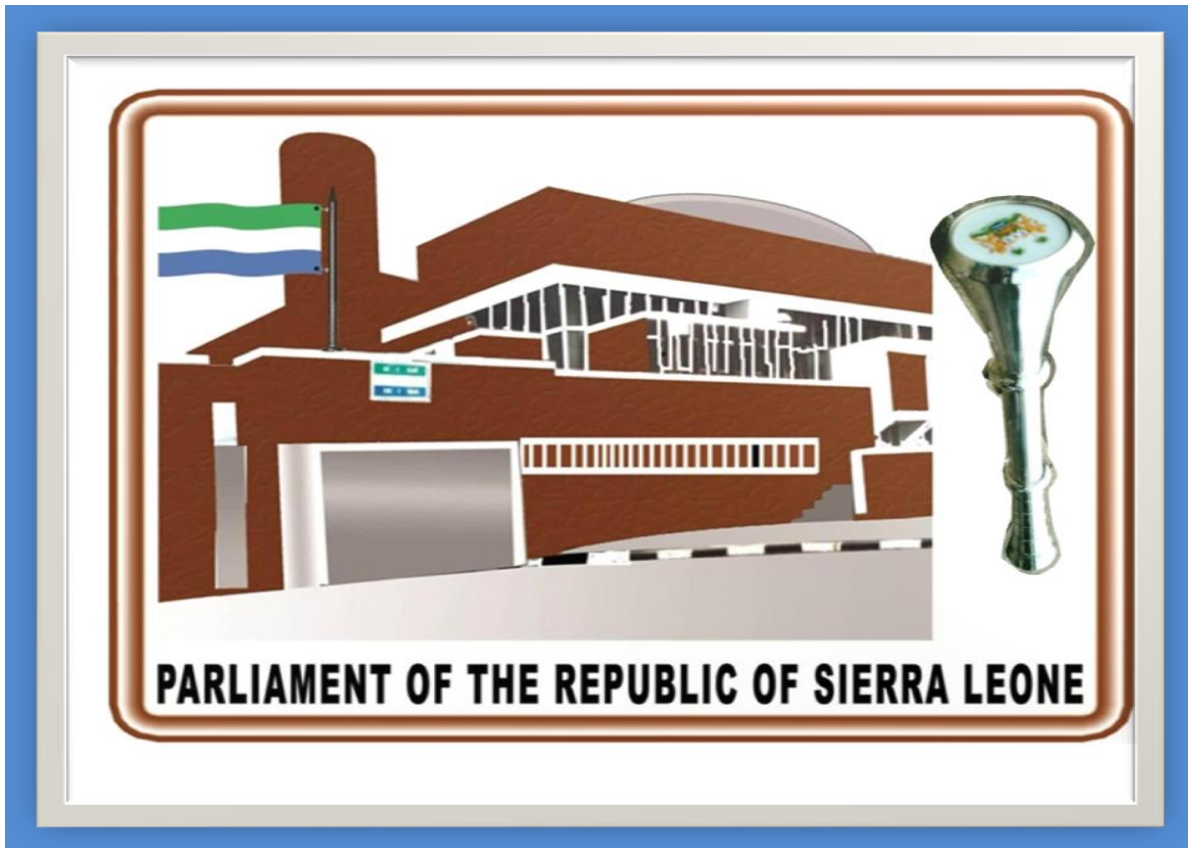
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 2023

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 19th October, 2023.

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PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. BASIRU SILIKIE

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE EIGHT 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.

- V. GOVERNMENT MOTION**
THE MINISTER OF ENERGY

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023:

- i. THE 148.5 MW PPA AMENDMENT FOR THE WESTERN AREA POWER GENERATION**
- ii. THE 15 MW AC SOLAR AND STORAGE POWER GENERATION PROJECT (NEWTON)**

**iii. THE 28.2 MW BETAMAI HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT
(PAMPANA RIVER)**



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 19th October, 2023.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Edward S. Lebbie, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:30a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Moved for the Motion for the *Suspension of S.O. 5[2]*

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Seconded the motion.

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

IV of the Order Paper be read: Motion on the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service

Proposer: Hon. Basiru Silikie

Secunder: Hon. Sahr Emerson Lamina

I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to that Motion?

HON. BANYA SARTY: I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion moved by the Acting Leader of Government Business has been carried]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023

THE SPEAKER: Records of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 12th October 2023. In doing so we shall skip Pages 1 through to 4 and start our concentration from page 5. Any amendment page 5, page 6, page 7, and finally page 8. Thank you, can someone please move?

HON. HABIB KEIFA FABBA: I so move

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. MASSAY N. ARUNA: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 12th October 2023 has been adopted]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Let me start by way of conveying the congratulations of the entire House including myself. To the two Parties represented in Parliament, for the successful dialogue they have held at the Bintumani Conference Centre over the last several days. As some of you may have seen, the Communique from that dialogue has been published on Social Media. Very early this morning I had the opportunity to read it and it is precisely what I have read and believe it was quite in place in furtherance of our Democracy in this country and I now take the opportunity to congratulate both sides that took part in that dialogue. All of us would do so more enthusiastically when we would have been joined by our Colleagues who have been long in coming. I had actually hoped that they would have come this morning to be part of the Proceedings. I noticed unfortunately they are not yet here, maybe they will come in the course of the Proceedings in which case we shall all welcome them and ensure that the needful is done, namely: the Swearing in of the new Members which legally effectively will make them Members of Parliament.

Honourable Members, the good thing is that, one of the greatest expectations by coming to the House has been fulfilled. I want to underline one fundamental principle in the Sierra Leone Constitution of 1919. The Sierra Leone Constitution is predicated on the existence and maintenance of a Multi-Party Democracy. What that means is that the 1991 Constitution eschews, condemns, and considers totally unacceptable a one-party system of governance for this country. This means at all times the composition of this House should be democratic with at least two parties represented in it, and this is why I have been urging the Members of the Opposition to see reason and to see the need for them to come and represent their electorates who voted them to Parliament and to perform their constitutional responsibilities accordingly.

I want to say in advance I extend a very warm hand of felicitation filled with the utmost expectation that before we rise we might enjoy the company of our Colleagues to my left. I don't know whether the Acting Acting Leader of the Opposition has anything to tell us.

Honourable Member, are you as optimistic as you have just nodded? Does your optimism extend to expecting them to arrive today or another day? How soon is soon? Very well then, I know that my humble self and all of you are so very expectant this morning and we shall remain so until the conclusion of our Proceedings today that we have the honour and the real privilege of welcoming to Chamber our Colleagues from the Opposition.

With that, we may proceed with the rest of the Business.

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

Proposer – Hon. Bashiru Silikie

Seconder – Hon. Sahr Emerson Lamina

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

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eight Report on the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023 and interviewed **six** Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- i. The Director General, National Mineral Agency (NMA)
- ii. The Executive Director, Sierra Leone Investment Board (SLIB)
- iii. One Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy –Qatar
- iv. The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission (TSC)
- v. The Chairman, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Board and
- vi. The Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission.

2. Procedure

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

3. Tenth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. Mr Hadji Dabo, Proposed Director General , National Mineral Agency(NMA)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Hadji Dabo is a Professional Engineer of no means standing with a plethora of engineering services skills both at private and the public levels. Before stepping into the Government mining services, he spent the greater part of his youthful mining knowledge at the country's renowned Sierra Rutile Mining Company Limited where he served in various capacities viz:

- 2010-2014- Technical Services /Production Coordinator responsible for managing, and monitoring technical services encompassing geology, mines planning and development, Metallurgy and laboratory quality and control tests;
- 2006- - 2008: Community Affairs Manager, responsible for the mines and Community relations (corporate social relations) during which he superintended both the bauxite and rutile mining concessions under the Titanium Resources Group (TRG) for mining communities in Bo, Moyamba and Bonthe Districts. He performed exemplarily well to his credit and the Companies in question.
- He also served as a professional mining consultant for years prior to his assumption of duty in June, 2019 as Chairman, Board of Directors of the

National Minerals Agency (NMA) where he is now returning as Director General.

- At the Government level, and as Chairman of the NMA, the nominee developed ambitious policy operational documents that are helping both the Agency and the Ministry to monitor the Mining Sector and sustained economic growth.

Mr. Dabo holds a Master of Engineering Degree (1980-1982) from the University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Responding to the Committee on what he would be bringing different to the NMA, he said, the Board already had a working document which he intended to share with the new Chairman and expressed optimism that with teamwork they would achieve the desired vision as a government mining sector

ii. Dr.Edward Hinga Sandi- Proposed Executive Director, National Investment Board (NIB)

Dr.Sandy is an engineer with profound knowledge of environment, geochemistry and health-related issues. He is a renowned research scientist with over sixteen research publications to his credit. Prior to this appointment, he was until recently the Minister of Trade and Industry (2019-2023) after serving as Deputy Minister of Water Resources (2018-2019)

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, this Committee reaffirms all earlier recommendations accorded this nominee during the Fifth Parliament.

In his response to the Committee on the role of the NIB, Dr Sandy said during his tenure as Minister of Trade and Industry many reforms took place that even culminated to the formation of the National Investment Board.

He said the Board functions would now, according to the NIB Act, create a conducive business climate to attract positive business growth and encourage more investors to create jobs in the country.

He concluded on a firm note that once the NIB becomes fully operational, state agencies that have been leading businesses and investment drives would now be subsumed under the roles of the National Investment Board.

iii. Mr Ahmed Tijan Fadlu-Deen – Proposed Sierra Leone Ambassador, Qatar

Mr. Fadlu-Deen is a well-established Business expert with proven track records as CEO and owner of International Business Supply Groups (LLC) and other related Businesses in and out of Sierra Leone. He also doubles as a seasoned Professional in the transport, Aviation Logistics and Construction sectors.

His invaluable first-hand experience in operating across Africa and the Middle East has equipped him with a deep understanding to mitigate challenges of entrepreneurial investment risk. He holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Portsmouth University in the UK and has been very instrumental in encouraging investors from the Middle East who have special investment interests in Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Committee on the investment opportunity the Republic of Sierra Leone stands to gain through diplomatic ties with Qatar, Mr Fadlu Deen remarked that "Qatar is one of the wealthiest countries in terms of per capita and standards of living. The Qatar Investment Authority is also one of the largest in the world. As Ambassador I will use the opportunity to bring investors to Sierra Leone on a large-scale from priority sectors such as agriculture, mining and tourism on either short, medium or long term scale to accelerate economic growth".

The Nominee concluded that he would use his experience as a seasoned business man in Qatar and the entire Arab Region to ensure investments are guaranteed to create more jobs in Sierra Leone.

iv. Mr. Emerson Kamara - Proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission

Mr. Emerson Kamara is a youth activist and has an in-depth knowledge of formulating, coordinating and managing sustainable youth programmes. He served as Deputy Commissioner of the National Youth Commission since 2018 and provided visionary leadership for effective decision-making towards the growth of youths in the country.

He studied at the Milton Margai College of Education then, and gained several Certificates to his credit.

Mr Kamara promised to work with his boss to execute the multi –youth’s programmes already on track especially ‘The Topical youths against drugs abuse campaign’.

v. Mr. Lansana Wuie Keifala – Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission (SLTSC)

Mr. Keifala is a renowned Professional educationist with systematic track record of successful achievements in key educational programmes nationwide. He is passionate about the educational system through his interventions on many development spheres especially the Free Quality School Education Programme which he championed with great success.

From 2018 – 2022; he served as Director of Service Delivery at the Free Quality School Education programmes where he was the focal person at State House for the implementations. His acquaintances with school authorities and community stakeholders across the country have impacted positively in prioritizing school problems and finding solutions.

The nominee has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Sierra Leone and a host of postgraduate Certificates in Educational Management from the UK.

Responding to the Committee, the nominee said his wealth of experience in the school system would help improve the quality recruitment procedures of teachers in the Teaching Service and would further advise the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education (MBSSE) on the over-bloated registration figures of candidates usually sent by Senior schools administrators to the West African Examination Councils for the Senior School Examinations.

He was advised by the Committee to pay close attention to the science teachers' recruitment procedures and distributions to help deprived schools countrywide.

vi. Dr. Bondi Gevao – Chairman , Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection Board

Dr. Bondi Gevao is a renowned Environmental Organic Chemist with proven expertise and experience within government bodies and Research Institutions globally. He started his early educational pursuit at the University of Sierra Leone with a Bachelor of Science Degree (Hons) in Chemistry. He later attained several postgraduate educational credentials and awards in the United Kingdom. (UK)

As a Research Scientist, he has led many critical research activities in and out of Sierra Leone. His wealth of experience has gained rapt attention from the associations of Research Fellows of the University Of Toronto, Canada and others like Lancaster University, UK.

At the National level, Dr. Gevao served as the Executive Chairman of the Environment Protection Agency from 2021 to date with clear and outstanding performance.

Responding to the Committee, the leaned Doctor promised to use his expertise on the foundations already laid by his predecessor and link –up with similar organizations in relation to responding to global treaties and agreements on nuclear radiation and safeguard measures.

4. Excerpt of ninth sitting of the Seventh Report – Monday -10th October, 2023

vii. Mr. Abu Bakarr Karim, Proposed Ambassador –Sierra Leone Embassy People’s Republic of China

Mr Abu Bakarr Karim is a public health professional and policy adviser with extensive knowledge in leadership, governance and trade investment strategies.. Prior to this nomination, he served as Minister of Agriculture where he formulated agricultural development policies and advised the Government on issues relating to administration and management of the agricultural sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members this Committee still reaffirms those desirable attributes of this nominee as were approved during the Fifth Parliament.

Responding to the Committee on how he would strengthen bilateral relationships especially on the agro–tourism sector, affordable housing scheme growth, medical and roads infrastructures, the one-time Ambassador at- Large and adviser to the President mentioned “I am going to China as an agent or business man to look for

interested development partners to serve the needs of Sierra Leone. This is not strange as prior to this appointment; I had very good relationships with varying development experts in diverse fields especially agriculture to which I owe so much passion and practice as a master farmer”

He was encouraged by the Committee to build on the good legacy of his predecessor and to further skew his diplomatic relationship with the People’s Republic of Japan under his accreditation in a bid to tap the economic potential Japan has for developing economies.

viii. **Mr. Harold Bundu Saffa - Proposed Ambassador - Sierra Leone Embassy, Ethiopia/African Union**

Mr. Harold Saffa is a seasoned and reputable diplomat who thrives on new challenges with skills and emotional intelligence, especially in navigating and negotiating complex issues. He has the flexibility to ensure respect and take on board the nuances of ethics and the sensitivity attached to multi-literalism and geopolitics in international organizations.

From 2018- 2023 he served as Deputy Head of Mission, Sierra Leone Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union. Prominent among his responsibilities included deputizing the Head of Mission in his absence and coordinating diaspora issues in the accredited countries such as Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom Netherland France and others.

On his assignment to Ethiopia/African Union, the experienced diplomat said it was a herculean task of not only dealing with the accredited countries but to constantly represent Sierra Leone on major African Union decisions making at Addis Ababa especially when the African Union members are now faced with sub-regional democratic threats and major assignments of peace building under the UN

platform. He will be accredited to Botswana, Mauritania, Namibia, Zambia, South Africa and Ethiopia.

He promised to measure up to the expectations of the Government in building strong diplomatic ties at all spheres.

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. Mr Hadji Dabo, Proposed Director General, National Mineral Agency (NMA)
- II. Dr. Edward Hinga Edward Sandi- Proposed Executive Director, National Investment Board(NIB)
- III. Mr Ahmed Tijan Fadlu- Deen – Proposed Ambassador , Sierra Leone Embassy, Qatar
- IV. Mr. Emerson Kamara - Proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Youths Commission
- V. Mr. Lansana Wuie Keifala – Proposed Chairman , Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission (SLTSC)
- VI. Dr. Bondi Gevao – Chairman , Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection Board
- VII. Mr. Abu Bakarr Karim, Proposed Ambassador –Sierra Leone Embassy People’s Republic of China
- VIII. Mr.Harold Bundu Saffa - Proposed Ambassador -Sierra Leone Embassy, Ethiopia/African Union

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Eight Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Eight 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 1

THE SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of Government Business, before I ask for a seconder to your Motion, I have a question that you must answer. Among the nominees you have named who are before the House for approval, there are three Ambassadors designate. I would like to know from you whether you have received on behalf of this House the agreemor from the receiving countries concerned for the three respective ambassadors you have named in your report.

HON. BASIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, we interviewed the three ambassadors, the man going to China and Addis on Monday the 10th and they were not presented because we did not receive their agreemor and we also interviewed the other nominee a few days ago, but the Committee has been assured by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Minister and Director General that the agreemor will be available fullest. But we have advised going forward as a Committee that once nominees are presented to this House especially those going to embassies they should be accompanied by their agreemor.

THE SPEAKER: In light of what has happened I think I am going to make a ruling on this matter. I will predicate the ruling with a little background for the edification of all the Members of Parliament.

I sitting here as your Speaker, today was not your Speaker yesterday nor would I be tomorrow, but for the moment I am the Speaker of this House, and for the sake of posterity, when I would have left this chair I would not like future generations to come and say with all the wealth of experience and education Dr. Abass Budu had, why did they proceed the way that they did under his watch as Speaker?

Before the interview of these nominees for the Diplomatic Appointments, I enquired from the Leader of Government Business whether he had received the agreemor of the nominees concerned and he said no he had not, and I advised that they should not be interviewed until the agreemor..... He pleaded with me that they were just going to be interviewed but they would not be presented to the House for approval until the agreemor arrived. The moment the interview was done pressures started piling up from different quarters asking for approval to be carried out by the House.

Now with modesty let me tell you my background Honourable Members. I have three degrees in Law; two of them with specializations: an LLB with Honours from the National University of Australia where I graduated in 1969. After that, I went on to Cambridge where I acquired my LLM Honours and my Ph.D. in International Law and Constitutional Law and I have practiced Law since my call over fifty years now. So I would not want youngsters to come tomorrow after I have left this chair and ask questions, under the watch of Dr. Abass Bundu, to see what was done wrongly. I would not be around to defend myself but let be on record, you would not be around either and the kind of enthusiasm that I see in you, you will be elsewhere; but in all seriousness let me make this clear, from now on, and this is a ruling and it should be reported to the Clerk for all times let it be on the records.

From now on, no nominee will be interviewed by the Appointments Committee for a Diplomatic Appointment abroad unless, in addition to all the little conditions that you people normally enquire them to bring, the following two ingredients are tender: First is the Letter of Appointment by His Excellency the President; Second the Agreement from the receiving country to which the Diplomat would be proceeding as Ambassador.

2 AMIE JIMMY.....0:45 – 1:10

Those two documents must be presented to Parliament before the commencement of the interview of the candidate for approval.

It is stride international best practice for those requirements to be meant before any approval procedure is entertained in this House. I have come under tremendous pressure from different quarters, that would go nameless to allow this to be an exception and it would be the outmost exception that I am making in this particular instance and never again will I sit here and approved anyone for appointment for a diplomatic post without the agrimon be tender to this House we must learn to act and obey and conduct our activities according to Law. We are a country that believes in the rule of Law, we believe in procedures you may call me old edition if you like but thank God old editions are around in fact I feel gratified today that I see among the nominees some people who are also in the departure lounges of their professions experience is something you do not buy, you

gain it through practice and you young stars don't ever think you can do well without the older ones and the experience, you need us at all times to be around to guide you from your own fallings and mistakes, so I hope you are paying attention to you particularly and I repeat no more interviews of diplomatic appointment unless two things are tender to Parliament first the letter of appointment from the Presidency second the **Agrimony** before the procedures of Parliament for approval are commenced let that be a ruling of this House going forward that said I will now ask for a seconder

HON. EMERSON LAMINA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Who is the Seconder?

HON. EMERSON LAMINA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

THE SPEAKER: I will give the floor to the Seconder in the first instance.

HON. EMERSON LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in concurrences with section 61 of Act Number 6 of the 1991 Constitution with your Leave Mr Speaker I read: Subject to the Provision of this Constitution and of any Act of Parliament the President may Constitute offices for Sierra Leone, make appointment to any such office and terminate any such appointment. In concurrence with this particular section, Mr Speaker, His Excellence the President has done us justice to confined Sierra Leoneans who are here today before this Honourable House Mr Speaker among the seven or eight million or so depict to come and serve Sierra Leoneans what a blessing, what a luck. Mr Speaker, in a next five years or so we the Politicians we expect you to be active, to be agile, to be effective, to be efficient and of good attendance record in the next five years at the expiration of that five years we the Politicians will now take the front role, front role of campaigning, front role of marketing our new manifesto so that we can keep the APC in Perpetual opposition [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, what do we expect from these nominees

number one find out the things that are be going on right in those institutions that you are going to, find out also the things that are not be going on right in those institutions it will help you form the PTT The Performance Tracking Table of your very staff, the very members of Staff who are not be going on well here, what have not be going on well here, they can be guided through that. I cannot comment much Mr Speaker before the war I was not much experienced but during war period in my young teenage to now I can give a short flash back of Presidents that came and gone of their legacies President Joseph **Saidu** can be appreciated for his legacy of rebating multi Parties in this Country. The 1991 Constitution actually gave birth to multi party that he has to his credit as his legacy for bringing multi party in this country, in this same Well in 1991 this Constitution was born. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah came added to his credit to bringing peace, unity, strengthening democratic institutions he did a lot. Today! The Electoral Commission strengthening the Police Head Quarter that you see, the Army MOD that you see, transformation of NACSA, of NRA, of EPA etc, etc he did a lot in strengthening governance and **punditry** say he has been one of the most cohesive President this Country has produced.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, looking at the profile of President EBK Ernest Bai Koroma, yes! It can be credited for some fine infrastructural development during almost 11years era, bad news to relieve a Vice President; that is a work of Parliament and nothing, that is a bad news but it can be credited for infrastructural development. Most of the city roads today, yes it can be but the only bad news is that he relieved his Vice President; the work of Parliament not his work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, President Julius Madaa Bio can be credited for him to challenge a phenomenal assignment, Free Quality Education can you imagine? Sierra Leone has about 37% literates from the records...just 37% today He has increased it. He can be credited to have challenged amidst a hiccupping economy; he said I will donate 22% from my GDP towards education that is a legacy no one can take it from President Julius Madaa Bio *[Applause]*.

In His second term He is challenging to feed the People, that is the current agenda, feed the people. How can he presume, how can he achieve His second inning flagship Feed Sierra Leone? That is the legacy we in our second inning want to build Feed Sierra Leone; we are all here, how can we in one way or the other contribute to Feed Sierra Leone?

Mr Speaker, we have fine nominees today from different spheres, they are going to head. I don't want to long this debate, let me start with Mr Hadji Daboh; long term Engineer that have serve commemorate, served Government with this barrage of experience. Yesterday he was at the back to preside over NMA, today he is in the driving seat can you imagine? Today you are on a driving seat, the day to day operation of NMA that is the driving seat; you will be serving as the Director General of NMA Hadji Daboh for the records I've served as one term and now I'm in the second term Parliamentary Oversight Chairperson for that particular sector; I inherited just seven large scale mining companies with licenses, when we came here 2018 for my record. Before the expiration of that particular first term, we now have Twenty-two large scale mining companies in fact present Twenty-four large scale mining companies [*Applause*] that is the free access and the political will President Madaa Bio normally does at Cabinet level for us to whorl investors, that is the record chair meeting...Twenty-four large scale mining companies and I can imagine the economy they do pay, annually loan \$500,000 plus just one license, they are hiding into our economy. What would you earn at the end of your term as the DG of NMA? Today we have Twenty-four, by the time you leave, will you reduce large scale mineral investors or you will add? That is an assignment, people of Botswana we say in their Acts....the Mining Act of Botswana it has in his pre-hood that the land is our heritage, you take our land you take out heart, you take our heart you take everything away from us. It of no joke, the people of Botswana their mining, the minerals is benefitting them a lot because they will not joke; that if you take their heart you take everything from them, that is Botswana....Botswana; I'm not a student of Geology but Geology student will tell you that if you extract a single diamond, it will take three million years for us to see another diamond growing from that particular sector can you imagine? Extract a big diamond, Geologians, Geologist they will tell you that; that it will take three

million years for you to see another big diamond. The minerals we have are not renewable in our era and therefore help NMA, help the Government of Sierra Leone to do the best with our minerals; we want to see minerals benefitions benefitting the people. One of the cries I'm still hearing is the payment of DACDF the people in the Provinces are not happy and it is your responsibility to regulate the miners, the mining companies, the Anti-signers, get the money on the basket, give them back, many Paramount Chiefs are now crying because their projects are now stock.

Upon taking this particular office, facilitate the payment of the DACDF do not want it. In the new Act is has now be converted Mining District Development Money but we still have back log at least ten Billion is there lying, they need it and they want to use it for the completion of their various projects. If you do that for the Paramount Chiefs of the various and Chiefdoms, in the next three months or so, I'm telling you they will sing Halleluiah for you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. On my list here I still have Dr Hinga Sandi. Dr Hinga Sandi like Dr Hadji Daboh, yesterday they were on the upper seats, today they are on the driving seats. You will be serving NIB Board as the Executive- Secretary, you will be more engage with the day to day.....I'm telling you all of those sectors they have connection with President Madaa Bio big five. President Madaa Bio's agenda big five see it on your sector will now watch at you critically which means; you have a role to play for us to succeed. A nice company NIB [National Investment Board] of no small board why? The President His Excellency serves as the Chair; this is to give investors' confidence come, the President Himself is a chair...yes you can do business with us, Asia, Europe; you annual festivities when they will call all of us of their investors come to this conference, invest, show your might, show your strength, this is what we want to see in the NIB; by the time the five years expires the NIB will promote our youth. President Madaa Bio has promised the nation that every year he will give 100,000 jobs, how can NIB help? Government alone cannot give all of the jobs but the private sector....America is strong today because the private sector in America, it works. UK is strong today, the private sector in UK its works, and you can do the same. National Investment Board you

have to befriend the private sector; bring them on board, we want to see the energetic youth of this nation who is so vulnerable in the hands of Mr Kush today, bring in investors, when those investors when they come to invest on the economy , definitely they will be active.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let look at Mr Fauld-Deen Ahmed. You will be going to Qatar as an Ambassador, who is an Ambassador by the way? An Ambassador is a fine gentleman who serves as a face of the nation protecting the national interest on that particular nation where is coming from, selling the nation, the good news, the good things that we have, sell it to the people of Qatar. Qatar is on record to have got the finest Engineers for Oil and gas; the last time I checked for my Mineral S.O [2] Baf-pan we still have oil and gas, Suleiman Pujehun District, Kambia and Goderich...yes from the exploration report that we got, oil and gas can be seen from those area been called. What will you do Mr Fauld-Deen to bring the best Engineers from Qatar, wooden to come and exploration? I'm telling you the dollarization is continuously dwarfing our Leones, it is because of the Mineralization we have not exploited it much. The moment we get the best Engineers from Qatar come and do exploration; the moment you begin to realized our oil and gas from Suleiman Pujehun, from Kambia, from Goderich, I'm telling you...our GDP will pump up, we will definitely see. So you have a lot to move the people from Qatar to come to Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Emerson my namesake, Emerson Kamara are you here? The Youth Commission Act, Nigeria Youth Commission is so active. We were told that the Youth Commission from Nigeria they fought hard. If you go to the General Assembly of Nigeria today, you have a Bill called 'Not too young to run'; they make sure they motivated their youths and they push forward Not too young to run. Not too young to run is to bring out the limitation, the check-point before youths. They hold responsible positions and in that same Youth Commission.

The present Youth Commission we have, we were told that if you at least an investor employs 50 youths, you should be given a certificate. I've not been seeing that much from our Youth Commission to motivate our investors. If you give 50 youth jobs, you

should be offered a certificate to motivate others, it is there in the Youth Commission Act but you have not demonstrated that much, begin to do it so that others can be motivated to bring our youth on board; we have energy.

If you want to see the operation feed Sierra Leone succeeds, it is the youth in the villages, in the rural areas, they have the energy...the youths; industrialization it is the youths, in the Military, in the Police it is the youths, go to the Banks it is the youths. We don't want to waste this energy in the hands of Kush, use us, motivate us, and give us the requisite education so that we can be active.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ambassadors, Ambassador AbuBarkar Karim has done a lot; he has done well from Agriculture. As an Ambassador at large, I'm calling you an Ambassador is not a mistake, you've an Ambassador at large *[Laughter]* today if this House approves of you, you will become a full fledge Ambassador and because you have served in the Ministry of Agriculture, today if this House approves of you, you will be going to China. Mr Speaker, the last time I checked China is still a biggest farmer in the world, China, India, and Vietnam they still top the list as far as agriculture and when I sat in my quietude, I'm convinced that the moment the people...the moment we begin to explore.....

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you surprised by that? China has more than 1.3 billion mouth to feed so naturally they will be the biggest farmer in the world and India is second in that order; so carry on *[Laughter]*.

HON. EMERSON LAMINA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, is that all Mr Speaker *[Laughter]* that tells you my research is very appropriate, China is the biggest farmer and if we want to see operation Feed Sierra Leone works, in my quietness I said why can't we export, why can't we bring in, import the white farmers? The Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone are generous, they are generous to give up their lands and the National Land Commission Act and the Customary Land Act makes provision for them to be the chair of those lands and with the Land Committee's blessing they can buy shares, import the white farmers, give them all the land; I'm telling you in the shortest time we can achieve operation feed Sierra Leone because the land is there green. Give the Paramount

Chiefs the levity to buy shares 10% or more at the end of the day if it is hill land valley swamp, even it is animal husbandry or agricultural extension, we can achieve.

So Ambassadors in Nairobi or in China or Qatar, you have a role to play for us to achieve. President Madaa Bio succeeded when he made education as a flagship, He is on record and no president has broken that record and it is Phenomenal to give Free Quality Education to the Kids; today we have at least 2.7 million kids in school, freely attend, I'm a proud beneficiary; my son attend a Government School [Undertone] Oh yes off course, my son attend Bo School that is the Government School; Free Quality Education, I'm a proud beneficiary.

Thank you very much President for giving my kids a Free Quality Education, we succeed and we can also succeed with operation Feed Sierra Leone; you have a role to play every one of you. Mr Speaker, because Mr Harold by the time I was serving EU Parliament, he was so effective and efficient in his job, by the time he goes to Ethiopia and serving the EU, he will definitely bring result back home. Mr Speaker that is all we have to say about our fine nominees; go and make us proud and learn all the skills, all the technology, the beauty, the finesse and the finest of those countries; bring the styles here again so that we can advance in technology, in education, in agriculture etc. etc. I will say to you you're blessed, among seven million or so President Madaa Bio said come and seat on the driving seat and here I am Mr Speaker because I have no inkling of doubt that they will perform, they will make us proud; I want to laud MPs across the Aye...are you here MP Johnson? MPs across the Aye to speedily approve of this fine, fine nominees; I thank you very much Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

3 GABISI 1:10 – 1:35

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable member for his contribution to the debate, who is the Honourable with the hat?

HON CHARLES O ABDULIA: Honourable Charles O Abdulia from BO Serabu Bumpeh Chiefdom.

THE SPEAKER: The hat seems to disguise your figure.

HON CHARLES O ABDULIA: Am imitating Jonathan Sambibi today.

THE SPEAKER: Am not mono-focal I see every corner of this chamber, so take your sit. I will give you the floor for the unique manner in which you appeared today.

HON CHARLES O ABDULIA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, this is part of me. Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable members. Today again let me use the words of the former Chief Whip of the opposition in the Fifth Parliament. We have before us nominees appointed by His Excellency, of course as usual we may be from the fifth parliament to now is hard to reject nominees appointed by His Excellency. We know these nominees after careful consideration they have been nominated by His Excellency, of course some of them we have crossed part some of them serve in the fifth parliament or the first dispensation, like my brother Dr Hinga Sandi, Dr Karimu former Minister of Agriculture, of course Dr Gevaio and I see my former boss Mr Hadji Daboh commonly known as Gor Hadji, in the days of Sierra Rutile before the civil conflict, in fact something is missing here am not seeing anything beyond 2014. I would have loved to see that because I worked under you before the war as Metrological research lab assistance. Mr Speaker, honourable members. Of course a lot have been said of these nominees those we have seen and worked with, those we have seen their experiences and those we have not worked with, but from their résumé we have no doubt in them, but please gentlemen am not seeing any ladies, almost all the areas you are going are challenged no matter how you looked at it. If you go to NMA communities especially, the community relation with the companies, that is one area Mr Hadji Daboh you should focus on. Some of us are coming from mining communities, we have this mining company in our constituencies or communities, and most of the time we have issues emanating from these communities relation. Either compensation or land reclamation or a host of those things that relate between the company and the communities so please don't lose sight of that. Dr Gevaio of course you are going to head that establishment, you know the challenged we have

with climate change and other radiation activities relating to mining activities those are areas also , of cause my senior my former boss can testify we have a lot of problem with this chemicals coming from the mining operations. You know there are times we have their chemicals running into our waters, we have activities especially the separation of rutile of cause you know requires a lot of chemicals ranging from floatation and the likes, of trymaxs and all this chemicals running to the waters in those communities, so please when you go to those institutions look at some of those things that actually affects the communities. Look at the river Teyei how it is from Tiama upward down to Mandu you know polluted, these are issues actually because if we want to serve our people we should also look at their welfare, we do not have any doubt in your capacities in your experience but is the matter of commitment in serving our people. Because that the focus of his Excellency, he came as a gross root person to serve the people I think he has succeeded in that, and he will continue to succeed. With all what my colleague have said in relation to what the president stands for and what he intends doing and what he has done, I think you can make a very good team to support that idea, so we have no doubt in you that is why I just want to admonish you to be committed to those smaller things that actually makes the whole. Without much I do I want to wish you well in advance to congratulate you thank you very much thank you Mr speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable member for his contribution to the debate, in different to tradition I will give the floor to the Honourable paramount chief from Falaba.

HON PC TONGOS F. FANKO LAI: Mr Speaker, colleague's MPs, I am Honourable PC Tongos from the great Falaba district, the full name you mean, I am Honourable Paramount chief ----- better known as the Honourable Pc TONGOS (interjection) justice of the peace, chairman committee on ethics and privileges. Congratulations to His Excellency Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio father of democracy and champion of human development. First of its kind, for his intelligent and on behalf of my colleagues Honourable Paramount Chief we say thanks to the president for the appointment or nominating intellectual sitting in front of us, but mind you Mr Speaker, Honourable members of parliament, am afraid since the

appointment of my brother as Deputy Minister of Mines and my brother also from Koniadugu District Minister of Political Affairs and my sister Manty Tarawalie as Minister Of State to the vice president since then the appointment continues Directors , Ambassadors, ever since, we never congratulate people from Falaba District. This is my concern seriously and I am representing 13 chiefdoms in Falaba district, so I am here to represent my people. Not only to congratulate people from elsewhere, but I want to congratulate people from Falaba District. So therefore, I am pleading to this Honourable house, I want to recommend 5 people from Falaba District to be appointed as Ambassadors, Directors and chairpersons.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Paramount Chief, order, order. Honourable Paramount Chief, I think it is proper that I take note of the concern you have expressed I know you speak not just for yourself as a person but you also speak for the people of Falaba District when you echo the sentiment you have just done, but this house is not constitutionally responsible for the appointment of ambassadors or other executive appointments. I will rather you find a way of communicating quietly with the head of the executive, with the Head Of State to make your concerns known to him rather than doing so in the well of this house thank you.

HON PC TONGOS F. FANKA LAI : Noted, am I to continue? As a new man to this well of Parliament, I am here to learn from you people. Mr Speaker Honourable members of Parliament, I have concerns ever since in the history of Falaba District we have never experienced international scholarships, international scholarship to further study, when you go over the list, you will not see Mansaray, Kamara you will not see Marrah, right so with me here, Mr Speaker Honourable Members of Parliament I am pleading on behalf of my district fortunately 4 names are with me for further studies.

THE SPEAKER: Submit those names to my chamber; please submit those names to my chambers

HON PC TONGOS F. FANKA LAI: It is different from the appointment, you have scholarship to India and there are vulnerable people so I want this Honourable House and the nominees to help those ladies to India look at the names.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tongos, order, order. Honourable Tongos am trying to guide you with a view to getting the required success that you seek. Hold down, Honourable Tongos the SOs require you to confine yourself to the subject that is on the floor of the house. What we are discussing presently is the issue of approving the nominees of his Excellency the president for the various positions that the nominees represent here. For which they have been interviewed, that list you have keep it and bring it to me in my chamber after adjournment, but focus your attention on the subject matter before us today which is the approval of these presidential nominees ok thank you.

HON TONGOS F. FANKA LAI: Mr Speaker Honourable Member of Parliament, I thank the President Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio, as I earlier said father of Democracy and Champion of Human capital development I thank him for the most intelligent nominees sitting in front of the entire MPs in the well of parliament, thank you very much may God bless, but mind you am here to represent my people.

THE SPEAKER: Well noted Honourable Paramount Chief, and please see me after we adjourned. You numbers are multiplying every time let me hear a voice of a lady for once, the mama of the house or former mama of the house.

HON VERONICA K SESAY: Am always mama.

THE SPEAKER: I thought you have handed that baton over to (interjection) now you have gone international.

HON VERONICA K SESAY ; I thank you very much Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker Honourable members I want to joined the others to say thanks to His Excellency, our visionary president for nominating this fine gentlemen.

THE SPEAKER: Hold down I will only take two more and then we wind up the debate.

HON VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Although there is a missing link somehow, because there is no lady but I know and I hope the next Bach, there will be more women than the men now; because he has to pay the backlog, we hope and pray it will happen.

Mr speaker Honourable members let me go to the Ambassadors, we have had a lot and they have even defined who is an Ambassador and we know and we have learnt today for some of us. and I want to say you are going there to represent the people of this country. You are going there and they are going to use the tax payers monies, you are not going there as SLPP or APC or whatever, you are going there as green white and blue to go and fly the flag, go there and advocate for the people of this country, we have being hearing that internationally people are scared to come, because there are some people notorious people out there destroying the image of this country. That if you go there terrorist, they are this, they are that, but don't mind them. You go and prove them wrong to the people you are our eyes go and tell the people we want more investors. Sierra Leone is rich in everything six month rain , six month water, we have minerals and everything in abundance you have to go and tell the people that please go and see what Sierra Leonean are there for; and you make sure you talk for the interest of the people because we have our people out there like those people who go there under smuggle or to find greener pastures, go there an advocate for them if there are no jobs, make sure if you are able to relocate them to where they come from. Go and convince them say look go to sierra Leone is now good, go there let them come back or if you have way to make sure that they are placed do that for the interest of their people who they have left here.

I will go to the Directors, go and direct we expect much from you and I have no doubt because everybody who is listed there they are the right people in the right place. I have no doubt let me zoom in two people like Hadji Daboh, I have known him for the past years and he was a house hold name in Rutile and when we talked about Rutile we talked about mines and that institution is a private, but now you are going there as Sierra Leone and you know all the nitigrities of Mining and you are going there as a Director please go and direct. There are some other areas, like what we envisage in Rutile during your regime, the Maada Kambai's and Mobakarr you know during their days, Sawunde and you name them, you were together but there was a little bit of missing link for the people, I don't know what was the plan and the agreement that you made. There was a skip

from Moribah town to Morbinbin you can hardly enjoy light or facility when you are a senior person. There are people in Morbinbin or they use their lands from the other areas knowing that these people should benefit from what they are getting from the Rutile but that was not done; but now that you are their representing Sierra Leone, please make sure anywhere or any company that comes there to do mining you please make sure you do proper agreement and planning. They have to do their corporate social responsibilities like the various areas talking about road like the last time what our sister said about their road. Make sure there are proper roads, school, hospital, and so many other things that they should benefit from because I want to state it SO2 [in Mende – Pimi ar torto nyeh nyeh hunloh] we have to do it properly so that PPPP(proper planning prevent problem) so tomorrow we will not be crying about roads we should not be crying about school fees schools or hospital it is there responsibility, it is there land, some time the agreement will go only to the paramount chief and the rest of mankind this time we want everybody to benefit and am happy because you have been placed there for the mining sector and you know it all you know the good the bad and the ugly so I have no doubt. I will watch, we will go there and make sure we are not only there as appointment committee but we also have the right to go and do oversight. You have said it and we have heard you so we will make sure we follow you, we will go to your Ministry to see whether whatever you told us in the appointment committee is adhered to.

4 HINGA – 1:35 – 2:00

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Honourable Members of Parliament who have these mining sectors in their areas were not fortunate I think it is just about 2%, but I hope we will make sure we do the expansion like my brother from the Sembehun, Banguwa there is a little bit of mining there, and of course Bumpah they have this what you call zacom. These are the things that investors want; but some investors who come here will destroy the waters, the land without benefit. And we want to know the agreement for every mining company now that comes here if we want to pass that we will make sure we go through letter by letter line by line to see the agreement, so am happy that you are there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will go down to the youth. The President has done it by choosing Emerson. I am happy for you because you were at the party office struggling for this party to come on board, and thank God we have seen the light. You are going to represent the youths you lead others will follow, and we want you to show us example as a youth, don't be carried away, now you've been giving the opportunity don't say that S.O. [2] you bobor dae ya oh you have to direct them, because sometimes again talking about this kush issue we are the responsible people we give them monies, because if you don't give them money they will not go and buy Kush when they go they will say you bobor dae ya you have all right to be calling them, talk to them cajole them, counsel them, if you have any other places to go and put them tell them you have to do something even you have your farm you can talk to them you say bo una leh we go wok na farm S.O.[2] you will do that and make money for them. I will always say this, the dice is cast the choice is now yours you have to prove it to the President that we youth we can do it so I have no doubt.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Honourable Sandy I know the Moyamba people must be happy today. Dr Sandy I am sorry you are not Honourable am sorry I withdraw it. Now Moyamba people we are all happy because the indigene of Kayamba has being recognised, and I know more are coming. There are other directors that's why when people were crying shouting they have removed us they have removed our brothers I knew, and I had no doubt on H.E. that he will do it. I know there are many other directors that will come you have to go and tell the people that please I have being giving this opportunity you go and do the lobbying we will continue to lobby our brothers are there waiting I know they have to drop one person to take another person, so everybody has to enjoy this is a national cake everybody needs to enjoy on that national cake.

You did very well during the election the registration and everything so we have no doubt again I know you know about this investment where you are going you know much about them, because you are part of this agency, and you have to make sure we want more investors in everything in Sierra Leone, and now that you are going as a chairperson you

have to this time convince and lobby, because our name is not too palatable in the faces of other people who believe that they should spoil this country. So please go and do justice and I know the Moyamba people are happy, and if approved I want to say thanks to His Excellency, and congratulate you on your new job and you make sure you do the needful we work together as we have been working together in Moyamba, and to make sure you talk to the people and other aggrieved people, because there are so many aggrieved people we have started to talk to them with my colleagues we have to work together again with the other nominees, the other appointees who are from Moyamba, so I know that you will lead that course.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the others I want to wish you well I know you will do it, and I have no doubt you will do justice you have been doing it of course my brother the ambassador you go there to the Chinese people we want more machines, I know your capacity of lobbying go and talk to these Chinese people there is land we just want machines, man power is there, so please go and advocate for us. Go to the north rice farming like if you want cashew you go the east Kailahun and other areas, you go to the north rice bolly land, even my Speaker there have vast land bolly land we want investors so the we can bring more rice to feed the people to feed Sierra Leone. Thank God you are going there, because now agriculture is one of the five pillars that we are fighting for, and you are going there I know you will advocate. Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity and I want to wish you well in your new endeavour if approved, and want to tell my colleagues to help to advocate or to pass these fine gentlemen so that they can go and take up office I wish you all the best.

Suspension of S.O. 5 [2]

[Question proposed put and agreed to]

THE SPEAKER: I will give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Falaba, and you will be followed by the Honourable lady, and that will bring to a close of the Debate and we will now wind up the Debate. What shall I say here they were both Members of the fifth Parliament the younger in age but senior in status that's the one I meant?

HON. BILLOR SAW: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I want to tow on the line of all those who have contributed to the Motion the committee on appointment. Mr Speaker, I will be brief I have few nominees here that I want to speak on and encourage all nominees to go to their offices and do what is expected of them. It is an opportunity that so many Sierra Leoneans, qualified Sierra Leoneans out there are waiting for, so if they have being giving that opportunity they have to ensure that they do due diligence in their discharge of their duties . Mr Speaker, I want to zoom in to the nominee for teaching service commission I know him most I met him few months before the end of the last Parliament, but we walked together I know how hard working he is, I know he fall in the category of the patriots those citizens who want to see the betterment of their country he was coordinator for the free quality education in the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Mr Lansana wouri here I want to say he made a mistake that's supposed to be Worrie they misspell the names of all our people in the east and the south, but I will take it as it is Mr Wouri.

THE SPEAKER: is it Worrie or Wouri?

HON. BILLOR SAW: No am just making some corrections that I think need to be done in his name Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: So give us the correction.

HON. BILLOR SAW: It's supposed to be Worrie but now it is Wouri so I accept it as it is Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You know what it reminds me of when I went to Falaba I ran in to a town called bindi, and that's where he is coming from that is correct, and I immediately reminded them that they misspelled the name it should be Gbinti where I come from

HON. BILLOR SAW: They are synonymous Mister Speaker I agree, So Mr Speaker Mr Kelfallah I know you are not a stranger in that area you know the struggle of teachers, you know what it takes to be an approved teacher you know it takes to work in the rural areas I have been advocating for this. How can we improve the conditions of service for teachers that are willing to work in rural areas, because if we can do justice to those

qualified teachers that are working in rural areas we will be able to balance the equation between kids in the urban areas and those in the rural areas? But if am working in Freetown here am receiving certain amount and somebody is working in the rural area is receiving the same amount with the same qualification maybe I will not be encouraged to move from the urban areas to rural areas, am expecting you to work on a model on how we can encourage only trained and qualified teachers to go to rural communities, so that the free quality education will reflect in the four corners of this country with specific reference to Falaba district Mr Speaker.

Teacher replacement you know the challenges, and you know some times that office is full of people who are yarning to be used as a replacement for retired teachers, or those that have died, but the challenge there is how fairly this will be distributed across the board, you've being with both the teaching service commission and you were the conduit, so I have no doubt you will be able to shorten the gap that have existed in the past years, and I encourage you to pay key attention to what I have just highlighted. Let us encourage urban migration to rural areas those teachers that are working in rural areas deserve more emolument to encourage qualified teachers to go to those areas.

Mr Speaker, I will swiftly move on to the nominee for the embassy to the republic of China. Of course the Deputy Leader have just highlighted how China is, they have the highest farming facility in their country. We don't want to see ambassadors going to those offices to seat in their diplomatic ties, coat, suit going out having diplomatic engagement we want to see people who can sell the image of this country to other people who can market this country. You know we have citizens and even the media sometimes we think if we publish certain things it will make our media house credible, but there are information in the U.S. you can only see it when they want you to see it. So by marketing our country in those areas with specific reference to China, Vietnam and India trust me the feed Sierra Leone will succeed. The President is just an individual, but his ambition is something if we support him we will sale to the promise land. How can we support him, you are the pillars, you are the Ministers, ambassadors how can we support the President so we succeed, because if he succeed then Sierra Leone succeed. And that is what I told

one of my friends who is residing in Tombo the last time they burned down the electricity poles there I told them you are not good citizens he was like why? I said because where the President is residing he is having twenty four hours electricity. Had it not been the concern and the social contract between you and the government he would not have brought this here, but because he cares and he has competent people manning the Ministry of Energy you are having the poles there they are to be planted you've destroyed them what makes you a good citizen? So he was somehow baffled he couldn't proffer any defence.

To Mr Emmerson Kamara I congratulate you once more for your nomination in that position, it is well deserved position.

Mr Speaker, if there are young people who have held Party positions in the party I belong, in the party that its ideology runs into my veins, the SLPP, the only party that can points in the four corners of this country health centres, schools, roads without fear , favour or region is the SLPP. It is on that mantra I campaigned in 2018 as a youth for the people of my constituency to vote me and which they did. I went to one of the communities in my constituencies, there was a school there. The community people were like S.O 2 'go sidom from wae SLPP build for we this school ya from wae dem war yar cam 11 year even den nor put for we nar ya'. So I went home happily, I was expecting that result and to emerge victorious in that election, because what the people used to tell me when I went to those communities.

Mr Speaker, Emerson Kamara is one of those people who have held party positions that he has discharged them diligently. It can be exhibited.....

THE SPEAKER: When you praise the young for doing the right thing, they do it under the guidance and directions of the 60+. The two go together, the new edition and the old edition.

HON. MOHAMED BILLOW SHAW: I can't argue more Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the SLPP is full of brains, if a child says they are having a particular soup tomorrow the African proverbs says he or she might have heard it from the parents, so

if Emerson has exhibited that talent and energy, that must have come from the old edition.

To you Mr Emerson Kamara, the Obasanjo Youth Centre in Newton, there was certain fund allocated to refurbish that centre and equip it with modern technology. I want you to pay keen attention to that, you are accessible that is why I am addressing you now, I can call you on the phone, you have vision, as I said you have worked diligently for the Party and you discharged your duties as deputy Commissioner in that Commission diligently, I want to see these exhibited moving forward. Continue doing what you have been doing Mr Emerson. I am so proud of you.

Mr Speaker, as I promised I will be brief, NMA, all our waters are polluted. Nothing more, nothing less to say. You are driving to Bo just see that Teyei River we used to bath and launder our clothes is no more fit for purpose, and we owe a duty to our people, and that duty is if they voted us, they must see that we protect them where we can, and one way to protect them is to ensure that, that particular water is safe for their consumption and it is no longer safe, how can we make it safe? It is within your remit now; but I am not talking about Teyei River alone, even the community I am coming from, the Falaba District, all our waters are polluted as a result of illicit mining. You see people coming they bring some monies; there was a time somebody brought some young people to me say they are doing some exploration there and I asked for their documents but they had none, and your officers in those Districts are the agents. How can you fix this problem? When country comes first than self.

In those areas, it is the rivers. Self – I want to pay myself quickly before they get rid of me, how can we get rid of that mentality?

To Dr Hinga Sandy, of course you are given a big mantra, I could remember when you were the Minister of Trade, you brought so many agreement here and we approved so many factories, now you have more and bigger umbrella to market Sierra Leone, how can you make it plus! And plus! If not plus for Sierra Leone so we can have more investors with all the distractions, with all those who are promising to destabilize the state. To them, we say our ambition and what we stand for is far better than what they think they

can do. We are prepared to defend the State and to make sure Sierra Leone is safe for everybody. Encourage investors to come to the country. It would pay us because it is not how much tax we receive, the activities of business people within the country will provide employment for the youths because if they are employed, they have a means of engagement, trust me it would be difficult to see a youth who is employed to engage in the activity of those that are taking kush and other harmful substances. If they are not engaged, they are in ghettos anybody can use them for anything. So let us see how best we can improve, you and Emerson can collaborate. He is there and you are bringing investors. The Ministry of Labour plays a key role. The Minister of Labour though he is not here but I know this message will meet him. How can we get our youths enrolled into these companies that are coming into the country? They bring expatriates here, we have them, and we have people with double Ph.Ds. or are those Ph.Ds. not mattered? They bring somebody with a Master's degree and pay him in Dollars, we have our citizens who are qualified and have the requisite knowledge, but they pay them in pittance or they work under those people they import here, I call them importees.

Mr Speaker, without much ado, the nominee to Qatar I think this is one of the best relations we have established. Qatar is a good country that has supported Sierra Leone. I remember visiting Qatar with the former Minister of Education, so many opportunities. Leaders across the world go to Qatar, so how can we incorporate their ideas in the gas and oil sector to Sierra Leone, and how soon will this be? It depends on how you go out there and scout, and it depends on how you want to go out of your comfort zone to sell the beauty of Sierra Leone to those Qatarees. I know you can do it. To those I might not have commented on, I promise you we will support you and I care about your nominations, I wish you all well in your various offices and may the Almighty Allah provide wisdom and guidance to Sierra Leone and all Sierra Leoneans that mean well for this nation. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Lady will you kindly identify yourself.

HON. JULIANA A. FATORMA: Thank you Mr Speaker, my name is Juliana Alimatu Fatorma from Kenema district.

THE SPEAKER: Very good. You are my last speaker for the day.

5 GRACE – 2:00 – 2:25

HON. JULIANA ALIMATU FATORMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I join my colleagues to thank the President for His good work for this country. He has done a lot for the youths of this country, taking them internationally for education and the likes but I really want to zoom in on the Ambassadors. Really like the Deputy Leader said, he wants you to bring in Engineers to work in this country. I want to change that narrative a little bit, I would like you people to be taking some of the youths internationally to learn trades that will build up this country Sierra Leone [*Applause*]. We know they have a lot of technologies out there that we don't have but by looking into some of these youths, you take them out to learn this engineering, to learn how to do certain things other people do that we cannot do and then when they come in they will train others so that our country will set up a Committee that will be like outside.

Another thing I want to talk about to the Ambassadors out there, we have a lot of people travelling these days. Sierra Leoneans never wanted to travel but we have them travelling these days and Immigration Laws for some countries are very rigid and sometimes we go because of not much education like the business people, they envisage a lot of embarrassment out there. So I will ask you people if you can only create a firm to certain airlines when they are travelling, they can have the numbers, contact for the Embassy I think that will be fine because if they don't have that and they travel out there and they get a problem, they have nobody to talk to; that is why some people have suffered a lot out there.

I want to zoom in on the Ambassador to Qatar [*Undertone*] I like that, I'm so happy. I have been to Qatar once, I know what I went through; my Sister works in Qatar in the United Nation Hospital, I know how I suffered there so please look out for especially

these youths, these young ones, they take them from here and they take them to Qatar or other places to work and the job they are doing out there, they are not even paying them for that and some of them have been misused by people they work for. So please....i know the Embassy has a lot of job to do out there but if you can just add that so that Sierra Leoneans travelling will be safe.

And for the Ambassador for China, you have a very large country that you're dealing with and at least they have a lot of fine things we like, they bring to our country and the Traders are going in and out every day. I am praying because I saw a video where a Nigerian was maltreated...well I don't know what happened, I can't go in there but I am just saying if we have a way to support our travellers so that they will not have such problems outside the country.

And I want to thank His Excellency for the Free Quality Education. I can see all the young ladies and young boys want to be educated this days, they really go in for that and I want you people to use those Educated people to go out and learn something to bring to this country so that this country will benefit from that.

I ask my colleagues that we all join hands to look into the educational problem that happened this year. I saw a young lady crying that her result was seized, I think that is bringing a lot of like broken heart to some of the children, so we look into that.

For other nominees, I can see the faces of them, educated; their certificate read here, I know they can do a good job, I know they are going to work for this country. His Excellency is very smart to take people for this jobs and most of them can really deliver very well.

So I thank you all for going in for these jobs that you can do and I pray that you do it very well, like the Mama was talking to the Minister about Rutile. Rutile has been a very serious problem, she mentioned somebody that was my cousin Bubarkar; Rutile was a very big problem and the economy for this country comes in from places like that. People were complaining they took my land, they never paid me, some people were complaining that I have worked but not getting good payment; so please we are all working in the

interest of Sierra Leoneans and we really want these Sierra Leoneans to feel like they are really in their homes so that all they do they get something for it.

Finally, I want to talk to everybody in this House about women in power. The women in power, there is a little bit of pulling down from us so we pray that men sitting here will give us a little bit of support not only in here but also outside this place; we need to be supported *[Applause]*. Is not everything we have to say here but please watch out for us, I thank you all for listening and I thank Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to join my voice to other people, I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution to this important debate, we will now wind up this debate and bring it to a close; over to you Acting, Acting Leader of the Opposition *[Applause]*.

HON ALFRED AYODELE THOMPSON: Mr Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank His Excellency for picking wonderful people and I wish you nominees a best of luck in your journey.

With the Ambassadors, I like to be very, very short. I like to talk to talk to Mr Ahmed Tijan Fadlu-Deen about going to Qatar, you have a lot of work on your head because all the domestic workers that we have in Qatar, we have over 175,000 Africans in Qatar that are domestic worker. When they go to these countries, their passports are taken and mostly most Embassies cannot keep up with all their domestic workers that are in Qatar. You know 2017 Qatar passed the Domestic Law about the Kafala system that you can have overwork certain workers over 10hours a day because most of them have been worked over 18hours a day. So I hope that you are ready for this because a lot of our sisters over there, they are been abused, there has been challenges they really faces, they are been raped and they don't have nowhere to cry to, they cannot called back home, the Embassies are not taking their situations very seriously. So you have that task on your head to protect our sisters that are over there; you have to protect our people.

And also to the Director General of NMA, our waters...these are legal mining companies for mercury they are mining for gold. They put mercury in our waters and these waters

affect our Eco-system, people eat the fish that comes from the water, they are polluted with mercury and effects our people in the Provinces; they don't even know why they are getting sick.

Again I want to thank His Excellency for these fine nominees and I hope and pray that God will guide you guys for the betterment of our country. I know is not an easy task but I know and I pray that you guys will do the best for our country; thank you very much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member of the Opposition; now over to you Acting Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you! Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking all Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate. Mr Speaker in my capacity I want to recognise the Director General of NASSIT Mr Fuad Daboh and Mr Babadi Kamara; I'm coming from Bo. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these two gentlemen are responsible for the twelve Members of Parliament from Bo in this Parliament; thank you very much *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have presented to this House nominees by His Excellency the President, the Committee on Appointment. We've done our due diligence, we've interviewed them on oath, questions were asked, we were impressed, we were satisfied, and that is why as a Committee we presented them.

Mr Speaker in the last meeting, I told some of the Appointees that when you have an opportunity you should use it cautiously because tomorrow these are transitional offices we are occupying. Mr Speaker, today we have been presented with one former Minister and one former Board Chairman. Before now the Minister of Trade in the last dispensation Dr. Hinga Sandy pioneered the NIB Bill in this Parliament. He was providing supervision for the NIB; today he is in charge of implementing the NIB Act. So Mr Speaker, today you can be in charge, tomorrow some other person will be in charge so when you are given responsibility, you should handle that responsibility with caution, you should treat people well. Few weeks before now, the man going to the NMA was the Chairman of the Board,

he was giving instructions to the Director General and today he is the Director General taking instructions from the new Chairman. So when you are given responsibilities, treat your subordinates with the outmost respect they deserve. As Board Members, I always see Board Members...these are positions even as Members of Parliament. Today we are Members of Parliament, down the line we will be Board Members, down the Line we will be Ministers, so when we occupy these offices we should treat our subordinates with respect, we should treat them with the outmost respect should be given to them.

To the Appointees, all of you please go and make His Excellency proud, make this Parliament proud and make the people of Sierra Leone proud because His Excellency have decided to bring you on board to join him in achieving His agenda. Excuses will not be tolerated; I have said time with number that the next election is going to be a transitional election. This Election that was held in 2023 we had an incumbency advantage, the next election will be a new man spearheading and leading the ship, so if you don't perform you will be disappointing not only His Excellency the President but the very party that is in Governance. Please perform for us because we are under pressure, we all know the economic situation.

Off course the man going to NMA Mr Speaker, I'm very happy to say he is the Chairman of OBBA [Old Bo Boys Association], congratulations on behalf of OBBA, we wish you well, we hope you will perform, we hope you will not disappoint us; off course we know Bo School Boys will perform even when you are old, you are always a boy.

So to the man going to China, off course we know you have the experience, you have been an Ambassador throughout. You have been recalled again to go to China and perform. His Excellency rely on you because China is a big economy; in the area of trade we expect you to perform. Bring more goodies to Sierra Leone, we have benefited a lot from China and we want to benefit the more.

Qatar is good; Qatar a lot of training for our young people. Off course it has been said that we have people leaving here to Qatar for job opportunities, some of them are sexually harassed, some of them are slaves. Please make sure to look for them, make sure we do laws again that will protect our Sierra Leoneans that go to Qatar.

You are all very, very important; to the man at AU. I know this Parliament will be visiting Addis, we have visited Addis before now and we will visit Addis; we expect the best reception, we expect that you will use your diplomatic experience to work with your colleagues at Africa Union and AU.

You are all very important, off course to the man going to the Teaching Service Commission. Mr Speaker, it's no secret, all of us Sierra Leoneans we have problem especially those coming from the rural areas. We have people who go to our communities, they get pin codes and they come to the big towns; we are struggling, we are community teachers without pays. We have people who have taught for so long and they have not been approved. You have a lot in your hands, please go perform for us, make us proud, make this Parliament proud, make the Committee proud and make Sierra Leone proud. Thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you all Members of Parliament *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Will you kindly move? Move....

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the 8th report of the First Session of the Sixth Parliament on the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service be adopted by the House and their recommendation contained therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you!

[Question Proposed Put & Agreed to]

The motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service has been approved.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members it's now my singular privilege and honour to join the chorus of approval and congratulations that all of you have expressed for our nominees. Amongst them, I can see youthful energy, and enthusiasm but above all this really gives a sense of satisfaction that I can also see experience in their midst; the two are inseparable companions, youthful energy and experience. If we should advance the development of this country, the two are inseparable companions they must go hand in hand. And like you, I have no doubt in the capacity of our nominees to deliver and that

is the most important thing, they've been appointed by His Excellency the President to deliver on behalf of the State and we all join His Excellency in saying, by approving them. We naturally expect the most from them, we hope they will give their all and they will live up to expectation and the confidence that has been robust in them. We wish them well in their new endeavours; we will be reading about them very shortly in the media about their achievements.

There is a lot we could gain if a country can feed its 1.3 billion mouths, there is a lot we can expect from that country to aid and abet and advance our own program of 'Ffeed Sierra Leone in this second and last term of His Excellency the President. So we hold that as a very high hope, I think we cannot hide that from you, you going with those high hopes, and you going with our great expectations and our best wishes for our success. Thank you and God bless and Godspeed to all of you *[Applause]*

Now with that Honourable Members, I will stand the House down for 10 minutes for reasons you may very well expect and suspect.

TABLE CLERK: The House Resumes..... Continued proceedings

Government Motion: The Minister of Energy.

MR ALHAJI KANJA SESAY [THE MINISTER OF ENERGY]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday 12th October 2023;

- i. The 148.5 MW Power Purchase Agreement Amendments for the Western Area Power Generation Project in Kissy.
- ii. The 15 MW Solar and Storage Power Generation Project in Newton and...
- iii. The 28.2 MW Betmai Hydroelectric Power Project in Pampana River in Tonkolili District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today to address this House on a matter of utmost significance, one that concerns the Energy Sector and the progress of our great nation. I am sure that you will agree with me that electricity and energy are the driving forces for socio-economic development of a country.

Accordingly, His Excellency the President Dr. Julius Madaa Bio has prioritized the energy sector as one of the key areas of focus in the 2023 Manifesto with the objective to increase access to energy throughout the country. Scaling up the electricity accesses is paramount to achieving- our agenda of transforming the economy of Sierra Leone. To realizing this vision and to ensure efficient and effect service delivery. The electricity sector road map spanning from 2018 to 2030 target to increase power generation capacity from 100MW of install capacity to about 1.8 GW.

The agreement I have here today supports the objective of increase electricity access throughout the country as encapsulated by His Excellency the President Dr. Julius Madaa Bio in the Manifesto of the New Direction 2018 and 2023 respectively thereby bringing the electricity sector road map from 2018 to 2030 and the National Energy Policy 2019.

The short term Kar-powership power purchase agreement expires on the 30th June 2025 and will leave a huge deficit of about 60MW of power. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, while Sierra Leone is importing power through the West Africa Power pools CLSG line, it is vertically important that the country is self-sufficient for the majority of its power through additional base load power and not rely entirely on CLSG as it primarily source.

In this regard, Government through the Minister of Energy have worked assiduously with all the project sponsors to develop the Western Area Power Generation Project, the Solar and Storage Power Generation Project and the Betmi Hydroelectric Power Project which will significantly improve electricity supply and reliability within the Western Area specifically and Newton also in the Rural and in the Northern Province.

MR ALHAJI KANJA SESAY [MINISTER OF ENERGY]:

With your leave Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now present a summary of each project.

The first project which is 148.5 megawatt Western Area Power Generator Project, Power Purchase Agreement Addendum. The Power Purchase Agreement for the Western Area Power Generation Project was signed on the 18 November 2021, following Cabinet approval on 1st September 2021 it was then ratified by Parliament on the 16 December 2021.

A Government of Sierra Leone Steering Committee along with the sponsors worked diligently to conclude the power purchase agreement requirement and the fuel committee comprised of a Gossel team and sponsors especially around the appointment of a fuel supplier was also established. Unfortunately, before the project would commence the world was faced with several critical issues that required our urgent attention one of the most pressing issues is the on-going Russia invasion of Ukraine that has caused the Engineering Procurement and Construction [EPC] contractor, Operations and Maintenance contractor, and the fuel supplier to revise their offers and subsequently require a revision to their agreement. The impact of the Ukraine crisis on the global fuel market has been significant causing the fuel suppliers to triple the securities required.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, and the Electricity Distribution and Supplier Authority commonly called EDSA which is the off taker jointly negotiated the PP addendum for the 148.5 megawatt Western Area Power Generation Project contract to supply, install, construct, and commission a Liquefied Petroleum Gas LPG, /Liquefied Natural Gas LNG plant for a period of concession of 22 years. The power produced is estimated to benefit approximately an additional 900 thousand consumers; in addition abundant Electricity will be generated and transmitted to the entire Western Area Mr Speaker. The agreed tariff is cost competitive and one of the lowest in the region for gas generation and will be the least cost firm power generation for Sierra Leone as it is not only seasonally dependent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is worth noting that the LPG capacity charge for this particular project stands at 7.238 cent per kilowatt hour plus the variable component which is the fuel at the current market rate. And also the capacity charge for LMG also stands at 7.038 US cent per kilowatt hour plus the variable cost also which is the fuel at current market rate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the project is scalable which will result in reduce tariffs in the future. Please note that although this tariff seems high as compare to similar HFO generation project they however include an operations and maintenance cost, a fuel surcharge and cost for the transmission network to provide greed stability and increase access. In addition the gas turbine are significantly more efficient than HFO plant producing more power for a given tariff spent. With these payment at the end of the Western Area Power Generation term, the plant will revert to Government of Sierra Leone as a fully owned asset.

The DFC, that is the Development Finance Cooperation provided financing at the lowest interest rate in their history which stood at 3.8% over London inter-bank offered rate which is abbreviated as [LIBOR]. This indicates confidence in the project financials and bankability Mr Speaker. This project will be located in the Kissy Industrial site area with targeted beneficiaries been the industries or factories in the East end of Freetown and by extension the Western Area. The Western Area has a population of just over 1.2 million and is fast growing Mr Speaker. The additional power provided by the project will address the current issues of supress demand in the high growth suburbs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is worth noting that the power plant will comprise of certain futures:

1. The installation of cements' gas turbines
2. Light fuel oil storage tanks and water treatment facilities
3. A new 33kv in dust substation at the kissy site
4. The construction of approximate 1.3 km fuel pipe line from the new jetty for the landing of the LPG/LMG to the kissy site
5. An 8km reinforcement of the 33kv sub transmission line from Black hall road to the Wellington substation

6. Installation of an additional 33 stroke 11kv transformers at the Cline town and wellington substations and
7. The jetty for the landing of the LPG, to the kissy site.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, construction will be undertaken under a Ton King Engineering Procurement and Construction contract with the commercial operation date expected to be 36 months and we are expecting the start of construction at the start of q4 of 2023. With the changes the project now comprises of the construction and operation of copper belt energy cooperation Africa, Sierra Leone limited of a 103.5 megawatt palmer plant on a build own operate and transfer basis which is a model - BOT model. The land is leased by Gossel to the project company for a period of 26 years. The project demonstrates the ability of the Government of Sierra Leone to attract foreign investment in a large infrastructure project with long term commitment, this includes that Government is equipped to close such a complex project and been able to attract additional foreign long term investment. The majority of the project debt is or will be financed by DFC effectively the United State Government therefore this project will further cement US interest in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the project is the enabler and anchor off-take for the intended LMG terminal which will result in sector transformation a developed LMG infrastructure will reduce Electricity cost significantly for Mines and industry as well as further residential expansion. The project is sponsored by Millay energy and TCQ power limited a local project company which is SHAKA Sierra Leone limited.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to also give a summary of the second component of this presentation that is the 15megawatt Solar and Storage Power Generation Project Power Purchase Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry Justice, and the Electricity Distribution Supply Authority EDSA which is the off taker, jointly negotiated the Power Purchase Agreement of a 15 megawatt Solar Energy Generation Project with a battery energy storage system developed by Newton Solar Limited and a concession period is for 20 years. Arco Energy and SMRTPAS are the project

developers and have proposed to deliver this project alongside the existing 6 megawatt solar plant in Newton which is Government asset. SMRTPAS the initials project developer, was appointed on the 20 November 2017, as the contractor of the 6 megawatt solar plant funded by the Abu Daby Development Fund which represents the first utility scale power plant in the country.

The purpose of this project Mr Speaker is to provide Electricity to the surrounding districts in Urban and Rural Freetown in order to reduce the dependence of fuel and other power stations, increasing generation output to meet the ever growing low demand in the western area especially around Waterloo and Jui is vital. Additionally this project will stabilise Electricity supply in the western area throughout the year irrespective of the dry season. The project will increase the rate of employment and economic activities and also improve the quality of life of our people and assist in poverty alleviation. An MOU with SMRTPAS and the Ministry of Energy was entered into on the 16th April 2019, and on the 3rd March 2022, SMRTPAS inform Gossels that they have partner with ARCO Energy to continue the development of the project. ARCO Energy was selected giving their extensive Experience with Battery energy storage system and their history of delivering ancillary services.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government of Sierra Leone, Arco Energy Limited, and SMRT continue negotiation on the PPA from 2019, to 15th April 2023 the developer will be providing all funding up front at no cost to Government; this will be take and pay contract where by the off taker pays for what the supplier or developer supplies only which is very vital for the attention of this noble House

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the agreed tariff set out in the PPA is currently at 11 US Cent per kilowatt hour and this agreed tariff so far could be de-escalated by 0.5 cent for every 5 years. The project is sponsored by ARCO Energy and SMRTPAS the Local project company.

Mr Speaker, kindly permit me also to give a summary of the 3rd component of my presentation which is the 28.2 megawatts BETMILE Hydro Electric Power Project Power Purchase Agreement amendment.

The Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, and the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority the off taker jointly negotiated the power purchase agreement of a 28.2 megawatt Run off-river Hydroelectric Power Project developed and sponsored by SEWA Energy Resources.

The SPEAKER: Excuse me just a moment! Are the Whips here? I noticed people are not properly attired within the Chamber of the House; people must learn that this is a very sacred place, carry on.

MR ALHAJI KANJA SESAY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, with your leave let me just go through the entire paragraph again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice and the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority the off taker, jointly negotiated the power purchase agreement of a 28.2 megawatt Run off-river Hydro Electric power project which is been developed and sponsored by SEWA Energy Resources Limited the first locally owned indigenous Hydroelectric Power Plant in this country. The project is centrally located in proximity to Sierra Leone's main Mining areas in the North as well as to West Africa Power Pool CSLG transmission line. The project comprises the design, financing, construction, and operation by SEWA Energy Resources Limited of a 28.2 megawatt BETMILE HPP on a bill owned operate transfer model with a 20years PPA concession.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the project has the following features:

1. The project is located at Magoba village in Tonkolili District and is along the Pampana River in the North of Sierra Leone
2. The project is close to the CSLG Transmission line that runs through 5 substations in Sierra Leone namely Teiloma and Bumpah in the East, Bumbuna in the North East, Yeben and Kamakwei in the North West. The BETMILE power plant will connect to the CLSG Transmission line with a 35km 22kv interconnection transmission line to enhance evacuation capacity from the generating facility.

3. With ease to inter connect to CSLG Transmission line, it serves as an anchor generation facility and it is well suited to exploit the import and export potential of inter-regional power trade and provide energy security to Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS region. It will also help increase the technical integration of the West Africa Power Pool network and provide energy security. Been a land based power plant the project will required significant labour from Sierra Leone, it estimated that the construction firm will employ between 1 to 2000 workers at the pick of construction and we expect the construction work to be undertaking by a Tomking Engineering Procurement and Constriction [EPC] contract with the commercial operation date expected 30 months after the start of construction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I meet the growing effort by Government of Sierra Leone through Ministry of Energy to improve energy generation and supply, the total generation capacity is below the current demand for power which resolve in low shedding particularly during the dry season unlike the hydro power generation from the current Bumbuna 1, in Tonkolili, this project will supply farm power for 10 months and the other 2months will be complimented by CSLG Power import and this will provide and important source of dry season power Mr Speaker. The proposed tariff generation stands at 9 US Cent which is a single digit per kilowatt and the willing charge transmission charge stands at 2 US Cent making a combine total of 11 US Cent per kilowatt hour.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a successful completion of these 3 projects by independent power providers in the country demonstrates that we are open to business. These projects will be transformative in the western area and North and province of Sierra Leone. The fruition of this project will support the long-time provision of cheap domestic power by providing clean base load and renewable power vital to the success of the big 5 game changers set up by His Excellence the President.

Sierra Leone needs low cost low carbon firm power generation that delivers energy security, facilitate the extension and expansion of the network, this is critical Mr Speaker, in order to meet the Government Sustainable Development Goals' commitment and the Paris agreement as ratified by Parliament in 2016. These 3 projects provide a diversity of

renewable energy sources and the cleanness from of hydro carbon that is hydro solar and gas into the current energy mix.

Over the past few years the Ministry Energy has held several meetings and consultations with key Government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Lands Housing and Country Planning, the Sierra Electricity and Water Regularity Commission, the Electricity Generation and Transmission Commission, the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority, the Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone and the Public Private Partnership Unit all of which have been core members of the Government negotiation team. Concurrencies where granted by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice respectively; all projects have conducted environmental and social impact assessment and from this, developed environmental and social management plans and the resettlement action plans. The Environmental social impact assessment have been completed and is currently been implemented by the generator, these were conducted applying World Bank and International Finance Corporation and the Africa Development Bank's standards, these standards will continue to be applied throughout the term of the PPA.

The Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone EPA-SL licences and the Sierra Electricity and Water Regularity Commission Generation licences and all other permit will be sort upon approval of this document. Against this backdrop, the Delay Energy and TCQ Power Limited, ACRO Energy Limited, SMRTPAS Limited, together with SEWA Energy Recourses Limited are committed by the PPA obligations to source local content where possible and comparable as per as the local continent Act of 2016. The project additional capacity is expected to provide a significant number of jobs directly and indirectly. At the peak of construction the project anticipated to employ up to a total of 5000 construction workers.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I wish to respectfully submit the following memoranda:

Be it resolve that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the following agreements which were laid on the Table of this House on Thursday 12th October 2023 namely:

1. The 148.5 megawatt Power Purchase Amendment for the Western Area Power Generation Project located in Kissy
2. The 15 megawatt Solar and Storage Power Generation Project located in Newton and
3. The 28.2 megawatt Betmile Hydroelectric Power Project located in Pampana River in Tonkolili District

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members the question is that this Honourable House ratifies the agreements that were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday 12th October 2023 and those agreements as read out by the Minister of Energy. I intend to rise at 2:00 clock sharp I give the Floor to the Chair for Energy and I suppose I will allocate to him not more than 10 minutes, thank you.

HON. VANDY CHRISTOPHER KEIKURA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, and I don't want to deviate in it being a small boy, I want to thank you for supervising me since the 5th Parliament for supervising me since the Fifth Parliament, today I can boast of being somebody with some sound knowledge I want to thank you for that because you have been my Supervisor and Mentor, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we are here to ratify 3 different agreements Energy agreement, not another agreement but energy agreement; because this Government is poised to provide sustainable and affordable Electricity for the people of Sierra Leone and in doing that, you have to make the laws flexible, we have to create the enabling environment for investors to come and invest in the energy sector in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, times without number I have said Energy generation and transmission is capital incentive and in the situation where you have a challenged Economy most times you need investors to come and invest, most times in a model we call 'Build Operate and Transfer' [BOT]. Most country that have stable Electricity today used that model: Build Operate and Transfer [BOT] because for most Government the resource are not available to fix it for themselves and to fix the Energy problem in Sierra

Leone Mr Speaker, we are getting on gradually it cannot be quick fix. So today the power purchase agreement for the 148.5 megawatt for the western area that is a very boom.

7 ROGERS 2:49 – 3:13

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr. Speaker, in a fifth Parliament this particular agreement was ratified here, but now it is an addendum. And the second one is a power purchase agreement for fifteen megawatt solar, renewable energy. We want to move from the use of fuel to renewable energy so that is why is an energy mix, in that event we are also bringing solar 15 megawatt and is also going to be situated in the Western Area Newton; and after that again the Sierra Leonean led one, the one that is being led by a Sierra Leonean, Theme: The Power Purchase Agreement for an amendment because this also came here before Honourable Vandy knocked the doors of this Parliament but it came here before, so this Parliament is fully aware of BETMILE Hydro Company. But now there is also an amendment so it has come before us this sixth Parliament for ratification to go into full blown operation so that the agenda of the President and the agenda of Parliament and all meaningful Sierra Leoneans for us to get to a better renewable energy then it will actualized once this things are achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I am operating in ten minutes so I am going to be very brief. I want to take the Western Area Power generation hundred and forty eight point five megawatt; Mr Speaker, that one is going to be situated in the Eastern part of Freetown. Most times while the Western part of Freetown is enjoys electricity, the Eastern part of Freetown suffers outages, the simple reason I told you Mr Speaker in my second debate in the fifth Parliament, major rehabilitation on the transmission and distribution network took place in Sierra Leone in 1995, since that time no major rehabilitation has ever taken place, and the customer base has increased. Good number of customers are now attached to EDSA so they cannot evacuate adequate power from Kingtom to the Eastern part of Freetown. But that one is definitely going to be solved Mr Speaker, with

the intervention of this fifteen mega solar situated in the Eastern part and also this hundred and forty eight point five megawatt (148.5) is also going to solve the problem. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, what I want to explain to you about the tariff is, we have what we call the liquefied petroleum gas and is of two components. The liquefied petroleum gas is what we are going to start with, and under this the tariff is going to be 7.23US cents Kilo watt hour that is excluding the fuel charges, the fuel charges comes in as how the cost prevails that moment.

Mr Speaker this is very reasonable, the other day I said it here when you put plus or minus, we are buying electricity as 21.5 cents kilo watt hours and we used to sell at 12 cents kilo watt hours to customers; so that is why even when the Minister of Finance was here he made mention that EDSA is putting too much burden on the budget and we want to get that burden a little from the Ministry of Energy so that is why you are seen some changes in the system.

Mr Speaker when we come to LMG when the liquefy gas comes in the cost of the tariff will be 7.08 US cents kilo watt hour. Mr Speaker I am bringing all these figures to inform this Honourable House and the public that once these projects are ratified and they come into operation there is every likelihood that, in economics we say one of the sources of Government revenues is public owned enterprises. EDSA being a public owned enterprises established by the Government, all profits maximised by EDSA belong to the Government. So when we have a cheaper tariff, EDSA maximises profit will be one of the sources of Sierra Leone's revenue.

Mr Speaker Honourable members that is not a one man thing. I quite agree with you, that is very good and I want to crave the indulgence of Honourable Members, most times Mr Speaker in our communities we do know who and who are connected illegally but for your information EDSA does not have the automated system that when you are connected illegally they will notice that one. We all have to serve as watch dogs for our communities if we want the Government to grow from this level we are.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, now the fifteen megawatt solar is also located at Newton, the power purchase agreement is twenty years Mr Speaker and one good thing

about this three projects Mr Speaker, is going to be a Built Operate and Transfer [BOT]; after the conventional period those project are going to be Government own that is how we are going to have our own generation as we have Bumbuna now.

Mr Speaker, while we are buying at 21.5 cents kilo watt hour from IPP Bumbuna is less than 3cents kilo watt hour. So can you imagine when we have our own generation assets we will be spending lesser money and those assets will be providing money for the Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to BETMILE. This is one of the companies that has added to the assets of this Parliament. I spoke to the Clerk; BETMILE invited the committee to give them updates on his activities, we invited him to the committee office and he said Honourable you supposed have a printer but I said we don't have they provided us with coloured printer and an office fridge. I have reported that to the Clerk, because it has to be recorded in the Parliamentary Asset register because it is not my personal property, it is a gift, and that is the first of its kind Mr Speaker, somebody invites you to tell you what and what he am doing. We are very pleased with him, and he is located in the provincial areas because when we want to provide electricity for the people of Sierra Leone we should not be only concentrating in Freetown we also have our people in the provincial areas that is what BETMILE is coming to address. BETMILE is going to do 28.2 megawatt along the Panpana River, around Magburaka you know there very well those are your terrain. The tariff you also heard from the Minister is 9cents kilo watt hour and the transmission we would be paying 2cents kilo watt hour so put together is 11cents kilo watt hour and is very cheap compared to other charges in the sub region.

Mr Speaker, we should not even waste time to ratify these three documents before this House today because if we want to get out of the energy quagmire then we have no reason to stand in the way of this document.

So on that note Mr Speaker, may be one or two others may be interested. I want to thank these three companies: Milelie Energy CCQ Limited, Aco Energy, Sewa Energy Resources Limited. I want to thank them Mr Speaker, as I have told you they are taking the bold step to invest in the energy sector in Sierra Leone for our energy growth. So for the fact

that they are approaching that partnership with us because they want to take us from where we are to a better level, We want to thank them for that on that note Mr Speaker I want to crave indulgent of this Honourable House to speedily ratify this agreement. They are not contentious at all they are for our own good and are far better compared to some other agreements. On that note I want to thank you for given me audience.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his very informative contribution. In light of that contribution do we need waste any more time? Thank you so we wind up. Yes go ahead.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER: Again Ladies and Gentlemen thank you very much, for renewable energy and solar is what we need because I have solar in my house I use solar at my house day time and night this can help our country bringing all this megawatt in places we need light is a good thing for our country. I don't want to say too much, I just want to say is a good Bill. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: May I invite the acting Leader of Government Business to follow suit. The opposite number spent barely a minute

HON: EMERSON LAMINA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. The agreement before the House this afternoon between the Government of Sierra Leone EDSA has no political list. When I peruse clause four sub section two it gives enough guarantee for political risk, what are we saying, one Government after another Government will still stand the test of time. It has to be recalled that President Maada Bio in 2018 inherited energy in this country 15%, today we are proud to say energy is about 44% Mr Speaker, this agreement will not only provoke urbanization, everybody want to be in Freetown. This agreement will push people from Clinton to Allen Town to be beneficiaries; this means the one point three million populations living in Freetown will begin to reduce from western urban to western rural because of the enjoyment of light. Mr Speaker before rounding up the people of Kono were deprived in 1972 , under President Maada Bio the people of Kono are now enjoying 24 hours light uninterrupted thank you very much for that diction. You can imagine a project that was designed for the people of Kono between 1969 to 1972 it was diverted, it was formerly called or it has

to be named B Kongo project the people of Kono would have been enjoyed between 1969 to 1972 was diverted to Bumbuna, a disservice to the people of Kono. This is what President Maada Bio has done under Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are now enjoying light in this region. Mr Speaker why do we have to labour on document that gives credence to Asia that is thorough environmental health and social impact assignment were well done and resettlement plan I am a rural somebody; this project recognises, respect land owners that is to say where ever the lineage or pole be passed proper resettlement plan for the people will not be disgraceful at all. They will be happy, because proper settlement package according to the agreement in 42:12 will be given to the people.

Mr Speaker President Maada Bio will be on record for taken energy from 15% to 44% with the potential to more advance I am too sure very optimistic that by the time 2028 expires the people of Freetown, South, North, and the people of the East will consider blackout as something of the past. On this note I call on all, Acting Opposition Leader and my fellow Compatriot on this hour that we speedily ratify this agreement for the benefit of Sierra Leoneans.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Members, the last word Mr Minister before we move.

THE MINISTER: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Members of Parliament. I think what we have witnessed here this afternoon is one that we at the Ministry of energy and also our other MDAs, Colleagues, are very much grateful to this Well, particularly with respect to all the kind sentiments that we have heard from all the Members of Parliament, with respect to the potentials and opportunities that these projects are going to bring to our various communities and District. I think what we have heard from the Honourable Member of Parliament who is the Chairman of the Energy Committee is the one that has clearly set the context of why we have brought all these amended agreement to this Noble House.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I think the 148.5 megawatt which is one of the agreements that we have laid here this afternoon in addition to what the Chairman has

said has some useful component which probably I would just like to throw light on in this Well, because it is sad to report that three weeks ago when we had one of our consultative workshops held by World Bank to look at the clean cooking frame work, that as a sector we are developing now; because what has come up clearly over the period is that, Sierra Leone as a country is lagging behind when it comes to clean cooking technologies and it is sad to report from the studies that we have conducted that less than 3% of the population of Sierra Leone has no access to clean cooking and which is as a result of our extensive dependence on Biomass. We all know traditionally we use wood and charcoal for our domestic cooking and lighting and that has predominated our activities over time. We all know again the consequences most of our actions do have when it comes to this emerging global crisis which has to do with climate change because Sierra Leone has also been listed as one of the vulnerable countries when it comes to climate change risks.

So Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I just want to bring to the attention of the House that in addition to all what has been said with 148.5 megawatt Western Area power generation plant that is going to be anchored on liquefied petroleum gas I think is one that we should be very happy as a nation, because we have seen over time that there is a great deal of monopoly when it comes to LPG distribution across the country that is to say we only have one Afrigas and NP so with the emergence of this 148 having a kind of a jetty that is going to be bringing most of these LPGs in country, we see there is going to be future frame work that is going to break the monopoly of having some of these cleaner forms of fuel which is also potentially going to increase our cooking pattern as well as increase our longevity, because over time they have reported that annually well over three million people die of some of these crude forms of cooking so I just want to lend that again in addition to all of that.

One important note again that the Honourable Chairman said was as a result of tariff, mind you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the tariff that is reported here which is about 7.2 US cents not only takes into consideration in capacity charge but it also brings on board the operations and maintenance cost which is by no means huge when you look at how the project is structured so it also very important.

The second part of the discussions was also centred on the 15 megawatt Solar in Newton. So Mr Speaker Honourable Members you will agree that each time you drive by Waterloo going up country you see emerging kinds of infrastructure being developed and many a time we are being inundated in the Ministry with respect to providing energy supply so having this 15 megawatt is an additional capacity in the Western Area that is going to resolve all of that.

Finally Mr Speaker with respect to BETMILE, I think one important feature of this particular company is that BETMILE has been locally owned kind of developer which is why as a Ministry we have been supporting that particular developer to see how we could push this project forward. The location of BETMILE project in Tonkolili is very central because when you look at how the CLSG rural components are being implemented now you see that we have that as major generating point in the event we have any short fall in the CLSG. So on this note Mr Speaker and finally to the Honourable Member from Kono I appreciate your compliments and kind sentiments and I am also very happy to report that, some of the CLSG rural towns in Kono especially the lines has been energized and we are just waiting for some few technical issues to be sorted out so that Kono also continues to have more of that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I humbly submit that: Be it resolve that this Honourable House there by ratifies the following agreements laid on the table of the House on Thursday 12 October, 2023.

1. 148.5 megawatt Power Purchase Amendment for the Western Area Power Generation Project
2. The 15 megawatt alternate current Solar and Storage Power Generation Project in Newton and
3. The 28.2 megawatt BETMILE Hydro-electric Power Project in Pampana

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, the question is that this Honourable House ratifies the agreements as read out by the Minister of Energy which were laid on the table of the House on Thursday, 12th October 2023.

[Question proposed]

[Government motion by the Minister of Energy has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: Any announcement?

HON: HINDOLO M. NGEVAO: Mr. Speaker I rise on S.O. 35, to give the House notice that I will intend filing notice of motion Mr Speaker to evict all illegal occupants at the Sierra Leone Stadium Hostel and all car dealers but I want to give the House notice that I intend filling such a Motion under S.O. 25.

THE SPEAKER: Very well, yes any other? No notices, no announcement? Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1:50 p.m.]

And was adjourned to Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 10:00 am.]