



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION –SECOND MEETING

MONDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2021

SESSION – 2020/2021



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 3

Second Meeting of the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Monday, 19th April, 2021.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

THIRD SESSION – SECOND MEETING OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Monday, 19th April, 2021.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Ismaila Kabba, Read the Prayers]

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH [*Leader of the Opposition*]: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.Os. 34.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, can we finish with S.Os. 5[2] before your Point of Order?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I am challenging this particular sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let us commence the sitting.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: I am challenging the sitting, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: What is your point, Honourable Member?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: I stand on S.Os. 34.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I will entertain your Point of Order after the commencement of this sitting.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I believe this sitting has already commenced because we have just conducted the prayers, which is the first item on the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: I am afraid, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I would refer you to S.Os. 5[2]. If you read this provision carefully, you would notice that we have not yet commenced today's sitting until S.Os. 5[2] is dealt with.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, can I read S.Os 5[2] for the edification of the House? It reads: "Every sitting shall, unless Parliament otherwise determines, begins at 10:00 a.m. and unless Parliament has previously adjourned, shall continue until 3:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: We have not yet commenced today's proceedings.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, we have commenced today's sitting. S.Os. 5[2] was moved by the Government Whip for sitting to commence and it was carried before we moved to prayers.

THE SPEAKER: It has not been carried, Honourable Member.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, we would have not proceeded to prayers if that Motion was not carried. I am sure prayers were observed after the Motion was carried.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, a Motion has been moved that we suspend S.Os. 5[2] and has been seconded, but is yet to be voted upon.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: In that case, how did we pray?

THE SPEAKER: I will proceed with that procedure, Honourable Member.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can I proceed, Mr Speaker? Mr Speaker, I am still on S.Os. 34. Mr Speaker, the ruling must be respected. I respected your ruling that I should wait for the Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what is your Point of Order?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, you have already ruled that I should wait until we finish with the Motion that was moved by my colleague.

THE SPEAKER: I know that, Honourable Member.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: My Point of Order is S.Os. 34.

THE SPEAKER: Is what?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I am sure you are getting me very clearly.

THE SPEAKER: Can we have decorum, Honourable Members? I want to listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, the sitting itself is not being conducted under that circumstance. I want to refer you to S.Os. 43 It reads: "Not less than

twenty-one days before the date of a meeting, the Clerk shall transmit to each Member a written notice, specifying the date, time and place of such meeting.” S.Os 4[3a] states: ‘Any meeting,’ provided that in the case of any emergency of which notice is given to Mr Speaker by the President, a meeting may be summoned on such notice as Mr Speaker may determine in consultation with the Majority and Minority Party Leaders of the House and the Clerk of Parliament and notice of such meeting may be given to Members in such a manner as the urgency of the matter permits.” I want to state here that I have not been consulted. Mr Speaker, you know that we did not have a consultative meeting. There was no telephone call to inform me as Leader of the Opposition. I am speaking on oath because I took an oath to be in this House. I am sure the Speaker also subscribed to oath.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, have you finished?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: I stop here for now.

THE SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Do you want me to go to S.Os. 18 [1&2]. I will take my seat, but I will come back.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much for drawing the attention of the House to that particular provision. It is however my understanding that this particular provision is inapplicable in this particular instance because what we have here is a Proclamation made by the President pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Section 86[1], which empowered the President to summon a meeting of Parliament at any time. Section 86[1] supersedes the provision to which reference has just been made. I will therefore invite the Clerk to read out the Proclamation.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: No, Mr Speaker. He will not read it because there are other points I raised earlier. Mr Speaker, I referred you to 18 [1&2].

HON. PARAN UMAR TARAWALLY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: With the leave of Mr Speaker, I read the Proclamation [*Interruption*].

HON. LAHAI MARAH: No proclamation! No Proclamation! No Proclamation! No Proclamation! There should be no Proclamation *[Interruption]*.

HON. DR PARAN UMAR TARAWALLY *[Clerk of Parliament]*: Good afternoon! **S.O** [2] 'do ya, dis announcement dae for pipul wae not to either MPs or pipul wae nor to Staff of Parliament. Wi go ready for mek sure say wi go through the normal screening process for readmit una, but wi dae carefully ask una please for move out en una for go through the normal screening process bifo una go cam insai. Enibody wae nor to MP please, just move to that door out na di lounge then wi go admit una into the Well of Parliament. This na the Well of Parliament, en if you na stranger, Parliament dae announce say: dae out of ya en you go bi admitted after the necessary screening."

Can we please begin to go? The strangers, can you please begin to go? Can you please begin to go? Ar say udat nor to staff of Parliament, udat nor to MP, wi dae cam for address the Police in sai, den cam for can maintain order. Enibody wae u nor to MP en you nor to staff of Parliament attached to this sitting please leave now. We are screening everybody before entering the Chamber. Please go outside and wait for a while. I assure you that you will be ushered into the Well later. We want perfect decorum in this Well. If you are not an MP or staff of Parliament please move outside quietly. All parliamentary staff should come to the centre. I also want members of the Fourth Estate to go outside and wait for a while.

Honourable Members, please take your designated seats. The Speaker has asked me to inform you that he was going to commence this sitting, but he needed perfect decorum. Honourable Members are expected to maintain the seats allocated to them. We want to maintain decorum before the commencement of the proceedings. Thank you, Honourable Members. We are expecting the Speaker of Parliament to enter the Well soon.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, you may return to your seat. Whatever you have to say, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, you have to say it from the seat that has been allocated to you. I can see other Members of Parliament

standing at the same time. Honourable Leader of the Opposition, have you returned to your seat? I will only hear the Leader of the Opposition from the seat allocated to him.

Honourable Members, you can only hear your Leader in an atmosphere of decorum. The Leader of the Opposition had made his Point of Order to the point of conclusion before I made my ruling. I want to agree with the Leader of the Opposition that all Honourable Members of this House have a great deal of integrity and honour to protect and we must also respect the dignity of the House. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows that I have always indulged him and this occasion is no exception.

HON. PARAN UMAR TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]: With the leave of Mr Speaker, I read the Proclamation.

Proclamation, Proclamation 2021

In the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Sub-section 1 of Section 86 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991, Act No. 6 of 1991, the President hereby makes the following Proclamation:

Parliament is summoned on the 19th day of April, 2021 at 10:00 in the forenoon, made this 15th day of April, 2021.

His Excellency Julius Maada Bio, President.

I now call on the Police Commander to please restore order, so that the business of the House continues.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please take your designated seats. I want to ask the Leader of the Opposition to kindly take his seat, so that we proceed with today's proceedings. [Commotion ensued amidst coughing and sneezing due to pepper spray released by one security personnel]. Please remove this particular police officer from here. Remove him from the Dais.

HON. DR PARAN UMAR TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]: Honourable Members, please resume your seats. The Attorney General and Minister of Justice will soon lay a Paper on the Table of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please take your designated seats. We shall now proceed with the Votes and Proceedings.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2021.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 1st April, 2021. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4. We start with Page 5. Page 5? Page 6?, Page 7?, Page 8? If there is no correction or comment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 1st April, 2021 as presented?

HON. JOSEPH W. LAMIN: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder:

HON. HINDOLO T. SANDY: I so second

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 1st April, 2021 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

MR ANTHONY BREWAH *[Attorney General And Minister of Justice]:* With the leave of Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table of this Honourable House:

[i] The Statutory Instrument No.4 of 2021;

[ii] The Census Act No.14 of 2002; and

[iii] The Census Order, 2021.

[B] THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MR EDWARD HINGA SANDY [*Minister of Trade and Industry*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers:

[i] Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Masem Industry Sierra Leone Limited, dated December, 2020; and

[ii] Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Dual Plans and Ferro Fabrics SL [Ltd.], dated January, 2021.

THE SPEAKER: I thank both Ministers.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 3:45 p.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 29th April, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.]