



*Honourable Members, OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL,
FREETOWN*

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

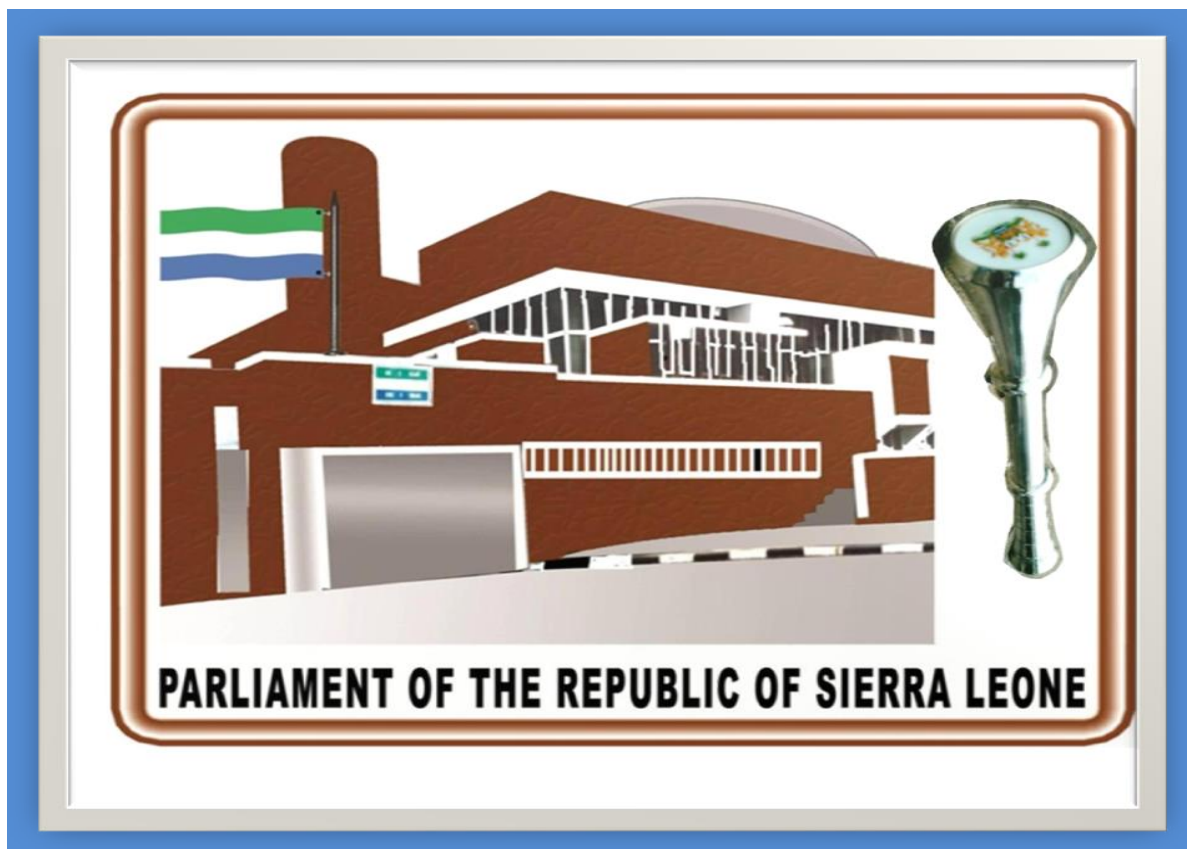
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 20th February, 2024

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PROPOSER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

SECONDER: HON. SAA E. LAMINA

BE IT RESOLVED:

**THAT THE THIRTEENTH 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
RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.**

V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DELEGATION



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, 20th February, 2024.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mrs Bintu Weston, Read the Prayers]

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, May I have the attention of all of you, please? I know some Honourable Members seated to my right there have the gift of the gap and the love to exercise it. Let us consider our Record of Votes and Proceedings, starting from Page 5. Page 5? Any amendment?

Let me just make an observation relating to Questions to Ministers. I noticed the absence of the Acting Leader. Okay, I will make the comment or announcement later on. Page 6? Can someone please move?

HON. HABIB K FABBAH: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you any seconder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put & Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday 13th February, 2024 has been adopted as presented]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to refer you to S.O 19;

In the Fifth Parliament, we grappled with this issue extensively but without any result. We recognised its value but we were not able to activate and give substance to the section contained in S.O 19. It is our intention to do so now in this Sixth Parliament. It would be a watershed if we succeed, because one of the duties of this Parliament is to hold the Executives to account. And one of the best ways established as the best practice in most Parliaments around the world is to be able to summon the Ministers to Parliament and ask them questions about their administrations. So we have arrived at a conclusion on this matter, but this time around we are going to give flesh to the bare bones of S.O 19; going to give it substantive meaning and we have agreed after

consultations that we would set aside the last Wednesday of every month. We would start on a monthly basis and see how it goes. If we need to improve on it; to add or subtract, we would do so as a result of whatever experience we gained from the implementation of this decision. So the basic principle is that, yes, Question Time will now be scheduled on a monthly bases, and Wednesday has been selected as di-day and it should be the last Wednesday of every month. Parliament will meet exclusively for Question Time, and to ask Ministers of the Executive to come to Parliament and give account to Parliament and the people of this country about the administration of their respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Mr Speaker, we are not saying all the Ministers are going to be invited together, no; they would be invited as and when necessary on an individual bases. We do not want to create the procedure that will disrupt the normal administration of the government. So it would be one Minister at a time, maybe two, maybe three Ministers at a time; not the whole cluster of Ministers will come, that is not the intention. So I want all of us to understand that. So if you have a question for a Minister and the last Wednesday comes and your question is not addressed, do not be discouraged, it will be reserved for the following Wednesday that is set for that purpose. A Letter to that effect has already been written to the Chief Minister to alert him of the decision of Parliament. So I do not know when that will be, looking at our Calendar, can somebody quickly tell us? Yes, according to my Calendar, it is going to fall on the 28th of February .This is a leap year by the way, yes it is, I never knew. So it is Wednesday the 28, which would be the first day that we are going to have Question Time, and I hope those of you with questions for Ministers will do the needful in accordance with the Provisions of the S.O.

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, although I do not know whether the Chief Minister has responded to your Letter, but Wednesdays are normally days for Cabinet meetings. So how are we going to do that?

THE SPEAKER: That is a good observation, a very good.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker that is a good observation. So we would discuss it after this Sitting is adjourned.

THE SPEAKER: Well, I think he is quiet right, let us await the response we get from the Chief Minister and then we would know what to do next. Your observation is a valid one, thank you.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I very much agree with the Honourable Member from Kenema. But at least based on your ruling today, we are now aware that we would have it once a month.

THE SPEAKER: That is the idea.

HON. DANIEL B KOROMA: The date will be modified if need be. But at least we are happy now that we will be having Question Time under S.O 19 once a month. And Mr Speaker, your word is a policy and for the records, I very much agree with you that as a start, we do it once a month. But under S.O 20, there may be some issues of very urgent matter, and the S.O gives you that power to grant leave for that particular issue to be addressed quickly. It may be an issue that affects public interest or even the interest of the government or any other thing. So I do not want us to be tied down, but the S.Os definitely gives you that power that even though in principle we have agreed that we have Question Time once a month, but under special circumstances you could grant leave under S.O 20 for urgent matters to be addressed.

THE SPEAKER: Well let me say this; we are not at cross purposes at all. The announcement I know is related to S.O 19 wholly and solely. If you look at the two, they are mutually exclusive; S.O 19 and S.O 20. It does not mean that when we utilize S.O [19] that S.O [20] is thereby unavailable to Parliament, no. If you look at it, it makes an exception of matters of urgent matter. So that is covered under S.O [20], and that can be raised at any time with my leave which is different from S.O [19]; S.O [19] addresses a separate issue. I hope you understand what I am saying? And I hope you Honourable Members were with me.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, too much emphasis is laid on the Standing Order which is quiet understandable. But actually it is a Constitutional Provision, and that is provided for in Section 107 of the Constitutions which actually empowers this Parliament to summon the Minister before the Parliament or the Committee to give account of any matters falling within his/her portfolio or to explain any part of government policy.

THE SPEAKER: And indeed we precisely quoted that provision. What the S.O simply does is to amplify what is contained in 107 of the Constitution.

So, what is in doubt is whether our Wednesday will stand. What is not in doubt is the principle of implementation; that we have agreed it should be done once a month. The precise day that it would happen must await the reply to the Letter we have addressed to the Chief Minister. In light of what the Honourable Member raised; the observation he made that Wednesdays are normally Cabinet days, I am sure we do not want a clash between us and he Cabinet. I notice you want to say something.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the item we are discussing is 'Announcement by Mr Speaker', and we should not open that to a debate. A concern has been raised; we should handle this matter administratively.

THE SPEAKER: Very good. So, shall we get on with today's business?

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

PROPOSER: **HON BASHIRU SILIKIE**

SECONDER: **HONOURABLE SAA EMERSON LAMINA.**

HON. BASHIRU SILIKE: Mr Speaker, I want to make an amendment to the Order Paper for the seconder. Mr Speaker, I move that we amend the **Seconder** to be read, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara instead of Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[MOTION MOVED BY THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE ORDER PAPER HAS BEEN CARRIED]

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 13th Report of the Committee on Appointment and Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential Nominees.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, cognizant of its constitutional responsibility of vetting and recommending of qualified candidates to this plenary for important offices of state, met on Thursday, 15th February, 2024 and interviewed three Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- i. Deputy Minister – Ministry of Information and Civic Education
- ii. Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority
- iii. Chairman, Board of Directors- Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

2. PROCEDURE

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

3, FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2024

The following Presidential Nominees were interviewed on oaths:

i. **Mr Bockarie Abdel Aziz Bawoh: Proposed Deputy Minister – Ministry of Information and Civic Education**

Mr speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Bockarie Abdel Aziz Bawoh is an acclaimed educationist, a cooperate specialist and project expert with a rewarding spanning twelve year experience in banking, project management, monitoring , evaluation, and livelihoods development in the non-governmental organizations sector. Few notable amongst his professional achievements were: i) as a banker, he rose from the rank of Clerk to Head of Operations at the First International bank Ltd due to his prudent and procedural financial management skills and ii) at the government sector, prior to this appointment, he served as Director of Economy Sector at the National Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (NaMED), where he monitored and evaluated the Public Sector/MDAs and Donor funded programmes using designed and updated M&E processes and procedures.

Mr Speaker,, Mr Bawoh is an unassuming technocrat with a natural impulse to always serve society. He holds a Master Degree in Measurement and Evaluation (2017) and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with specialties in Mathematics and Economics; all from the – Njala University College, Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in his response to question bordering on the status of affairs his proposed new Ministry relating to civic education of citizens on their responsibilities, the nominee said, "I will focus on rebranding the image of Sierra Leone globally and nationally to promote government policies and programmes to the people as would be directed. In collaboration with my Minister, I shall embark on citizens' engagement across all levels of society, especially the grassroots; because information is power" he concluded.

He was admonished across party line to learn and work in collaboration with his superior and technical staff to push forward government agenda.

ii. **Ing. Vandy Chrispin James French: Proposed Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing. Vandy French has over 20 years civil engineering experience with a plethora of acknowledges in development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of civil work programmes at home and abroad. He is a fine gentleman that believes in team work to attain optimal results with standards. Ing. Vandy is a member of the Professional Engineers Registration Council (PERC) representing domestic parastatals; and is also a revered member of the Sierra Leone Institution of Engineers.

Mr speaker, Honourable Members, the nominee has served the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) as an astute professional in various capacities for over two decades as listed below:

- From 2019 to present, Director of Planning, Policy and Research
- From 2016 to 2019, Director of Operations
- From 2012 to 2016, Project Manager (Chief Engineer), Moyamba Junction to Moyamba and bridges project
- 2010 to 2016, Assistant Project Manager (Urban Roads)
- 2009 to 2012, Acting Chief Engineer (Operations)
- From 2008 to 2009, Senior Engineer
- From 2005 to 2008, District Engineer, Kono
- From 2002 to 2005, Maintenance Engineer

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing Vandy French holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Cape Town, South Africa 2009; and other certificates in Foundation Designs to his credit.

In his response to the Committee on his plans for the new role that will add value to the Authority, the astute Ing stated that, prior to his new appointment, he had a very cordial working relationship with his colleagues and promised to

build on this to create the enabling environment that will foster a smooth administration that will promote work programmes at SLRA.

iii. **Mr Ira Nyake Amara: Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors- Sierra Leone Commercial Bank**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ira Nyake Amara is a seasoned corporate specialist with a more than thirty years' experience working in the Sierra Leone Banking Sector. His long and unblemished tenure with the banking industry fully equipped him with all it takes to hold the proposed position.

Prior to this assignment, the nominee served on several Boards either as a Member or Chairman to name a few:

2015 - 2017, Chairman, Board of Directors, Kambui Holdings (NASSIT)

2018 - 2023, Member, National Mineral Agency (NMA)

2023 to date, Member of Court, Eastern Technical University

2019 to date, Board Member, Commerce and Mortgage bank

Mr Speaker, Mr Ira Nyake Amara holds a master in Business Administration degree from University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (1992) and a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Business Studies from Middlesex University, United Kingdom (1977).

Reacting to questions on his suitability of the office to which he has been nominated, the seasoned banker in a subtle but very confident voice said, " I am taking along my qualification and experience but most importantly, my integrity to the Board of Sierra Leone Commercial Bank where am no stranger. I will be guided by virtues of honesty; trustworthiness and integrity which have always been a hall mark in my life."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ira Nyake Amara concluded on an intriguing note to leave a legacy worthy of emulation.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- I. Mr Bockarie Abdel Aziz Bawoh: Proposed Deputy Minister – Ministry of Information and Civic Education
- II. Ing. Vandy Chrispin James French: Proposed Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority
- III. Mr Ira Nyake Amara: Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors- Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this 13th Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the 13th 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 & Leader of Government Business 1
Date:.....

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Acting Leader of Government Business for his presentation, any seconder?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: I so second Mr Speaker.

QUESTION PROPOSED

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, today we are dealing with three institutions that are important for our nation and we are dealing with three Sierra Leoneans who have contributed immensely to the development of this nation. Mr Speaker even in the Well of Parliament, I want to re-echo the fact that , the nominee going to SLRA Mr French you are still been commended by Members of Parliament on this side on the way you managed and handled the road going to Rotufu the Honourable Member from Ribbi want it to be known in this House that you

displayed high level of corporation with them do you know he was a Member of Parliament from this side? You know we are saying this because normally when people are in offices of trust and they come in contact with Members of Parliament from the Opposition they are enemies, but we are not we might stand to say certain things in the interest of this nation which are not in your own interest but we say them to beef up the very existence of this nation and to see how best we can collaborate with government with different ideas to make Sierra Leone work as a nation. I thank you very much for that very good hospitality you showed to the Member of Parliament from Ribbi. Mr Speaker, I know today when it comes to SLRA, I am asking myself, which of the roads the nominee used to come to Parliament whether from State House or from Model? One of the thing I want you to know is that the Road leading to Parliament on either side needs an urgent rehabilitation. You know must times, even when our drivers are driving us up to Parliament, we forget we are coming to Parliament, until we take the road. The way you dance in the vehicle you will know you are coming to Parliament, even though it is good sometimes, it keeps us awake. The Speaker will want a refix of that road.

Mr speaker, Mr Bawoh whilst we were in the Committee of Appointments it is good sometimes we echo some of the things we enjoyed there you know Mr Bawoh extremely enjoyed the comfort of the committee you know as a young person who has worked in this country most of us in the Committee had a very good interactive session with him but you are going to a ministry as a deputy minister where at a time like this in our democracy one of the thing is there a gap between us the elected and the electorate on information and you are going there at a time when we are dealing with a new media and this gap of misinformation has affected almost all Members of Parliament. In the Fifth Parliament a bill to control the misinformation was enacted, the Cyber Law to ensure we are able to control the cyber space, but as we speak there is still a delay in the actions from government when it comes to sensitive political economic issues affecting the ordinary people and when there is a gap in communication. There is always the tendency for the people to have their own way of

interpreting information, disseminating information to suit their own intentions therefore one thing you should take home will be how do you go to enhance the performance of that ministry not just the daily weekly press conference. Sometimes when you look at the daily press conference even on internet you see a number of people following it up. We have circumstances in Sierra Leone even when the President is doing a broadcast the people following the live broadcast are not even up to 100. It tells you it is easy, some of us who are attracted to the media exchange are more interested in the mining sector. So when you talk about how you can work with other sectors to ensure government information reached the people on time, it is easy with the social media but again the question is how robust, how fast you get the information and how fast Government disseminate information on such sensitive matters. There are issues when government is implementing certain project, how much do you inform the people? It is not just after the project have been implemented you come now to start to explain to the people it should be the other way round to educate the people, inform them on the implementation of the project. We hope whilst you go there you can add value to the ministry. Mr Speaker, commercial banks over the years have made huge change in terms of making profit way back in 2016 commercial bank is doing well Mr Nyake you are going into an institution that is in the verge of making many Sierra Leoneans proud but in the last couple of years most of us who are members of parliament where banking with Commercial Bank, I am not sure it so in this current Parliament One of the reasons why they struggled with Members of Parliament is the interest rate Mr Speaker. The interest rate in the last Parliament was not friendly with Members of Parliament and the affairs of Members of Parliament were not handled properly. I am calling on you all to go and make us proud; and ensure with the knowledge you have, when we read your CVs here we saw how much you have worked for this nation, we encourage you to go and continue to add value to Commercial Bank. It is only the Speaker that is with Commercial Bank, most of your Members of Parliament have left, so it is only you and a very few Members of Parliament are there. One way you will know Members of Parliament that are banking with commercial bank is when you call them even the ringing tone is commercial bank. Mr Speaker as we conclude yes I want to say Mr

French when you look at Mr French CVs and the institution he has worked with and the period he has spent in that institution it brings one thing to mind that as politicians let us allow our technocrats to practice without political interference because when we do we are building the country because we will be building strong and resilient people. He started his career in 2002, I imagine when there was a change of government if he was removed today we will not have a sober engineer in his person. But from 2002, he has been in that institution government in, government out have allowed him to practice his trade. We can say not only going to the board but even as Deputy Director or even if we ask to send a Sierra Leonean engineer in any part of the world we would be proud to send you because over the years governments have allowed you to grow in your own career.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we approve these nominees, we are always saying go and do the right thing for this nation; but imagine when you fail the nation it is not just you as a person even your children and your grandchildren will pay the consequence of course you know most times when they call your name as Honourable Quintin Salia said the Bible say in the name of your lord your children will use your name and whatever you do today when your children use your name it will reflect your character as you are appointed by His Excellency the President go and do this country good but remember you have a family to protect when you do well the party will clap for you but when you fail your family will pay for your inept, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I missed something but walking stick is for the elders like me or you are holding it for fashion, whatever he is doing with that walking stick I hope after you would have made your presentation you will share with. So to enable you do that and also to enable you do one or two needful things that are still outstanding that you and I know about I give you the Floor. But before that let me recognise we have one of our own Honourable Alieu Ibrahim Kamara, we have also Mr Peter Sam Kpakra Development Secretary, we have Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Engineer Dauda Sheriff, Peter Tuka, Engineer Alfred Momodu, the DG of SLRA, we also have Mr Sheku Mambu,

Engineer Max Kovi director of youth. Mr Molie, you are all most welcome, you have the Floor.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Speaker, the nominees in front of us are aware that they are not been appointed or nominated by His Excellency the President because they are the most handsome or because of regional balance, but you have been nominated by the President simply because he believes in you that with you being there can help, if not eradicate the huge problems in those respective institutions. Again let me hasten to inform you that most of the time, people are nominated, they come here with good qualifications and once they go back to their respective offices they tend to forget their mandates. Mr Speaker, one thing I want to state very clear is that Mr Bawoh is an excellent communicator. I know you to be an excellent writer and I know you to be somebody who persevere a lot in achieving good result. I know you to be a graphic designer, so I believe at this point, if the President has nominated you he has nominated you based on values of performance. He believes based on your record you can lift the banner of the Information Ministry. The most major challenge we have in this government is communication to the people. The government has done so much, but very little is communicated to the ordinary person and without communication whatever we do as a government will not be known to the masses. The people should be informed about happenings in the Country. I know the leadership of the President and his government has done so much that such developments have never happened in the history of the country. The problem we have is how do we engage the ordinary people and we do not need to do one methodology in terms of communication, if we just depend on the corporate communication, we will as a government. If we do not communicate to the ordinary people, it is dis-service to the President and the people of Sierra Leone. So Mr Bawoh, if you have been nominated for that position, it is because the President believes in you. As Members of Parliament, we also strongly believe in you, so go and change the narratives and make sure you devise strategies on how to reach the last man.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next person I will zoom in is Mr French. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by all indications, I mean you are the most suitable man for now and I believe by your records that show you have institutional memory. you have done a lot, you have worked at different levels and that should mean that you most know when a district Director or whatever district engineer tells you about any problem, because of the wealth of experience you have. You should be able to know exactly what that engineer is telling you. So, I believe when you get to your proposed new office, please think out of the box, try to be digital and do not go with the same old methods, try to be an operational Director General. When you go out in the field you will be able to see how things are happening and you will be able to direct how things should go. If you use your office as an ornament of decoration, you seat there in your comfort zone and you expect people to feed you, they may mislead you and at the end, you may fail the people of this country. As the Honourable Member rightly said when you take an oath of office and pay lip service to the people, it goes with repercussion and I do not want you to fall. So please, look at the recommendations and see how we can improve the road network within the four corners of this country. When you go to neighbouring countries, what is making those countries so beautiful and attractive is the road network. It is very much disgraceful like the Honourable said coming from Model to this place you might think you are going off track. Off road is not only the one leading us to Parliament here, but there are other strategic roads that should be maintained and one thing we lack as a country is the maintenance culture. We are good at implementing, but very poor on how to sustain those implementations. So you should be thinking about sustainability of what we have and how to expand on them. If you go around big cities, we are seeing street lights now and this is not the first time of seeing them. The problem is how do we sustain those street lights, so that they stay even for generations yet unborn could see them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I went to Ghana two years ago on a workshop, on the way to the workshop venue, a vehicle S.O [2] "Poda Poda" hit one of the street lights on our way going, you cannot believe on our way back to the Hotel, they had

replaced the same street pole that was hit. It was already replaced before evening that shows they have a plan in terms of how to maintain structures.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, finally, of course Commercial Bank is a very big institution and we expect good services coming from it. Mr Yusif is already doing well, but I will tell you if you look at this Parliament now, Commercial Bank had 99% of us and I will tell you for now that Commercial Bank has not more than 10% again that is something you must investigate, because I will tell you for free, we operated with them in the 5th Parliament and we had our monies taxed in different ways. When we asked them for interpretation, they could not, but each of those taxes were cut [Applauses]. So, please, if you are going there, try to know why they had 90% of us and now they are only having less than 10%.

THE SPEAKER: I did not know about that and am still there.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Well you did not know Mr Speaker, but I tell you, the migration was so huge like a folk of bull cows moving, exodus movement except for the very few who were trapped because of certain reasons.

THE SPEAKER: What was the attraction you got outside?

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Well that will be explained behind the curtain, in Committee Room One. We will explain that in Committee Room One, but for now, Zenith Bank is our baby.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Expunge that from the Order Paper please!

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Okay I withdraw.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Speaker, since you are going there, I believe there is work more to do. So on that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish these three nominees that we believe in them and please go to those offices

with the intention of changing the narratives and making sure you are remembered even when you might have left those offices. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Kenema, after him, the Honourable Member from western area and then back to the Honourable Member from Kono.

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, I want to ask for your permission to move to the other seat, because my mic is not working.

THE SPEAKER: By all means do.

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution is going to be very brief. Firstly, I want to thank the President for giving us these fine nominees to serve this country. On behalf of the people of one of the greatest chiefdoms in the eastern region, the great Dodo chiefdom, we want to thank His Excellency the President for appointing one of us, Mr Nyake Amara as a Board Chairman. We are proud of him and we are thanking the President, because since the inception of 2018, Mr Nyake Amara is the first Appointee from our Chiefdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Amara, I knew him when I was a boy and Mr Nyake Amara as I stand here is one of the magicians behind my success of being here. He is a very big magician S.O [2] "Pa na me backbone." Mr Speaker, Mr Nyake being appointed as the Board Chairman of Commercial Bank, I am very sure that the President made no mistake because all his life time from adolescent to retirement, he has been in the banking business. So he knows what to do in order to solve the challenges in the banking sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want Mr Amara to take into consideration the various concerns raised by the Honourable Members in relation to the interest rate. The essence of all these institutions is to serve the people and as politicians, our bank is the people, because we depend on the people as politicians and the primary aid of every

Government is to minimise the sufferings of the people. We have a lot of petty cash business people and they have to look into their interest rate to see how they can help these people to improve their businesses. The interest rate of Commercial Bank as other colleagues were saying was too exorbitant. They would lure you into their business without bringing out the proper conditions as a bank. If they can do those things to us as Members of Parliament, we are level headed, what about the common man out there? So Mr Amara as you go as Board Chairman, sit down with your staff, look at the loan conditions they are giving out to people and see that it suits the comfort of our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer French, I do not know him personally, but a lot of good things have been said about him from other colleagues. He is a fine gentle man. The President made no mistake to appoint him as Deputy, because he has served as district engineer and he has grown through the ranks, so he knows he has his wheat around him of the duties he is going to carry out. Mr French SLRA is responsible to ensure that we have better truck roads in Sierra Leone, we in Kenema District, Eastern Region is suffering from having good roads. Kenema to Zimmi high way is a death trap, from Mano junction to Kono is nothing good to write home about, from Paiguma junction to Dodo is nothing to write home about, you can even call it a death trap road. As you go, you have to lobby with your boss, look out for funds elsewhere, because the primary responsibility of going to that office is to ensure that you provide services for the people of this country. If you go to that office and you do otherwise, I am sure one day posterity will judge you. That is what I always say to my colleagues honourable Members, as we carry out our responsibilities. Let us do not forget that our job is carried under oath. We are under oath, if you do not suffer today, you will suffer tomorrow or your grandchildren will suffer. So let us work in the interest of this country. Mr Speaker, on that note, I say thank you very much *[Applauses]*

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

HON. DR UNPHA S. G KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution today on the appointees that we have before us is not going to be personal but is going to be about the institutions in which they are going. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have Nominees going to institutions that are critical for the wellbeing of this nation as we move forward. Ministry of Information and civic education is a very important ministry in this government that we as Sierra Leoneans will be or pay more attention to. Sierra Leone road authority with an extract form of publication by an educationist by the name of Margret Freeman from the humanitarian network in the US and with your leave Mr Speaker, I would want to read from the formal introduction and if you may permit me Mr Speaker, "it says that the habit of the mind as well as the habit of the heart the dispositions that inform the democratic ethos are not inherited". Mr Speaker, going on to say again that this generation is a new people that must acquire the knowledge, learn the skills and develop the disposition or traits on private and public character under constitutional democracy and those disposition must be foster and nurture by word and study by the power of example. Democracy is not a machine that will go for itself but must be consciously reproduced from one generation another. Mr Speaker, I am saying the Ministry of Information and Civic Education is very important because it has key components that will forge the way for us Sierra Leoneans as we go forward. Information aspect Mr Speaker tells us that if there is an information gap between the Government and the people, that gap will be filled by other information that the people of this country are left with no option but to go for it. The Speaker and the Honourable Whip stated that we passed the cybercrime law in this country and we are all operating in the cyber space. If you go to communities across the country Mr Speaker, some people have this important and sometimes dangerous tool and some of those people do not have access to radio. So the information that they have or they get from social groups or from WhatsApp groups are the information that is readily available to them, that is the information that they will use. So the Ministry of Information has a critical role to fill that gap, to ensure that the requisite information meets the people in all corners of this country, those are one of the reasons I say that

the Ministry of Information is a very important ministry and the nominee we have in front of us here is going to that ministry as a Deputy Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also have the civic educational aspect, and from my quotation the civic educational aspect is what they teach the people of this country, especially the young people of this country, the direction that this country should go. Your responsibility as citizens of this nation, we should not be always asking what Government can do for us, but we should be asking what we as Sierra Leoneans can do for this country. If we are to be asking ourselves those questions, then it will remind us that all of us should be police to every community that we live. We should not be in a respective community and see somebody destroying

public property and say S.O [2] "nor to mi besines." Any property in this country destroyed by any given Sierra Leonean or a foreigner of this country is our responsibility.

Mr Speaker, civic education is critical, so it is imperative that the civic educational space is nurtured by not just the Government, but from CSOs and partners that are in the development of this nation. The civic educational space Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, will teach Sierra Leoneans now and Sierra Leoneans that will be leaders tomorrow that we should be seeing this country as a nation that we are inheriting from our forefathers, but not a nation that we are borrowing from our children. If that is so Mr Speaker, all of us as Sierra Leoneans will hold that dearly including the ministers. Though it is a new ministry, it should make sure and see how they can bring partners into this ministry to foster development strides to ensure that we teach the Sierra Leoneans a new way to be a Sierra Leonean. We should be learning how to be a different Sierra Leonean, we as Sierra Leoneans should not be seeing to be Sierra Leoneans that are in this country for ourselves, but we are in this country for generations yet unborn. We should be seeing Sierra Leone as a Sierra Leone that we have inherited and that we will handover to our children. So this ministry is a very important, the Deputy Minister, I encourage you to go and work hard do not see this ministry as a ministry just by face value, it is a ministry that can allow you to deliver

more for the people of this country and we have a moral obligation to ensure that happens.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to say a little on the Roads Authority, it is a brain child of the Ministry of Works. The road Authority has a responsibility, we have new roads and we have seen construction of new roads across the country for the past 10-15 years, but it is incumbent on the Sierra Leone Roads Authority to ensure that those roads are maintained. We know the Sierra Leone Roads Authority, their hands are little bit tied with the Road Maintenance Fund, but when you go across this city as a representative of the people beyond western area, you would see the massive destruction going on to roads that have just been constructed. The Wellington Old Road, a new road constructed some years back is now totally in disrepair and now, we are asking a motorist during in the morning hours to use that road that brings us to the argument to the 'WAKA FINE' but as we say, Mr Speaker, pending the visitation of the Minister or pending the visit of the Minister to answer to this Parliament, I will hold my reservation for that day.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to blame the Bank of sierra Leone for all their interest rate, but the problem lies with the Commercial bank, but the problem really lies with Bank of sierra Leone with the high interest rate. We have gone to banks across this country and they are all complaining about the same issue and that the interest rate given by the Bank of sierra Leone to the commercial banks are not encouraging and if they give those interest rates to the commercial banks, the commercial banks have no other way out, but transfer those interest rate to their final consumers who are the customers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say briefly about the institutions and the positions that these people are going to occupy and of course we cannot put square pegs into round holes. Of course, I want people and personalities with credentials that are fit for the positions, but it is really

important that the people that take these respective positions have the heart to serve Sierra Leone and not their personal self. I thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable for his contribution. The last on my list is the Honourable Member from Kono and then we wind up.

HON. MUSA FAFONAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I want to thank the President for given us these three Nominees, and I want to thank colleagues who have taken the floor before me, colleagues have already explained a lot around the three nominees and I want to believe with the resume we have read, the three Nominees are qualified Nominees. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say the three Nominees should go to their offices and make us proud. I want to zoom on the Deputy DG for the SLRA, Engineer French Mr Speaker, I am perssonate about Mr French or Engineer French because 4 years ago I worked with Engineer French, Engineer Jamil and their former DG Engineer Jambai kanneh. Today we have seen Engineer Jamil as the Director General and we have seen Engineer French as the Deputy it means the blessings for hard work is more work I want to thank the President for this nomination. Engineer French Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want this House to understand that when I was chairing in the Economic Development Planning some four years ago as Committee chairman for three years, we went on an oversight to look at the Mabang Bridge, the Gballay bridge, the Moyamba junction, the Moyamba Town road and Liberia highway Mr Speaker, it will interest you to know that the two gentlemen here DG and the Deputy were given to us by the former DG for 5 days they were very respectable Sierra Leoneans very respectable Engineers who worked with our instructions as Parliamentarians. When we went to Mabang bridge there was a lot of problems between the Committee, the consultant and the construction company [CSE] but these two gentlemen were very professional to say this is Parliament do your job and I want this House to understand that because of the hard work of these engineers our resolutions to CSE during that oversight that this House is demanding for those projects to complete, today we are back in the 6th Parliament proudly to say the Moyamba junction and the Moyamba Town road were

completed last Parliament, the Mabang Bridge was completed in the last Parliament, the other Bridges were completed in the last Parliament, and also the Gendema highway was almost completed.

Mr Speaker, what was also very key, I want this House to understand the professionalism of these two Engineers proved to us, in Gendema, we told them that the best we can do is to talk to the Liberian side of this road let them understand that we want this road completed and we don't want our materials to be taken from Gendema Zimmi to Liberia. So we want all for us to go to the Liberia side they agreed and we went to the Liberia side and we talked to the immigration there and they gave us their word they told us that they will do their best to make sure that they support us for that road to be completed. So if Engineer French is in front of us today to take over the Deputy Director General for [SLRA] I believe is because of 20 years hard work in the SLRA, but Deputy Engineer, we want you to know that this country needs SLRA most, the four bridges that were commissioned before the Election is ongoing, the Manoyao Bridge the Matru jong Bridge the Tomparay Bridge and the Gandema Bridge we want to see those Bridges completed within the specific time given by the President you are the technical people, we heard from the MP from Kenema, is talking about the road from Mano Junction to Kono, is taking about the road linking Zimmi Golo tunkia the Giema Dama in Kenema, we have the Kono road also going to Guinea but what we want to say here is because we have the 1,800km road that was regraded during the last Parliament why those roads were regradeled because you convinced us that you want to cost those roads you don't want to see international companies come and say this roads is 60km and cost \$100Mln because you are bright Engineers now and you want to take the mantle of responsibility for yourself and for the sake of this Country. So we just want to say we understood that SLRA have visited or have the map of 11,300KM road that you have done studies on, we know is a huge job on SLRA, you have lot of maintenance to do, you have new truck roads to regrade but we are confident as Parliament that in the interview Engineer French you said you will do all your best to work with your team, we are confident because we have worked with you

but we want you to support the Director General, we want you to support this country those roads that need rehabilitation please lets rehabilitate those roads, those roads that we think need to be completed please do your best to complete those roads. The problem of this country today you can be assured road is one nobody can take out of the equation and we trust in what you have done so far and on that note as Member of Parliament who have served last parliament and I have worked with you and your boss, we believe that this team will serve the best interest of this country, this team will make us proud as a country and this team will make the president who has appointed you proud.

On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much and I urge this House to speedily approve these three wonderful nominees. I thank you very much Mr speaker

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a great personality here today, Engineer French he didn't know I was going to be a member of parliament when he was supervising the work of Mabang bridge, I remembered the time when we had frequent drowning people were dying, I went to him and pleaded with him and said please help us with the automated ferry. We are engaged with such personality he did very well and the automated ferry serves the people of Ribbi and the entire Moyamba District.

Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity on behalf of the people of Moyamba district to commend the Government of Sierra Leone out of the funds that were left for the Magbaillay Bridge and the Mabang Bridge, Government funded over 60% of the total project to tarr the road from Songo to Mabang. Mr Speaker, most of the roads were contracted to four contractors in Moyamba District in 2019. I want to plead to the Director and the Deputy Director General and the proposed Deputy Director General to please consider the road from Mabang to Moyamba, the road from Moyamba to Shenge and the road to Rutile. Mr Speaker, people are dying, especially during the Raining Season. When the rains intensify, even ambulances cannot access health centers. So if

the Government has not secure funds yet, I want to plead on behalf of the people of Moyamba District for [SLRA] to give a face lift to those key roads. Mr Speaker, I also want to remind the proposed Deputy Director that the contract given by [RMFA] through council, most of these projects, especially Calvert, either single or twin box Calvert have a very short life span. If you visit most of these areas, most of those Calvert have been damaged and they required an immediate reconstruction. So I want to thank you. I wish you all the best in your new offices and may God bless the people of Moyamba District.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Appointees and let them know that they are now exposed to public scrutiny. You have been appointed is not what you do but how you comport yourself in the office what are the gains you make in the office what are your achievements in the office is what is most important. Of course your appointment are not forever so it will be very nice that when your tenure ends you must be able to have pointers to what was achieved in the office. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members let me begin with Mr Bockarie Ab del Aziz Bawoh

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

Question Propose and Agree To

THE SPEAKER: You may continue and the plead to the Honourable Member for us to rise as quickly as possible.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Definitely Mr Speaker, as quickly as possible I will not be too long. Yes and when he faced the Committee, we asked him several questions and it will surprise you to note that he was very apt in answering the questions in fact his responses gave the committee the confidence that he will be very productive in the Ministry of Information and Civic Education. The Committee went forward to ask him for the English version of his AKA name *[Laughter]* up till now am looking for the dictionary to see whether the name is correct. And what I learnt about him Mr Speaker,

on a very serious note is versatile. He reads Bachelor of Science in Education but Mr Speaker, it will interest you to note that his first job is Banker, he rose from the rank of Clerk to the head of operation at the First International Bank, that shows that he is a utility, he can metamorphose to any profession, you just expose him to the opportunity and then he will prove his mantle so I have no iota of doubt that he will prove his mantle in this very Ministry. I just want to let him know that he is a young man and he has more years to live on this planet earth so he needs to have pointers so that after he may have left the Ministry he will be able to say this is what I achieved when I served at that Ministry. I wish you well my brother.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Engineer Vandy Chrispin James French, of course, I am amazed at the sentiments showered on him by Honourable Member on both sides of the aisle. The best of nominees are those who are related to members on of the opposition bench that shows that indeed they have done justice to their jobs. I want to join the Members of Parliament to express my profound thanks and appreciation to you for the services you have rendered. He has demonstrated high level of patriotism regardless of region that shows that if you are elevated you will do more I have no doubt that you will make this country proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ira Nyake Amara proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank of course, a lot have been said by Members of Parliament about Commercial Bank, but all I want to say is that they are rendering services to this Nation and I want to believe Government has its shares in the Bank so Members of Parliament should always patronize with Government own institutions so for those of you who have ran away from Sierra Leone Commercial Bank I want to use my Good office to crave on your indulgences to please return to Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. I have come to note that he is not a new man in the Banking system, he has enormous experiences which he would use, he is an intelligent man, I could remember when the Leader of Government Business asked him to value his vehicle he gave a value that we all thought was below the price and the Leader of Government of Business asked him, are you sure that this vehicle cost this amount? I was waiting to

hear from him, he was swift to say the price I gave for the vehicle is because the vehicle is without tyres as I speak so you can tell somebody who is intelligent by the way he respond to critical questions. He has served as project manager Acting chief engineer and served as a member of the National mineral Agency [NMA] he has also served as the member of court at the Eastern polytechnic, the Chairman board of directors of Comin Holdings. He has enormous experiences and ideas but all of those will not be important if you don't bring them to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank, the mere fact that you have dissenting views from Members of Parliament show that you have a moral obligation to perform at the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank I wish you well I pray that you succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Opposition, I want to ask this Honourable House to expeditiously approve Mr Bockarie ,Abdel Aziz Bawoh, Engineer Vandy Crispin, James French, and Mr Erah Naykek Amara, I pray that we approve the expeditiously and I wish them well in their main responsibility.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution now over to you Acting Leader of Government Business.

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: 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 and even those that are supporting but have not contributed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have three nominees before us and when I was announcing their names Mr Speaker, they came before as they bow before us that means that show we are the supreme Arm of Government as a Parliament. We are the only body that provides oversight over the Executive and judiciary and nobody provide oversight on us, we are the people's representatives so to you the nominees you have come before us you have surrendered yourself to us for scrutiny, you went through interviews we have recommended you to this House for Approval at the end of the day you should accord us with respect because we will be visiting your offices and we will be visiting on behalf of the people of Sierra Leon, no Member of Parliament will be

visiting your office to beg for himself or herself but he or she will be going there on issues and the challenges of his and her constituency to be solved. It is clear that the people have the conviction that Members of Parliament are still responsible for development. If you go to our constituencies they are crying to us. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members S.O [2] Honourable nor do dis Honourable nor do dat Honourable look the road, the bridge, Honourable look the School, but these are responsibilities that should be done by the Councils and the Executive arm of Government but because of lack of knowledge we are the loser, we are the sufferers. We are the people that answers the questions that you should do. if you go to our Constituencies everybody is crying for roads as if we Members of Parliament are SLRSA we are RMFA, we are everything they expect us Honourable look at the road, look at the bridge today we are having the Deputy Director General before us we will be going to your offices. Mr Deputy Director General thankfully you have been accompanied by your Director General we will be visiting you every Member of Parliament because the road leading to our constituencies and our districts are deplorable, the road leading to our constituencies they are very dilapidated I know you are also under pressure because of funding but you should squeeze because if we don't bring the issues up our people believed we should do it and we have enacted the various Acts that have establishes offices and specially the SLRA Act which stats that you are responsible for feeder and trunk roads so the fact that you are here, I am using this opportunity on behalf of all Members of Parliament though you have a tight budget tight schedule please consider that if you fail you are not just falling yourself you are falling us because at the end of the day the people will vote us out. They don't want to know if we have gone to you or have appealed to you but have not been able to do. In fact what they only know is MPs have not been able to do the roads, we have many of our colleagues who did not come back, there is a colleague who did not come back there is a bridge leading to his house and they said he was supposed to do that bridge and because he was not able to do that particular bridge the people said they are not going to vote for him and they did not vote for him they did not because the people believed the Member of Parliament should build that Bridge and when we valued the bridge it was more than a Billion and

the MP was saying how am I going to get a Billion to make the bridge? He was voted out and the MP that they voted was crying about the Bridge which SLRSA has not done but this was the tool he used to campaign against that Honourable Member, so we are always voted out because of what you are supposed to do, our business here is to make laws, to provide oversights and to represent our people but our people think beyond that they think we are responsible to make the roads, we are responsible to build bridges, we are responsible to build schools in fact we even carry the dead. So you have been recommended to this House please do us proud, please help us because at the end of the day our faces will be on the ballot papers and if you don't perform then of course we will be out.

To our brother Mr Aziz of course I have known him for almost 20 years or more, we were in the same University, this man is extremely lucky. He was our chief Electoral commissioner, he was admirable during our days in Njala.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members one thing that impresses me about this candidate before us, he was extremely very pivotal during the 2012 and 2018 elections. He even contested for the position of young generation leader he did not win but he continued his support to the SLPP, In 2018 when his Excellency assumed power we thought he was going to be elected long before now but he continued to persevere, he has never stopped supporting His Excellency the president and the party. In 2018 he was extremely very pivotal, 2023 we thought he was going to be appointed among the first set of Nominees. We noticed that at some period he was feeling bad but he was encouraged by party people, today you have been rewarded and that what I will talk to every SLPP person, your turn is your turn you have to exercise patience like our brother did.

Today everybody is here celebrating him, he has celebrated with a lot of others long before now, for every appointment by His Excellency the president Mr Abdel Bockarie will be here supporting him even when he believes he was qualified and super qualified for those positions he will still come and support those that were appointed. Today the

lot has fallen on you; the people are here to support you please don't disappoint them. I know for sure that you will be one of the critics of appointees when they don't perform. After today, we are also going to be critics of you, we want to know if what you have been telling us about appointees is the same you are going to do or you are going to set a different pace, you are going to be with the people, you are going to be with the grass root Bawoh because we know most times when people are given responsibilities they assume more and they think more than the people and they move themselves from the grass roots and become elites. We hope you will continue to as a grass root you always be. Because you are a party person and you see the praises that have showered on you from the opposition, it shows you are a person that cross beyond party lines even at the interview, we heard what the APC Members of the committee said about you, they have so much respect for you and this side we trust you and we have confidence in you, the other side have immense respect for you so we hope you will carry that and treat all of us with the correct information since information is power everybody wants to know the fact there is a lot of misinformation going on especially with the advent of the social media, everybody can sit in his or her corner and do voice recording and again share and distort the information, so your task is to bring us the correct information and make sure is correct.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members to Mr Nyake Amara of course he has a wealth of experience personally I interviewed him he was able to impress the committee, you are going to sierra Leone commercial bank that is our baby as a government. it is a state owned bank we are going to give that bank the fullest of support, there is no way for members of parliament particularly new members some of them had been told wrong things about the bank but I believe that bank is the greatest of the commercial banks. So you are going there make sure you take your experience, you have members of the managing boards, as you have been part of different boards you are now going as the board chairman, please join the management and other members of the board to develop that bank.

Before now that bank was one of the best banks and today I can say here without fear or favor that, it is the greatest commercial bank we have in Sierra Leone.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank everybody and I wish you all well. Engineer French of course I have talked about the roads please don't forget the road please. Thank you very much Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: And with that?

BASHIRU SILIKIE: And with that Mr Speaker, I move that the thirteenth report on the committee on appointments and the public service be approved.

THE SPEAKER: We thank all the speakers who have taken the Floor on the important.

Question Proposed Put and Agreed to

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public service by Honourable Bashiru Silikie, have been approved.]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it is now my pleasant duty to add my own voice of congratulations to the approved Nominees. I happened to find myself in a unique position of knowing all these three Nominees, some I have known since my student days in the UK, they are all eminently qualified and eminently suited for their appointments that they have received. His Excellency has reposed the greatest confidence in them and this House in turn has reposed in them his blessings for them to proceed in their assignments. It is my duty on behalf of them to convey our warmest congratulations and felicitations to all three of them and to wish them the very best of luck in the discharge of their responsibilities which we are all confident they will do to the best of their ability.

So gentlemen, go with our blessings and Allah's blessings thank you. May now take leave of us.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, with regard to this particular item on our agenda, I want it to be known I am currently engaged in consultations with the

leadership and the announcement will be made in due course, I want to assure the House that much as it was anticipated that this announcement will be made I as Speaker bear the greatest responsibility to ensure that we preserve an environment in this House at all times that is stable and free from rancor. I continued with those consultations and at an appropriate moment the announcement will be made that will underscore the need for us to preserve peace and stability and appropriate environment for us to continue to execute our onerous responsibilities. So I am sorry if I disappoint you today, the matter is under consideration and consultation and due diligence will be done and I will make the announcement before too long. I thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

[The House rose at 12:25 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 22nd of February at 10:00 a.m.]