



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION FIRST MEETING

SIXTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 25TH JULY, 2023

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 Tuesday, 25th July 2023

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL

**COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE - ECSL,
FOR THE YEAR END 2022**

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

PROPOSER: HON. BASHIRU SHERIFF

SECONDER: HON. BASIRU SILIKIE

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE FIRST 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



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**

Tuesday 25th July 2023.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Edward Sahr Lebbie, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, kindly take your seats so we can get on with the day's Business. Honourable Members, there is too much noise coming from the galleries. S.O. [2] "Fambul dem wae dae cam duya una cam nah de galleri safu do ya. If una continu 4 tok ar go ask leh dem pull una comot o, nor to markit place dis o, ya nah Parliament, en ar get containal." Shall we get on with the Day's Business please?

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JULY, 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we shall now take the Votes and Proceedings of the parliamentary second sitting held on Tuesday 18th July, 2023. In case any Honourable Member, has difficulty or problem with the particulars attached to his or her name, please bring that quietly to the attention of the Clerks at the Table, don't make it an issue, and that goes for misspellings of names and designations etc.

So, we shall start our consideration from Page 5; any amendments? Yes, Honourable Member.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: The allocations in the provision are temporary but you will give a proper allocation but you did not even have the plan of seat allocation.

THE SPEAKER: That is quite correct. I never used the word comfortable here, if I wanted to use that word, I will start with myself, charity begins at home. Any other?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: We should insert 'not'; "the inconvenience of 'not' having their parliamentary documents. 'Not should be inserted after of'; Paragraph 3.

THE SPEAKER: On the same page 5?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Which line?

HON SHIAKA M. SAMA: It should be the second to last line, paragraph 3. We have to insert '**NOT**' after '**OF**' so that the sentence would read as: "the inconvenience of not having their Parliamentary Documents". What was stated was "the inconvenience of having their Parliamentary Documents". You have to insert '**NOT**'.

THE SPEAKER: Would you be more specific?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, paragraph 3, second to last line.

THE SPEAKER: Where it starts with, he apologised?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Yes, there is something about inconvenience. Second to the last line.

THE SPEAKER: He apologised to the House for the inconvenience of not having... that is correct.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you; Page 6?

HON. SHAIKA M. SAMA: Yes Mr Speaker, you have stated that the onus is on you for Members, to know themselves, I don't think that is your role, you said any Member, speaking should call his or her name and District.

THE SPEAKER: Ok, direct my attention to the specific area, please.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, it is on the same page. Unfortunately, the document is on my phone, on the same page, where you said that any Member, speaking should announce his or her name and the District he or she comes from so that you would be able to know the Members. It is reported that you said the onus is on you for Members to know themselves, and the onus is not on you for Members to know themselves. You said Members speaking should call their names and their Districts but you did not say the onus is your responsibility for Members to know themselves. You advised that when Members speak, they should call first their names and Districts. But the report said that you said the onus is on you for Members, to know themselves and that is not your job Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Would you be more specific and draw my attention to the paragraph in question?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: It should be on the same page.

THE SPEAKER: Is it page 6 or 5?

HON. SHIAKA M. SMAMA: It is in my phone, it should be on the same page. I don't have the hard copy, tell them to give me one, I don't have one. Mr Speaker, it is on page 6.

THE SPEAKER: I have seen it, thank you. And that line should read: 'And that since the onus was upon Members, to recognize one another, and delete the word 'in between'.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Very well, any other on page 6? Page 7?, Page? 8, Page 9?, Page 10?, Page 11?, Page 12?, and Page 13?

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Mr Speaker, Page 13, I contributed to the debate in felicitation but my name was not mentioned among the names listed here.

THE SPEAKER: Have you looked right through?

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I have gone through Sir.

THE SPEAKER: The Clerks will then take note. Any other observation or correction to be made?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: It was reported that the House was adjourned to Tuesday 25th July, 2023, that is correct but the time 10:a.m. was not stated. You have to include it. The House was adjourned to 25th definitely it has to have time.

THE SPEAKER: Which page are you referring to?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: The last page.

THE SPEAKER: I have not reached the last page yet.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, well you said any corrections?

THE SPEAKER: No, I was quite specific and I drew the attention of the House to page 13?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: I am sorry Sir, I will come back.

THE SPEAKER: Page 14?, Page 15?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for the observation, the correction will be made by the Clerk. Page 15?, Page 16?, Page 17?, Page 18?, and Page 19?.

HON. SHAIKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, the sitting is adjourned to a date and time but the time 10:a.m. is not included and we have to include that for the records. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It is so decided. If there no other amendments can someone please move for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 18th July, 2023?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Seconder?

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: I so second the Motion.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 18th July 2023 has been adopted as amended]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: I have a substantive announcement to make but before I get to it, let me just solicit your attention. I see a number of posters within the Well of Parliament and my attention was not drawn to these posters, they are very nice, very pleasant but I have to be even-handed; if I grant permission to one I should grant permission to all and you can well imagine what would become of the Well if permission were granted to everyone to hang a poster. So, I would kindly request those who are responsible for these posters to make sure they disappear as fast as they appeared.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I note that of course you are the champion of the Chamber and you are the Presiding Officer. I think I am craving your indulgence, you have made your ruling as a Speaker of this Parliament for today it is their time, let us allow them to celebrate. I don't know they did not get permission from you but as Leader of the House, I am pleading on their behalf to leave the banners and let them celebrate. This is a new dawn in our political history, where you have more women in the Chamber, more women in the proposed Cabinet. So, I am just craving your indulgence to plead on their behalf that we leave these ones for now and recede your ruling.

THE SPEAKER: You want me to grant your plea?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Then tell those who placed the posters what the ruling is and what the rule is for the future.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Well, I said throughout the appointment I have made an appeal, I don't know if it is only for today, I am only making an appeal.

THE SPEAKER: They should never hang posters without my permission. Thank you.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: So, that is what I am pleading with you now. I said for today, and tomorrow, we would pass through the normal channel, so how do we get posters to come into the Chamber? So for today let them be here and I will talk to them because I am presenting them in the Chamber for approval, I am begging on their behalf.

THE SPEAKER: Very well.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today we shall start the process of approving nominees of His Excellency, the President for appointment of Ministers and Deputy Ministers who will become members of the Executive branch of Government. So, it is a milestone, it is a very important day and I want to seize the opportunity to make a very special announcement today.

Honourable Members, today the 25th of July, 2023 marks the third sitting of this Sixth Parliament, to which a total of a hundred and forty-nine Members, have been duly elected by the citizens of this Country in the last general election held on 24th June, 2023.

The first sitting was on 13th July, 2023 when those of you seated here today took your Oath of Office as Members of Parliament. There are fifty-four seats to my left reserved exclusively for those Members elect of the All People's Congress Party [APC] who are yet to present themselves to the House to take their seats. Like all of you, they too have been duly elected or declared elected by the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone [ECSL] and apart from Honourable Mohamed Bangura, who has taken his seat, all the other fifty-three Members, are yet to do so. I want to take this opportunity to specially acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Honourable Mohamed Bangura, who

has been well-advised and directed to come and take his seat to represent the people who had voted for him. I thank the Honourable Mohamed Bangura, for his wise decision and I know this Nation owes you a deep and abiding sense of gratitude for that singular patriotic action on your part.

Honourable Members, there are coteries of highly respected citizens of this Country, most of whom I know well and hold in high regard. They have been either contemporaries of mine at college, at school or laboured together in public life in this Country. They are too numerous to call them by name but a good number of them are household names and are well known both here at home and abroad. There are people who have served this Country with great distinction in governance in both the public and private sectors and of whom this Country is richly proud. They are all Members of the APC Party, I want to especially appeal to them, especially to their sense of patriotism and duty to our Country; not to sit idly by and allow the present stalemate in their party to persist, If they do the result will be devastating and detrimental to their party and ultimately to the Country as a whole as well as to our democratic polity.

Under their watch and leadership, this Country promulgated the extant Constitution in October 1991. That Constitution eschewed the one-party system of Government that had governed the Country since 1978 and reintroduced the multi-party democratic system as the only legal and acceptable polity that must prevail in this country and be held sacred by the entire citizenry.

In the 1991 Constitution, it is proclaimed that this Country shall never again return to the abomination of the one-party system; more specifically every citizen is enjoined I quote here "to participate in and defend all democratic processes and practices, and render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and Order." I therefore want to appeal to all those eminent citizens to whom I have referred to step up to their sense of national duty and not allow their party to be hijacked again by a small band of greedy, selfish and self-seeking politicians whose era is already well passed and spent.

Not too long ago, they sat idly by and allowed the situation to be nurtured for many years almost to the point of becoming entrenched within the framework of the APC until

one of their own summoned the courage of conviction to having his days in Court by instituting legal proceedings against the APC and its Executive. Mercifully, the Court accepted the need to exercise the entire APC Party Executive at all levels that had outlived their mandate and liberated the Party from the darkness of domination and brought back to the bright light of compliance with the sacred democratic provisions of the very 1991 Constitution of which they were the architects. For this, I say kudos to our Judiciary in our Country.

Now another darkness is glooming on the horizon and this is why I want today to appeal to all those eminent Statesmen of the APC Party to rise up and liberate their Party from the clutches of despotism and authoritarianism before it is dragged again to the precipice of destruction and extinction.

Walk-outs and boycotts are political tools of yesteryears, they no longer have values and relevance and they are no longer fit for purpose in this twenty-first century of participatory democracy. The truth of the matter is palpably simple; if you withdraw yourself from participating in the process of decision-making, then you should not be angry when others do agree to participate, and decide for you and your destiny. Even worse, if you think foreigners from outside Africa have the right to come again to our Country to help you take control of our governance or anything else that is not your entitlement under our own sovereign law, then you are still living in the dark ages of colonialism that have long ago been banished with the attics of history. The reality of the world in which we live today has changed; new realities are prescribed in the provisions of paragraph [E] of Sub-Section [1] of Section [77] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991. That provision states: "A Member of Parliament shall vacate his seat in Parliament if he is absent from sittings of Parliament for such period and in such circumstance as may be prescribed in the rules of procedure of Parliament". That provision of the Constitution is further amplified in S.O. 77 [2a] of the Standing Orders of this Parliament, and again I quote: "Any Member who without good cause during any session is absent from the sittings of Parliament on a number of days amounting to an aggregate period of thirty days shall vacate his seat."

Honourable Members, this is my message I have for you today, it is addressed more particularly to the eminent citizens of our land who have been duly elected as Members of this Noble House and who are Members of the APC Party. I appeal to all of them to see reason and to step up in consonance with their sense of national duty to come and take their seats in the Chamber to which they have been rightly and properly elected to represent their people before it is too late.

I thank you for your keen attention. And those of you who have friends as I do in the APC Party to kindly join me in transmitting this information to them.

PAPERS LAID

A.THE CHAIRMAN PUBLIC ACCOUNT COMMITTEE

HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS [*Deputy Speaker of Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your kind permission may I lay on the Table of this House the following documents.

- 1) REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE NATIONAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE [NACOVERC] 2021
- 2) REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE NATIONAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE [NACOVERV] 2022.

B.THE MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the following paper.
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE [ECSL] FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2022.

MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Proposer: Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma

Seconder: Hon. Bashiru Silikie

HON. BERNEDETE W. SONGA: Mr Speaker, can I observe please? We haven't got the report on the Committee of Appointment.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if a Member of Parliament, wants to talk when they call the Leader of Government Business, let the MP stand on the appropriate Standing Orders so we can give her or him permission to stand and speak. But let me raise this point before I start the Report. I said in the last sitting that though we are yearning to go paperless and we want to rhyme with the 21st-century as other Parliaments, we also want to do it in the form that we have the ICT well seated in Parliament. Again the last time, even the documents were not uploaded in our system and I asked the Clerk's Office through your good self that we should have training for our Colleagues so that they can be able to operate these Tablets they have. Sometimes there are malfunctions and sometimes when we are working along it just get stuck, we are still asking again as my Colleagues said, some of them do not have the documents with them. So, before I proceed, I want all of us to check if we have the soft copy or hard copy.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, let find out how many of you have the hard copies of the report raise your hands please, only handful? That is not good enough, I am afraid in the circumstances, I may have to stand the House down for few minutes until the copies are available. Yes Chief Whip.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I want to ask that before standing the House down can we ask the Clerks to make sure that they distribute the reports because by the time we are back, there will be movement here and there and that will require another time to settle down.

THE SPEAKER: I will stand the House down for a specific number of minutes to allow that to happen. First of all, let us ascertain from the Legislative department. Do you have enough copies to go around? Who is responsible for the hard copies to go round? Leader of Government Business, I understand is within the purview of your department or your Committee.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, if my Committee is to produce the report, they have the soft copy and is uploaded, if I have the hard copies I would have sent it

to to the technician already, they have it but the systems are not working. They have hard copies. So, how do you generate the hard copies? Ask them, they are under the purview of the Clerk and Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I recognize the Honourable Mohamed Bangura.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, this is the sixth Parliament, we must find ways to do things in this House. We have had in the past this problem, now we have a very important day today, we have family members who are here only for us to find ourselves in this situation, it is not good for this House.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have been assured that if I stand the House down for about ten to fifteen minutes the hard copies would be made available. Are they here? Do we have enough? In any event, I will stand the House down for ten minutes to allow the copies to be distributed and I will ask Honourable Members, not to follow my example. I am leaving the Chamber but you are asked to kindly remain in your seats.

MR SPEAKER STOOD DOWN THE HOUSE AT 10:50 A.M.

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 11:07 A.M.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, kindly take your seats. I understand that 70 to 75% of Honourable Members, now have copies of the report in one form or another. Well, those of you without copies please raise your hands so we can identify you. Quite appreciable but I think those with copies outnumbered you. I understand Honourable Edith and Honourable from Western Urban have kindly agreed to send the report via what's app to as many people as they can locate on their phones. So anyway, some of you in fact participated quietly without you being a Member, in the proceedings of the Committee on Appointment in Committee Room one. I saw quite a good number of you there, so you know exactly what transpired, this is just a replay in Plenary of what happened there. So, we shall proceed and will try to catch up as much as we can. You have the Floor Majority Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Speaker for your understanding and flexibility. That is the reason Fifth Parliament succeeded in passing so many progressive laws. The First Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, the first report on the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service on Parliamentary Vetting of Presidential nominations 2023:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service in consonance of each Constitutional responsibility on vetting and approving of appropriately qualified candidates for appointment to Ministerial positions met on Friday 24th July, 2023 and interviewed fifteen Presidential nominees for appointment as Ministers.

The Committee conducted a hearing within each set framework of procedures. 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 manned the Ministries of which they were appointed. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide range issues relating to their track records in Public Service and other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their vision for nationally productive tenure, issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into. The first sitting of the Committee on Appointment and the Public service met on Friday 21st July, 2023, the following Presidential nominees were interviewed on Oath:

Mr Sheku Fantamadi Bangura – Proposed Minister of Finance

Mr Sheku Fantamadi Bangura, is currently serving as the proposed Minister of Finance after his last approval by the Fourth Session of the Fifth Parliament. He has over twenty-five years of experience serving as an Economic and policy expert, advisor at the World Bank and the West Africa Monetary Institute. He is one of the Principal advisers to His Excellency, the President and the Government of Sierra Leone on Financial and Economic Policies, he hold a double master degrees in public policies, Financial Management 2012-2014 AU Washington DC USA; on one hand or the other he

also has master degree of Economic Policy Management from McGill University Montreal Canada.

Responding to Committee on the increasing inflationary trajectory and Wage Bill, the seasoned Economist said "in spite of the oddities, the Country's economy is still resilient to accommodate the Wage Bill. Measures are on track for reversals of the double-digit inflation." He attributed into Global Economic shorts that as far reaching consequences on import driven Countries like Sierra Leone. He entreated Members that less dependency on donor funding for Budgetary support would be enhanced by new policies that will capitalize on the prudent expectation of our natural resources but not limited to looking into Section [37] of the Banking Act of 2019 to allow companies implementing huge capital projects to have access to funds from within the Country rather than operating off-shore accounts. The Minister was praised for living up to expectations, especially during the severe economic shocks of the Russian – Ukraine war.

Alhaji Kanja I. Sesay – Proposed Minister of Energy

Alhaji Kanja I. Sesay, is a professional development specialist with over twenty-five years of work experience in developing Countries including Sierra Leone. He once headed and successfully managed the post-war National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA] where he managed multi-donor funds, transitioning the Nation from relief to sustainable development. Since his recommendation and ratification by the first report of the Fifth Parliament, Alhaji Kanja Sesay's performance in the Energy Sector has been commendable pushing Energy from 16% capital city power accessibility to almost 35% both rural and provincial headquarters.

Responding to questions on the current status of electricity, he said: "After five years of his stewardship, over hundreds towns and communities have now access to electricity."

With regards to government Manifesto, the Big Five objectives, he said: "The Energy Sector was integral in ensuring improvement in agriculture to feed Salone by collaborating with Ministry of Agriculture for mechanized farming, irrigation and preservation of agricultural products to realise agro gains, expectation of His Excellency

to reduce budget cost on importation of price in particular. The Minister agreed that Rural Mini Grid electrification was producing but had some registered challenges. He promised that his office would engage providers to reverse the trend.

Dr. Austin Hinga Demby – Proposed Minister, Ministry of Health

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr. Austin Demby is a research scientist, epidemiologist and molecular virologist and holds a Master of Public Health in biostatistics and epidemiology from the University of Michigan, USA in 1985 and a PhD in Clinical Microbiology from the University of London in 1998. Prior to his nomination, this internationally revered scientist was the acting director for the office of Global Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA] in the United States Department of Health that protects the health of Americans through global actions. He manifests a plethora of wide experience in conceptualizing, designing and implementing complex and effective National programs to combat any ravaging health situations including viral haemorrhagic fever viruses, AIDS/HIV, etc. His long services with the Centre for Diseases Control [CDC] gave him the platform to fully understand the emerging African health problems, the reason he was very instrumental in the fight against the Ebola and COVID-19 pandemics in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service still reaffirms the outstanding virtues of this nominee as were adjudged during the twelfth sitting and forwarded in the tenth report to Plenary of the Fifth Parliament in February, 2021.

Responding to his reappointment visions and pervasive perennial problems in the Ministry, the learned doctor said; 'Giving the state of acute shortage of professional personnel in the Country, Sierra Leone needs 5000 medical doctors. At the moment, the Country only has 500 out of which 350 are in clinical practice while 150 are in Administrative work. To address such appalling situation, the Ministry has engaged the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences [COMAHS] and there has now been an increase in medical students' admission from 50 to 300 per annum.

He concluded that his vision of undertaking all these structural health sector reforms was to construct five regional hospitals linked with training facilities that would each service at least 1,000 patients a day in a bid to reduce the burden of accessibility to quality health care currently experienced.

Mr Timothy M. Kabba – Proposed Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 29th July 2020 the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service adjudged Mr Timothy M. Kabba during his approval for the Mines Ministry as a versatile, performance-driven and global-oriented professional with a strong background in petroleum engineering, leadership, management and strategy. His proven successes as the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources especially but not limited to the formulation of minerals, geo-data, and artisanal mining policies that fell into the review of the Mine and Minerals Act 2011. Enacted the Mines and Minerals Act 2022 and negotiated large-scale mining lease agreement that reduced increased investment in commodities including a 1% Community Development Fund in favour of mining Chieftoms and Districts, recent aero-geological surveys that will now attract reputable investors in the Mining Sector, speak volume and further reaffirms his recommendation.

Responding to his current appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and upholding Diplomatic ties with other Nations, the multilingual prowess Minister said "Article 41:1 of the Vienna Convention states that "It is the duty of the one receiving immunities and privileges to respect the laws of the receiving state. It is also their duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of the state. I will therefore ensure that Countries respect this and will follow the dictates of the convention to institute penalties on any Foreign Diplomat that contravenes this provision" He promised to work very hard in order not to misrepresent the young people.

Mrs Princess Betty Dugba-Proposed Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Mrs Princess Betty Dugba, is a health administrator with vast experience in health and hospital management. Her key strength and skills are setting goals and objectives, managing budgets and developing strategies to optimize hospital operations were clearly demonstrated as a Deputy Minister of Health in charge of all issues involving government and faith-based hospitals delivering health care services.

Responding as Minister-designate, to the coastal waters violation by unregistered foreign vessels depriving the Nation of revenue and constant fish stock supplies to market, the soft-spoken professional said; "I am aware of some of these herculean challenges and I will treat them as utmost priority. It requires the collective efforts of major players including the security forces and I shall immediately engage them to chat a way forward. Protecting our territorial waters from exploitation is very key to improving the economy and to this, I shall commit myself "she ended.

Dr Sao-Kpato Hannah Max-Kyne: Proposed Minister, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Sao Kpato Hannah Max-Kyne is a renowned academic of no mean standing, a career development specialist with extensive productive tenure in both Non-Governmental Organizations and Governmental Development Agencies. She is on record as one contributor to academic growth, as a seasoned lecturer of public policy, Sociology and Development at varying levels in our Universities. In the Fifth Parliament, the Appointment Committee adjudged her suited for a Commissioner of NaCSA owing to the desirable qualities of proven academic and analytical skills in developmental issues and her timely prolific outputs observed for over years as a Deputy.

The Committee acknowledges with no scintilla of doubt that she could move on track with the numerous projects and plans left behind by the outgoing Minister of Water Resources.

In her response to the Committee inquiries on the knowledge required and vision to run such Ministry, the expert said; most of her developmental works had been on Water Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH] and had coordinated such programs both at home and abroad, Whilst she couldn't disregard that water availability and accessibility were still serious problems in the Country, she promised to work on effective plans with Government and partners to ameliorate constraints through sustained and permanent initiatives projects for both urban and rural water needs.

Ambassador Adekunle Joliff Milton King - Proposed Minister of Western Region

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Adekunle Milton King is a seasoned lawyer with a master's degree in Petroleum law and policy from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee, Scotland. He was first appointed Minister of Labour and Social Security in April 2018 to November 2019. Until his recent appointment to serve as Minister of the Western Region. He was Ambassador to the Republic of Ethiopia where he served as Chair of the Permanent Representative Subcommittee on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

Responding to Members about his role as Minister designate, he said; the Western area office routine operations are designed to interface with Executive branches in the capital to address emerging regional Administrative issues and to interface and report to the State House and other relevant Authorities, he promised to build and expand on the rural-urban governance collaborative models outlined by his predecessor.

Mr Alpha Ibrahim Sesay-Proposed Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Mr Ibrahim Sesay, is a project fiduciary management specialist for both the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance. He is presently, serving as Team Lead Project Fiduciary

Management Unit responsible to oversee and coordinate financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation and Internal Audit functions of all World Bank projects in the Country. Mr Sesay was vividly reminded by the Committee regarding the sustained increase in the general commodity price level and how this impacted on the people. He acknowledged the non-dimensional price levels which he attributed to external factors beyond Government control. He however promised to take drastic measures through collaboration with security forces to regularize certain anomalies such as smuggling of our local foodstuffs etc. to other Countries.

Mr Jiwoh Emmanuel Abdulai-Proposed Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Mr Jiwoh Emmanuel Abdulai is a macroeconomic policy and International Financial market analyst with significant experience working with Public and Private Sector entities in Sierra Leone. He graduated in 2004 with a Master degree of Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He also got his Bachelor degree in Computer Science from the University of Texas in 1997. He has a plethora of quantitative data management skills which he would apply spatially to interpret and forecast the complex issues of global climatic change effect.

Mr Abdulai promised to work to build on the gains of his predecessor and to collaborate with experts both within and outside the Ministry to address global commitments to Climate Change and implement at National level the environmental Acts.

Major General [Rtd.] David Tamba Ocil Taluva: Proposed Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominee is a retired Military professional that rose through the ranks in the Republic of Sierra Leone Arm Forces notably from platoon commander to Deputy Chief of Defence Staff and possesses several certificates and battle honours to his credit.

Responding to his appointment to a supervising Ministry over vital institutions like the police, Correctional Centres, Fire Force, the Police, the soft-spoken commander said in a firm voice that maintaining public order within the law is a must for any State and Government that cares for its people. "I see the Internal Affairs Ministry providing such leverage and guidance of peace"

Mrs Melrose A. Karminty: Proposed Minister of Social Welfare

Mrs Melrose Karminty, has been part of the governance structure since 2018 to date. In her capacity as Deputy Minister of works and Public Assets from 2018 to 2019, she contributed immensely to ensuring that the President's aspiration for infrastructural development was on track. She was later transferred to the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development where she served diligently until her reappointment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee reaffirms the quality attributes of this nominee as were appropriately reported to this House in the Fifth Parliament.

Answering questions on what she would be taking to the Ministry of Social Welfare, the nominee succinctly put "The Ministry is a cross-cutting one that has many players, so I will bring everyone on board to support the Government's vision through teamwork." She concluded that though she would institute reforms in future but may not likely interfere with the Hajj Committee that is scoring remarkable gains.

Mr Amara Kallon-Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs

Mr Amara Kallon, is a Rural Development Professional with vast knowledge in Monitoring and Evaluation. His competencies in the use of evaluation techniques might randomize Control Research Methodology, Web page Monitoring and Evaluation system etc. both in an integral of the SEP/GAFSP project as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security from 2016 to June 3, 2018. He was later appointed to serve as the Deputy Minister of Political and Public Affairs in 2018 where he served with utmost diligence. His recent elevation to Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs is a testament to his outstanding contribution to this

Ministry while serving as Deputy Minister. He holds a Master of Science in Rural Development from the Njala University. In his new role as Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, he acknowledges the enormity of his task, but as a young man with experience in Public Sector Management and with support from Colleague Ministers, he is determined to make a difference to the governance sector of the State.

Ambassador Bum Wurie, Resident Minister, North West

Ambassador Wurie, is a retired Civil Servant and seasoned Diplomat that represented the Republic of Sierra Leone as High Commissioner to Nigeria [1989-1993]. He is a Commissioner of oath, a lifetime appointment of distinction. His humane and state-manly attributes have always helped the Ambassador catapulted from Special Adviser to the President to Minister, and this the Committee recognized as evidence of hard work.

In his role in the North West, the Ambassador promised to collaborate with local authorities and indigenes to work for nation-building.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- i. Mr Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura- Minister of Finance
- ii. Mrs Princess Dugba, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- iii. Sao-Kpato Hannah Isatta Max-Kyne- Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation
- iv. Major General Rtd David Taluva- Minister of Internal Affairs
- v. Mr Alpha Ibrahim Sesay- Minister of Trade
- vi. Dr. Austin Hingha Demby -Minister of Health
- vii. Alhaji Kanja I .Sesay- Minister of Energy

- viii. Mr Jiwoh Abdulai-Minister of Energy and Climate
- ix. Ambassador Umaru Bum Wurie –Resident Minister North West
- x. Mr Amara Kallon – Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs
- xi. Mrs Melrose Karminty – Minister of Social Welfare
- xii. Ambassador Adenkule King - Minister, Western Region
- xiii. Mr Timothy M. Kabba – Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this First Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore, move that the First 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. I thank you very much for your attention.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business for his presentation of the report. Any seconder to the report?

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

THE SPEAKER: I thank you. Before I put the question, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the following dignitaries who are in our midst. A friend of long standing with whom, I entered the Chamber of this House in the 80s, the Honourable Michael Abdulai. Next on my list is a Veteran of the House, well known, a distinguished personality who has served this Country in many capacities ending with the Ministry of Higher Education, the Honourable Dr. Alpha T. Wurie.

Next on my list is the man of many pasts eminently qualified for many roles in our Republic but presently he is a very busy business man who is making money in the private sector, the Honourable Foday Yorkie. As you can see prosperity is written all over his face.

Next on my list is Madam Sitta Sillah, Ambassador Sullay Daramy, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Mathew Dingy, the Financial Secretary, Ambassador Alimamy Bangura to the Republic of Guinea, Mrs

Daphne William Bangura. I am sure there are many more, I will announce them when I receive their names. You are most welcome to the Chamber all of you.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: I will give the Floor first and foremost to the seconder of the motion and I will ask the first timers, you are free to participate in this debate and don't be shy try to catch my eye in doing so. You have the Floor Deputy Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we have nominees presented to this House for approval. I know you have recognized eminent personalities in this House; I also want to join you in recognizing the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. [Applause]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we entered this House in 2012, we learnt a lot from the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. Mr Yokie, I know you are very successful in the field you have chosen now, you have left us in politics, and we will join you one day.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President has decided to pick his Cabinet and these are the people that will help him to succeed for the next five years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, five years ago, we had nominees also that were presented by His Excellency, the President, these nominees sojourned for five years and today some of them survived, some of them did not survive, and this is a warning to them. If they perform by the grace of God they will survive after five years, if you do not perform then of course what does that mean, for those that are not here today it will definitely happen to you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when nominees come here, we address them, we approve them; some of them when they occupy these offices, when Members of Parliament visit their offices they don't open their doors for them. What His Excellency, the President has done is just what he is supposed to do as per law, but if this Parliament does not approve of your nomination then you are not going to be Ministers

or Head of Departments. It is this Parliament that has to vet you and approve your nomination, the Members of Parliament, would be visiting your offices, they will not be visiting you to beg, they will be visiting you to advocate for their Constituents.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at the end of the day, if these nominees fail, we the Members of Parliament, will be the sufferers of what they do; because at the end of the day we have to present ourselves to this Republic for election, our faces would be on the ballot papers and the questions that would be put to us are the questions that should be answered by nominees but most of the time Members of Parliament, suffer for their actions.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the appointees and this House that this Parliament is not going to be business as usual and this Parliament will ensure we do our Oversight function. Today from this side we have about thirty Members of Parliament that did not come back to this Parliament because of the decision of our Constituents believing that Members of Parliament are responsible for primary development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the last Parliament we agreed that Ministers should not be addressed as Honourable Ministers and this is the beginning of the sixth Parliament and this is a new Government. I want to reiterate to the Ministers when the Leader of Government Business was reading the report he addressed the Ministers as Mr Ministers. So, I want to reiterate that there was a decision in this Well and this is the only House that makes laws, except you have been in this House before then you will be addressed as Honourable Minister but for the Ministers that have not been fortunate to sit in this Parliament, please advise yourselves and address yourselves accordingly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Leadership that has been chosen by His Excellency, the President is going to be responsible for the survival of the SLPP. We should bear in mind that this is the second term of His Excellency, the President and in the next five years, we will be having a new leadership of the SLPP. What you are going to do today and in the next five years will be the cards we campaign on, which will be pivotal in our campaign messages for 2028. Don't forget 2028 is the transitional

election, an election that will usher in a new President and the performance of these Ministers will determine if we are going to retain power or not.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we hope these Ministers will not disappoint His Excellency, the President, we hope these Ministers will not disappoint this House, we hope these Ministers will not disappoint the people of Sierra Leone; because if you disappoint us then we will all know the result at the end of the day, but of course we know you will not disappoint us. His Excellency, the President has a lot of confidence in you that is why he has decided to bring you on board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in on a few of them. I will begin with the Minister of Energy for obvious reasons. The Minister of Energy [AKA Mansa], I know the Speaker is very happy for this man.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: You may now continue Deputy Leader.

HON. BASIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I want to zoom in on the Minister of Energy, Mr Alhaji Kanja Sesay for obvious reasons.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, few months ago I was seated before Alhaji Kanja Sesay for an interview to this Parliament and 48 hours ago Alhaji Kanja Sesay, was seated before me for an interview. This shows that when you have an opportunity to interview somebody you should do it with caution, especially for Members of Parliament and for some of those our MPs that did not return, we are praying that when His Excellency, the President consider them we will give them the same treatment but I can assure Honourable Members, that we from Bo were given the best treatment by Mr Kanja Sesay.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Leader was reading the report from the Minister he told us that Energy generation has increased from 16% to 35% in five years, that is a huge increase. The past Government was not able to generate energy when they were in governance for ten years but in just five years this man doubled that one to almost 100% thus making it to 35%.

Mr Speaker, I know we haven't got the energy system properly, it is a process that is why His Excellency, the President decided to bring Mr Kanja Sesay on board. We believe and confident that in the next five years, the energy distribution and generation would increase from 35% to 50% or more before the next election that is a huge thrive, from megawatts 16 to megawatts 35 is huge considering the economic situation and the global issues around the World. We are wishing Mr Kanja Sesay well. Of course, this Parliament will always support you as we have done in the past, and the Leadership of this Parliament will always support you. I wish you well, and we hope you will continue to excel in the Energy Sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now wants to zoom in on the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance, is a very humble man, he is a very respectful person. This is the professional that knows what he is doing, that is why he is the only Minister that has gone through the ranks. He started as Deputy Minister 2, and later as Deputy Minister 1 and close to the last regime he was catapulted to the Minister of Finance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know the situation around and he was able to mesmerize the Committee by explaining to us exactly the current state of the economy, he is no stranger to the economy of Sierra Leone. Of course, I put the question to him that the exchange rate is our problem in Sierra Leone. Mr Minister, the people who voted for us are here and you are the only person we rely on to change our lives. The Business Community is suffering, other sectors are suffering, and inflation is high. It is not your making it is global but please use your professionalism to cushion some of these problems. This office you are occupying is extremely very challenging we know because when you are managing the economy, especially for a Country where our export rate is extremely low, we encourage other line Ministries to be prudent so that the burden would be easy on you.

Mr Speaker, of course, the Minister of Finance is a friend of this Parliament, this is the sixth Parliament, and we hope the relationship we built in the Fifth Parliament will continue in the sixth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I also want to zoom in on Dr Austin Demby, he is my Minister of Health, he is a representative of my Chiefdom to the Executive, he is coming from Gerehun and Baoma Chiefdom, I bring him greetings and congratulations from the people of Baoma Chiefdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Austin Demby contributed immensely in the last elections, I can say it here without fear or favour that he was pivotal in the winning of SLPP in Baoma Chiefdom. He contributed financially and morally, he was always participating in the process, always asking for the outcome. I want to inform this House that the elections result in Baoma Chiefdom, SLPP got 96% with the help of Dr Austin Demby.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the things we campaigned on was the promise made to us by Dr Austin Demby in Baoma Chiefdom. He promised us that he is going to give us one of the best hospitals in Jembeh and this is a talk-and-do Government and the Minister is a talk-and-do Minister. Our people are waiting and definitely the hospital will be a benchmark for Dr Demby and for the people of Baoma Chiefdom. Dr Demby I wish you well, the Chiefdom is behind you and the Chiefdom is fully in support of your appointment and your approval from this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the young Ministers, this is a youthful Government. I have said the future of the young people depends on the young Ministers appointed by this Government. The President has been bold enough to appoint young people to occupy sensitive State positions, you are the guinea pig of the young people. If you succeed you will be succeeding for us, if you fail you would not just be failing yourselves but you would be failing the young people of Sierra Leone. This bold decision the President has taken if you fail, no President will take this decision forever, if you succeed I believe Presidents that would be coming will have confidence to employ young people to serve them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom on Mr Jiwor, he is one of the young people seated here today for approval. Mr Jiwor, you are going to a very sensitive and technical Ministry. At the interview panel we told you how sensitive the Ministry of

Environment and Climate Change is. We hope you will use your expertise, your IT knowledge and financial expertise, and you have to study more around the subject area so that you will be au fait yourself; because what His Excellency, the President has done today is to bring you in front as a young person so that if you succeed he will be confident that more young persons will join you. So, please make sure you perform for us, make sure you perform for His Excellency, the President and make sure you perform for this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ibrahim Sesay, a man from Gbinti, that is one of the representatives of the Gbinti community in this Cabinet and I know Mr Speaker, has been pivotal.

THE SPEAKER: Gbinti has never disappointed you.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Sesay, we have an unfinished project, please let it be on the records that we have an unfinished project, so I wish you well. I know you will succeed for His Excellency, the President. As I told you Mr Speaker, I am not envious of Mr Sesay, on the interview panel I told him clearly that one of the most challenging Ministries today is the Ministry of Trade. Towards the end of the last Parliament, every Sierra Leonean was asking for the sacking of the Minister of Trade because of the inflation, because the prices were changing on a daily basis, there is no price uniformity. So this is the challenge Mr Sesay, is going to be facing, and the other challenge is the sub-standard goods that people bring into this Country. You have to buy things extremely very high but the standard is very poor. You have a lot of experts coming to this Country. Mr Speaker, Standard Bureau should be looked into, and the worst of it all if some of these drugs come through our quay like the kush which is killing our young people in this Country, where is the Standard Bureau? It is no secret that some of these drugs come through the quay. So we should empower the Standard Bureau, we should make sure it does due diligence to the goods that come to this Country.

Mr Sesay, I am not envious of that position, I know it is very challenging; I know the Constituents are looking to you, I know the market women at Abacha Street are looking

to the Minister of Trade, that position is extremely challenging. So, I wish you well, I know you are a young person, you have the energy, you have the know-how, hope you will succeed, and you have the support of this Parliament and the Committee on Trade when you are faced with challenges. Please use this Parliament effectively so that you can succeed in your new position. I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our current situation we have is security. As a son of a soldier, I now zoom on the Retired General Taluva, we grew up in the Barrack, Mr Taluva, was very much instrumental in our growth, we were in the same Barrack, I was in that Barrack until I became Honourable Member.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I can say here without fear is that Mr Taluva, was a very disciplined Officer, he was extremely disciplined. When we were growing up we used to play football at the front compound of Mr Taluva, he was a Major by then; the moment we saw Mr Taluva's vehicle coming from afar the game stopped and that was the end of the game, because when he comes and sees us playing football our parents will not even challenge him. I say here that Mr Taluva is a very seasoned and disciplined soldier. He is now a civilian and he is now a Minister in civilian attire but we hope he will bring that Military discipline into his office.

Mr Speaker, ofcourse it is no secret that the Police force has been tagged in Sierra Leone by different organizations as one of the corrupt institutions in Sierra Leone. We know that the training given to Police officers are not enough, some of them go to the training school for two months they are Police officers forever, no continuous training for them and that is why we are having huge challenges in the Police force. So, Mr Taluva we hope you will bring that discipline you had from the army and you will not disappoint us because you are the third Internal Affairs Minister that His Excellency, the President has chosen, so it means he has now brought Police or Military to come and control the internal security, please bring your expertise and make sure Sierra Leoneans are safe, because we all know the current trend of insecurity in Sierra Leone. Please we hope you will not disappoint His Excellency, the President we hope you will not disappoint this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Ladies, the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Social Welfare and the Minister going to the Water Resources Ministry. Of course, the Minister of Water Resources had been before the Committee, I think this is her second time; she was before the Committee when she became the Head of NaCSA, ofcourse, everybody knows she is extremely very intelligent, she knows the subject area, she is a Doctor, I know she would be working with a young engineer who doubles as our Youth Leader and we hope the synergy will continue between yourself and your Deputy, we hope you will succeed. Water is life, Western Area is suffering, the provinces are suffering, water is not available, and the far West of Freetown, Hamilton and beyond are struggling for water, these are the challenges you will be facing, SALWACO, go to our villages, no pure drinking water. So, you are going to be faced with huge challenges and that will hinge even on our health system, because sickness is all around Typhoid, Cholera all because of the water people are drinking. Please make sure you work as a team, work with the other members of staff that you will be meeting for the success of this Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the woman going to the Ministry of Fisheries, ofcourse, the World is moving, the Blue Economy is quite pivotal to the development of the World. So the Minister of Fisheries is very humble, she has worked with this Parliament for the last few years as Deputy Minister, she has been representing her Minister, she has a very good relationship with this Parliament and I hope she will carry on with the same mentality you had as Deputy Minister to the new Ministry, I hope you will succeed because you have been succeeding, she did well, she was a woman you will learn from her.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have supervised the Minister now going to the Ministry of Social Welfare while she was Deputy Minister of Works. Mr Speaker, I can say here that this Minister is very active, she is willing and ready to work at all times. When she was Deputy, she had difficult relationship with her Boss because when she wanted to do this the Boss will want to stop her, she had so much energy, and I hope

that energy you had while you were a Deputy Minister will be taken to the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for other nominees that I have not called you are all very important, you have been recommended to this House so that this House will approve you and as a Parliament, I have said it, and let me also reiterate that this is not going to be business as usual. This sixth Parliament, I will even encourage those that would be Chairmen of Committees to do their work according to law, because it should not be business as usual. If Government should succeed, Parliament should play a pivotal role. Thankfully Mr Speaker, the ruling party is in the majority so when we are now doing our work, when we begin to discipline these Ministers, nobody will say because these are opposition members. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Let me thank the Deputy Leader for his contribution to the debate before I call on my very abled Deputy, please take your seat for a moment, let me recognize these additional personalities we have in the Well.

Mr Batilo Songa, who is the former National Organizing Secretary of the SLPP

Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Former Women's Leader of the SLPP. Let me also recognise Madam I. J. Kabba, who was ten years as National Women's Leader of the SLPP and even preceded that of Madam Sawaneh. Dr Fofana, former General Manager of the Ports Authority. Haja Fatu Kanja Sesay, the other half of the Energy Minister. Haja Fanta Rogers, Dr Mathew Vandi, Honourable Edward Soloku. You are all most welcome. You have the Floor, Deputy Speaker.

HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to thank you profusely for allowing me to say my bits. I want to use this podium to also thank His Excellency, the President for these appointments. They are all our brothers and sisters, they are the mothers and fathers, they are uncles and aunts, and they are citizens of this Republic of Sierra Leone. But apart from that, the persons we have before us are all hugely qualified, nothing in the reports we had before is embellished. I was there myself, I saw the procedure being observed and the

conclusions we have before us this morning were arrived at based on all the necessary parameters.

Mr Speakers, Honourable Members, I am saying this for good reason, lest somebody gets up somewhere to say well the APC Members of Parliament, the only Mohamed Bangura was present at the Committee, so the interviews were rushed and approvals dished out freely without due process.

In fact Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we grieved the nominees to the utmost and I stand here today to challenge the public to come to Parliament and check the records. I also challenge our brothers who have not developed enough good manners to come and check the records. We did the utmost; nothing would have changed even if we had the full complement of the APC Members of Parliament on that Committee. I am saying this so that the Media can carry it so that the public knows exactly what is been done here. Everything we do here we do it properly, that is how we behave on this other side.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is now for me to talk to the nominees and let them know that we have over seven million Sierra Leoneans, you are extremely lucky to be nominated by His Excellency, the President to go to those offices and perform. Let me state this without scruple that the offices you are going to were once upon a time occupied by other citizens. They came to Parliament and they gave us promises at the Committee stage and at their approval we said nice things about them, we said they were going to play the necessary magic to ensure that there is proper development in this Nation but let me state that even with all the qualifications of persons we approved in this House, this Nation still faces challenges and sadly so. Of course, I will urge my Colleagues to approve you speedily but it is my plea to you all that when you go to those offices try as best as you could to do things a little differently, maybe we have been used to doing things in a particular way. Let me state to you that as a Nation we are in a hurry, if you watch TV news you will see that all over the World there are problems in every Nation of the World, it is for us to make Sierra Leone a little different. Let me tell you what I want you to do when you go to your offices take a keen look at

particularly the role of Civil Servants because we have these political offices with politicians coming and going but the Civil Servants will remain. If things are happening to this Nation in a particular way, maybe we begin to look at those figures in these institutions that have been static probably over sixty years we had as a Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Civil Servants go to their offices and spend the whole day doing nothing, in fact it has become even worst with the advent of the social media. A single document comes to a particular Civil Servant; that Civil Servant is supposed to action that particular document and it is lying there. When all they need do is to write a simple memo of approval so that the document moves to the next stage. It is there for weeks and it is happening all over these Ministries, Agencies and Departments. So when you go to these offices take a keen look at them, maybe you need to ginger them a little bit, that is my plea. Like I said as a Nation let us learn to do things a little differently and let me assure you, I can say this clearly with all conscience that the first five year of His Excellency, the President was a huge success. You can see clearly except probably for detractors, you can see clearly that the road map is already made. The building blocks are already there for all to see, it is only for us in this term to make reasonable progress. I don't want to talk much at this stage, I know you will be coming to Parliament frequently and we will be doing our job to ensure that we monitor your activities. But this is a passionate plea to the nominees, please help this Nation, there are so many things we need to do at this point please, because we have been going down the drain for so long. The history is there for us to see where we were at one particular point in the history of Sierra Leone and where we are now, so please that is all I need to tell you. Thank you very much for your appointment.

Like I said you can't talk about the Kanja Sesay, you can't talk about the proposed Minister of Finance, Princess Dugba, you cannot talk about these people and begin to even challenge or Mr Alpha Sesay to say that they are not qualified; they are all hugely qualified but please help this Nation. Thank you very much.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O [38] with your leave to move the motion to limit Members who are willing to speak to the debates to give them time

so you can hear as much as you can because of the way we are going now, if we leave it this way it is going to be a problem. Also I want our appointees to go and celebrate, as you have started giving them the platform in the Chamber to celebrate. So, I move that you reduce the time for every speaker, to 10 or 5 minutes. In the Standing Order, it is 30 minutes but I am now pleading for 5 minutes as the case may be and those who were in the Committee, I am not ruling them out but you had your bite in the Committee. So, I crave your indulgence that you allow more members especially those who are coming newly, that you give them a chance to speak. So, I propose 5 minutes Sir. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to that motion?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for five minutes and I heard it seconded.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Let me give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Bo District, a lady. Before that, may I take this opportunity to recognize the presence of Mr Ambassador Junior Navo, Chief Executive Officer of the AYV media empire you are most welcome.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, before the Honourable Lady comes in, I think in our last sitting I made a plea and thankfully you accepted that in the not too distant future maybe the next one week we would be debating the Presidential speech. Therefore, I asked you the other day for us to give the new Members, more time to speak so they would know exactly how to debate the Presidential speech. So, I still want to reiterate that in as much as the old Members would want to talk, but please give the new Members more time to speak so they will know how to debate the Presidential address. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, from Bo you have the Floor.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appreciate my Leader that is the Chief Whip, it is a very good advice but I equally would want you to know that some of us have already met these people before, some of us know their hard work, we need to tell the Nation and particularly our representatives all over this Country. Thank you Sir.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, I want to say thank you for this great opportunity today to have these eminent people before us who have been chosen by His Excellency, the President to lead our activities in this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a wise decision His Excellency, the President has taken on behalf of the Nation and I want to believe he must have properly gone through their resumes and that is why he has decided to choose them to lead the activities of this Country. So, I want to appreciate His Excellency, the President so much particularly when it comes to the Ladies, I want to say thanks to His Excellency, the President for given us eminent Ladies and for me the choice he has made although all of them are yet to come, we have few of them with us in this Well today and some are yet to come but for the eminent Ladies he has chosen I want to thank him so much for identifying them and letting people know that Sierra Leone has women that would take us to prominence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominees, I would like them to know that, like others have said you had your predecessors, they have done their own bits but the best is never enough. We want to see you bring more changes into these offices, we want to see you improve on whatever lapses they had in their offices. We know we have a talk-and-do President and if we say His Excellency, the President is a talk-and-do President we should see that resonate in your actions, in your different offices. Work very hard and earn good results in your offices is what we want. We want to make sure that Sierra Leone becomes a paradise for every one of us and mind you these appointees are responsible to bring these changes to us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President has done a great job. The last time at the Fifth Parliament, we saw a lot of Sierra Leoneans whom we referred to as eminent people equally like you. They helped His Excellency, the President at least to achieve more than 80% of what he mentioned in his manifesto. We had a campaign message like we always do, not like our cousins who do not have campaign messages, we have campaign messages. For 2018 our campaign message was Free Quality Education, this time round we have Five Game Changers and of course, the very first one Feed Salone, is what we are most interested in, although the Minister is yet to appear in this Well but when he comes we will have our own piece of advice to give him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I want to say is that our nominees before us should know that Sierra Leone has to grow and must put our shoulders to the wheel to see that the growth comes to fruition. We don't want to see Sierra Leone retrogress but to grow. For some of us, this is our United State of America, for some of us this is our UK, I don't want to retire in the United Kingdom nor do I want to retire in the USA, I want to retire in Sierra Leone and in my home Bo Town, that is where I am proud of because some are the reasons why we see people doing what we call 'Temple Run' is because they are looking for greener pastures. If you help us to work very hard definitely I can assure you the idea of 'Temple Run' will be no more. People are running away because we don't have jobs for them, we have neglected them but now that we have these Five Game changers that His Excellency, the President has prescribed in his manifesto, I want to believe our youths will no longer take that challenge of moving out of this Country to look for greener pastures.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is up.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Okay Mr Speaker. However when you said my time is up I know you will give me like few seconds to round up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just allow me few seconds to recognize our elder brother, I cannot complete my statement without recognizing him and that is Alhaji Kanja Sesay. You have made history in this Country, we need to recognize that you

have made history, I am not flattering you. There are communities in this Country that never saw light before but you have given them light, so you have made us proud and His Excellency, the President, I what to continue to pray for you and may God/Allah in His Mercy continue to give you the wisdom to continue your good job. You are a great man and you are patriotic. Definitely, it is out of patriotism that you have taken your work so passionately and have achieved so much.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker. For others, I congratulate you in advance when you shall have been approved. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for her contribution. I also take this opportunity to welcome Ambassador Kaisamba, our Ambassador to Turkey who is here in the Chamber. I recognize ofcourse so many of you who want to speak but I am now going to put a time limit on myself. I plan to rise not later than 2:30 p.m. and you know the time limit which is 5 minutes, if you exceed that you will suffer the penalty and you know me; for you the older ones you know me. Let us encourage some of the first timers. I see a Paramount Chief, yes you have the Floor.

HON. PC NGBAK BAI FARAMA TASS BUBU IV: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of Parliament, I wish to appreciate His Excellency, the President for bringing us these eminent Ladies and Gentlemen to be presented to us as his nominees to serve as Cabinet Ministers in the coming five years. We hope and pray that they don't deceive His Excellency, the President and the people of Sierra Leone they are representing and we hope that this House speedily approves these nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to zoom in especially on the proposed Minister of Finance Sheku Fantamadi Bangura, who is an indigene of Kambia District. I am Honourable Paramount Chief Bai Farama Tass Bubu Ngbak IV from Kambia District. I wish to bring greetings from our people from the Kambia District to our Minister of Finance Fantamadi Bangura and also to congratulate him on behalf of our people from the Kambia District. We know that people from Kambia District always excel in any office they are placed in and we are proud and not surprised that the President gave you this position because you have already started serving in that Ministry from the

position of Deputy Minister and as substantive Minister in the last Government. We also hope and pray that you do very well in this dispensation to make us proud so our people in Kambia will emulate your example for serving our Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to zoom in the Retired Major General Taluva, who I have known for over twenty-five years. Since he served in Kambia District in 1994 when he was lieutenant during the war and we became friends, he was a friend also with my family and my father the late Paramount Chief Bai Faramatas Ngbak III so we developed our friendship from there until now. I am proud of him and he is a disciplined Soldier, I know him and I have interacted with him, I knew him also during the Ebola outbreak; he did very well in coordinating the efforts especially on the part of the Military in fighting the Ebola outbreak. As you know the Kambia District and Port Loko District were the last Districts where the Ebola fight ended and I hope and pray that General Taluva will deliver in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, will also like to zoom in on our Minister of Energy; Alhaji Kanja Sesay who I have known from his time as Commissioner at NaCSSA. He is doing very well in Kambia District, for over 30 years we don't have light and now we are seeing the signs, he has already taken the power machines in Kambia, the station has already been built, everything is going through smoothly, I hope and pray within few months we will be having our light back in Kambia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, lastly but not the least, I will talk a little bit about Ambassador Bum Wurie from Gbinti and Mateboi, those are the areas where my Grandmother came from and also Bum Wurie came from Mateboi and Gbinti just as our Speaker and the Honourable former Minister of Tertiary Education, Professor Alpha Wurie was also my lecturer in Chemistry at Fourah Bay College; I am proud of the Gbinti people, they are my people. Bum Wurie is a well-seasoned diplomat and also he knows how to interact with people. In the last Government we worked together on some programs and he has visited Kambia several times and I know that he is going to do well in our region as a Residence Minister in the North-West region which also

comprises my District. We will be working together and I am sure he will do well to maintain law, order and peace among the people in that Chiefdom and the Districts and also settle the boundary disputes in our communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish all of you well and I pray and hope that we speedily approve these nominees from the President. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief for his contribution. I will recognise the next Paramount Chief. Yes, you have the Floor.

HON. P.C PAUL N. SAQUEE V: Mr Speaker, thank you for allowing me to say my own bits as my maiden address to this Chamber. I want to use this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable P.C can you kindly identify yourself.

HON. P.C PAUL N. SAQUEE V: I am Paramount Chief Paul Ngaba Saquee the fifth from Kono District. As I was saying, I want to thank His Excellency, the President for nominating these eminent personalities, Sierra Leoneans that are here before us this afternoon. I hope and pray that you will succeed in various offices because your success is what will move this Country forward. I know we are constrained of time, I am going to keep my address brief.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I want to single out a few of these nominees, as I said they are all eminently qualified but I want to vouch on behalf of Mrs Karminty, the former Deputy Minister of Local Government. Of course she is a wife of a Kono man and I am a Kono Chief but apart from that, she is a hardworking, she is very passionate of her work and I hope that same passion she has in the Ministry of Local Government, she will bring the same to this office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another person that I want to vouch for is the Brigadier General Taluva. I recalled during the outbreak of Ebola disease, I was opportuned to be appointed as the coordinator of the response in the Kono District and I worked closely with him. I recalled one day, I was addressing my workers, he was standing from afar and then he came closer to me, and he said Chief how comes you

are not a Military officer but you are operating like a Military guy, I said to him it was my dream, I have always wanted to be a Military Officer when I was growing up, this is now my opportunity. So, Mr Taluva I pray that you will succeed in your new office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another person I want to single out here would be the Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay. Except last week we have a few glitches but today I can safely say that Kono is enjoying 24hours electricity and I want to say thanks to you Alhaji Kanja and the only reminder that I would want to make here is that your Rural electrification project is going very well but unfortunately there are still four Chiefdoms that are yet to benefit from that project and my Chiefdom happens to be one of those Chiefdoms. I am sure the people of Tholly, Kamayadon, Gbenseh and Tankoro will be grateful if that project is completed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing we don't have to kill ourselves about is that this Country is polarized at the moment. It is unfortunate but that is the case that we are divided; we need this Parliament and eminent Sierra Leoneans to do whatever it may take to bring us together as a Nation and therefore when the Chief like me I am able to identify a Sierra Leonean that fits in that mode. I want to recognise the Minister designate for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Timothy Kabbah. I am sure what I am saying is on behalf of all the 13 Chiefdoms of Kono District. I recalled 2 weeks before his appointment, we all paid him a visit when he came back from Overseas from his medical treatment and we prayed with him and we met him having two clutches but two weeks after that the announcement came and he was made a Minister and now I am seeing one clutch hopefully by next week both of the clutches will be gone but let me tell you what I admire about Mr Kabba. Of course, he is a Mende by tribe from Tongo, Kenema District, he partly grew up in Kono and then he went to school in Makeni at Saint Francis, he speaks Mende as fluently as he does in the Temne tribe and please don't gossip him in Kono either and he speaks Mandingo as well. People like Mr Kabbah will help us as a Nation because we have only one Country Sierra Lone; we have to work together.

Mr Speaker, before I take my seat I want to thank you for this opportunity to say my bits.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief from Kono for his contribution to the debate. Let me divert attention now and recognise some of the first timers. Yes, the gentleman in front you and then after you I will recognise the lady directly behind you.

HON. JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Jibrila Surmoijueh from Bonthe District. Our task this afternoon is solemn and therefore we must treat it with every seriousness; when I looked at the document that was carefully read and presented by the Leader, I confirm once again that it's a clear justification that we are upholding our legacy as SLPP that we do not put square pegs in round holes as our brothers from the other side do.

On this note therefore, I want to appreciate His Excellency, the President Rtd. Brigadier Dr Julius Madaa Bio for the landmarks for the past five years and what we have started seeing, he has done tremendously well to ensure this Country succeeds. He has shown clearly how he love this Country and therefore he has transformed the things of the past where youths used to be considered as trouble makers, today we are at the helm of affairs and I expect my colleagues youths to always remember in dispensing the duties entrusted in their hands.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Gender Bill it's one of its kind in the recent years that Sierra Leone as well has come to the centre stage by ensuring Gender and women's empowerment is key as other Countries like Rwanda, Kenya, etc. have achieved over the years. The nomination of our brothers, sisters, and uncles; when you observe their faces you will realise that we are on a better footings for the next five years and His excellency, the President to have carefully chosen these young energetic and carefully educated men and women is a clear justification that he has closely observed them, he has identified them among many of them in the party, some will say grassroots, some will say the diaspora but that was not really considered but he was looking at a position where we can have people who can deliver to take this Country to

where we want to see it, and therefore to you the nominees; I want to remind you that you have a very big role to play, you have a task to perform and I entreat you all not to betray that trust His Excellency, the President has bestowed on you. Let us all work in the interest of this Country and thankfully we have a Section in the Constitution Section [93] Sub-Section [3] clearly; two key words there, to investigate and enquire into the activities of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies and therefore when we are here, we are here to ensure that this Government succeeds. As we approve you all today, I urge this House to approve you all; we want to entreat you to use your offices professionally to ensure that you roll out your task given to you.

THE SPEAKER: On that note...

HON. JIBRILA SURMOIJUEH: On that note therefore, I want to kindly ask this House to speedily approve your nominations. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Over to you the Lady, you have the Floor.

HON. ALICE K. SANDY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to participate in this debate. I am Honourable Alice Kornya Sandy representing Kenema District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking the Appointment Committee for a job well-done in presenting all the nominees in the House today. Let me start with the female nominees today quoting the words of Michelle Obama, the former first lady of the United State of America, Mr Speaker, it reads "no country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women, it deprives itself the contributions of half of its citizens." So, I want to use this podium to appreciate His Excellency, the President for being true to his words in appointing the women we have here today to ensure we have adequate representatives of women across all Sectors especially the Executive Sector of Government, who will be helping and supporting His Excellency, the President to help deliver on his manifesto.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to you female nominees, you all are representing millions of Sierra Leonean women, I encourage you all to represent us well, do us proud

and please prove to our men and the people of Sierra Leone that women can do better and we have so much to offer to help build this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, next nominee I want to talk about is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Timothy Kabba, he is a representative of my District. The Appointment of Mr Timothy Kabba, is the testament of his hard work, diligence and commitment to Public Service, it is therefore not a surprise that he was appointed by His Excellency, the President as the Minister of Foreign Affairs designate. His appointment is also a testament of the trust His Excellency, the President has bestowed on the youth of this Nation and also his determination to empower the youth of this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to all other nominees, I believe His Excellency, the President in his wisdom did the right thing to nominates you all. I also believe you all possess the requisite qualifications. As it is said that success is not how well you have planned but how you make a positive difference to the World. Ending on this note, I encourage all nominees to work in the interest of Sierra Leone. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, from Kenema and I want to thank her especially for keeping to the time limit. Let me exhaust my left hand, let me recognise the Paramount Chief from Falaba but before he says anything I want to recognise the following personalities. The spouse of the Majority Leader and the Leader of Government Business, Mrs Francess A.M. Nyuma, Director of Early Warning,

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we did not hear you well, your voice was really down.

THE SPEAKER: I have been asked to repeat; the distinguished wife of the Leader of Government Business, the best half of our Leader, Mrs Francess Nyuma, Director of Early Warning. The last time you sent some refreshment here, I was not invited and I am looking forward for mine and I will be informing you from time to time. I also want to recognise Mrs Hawa Bum Wurie, the wife of Ambassador Bum Wurie, the Honourable

Ali Badara Munu, former APC Member of Parliament from Kambia. Thank you. Yes Paramount Chief, you have the Floor.

HON. P.C MARRAH THOR THOR S.T. FONKOLA III: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, my name is P.C Thor Thor Sheku Terenah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Marrah III better known as P.C Tongos.

THE SPEAKER: I hope you would not mind your alias when we use it?

HON. P.C MARRAH THOR THOR S.T. FONKOLA III: P.C Tongos?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Honourable Members, take note.

HON. P.C MARRAH THOR THOR S.T. FONKOLA III: Yes, Honourable P.C Tongos in the nutshell. Mr Speaker, thank you very much. On behalf of my Colleagues P.C Members of Parliament, I am all the way from Falaba, the most deprived District in Sierra Leone, I came also from the most deprived Chiefdom, Neya Chiefdom, which happens to be the Chiefdom Headquarter Town of Krubola. I am not here to praise or to congratulate any nominees until the road from Kabala to Krubola is tarred, we have been congratulating them for quite a long time but yet still Kabala-Krubola road is abandoned totally from late Tejan Kabba's time to the former President Ernest Bai Koroma but the five years reign of Dr Julius Madaa Bio is far better than all the Leaders. Once more we were promised that they will construct a standard house for all the P.C MPs in their respective Chiefdom Headquarters but now I am pleading to this Honourable House, we want thirteen rooms to be constructed in the District Headquarter Town in Neya Chiefdom...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, point of Order. I know he is a new MP, one of the Paramount Chiefs, I have tremendous respect for. I just want my Colleague Paramount Chiefs, with all due respect Sir, when you stand to speak you speaks to the subject matter. In fact we do not have the Minister of Works here with us, he will come very soon. These are the nominees for Presidential approval, I want you to keep your peace and you have a solid bite when they are here. So, I know you are giving us a preamble; we want you to talk something about these nominees, when we have the

Minister of Works, I will inform you maybe you can make your case and he will listen to you. You also said about constructions, all of these will be discussed in another subject matter. For the sake of time please talk about the nominees because we want to hear the voice of the Paramount Chiefs. Thank you.

HON. P.C MARRAH THOR THOR S.T. FONKOLA III: Thank you very much Mr Leader. Congratulations to all the nominees, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Order, Order. I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief, for his very brilliant contribution to the debate. You will have another bite at an appropriate time so don't feel dejected but the issues you raised will become more relevant when we approve the Minister of Works, so hold your peace for now. I want to recognise the Honourable Paramount Chief, from Moyamba District.

HON. P.C HAJA FATMATA .B.M.K KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking the Committee Members, for going through all the documents of the nominees they brought them here today for our approval. Having said that, I think most of the speakers have admonished the nominees, they have said good things about them and warned them as to how they have to relate with MPs here and the general public so that when you succeed in your office, the Government succeeds and the President succeeds in his work. So, with that one thing I want to remind you about is that; the offices you are going to occupy now, many people are eyeing those offices, you have a host of your compatriots outside aiming to go to those offices, so when you go to your offices, remember all the warnings, the admonitions the MPs have given you and remember the Country at large so that you will take your work very seriously, remember the MPs have said they will be visiting your offices to see how your work is going on because actually if you don't perform well, the MPs also have to be blame because it is our responsibility to be checking and seeing what is happening in your offices so we will not just leave that with you, we have to be checking to see that the right things are done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that I don't to speak too long because there are lot of other people that want to talk. I wish you every success in your offices and I encourage my Colleagues to speedily approve you so that you will have your work started. I thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief. Let me recognize the Paramount Chief, next to her.

HON. P.C FORAY CYRIL GONDOR II: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as said by the Honourable Speaker, that today is another milestone in the political dispensation of this Country in the sense that we are getting trusted people who will be manning the affairs of the State.

I want to extend my congratulations to all of them, I have no doubt that they will live to the expectation of his Excellency, the President and to the expectations of the people of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer to brigadier Taluva, you know better than I do that peace and security is the bed rock on which all development strives on. We have been getting a lot of information about people who want to bring this Country to a standstill, I want you to note Mr Taluva, that the security of this Country now lies in your hands and thank God where you are coming from, the Far East; the border is so porous. I remembered how the war started in 1991, the first entry point was Bomaru which is in my Chieftdom that was where the first gun shot was heard on the 23rd of March 1991, we are hearing rumours that people want to bring this Country to a standstill. Nelson Mandela once said that; "Great anger and violence does not build a Nation, it only destroys a Nation." Therefore, with the position that you have been given as an old or retired Army Officer, I know that you can excel but please don't allow I repeat, don't allow celebrated criminals to plunge this Country into another quagmire. We know what we have gone through; we want to put it to the past and the security of this Country is now in your hand and I am sure you will do everything possible to ensure that we are safe in this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of Brigadier Taluva to another area which is the security checkpoints, I have travelled through most of those checkpoints. I am not saying we do not have confidence in the people that are manning those checkpoints but can you imagine General Taluva, the security personnel at the major checkpoints, I am not saying they are not working but the way in which they manned those checkpoints, allow vehicles to pass through, those checkpoints they have ropes cut across the road that are easy to penetrate, I want to suggest General Taluva, that please along those major checkpoints let us have iron bars along those checkpoints so that every jack and Jill cannot just pass through. Remember what happened few weeks ago when some criminals wanted to cause mayhem again in this Country, if it were not by God's intervention they will have created mayhem when some personnel chased them and discovered a lot of weapons in their vehicles. Let private vehicles be checked, let all kinds of vehicles be checked but many a time when vehicles are passing along these security points they just pass through without been checked, even if you are a Minister, you cannot trust anybody, a human being is unpredictable, except the Presidential or Vice Presidential convoy that cannot be checked but let every vehicle be checked but what happens along as you stretch your hand they open the gate before you.

Mr Minister of Internal Affairs designate, I know you will do your job, you have been on it for quiet sometime, and you are a well experienced man. The border is so porous, we have a lot of unofficial crossing points especially along the Liberia and Guinea borders, please make sure that those borders are properly manned because that was where the rebels entered, the Bomaru checkpoint is a crossing point. Please Mr Minister, I want to admonish you to make sure those border points are properly manned and the checkpoints within this Country be manned by our security personnel. Thank you and I wish all of you well, success in your new appointments, may God bless you all.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief and all those who have spoken before him for their contributions. Let me turn to my right, again I frankly don't know where to start. Yes Energy Chairman, you have the Floor. Let me allay your fears

and concerns, there is not a chance in the World, not a cat's chance in hell that will compete with you, not a chance in the World. So please begin to negotiate with each other.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, but I wonder why you have given me a new name, you have started calling me energy, is that the name you have ordained me?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I wonder why the Honourable is having a mic when he knows his name is not Mr Energy, why are you standing? Then sit down if you know your name is not Mr Energy.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: No, I am addressing Mr Speaker, Mr Whip please.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: That is what I am saying, so have your seat.

THE SPEAKER: You have exhausted one minute of your time.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Alright, you want to distract me. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Today is a very fine, wonderful day we have heard from another speakers, they have admonished the appointees but one major thing I want to say here I am not going to take them one after the other.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the Fifth Parliament when I was pronounced the Chairman of Energy Committee, some people thought I was not going to do my job diligently because the Minister of Energy is my mentor. I want to ensure you that in the Fifth Parliament, there was no Committee more effective than the Energy Committee, there was no Committee that summoned the Minister and the sectorial heads to Parliament, on a regular basis which you witnessed as the Leader of Government Business, which tells you favouritism does not work at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the report just read by the Leader of Government Business, one of the MPs mentioned that from 16% to 35% of energy access and over 100 communities has been electrified, saying Honourable Kemzo S.O [2]; una don lit ova 100 communities? I said yes, he said are you sure? I said yes to that Honourable

Member, I am not going to mention you but I want to give small statistics here to you so that your fears will be a laid. So, if you are asked by your Constituents, you will tell them exactly.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, in the Fifth Parliament we have what we called in the Energy Committee, work package one [WP1], fifty-four communities were electrified. Work package two [WP2] forty communities where electrified and CLSG rural electrification twenty-nine communities. When you put all these together we are far above 100 communities and thinking of the seven District Headquarter Towns electrification; four of them have been electrified, that number is very close to 130. So, that is the statistics, you will see me for any other day, I will give you a thorough breakdown.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure and thank this House, Mr Leader of Government Business and the Leadership of this Parliament for making me the Committee Chairman, I enjoyed working with the Ministry of Energy, and with the team; the Committee enjoyed working with the Ministry of Energy in the Fifth Parliament, for obvious reasons, we want to crave the indulgence of other Ministers...

THE SPEAKER: No, no, I think you need another area so that you will diversify.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, you know I am versatile anywhere you send me I will excel. The only one thing I will also want to admonish the Minister, is to operate an open door policy like the Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay so the Committee will be well grounded in that Sector, that is more the reason at any time even if you wake any Committee Member, from his slumber or her slumber, you ask that individual to tell you anything about the Energy aspect in Sierra Leone, they will be at liberty to tell you from A to Z but we will leave that when we come to the Presidential address as I guess all the achievements will be embedded in the Presidential address then I will elaborate on that more.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to come a little to the Finance Minister. We have heard from my seniors, this is one of the humble Ministers, we had in the Fifth

Parliament, he has worked diligently with this House, we love him and there is no way we are going to keep that aside. We want other Ministers, to emulate those styles so they too will be loved by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a challenged economy, the President is the head of this Country but the Minister of Finance is the heart of this Country. It is the heart that pumps blood to all parts of the body, so it is the Minister of Finance who will be giving the Minister of Energy money, the Minister of Education and all the Ministries including Parliament, even though we have the right to fix our own budget but with consultation with the Minister of Finance. So, we want to thank him so much because we have got a very challenged economy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, even the Country with the biggest economy like America that has a GPD of **\$26,854MIN** is challenged in terms of the economy.

Mr Speaker, what about Sierra Leone a Third World Country? But we want to encourage all Sectorial Heads, all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to work closely with the Minister of Finance, so his job will not be very difficult for him. I also want to send felicitations to the nominated Internal Affairs Minister, just now for obvious reasons the Paramount Chief made mentioned on that...

THE SPEAKER: On that note...

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, on that note, I want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to have a bit on this very important debate and I wait for the Presidential address where you will give me more than 20 minutes to really explain the details. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank you for the contribution which you have made on behalf of Bo District. Now Kailahun District, Honourable Gevao, you have the Floor.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very important day and if one was to ask the nominees whether they are nervous, one expect them to be nervous because when

nominated by His Excellency, the President and asked to appear before us, is like a story of a little bird been in the hand of an elderly person, if you let it you lose it, it will fly, if you squeeze it, it will die but we are here to do our jobs and when we doing this job we do our job and admonish you that among seven million people, you have been very lucky to be chosen to serve. Every Sierra Leonean I will tell you wants to be a Minister, for me I take the job of been a Minister very serious because you have asked to serve, you are like a Public Servant or a Civil Servant and when you are serving you have to ensure that you have an open door policy so that the people you are serving always get through to you to tell you the desire of them in that particular Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is often said that when you are humble and you really serve God, he always identifies you and elevates you. Mr Timothy Kabbah, I got to meet shortly before the 2018 elections and actually impacted my life but one thing that actually touched very much about him is the fact that after been convinced that this young man is somebody that is highly or heavily educated, one day I crossed his path again as my student. Mr Timothy Kabbah, who I think is an expert in oil and gas, happens to find himself in the law class yearning to be a lawyer and this young man was able to touch me and made me believe that no matter which discipline you are coming from, if you concentrate on whatever you want to be, you can always meander your way and you will turn out to be the best of the best. In my class, I am proud to say during the first and second semester of his studentship, he turns out to be the best student in the subject that I was lecturing and I have no doubt now that he has been given a new mandate, a new Ministry, a new portfolio, him been a multi-linguist; he is going to discharge that portfolio with laurel, been a Minister of Foreign Affairs, is not an easy job; you will see the attrition level. In five years we had three Ministers of Foreign Affairs, we hope that this time round we don't get that type of attrition level for nothing; is for good reason, is because the Ministry is challenged but now that you have been sent there, you are a young Minister, you have wealth of experience from other Ministries, I am convinced that you will be able to maintain that portfolio and it is my wish that you maintain it for five good years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Leader said; you have been sent to represent Sierra Leone and to represent the political party that has won this election and has given His Excellency, the President the mandate to choose you to serve. When you make Sierra Leone proud, you have done us proud; when you make Sierra Leone proud, you have created an avenue for the Sierra Leone People's Party to continue retaining power. If you ask me what is your wish? I want the Sierra Leone People's Party to continue retaining power for the next forty-five years because I know it is the party that is good for this Country and if so, we will please beseech you to deliver your mandate with excellence. We will be calling on you like the Deputy Leader said; we don't go to you because we want to go and be mendicant for our personal use, we go there to be mendicant for our Constituents because in the area that I really come from, honestly speaking the people look at me as the Chief Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Economic Development and everything. So, if we don't go to you to actually tell you what they need, what they say; we are the boss by the wayside that get to hear what they say when they are going to their farms, you wouldn't get to know their needs and you are the ones with the Constitutional power to actually deliver those things that they want. So, we actually beseech that when you go there please listen to us the people that will be coming to you to actually let you get to know what their problems are. Like one of the MPs said; here in this Parliament, we pass the Gender Bill, today amongst you we have ten appointees, we have at least four female Ministers designate, I have no doubt that you ladies are going to deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to zoom on the Minister designate, Madam Dugba, I have no doubt that when you go there you will deliver. You have proven yourself in this Well not once, not twice, not thrice; anytime you had the opportunity to present Bills here, you perform with excellence and we say anybody that stands before us in this Well and actually deliver with that level of excellence, honesty speaking you will deliver in your offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Minister of Health, you have done it and we believe you will do it again. We have challenge all over, any Member of Parliament, you ask here, what his or her Constituency want, they will tell you that they want hospital.

THE SPEAKER: On that note....

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, we beseech all of you the nominees that we have not been able to talk to. Mr Jiwoh Abdulai, I met you during the 2018 elections; you are a man of excellence, I believe that you will definitely do us proud as a young man. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let me switch to Kono, Honourable Lamina, you have the Floor.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak on behalf of these fine gentlemen and ladies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, in concurrence with Section [61] of the 1991 Constitution with your leave which did say; "the President has the power to create offices as well as to terminate." I want to thank his Excellency, the President for looking at these fine gentlemen and beautiful ladies for this great opportunity, they might be the luckiest as providence could fall today you have been designated for these positions and I have no scintilla of doubt that you are going to perform to the expectations of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President has set the change with the five big changers and he will be working with pillar four to be specific, look at pillar four of the five big changers it is the dream of His Excellency, the President to bring professionalism in the Public Sector. I want to see as well as many Sierra Leoneans see Public Servants competing with staff in the International None Governmental Organisations, they work within time, responsible people with profoundcluster for result; that is the dream of His Excellency, the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I actually attempt to elucidate on the resume of all of them it will be very difficult and therefore along the lines some of you have to forgive me if I breach your protocol. One thing I am convinced of and incline to believe you are

all eminently qualified with the thorough scrutiny that you went through; that is a whole surgery that you went through in the hands of the Committee on Appointments. We were actually impressed by the responses we got from these fine nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at a time the World is challenged with emerging Geo-political tensions, His Excellency, the President has seen good in the man called Timothy Musa Kabbah, who is multilingual, fitted, he speaks the Russian language, he speaks the French, the English language as well. This is the man I am specifically picking on because just few months ago myself and him were working very closely by then he was the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources in this Country; that is the time His Excellency, the President has picked this man, the changes he made as legacies in the Mineral Sector are still glaring. First in the history mining communities are enjoying 1% but before this time it was 0.001%, first in history, Sierra Leoneans are getting 10% royalties, first in history mining Districts even though typically primary host communities were not benefiting from mining but they benefit 2% of royalties, first in history he made parcel for women and children living in mining communities.

Mr Speaker, I admire this man's negotiation skills. The rail and port at Pepel and Port Loko could have been slipped in the hands of unpatriotic Sierra Leoneans, he negotiated that. If I tell you what the present Government get as royalties you will be surprised, if I can tell you from the erstwhile President of Ernest Koroma authoritatively from the Audit reports those monies were not accounted for but today he has made gains higher and I have no incline of doubt to take the stage as the Foreign Minister with his multilingual skills.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will put my zoom to the Minister of Finance. Six years ago the Government of Sierra Leone will loan from private banks to pay salaries, the pro-poor policy of this man, his skills in managing our resources, today even before the 30th at click of a button MPs know the body language that is the man he judiciously manages our economy with pro-poor policy. Many people are claiming him to be Karene citizen but I tell you his childhood education and growth he got it from Kono District, proud Yengema Secondary School student.

THE SPEAKER: on that note...

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, not on that note, I have not even started. Mr Speaker, the Energy Minister, I must also commend him highly, 1969 to 1972, the people of Kono were deprived from 24 hours light, a project that was supposed to benefit us was the B-kongor power but was diverted to Bubumna even though the naturalness of B-kongor it was so reach but it was diverted, but with the Energy Minister, the people of Kono are today enjoying 24 hours light, I can proudly attest to that. We thank him so dearly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Social Welfare, in the absence of her boss, she piloted the Local Government Act, and that is a whole legacy, with her strength in Civic Society interactions there were many gains. Today, Mayors are now running with their Deputies, today, the hullabaloo that used to happen between Paramount Chiefs and Councils she has separated with huge percentages, she is now having a portfolio of Ministry of Social Welfare, go and make us proud Kono-musu.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Princess Dugba, is also another fine character but one of the challenges she will face she happens to be a house wife, the last time I checked, it is 11% that the Marine Resources gives Sierra Leone in our GDP, in the European Parliament, we will debate, we will push at the end of our debate they will say Sierra Leonean are not qualified because of packaging and processing.

THE SPEAKER: Well done, the last time I checked you have exceeded your time limit.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA Mr Speaker, it will be unfair if I fail to zoom in on Alpha Sesay, another Kono man also from Swafeh Secondary School, this is the man that his skills to bring donor money for the Councils under the DSPD project, I want to believe that you go along with that same skills to make trade flourishes.

Mr Speaker, I don't want me to be arrested, my supervisor is here, the Minister designate of Water Resources is a strong woman, gallant woman, she will not only push for the solar power boreholes for rural communities but Kono is looking for \$ **20,000,000** for us to have water...

THE SPEAKER: You are campaigning.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me conclude with Mr David Taluva. Many years ago in 1992, a boys scout by then I yarned to join the Military, the people of Olorma and the people of Sandaru will continue to clap for him, Lieutenant Taluva, is a disciplined man, I came for the military job as a young teenager at the age of 13, he asked me young man what are you doing here? After getting my head shaped prepared to join the military with a slap, he said go home you are too small, he said you are too young, go to school, you are not fit for military job.

Mr Speaker I will summarize, I know I don't want to disturb you...

THE SPEAKER: Summarize again?

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: I will summarize. Go with this message by tomorrow we will be interviewing your Deputy, work with him, show him the 3L in leadership then they will listen to you and they will learn from you, work with your Deputy so that we have socio-economic productivity in this Nation.

Mr Speaker, as I summarize, go also and read from Ralph Waldo Emerson is an American essayist and politician. He did say; "nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm," is a bi-syllabic word, enthuse with God and siasm with oneself; with God on your side you will definitely deliver on the agenda of President Maada Bio. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I am going to take three more before we wind up this debate starting with the Deputy Whip followed by the Honourable Member, from Pujehun. Let me ponder over the last, please take your seats.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must say thanks to His Excellency, the President for giving us these fine gentlemen and women, energetic, hardworking, experienced people and I must say special thanks to this House and especially to Mr Speaker, for passing the GEWE Bill. I know if someone have done a good job, you will continue to

say many thanks forever and I will not get tired to say thanks to this House, for passing the GEWE Bill; this is the reason why we are seeing so many women here and so many women again in Parliament and you are hearing what the new women are saying, the new women are now here. People were saying where are the women? Here are the women and they are here to do a great job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was part of the Committee and we heard from them and some of these people we have met, we have worked and we have seen their handiwork especially those old hands like the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Social Welfare etc. All what I will say to them is to keep it up and that is why you have been brought back to Governance to do more so that you can work in the interest of His Excellency, the President and endeavour to pursue our manifesto and even do more because that is what we are expecting of you but in terms of proving yourself, the whole World and the whole Sierra Leone have seen what you have been doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to zoom in on a Minister that I have got a message from my District. I came from Moyamba District, where we have been in darkness for ages. The time when I was a scholar, thirty years I was without light and we are now proud of having light. They have sent me to say congratulations to you Mr Minister of Energy and we want you to fast track light projects because the President has already commissioned the generator and there are some amount of paper work to be done. So, my people in Moyamba District have asked me to congratulate you immensely and to say thank you and to fast track our electrification project so that we will begin to enjoy from the National cake.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to my women I have no doubt in you all and this is what we want to see more women in better politics, here you are today, you have proven yourself and that is why you have been called again and other new ones are coming, you lead and other women will follow but the message I want to leave with you the Ministers is that we have been getting too many complaints from your Deputies; don't get them redundant, give them job, give them assignment, show them

that they are part of you because some of the Deputies were redundant, they will be seated there only to say okay go and represent me there, give them assignment because tomorrow they will take after you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the Minister of Finance, you have done it, you are the friend of Parliament, be lukewarm to other Ministers and sometimes when we embark on Oversight, as they see us they say S.O [2] '**dem don cam back,**' not knowing that we are going to check and let me tell you, the Appointment Committee we do our Oversight function, and we are part of the Committees that go on Oversight, we will ensure that what you have told us in Committee Room 1 is correct.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for that warning, and on that note.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I just want to talk about security a little bit. The nominated Minister of Internal Affairs, please be informed that we have porous borders, we want security, we want peace in this Country. I just want to recite the Women's song which says "women now all over the World are longing to be free, no longer in the shadow, first to stay behind but now side by side through equality because we want peace and tranquillity in this Country. Thank you very much and make sure you control the borders and see that no intruder penetrates in this Country. I wish you all the best.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, thank you. You said I will talk after her.

THE SPEAKER: I did say so and at that time I had not seen you wishing to catch my eyes, so for you is an afterthought, surely.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, I am not a Member of the Appointment Committee.

THE SPEAKER: I will recognize you after because you rose too late, go ahead.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, by this time yesterday I was in Accra and it was my prayer to be here this morning to tell this House about one of the nominees and that nominee is the proposed Minister of Trade, he is not my friend, he is

my brother, we grew up together, we slept on the same bed in one of the best schools in this Country...

THE SPEAKER: Don't name it, I know, so go ahead.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, if I want to be modest I will say one of the best schools, if I want to be immodest I will say the best school in this Country, that person is Mr Sesay, the proposed Minister of Trade and Industry, I am happy that Mr President has made a good choice, I know Mr Sesay very well, and I know he will be a very good Minister. I also want to congratulate the old Ministers especially Mr Kanja Sesay, who happens to be my SLPP regional chairman.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were young boys growing up in Bo, there was light but now when there is power outage it is also a surprise, we only have light when we have a Presidential visit, now electricity has come in place, he has done very well and I know he will do more. Both the nominated Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy they have survived, I know they must be very strong people; I will like to urge them to share their experiences with the newly nominated Ministers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people are saying the Government has given 30% quota to women that is an understatement, it is minimum 30%, it means it can be up to 70%. I remembered when we enacted the Land laws, we said a minimum of 30% for each gender, it means the men should have at least 30% and the women can have as much as 70% so to say the Government has given 30% is wrong, the Government has given a minimum of 30% meaning it can be even up to 70% so that is the correction I seek to make. This is the first time in History that we have had so many women in Cabinet and even in Parliament so our President is a talk and do person and I know he is going to do more for our women.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I first met the proposed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Sierra Leone Embassy in Guinea, at that time I went there to secure a visa to attend a World Conference for Human Right Defenders. I was invited by the UN to attend an International Conference for Human Right Defenders, when I met him I was

impressed, Mr Timothy Kabba is a likeable person, highly intelligent. So, I am happy that he is among this team, Mr President has made no mistake and I want to urge the Ministers, you have to work together as a team; sometimes we are embarrassed as MPs when you are asked about certain projects or certain meetings taking place in your District or in your Constituency and you have no knowledge, I want to urge the Ministers, to please get us involve, we are stakeholders. When you invite stakeholders and you don't invite the MPs, I begin to wonder who the stakeholders are. Please let us work together, we are always in our Constituencies, we can even oversea your projects, we can give report, we can tell you information that would be critical for the proper functioning of your Ministries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at this point I will like to urge the Ministers, that we have to work very hard, the fight for 2028 starts now; we want to win the 2028 elections and more elections after that, we have to make sure we bring people that can bring change, now it is not business as usual, we have had so many appointments, and I think you have the opportunity to do that, you do not have to wait for an excellent condition, do with what you have. I want to congratulate you in advance; I want to urge this House to approve these nominees. Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I will depart from conventional and give the Floor to the Chief Whip, and after that I will give the Floor to Honourable Member from Bonthe.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, precisely on the 18th April, 2018, I stood here and said to the nominees that were nominated during that period that those set of nominees were the game changers for us to win the 2023 elections and they did. Five years on we are here today to approve some nominees of His Excellency, the President, the big five changers are all sitting here; these are the people that will let us win the 2028 election without runoff and we will keep the APC in permanent opposition.
[Applause]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is one individual that always help us to win elections in this Country and that is Honourable Alhaji Kanja Sesay. In 2002 late Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, won the election with no runoff based on NaCSA development in this Country. I said to people in Pujehun that we will win this election based on the electrification projects and we campaigned vigorously on electricity and we won the elections. Alhaji Kanja Sesay, is the only surviving person today in the late Tejan Kabbah Government and I am sure he will continue to serve this Country diligently like he did under former President Tejan Kabbah.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, besides Alhaji Kanja Sesay been our regional Chairman, he has helped the Southern region to position itself in such a way that we can at any time beat the APC in the South. When the election result was taken away from us in 2007, he was among the few people that stood up in the SLPP Southern region and at that time he was the District chairman. Alhaji Kanja Sesay, please make sure you don't relent, old age is not your portion, use the energy that you have given to this Nation and make us proud.

THE SPEAKER: You know my relationship with the proposed Minister of Energy?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I do and you are eating in my time...

THE SPEAKER: And he has confided in me that you have no reason to worry.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I started from that note.

THE SPEAKER: Mrs Rogers, will continue to be Mrs Rogers.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you for saving my marriage. I have a very handsome father-in-law and a very good father-in-law. One thing I like about Alhaji Kanja Sesay, is that he has won our hearts, he has a good lovely family, and he is a good father-in-law as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in on the Finance Minister, a very handsome and gentleman, hard-working gentleman, a game changer. Sometimes around the 28th to 29th of every month Honourable Members will start asking S.O [2];

bo wae tin dae apin alert nor cam yet? And I will say to them probably the Minister is not in his office, for anytime the Minister of Finance is in the Country around the 28th all MPs will be laughing. I want to say thank you for that and please continue the hard work, please continue been a friend to Parliament. As long as you are a friend of Parliament, you will remain been the Minister of Finance.

THE SPEAKER: And with that Honourable Member.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, and with that, the day I heard the announcement of General Taluva been nominated as Minister of Internal Affairs, I said to myself I will now go to bed and sleep. Under General Taluva's regime, we will have no PPP coming today to say we want to demonstrate tomorrow because they know when you see General Taluva, his physical appearance will tell you that he is no nonsense Minister of Internal Affairs. So I hope you will not disappoint us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a very big thank you to Mr President for giving us Mr Sesay. I presume the Minister of Foreign Affairs will be one of the best this Country will ever produce.

Mr Speaker, let me end up on this note, that when I see the faces of these nominees, I see the future of Sierra Leone, when I see the faces of these nominees I see the direction in which President Bio is taking us, I hope you will not disappoint us and you will not disappoint the President. There is one thing I want you to know that this House will confirm your appointment but this House also with the power of the Speaker have the right to withdraw your nomination. Please make sure you remain to be friend of us and let me end up from where my Colleague from Pujehun ended. We suffered in the past regime because we have a situation wherein Ministers will go into our Constituencies with development programs without our knowledge.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on a minute. Sergeant at Arms it is not time for music please stop it. You may continue.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Without telling us, we have the responsibility to do Oversight. Please Ministers, I want to plead with you that whenever you are

implementing a project in our Districts get us involved, let it appear as if it is the SLPP that is implementing those projects. We have a very ugly situation when we went to commission the Maban Bridge. We heard the EU Ambassador saying this is EU project, this project was done by EU, when that project started in the last APC regime, they never finished it, and there was no praise on the Government of President Maada Bio. So, please when you are implementing those projects, let it appear as if it is SLPP project so we will take ownership, we take the honour that it is the SLPP that implemented this project. That is the reason I respect the Minister of Energy, every time he is going to commission the electrification project, he will make sure that the MPs from that District are present.

THE SPEAKER: On that note.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: On that note, I want to say a very big thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: And the last speaker on my list and I say it with a heavy heart and I know all of you want to speak but believe me I take note of those unable to speak today, no promises made but I take note, a Member from Bonthe, you are the last.

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, thanks to His Excellency, the President for giving us these beautiful women and men seated before us today. Honourable Members, have spoken so many good things about these nominees, we hope and pray that they do not fail us, I just want them to take a look at the people sitting at the Gallery, they are here supporting you, wearing your T-shirts because they want you people to give them space, they want you people to give them jobs because they believe in you. I want you to adjust your Close Circuit Television camera [CCTV] in your offices because you will be seeing them going there to ask for jobs not to beg you. I have been in that situation for five good years that is why I want you people to concentrate on them more and I know how frustrating it is. Please Ministers, we are going to approve you today by the grace of God but concentrate on those sitting at the

Gallery, they are supporting you today, and you need them today but focus your attention on them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to the nominated Minister, Mr Timothy Kabba, you have done so well in the Mining Sector and I have no doubt in you that you will prove it again at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. I am not going to say much because my Colleagues have already spoken good things about you people but let me just talk to the Minister of Energy, you are the bedrock of the 'Paopa,' no doubt about that and you have done it so well, you have stood by His Excellency, the President throughout the process, we say thanks to you for that and congratulations if you are approved...

Mr Minister of Energy, I think you have visited Imperi, the last time when the President visited us I spoke with you concerning the Power supply in Imperi, I want you to please take it into consideration because you have work so hard for other Districts and especially Bonthe District, and you have given us a generator in the main line. So, we want you to focus your attention on Imperi so that you can use your office to give us good generator that can supply us electricity so that we can benefit as well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now move on to the Minister of Fisheries, Mrs Dugba, you are coming directly from my District, I have no doubt in your leadership because you have proven it during our campaigned period, very soft spoken person and focused. I want to plead that you focus your attention more on your job because I could remembered one day before our election, I was frustrated but during the time you came in and spoke to me, it solved that problem, now I am here today as a Honourable Member of Parliament for Bonthe District. Thank you very much and I have no doubt in your leadership.

THE SPEAKER: And on that note.

HON. BINTU .F. BOCKARIE: On that note, I want to say thank you to President Bio for giving us the Minister of Social Welfare, the dynamic lady Mrs Karmity, I have no doubt in your leadership. Please keep it up and we will be knocking at your door

anytime, any hour and thanks to all the women President has appointed, we have no doubt in your leadership. Thank you very much, may God bless us.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Lady from Bonthe, we shall wind up the debate and we will start with Honourable Mohamed Bangura. Before I give him the Floor, let me finally take notice of the presence of the Chiefdom Speaker of Nimikoro, Kono District, Chief Abdulai Dumasi, I hope you are here You are most welcome.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this morning I am not here for pleasant things, I am here to catalogue the problems we are facing in this Country and to admonish our new Ministers whilst they go into their offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all with your permission today when I was called to serve as a Member of the Committee of Appointment, I was told that Committee is a rubber-stamp Committee and I believe so because when you look at the composition of the Committee, I am going to be the only voice of the APC, so from the outsiders they said it is a rubber-stamp no need to go there. Mr Speaker, when we started this process, we sat for over ten to eleven hours close to twelve hours, like yesterday, we were there till 9:00 O clock at night, I saw Committee Members, drilling proposed Ministers, I saw Committee Members especially the Leader of Government Business where he stood down the Committee for some nominees who came before the Committee for minor documentation. We held the Minister of Finance for close to one hour not to talk about the Chief Minister, not to talk about the Minister of Energy, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr Speaker, what I want to say is that for people to know that this Parliament to see the work of the Committee on Appointment because it is not going to be business as usual at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, coming down to the proposed Minister of Finance and proposed Minister of Trade, during the Committee hearings you were faced with numerous challenges, questions were coming from the Committee Members that the people of this Country are facing poverty, every day and then we went to bed and wakeup with different prices on commodities, we in this Well have done our best to enact laws. We amended the Finance Act here, we reduced taxes on certain food

commodities but yet still a bag of rice is been sold for over **Le 700,000** old notes, so what that tells you? It speaks on the issue of price control, we know that most of these issues that we are now facing as a Country has International connections, for example; the Russia and Ukraine war but some of them we need to face them henceforth. The people have voted for us, we Members of Parliament, they have voted for the President, they have voted for the SLPP Government, now we need to vote for them, this is not the time for party politics anymore because when you go to the market nobody will ask which party you came from, you face the reality.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominated Minister of Internal Affairs, we are now as a country faced with security problems, day in day out when you check the social media you will see people sending inciting messages and lie stories, you have the so called Journalists who claim to be Journalists, they write stories maligning innocent citizens of this Country that is a security threat my proposed Minister of Internal Affairs. The Sierra Leone Police has been blamed as the Deputy of Leader of Government Business mentioned some of those problems just now, what are you going to do? If we approve you in this Well, we want you to sanitized the Police force, to give them the face that we all want to see as Sierra Leoneans, we know the current Inspector General of Police is doing his best but the political leadership is what we need now, hold certain Police Officers accountable for their actions not all of them, you have very good police officers but we have few causing problems, we want to see action been taken in this direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, the area of Foreign Affairs, we want to see our Country been marketed internationally. When I saw the name of Timothy Kabba, a young man, probably the youngest Minister this Country has ever produced as Minister of Foreign Affairs and even in the Sub-region, I have done my research and my research has proved that he is the youngest Foreign Minister in the Sub-region. So, I want you to go there Mr Minister proposed and do your job in the Foreign Ministry, look at the staff, you have young and beautiful people in the Foreign Ministry who have been working in that Ministry for a long and have not been posted to other countries

because they are not connected, these young people are there, go there, I know you can do it Mr Timothy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to the proposed Minister of Energy, he has done a laudable job in this country, no doubt about it but I have concerns about the electricity tariff being high. The Speaker of Sierra Leone Parliament and the proposed Minister of Energy are blessings to this Government and to this Country, because when you look at the political tolerance and Regional balance, they created it for this Government because of the way they interact and cut across partisan lines, keep on the job but please look at the electricity tariff.

Mr Speaker, in a nutshell, I want to particularly appeal to the Speaker to give me one minute to react to your statement concerning the APC party in relation to my Colleagues, I am going to make this appeal to the APC Members of Parliament elect to please come to Parliament and subscribe to the oath of office and do their job as Members of Parliament, that is why they were elected and I know for sure that we have challenges, we have questions about the elections but please let the politicians outside Parliament deal with that, let us as Members of Parliament come to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to react to the Paramount Chief from Kambia who spoke about national unity, it is no secret that the Country is deeply divided particularly after the general elections and I want you to use your good office as Speaker of the House of Parliament, to champion the peace negotiation wherein we can bring both the APC and the Government to the table. On that note, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for his contribution to the debate. It is now time for the Majority Leader, to have the last word and move the motion for the last time.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a valuable friendly atmosphere. I want to thank my Colleagues on the other side of the House for their great speech that they have delivered in the interest of this Nation. In Sierra

Leone our similarities are far greater than our differences. The Nation building is on and there is a formula that we are going to use to build this Nation, it is not by perception but by reality. What is democracy? It is about institutions, it is about the organs and this Parliament is charged with the responsibility and has a pivotal role in our democracy. It is so simple my brother, Honourable Bangura, I admire the position you have taken. There is self-interest, there is a general interest "Non Sibi Sed aliis" this is the motto of Fourah Bay College, "not for self but for others." I went to some of these institutions. There is other motto which says; "either the best or nothing" that is the motto of Government Secondary School Kenema and the other ones that those guys don't have but you have is "Manners Maketh Man," it is an injustice.

Mr Speaker, you have said it all, I don't want to go over and over but democracy is about people, it is about the way you behave. This is the formula we should use if we want to have a progressive Nation, democracy is about people, and the definition is all about people. If you think about democracy is about people, you should represent your people, it doesn't talk about political parties but it is about people. So, I admire your bravery, this shows the political drive as a democrat. You had your political party so we push in that direction, it is about Parliament cum, the Executive, cum the Judiciary and if we use this formula we all work together to a better Nation. Even if we have the Parliament cum the Executive working together without the Judiciary it is not complete, we have to bring the other organ on board, the three organs, and there must be a synergy between them. So, we are just doing our best but Mr Speaker, we have not done anything wrong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that day when we were about to take our oath, I asked Mr Clerk the basic Constitutional provisions. He read Section [23] of the 1991 Constitution, they don't need to take oath to vote for Mr Speaker, and he read the provisions, we are not rubber stamped Parliament. Mr Speaker, in fact let me salute you for making the Fifth Parliament very progressive Parliament, you can cry us down for our welfare, you can say we have too much salaries but you can praise us for the things we did for a better Nation, that is their perceptions they have and I stood on the Floor,

I said I will challenge them and I will continue to do so and I will talk about the welfare because the first law of nature is self and that is democracy, if you think about yourself as a good person and you will take the trajectory for those serving in those offices to behave and must be care for them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the nominees, I just want to say thank you very much for the contributions towards the nominees, is a better day for the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, it is not a rubber stamped Committee, we drilled our nominees, we talked to them, it is the interest of a better Nation.

Mr Speaker, I heard people who said they are going to rubber stamp the nominees, you go and ask them privately, what happens to the nominees? I am happy you have said it from the other side that we drilled them. Yesterday, we were here up to 10: 0 clock in the night. So, a perception about how they feel, we satisfy our consciences and God. When we were at the Committee level we talked about Sierra Leone, it is not about political party, we asked a question that has to do with our people, these nominees are qualified on paper, and the other qualifications has to do with their practical works, how do you relate with your resume and that of your people? How do you relate with Parliament? But Mr Speaker, let them do a survey for first prominent Ministers that has come out from the Office of the President, the list that came out from the office of the President is very clear, those who interacted extensively with Parliament, most of them are in this Executive. We have done a survey and they are here, you see a Minister of Finance, you see a Minister of Energy, they are here, they faced us and I asked a question to the proposed Chief Minister, I said you are the only Minister I will pose questions under S.O [19]. Yesterday, when I was given my address to the nominees, I said it is not in our imagination to intimidate, to humiliate or trying to embarrass any appointee, in fact it is in the best interest for us to protect them, that is our job but we cannot comprise the laws, the regulations of Parliament. So, I reminded them of the provision we have in the Standing Orders about question time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came down to the Chief Minister, the first day we started vetting them and the Chief Minister came about education which happens to be

the flagship program of His Excellency, the President and we said we have questions for you, and it somehow became a press conference for those who don't know much and also was an educative moment for those who are in the gallery but for us on this other side we were pleased because he was able to discharge his responsibility as a proposed Minister. So, when we call you for question time is for you to come and express yourself to Members, use your platform to sell your programs to Parliament and beyond.

Mr Speaker, it was not a happy moment for the nominees but I am happy we did a very good job. Today, you have praised them, you have exonerated us that indeed we are doing a very good job and in fact we tried to talk about corruption where we are going to read the text to see how best we can go about fighting corruption while we cannot allow perceptions to come in reality, we also talk about the asset declaration form. We refer some of them to do certain corrections and we tell them if you don't do the correction, I cannot present you to the Plenary for any approval but let me tell you, just later Mr Speaker, they came to Clerk's office to do the corrections and that is how you should behave like a Sierra Leonean.

Mr Speaker, I also reminded them, there was a notion in the Fifth Parliament we experienced and we don't want it to happen, we said this is a new business; it is a new dawn in the history of this Country. I referred them to Section [62] Of the 1991 Constitution Act No. 6, you are a Minister, you have the supervising role, you work in tandem with the Permanent Secretary, use the Constitution it is your ground norm. There is no way you can allow a department under your Ministry trying to pose as if that MDA is in charge of that Ministry, come to Parliament and we can solve that problem. A provision where an Act is in variance of the Constitution, the Constitution takes precedent because it is enshrined in the Constitution Section [171] Sub-section [15].

Mr Speaker, we are giving them enough ammunition to take care of their Ministries, to ensure that they are on track, to ensure that they do business of the day with the fear of the Lord, you have taken your oath to discharge your duty, I salute you all, I know

you are going to be approved because the sentiments they have expressed about you today, I am so happy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me do quick corrections before I take my seat. I listened to Honourable Bangura carefully when he said it all, but sometimes you have to do what is called regional comparative analysis, it is talking about what we are doing in Sierra Leone, we have the cheapest tariff in the Sub-region, what is difficult for us is that the Minister did say they are having problems with the equipment, they are a bit expensive. So, perhaps what the Minister of Finance, has to put into context is to justify that though we are the cheapest in the Sub-region, we have to check the GDP compared to those in the Sub-region but that has to do with lots of economic analysis, what we the politicians are interested is just the figures, in Sub-region we are the cheapest but for mini-grid, they are challenged because of the equipment. So, we take note of what you have said.

The Minister of Energy is one of the best Ministers to face Parliament and those who are coming in make Parliament your friend, our Members of Parliament are going to perform Oversight responsibilities and if you are finding it difficult you can come to me, I am the Majority Leader of Government Business. This is a place where you have to interact with people, you cannot be a Minister then you take the back seat, you don't want to see Parliament, we are not going to your office for money, we are not going to meet you for favour, we are just trying to have a connection between Parliament and the President. The President is a Member of Parliament, by a Constitutional provision. So, if you are coming to us directly or indirectly you are interacting with the President, come to Parliament, let us do the business of the day.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me say this to the proposed Minister of Internal Affairs, I don't want to single him out but this is very serious, the proliferation of drugs is all over this place. I said it in my open statements to the Ministers and some misconstrued my statement, I said the honeymoon is over but the days to stabilize President Bio is now, start to work now, the friendship is over, the day for Administration is here, we know you all, we can talk to you like family members but the

Nation comes first. The proposed Minister going to Internal Affairs, I will single you out because we have many Ministers, we have not mentioned the Foreign Minister and the last time what I read, he said "I will not disappoint the young people, I will try to work in their interest and make them proud." So, you as Internal Minister, cum the Committee of Internal Affairs, if you don't do your Oversight responsibility and you allowed the drugs to take over the Nation, you are destroying the future of our generation, you are destroying the future of this Nation, so take it very serious.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me land by giving this fair note. I remembered President Bio in his last Presidential statement talking about empowering women, he said; let me quote him directly "when you empower a woman, you empower a whole Nation." Education is what he was talking about, the women are here, we fought to have representation of women in this Chamber, and we fought to have Section [58] of the Public Election Act to stand. So, we know you should complement us through service delivery and that is all we are asking for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today if you check part [3] of GEWE Act there are enforcement rules, there are provisions to empower women, and it is call the women's empowerment. So, you are going to the Executive if approved by this House, don't disappoint us, we fought in this Chamber to have it, we asked for a minimum per cent of 30 to address the issue of gender parity, that is what we have been yarning for and the President have lived to the expectations of his people, it is not a dream, it is reality, it is happening here, check the numbers, we have beautiful ladies, they talk about eloquence they have it, they have expressed themselves the very first time this is what we have been looking for. I was bastardized, I was chastised by my own Colleagues that I have betrayed them, I said I am doing my job and I am doing the job of the State because there is a District without a woman, and the first word that I said, they are fighting for their selves, political survival. I worked with them diligently, they served me as Leader of Government Business, today they are not here because we have to accept changes in life, you cannot be static human beings, and you must allow dynamism to take place in your lives. So, I say if you betray the causes of fighting for

gender parity then we want to have this thing done, we want to address the injustice to our women, we want to see it happens, you are going to the Executive, you in the Chamber to show yourself, do the best thing, try to see that Sierra Leone can take another level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have values that Sierra Leone cannot be compromised, we have community integration that is why Sierra Leone is a very beautiful Country, I salute you Paramount Chiefs, this is the only unique Parliament, you have the Opposition parties, you have the ruling parties but this is the Parliament you have Paramount Chiefs, I have listened to you very well, I have listened to your contributions that you have said about the nominees, let them take into consideration, Section [61] of the 1991 Constitution which gives power to the President to hire and fire. Today, you are been celebrated by those in the gallery but be ready to praise President Bio when they are fired, that is a true nature of life, when you are fired praise him, that is life and that is democracy.

Mr Speaker, we are happy that we are all here, and we will continue to do the work of this Nation. That is why we believe in our mantra which says "One People One Country." Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the Floor, and may the Lord bless us all.

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, order, order, kindly take your seat, we are not done yet. Before I say the last word, let me recognize Paramount Chief Russell of Lower Banta Chiefdom, Moyamba District, I hope he is here with us. You are welcome.

Honourable Members, it is now my privilege and honour to have the last say and to lend my own voice to the chorus of congratulations right across the Well, extended to

the first batch of Ministers that have come before Parliament for approval. I join the House, in congratulating all of you, it is quite clear that you are all eminently qualified to be appointed to your respective Ministries and for that I personally extend my hearty congratulations and felicitations to all of you. Having said that let me remind you that the appointment has been based on the assessment of the information that you personally, each one of you have provided to His Excellency, the President about your qualifications, about your status etc.

Honourable Members, one thing that you must always bear in mind as you serve in the Executive is that you are duty bound never to compromise the laws of this Country. You have been appointed under the laws of Sierra Leone and you are not above the laws of Sierra Leone and it is your duty never to compromise the laws of this Country and above all the highest law of the Land which is the Constitution. In the event that you are in any doubt about that, I employ you to come quietly and discuss that matter either with me or with the Clerk of Parliament but the law must be obey, must be upheld the Constitution must be defended and upheld at all times by every Member of Parliament and by every Minister of the Executive. This is a Government under the law not a Government above the law, that is the message I leave with you, that is the message I ask you to go away with and be guided by it at all times, you are a servant of the people, you serve the people not the other way round. So, you go with our blessings, you go with our recommendations, we know you will do well, Members of this House will be knocking on your doors of your Ministries to do Oversight work because they are required to do so by the Constitution and I entreat you, I urge you to receive them well, treat them well, and all will be well not only for yourselves but for our Nation, our beloved Sierra Leone, I wish you well and good luck. Yes any announcement? Please do go ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House at 2:55 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 27th July 2023 at 10:00 a.m.]