

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

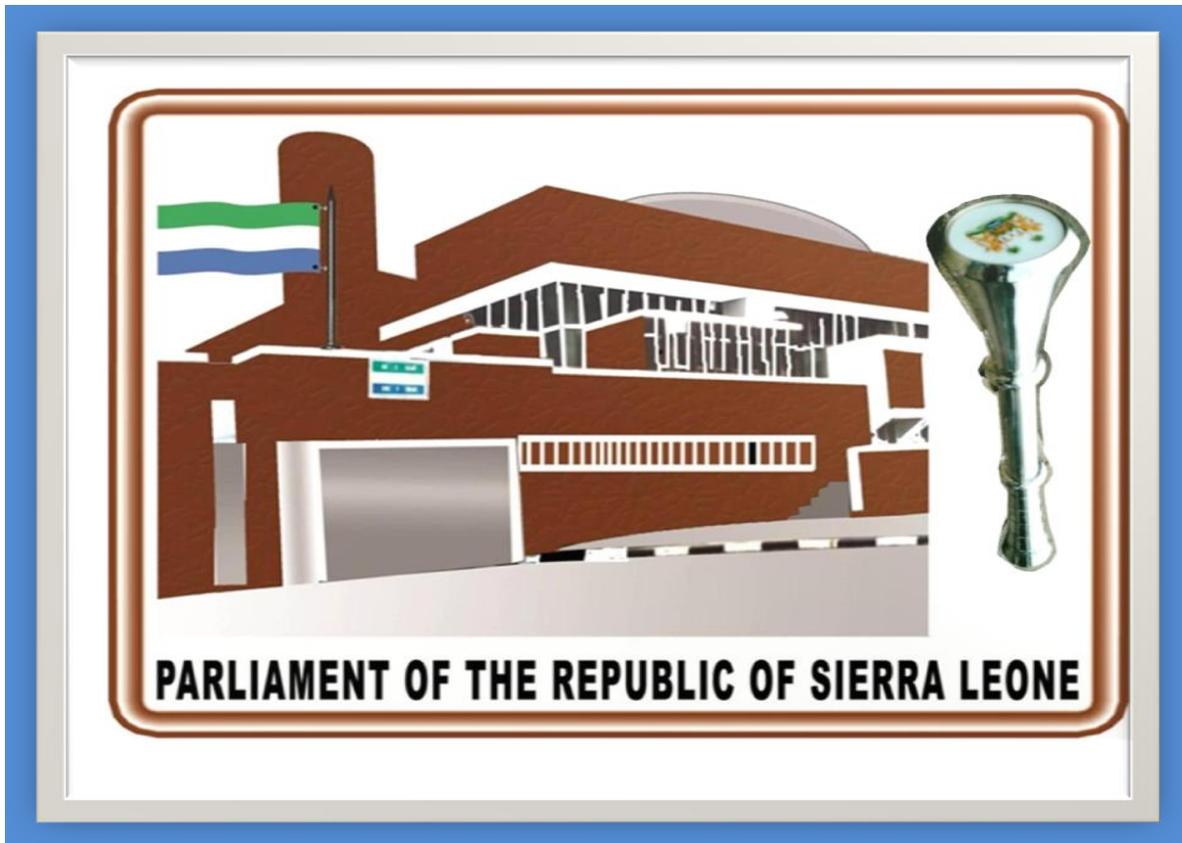
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2023**

*SESSION – 2023/2024*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 16**

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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 Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

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**V. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

**PROPOSER:**HON MATHEW S NYUMA

**SECONDER:**HON BASHIRU SILIKIE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NINTH 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.



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

## **Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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

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**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:06 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2023**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. We start with Page 6. Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? If there is no correction or amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 as presented?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ABDUL KARIM BANGURA:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 has been adopted as presented]*

**III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

No announcement was made by the Speaker.

**IV. PAPERS LAID**

[A] HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA, LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the following Instruments:

[i] THE MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2023

THE MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2023 [ACT NO. 16 OF 2023]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 9 OF 2023

[ii] THE EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS ACT 2023,

THE EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS ACT 2023 [ACT NO. 15 OF 2023].  
STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 10 OF 2023.

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OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS, 2023.

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 11 OF 2023

[iv] THE CUSTOMARY LAND RIGHTS REGULATIONS, 2023  
THE CUSTOMARY LAND RIGHTS ACT, 2022 [ACT NO.20 OF 2022]  
STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.12 OF 2023

## **V. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

**HON. MATHEW S NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Ninth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential Nominations:

### **1. Introduction**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, cognizant of its constitutional responsibility of vetting and approving qualified candidates for important offices of state, met on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023 and interviewed six presidential nominees for the following positions: i] the Executive Director, National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA], ii] Deputy Commissioner, National Children's Commission, two Members of the Board of Directors for the National Minerals Agency [NMA] and the Director General and Deputy Director General of Sierra Leone Ports Authority [SLPA].

### **2. Procedure**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee conducted the hearing within its set framework of procedures and the 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. Further

probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to a litmus transparency probe on 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. Eleventh Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following presidential nominees were interviewed on oath:

*i. Mr Andrew Jaiah Kaikai, proposed Executive Director, National  
Drugs Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA]*

Mr Andrew Jaiah Kaikai is a renowned politician, a philanthropist, a human right activist, a retired platoon Commander and Military Police of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and an astute immigration law expert. He acquired greater part of his tertiary education in the United States where he attained a Master's Degree at the Suffolk University Law School [2004-2005] and owns and operates till date a Law firm known as Kaikai Law Group PLLC in Dallas, Texas. He was admitted to the Bar in Texas in 2006 and is a Member of the American Bar and Dallas Bar Associations. At party level, he served as the North American and Canada Legal Adviser for the ruling party, SLPP. Prior to this appointment, he was the Chief Immigration Officer, a principal adviser to Government on all matters relating to immigration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Committee solidly reaffirms the earlier recommendation bestowed on this nominee during the immediate past session of this House.

Responding to the Committee on the state of drug laws, he acknowledged that the country requires a review of the drug legislation. He promised to work with Parliament and other coalition of state parties to do a thorough review of the laws relating to this matter.

ii. Mr Henry Mustapha Sheku, proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Children's Commission [NCC]

Mr Henry Mustapha Sheku is a modest character, a passionate human rights defender and a development expert, especially relating to educational growth of deprived societies. From 2011-2014, he served as Senior Human Rights Officer at the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone [HRSL], where amongst his cardinal role was gathering data on rights abuses, monitoring of compliances to human rights standards, including the state of Children. From 2019-2020, he also served as Programme Manager for the protection, disability inclusion and child empowerment programme supported by a non-governmental organisation-**Liliane Fond**.

Mr Sheku holds a Master Degree in Peace and Development Studies from the Njala University [2014] and has worked extensively with the Political and Electoral Division of the United Nations Mission in Sudan [UNMIS] during which he supported the development of our national development framework, peace keeping, political and security analysis, etc.

Responding to the Committee on the current state of the Children irrespective of the 2007 Child Rights Act and his vision to reverse the negative trajectory, the nominee said the NCC Act was clear on its role and that it takes resources and team work to accomplish. He continued that quite remarkable strategies had been put in place and so he would support the Commissioner to cater for children especially those not under any form of care or protection.

iii. Mr Joseph Boboh Tucker, proposed Director, Board of Directors, National Mineral Agency [NMA]

Mr Joseph Bobor Tucker is a Scientist and Mining Engineer with three decades spanning expertise working with the Sierra Rutile Company in different capacities to name, but a few:

- 2011-2017, as trickle Dredge and Verse Dredge Manager;
- 2010- 2018, as production Manager;
- 1992-1993, as Engineer in-Charge of Land Plant Support;

- 1993-1995, as Engineer in Charge of Training, Planning and Special Project, etc.

Mr Tucker's long stay in the mining environment is expected to guide the board on practical policy approaches that would help mining companies comply with their commitments.

The nominee has several advanced mining qualifications to his credit and served the Bo Government Secondary School –his alma-meta as Chemistry and Mathematics Teacher [1982-1985] prior to his proceeding to the mines. He said with collaboration, the NMA Board will work together to help the Agency succeed for Sierra Leone.

*iv. Mrs Alice Musu Lansana, proposed Member, Board of Directors, National Minerals Agency*

Mrs Alice Musu Lansana is a highly experienced financial management professional with strong managerial and administrative capabilities spanning over twenty years. She holds a Master Degree in development finance from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom with a plethora of experience in diverse work situations as were noted:

- 1998 – 2003, she served as member, National Policy Advisory Committee [NPAC] at Cabinet Level, office of the President, State House, Freetown, where she provided timely and strategic advice on key policy issues relating to the economic and social development of Sierra Leone.
- From 2001 – 2008, she was Member, Board of Directors, Audit Service Sierra Leone [ASSL].
- From 2001 – 2003, she served as Member, Medium Term Expenditure Framework Committee, Ministry of Finance, Sierra Leone.
- From 1996 – 1998, she was Director, Finance and Logistics, National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation [NCDDR] in Sierra Leone. During her tenure, she managed, coordinated and monitored the Special Bank Accounts for donor funds and ensured that donor specific guidelines were fully complied with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, responding to the Committee on what she would be bringing to the NMA, Mrs Alice Musu Lansana said she was willing to work with colleagues to achieve the mandate of the institution

v. *Mr Yankuba Askia Bio, proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr Yankuba Askia Bio is a carrier Company specialist with adept knowledge in Ports management, spanning from logistics and Port services to procurement handling. He entered the Queen Elizabeth Quay work space in 2013 as an administrator at the Bollorie Africa Logistics and later in 2015 grew to Logistics Superintendent in charge of Orders, purchase requests and others. In 2015 to date, he rose to the rank of Country Procurement Manager and acted in the capacity of General Manager of the Bollorie Africa Logistics at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay. His steadfastness and determination to grow answered him when in 2018 the nominee was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority where he oversaw the organizational performance and transformation of the Ports. He held this position with professionalism and fortitude that catapulted him to the position of acting Director General.

He holds a Master Degree in Public Administration and hosts of other professional Certificates to his credit. He is Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement, United Kingdom since 2014.

Responding to the Committee on the changes he would bring, the nominee said the trajectory of growth had already begun and that would be pursued in the directions of expansion and reducing the turnaround time with the overall aim of improving quality service delivery .

He promised to improve on the Human Resources potential to service the Port as hub in the sub region.

vi. Mrs Judith Kosseh, proposed Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Ports Authority

Madam Judith Boi Kosseh is a professional with wealth of experience across several sectors. She is a social development expert who is very passionate about youth's employment. She acquired her Bachelor degree with Honours in Third World Development with NGO Management from the University of East London, United Kingdom in 2008. She later pursued her Master of Arts degree in Youth and Community Work from the University of East London, United Kingdom. From September 2020 to July 2023, she was Director of Community Affairs at the Leone Rock Metal Group Sierra Leone where she developed and implemented strategies and initiatives that improved company community relationships. Her hard work and interpersonal skills earned her the admiration of the President for the said position at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

Responding to the Committee, the nominee promised to work with the Director General to achieve revenue mobilization and optimal service delivery at all times

#### 4. Recommendations

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged 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 Andrew Jaiah Kaikai, proposed Executive Director, National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA];
- ii. Mr Henry Mustapha Sheku, proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Children's Commission [NCC];
- iii. Mr Joseph Boboh Tucker, proposed Director, Board of Directors, National Mineral Agency [NMA];
- iv. Mrs Alice Musu Lansana, proposed Member, Board of Directors, National Minerals Agency;
- v. Mr Yankuba Askia Bio, proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- vi. Mrs Judith Kosseh, proposed Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Ninth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Ninth 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. Mathew S. Nyuma [JP], Chairman & Leader of Government Business

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question, let me at this point recognise the presence of certain eminent personalities we have today. We have Honourable Edward Amin Suluku, former Member of Parliament and former Minister of Internal Affairs; Mr Joseph M. Gevao; Professor Kelfala Kallon, Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone; Hon Mansa A. Dumbuya, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority and SLPP Lord of the West; Hon. Emmanuel Sahr Gbekie, former Member of Parliament; Mrs Natty Kaikai; P.C Andrew Ibrahim Jaia Kaikai; Honourable Sahr Charles; and Mr Alhasan George of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. You are all welcome to the House of Parliament.

Honourable Members, at this stage, let me recognise the presence, particularly of one of the greatest lawyers of this Nation and a very powerful Secretary General of the grand old party; the great legal luminary, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. Let me also recognise the presence of Hon. Mohamed K. Tholley and Hon. Dominic Vandy, former Members of Parliament. You are all welcome to the House of Parliament. Of course we all know that Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma is the Deputy Minister of Mines and Minerals Resources. If the SLPP is in power today, you all know his outstanding role he played. So, he cannot come to this House without recognising his presence. I want to promise him that each time he enters this House, he will be recognised accordingly.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting to us nominees who will help him in achieving his agenda. As a Parliament, our duty is to help His Excellency the President to vet these nominees, so as to determine their fitness for the various offices they have been nominated to serve. I want to thank the Committee on Appointments and Public Service for doing due diligence to the vetting process. The Committee has recommended for the approval of this house.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that they should count themselves very lucky to have been nominated from among the many Sierra Leoneans who voted for the President to help him in achieving his agenda. I want to inform them that excuses will not be tolerated at all; performance should be the order of the day. I have always said in this House that when nominees failed, Members of Parliament suffered because we always seek for re-election. Our faces will be on the ballot papers after five years period. We will have to face the voters. The questions that will be asked by the voters are questions that should be answered by the Executive Arm of Government, but our constituents are of the strongest conviction that Members of Parliament are responsible for the development of their localities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, anytime our constituents come here to support their appointees, I always use the opportunity to tell them about our responsibility. Mr Speaker, you would agree with me that in the 60s or 70s, Members of Parliament were responsible for primary development, such as building schools, constructing roads and bridges; but after the war and the publication of the TRC report, it was recommended that this function should be devolved from Parliament to the Local Councils. It was on that ground that in 2004, the Local Government Act was enacted by this Parliament. Since 2004, the development of the communities has been removed from Parliament to the various Local Councils, but our people are of the strongest belief that Members of Parliament are still responsible for primary development. This is why when you go to

campaign, the first thing they will ask you, S.O 2 na watin you don do for you people dem. Mr Speaker, you would agree with me that Councillors and presidential appointees undermine Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Yankuba Askia Bio, proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. He is going to be the youngest and first Director General of the Sierra Leone Port Authority. This is because the position of Director General was created almost towards the end of the last Parliament. He has made history for himself as the first and the youngest Director General. This is why I am very proud of His Excellency the President. The President is very bold, brave and confident. He has the interest of young people at heart and that is why as young people, we should not disappoint him at all. Mr Speaker, can you imagine, this nominee is below forty years and he has been appointed to serve as Director General of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. That is the level of confidence the President has for the young people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform Mr Yankuba Askia Bio that he is now the Guinea pig for the young people of Sierra Leone. I am sure if we perform exceptionally well, future Presidents will bring more young people into governance. However, if we fail, we would not just be failing ourselves as young people, we will be failing the entirety of Sierra Leonean young people. We know that Mr Yankuba Askia Bio is a grass root man; we also know that he has not forgotten his peers. He has been with his peers. As Deputy General Manager, he recruited young people. He is a grass root SLPP man. He knew that if SLPP lost the elections, he would not sit on that chair. So, he did not only empower the SLPP, he empowered Sierra Leoneans. I wish him well and I hope he will perform. I want to admonish him to work with the team he will meet there. Some of them are his fathers, mothers, friends and age mates. Please treat them with the utmost seriousness it deserves. Today, you are lucky to be chosen from the lot to head that institution. I want you to know that you are not better than those who have served in that institution. Please treat them with the utmost respect they deserve, so that they will recommend you for other positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai. Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai needs no introduction. In 2017, he came and contested for Member of Parliament in Pujehun District. He was passionate to come to Parliament because he wanted to contribute through this Arm of Government, God always has His own plan for everybody. We all contested, but he was unable to make it. I can still remember when we were in Bo for the second phase of the screening process, for the award of party symbols, he was extremely passionate to serve as a Member of Parliament. When he lost the party symbol in 2018, he was appointed to serve as Chief Immigration Officer [CIO]. All he wanted to do, as a Member of Parliament, was delivered as CIO of this Nation. That is why when you go to places like Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, Bonthe, Moyamba and Bombali, the name of Andrew Jayah Kaika rings a bell.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to the party office at Wallace Johnson Street, you will hear the name Andrew J. Kaika loudly. Mr J. Kaikai has been challenged by His Excellency the President. I told him during his interview that he had been challenged by the position given to him. I said that position is very close to the heart of His Excellency the President. It is not a child's play position because the rate at which the young people are abusing and misusing drugs is worrisome. It is a worrisome situation that needs radical approach. Few days ago, I said it in this Well that young people in our constituencies are suffering because of drug abuse, especially Kush.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will particularly single out my chiefdom Baoma Chiefdom, especially Yamadu. Mr Speaker, **80%** of the young boys in my village are taking Kush. It is so worrisome and I know it is the same story in other chiefdoms. It is not new to us at all. Some of us are even recommending that His Excellency the President should declare a state of emergency on drugs. I am sure Mr J. Kaikai's military background and experience will make things better. We also believe that the military officers are the most disciplined people, will help to actualising your dreams. I want you to use your military experience to ensure that the issue of drugs is handled professionally. Drugs are being abused and I believe a lot of people have been asking why has Mr Andrew J. Kaikai was removed from the Immigration Department to

NDLEA. I want to believe that where the nominee is going has a lot of challenges and it is close to the heart of the President. Please make sure you deliver the future of this country. This is because if we continue on what we are doing, very soon nobody will take over us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the youth are our future leaders, but they are busy taking drugs, thereby destroying their future. If you go to Juba Bridge and other communities, there is an increase in the misuse of drugs. You have been challenged by His Excellency on what you will deliver and when to deliver. You are not just delivering for His Excellency the President, but for all the parents in Sierra Leone. Parents are scared to raise their children in this country. Even though we enrol them in the best schools, we are afraid for them not to be intoxicated with drugs. So, you are now going to work for all the parents in Sierra Leone. All of us in this Well are parents and our children are planning to take drugs while others have already indulged in drugs taking. Please save this country and make His Excellency proud. Please make the communities proud. If you work hard, you will be doing it for Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the proposed Deputy Director General of SLPA to imitate the proposed Director General, especially the aspect of respect for authority. You should know that you are deputising. Mr Speaker, for the past five years, that is one of the institutions that had no confusion because the deputy treated his boss as a boss. He knew that he was the subordinate and he respected his boss. He treated everybody fairly and with the utmost respect. So, I want you to be humble and respectful. If you serve well, you will be served one day. You have been given the duty to deputise in that office. I want you to forget about age, rank or gender. Respect the boss and treat every staff as your colleagues. Nevertheless, although you are lucky to have been appointed as the Deputy Director General, it does not mean you know more than them. I am sure with their supports, you will definitely achieve your objectives and you will make all of us proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish the Board members well. They have lots of experiences. I also wish my elder brother going as Deputy to the National Commission

for Children as well. Of course, I have known Mr Sheku for quite a long time now. I have known him from Bo and Fourah Bay College. We had a very good relationship. He is an elder brother to me and I have a lot of respect for him. I believe he will perform remarkably. He has a lot of experiences in the area of human rights and also issues relating to children. You have been brought into your field and we expect you to deliver. One thing I can say clearly as a government is that we are under pressure to perform and performance must be our focus. Excuses must not be tolerated.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I endorse the approval of these nominees without further delay. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Leader of Government Business.

**HON. AMIE N. MORIBA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that all the nominees are fine and they are over qualified. I am excited because there are two women among the nominees. In the last approval process, all the nominees were men. I am happy today because there are women here. I am thankful to His Excellency the President for giving us the platform to work in the governance of this country. I want to thank him for the added value and for restoring our dignity. Thank you very much, Mr President for letting the men of Sierra Leone know that a woman's place is in governance as much as in the kitchen. Today, you are all over qualified and that makes you fine nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are not just showering praises on the nominees. I want the nominees to note that the President always seeks parliamentary approval of his nominees, but when he wants to fire them, he does not seek parliamentary approval. It is his prerogative to hire and fire. He only seeks this House's approval of his nominees. So, as you seated here today seeking parliamentary approval, my advice is that when you take the oath of office, please work well. Do not forget the people who are cheering and supporting you. They are here today to support you; some of them left their busy schedules to be here; and some of them risk their lives by travelling to be here. Most of the time, when they have occupied those offices, they don't even pick their calls. It is not every call that goes with money commitments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the nominees to be accommodative and always take your calls. Sometimes, we have important issues to discuss with you, but if you fail to take your calls, we will not be able to communicate. Some even say, S.O 2 mi no to party posin na ya oo, na government ar kam wok for. Who gave you the job? It is because the Sierra Leone People's Party is in power that is why you are being appointed to occupy that office. Even if you are a professor, if the SLPP is not in power, you will not have acquired the positions you are about to occupy. So, my advice to you is to ensure that you listen to the concerns of the grassroots. We do not hire, but we can ensure that you are fired because the lens of the President is very good and he always listens. He listens to our cries. Sometimes, he does not come out to state the reason he fires somebody, but these people you see here can ensure your removal from your position. The grumblings we make are enough to fire you. They can get you removed from your positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague said that when you are fired, it reflects on us. It means the Committee on Appointments failed to do its job well. However, I have no doubt in those women that I am seeing on the list of appointees. I want to advise Mrs Judith Kosseh to continue to be humble. Humility pays a lot. I know there is a very big age gap between you and your boss. Honestly with the kind of person you are, I know you will work amicably and there will be a cordial relationship in that office. I want you to know that there were people occupying those offices before you and whatever took them out of those offices only the President can explain. So, please work hard. You are all fine nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is a nice person. He works in interest of the people. He is my personal friend and I know what he can do. I am not worried about him because I know he will perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I saw Mr Henry Sheku grew up. His father was a disciplined Principal of the Christ the King College [CKC]. I know him personally and I saw him at tender age. I have no doubt in his capability to perform. Please, that office is for the youth and you know how bloody the youth can become. Please ensure that

your doors are open to them. Please talk to them and answer their calls. I know it will be very difficult for you, but I believe if you talk to them, they will say he listened to us. It is not easy to say S.O 2 Ok, ar don ye rie ar go see watin ar go do. Sometimes when you ignore people, they feel sick. I am not here to shower praises on you, but to tell you the truth. Please open your doors to party people in particular. You are in those offices today because the SLPP is in power. God forbids, if anything happens tomorrow, you will not be there. I am offering a national duty because I am a politician. If you know you are not a politician, the moment you are appointed, just take the phone and tell the Secretary to the President that you cannot take the job because you are not a politician. As soon as you accept any appointment from His Excellency the President, you become a politician at that moment. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me at this stage recognise the presence of other dignitaries in our midst: Mr Lexmund Koroma, Mr Batilo Songa, Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Mr Munda Sandy former MD SALWACO and Mr Gassimu Turay, a businessman. You are all welcome.

**HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleagues on the other side will say we are here again to approve other nominees from the President. I will be very brief. I want to thank his Excellency for giving us these fine nominees. This Parliament has not had shortage of qualified nominees. My leader has spoken and I think he spoke a lot of things that we want to speak about with regard what is expected from Members of Parliament, the Executive Arm and the nominees. I want to wish everybody well in their respective offices. I am sure they will be approved today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to zoom in Mr Joseph Boboh Tucker, proposed Director, Board of Directors, National Mineral Agency [NMA], whom I got to know few minutes ago. He is my constituent and I want him to know that I am very keen about NMA. This is because our people back home are doing mining activities in my constituency. We are doing lots of mining, but we do not get the benefit at all. You give licenses to mining companies and when they go there, they dig lots holes in our

communities without covering same. A lot of health hazard for our people. We know that they usually send monitors to monitor what is happening in our communities, but I want to bring to the knowledge of Mr Joseph B. Tucker that most of the monitors they send there are compromised. They are not doing what they are supposed to be doing at all. Please ensure that the people enjoy the benefits of their God's given minerals. My people are crying and I am sure a lot of communities are going through the same problem in this country. Please do what you can to ensure that our people reap what they are working for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank Mr Jaia Kaikai because only a grassroots man can identify another grassroots man. I want to thank Mr Jaia Kaikai because he made it possible today. It is not possible for someone to be working and meeting your husband every minute. I have got that privilege today because my husband is just sitting there watching me every second. This is due to Mr Jaia Kaikai. I want to say thank him very much. It is obvious that we do not get these privileges every day. On a very serious note, I do not normally go on social media. Few weeks ago, however, I checked with the social media and I was able to see the impact he created when he was at the Immigration Department. The Immigration building has been cleaned. Let me tell you something that is missing in this country. They do not actually understand why the Immigration Office was jam-packed. They saw the crowd, but they do not know who that crowd was meant for. People are not idle, Mr Speaker. They do not just wake up today and say this or that. I do not understand how these people climbed those steps.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that our people are not idle to just go to Immigration Office and sit there every day. They went there because there was somebody who represented the people in that office; they went there because their own person was there. Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is the People's person. Like Mr Andrew J. Kaikai, if you go to any grassroots man's office, you will see the same crowd. I will not name them here, but you will definitely see the same crowd. When you show love to your people, they reciprocate by showing it twice or thrice with the same love. Mr

Andrew J, Kaikai is simple and is one of the best grassroots men this country has produced. You do not have to like him, but you cannot take that away from him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes I do not really know how his brother copes. Mr Speaker, these are some of the politicians who, when you go to their houses, their gates are always opened to serve the grassroots. If it were for love, Mr J. Kaikai would have been everywhere. He is a fine gentleman and I do admire his courage. His discipline skills will save us in this country, especially going to that office. Mr Speaker, somebody was talking about KUSH. I am optimistic that very soon that will be a thing of the past because he will do what is needed to get that issue addressed. I am sure the people who are importing drugs into this country will soon realise that this government is serious in tackling this menace. The no nonsense Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is now in charge and they will definitely stop importing drugs into the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not every day we are seeing nominees who are from the grassroots. So, when we see them, this is our platform where we have to thank them. I want to thank Mr Andrew J. Kaikai for what he has done. I thank you for being a grassroots person; for being the people's person; and for loving your party, the SLPP. I also thank you for loving Sierra Leone and continue to do your best. I wish you all the best as you go into your new office. I am very confident that you will succeed. Please, do not forget your people as you have always been doing. Yesterday somebody was saying to me that your house and the street around your residence was filled with people. I know that your people were celebrating with you. I wish you all the best. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. MASSAY N. ARUNA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do appreciate the Speaker today for recognising and giving the women the space and platform to speak. I hope and believe that you will continue to give us these opportunities as we are always yearning for them. I also take this opportunity to appreciate our President for giving us these beautiful and handsome nominees. They are all qualified and even overqualified. They are capable to do their jobs. I have no iota of doubt in them, especially the proposed Director General of Ports Authority, Mr

Yankuba Bio. I know him personally and what he did to see the Sierra Leone People's Party come to power. Mr Speaker, before His Excellency was elected President of this country, Mr Yankuba Bio was a young and energetic man who was mobilising his colleague youths in this country to support the SLPP. He was doing that to see that Dr Ahmed T. Kabba's government succeeded in the election. After that, his uncle became the President and he is still supporting the party. I want to remind Mr Yankuba Bio that his deputy, Madam Judith is a quiet woman. She is slow but sure of what she is doing. She believes in action. I know if you work together, you will definitely create a very good working environment for both workers and colleagues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform all other nominees that they are going to represent their districts, regions and their political parties. It is obvious that you cannot say, you are not going there to represent your parties. The fact is that you are going there to represent the party you belong. You are going there to represent Sierra Leone, whether you are SLPP, APC, C4C, and other parties. I am pleading that you imitate the positive examples of our President. He has no barriers or boundaries. He gives out opportunities and he looks for the best. The opportunities are being given to us. We know that he is a hardworking and a responsible President. He has love for his people. You are here to be approved by Parliament and we are showering praises on you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to know that Members of Parliament have five years mandate to serve; and after five years, the people will assess our stewardship to know whether I, Honourable Massah Aruna, will serve again for another five years. They will either say they want me because I was a good Honourable Member or they do not want me because I never went to my people when I was serving as Member of Parliament. They will say when she was serving, she did not want to know what was happening to her people. They will say all these about us, but you nominees are directly answerable to the President of this country. He will appoint you and dismiss you from your duty. When he does that, you do not question him at all. If you question him, he chooses to answer or not. So, I am appealing that you create a good

relationship with us Members of Parliament. We are partners in development. You have to consult us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that the nominees belong to different constituencies. They come from different districts. If you are planning to develop your district, please hang heads with the Honourable Members that come from your district. You have to invite them, so that they are part of your development programmes. When we knock at your doors, please open your doors for us. You have to listen to us and pick the sense from what we say to you. I know we will not be saying nonsense to you. We are all responsible people and we are all brothers and sisters in this country. That is why we believe in one country, one people mantra. We need to come together for the success of this government. Let us join hands to develop Mama Salone. Elections are over. We are now thinking about developing the country. This can only be done if we come together, think together and share ideas together.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleading to this Honourable House to approve our brothers and sisters, so that they will deliver in their various offices.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Few days ago, we were in Pujehun to receive His Excellency the President. I lost my voice when I was shouting and cheering him up. Thank God I am gradually regaining my voice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2018, I took the decision not to join any political party whilst serving this House as an Independent Member of Parliament. I was impressed by the leadership skills of His Excellency the President. In all the appointments that he made, they cut across regional and ethnic lines. He portrayed the image of a true Sierra Leonean. Mr Speaker, when the President made a clarion call for all Sierra Leoneans to join him to develop this country, as an Independent Member of Parliament by then, I told my constituents to join him. This man is a patriotic citizen. I had numerous direct contacts and engagement with him. I am impressed by his decisions and desires to unite Sierra Leoneans. It was based on this that we decided to be members of the SLPP. Today, I am standing here as a proud member of the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees before us are good people. I have seen numbers of appointments in this House under different regimes, but I am impressed by all his appointments. Today, I am a happy man to see one of the nominees who happens to be my Chemistry teacher long time ago. Also, I am happy to see two nominees who are my constituents. They are also good people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with my Chemistry teacher. He is my father. He is a man who calls his group a 'Big Joe.' Today, I refer to him as the biggest Joe. He is no other person but Mr Tucker. He was a very good and disciplined teacher. Mr Tucker was a role model to many people. We wanted to be like him. He was serious with his work. He was always in class. He used to give us lots of assignments. He made us to work hard. Today, I am grateful to His Excellency for appointing my teacher and my father. This has a lot of implications. He started his life as a teacher and became a mining engineer. He is now a retired man. When people retire, that does not mean they are tired. This is what His Excellency is defining for us that when people who have worked very hard retire, they still have energy to serve this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Minerals Agency was formed in 2012 and it is part of your effort to reform that institution. There is need to have an agency to ensure that the Mines and Minerals Act and other Acts or Regulations are implemented. We have a lot of mining companies in our country. We heard that some of these mining companies are causing damage to our environments or our communities. We need an agency that can monitor the activities of these companies, so that they perform according to the mining laws of this country. I am sure my teacher, Mr Joseph Tucker, is in a very good position as a Director to ensure that the mining laws of this land are being followed. I want to thank the president for making a good decision to appoint these nominees, especially Mr Joseph Tucker whom I have known to be a very serious person. He was a very serious teacher and a very serious mining engineer. I can swear to the Holy Quran that he will be a very good Director.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now go to my brother, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai. Mr Andrew J. Kaikai was a soldier. I left this country for the Gambia. He also left this

country for the United States of America. He came back and joined the politics of this country. Mr Speaker, since he came back home and join the politics in Pujehun, he has changed the political landscape of Pujehun District. This man is a very good man. I am saying what I know about him. I have no apologies about what I am saying about a man that I have come to know very well. Mr Speaker, when I was detained, he was the only person who visited me. He visited me and we spoke a lot. You should not forget friends who help you when you were in difficult situations. Mr Speaker, even when I was an Independent Member of Parliament, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is a man who relates well to every indigene of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is a grassroots man; he is generous and hardworking. His appointment to this office is like a promotion because I know you to be a problem fixer. The issue of drugs all over the world is problematic. It is destroying the young people all over the world. The President, in his wisdom, knows that he needs a very strong person who will be in charge of addressing this problem. He has seen that you are a soldier, a dedicated individual who is always passionate about his job. We need somebody like him to fight drug abuse in this country. So, I believe it is a promotion for him. The President feels that we need a very strong person to fix this problem.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when Mr Andrew J. Kaikai went to the Immigration Department, there were lots of problems, but he was able to fix them. He is a very responsible man. Mr Speaker, when some of us as Members of this House went to the Immigration Department to get documents, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai was very supportive and he ensured that we got those documents. I know that our work is critical and we do not spend time out there. We went to his waiting room and he has people from all walks of life. He would attend to everybody, irrespective social status. We need people like him to run this country, Mr Speaker. So, I am very happy for his appointment to a problematic area. I am sure he will be able to fix that problem. I want to assure him that we are with him and we will support him anytime. We are proud of you and as

people from Pujehun District. You have made that District proud. Thank you very much my brother.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to Mr Sheku. Mr Sheku is also a good person and he is a hardworking man. He does not speak too much. He is a man of action and I am proud of a man like Mr Sheku. The issue about children is very critical. Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and they are vulnerable. We need to take good care of them. It is not just about appointing people to manage the affairs of the children, we need people who have the passion to work for our children and the future of this country. Mr Sheku is one of those people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard my sister talking about party loyalty. I want to make correction here. The President has appointed people who are not members of the SLPP. He has appointed people who are APC supporters. The appointments the President makes cuts across party line. Those who are SLPP can continue to be loyal to SLPP, but what Mr President will want appointees to do is to be loyal to the State. There is no way this country can develop if other parts of the country are left behind. We either prosper together or we perish together. The President is a nationalist and a patriot. His emphasis is on national unity and royalty to the State.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we have to remain in governance, we have to protect the legacy of His Excellency the President. Members of Parliament also have a role to play in our oversight responsibilities. We should make sure that we perform our oversight functions with care and commitments. It should not be business as usual, Mr Speaker. If we do our work well, the ACC will not have much to do because we are overseeing the activities of MDAs. We should go there to make sure that funds that are allocated to them are used judiciously. We should ensure that they are doing their work. We should always encourage appointees to support the President and MPs should lead such support. This should be a team work, Mr Speaker. The President will never do it alone. He needs the appointees and elected officials to help him govern this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody said there were only female appointees before us. The President has been respectful of the laws about gender representation.

He has ensured that males and females are appointed to serve in different capacities. He has also ensured that in all his appointments, there are at least one female. I want to thank him for that. We have to make sure that we work our talk and that is exactly what our Tok and Do President is doing.

I thank the Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate. I want the appointees to work very hard to push this country forward. I want to urge this House to approve the nominees as they are very good nominees that will help His Excellency to push this country forward *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I have just be informed that the Honourable P.C. Foday Stevens Kpaka Fabba of Kenema District is extremely ill and in the circumstances I urges you all to observe a moment of silence for his speedy recovery. [A moment of silence prayers was observed].

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to pay lip service to these fine nominees. I was part of the Appointments Committee that interviewed these nominees. Their resumes speak volume. So, if we say we are going to talk about them, we will sleep here. We have to give them words of cautions. The nominees before us are over qualified. I am sure if you are not qualified, the President would not have nominated you. He knows who to put where.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in Mr Henry Sheku. I have known you for couple of years now. I have known you when you were little boy in Bo. I have no doubt in you, but the position you are going to occupy is very important. You are going to be the Deputy Commissioner of the Children's Commission. Our children are on the streets. You have a lot to do for the street children. You are not expected to go there and do nothing. You have to work with your boss, so that you can do the needful for the children. There are many children out there. If you go out in evening hours, you will see the children sleeping under the tables and some of them are carrying loads for other people. I am sure your paramount duty is to get these children out of the streets. Please employ whatever plans or ideas you have to make sure that the children are

removed from the streets. I think this is the reason our Speaker asked the women to talk today because we are the mothers and we carry the bulk of the problems of our children. This is why he has given us the opportunity with due respect to our He-for-She. He has more respect for you and he knows you can do it. I want you to go and do the needful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know the Wanjamarians are happy today. If you go to Pujehun and people call you doe yei pi, Peywala S.O [2], that person is good and you have done it. It means you have proven beyond all reasonable doubt. I want to state here that patient dog eats the fattest bone *[Applause]*. Some people think you are out of job, but the President can appoint you to serve in other areas. I think he has the utmost concern to call you and serve this Nation. We are talking about drugs, especially Kush intake. Human bones and other things are used. Our children are dying on a daily basis. You can see them with spots or wounds on their bodies. Please, make sure you go after these drug dealers. Find ways to bring good policies that will better the lives of our children. Please go after those who are importing these substances. They should be punished; they should be named and shamed in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, S.O [2] wae you tok pa d bone, tok pa d flesh. People are saying that those taking these drugs should not be punished. They should be equally punished because if you have a bad boy, anytime he goes out, he causes trouble. If you pamper the child, he will continue to do bad things. Let us find ways punishing our children. We have to create farms where drug addicts will be taken to work. Food will be provided, but you have to work in return. So, if we leave them unpunished, they will continue to do the same thing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know some people will not be happy to hear this, but again we always give them money when we meet them in the streets. They always say, u borbor dae ya oh S.O [2]. If we continue to give them money, they will continue to buy Kush. I am sure the best we can do is to cajole or tell them to stop taking Kush. One day I went to the market and a boy met me and said, S.O [2] Mama angry dae pa

me, give me money. I told him to stop smoking and drinking because he has a role to play in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people expect much from these nominees. I want to thank you for appreciating the President. The applause you are receiving now is a message to the President that you will do justice. You have left your busy schedules to come and witness the approval process. I want to thank you and may the Lord take you back safe and sound.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the youngest Director General of Ports Authority. You would agree with me that Bio is a household name. That is the name people will follow. The position you are about to occupy is an enviable position and that is why you should be very careful. You have to work as a team. I want to send special thanks to His Excellency for the zipper system, which is one man one woman. That is what we want to see in this country. Your deputy is a woman and to listen to her motherly advice she will be giving you. I know you will accept every good advice she will be giving you. You would agree with me that when a mother or a woman gives advice, it comes from her heart. If she says let us do this or we should not do that, please adhere her advice. You have to work together as a team for you to succeed. Please listen to the team or those that you will meet there. You will meet some people who are happy and others who are not happy, but God has chosen you to head that institution. You are the leader and you have to make use of your leadership qualities. You have to work with people in that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my brothers and sisters out there will be visiting you in your offices and we expect you to open your doors for them. They are representing the party and you would want our party to succeed in 2028. I want your supporters to also give you chance to work. This is because if you fail to give him chance, how can he work. Let us give him chance to work. When there is time to see you, he will go there and talk to you. I know he will talk to you when it is time to do that. He has started working with the youth. Please show them what you can do for them. There are casual workers at Bollore and other areas. If you have time to talk to them, please do that.

Also, engage the ones who are saying, you bobo dae ya oh. Please keep them busy; they can do something. Please go to that institution and do your work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Judith Kosseh has a role to play. We rely on her to advise the young man; we rely on her motherly love. We still have substantive positions and I am sure deputies are going to be women. I have no doubt in the President in that regard. I know that a teacher is always a teacher. I know Madam Alice will do justice because of her vast experience. She has worked in many places and we expect her to extend the olive branch to those she will be meeting in that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say congratulations in advance to all the nominees. We are not just there as an Appointments Committee, but we also have the right to oversee the activities of these institutions. We have oversight responsibilities to go there to see what you will be doing. Mr Andrew J. Kaikai has enormous respect and that is no longer a secret. He is from a chieftaincy background in Pujehun District. They say, S.O [2] doe yegba. You have to show the people that you are 'doe yegba; you have to show President that you can do it; show President that where he has placed you, you will do more. So, there are more better days ahead of you.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say congratulations to the young Director General and his Deputy. Please go and do justice. I do not envy you, but you should know that that seat is an enviable seat. Please ensure teamwork and do everything humanly possible to make the President succeeds. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** We are supposed to roundup the debate, but I cannot resist a Paramount Chief and of course a very old Member of Parliament. I will give him two minutes.

**HON. P.C DESMOND M. KARGOBAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to thank the President for critically selecting and nominating these highly qualified individuals for this House's approval. With their resumes, I have every confidence that all of them will deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Andrew J. Kaikai. For me, Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is more of a philanthropist than a politician. His relationship with people has no limitation. He can live with all kinds of people. He sometimes dines with physically challenged people. In fact, he spends more of his resources in taking care of physically challenged people. I came to know what he has been doing over the years. He bought many plastic sheet S.O [2] tapolin for the physically challenged people to erect makeshift structures, so that they would not be disturbed by the sun or rain. I wish he can develop interest in agriculture because he feeds people. He has always been feeding people. In fact, almost every Saturday 80% to 90% of the physically challenged people visit his compound for food.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in as much as Mr Andrew J. Kaikai is going to control drug abuse in the country, he should also develop interest in agriculture, so that he can feed them with our local food. I know him as a no nonsense man. President did not make any mistake to have appointed him. I want to assure him that this House, in collaboration with all Paramount Chiefs, will work with him to ensure that we identify those who are importing these harmful drugs. Kush is becoming alarming every day and is a concern for this Parliament and the Paramount Chiefs because our children are dying. Those who are importing these drugs are people with high calibre and they have so much money. However, we have to develop strategies to chase those who are importing them. With these few words, I want to congratulate you in advance. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. The nominees are stoutly qualified. I was part of the team that interviewed them and they were properly scrutinised by the Appointments Committee. They were properly drilled on their documentation. The presentation that has just been done by the Leader of Government Business was a true reflection of what happened in Committee Room 1. So, there is no doubt about their qualifications. I want to remind them that the work out there is huge and if approved by this House, they should work very hard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in this country, we are struggling with revenue. The National Revenue Authority [NRA] is struggling to collect the required revenue the Government needs to pay for services. So, the proposed Director General and his Deputy have a huge task as far as revenue mobilisation is concern. They have been there before now and they have to work assiduously with the NRA to ensure that as a country, we collect the required revenue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after the 2018 elections, there were lots of challenges with revenue mobilisation. This is why our development partners dictate to us what we should do and what we should not do. Some are practically interfering into our electoral processes because of the assistance they provide to us. I am sure there is a need to expand the Ports. They have the authority to continue to work with the NRA, so that goods coming into Sierra Leone are paid for by the importers. Importers should pay for their goods. We have to pay our taxes and the Ports has a big role to play. Please continue to work as a team. You also have to work with the Board, so that the required revenue is collected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about Mr Andrew J. Kaikai and the institution he will be managing. During his interview, we admonished him to repeal and replace the laws on drugs in this country. We are basically emphasising here that those laws are out-dated and archaic. They have to be repealed and replaced. Members of Parliament are ready to ensure that Mr Andrew J. Kaikai work with the other relevant institutions to ensure that those laws are brought to Parliament. Members of Parliament will look at them and do the needful. The repeal will have to be in the best interest of this country. You can only fight if you have the required laws. You also have to work with other institutions like the police and other law enforcement institutions to hit hard on particularly the importers of these drugs. The law will also make provision for the establishment of rehabilitation centres for our young people who are taking drugs. The penalties should be very tough, so that importers will stop bringing them. For the importers, it is a business, but it is a bad business for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the two nominees going to the NMA Board, I want to remind them that we are known for minerals in this country for over decades, but the benefit is not commensurate to the amount of minerals we have in Sierra Leone. It is only recently that some communities started benefitting from the minerals coming from their areas. According to their resumes, the nominees are very knowledgeable people. The two nominees to the Board will be meeting a team and there must be Board Chairman and other members. The role of the Board is to provide policy guidelines and give direction to the NMA. They have to put their expertise together, so that we will continue to benefit from our minerals in this country. It is absurd to say we are rich in minerals, but the people are poor and our communities are not benefitting much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody has been nominated to serve as deputy in the Children's Commission. Of course you have a boss, but you have to work with other institutions including, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. We have children who are equally involved in the consumption of drugs. This is why we have to collaborate with other institutions, so that the children are properly sensitised. Please involve other players, so that the children know that these drugs are harmful. They should stop taking these drugs. Of course the enforcement will come, but we have to sensitise them across the board. We have a huge responsibility to play because the young generation is under attack. We have to stop them from taking these harmful substances. This is just a piece of advice I am giving to the nominees, otherwise I wish them well. I hope this House will speedily approve them, so that they can go to their various offices. I thank you so much *[Applause]*.

**HON. ALFRED A. THOMPSON:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to thank His Excellency for giving us these wonderful nominees to serve in different positions. I want to start with Mr Andrew J. Kaikai. He is the man of the people. I have not seen such a crowd in this House. This shows that you are with the people. People are everywhere in this House. I think you are the right man for this job because you have given your best. We need people like you in this Government to look after our people.

You are a compassionate man and God will bless you for that. Please work towards securing the future generation of this country. We do not want Kush to destroy their lives. Please visit some of the ghettos across the country, especially places like Tengbeh Town, or down-hole. If you go to that place, you will see about 300 to 400 young men and women during the day and night smoking Kush. They smoke Kush during the day and our police are not doing anything about it. Again, if you go under the Juba Bridge, as the Honourable Member was saying, you will meet them smoking Kush. As we speak, the importers are in hiding because of the recent crackdown. However, they said in Sierra Leone, when something of sort happened, people continue to do the same thing after two or three months, it will subside. They go back to their normal businesses and this has to stop. The lives of our children are at stake. It seems as if everybody is forgetting about the future generation. I want you to focus on these importers. They should not go scot-free two to three months of crackdown. You need to make sure that you get them out of this business because the lives of our kids are in danger.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Henry Sheku, proposed nominee for the National Children's Commission. Many of our children are on the streets selling; some are selling fruits, vegetables and other things as late as 11:00 p.m. Those are odd hours and we expect them to be at home studying. They need to be at home getting ready for school. This has to be stopped. Sometimes they have to be on the streets up to 2:00 a.m. because the taps open at that time. All these things are getting them abused, raped and molested. Children need to be in bed sleeping. The nominees need to work very hard, so that some of these lapses are taken care of. We have to make sure that our children are protected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to wish the nominees best of luck. I pray that God protects and guides you all in your offices. Please put your country first than your party. You have to prove to the world that you are here for your country and for your people. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, let me use this opportunity to thank you for the understanding you showed by delaying the sitting beyond the normal time. I want

to also thank my colleagues for showing that strong understanding. The Speaker did the needful by standing down the House for some minutes. I want to thank members of the Fourth Estate for always covering our proceedings. They are always covering the Appointments Committee's sittings. I have so much confidence in them. I have great respect for them. If you want to pass information, you need to use the members of the Fourth Estate. We are guided by principles for every publication you make. We have good journalists who obey the rules and we have others who do not obey the rules. We have good lawyers and bad lawyers, but you always have good parliamentarians because we are representing our people and that is why we are called Honourable Members.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in one of the nominees I have presented to you today, somebody violated the provisions of Standing Orders 75, which talks about premature publication. I raised the issue up because it is still under discussion. The nominee in question was very clear, sincere and transparent in addressing the issue. He declared his assets and he mentioned that he received gifts. He did not deny at all. He said the gifts he had declared to the Committee are also in the Anti-Corruption Form. We asked him to attest to the fact that he received the gifts when he was in office and he said yes. He said 'Mr Chairman indeed when I was the head of the Immigration Department, I did receive gifts and these are the gifts I received.' This shows how humble and sincere the nominee is.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people are trying to tarnish the good image of this man. The nominee is one of the meticulous people when it comes to protecting his image. It is difficult to bring him down. The Rastafarians once said, "It is not easy to bring a good man down." If a person is good, he/she is good. I am not showering praises on the nominees, but I want people to understand that the Committee discussed every item in the form filled by the nominee. Mr Speaker, for a journalist to do premature publications is an offence. I did ask for further clarification and the journalists are expected to come back to me for further clarifications.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I made reference to S.O [75] and S.O [80]. I have respect for the Press because we must give them the space to operate, but if you want to publish anything, you have to do it correctly. You should not quote us wrongly. You need to come to me for proper clarification. You should not say because you are a journalist, you can write anything you feel like writing. I am not going to take action this time. This is a very progressive Parliament. I raised the issues and I said I needed further clarification and he came back to me to do so. We have handled the matter with my colleagues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 94 of the 1991 Constitution gives us the power to regulate ourselves. We also have the Standing Orders that regulate the way we conduct the business of the House. Our colleagues on the other side are yet to come, but I know that they will come. The provision in Section 77 of the Constitution makes it very clear for us to develop our Standing Orders that regulate us. So, whatever embarrassment my nominee has faced, I want to say sorry to him. Whatever publication you have done, you did it with bad intent and not with intent we discussed at the Committee. I am expecting people to come back to me, but they did not. I am somebody who can give less attention to certain distractors and I will give this one less attention as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have moved a Motion for violating S.O 75 and it is this very Parliament that legislated to give freedom of expression to people by removing the obnoxious criminal libel law from our law books. It is not a crime to practice freely. So, in that same vain, I give the benefit of doubt. However, as a human being you believe in sanity, the person who did the publication should meet Mr Andrew J. Kaikai and tell him that you did not do it with bad intentions. Please tell him that you did what you did because you wanted to hear something from the Committee and that you failed to clarify with the Chairman. In your publication, you promised to make further clarifications. You also want to maintain a cordial relationship between Parliament, especially the Appointments Committee and members of the Fourth Estate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I did ask Mr Andrew J. Kaikai relevant questions relating to Section 9 of the 1991 Constitution. I think the Side Note says, educational opportunities. Also, Section 29 of the Constitution talks about public emergency. Mr Speaker, you are a practicing lawyer in this country and you know exactly what is happening. You know the rule of law is very important. When we are faced with a crisis that is affecting us, the best thing to do is to turn to the rule of law. How do we handle the situation? What steps are we going to take?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was not in the Chamber, but due to the availability of ICT services, I heard you even when I was not in the Chamber. I can hear you from any part of the building. I heard all what you said here. We are representing our people and we have to protect the young people. A lot of young people are here to support the nominees all in the name of political participation. In this spirit of participation, we have to protect these young people; we have to protect our future generation. We have different levels of politics. We have the bigger players at the highest level, middle levels, etc. We have different players occupying the political pyramid. Mr Speaker, the bottom part of the pyramid is broad and is occupied by the people. These are people who are supporting us. If things are going wrong, how do we address them? I think we have to make strong laws to protect our future generation and this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the use of harmful substances is on a rapid increase. We have marijuana, cocaine and Kush. Kush is the most common one in this country. The nominee for this office is a man with enormous knowledge in the law. He is a Barrister and had practiced for so long. This is an issue that is affecting us in this country. The rule of law must be observed and enforced.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to address this issue with the urgency it deserves. First, who are those importing these drugs. We should run after them or chase them. It is a challenge to all of us to go after them. There is no body greater than the rule of law. There is no monster in this country, even His Excellency the President that we praise sing every time respects the rule of law. Mr Speaker, Section 9 of the 1991 Constitution talks about education. Mr Speaker, you are seated here today

because you are carefully educated. This Government and the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament enacted laws to ensure that people benefit from the Free Quality Education. Section 9 talks about free education for your children. Both primary and secondary school going children should enjoy this facility. Owing to certain people within our society, we are not paying justice to this provision in the Constitution. So, we should first of all address those who are importing these harmful substances which we call drugs. We should target them and chase them away.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I asked about your take on Section 29, which has to do with public emergency. During the Fifth Parliament, we enacted the Sexual Harassment law because the President declared war on rape. We said that aggravated sexual harassment is a treasonable offence and you can be sentenced to death. The President was so harsh and serious about it. When you enforce the law, people will brace up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the intention of the President for declaring a public emergency on Kush and other drugs is good. It behoves all of us as law makers to ensure that drugs addiction is eradicated completely. We have to use the rule of law to bring people to book. Funds should be given to us, so that we help fight against drug abuse. That is what we should do, as law makers. The nominee said that convenient consultations will help combat this situation. He was busy giving us his expertise and ideas about this menace. He promised to collaborate with other institutions like the police, the Judiciary, etc. You need them because you cannot do without them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament have their own limitations. We make laws and undertake oversight, but there are those who enforce the laws. The nominee needs their support. What Mr Kaikai told us is what we are expecting every nominee to do; i.e., collaboration with other institutions. In a final description, we put round pegs in round holes; the right man in the right position [*Applause*]. I will go to other nominee now because during the approval of the Youth Commissioner, I took over twenty minutes addressing this same issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will end with this note for two categories of people and I will use the words of a Rastafarian when he said emancipate yourself from mental slavery. If you think drugs are the only way to salvage yourself as a young person, you are doing a great mistake to your life. Mr Speaker, you are here today because you took your time to educate yourself. You listened to good advice and that is why you are here. We have gone through the youthful stage our lives. I am here today because I took my time to educate myself.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I entered Parliament at the early age of 30 years. I became a Member of Parliament when I was 32 to 33 years. I was on the other side. I was young, but I made use of my youthfulness to transform myself into a better person. Today, people can listen to me. I am now older than most of the other Members of Parliament. I do not need to show you my age now. I once told my brothers and sister to know my age.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I asked the nominee compounded question and he responded accurately. He even quoted Mr Bob Marley to would have said that 'He who feels it knows it. As I said earlier that our business is to make sure we have useful or meaningful young people. If you want to praise me, you do it with some respect. You do not have to shout my name or take drugs. Today, we are talking about a young man going to the Sierra Leone Ports Authority as Director General. If you look at his profile, you will know that he went through the ranks at Bollere. He has been climbing the ladder quietly. This is not by mistake, but due to his education and perseverance that took him where he is going today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you listen, you will understand the issues that are in front of you, it will be of help to you; but if you fail to read and copy copiously, you will fail to understand. This is because you do not have the basis for the present and there is nothing you can understand about what the future holds. The President is empowering the young people. Mr Speaker, I do not want to know your age, but I believe you have been the youngest Deputy Speaker in the history of Sierra Leone Parliament. I am also sure that I am the youngest Leader of Government Business in

the history of Sierra Leone Parliament. We have the youngest Deputy Leader of Government Business. This Government is trying to expose meaningfully young people in the interest of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that the things that brings us together are far greater than those that divide us. There are many similarities among the young people. This young man went through the ranks in that institution, from being a Procurement Specialist to Deputy Managing Director and now he is the Director General of Ports Authority. The Act gives him enormous powers and he was here when we were enacting the Bill into law. This is not about education because you can be educated, but you do not follow the principles of education. If you fail to follow principles, how do you discharge your responsibilities? You have to make yourself relevant to society. If you do not make yourself relevant, it means you are not educated. It means you just read to pass your exams. Mr Bio has proved to be the fittest for such position. I wish him all the best. It is not a mistake to bring young people on board. It is not about age, it is about performance and service delivery. I wish you the best of luck.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the last Parliament, I pushed for the achievement of the 30% quota for women's representation in elective and appointive positions. I need the attention of the women. The first law of nature is self. I have my friends in the Chamber and they are still with me. I know I am in the good books of the women. I was not in a very good mood with my colleague male parliamentarians. Mr Speaker, I do not like to quote you directly, but you said, S.O [2] Da you woman fet way you dae kam fet na yah, the law na the law oh. The Speaker is a man who is very conscious about putting his defences. I always prepare to counter him, even when we are in the same political party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the nominee to know that those they will be working with are very important to you. You need to consider their concerns. My colleagues were not too happy when I was advocating for the women. My Deputy is another one who looked at me and said, S.O [2] waetin you n den woman dem dae

pan? I said this is the agenda of the President and you will be prosecuted. In this present Parliament, we have more than 30% women in this Chamber directly elected female Members of Parliament [*Applause*]. I was also not happy because my colleagues were not happy with me. Some did not come because of that Bill and those were good parliamentarians.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President wanted to address the issue of gender parity and that is why some of our colleagues did not come. They were caught in between the law. In addressing the issue of gender parity, there are sacrifices you have to make. In other words, in transforming the nation, you have to make huge sacrifices and we pay dearly for democracy. Again, in addressing the issue of democracy, you need to pay attention to many things. I stood on that platform to address the issue of Pujehun in the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament. There was no female representation from that District, but today, we have two females from Pujehun. This cost me one of my MP not to be here today. He is a very good Economist, but that is the law. I am happy because the President is taking that legislation into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Director General for the Sierra Leone Ports Authority is a woman. We agreed in the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament that we must empower the women. Therefore, we want Madam Judith Kosseh and Mr Bio to work together. That is what we are looking forward to, Mr Speaker. This is very good combination, but you must work as a team. She is also carefully educated and she has worked in many other places. I want to assure you that in as much as I supported you, I will also support meaningful appointments and the usefulness of the appointees. When you occupy a position, you have to perform, so that you make yourself useful. I wish you all the best. I have interacted with her very well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have another nominee who is also a female and my Kotho from Bo School. He made the first initial sacrifice to teach Chemistry and Mathematics. We used to call him the scientist. He was so happy to serve in that capacity. Mrs Alice Musu Lansana told me that we have mined minerals for far too long, but we need to show something for it. She said, I will work in collaboration with my

colleagues to attract international partners, those who are interested in investing in Sierra Leone, so that we can handle our mining sector properly. How do we deal with our precious minerals?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also have a responsibility as Members of Parliament. Our job is to perform oversights, vet policies and monitor their implementations. We also have a responsibility to vet nominees and oversee their operations. We are not only praising you, but we come after you. We have mentioned here good things about you, but we can also talk about bad things if you fail to deliver. We enacted the GEWE Act, but we can go after them if the right thing has not been done. This is what we should do as parliamentarians and that is what we are doing. In the Fifth Parliament, we progressed and we are going to be more progressive in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are now looking at what we have done. We have done good things for this nation. We have made this nation proud by first of all addressing the youth empowerment and gender parity. We are going to do some statistical analyses to see what we get for the women and what we have also done for the young people. These two categories are the engines of a society. If you want Sierra Leone to grow, look at what you can do for the youth. That is the reason we are doing our best to ensure that these harmful substances called Kush and other drugs are discouraged from this country. We also look at the laws to see how we can use the laws effectively. The laws have to be comfortable for our people. You have to use the laws to do your work. I thank all of you for accepting the appointments. I also thank those who contributed to this debate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the unique aspect of our Parliament is the presence of the Paramount Chiefs. Mr Speaker, sometimes when I want to provoke people on the other side at the international Parliament, I will just say I am standing on the platform of traditional rulers and politicians. Whenever I mentioned the issue of traditional rulers, they would keep quiet, especially Kenya parliamentarians. This is because they removed their Paramount Chiefs from Parliament. When I am talking with the Paramount Chiefs,

I speak their minds. I always see them around and if I want five goats or a cow today, I will get them. I am not going to make that request anyway. I am not going to make that request, but I want to say thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank Honourable Alfred Thompson for showing up. I want to repeat that you have done nothing wrong. You and your colleague, Honourable Mohamed Bangura have done nothing wrong. You just decided to go by the provision Section 97[b] of the 1991 Constitution. You have not alienated from your people; you are merely representing them. The area you come from is a mixture of people from different political parties. Mr Speaker, my polling agent told me that people in those areas voted again for APC, including those who do not believe in them. So, you have done nothing wrong my brother. We can talk about this and we are always here as a Parliament. We need you because you are from a different political party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I remembered what you said and you have said it twice to our nominees and they need to listen to you because you are from a different political party. We need to pay attention to what you have said and they need to take it into consideration. I cannot be fired because I was elected together with the President and with my colleagues here. This is what I enjoy every day as a Member of Parliament. They are under the grip of Section 61 of the Constitution. The President hires and fires. So, I thank you very much for your contribution. I am sure based on fairness and bipartisan approach, you have given us your own piece of advice to our nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the spirit of humanity and oneness, I thank everyone for your various contributions. I hope and pray that when you go to your offices, please do not forget Members of Parliament. If they knock at your doors, remember the words of Honourable Mathew Nyuma. I want Mr Andrew J. Kaikai to know that we are going to bring those boys to the rehabilitation centres. Those who are taking these harmful substances are victims, but they cannot be incarcerated, but they should be sent to the rehabilitation centres. We should rehabilitate them because they

committed crimes. They were not in normal temperature and pressure because they were under abnormal temperature and pressure. This is why they always do the wrong things.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to be corrected, but the Speaker is a practicing lawyer and he would agree with me when someone does something bad he/she is taken to your Chamber for a crime he has committed. If for instance, he/she carried threats, the Lawyer would say the criminal was under the influence of a harmful substance and was mentally unstable when he committed the crime. If that is the situation, would you sentence that individual to prison? I will not ask you to answer this question; it is a food for thought. Let us think about it. We need to bring them to rehabilitation centres, so they can be rehabilitated. We have to give them a comfortable place. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question, let me advise the nominees that after their approval, they have to wait for Mr Speaker to leave the Chamber before they do same.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been approved]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, on behalf of Parliament, I congratulate the approved nominees. As a matter of fact, you are heading to the offices where we have Sierra Leoneans. You have predecessors that were in those same offices. They came to Parliament and they made lofty promises, but at the end of the day we did not see much. Sierra Leone is in need of good leaders. Maybe the kind of formula they used when they were in those offices could be the reason they failed. If you go to those offices, try to do something different. As a nation, ever since independence we have been going in circles because we do the same thing over and over again. We have not

made much progress as a nation. My advice to you is that whatever your predecessors did that went wrong, you have to try something different. Please do this nation good this time this nation had suffered so much. Please do something different for the good of the citizenry of Sierra Leone.

In the circumstance, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and to wish you well. You are all extremely qualified for those positions. You have to do something a little bit different from your predecessors. So, I want to take this opportunity again to thank His Excellency the President for believing in the young people. You would agree with me that these days the nominees are so young. The young people are taking over Sierra Leone. I think is about time we developed now. Again, you see those in the gallery, they are here supporting you and when it is time for politics, they do the heavy lifting. It will be unfair for you to go to your offices and think that they are underdogs. Please find a place in your heart to entertain them. I thank you very much and congratulations.

**HON. MATHEW .S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, this is the people's Parliament and we can accommodate all sorts of people. A lot of noise is coming from Members' Lounge. We do not want them to be surprised if stringent measures are put in place that will prevent people from entering the House. You cannot come here and make noise. So, this is a notice to everybody. If you see the security personnel are preventing you from entering the Chamber or the Members' Lounge or within the corridors of the House, do not be surprised. Thank you.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 2:50 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.]*