



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 26th MARCH, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

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First Meeting of the First Session of the Fourth Parliament
Of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 26th March, 2013.

I. PRAYERS

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR FRIDAY, 22ND
MARCH, 2013**

III. LAYING OF PAPER

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINANCING AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED POVERTY REDUCTION PROJECT (RCPRP) AMENDMENT TO THE RESTATED PROJECT FINANCING AGREEMENT DATED 12TH MARCH, 2013

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

PROPOSER: HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TENTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THERE IN BE APPROVED.

V. BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2013

Being an Act to authorise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for the Services of Sierra Leone for the year 2013.



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 FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Tuesday, 26th March, 2013.

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

I. PRAYERS

[The Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Sulaiman Sesay, Read the Prayers].

[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: I move that S.O 5(2) be suspended so that the business of the House may commence.

HON. SONGU BUNDU: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

II CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2013

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEKAER: Honourable Members, we go through the votes and proceedings for Friday, 22nd March, 2013. As usual, we go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: Page 4 Mr Speaker. I want us to look at Roman v; Suspension of Standing Orders. The suspension of Standing Orders was done by my humble self. Honourable Munda moved the motion for the Votes and Proceedings and not for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

THE SPEKAER: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? If there are no further amendments can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 22nd March, 2013 be adopted as amended?

HON. ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ABI KALOKOH: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 26th March, 2013 was
Unanimously Adopted as Amended

III PAPER LAID

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR MOMODU KARGBO (*Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and*

***Economic Development*):** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your permission let me lay this paper before this honourable House which is on the Order Paper, item 3:

Financing Agreement signed between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Execution of the Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project RCPRP) Amendment to the restated Project Financing Agreement, dated 12th March, 2013.

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

PROPOSER: HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA

SECONDER: HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TENTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THERE IN BE APPROVED.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Tenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. Introduction;

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Friday, 22nd March, 2013 and interviewed one Presidential nominee for appointment as '*Minister of Sports.*'

2. Procedure;

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Probing questions put to the nominee pertained to his educational background, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations and his visions for a successful tenure of office. Allegations of malpractices in public office and unsuitability in terms of character to hold a Ministerial position were all very closely scrutinized.

3. *Fifteenth Sitting of the Committee on Friday, 20th March, 2013.*

3:1 The following nominee was interviewed:

Mr Paul Mohamed Kamara, Proposed Minister of Sports

Paul Kamara is a professional journalist, human rights activist and until recently, the Proprietor and Managing Director of "For Di People Newspaper". Mr. Kamara is also a sportsman and has contributed in no small way to the development of football in Sierra Leone. His effort has seen the emergence of professional players like Mohamed Kallon to stardom. In 2010, Paul Kamara was appointed Minister of Youth, Employment and Sports, a position he held until his nomination.

Responding to questions on an alleged public pronouncement he had made that quote and S.O 2 "fowl dear pass woman now na Salone," translated to mean, "the women of Sierra Leone are now cheaper than fowls," Mr. Paul Kamara vehemently denied making the statement. Priding himself as a great respecter of women, he said, "I happen to be the number one man that has worked with all the women groups in this country to bring about human rights and democracy. That is why they call me Mama Salone. I coined the word, Mama Salone, years ago during the struggle"

Mr Kamara continued that he could recall addressing a number of young women as Minister of Youths, and trying to conscientize them to move away from those vices that had brought down respect for women. He had, he said, made references to all the ills and injustices that had been meted out to women by the male folks, citing the "sweet sixteens of the 80s' and the invasion of secondary schools by men, to the bleaching

culture of the NPRC days, the “war situation in which women fared the worst, to the peace-keeping period when the moral respect for women was completely destroyed. “It was an apocalyptic situation,” he said. “When the peace-keepers came and got to know about what had happened to the women of this country, the peace-keepers were saying that quote and S.O2 “na Salone no moor wey fowl dear pass woman.” I was not saying it directly. Rather I was quoting the peacekeepers of that time.”

Reacting to another allegation of racist remark he had made against Mr. Rodney Michael, Mr. Kamara prided himself as a major stakeholder in the development of football in Sierra Leone. He submitted that on taking office as Minister of Sports, he had tried to create a new, unitary and strong football system. His strategy, he said, was to get the deadwood out of football and to usher in a new body that could become the new SLFA. “That was why I went on radio and said that ‘this is the right time for a white Sierra Leonean and a black Sierra Leonean to come together.” These were my exact words that had aroused the anger of my detractors who are going about shouting that I have made a racist remark. But Rodney Michael is very close to me. We are friends. When I go to Bo, I put up at Rodney Michael’s and have my food there.”

4. Recommendation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominee to be suitably qualified for his proposed appointment and is recommended to the House for approval: *Mr Paul Mohamed Kamara, proposed Minister of Sports.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Tenth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Tenth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya, Chairman, Committee on Appointment and the Public Service.

(Question Proposed)

HON. KARIFALA SHEKU CONTEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker,

Honourable Members, the nominee for the position of Minister of Sports is my constituent. Paul Kamara is not only my constituent but he is also my neighbour. He lives less than one hundred metres from my residence. This implies that I know him better than most Members of Parliament. I was one of the beneficiaries of the Free Education offered by Mr Paul Kamara for the past 10-20 years at the Wellington Community. He contributed in bringing some us into politics. He was one of the initiator of the popularly known word "Mama Salone." This was due to his relentless effort in publicly preaching about good governance. He was very vocal about corrupt methods Sierra Leonean leaders governed their people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Paul Kamara was the initiator and founder of the Wellington People Football Club. He has contributed greatly to the success of football not only in Wellington but Sierra Leone as a whole. Around 1986 to 1990, Mr Paul Kamara out of his own pocket assembled several youth groups in different parts of Wellington, sponsoring them in soccer and other sporting activities. He has also contributed immensely in building the professional cadre of our football. Mr Speaker, 70% of the professional footballers we have in this country is as a result of Mr Paul Kamara. Mr Mohamed Kallon, a well known professional footballer in this country can attest to that fact. In fact, it is clearly stated in this Report. Mr Mohamed Kallon is one out of several other professionals mentioned in this Report.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Paul Kamara has been very much supportive to youth in Wellington and I am one of those youths that has been benefitting both financially and educationally. Mr Paul Kamara is one the few Sierra Leoneans that does not compromise indiscipline at all. And Mr Speaker if anybody in this country should have a problem with Mr Paul Kamara it's simply because he does not compromise indiscipline. He is very honest, dedicated and committed to whatever he thinks is good. That has been proven several times in his capacity as Minister of Sports.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to let this Honourable House know that during my election campaign, Mr Paul Kamara helped me greatly in ensuring my victory.

He supported me with all his might. I am today a politician. Mr Paul Kamara is presently continuing his national responsibility. He is a kind and open minded young politician. If you go to him at 6:00 am, he is ready to talk to you. He will also talk to you even if you go to him at mid-night. He is blessed with a wonderful wife. His wife is also ready to accommodate, listen, support, help and give whatever it takes for as long as it is geared towards developing oneself.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have great admiration for this gentleman. He is also a writer. Mr Paul Kamara is very good in the English Language. And if you are fortunate to have 30 minutes conversation with him, you can compare that to having 5 years in a secondary school.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I am to relay all what I know about Mr Paul Kamara, then, I am convinced I would be here for the rest of day. In view of that, I ask that this Honourable House approve the nominee for the position of Minister of Sports. I thank you.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have before us the Report of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service on the nomination of Mr Paul Kamara for the Ministry of Sports. Indeed, Mr Kamara appeared before us; and in the Chairman's opening remarks, he did say that we would be interviewing him on what he has presented to us as a Committee. Also, we would interview him on submissions made either verbally or written to Members of the Committee and at the end of the day, it is left with the Committee to approve his nomination or not. And from what the Chairman of the Committee, Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya has read, we did give Mr Kamara the opportunity to explain his own version on submissions that has been made to us, particularly on two key issues that form the basis of this Report. And indeed, he took his time to explain to us lucidly. Some of us insisted because we wanted him to clear the air. The allegations against him were very serious, especially a country that has experienced the bitterness of war. We have to give opportunity to the individual against whom those allegations

were made to also give us his version of the story. If we do that then, we are being fair and we are being democratic and we are also working within the tenets of democracy. We did give him that opportunity and he gave us the different backgrounds against which those allegations were levied against him. At the end of the day, the Committee felt satisfied because of the explanation of Mr Paul Kamara. We were satisfied and convinced that those allegations should not in any way be the bases for us to withhold his nomination. So, if Mr Paul Kamara is seated here today, it was because of the fact that the Committee did not find him wanting at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all I would want to say is that, countries come together as a result of sports. Sport is one of those exercises that know no boundary, no gender and above all no ethnicity. When people converge on the sport ground, all their attention would be to support their respective teams. And most times this cuts across whatever differences we have. We have come a long way. We hope that under his leadership as Minister of Sports, one day he will lead this country to World Cup. We have the capacity to go to the World Cup. We also have the men that can take us to the World Cup. We even have the zeal and aspiration. There is no reason why Sierra Leone should not also qualify for the World Cup tournament. So, we hope that under the leadership of Mr Paul Kamara, Sierra Leone would qualify for the World Cup. We will give Mr Paul Kamara all the support he needs to move Sierra Leone forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Paul Kamara is an ardent supporter of women. He is a strong advocate of women. We hope that he will also do something to bring up our female football team. I want a situation wherein the women of this country will one day compete favourably with other women in terms of sports in the sub-region.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we wholeheartedly support this Report and we wish him good luck in his position. We are ready to give him the support he needs to move the sporting activities from where it is now to where we as Sierra Leoneans want to see it. I thank you.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I will first of all like to commend the Minority Leader, Dr Bernadette Lahai. At one time I had said here and I would say it again that I like Honourable Bernadette Lahai. This is because I like people who are true to themselves. I like people who are sincere and honest. And so far this is precisely what Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai has been.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before we interviewed Paul Kamara, Dr Bernadette Lahai in her capacity as Minority Leader said that she had been given few pieces of information about Paul Kamara. The information she received about Mr Paul Kamara were not good at all. They were unsavory information, particularly when they were said against the background of women. But on the day of the interview and at the very interview, believe you me Mr Speaker Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai was very much dispassionate. She was very fair to him. She did not say because she had been told certain things about Mr Paul Kamara and therefore she has to take them as gospel truth. She was so fair to Mr Paul Kamara. I was very impressed. And this is what we must be doing as Honourable Members of Parliament. And that makes us more responsible and dignified as Honourable Members. I commend her for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Karifala Conteh did say many nice things about Mr Paul Kamara. And I am beginning to wonder because he gives the impression of Paul Kamara being a philanthropist. Normally, when we talk about philanthropist, we talk about people who are old enough or who are very rich but relatively, Mr Paul Kamara is still young to be a philanthropist and above all he is not that rich. He is very philanthropic in what he has been doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want this House to know that I taught Mr Paul Kamara in school. I taught him at the St. Edwards Secondary School. And Mr Speaker, one thing that I have since discerned in Paul Kamara from his days as a student at the St. Edwards Secondary School is that, Paul Kamara did not only have the passion for hard work, but he had a big appetite for it. Mr Speaker I want to go over that again. Mr Paul Kamara does not only have a passion for hard work, he has a big appetite for it.

And once he is assigned to anything, Paul Kamara will throw himself with all his might to that and he would never be satisfied until the desired result is achieved. And Mr Speaker, it is a matter of great satisfaction that even to this day, that tendency of disposition has not deserted him. Perhaps this explains why Paul Kamara has been retained in the Ministry of Youths and Sports, where he has left his mark as a dedicated Minister who committed himself body and soul in making a difference in that Ministry. Mr Speaker, now that the Ministry has been separated (we now have the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Sport), if approved, Mr Paul Kamara is to be in charge of sports. Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that Paul Kamara, the boy I have known for many years will work wonders in that Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paul Kamara is somebody who believes in working all the time. He believes in that philosophy. That is why some say he is a workaholic. Some do describe him as a workaholic. He believes in working all the time and because of that Mr Speaker, you would like to know that idleness or indolence is alien to his nature. He has an abiding faith in industry. He believes in hard work. Perhaps, he believes in what the Romans use to say: "Labor Ominir Vilkit." In Latin, the v sounds as w. "Labor Ominir Vilkit" means labour conquers everything and verily is so. As someone has said, nothing is denied to well directed labour; and nothing is ever to be attained without it. In short, without labour, nothing in this world prospers. Mr Paul Kamara is a hard working somebody and I believe we must commend him for being the hard working man that he has always been. Mr Speaker, Paul Kamara also believes in perseverance, particularly in pursuing relentlessly whatever he sets himself. And he has to do this because as somebody has said: "no ability however splendid can command success without intense labour and persevering application." This seems to be the motto of Mr Paul Kamara. And that is something that I think all of us have to emulate and go further to make the Agenda for Prosperity succeed. That is one thing that all of us should inculcate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without any iota of hesitation I commend Mr Paul Kamara to this Honourable House for approval. Thank you very much.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

The Motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service has been carried.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Kamara, there is not much I could say after the words from the Majority Leader. But I want to wish you well and good luck.

V BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2013

Being an Act to authorize expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for the Services of Sierra Leone for the year 2013.

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)

THE HOUSE REVERTS ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Appropriation Sub-Committee 2, Hon. Brimah

Conteh

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Clerk, let me have that Report please.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the report of the Appropriation Sub-Committee 2, on the budget hearing of the recurrent and development expenditure estimates for the financial year 2013.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Sub-Committee 2 derived its mandate to scrutinise the Heads mentioned below on Section 112(6) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No.6), and Standing Orders of Parliament 64(3) and 66(1).

Members of Committee 2

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the under-mentioned Honourable Members were assigned to Appropriation Sub-committee 2 for the purpose of scrutinising the budgetary estimates of line Ministries/Departments and Agencies of Government for the period under review.

Hon. Brimah Conteh - Chairman

Hon. Helen Kuyembah - Dep. Chairman

MR CHAIRMAN: Can we take the list as being read.

HON. BRIAMAH CONTEH: Thank you Chairman. We will apply were ever possible

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members the Committee sat on Thursday, the 7th and on Wednesday, 11th to the 13th March, 2013.

MR CHAIRMAN: Do you want to go over that again.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: The Committee sat on Thursday the 7th March and from Monday no, no, no, we sat from Monday to Wednesday that was the 11th to the 13th of March to scrutinize budget allocations of the under mentioned Ministries/Departments and Agencies

Table 1. Vote Heads of MDAs Assigned to Committee 2

HEAD & DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED
128 00	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	Le 4,800,000,000
304 00	MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SANITATION	Le 38,968,000,000

107 00	MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Le 550,000,000
205 00	MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS	Le 440,000,000
406 00	MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES	Le 7,360,000,000
110 00	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT	Le 7,200,000,000
132 00	ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT	Le 2,120,000,000
110 01	NATIONAL ASSETS COMMISSION	Le 480,000,000
110 09	INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION	Le 260,000,000
118 00	SUPREME COURT	Le 300,000,000
119 00	COURT OF APPEAL	Le 400,000,000
120 00	HIGH COURT	Le 800,000,000
143 00	JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION	Le 150,000,000
124 05	JUSTICE SECTOR COORDINATION OFFICE	Le 100,000,000
107 02	LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOUTHERN PROVINCE-BO	Le 520,000,000
DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS-DIRECT TRANSFER		
1	FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL	Le 14,630,461,480
2	BOMBALI DISTRICT COUNCIL	Le 2,461,371,584
3	MOYAMBA DISTRICT COUNCIL	Le 2,853,881,079

PROCEDURE OF THE SITTINGS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the exercise commenced with the sending out of questionnaires to the various MDAs to ascertain whether their 2012 fiscal year

allocations were utilized in accordance with the financial regulations contained in the Financial Orders and the Government Budgeting and Accountability Act 2005. Vote Controllers were summoned to come along with their vote service ledgers and other accounting documents dealing with revenue and expenditures of their MDAs for the 2012 fiscal year.

Vote Controllers were requested to give breakdown, summary and justification of expenditures relating to their actual allocations and proposed estimates for 2013 in relation to their work plans.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

The budget hearing was done against the backdrop of the following objectives:

1. to enable Vote Controllers and their accounting personnel justify the figures factored in their recurrent and development expenditure estimates
2. to justify whether the submissions of the above mentioned MDAs for 2013 budgetary allocations are in compliance with their work plans presented to the Committee
3. to expedite the debate on the appropriation in the Committee of Supply
4. to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.
5. to ascertain whether allocations were judiciously spent.

GENERAL FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearings, the Committee went by its constitutional mandate in exercising its functions and this resulted to the following findings and observations:-

- ❖ MDAs quarterly allocations are hardly received on time and when paid, such payments do not accord with the amount approved by Parliament. The Committee cited this as a contributing factor for poor service delivery of many MDAs;

- ❖ the Committee noted that some of the MDAs received donations which were not reported to Parliament as mandated by Section 118 (7) of the 1991 Constitution [Act No.6];
- ❖ the Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS) used by most MDAs, is still not understood by many MDAs. Therefore, the Committee recommends that MoFED continue to train MDAs on this system;
- ❖ the IFMIS Software itself is very complex and that what is reflected in the budget estimates of the MDAs as actual expenditures in most cases is completely different from what is recorded by the budget bureau of the MoFED;
- ❖ the reduction of MDAs budget affects personnel training which is very key for MDA's effective service delivery. To mitigate this, the Committee recommends that enough financial resources be allocated for personnel training for all MDAs;
- ❖ most MDAs do not understand the Questionnaire sent to them in entirety and most found it difficult to locate the Committees they were to face and some times sat in Committees not assigned to them. Therefore, the Committee recommends that at least two weeks before the Finance Committee of supply starts its work, Parliament must organize a workshop with Vote Controllers and Accountants of all MDAs to engage them on how they should respond to the questionnaire. At the end of the workshop, MDAs are to be informed about the Committees they are to face, contact details of the Clerks in Charge and questionnaires given to them at the same time;
- ❖ Select Committees must use Appropriation Reports and work plans of MDAs when carrying out oversight functions to monitor the utilization of approved budgets;
- ❖ the Local Government Finance Department, in partnership with the Public Financial Management Reform Programme of MoFED has developed a software called PETRA FINANCIALS for Councils. This software helps them in imputing their income and expenditure statements. Like the IFMIS, most Councils are still not familiar with this System and the Committee therefore, recommends that Councils' staff be given more training on this system; and
- ❖ annual work plans of MDAs and Councils must be monitored by Parliamentary oversight Committees.

HEAD-128 00 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the Ministry's original budget submission including Foreign Missions was Le 166 billion with a ceiling of Le 49.9 billion. For the same financial year, the Ministry expended Le 22 billion, of which

- ✚ Overseas travelling-Le 5,091,013,837;
- ✚ Office and general- Le 351,854,250.00;
- ✚ Diplomatic cooperation activities-Le 786,413,114.00;
- ✚ Membership dues-Le 670,162,130.00.

The Ministry's 2013 original submission, excluding Foreign Missions was Le 4,800,000,000. The following are Sierra Leone's Diplomatic Missions and their respective allocations for the fiscal year 2013:

Table 2. Allocation to High Commissions and Embassies for 2013

HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON	Le 1,250,000,000
UN DELEGATION	Le 600,000,000
HIGH COMMISSION, ABUJA	Le 880,000,000
EMBASSY, MONROVIA	Le 616,000,000
EMBASSY, CONAKRY	Le 440,000,000
EMBASSY, WASHINTON	Le 1,056,000,000
EMBASSY, MOSCOW	Le 422,400,000
EMBASSY, ADDIS ABABA	Le 968,000,000
EMBASSY, BEIJING	Le 440,000,000
HIGH COMMISSION, BANJUL	Le 400,000,000
EMBASSY, BRUSSELS	Le 350,000,000

EMBASSY, SAUDI ARABIA	Le 387,200,000
EMBASSY, BERLIN	Le 545,600,000
EMBASSY, IRAN	Le 352,000,000
HIGH COMMISSION, ACCRA	Le 968,000,000
EMBASSY, LIBYA	Le 334,400,000
EMBASSY, DAKAR	Le 420,000,000
HIGH COMMISSION, INDIA	Le 176,000,000
SIERRA LEONE MISSION IN GENEVA	Le 264,000,000
EMBASSY, KUWAIT	Le 400,000,000

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, probing the huge budget submission for 2013 compared to 2012, the Committee was informed that the Ministry, being a professional Foreign Service Institution needs additional funding to meet international standards expected generally of foreign missions. The Ministry was requested to go back and provide additional information with supporting documents on budget allocation for each Diplomatic mission. The information requested was provided.

Noting that Sierra Leone does not have a High Commission in India, the Committee wanted to know why an allocation of Le 176,000,000 was made. The Ministry explained that the allocation was made in anticipation of the establishment of a High Commission in India in 2013. The Committee was informed that the Ministry does raise income from visa fees collected by its missions' abroad. However, these monies, according to the Director General (DG), were used to run the missions, on the approval of MoFED, when remittances are not received on time.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, after a critical look into the Ministry's budget, it became clear to the Committee that there is need for MoFED to entertain MFAIC's original budget submission for 2013 so that the Ministry can attend to priority areas like

postings and recalling of diplomats and staff, subscription and membership dues in respect of international obligations, rehabilitation of Chanceries and training of staff.

Even though the Committee was aware that the Ministry's activities cannot be effectively carried out without travels, it did question the large amount of money spent on overseas travelling.

CHALLENGES

- most of the activities of the Ministry are time bound and besides its statutory travels, there are those that are not always anticipated like postings and recalling of officials and diplomats;
- the Ministry owes huge sums of salary arrears to former diplomats who have served the nation in different parts of the world;
- the Ministry owes subscriptions to many international organizations;
- other challenges include late payments of rent for chanceries, inadequate transportation facilities both at home and abroad and late payment of remittances and other charges.

The Committee recommends approval of the allocation made to the Ministry.

HEAD-304 00 MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SANITATION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the total expenditure incurred by the Ministry for 2012 was Le 48,953,658,818. The Ministry's actual allocation was Le 27,186,900,000 which is a total of allocated funds for all four quarters. Looking at the figures, it was clear that there is a difference between what was allocated and what was spent. That difference totaled to Le 21,766,758,818.00. Noting the over expenditure of over Le 21 billion Leones, the Committee requested the Ministry to provide a detailed explanation and documentation on how the Le 21,766,758,818.00 was received and spent.

The MDA did make an appearance for the second time with documents that were required.

It was also observed that donor funds from various donor agencies amounting to Le 173.5 billion were supervised by the Ministry. The Committee therefore requested the Ministry to provide detailed information on how those funds were spent under their supervision. The Ministry informed the Committee that the Ministry does not handle actual funds. They submitted that the Ministry only monitors the donor agencies to ensure that the programmes executed are consistent with health policies and programmes. The Committee was not satisfied with the MDA's explanation and therefore requested the Ministry to furnish the Parliamentary Committees on Health and Sanitation and Transparency and Accountability, with documentary evidence relating to all donor funds under their supervision.

These Committees are accordingly informed and requested to kindly take follow-up action.

The Committee also enquired about the management of the GAVI Funds. The Ministry responded that they could not supply details on it because they had not got the information and the team that was responsible for the management of this fund and in position to provide information was currently not in office.

The Ministry's 2013 budget submission was Le 194,200,000,000. Actual allocation made was Le 38,968,000,000, a decrease of Le 155,222,000,000. According to the Vote Controller, the reduction will affect several programmes including the Abuja Declaration which stipulates expenditure of 15% of each country's annual budget by the year 2015, the Free Health Care Initiative and the rehabilitation of Government Hospitals.

Regarding revenues earned from cost recovery operations, the Vote Controller informed the Committee that the Ministry does not have total control over the operations. They explained that mechanisms are now being put in place to make it possible for them to have better control.

The Committee was not totally satisfied with the MDA's explanation and therefore requests the Parliamentary Committees on Health and Sanitation and Transparency and Accountability to further investigate the Cost Recovery Program.

The Parliamentary Committee on Transparency and Accountability is accordingly informed and requested to take follow-up action.

The Committee therefore recommends that:

1. appropriate measures be put in place to ensure that all funds from cost recovery operations are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
2. donor funding outside the government budget through the Ministry of Health be properly monitored and documented to ensure that intended objectives are achieved in a transparent manner.
3. the allocation made to the Ministry be approved and contingencies adopted to ensure that the Ministry performs its mandate of health care for the people of Sierra Leone

HEAD-107 00 MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTG & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry, which until recently, was amalgamated with Internal Affairs is responsible to provide leadership for policy formulation, coordination and oversight over all Local Councils and Chiefdom Administrations in order to ensure democratic local governance. The Ministry expended Le 337,070,000 in 2012. The Committee considered this amount to be insufficient if this Ministry is to carry out its oversight functions effectively. For 2013 Financial Year, the Ministry submitted a budget of Le 1,007,600,000. However, what was actually allocated was Le 550,000,000. According to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, the reduction will affect its oversight functions over Chiefdoms and Councils and will also affect its ability to provide stipend to Tribal Heads in the Western Area.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearing, the Committee noted that most Councils may not be able to generate enough revenue to undertake significant economic infrastructure projects by the year 2014 as proposed by government.

The Committee recommends that:

- I. government looks into the classification of the Councils to determine those that will be able to generate sufficient revenues to undertake significant infrastructure projects
- II. the Ministry of Finance should provide a supplementary budget to the Ministry of Local Government for it to be able to carry out its countrywide functions.

HEAD-205 00 MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this Ministry is charged with the responsibility of maintaining internal security and public safety. It coordinates, monitors and supervises 8 (eight) key Government Departments as follows:

1. The Sierra Leone Police;
2. Sierra Leone Prisons Services;
3. Immigration Department;
4. National Registration Secretariat;
5. National Fire Force;
6. National Drug Enforcement Agency;
7. Coroners Office; and
8. National Electoral Commission.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the Ministry's total expenditure amounted to Le 389,995 out of which Le 88,875,000 was spent on Office and General, Le 45,000,000 on furniture, etc. and Le 39,912,000 on telephone/communication. The Ministry's 2013 budget estimates submitted was Le 1,504,858,938 but what was really allocated was Le 448,607,271, resulting to a decrease of Le 1,056,251,667. The Committee was informed that the decrease will affect the following:

- ❖ monitoring and supervision of the Agencies under the Ministry;
- ❖ purchasing of more furniture and machines, and
- ❖ fuel and oil

During the hearing, the Vote Controller informed the Committee that Revenue generated by departments within the Internal Affairs Ministry is not reported to the Ministry but to NRA.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, following a lengthy interview at which the expenditure profile of the Ministry was thoroughly scrutinized, the Committee concluded

- that the Ministry's budgetary allocation is low so much that it will affect its supervisory role over departments under it;
- that staffing is low and personnel training needs to be given more attention;
- that late payment of allocations to the Ministry impedes its work;

The Committee recommends that the allocation be approved and supplementary provision made to enable the Ministry perform its functions effectively.

HEAD 406 00 MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Water Resources has emerged from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. However, for this exercise and pending the posting of a Permanent Secretary [PS] to the Ministry of Water Resources, the PS of Energy represented Water Resources together with the respective Heads of all the Departments under it.

While the Ministry of Energy is responsible to provide electricity supply, the Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for water supply throughout the country. These institutions are the appropriate bodies for the formulation of policies, planning, coordination and monitoring of electricity and water supply related activities nationwide, respectively.

The Ministry of Energy has the following departments with one Vote Controller:

1. Office of the Permanent Secretary;
2. National Power Authority (NPA);
3. Water Supply Division/SALWACO;
4. Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority.

1. Office of the Permanent Secretary

The Office of the Permanent Secretary is mainly connected with administrative functions and does not generate revenue. The expenditure of the Office of the Permanent Secretary in 2012 was Le 913,669,318 from an allocation of Le 1,697,000,000. The original 2013 submission of this office was Le 2,709,500,000. Actual allocation for the same year is pending.

2. National Power Authority

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the NPA is the professional department in the Ministry of Energy charged with the responsibility to provide electricity supply to the nation.

The NPA's original budget submission for fiscal year 2013 was Le 218,057,514,000 as expenditure and Le152, 538,759,000 as revenue. The Department's ceiling is still pending. However, NPA received the sum of Le 5 billion for 2013 1st quarter which was paid by Ministry of Finance directly to National Petroleum Company.

NPA's revenue target for 2012 financial year was Le 155,994,166,968 and revenue generated was Le 129,117,499,000. They failed to meet their intended target as a result of technical difficulties. Those difficulties were attributed to problems with the Bumbuna dam. The 2013 revenue target for NPA is Le 152, 538,759,000.

3. Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO)

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, it is the government's policy through the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure not only the provision of adequate access to water,

sanitation and hygiene services to citizens but to also ensure effective management of the country's water resources.

The original budgetary submission for Water Supply Division for 2013 is Le 713,700,000 with a ceiling pegged at the same amount.

In 2012, this Division expended the sum of Le 394,100,000 out of which over Le 110,000,000 was utilized on Office and General.

4. Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority [NSRPA]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority was established by an Act of Parliament to exercise regulatory and supervisory control for the beneficial and peaceful uses of radioactive substances and their applications, including licensing, inspection and enforcement throughout Sierra Leone.

In 2012, this Department expended Le 956,700,000 and Euro 20.563.39 donor funds used for the procurement of Radiation Monitoring Equipment.

For 2013, the budget submitted by this department stands at Le 1,365,300,000, and the ceiling is the same as the budget submission, while the actual allocation is Le 980,000,000. The decrease of Le 385,000,000 would, according to the Director, affect:

- ✚ plans for the establishment of provincial offices which would provide more cost effective monitoring operations;
- ✚ procurement of more radiation equipment;
- ✚ public sensitization of the work of the Agency.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having scrutinized the budgets of the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, National Power Authority, Water Supply Division, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority, the Committee submits the following findings:

- NPA revenue target for 2013 is below 2012 target. According to the acting GM, it is as a result of the breakdown of Bumbuna hydro Electric Dam;
- it was noted that donor funds do not come directly to Water Resources but through Ministry of Energy. However, Water Resources monitors and provide technical assistance to water projects funded by donors
- it is very expensive for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority to inspect the provincial areas from Freetown. Hence, it intends to establish provincial offices to ease its monitoring activities.

The Committee's recommends that:

- NPA procure more meters which are in short supply for consumers;
- NPA should abolish the use of postpaid meters and encourage the use of prepaid meters which will create an avenue for more revenue collection;
- the Ministry of Water Resources should distribute meters to all households who have pipe borne water;
- Ministry of Water Resources pay more attention to rural water supply for the rural poor;
- consideration be given for supplementary budgetary allocation to the new Ministry of Water Resources.
- A supplementary budget be provided for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority noting that the allocation to the department is low against the background of its countrywide activities.
- the Radiation Authority should engage in public sensitization on its activities.

HEAD-110 00 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, budgetary allocation to the Office of the Secretary to the President for 2012 was Le 5, 934, 300,000 but what was actually received was Le 3,583,978,000. Total expended by this office for the same year amounted to Le 4,136,118,062. A supplementary budget accounted for the Le 552,140,062 difference.

The Le 4,136,118,062 was expended on:

1. Office & General	-	Le 2,094,094,957
2. Fuel & oil	-	Le 1,306,000,000
3. Vehicle Maintenance	-	Le 736,023,105

The Office submitted a budget of Le 8,936,652,055 for fiscal year 2013. Actual budget allocated, however, was Le 7,200,000,000. Giving a shortfall of Le 1,736,652,005, which according to the Office, will affect local and overseas travelling as several travels of the President's Office are sometimes unanticipated.

The Committee recommends that the allocation made be approved.

HEAD-132 00 ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this department expended a total of Le 2,271,425,473 in 2012. Its original 2013 budget submitted to meet its functions was Le 2,222,000,000 with the same ceiling. However, Le 2,120,000,000 was actually allocated and Le 581, 015,446 payment has already been made for the 1st Quarter. A reduction of Le 102,000,000 was made to the department's original 2013 budget submitted which according to the department will affect Office and General and Training Activities.

The Committee recommends that the allocation made be approved.

HEAD-110 01 NATIONAL ASSETS COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Assets Commission was established by an Act of Parliament and is responsible for the control and identification of all national assets and government property and the maintenance and improvement of such property. It is the duty of the Commission to also monitor their use.

The total actual expenditure of the Commission for 2012 financial year was Le 70,300,000 out of Le 508,000,000 allocated for the same year. This disbursement was only for the 1st quarter. Up to the time of the Committee sittings, the Commission had

not receive allocations for the remaining three quarters of 2012. Asked by the Committee about how the Commission managed to run the other 3 quarters, the Commission explained that they used a Le 9 million in an account that was rolled over from the previous year. They also informed the Committee that all major programmes were put on hold.

In 2013, the Commission's submission to the Ministry of Finance was Le 558,800,000 which was reduced by Le 78,800,000. This reduction, the Commission reported, will affect training activities, capacity building and sensitization.

In the area of revenue generation, the Committee was informed that the Commission exceeded its revenue target of Le 20,000,000 by a marginal Le 950,000 for fiscal year 2012 from rents collected. The Commission's revenue target for fiscal year 2013 is Le 40,000,000.

The Committee requested the Commission to furnish the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Presidential Affairs returns of its revenue earning assets and the annual rent from each property/asset.

The Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Presidential Affairs is accordingly informed and requested to take follow-up action.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee finds

- that since its establishment, the Commission has not been provided with a vehicle to effectively monitor all government assets. The Committee recommends that government provides funds to the Commission for the procurement of a vehicle;
- the Committee recommends that the Commission engages in sensitization campaigns to inform the people of its mandate and activities.
- the Committee notes that the Commission proposes to have a Master Register that records all government assets and the Committee recommends that financial provision be made to enable the Commission obtain and maintain a Master Register.

The Committee recommends that the allocation made be approved and provision made in the budget to enable the Department implement its programmes.

HEAD-110 09 INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Independent Media Commission [IMC] was established by an Act of Parliament in 2000, as amended in 2006 and 2007. The IMC is charged with the responsibility of meeting the everyday challenges in the media profession in the country. It is primarily mandated:

- to promote a free and pluralistic media throughout the country
- ensure that media institutions achieve the highest level of efficiency in the provision of media services
- promote fair competition among media institutions and persons engaged in the provision of media services
- protect the interest of the public against exploitation or abuse by media institutions and practitioners.

For the 2012 financial year, Le 2,244,565,107 was expended by the Commission. This expenditure included:

- i. **GoSL Regular Budget** Le 332,700,000
- ii. **GoSL Salary Grant** Le 586,928,856.87
- iii. **Donor Funding** Le 1, 324,936,250.03

Asked how the amount under donor funding was spent, the Committee was informed that it was spent on training media practitioners, purchasing of electronic monitoring equipment and software for radio stations.

The Commission's 2013 financial year budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was Le 511, 255, 500 and approval was given for a ceiling of Le 438,300,000 which according to IMC will affect training.

REVENUE MOBILIZATION

In the area of revenue generation, the IMC generated Le 164,000,000 exceeding their Le 100,000,000 target for 2012.

On its first appearance, the Committee stepped the IMC down and requested them to return the next day with documentary information on the use of donor funding and revenue earned. Later submissions on these issues satisfied the Committee.

Enquiring into the background of the issuance of licenses to Afri Radio, the IMC responded that they had complied with the regulations.

The Committee recommends that Ministry of Finance allocate the total budget ceiling of Le 486,700,000 for 2013 to the Commission.

HEAD-118 00 SUPREME COURT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the total expenditure of the Supreme Court for 2012 was Le 40,600,000 out of the budget ceiling of Le 307,600,000 for the same year. The sum expended was allocated in 1st Quarter. Second, Third and Fourth Quarters allocations were not disbursed. However, the Court was granted supplementary budget as follows:

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 60,417,693
- ✓ 2nd quarter-Le 132,500,000
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- Le 175,000,000

In 2013 fiscal year, the Ministry of Finance budget ceiling for the Supreme Court is Le 227,000,000.

HEAD-119 00 COURT OF APPEAL

The 2012 total expenditure of the Court of Appeal was as follow:

GoSL Regular Budget

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 44,000,000

- ✓ 2nd quarter-nil
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- nil

GoSL Supplementary Budget

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 110,682,458
- ✓ 2nd quarter-nil
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- nil

The expenditure ceiling that was approved by the Ministry of Finance for 2013 was Le 345,600,000.

HEAD-120 00 HIGH COURT

The High Court's actual expenditure for 2012 was:

GoSL Regular Budget

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 74,700,000
- ✓ 2nd quarter-nil
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- Le 105,000,000

GoSL Supplementary

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 318,273,000
- ✓ 2nd quarter-nil
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- Le 870,363,514

HEAD 143 00 JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this Commission was established pursuant to Section 140 of the 1991 Constitution [Act No. 6]. One of its major functions is to advise the Chief Justice in the performance of her administrative functions which include but not limited to the appointment of Magistrates, Judges, the Administrator and Registrar General and other staff.

The original budget submission of this Commission for 2013 financial year was Le 250,000,000 but Le 150,000,000 was allocated. The Commission informed the Committee that the decrease in its budget will affect essential areas like;

- Office and General
- Fuel and oil [for vehicles]
- Generator running cost
- Office cleaning etc.,

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the Commission did not submit to the Ministry of Finance any budget. However, the Ministry provided for the same year:

1. GoSL Regular Budget

- ✓ 1st quarter-Le 26,200,000
- ✓ 2nd quarter-50,000,000
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- Le 50,000,000

2. GoSL Supplementary

- ✓ 1st quarter-nil
- ✓ 2nd quarter-3,400,000
- ✓ 3rd and 4th quarters- Le 30,000,000

CHALLENGES

- the allocations to these Courts are meager for them to effectively perform their functions and to also meet the cost of utility bills, cleaning of the Courts buildings, among many others;
- funds are needed for legal matters that go to the Appeal Court which require representation for litigants charged with capital offences;
- there is also the need for the appointment of more Justices to enable the formation of different panels to deal with matters speedily
- the Courts do not have enough man power for its day to day administration.

The Committee therefore recommends speedy response to the above challenges of these Courts’.

HEAD-124 05 JUSTICE SECTOR COORDINATION OFFICE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this office coordinates the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan [2011-2014] which was developed by government.

This office’s actual expenditure in respect of 2012 financial year was:

1. Le 65,900,000-**recurrent expenditure**
2. Le 247,000,000-**development activities.**

The original budget submission of this office in respect of 2013 was:

1. Le 126,399,967-**recurrent**
2. Le 936,444,157-**development activities.**

The amount actually allocated to this office was

1. Le 100,000,000 -**recurrent**
2. Le 850,000,000 -**development activities.**

The deduction, according to the submission of this Office before the Committee, will affect expenditure of priority and expert areas such as training of Chiefdom Police, implementation of child justice strategy, monitoring and evaluation, electricity bills and fuel and oil.

Probing into the development activities undertaken by this Office in 2012, the Committee was informed of the following:

- ✚ training Chiefdom Police in two districts [Kailahun and Kambia] and providing them with kits like uniform, boots, hand cuff etc;
- ✚ implementation of child justice strategy; and

✚ sensitisation campaigns;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, this Office made remarkable achievements as listed below:

- payment of severance benefit and training of chiefdom police in Kailahun and Kambia districts;
- supported the office of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to hold a pre-legislative meeting in Parliament and then got the Legal Aid Bill enacted; and
- supported the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs to move the process of enacting the Sexual Offences Bill and the enactment of the Local Courts Act.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in spite of the key achievements of this office in 2012, it is however faced with a number of challenges and the allocation for 2013 may not be sufficient to enable the office carry out its programmes. These challenges are:

1. increase demand on the JSCO to perform more functions than it currently has the capacity to do;
2. training of more Chiefdom Police and data collection analysis; and
3. working with Justice Sector MDAs to improve their monitoring and evaluation capacity especially in the area of data collection and analysis.

It is recommended that the allocation made be approved.

HEAD-107 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOUTHERN PROVINCE- BO
[PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Le 539, 099,564 was budgeted for this Office but only a total of Le 165,500,000 was allocated and expended in 2012 fiscal year.

The Provincial Secretary's Office in the South submitted a budget of Le 302,300,000 to the Ministry of Finance for 2013.

The initial documentary submission of this office in relation to expenditure was inadequate and the representative therefore had cause to appear before the Committee twice. After a genuine examination of supplementary documents made available to the Committee, it was noted that the allocation in 2012 was small and was expended on priority administrative lines such as local travel, local training, Office and General, fuel and oil and stationeries.

The Committee therefore recommends a supplementary budget allocation to this Office to enhance its operational activities.

DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS

FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on examination of the budgetary allocation and other funding to the Freetown City Council, the Committee noted the following for 2012:

GoSL Regular Budget- Le 9,425,631,344.17

Donor Funding-

DSDP, Le 972,288,679.30;

RCHP, Le 270,432,937.55; and

Road Fund, Le 477, 716, 500, 00.

For 2013, the Council made a budget submission of Le 39,644,908,601 of which Le 15,931,353,012 is own source revenue and Le 23, 713,555,589 constitutes government funding. In order for the Council to be able to carry out its intended programmes and activities for 2013, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of Le 23,713,555,589 to the Council.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, probing the use of donor funding by the Council, the Committee finds that:

- ❖ DSDP-was used to provide basic services in health and sanitation, education and solid waste management;
- ❖ RCHP-was used to increase utilization of essential health services by pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five years;
- ❖ Road Fund-was utilized to work on the drainages in the Freetown Municipality.

Similarly, the Committee notes that the Council has a huge public debt amounting to Le 14,311,312,662 in several commercial banks including First International Bank, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and Rokel Commercial Bank.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on a close look at the Council's revenue generation, it was clear to the Committee that the Council's revenue target for 2012 (Le13, 664, 348, 429) was not achieved. The Council managed to generate Le 8,776,034,500.02, leaving behind a gap close to Le 5 billion. Explaining the cause of this failure to meet its target, the Chief Administrator pointed to the following:

- a. due to the apparent mismanagement of taxes collected in the previous year, many citizen lost confidence in the Council and so did not pay their taxes;
- b. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources failed to devolve boat licenses to the Council;
- c. the Accountant General's Office did not cooperate with Council to deduct taxes of government workers from source;
- d. the proposed market dues of Le 500 was not implemented.

The Committee probed into projects undertaken by the Council especially the Sewa Grounds which the Committee was not satisfied with but expressed relative satisfaction over the operation WID and implored the Council not to relent.

The Committee is not satisfied with the MDA's explanation about funds spent on drainages in the Freetown Municipality and therefore requests the Parliamentary

Committees on Works, Housing and Infrastructure and Transparency and Accountability to further investigate. These Committees are accordingly informed and requested to kindly take follow-up action.

The Committee recommends the Council spends some money on building fences around all cemeteries and plant flowers along streets to promote beautification. Also the Council must ensure the prudent use of Council resources and premium should be given to revenue generation activities. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources should consider devolving boat licenses to the Council.

BOMBALI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the original budget submission by this Council to the Ministry of Finance in 2012 was Le 4,374,046,453 and the actual allocation for all four quarters was Le 2,399,007,394. However, the Council received Le 2,976,572,109 including a rollover of Le 577,564,715 from 2011.

Donor funding included:

DSDP=rollover transfers-Le 577,546,715

DSDP=1st installment 2012-Le 494,786,703

RCHP= rollover 2011 transfers-Le 361,117,578

RSDP= rollover 2011 transfers-Le 174,000,213

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman, I had wanted to ask the meanings of DSDP and RCHP. Do you want to tell us the meanings?

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: On completion of this submission Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Proceed Mr Chairman. We are now on Page 24.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Education for All (EFA)-Le 49,681,870

The Council generated from own source Le 235,815,035.

The Budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance in 2013 was Le9, 643,183,154 of which Le 9,142,183,154 was actually allocated. The Council stated that the reduction of this budget will affect salary for core staff, Councilors sitting fees, Ward Committees and other Council support programmes.

The Council's revenue target for 2012 was Le 377,000,000 but the Council did not achieve this target. It generated Le 235,813,996. As for 2013, a revenue target of Le 501, 000,000 is projected.

The Committee recommends that more money from grants is spent on education, especially the girl child education.

MOYAMBA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Moyamba District Council expended the sum of Le 2,096,232,830 in 2012 fiscal year. In 2013, this Council made a budgetary submission of Le 8,395,382,005, and the ceiling allocated to it was at the same amount.

With regards donor funding, the Council received Euros131,000 and Le 860,000,000 from European Union and United Nations CDF respectively. These grants were used on the following:

- primary and secondary health care;
- education;
- rural water supply;
- solid waste management;
- employment of 8 [eight] personnel;
- procurement of 1 [one] four wheel drive, among others.

With respect to revenue, the Moyamba District Council generated Le 432,105,138 in 2012 against a target Le 645,046,700. The failure of Council to meet its target was attributed to:

- Council's inability to collect property rates;

- Council's inability to collect jetty landing fees at Gbangbantoke, Lower Banta Chiefdom.

The Council revenue target for 2013 is Le 552,477,500

The Committee was satisfied with documents relating to awarding of contracts and the Council's work plan for 2013.

The Committee recommends that Council increases its revenue generation and be very mindful of the utilization of donor funding.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Members of Sub-Committee 2 for their cooperation and teamwork as they critically examined the budgets of MDAs under the purview of this Committee. The Committee's thanks and appreciations go to Mr Mohamed Koroma and Mrs Jane Y. Kargbo both of whom provided technical support to the Committee.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on behalf of Sub-Committee 2, I move that the VOTE HEADS and Sub Heads of MDAs which were scrutinized by Sub-Committee 2 as indicated stand part of the Schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. I thank you.

Vote Heads:

HEAD & DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED
128 00	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	Le 4,800,000,000;
304 00	MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SANITATION	Le 38,968,000,000;
107 00	MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Le 550,000,000;
205 00	MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS	Le 440,000,000;
406 00	MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES	Le 7,360,000,000;

110 00	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT	Le 7,200,000,000;
132 00	ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT	Le 2,120,000,000;
110 01	NATIONAL ASSETS COMMISSION	Le 480,000,000;
110 09	INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION	Le 260,000,000;
118 00	SUPREME COURT	Le 300,000,000;
119 00	COURT OF APPEAL	Le 400,000,000;
120 00	HIGH COURT	Le 800,000,000;
143 00	JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION	Le 150,000,000;
124 05	JUSTICE SECTOR COORDINATION OFFICE	Le 100,000,000;
107 02	LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOUTHERN PROVINCE-BO	Le 520,000,000;
DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS		
1	FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL	Le 14,630,461,480;
2	BOMBALI DISTRICT COUNCIL	Le 2,461,371,584; and
3	MOYAMBA DISTRICT COUNCIL	Le 2,853,881,079 all to stand part of the schedule

MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and

Economic Development): Giving a bit of help on Page 22, the Chairman was asking for those two abbreviations; DSDP and RCPH. DSDP stands for Devolved Service Delivery Project and RCHP is Reproductive Child Health Project.

For my purpose here, I want to say that we've noted the recommendations and comments as contained in the Report. And notwithstanding that, I move that the Heads and Sub-Heads and the amounts thereto as has just been read out by the Assistant to the Clerk of Parliament stand part of the schedule. Thank you.

(Question Proposed)

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Thank you Mr Chairman. I start with Page 21, on the Devolved Functions. No Vote Head was indicated for the Devolved Functions. And I believe for the devolved functions, the Vote head is 701 01.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 22, item (a). It says: *"due to apparent mismanagement of taxes collected in the previous year, many citizens lost confidence in the council and did not pay taxes."* Mr Chairman, this is very serious for the Freetown City Council and with the policy statement that in 2014, each council would be contributing about 60% for the development projects of this country. And in this Report, no strategy was indicated as to how the Freetown City Council will try to overcome this challenge.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members let me take you also to Page 24, under the Moyamba District Council. Let us look at the last two bullet points. The failure of the council to meet its target was attributed to the Council's inability to collect jetty landing. The question is what are these incapacities? We don't know and it is very serious as far as tax collection is concerned in meeting the 2014 Policy Statement.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move to Page 17, Vote Head 118 00, the Supreme Court. It reads: *"the total expenditure of the Supreme Court for 2012 was 40,600,000 out of a budget ceiling of 307,600,000 for the same year."* The sum expended was allocated in the First Quarter. The Second, Third and Fourth Quarters allocation were not disbursed. However, the court was granted supplementary budget. This is conflicting Mr Chairman. How can we receive supplementary budget when in actual terms what was allocated to the Ministry was not received. Mr Chairman, if you look at the breakdown, you will see that the 1st Quarter was given, 2nd Quarter was given and the 3rd and 4th Quarters were as well given. And when I totaled that amount, it summed up to Le443, 000,000 when in actual terms Le307, 000,000 was requested. With this Report, I believe the allocation for the Department or MDA was given and an addition was made. It is really conflicting Mr Chairman. How can they say only 1st Quarter was given when according to this Report it is stated that 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarters and even received a supplementary budget. We need to have clarification on that Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move on Page 16. We actually want to commend the Independent Media Commission (IMC) for exceeding its revenue target. The revenue target for the IMC was hundred million. They ended up generating Le164, 000, 000. It is high time we called on other revenue generating MDAs to emulate the IMC.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 14, the National Assets Commission (NAC). Mr Chairman, we tend to underrate the integrity of the work of this Commission. It is very disappointing to note that only the 1st Quarter was given to this Commission. If you listen to the radio or watch television, you will see and hear the rampant grabbing of Government properties. We Members of Parliament at one point in time demanded our asset register on Government properties, including land and properties. We are yet to receive that and this document clearly depicts that. They were not able to undertake this venture because of the allocation they did not receive. We want to appeal to the Minister of Finance to find ways and means of providing enough funds for the National Assets Commission. And under the Committee findings, the first bullet point says: *"the Commission had not been provided with a vehicle to effectively monitor all Government assets."* This is also very serious Mr Chairman. And Mr Chairman one of the responsibilities of National Assets Commission is to move all over this country to monitor Government properties. Yet they cannot afford a vehicle. This is a very serious problem. We want to appeal to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, through the Minister to do the best they can so that this Commission continues to perform its functions.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to look at the National Power Authority (NPA). It is found on Page 12. Mr Chairman would interest you to note that the expenditure on NPA was not indicated according to this Report. How can we compare expenditure and revenue generated if expenditure is not indicated? We want to compare what NPA has expended and the amount generated. From that, we will be able to know if NPA is useful or not; or whether we should try to recommend to the National Privatisation Commission and see whether they should continue to exist or not.

We want this Committee to supply us the expenditure for NPA for the financial year 2012.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 9, Paragraph 2, under Local Government. It says: *"Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearing, the Committee noted that most Councils may not be able to generate enough revenue to undertake significant economic infrastructural projects by the year 2014 as proposed by Government."*

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, going back to your last point, do you critically look at Page 11, under the National Power Authority?

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Page 11, under the National Power Authority says: "NPA original budget submission for 2013 was Le218, 000,000 as expenditure for 2013 and Le152, 000,000 as revenue and not for 2012.

MR CHAIRMAN: This cannot be right because they cannot conclude their expenditure for 2013 at this stage.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: That was submitted for recurrent.

MR CHAIRMAN: It cannot be conclusive.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Then, they need to rephrase that statement Mr Chairman.

HON. RADO YOKIE: Mr Chairman, I think it was a typographical error.

MR CHAIRMAN: This is because you cannot spend what you don't have.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Do we take it for granted that they are referring to the 2012 financial year? If that is so, then, the Chairman will need to say that clearly. Can I continue Mr Chairman?

MR CHAIRMAN: Continue Honourable Member.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Mr Chairman, let us look at Page 9. It says: "council may not be able to generate enough revenue to undertake significant economic infrastructure project by the year 2014 as proposed by Government. We are preempting here Mr Chairman. As Members of Parliament if we start to preempt, then, the council will take this for granted and relax. As a Parliament, we should not start preempting negatively that the council may not be able to generate when it come to meet the policy statement of generating 60% of their budget.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to talk briefly on the health sector. I want to draw your attention to Page 8. It says: "the Vote Controller of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation gave many excuses." This means they could not supply details on the GAVI fund and also on the cost recovery operations. And I believe these are not new projects in the Ministry of Health. Before their suspension, I believe monthly reports have been given and they should report on those monthly reports. They were only suspended less than a month ago and 2012 ended in December when the suspension started in 2013. I see no reason why they should give excuses that they were not in the office. It means something is wrong with management.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please take note of that. The matter is in court and you cannot discuss it.

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: The cost recovery operation is not in the court Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, your points are noted the one for the cost recovery will be considered. But I want you to separate it with the GAVI fund.

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA: Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take you to Page 6, the second paragraph, under Foreign Affairs. Its reads: *"the Committee was informed that the Ministry raised income from visa fees collected by its Mission abroad, however, these monies according to the Director-General were used to run the missions on the*

approval of Ministry of Finance when remittances are not received on time.” What happens when these remittances are paid? We want to know from this Committee what will happen when these monies are paid to the foreign missions. And if you turn to Page 7, the last bullet point. They are still saying that the Ministry owes subscriptions to many international organisations and also to pay their rents. So, if these moneys are refunded, then, why this cry? Why these rents are not paid? We want to know about those monies. Thank you Mr Chairman.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Thank you Mr Chairman. I want to thank the Chairman of the Sub-committee 2 for putting together this document and the presentation he gave to this House. He really showed maturity and experience in his presentation. But yet sir, I would want to suggest to this noble House that the next time or next year, we have to look at how we give these Vote Heads and Divisions to the Sub-committees in the sense that if you give us the Ministry of Internal Affairs, my own suggestion for us to have a comprehensive report is that we should provide all the Ministry of Internal Affairs and all its departments. This will enable us have a comprehensive Report. We will also be able to read and understand the Report. But if I have never been in Parliament and see the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Sierra Leone Police, Sierra Leone Prisons Services, Immigration Department, National Registration Secretariat, National Fire Force, National Drug Enforcement Agency, Coroner’s Office and National Electoral Commission I will be confused with figures. I will be confused if I see a budget with the estimate of Le1, 500,000,000. I will be asking myself if this is the real budget for all these departments. I want to suggest to this noble House that if you give me the Ministry of Internal Affairs, all the respective departments under that Ministry should come to me. If you give me the Sierra Leone Police, all the security apparatus in the country should as well come to me in order to have a well structured and comprehensive Report.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I therefore humbly request if the leadership has decided to give me Foreign Affairs, let them look at all the Embassies and all the

monies that go into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This would enable the Appropriation Sub-committee to write a comprehensive Report.

HON. SONGO BUNDU: Mr Chairman, it is now 12:00 pm. I move that S.O 5(2) be suspended so that the business of the House can continue.

MR CHAIRMAN: Any seconder?

HON. KARIFALA CONTEH: I so second Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

S.O 5(2) Suspended.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please proceed.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Thank you Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: I believe we have another Report after this. I want us to be mindful of the time.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: I will respectfully recommend to the leadership of this House so that we will consider this proposal for next year.

MR CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Honourable Member.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, this is very interesting. I am happy that the Minister is here. I want the Minister to pay attention. Let us look at Page 10, the third bullet point. With the leave of Mr Chairman I read: "During the hearing, the Vote Controller informed the Committee that revenue generated by departments within the Internal Affairs Ministry is not reported to the Ministry but to the National Revenue Authority." If that is reported to the NRA, I am sure NRA must send a report to the Ministry. This is because the Ministry of Finance is the supervisory Ministry for the NRA. Therefore, I want to say it loud and clear that all

the collections made by the NRA must be itemised in such a way that the people would understand where these monies are coming from. We must know whether the sources of revenue for NRA are from the domestic department, custom duties, income tax etc. I am saying this because when you are preparing a budget, you look at the budget profile. The budget profile is the most important document in preparing a budget. The budget profile is where you begin to know where you are collecting monies and how you are going to expend that money. So, if they are saying that this issue is not reported to the Ministry, how can the Ministry take from their budget profile? How much money is being collected by the different departments, ministries and agencies? Therefore Mr Chairman, if that statement is correct, I hope next year they will tell us and I am sure when you compile the budget, all the issues will be indicated in the budget profile. We should know how much NRA has generated from the taxation of tobacco, wine, cement, iron rod etc. That is the budget profile I am talking about. And Mr Chairman that will give us the estimate of the monies that we are expecting based upon the previous years. But if we are saying it is not reported to the Ministry, the question now is, who controls NRA? Where does NRA pay its revenue to? They must send a report to the Ministry of Finance.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, NRA is paying its revenues directly to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, if that is so, who controls the Consolidated Revenue Fund? It should be the Ministry of Finance.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, all what you have said is totally accepted. But when you look at the sentence itself, it is a statement of fact. The Ministry of Finance is not responsible to collect revenue but the NRA. But when the NRA receives the revenue, they pay it to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: But Mr Chairman the records are there.

MR CHAIRMAN: Those records are not for this Report Honourable Paramount Chief.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Well, it depends on what the budget is all about. But if we are to do a general analysis, we have to look at the budget profile and look at what is being collected from each profile Mr Chairman. And when you look at all this, it is very hard for me as Chairman of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to connect completely. This is because what I have here is different headings. I have the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources which I will have to say needed more monies. We really have to look at these things. And Mr Chairman when we say a particular Ministry needs more money, where are we going to raise that money. Therefore, we have to increase our tax revenue base. Mr Chairman where are we going to raise that tax base? We raise that from tax collection. It is these issues Parliament must come up with to make suggestions to the Ministry. Every ministry, department, including Parliament needs more money. We need more money; but is the money available? How are we going to support the Government to raise funds? We do this by bringing corrupt Government officials to book. Mr Chairman, how are we going to assist Government as Parliament to see that those who are collecting the GST are paying those moneys to the NRA? There are many shops in this country. We also have many GST collectors in the country, but believe me Mr Chairman they don't transfer those moneys because NRA don't even have vendor to do the monitoring for them.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, all of us favour the Agenda for Prosperity. Every Sierra Leonean wants prosperity. But how are we going to support the Agenda for Prosperity? We do that by supporting the NRA. We have to encourage the people of this country to pay their taxes so that when our tax base is increased, then, the revenue will increase and Parliament will get more benefits; students will get more scholarships and children will go to school in a favourable learning environment.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, our duty here is to look at the budget more critically and analyse it so that we see where we should raise, increase or decrease taxes. As Members of Parliament, we have to look at each issue and give it a good

balance. Are we going to tax the poor more than the rich? This is what we have to consider Mr Chairman. We have to look at the budget profile again and see how much we are collecting from certain items. Are we putting more taxes on medications available in the country when the poor people who are not covered by the Free Health Care will have to buy? Mr Chairman these are the issues we have to look at critically and ensure a balance in the system.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, my proposals here is to support what has been put forward. But I want to reiterate that as Members of Parliament, we have to study the proposals very well and support the Government's Agenda for Prosperity. We have to help the Government in ensuring that taxes are paid. It is the most important issue we should focus on now. And when these taxes are paid, we should we have to ensure that Vote Controllers use those monies prudently in terms of providing the services that should be rendered by that particular ministry or department. Mr Chairman, we need Parliament to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Internal Affairs Ministry is responsible to provide internal security that is needed in the country. As Members of Parliament, we have to give them the support in its entirety. But they also should ensure that they provide the services to the people of this country.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to give you an example. We are getting many reports of how the police are bent on harassing Members of Parliament. This is clearly spelt out in our Standing Orders that when a parliamentarian is travelling in and out of Parliament, he/she cannot be arrested. I hope the police will be well informed on this issue. Mr Chairman, some of them these policemen don't even know how to interpret our number Plates. The other day a policeman asked me thus: "Sir, what is this plate? I told him that 'MP Con. 024' stands for Member of Parliament, Constituency 024. I think the policeman thought it was a foreign plate. He was circumventing around me like a propeller. He even asked: "Is this a foreign country?" I said no. We really have to educate the police so that they will give honour to Members of Parliament. We have to look at this Report critically.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to look at justice sector in this country. If we want our justice system to work with the democratic tenets in this country, we have to provide the facilities for the courts. The courts have problems in bringing people to the bench. Why? This is because the lawyers make more money when they have their private practicing firms. They don't want to sit in the Government Bench. They cannot take bribes and at the same time they don't want to be poor. So, every Lawyer wants to be a private practitioner. Mr Chairman, we have to give the necessary support to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone and all the other courts in the country. This will make the justice sector attract good people that are willing to work for this country. We know that some of us have pending cases in court, but they have not come up because there are no judges to preside over those cases. Therefore, my appeal to the Ministry of Finance and this Honourable House and to all of us is that we should see that our courts are well provided for. Our judges should be well paid for justice to prevail in the country. They should have enough vehicles to go around, especially in the provinces. Magistrates for instance have different places to travel to. Most of them cover two to three places. They don't have vehicles to go around at all. That makes them lethargic and you cannot blame them at all. They often use their own vehicles. They are not getting paid for that. Some of them have to make petrol claim, which is not how it should be. Mr Chairman, these are some of the factors undermining our justice sector. We have to provide for our judges, the Supreme Court, the Appeal Court, the High Court, the Magistrate Courts etc. Mr Chairman, very soon we will get the Local Governments on board. The question is, do we have the personnel to take over? Whom are we going to employ as chieftom police? Therefore, we the Paramount Chiefs are requesting from this noble House and the Ministry of Finance for the Paramount Chiefs to get good salaries. The Paramount Chiefs are not paid for the services they render in their respective localities. How can a Paramount Chief be paid Le500, 000 a month? What would that amount do him/her? In fact, the salaries of the Paramount Chiefs are not in most cases paid on time.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Paramount Chief, time is not in our favour.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Noted Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please conclude your contribution.

HON. P. C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Chairman, I am summing Sir. I support the budget wholeheartedly. But we have to mobilize our revenue for the benefit of this country. We have to work hard so that those who should pay taxes pay their taxes and we must see that we provide services. We have to avoid corruption. Let us support the Agenda for Prosperity. I thank you all.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I think we have listened very carefully to the Report of Appropriation Sub-committee 2. I actually sat at this Committee at some point and another when they were interviewing the different ministries under their supervision. I wish I had time to sit in the other Committees. What I can say as a general comment on the general presentation of this Committee Report is that, I saw a little bit of carelessness somewhere not maybe on the substantive issues raised, but in terms of the mechanical accuracy of the Report. Any time you are itemising let us say ten items, at the end of each of those items, you must place a semicolon. And at the end of the last item, you put a full stop. The full stop means you have finished the sentence. But it will interest you to know that right through this Report, the necessary punctuations are not observed. The few areas where punctuations are observed were haphazardly placed. In one item, you see a colon or a semi-colon and leave the rest. I want them to do the necessary corrections, plus the amendments that would be made. For example, if you go to Page 8, you will see what I am saying. If the necessary punctuations are strictly observed, the meaning of a sentence will be distorted.

I want them to make sure that the necessary corrections are effected so that where there is supposed to be a semicolon they put it there. Place a colon where necessary. And at the end of a sentence, you have to tell us by placing the full stop.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Which document are you referring to Honourable Member?

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI: Well, the document we have here is what I am referring to. I am not referring to any other document apart from this document you supplied us. I am not using another document. Honourable Members can bear me witness that this Report is very erratic. The way you put your full stop, semi-colon, colon etc. is not correct at all. In some areas, you did not even border and this is a public document.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take you to Page 11, the Office of the Permanent Secretary. The Report says that the actual allocation for the same year is pending. The original submission for 2013 as far as this Office is concerned was Le2 billion. That is the original submission, but they are telling us that the actual allocation that this Ministry has been spending. So, what are we going to do? This means as of now we don't know what the Ministry of Finance has allocated to that Office; and yet, we are going to approve. What are we saying here? How can we approve this Report when nothing is submitted for the attention of this House? We should have asked what is allocated. Every Ministry should have what was submitted, what was their ceiling and what was allocated? It is what has been allocated for a particular Ministry, Department or Agency we are approving here. But if there is no allocation, then, what are we approving for that particular sub-division or Appropriation Sub-committee? So, let us make sure that every Committee has an allocated amount budget. Well, somebody said it is on Page 25. That is fine Mr Chairman. But the only thing I can say is that, for our Justice Sector or the Judiciary as a whole, we have in this Report that when the 1st Quarter was given, there was no allocation for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. How can the 1st Quarter Allocation given without the rest. This is makes the whole thing erratic.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want this Honourable House to know that the justice sector is what our development hinges. Justice is very important in any country. That is why everyday in our local tabloids the issue of justice keeps coming up. As the saying goes: "*Justice delayed is justice denied.*" We have to ensure that we provide for the justice sectors. We have to provide also for our Magistrates more sitting allowances, more stationery, more fuel and oil so that they can travel. When people are happy in

the country, then, everything goes on well. But if people feel aggrieved because they have been wronged and nothing is being done to address their issue, then, they become aggrieved and they can become wearisome and troublesome. They would be doing things that would not augur well for the society. Therefore Mr Chairman, the Minister should ensure that there is consistency in the way we allocate our funds. Even if it is a small amount of money, let the ministries be getting the little that they need to do their work. I think that is all I have to say as far as this Report is concerned. Let the Committee Members improve on their grammar, especially the punctuation marks. What I have mentioned about this Report is my opinion; and I have right to my opinion. The Report is good but you are a little bit careless in observing mechanical accuracies. I want to remind you that this is public document that needs thorough vetting. Thank you Mr Chairman.

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Mr Chairman, I would agree that perhaps there has been some carelessness but I take the greatest exception to anybody telling my very good senior, Honourable Brimah Conteh that he is not grammatically grounded. Well, there are lapses in grammar; but I want to assure this House that Honourable Brimah Conteh is well grounded in the English Language (*Applause*). Believe you me and let me say this, the English that Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya is talking about is not the English of Fourah Bay College, but the English at the St. Edwards Secondary School. Honourable Brimah Conteh is well grounded in grammar. In fact, the Honourable Andrew Lungay knows exactly what I am talking about. He can testify to that Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I agree with most of the things the Minority Leader has talked about but one thing that the House has to know is that so many recommendations have been made. This is where the Oversight Committees have to take note. The various Oversight Committees have to act on these recommendations that have been made. The days allotted for this Appropriation Committee exercise are certainly not enough at all. So, this is where the Oversight Committees have to look

into. They have to make sure that some of these things that have been said are probed into very seriously and even vigorously.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Honourable Claude Kamanda said something about the Foreign Missions. I want to say that most people don't know what happens in the Foreign Missions. As a very senior Ambassador, let me say this that no amount of money given to these Embassies would ever be enough to run those Missions. I can tell you no amount of money Mr Chairman would ever be enough for them. I saw the Minister concurring when Honourable Claude Kamanda raised that issue. Well, it is true that moneys collected from visas should be used to run the Missions. But later on, some of the remittances did go; so what happened to them? It appears as if he was trying to say that if these moneys were used or remittances were sent, then, these people have to account for the moneys raised from visa fees. Mr Minister, you may not know but let me tell you now that the visa fees are minimal. They are not enough to run any mission. In fact, the only Missions you can talk about in terms of visa fees are perhaps London and Washington. But in the other areas, how many people travel to those places? How many people pay visa fees? They are not enough at all Mr Chairman. My only concern here is that, if Le176 million was given for the Mission in India, well, there was stock of establishing a Mission there. But Mr Chairman, it would interest you to know that it has not happened yet. The question is, what happened to the monies allocated for that Mission? We want to know. But for the monies that are used to run the Foreign Missions are not enough at all Honourable Claude Kamanda. Even if they give them billion, it will never be enough to run a Foreign Mission. I would urge that the Oversight Committees do their work so much as we have heard from this Report. Thank you very much.

MR CHAIRMAN: Yes Mr Minister, would you like to comment on the issues raised?

MR MOMODU KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if you go through the Report which was presented to us, you will find out that the Report probed into many issues. For example, the Report talks about the drugs being sold at the Connaught

Hospital on a cost-recovery bases and they were able to pin down the authorities to the point of admitting that they were not able to show what was going on. The Report made recommendation for the Transparency and Health Committees of the House to look into a number of issues. I think this is the direction we have to follow. This is the help we want in the Ministry in terms of the work that we have at hand. We as a Ministry cannot do it alone. We rely on these parliamentary Committees.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, like the previous Reports, literally MDAs are complaining that the Ministry of Finance is not giving them the money they have requested. But I think we did make a presentation to this House at the beginning of the budget period in which we put forward the statement that this year has to be a year of belt-tightening in terms of budget implementation. The Ministry failed to meet the demands of the various MDAs because we were busy implementing projects all over the country. There were complaints that this project has stopped or this project is not operating at all; and we were trying to operationalise all those budgets.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to call your attention to Pages 13 and 14, where we examined the budget of the Secretary to the President, which actually covers the Presidency. We slashed about 20% from what they originally requested. Just imagine that we did that to the Office of the President. We had no choice. We cannot give them all they asked for. We had to slash down the Presidency's budget by 20%. So, if we slashed the budget of the President by 20%, we have been careful in other areas like for example, the Ministry of Health. They are pushing the Abuja Declaration that about 15% of the budget should be allocated to the Health Sector that has its problem in terms of budget integrity. It is not outsiders who should tell us how we allocate our resources. Mr Chairman, we have allocated about 10% of the budget to the Ministry of Health this year. And we are working towards a goal by 2015 that we would be allocating the 15% as required. Nobody can have everything as he wants at a go. We are doing this in a gradual process. We are working towards achieving an objective.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Honourable Claude Kamanda did make reference to vehicles for the National Assets and Property Commission. Actually, it is not the Ministry of Finance that provides vehicles to MDAs. It is the Ministry of Transport and Aviation that procure vehicles for MDAs. What really happens is that, we try to make the budget allocation for each MDA. We have advised that each MDA should put its request to the Ministry of Transport and Aviation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to say something on this issue of continuous complaint that the Ministries are making. They are complaining that we are slashing their budgets. I want to take you to Page 10, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The first paragraph says: *"Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the Ministry's total expenditure amounted to Le 389,995 out of which Le 88,875,000 was spent on Office and General, Le 45,000,000 on furniture etc."* The emphasis here is on the Le45, 000,000 spent on furniture. That is the figure I want to highlight here. I want us to step back one or two steps in 2012. We worked on the assumption that in 2010, they were provided money for furniture and they used that money on furniture. For 2011, they were provided money for furniture again and they used all that money. And in 2012, they took Le45, 000, 000 for furniture. The question is, are they actually using that money on furniture? And Mr Chairman, if you go to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, you will find out that the building itself is a small building. If you go to that Ministry Mr Chairman, you will be asking yourself where is the furniture these people have been purchasing for the past three years. Every year they come here they complain that the Ministry of Finance has slashed our budget. But that is the mentality of the Ministry of Finance. This is because we look at cumulative over a five year period. How can you keep buying furniture every year? These are the issues that we do face with these ministries (*Applause*).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Honourable P. C. Kanagbaro Sanka III has raised an issue which I wanted to take permission from the Chairman and Honourable Members to talk about. I am sorry to say that I don't regulate how you work. Please accept my apology with the utmost humility Honourable Members that I cannot tell you

what to do. I don't tell you how you do your work but at least I could make suggestions for improvement. If you look at the Reports, the layouts in terms of the Vote Head are not sequential because it was done on a random bases so that each Committee could have a full size work to do. But this is not as it is laid out in the budget. So, a researcher or anybody wanting to do some research, relying only on this document would create problems. Therefore, I support the notion as presented by the Honourable P. C. Kanagbaro Sanka III that we need to prepare a comprehensive Report after the Committees have completed their work. This is what I was saying that when the Ministry of Finance came, it presented this document to the House. And in this document, there is the Budget Speech and the Allocations. I would want to submit for the beauty of it and the sequence that at the end of this exercise, this House also prepares a document that would look comprehensive and researchable. We may even title it thus: ***"Discussions and Deliberations on the Budget Speech"*** so that we would have one document that we can put side by side with the other. This is the Budget Speech from the Ministry of Finance and this is the one from the House of Parliament. We would do that if it comes to that (*Applause*). We have to do this because at the end of the day, we have to put the comprehensive Report in the archives of Parliament. If you are ready to produce a document I am suggesting, I am willing to assist you in any way. In fact, you can even put it in the bookshop for sale. You as well put it here for sale; and anybody can come and take it and they will see the work of Parliament. That is my suggestion Mr Chairman, Honourable Members. I am glad that the Honourable P. C. Kanagbaro Sanka III brought up that suggestion.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I therefore move that the Vote Heads and Sub-heads and the amount thereto as had been read by the Assistant Clerk of Parliament to stand part of the schedule. I thank you.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

The various Vote Heads and Sub-heads and the Amount thereto under Appropriation Sub-Committee 2 have formed part of the Schedule.

The House was Adjourned until 1:30 for Lunch

Appropriation Sub-Committee 4

HON. AMADU KANU: First Session of the Fourth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report of Appropriation Sub-Committee 4, on the Recurrent and Development budget estimate for fiscal year 2013. March, 2013.

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, pursuant to Section 111, Sub-sections 3 & 4 and Section 112 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991; and Standing Orders 64(3) and 66(1) of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. The above Committee was mandated by Parliament to review the 2013 budgetary estimate of the under-mentioned heads. The Committee therefore examined the proposed estimates of the following MDAs:

<i>MDAs Account Heads, including Sub-heads of 2013.</i>	
Subhead No. 105 00 - Ministry of Political and Public Affairs	520,000,000;
Subhead No. 106 00 - Office of the Chief of Staff	2,260,000,000;
Subhead No. 110 12 - Law Reform Commission	432,000,000;
Subhead No. 110 07 - Anti-Corruption Commission	2,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 122 00 - Human Resource Management	700,000,000;
Subhead No. 137 00 - National Commission for Democracy	780,000,000;
Subhead No. 140 00 - Mass Media Services	100,000,000;
Subhead No. 207 00 - Prisons Department	290,000,000;
Subhead No. 210 00 - Office of National Security	3,315,000,000;
Subhead No. 212 00 - National Drug Secretariat	260,000,000;
Subhead No. 302 01 - Youth Commission	1,000,000,000;

Subhead No. 308 00 - National Commission for Social Action	340,000,000;
Subhead No. 403 00 - Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	1,500,000,000;
Subhead No. 403 05 - National Mineral Agency	1,200,000,000;
Subhead No. 404 00 - Ministry of Transport and Aviation	2,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 409 00 - Ministry of Trade and Industry	2,400,000,000;
Subhead No. 409 00 - Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency	1,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 415 00 - Sierra Leone Maritime Administration	720,000,000;
<u>Direct Transfers to Local Councils</u>	
Subhead No. 701 00 Bo District Council	2,238,468,638;
Subhead No. 701 01 Koidu New Sembahun City Council	1,448,126,557; and
Subhead No. 701 01 Pujehun District Council	2,359,546,085.

Objective;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in carrying out its mandates, the Committee took due consideration of SO 66 (1) with a view of achieving the following objectives:

MR CHAIRMAN: There is no 1 there

HON. AMADU KANU: Alright, let me just read as...- (Interruption).

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, did you just say alright?

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Chairman, your point is noted.

MR. AG. SPEAKER: You may proceed.

HON. AMADU KANU: I will read as listed below:

MR CHAIRMAN: Proceed Sir.

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in carrying out its mandates, the Committee took due consideration of SO 66 (1) with a view of achieving the following objectives:

- to achieve the capacity of MDAs sorry, to ascertain the capacity of MDAs in their judicious use of monies allocated to them for the fiscal year under review 2012;
- to probe into the proposed policies and programmes designed by MDAs in prudently utilizing resources already allocated to them by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for 2013 fiscal year;
- to know whether the current allocation to MDAs by the Ministry of Finance have a reflection of the Government's Agenda for Prosperity;
- to ascertain whether there is need for an increase or decrease in the current allocations of MDAs; and
- to probe into the efficient and effective management of both human and other resources by MDAs.

Methodology;

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, to achieve its objectives, the Committee distributed questionnaires to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) under its purview in order to furnish the Committee with details of how monies allocated to them for the financial year 2012 were utilised as required by the financial regulations contained in the Financial Orders and the Government Budgeting and Accountability Act of 2005. In carrying out this exercise, Vote Controllers were requested under oath to give detailed breakdowns and justification of their proposed budgetary allocation for the financial year under review. The Committee strictly adhered to the relevant constitutional and/or legal instruments.

Having diligently carried its mandate, the Committee wishes to draw the attention of the House to the following observations:

1. that the Ministry of Finance did not disburse the 4th quarter allocation to most MDAs interviewed by the Committee within the financial year under review.

The committee therefore opined that this may have adversely affected service delivery by the affected MDAs and may also have the potential to render similar effect during the first quarter of 2013. The committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development adheres to the recommendations of Parliament to ensure the smooth running of MDAs to achieve the Agenda for Prosperity;

2. that with the exception of the Office of National Security (ONS) and the National Drug Secretariat, other MDAs interviewed by the Committee failed to submit their proposed action plan for 2013 hence, this practice have the potential to undermine Parliamentary Oversight Committees in their efforts to evaluate progress in the implementation of their proposed activities. The committee therefore recommends that for future appropriation exercises, all MDAs submit their financial breakdowns for the previous year, accompanied by their proposed activity plans for the period under review;

3. that a huge junk of money is expended under an unexplained heading called Others. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, this practice or situation if not properly addressed may be a recipe for corruption. The Committee therefore strongly recommends that for future appropriation exercise(s), all MDAs furnished the committee with detailed explanations and documentary evidences for that heading. Besides, the Committee further recommends that the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Transparency and Accountability and other relevant committees supervising these Ministries critically examine these unexplained headings during their oversight functions; and

4. instead of the Committee further observes, I want it to read this way Mr. Chairman with your leave, the Committee also observed that most MDAs spent lots of money on maintenance of vehicles and machinery thus presenting a clear picture of such machineries as liabilities to their entities. The Committee observed that in some instances monies spent on repairs far exceeded the replacement cost. Therefore, the committee recommends that Government should own and centralize a

maintenance depot this in the Committee's view will save the government large sums of money lost to maintenance.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in recognition of their unflinching cooperation and understanding, I wish at this juncture to extend my profound appreciation and gratitude to Honourable Members of the Committee for their participation throughout the various sessions of the Committee. I wish to further recognise the relentless effort of members of the Secretariat: Augustine Sesay, Mapaeka N. Hanson and Ibrahim Jalloh for making this Report a reality.

FINDING BY VOTE HEADS

Vote head No. 105 00 - Ministry of Political and Public Affairs;

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Committee carefully examined the budgetary allocation of Le714,445,000,000 for this Ministry and discovered that Le713,070,000 was expended from the regular and development budget for 2012. For the fiscal year 2013, the Ministry made a budgetary submission of Le952,500,000 and Le520,000,000 was actually allocated to them by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Probing further on the staff strength of the Ministry, the Committee was informed that a greater percentage of the 69 personnel available in the Ministry are casual workers. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry institute mechanism to regularize casual workers as soon as possible as it is against the Labour laws of Sierra Leone which stipulates that an employer should not engage the services of an employee as contract staff for more than six months. However, the Committee observed that the documents submitted by the Ministry were not properly presented and therefore directed that necessary corrections be made and comprehensive breakdown of meetings, contract awarded and overseas travel be forwarded to the Committee's Secretariat for further clarification; which they did. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having critically examined the Ministry's budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2013, the Committee considered it as adequate and recommends its approval.

Vote head No. 106 00 - Office of the Chief of Staff;

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Office of the Chief of Staff made a budget submission of Le5, 550,723,232 in 2012 fiscal year. They were given a budget ceiling of Le2, 700,000,000 and an actual allocation of Le2, 439,900,000. Besides, the office received the sum of Le6, 346,993,881 as donor funding and Le1, 858,600,000 as government regular budget. In total, please delete the word 'however', in total, the office expended the sum of Le8, 205,593,881 for the financial year under review. According to the Office, donor funding was utilized for staff working at the Strategic and Policy Unit and other programmable support. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for fiscal year 2013, the actual budget allocation in this office was Le2, 600,000,000.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the fiscal year 2013, the actual budgetary allocation to the office was Le2, 260,000,000. However, the Committee was informed that the decrease in their submission would affect areas such as programmes, operational support and capacity development efforts. The Committee further observed that document provided by the office were not explicit enough to support items on sundries and staff structures and they were asked by the committee to provide detailed explanation on those headings to the Secretariat which they later did. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Committee however considered the 2013 budgetary allocation to this office as adequate and recommends for its approval.

Vote head No. 110 12 - Law Reform Commission;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in the 2012 financial year, the Commission was given a budgetary allocation of Le344, 000,000. They acknowledged receipt of that amount in different quarterly allocations following critical examination, the Committee was relatively satisfied over the manner in which the money was utilized. The sum of Le6, 508,450,519.8 was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as expenditure estimate for the 2013 financial year. But this was far above the budgetary ceiling that was set for them hence, the sum of Le432, 000,000 was allocated to the Commission having critically examined the budget allocation to the

Commission and taking into consideration its role in trying to improve on the laws of Sierra Leone, the Committee views their allocation as grossly inadequate and recommends a supplementary budget to the allocation during the course of the financial year.

Vote head No. 110 07 - Anti-Corruption Commission;

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Commission submitted a budgetary estimate of Le30.24b for 2012 including staff cost, recurrent and capital development expenditure. The Commission received an actual allocation of Le20.37b and this amount included the sum of Le15.48b as government regular budget, Le3b as government supplementary budget, Le1.64b as donor funding and Le250, 000,000 from retention as recovery. The actual expenditure of the Commission for fiscal year 2012 was Le18.76b with a shortfall of Le11.8b which affected various heads. According to the Commission, funds received as donor funding were expended to conduct National Bye Laws forum on the fight against corruption, monitoring and compliance in certain MDAs monitored school-feeding programmes, implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) etc. But for fiscal year 2013, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of Le2, 800,000 as government regular budget to the Commission. As part of key issues raised, the Committee observed that:

- the figures for donor-funded projects were in dollars while their budget request to the Ministry of Finance was stated in Leones. The Commission used the current exchange rate to give the equivalence in Leones for donor funding for the period under review. In spite, of huge resources spent on procuring printer, the Commission also outsourced other printing Agencies to print their reports and expenditure on vehicle maintenance, transport, oil were grouped instead of being treated separately thus making it difficult for the Committee to know the exact amount expended on each. However, following considerable deliberations the Committee requested that the necessary corrections be made by the Commission which they did. In its respond to the Committee's concern as to why the money for

the construction of the ACC headquarter office building was quoted in dollars, the Deputy Commissioner said it was done in order to attract international competitive bidding regarding the completion date of the project, he assured the Committee that it would be completed within 24 months. Against this backdrop, the Committee urged the Commission to put in place a centralized printing system to minimize spending on printing. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, having critically examined the Commission's budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2013, the Committee considered the allocation as adequate and recommends its approval.

Vote head No. 122 00 - Human Resource Management Office (HRMO):

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012 fiscal year, the Human Resource Management Office was given a budgetary allocation to the tune of Le808, 500,000. The Committee critically examined the manner in which the money was expended and was relatively satisfied with 2013 budgetary submission. In 2013, a budgetary submission of Le1, 736,056,000 was made to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. But only Le700, 000,000 was allocated to them. The HRMO however, carefully explained that the reduction in their original budget submission would adversely affect the following areas:

- a) fuel and Oil;
- b) overseas traveling;
- c) vehicle maintenance;
- d) office and general;
- e) stationery;
- f) telephone and other communications (cell phones and internet services); and
- g) training (local: recruitments and selection, job inspection, activities leading to the achievement of donor benchmark).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having critically examined the budgetary allocation to this office for fiscal year 2013, the Committee considered it as grossly inadequate

and therefore recommends a supplementary budget to their allocation to enable them meet their operational needs .

Vote head No. 137 00 - National Commission for Democracy;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012 fiscal year, the above-mentioned commission was given the allocation for Le900, 000,000. In addition, the Commission further received donor funding to the tune of Le374, 387,950,000 and Le1, 094,976,981 from ENCISS and UNIPSIL respectively. The Commission expended the sum of Le1, 310,652,000 and according to them, it was utilised on civic education programmes, promoting good governance, when asked as to why their expenditure exceeded their actual allocation the Commissioner said it was due to the supplementary allocation they obtained from the Ministry of Finance. For 2013 fiscal year financial year, the Commission submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development instead of the word budgetary there, please let it read now as budget. A budget of Le3, 273,496,000 but they were given an actual of Le708, 000,000. The Committee observed that the sum of Le2, 493,496,000 was reduced from their original submission and it was the Commission's estimation that the reduction would reduce their civic education campaign, public service announcements and advertisements, printing of flyers and public information materials, stationery, vehicle maintenance, etc. Given the crucial role of the National Commission for Democracy in enhancing the sustenance and promotion of democratic good governance in Sierra Leone, the Committee was of the view that their 2013 budgetary allocation was and therefore recommends supplementary budget during the course of the financial year.

Vote head No. 140 00 - Mass Media Services;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Mass Media Services failed to appear before the Committee and thus failed to furnish the Committee with the necessary documents as required in the questionnaire designed by the Parliamentary Committee on Finance. The Committee therefore recommends that the allocation for the fiscal year 2013 to this Agency be withheld.

Vote head No. 207 00 - Prisons Department;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the original budget submitted by this department for 2012 was Le14.8b which was reduced to Le8.4b it was discovered by the Committee that the amount actually allocated and received by the Department was below the ceiling set by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for fiscal year 2012. Out of an original budgetary submission of Le24, 052,310,637 for fiscal year 2013, the sum of Le15, 290,000,000 was allocated to this department. However, the Department informed the Committee that their first quarter allocation in 2013 was yet to be released by the Ministry of Finance and that the Ministry have advised them not to pre-finance any expenditure. It was also observed that the decrease affects areas such as office furniture, equipment, stocks and other supplies and diet. As part of their challenges faced, the Department informed the Committee that they lacked adequate electricity compounded by insufficient and late budgetary allocation. To further ascertain the expenditure undertaken by the Department in fiscal year 2012, the Committee requested that detailed breakdown on expenditures and supporting documents including the website design be provided to the Committee's Secretariat which they did. In view of the above, the Committee considered the allocation in this department as inadequate and recommends a supplementary budget to meet their operational needs.

Vote head No. 210 00 - Office of National Security;

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Office of National Security came into being through an Act of Parliament in 2012 in order to provide high level of authority in the coordination, arbitration and oversight of the security sector. The office therefore is responsible for the provision of the highest forum for the consideration and determination of matters relating to security in Sierra Leone. In 2012 financial year, the office submitted a budget estimate to the tune of Le12, 179,200,000 they were given a budget ceiling of Le2, 662,000,000 and an actual allocation of Le2, 420,000,000. However, the office only received and expended the sum of Le2, 323,460,000 and

Le242, 125,000 as regular and supplementary budget respectively. In addition, the office received the sum of Le2, 141,895,697.60 and (Le5, 44.60 U.S, dollars) as donor funding during the period under review. Of this amount, the Office expended a total of Le2,129,236,003 out of Le497,486.05d to undertake activities on other security and confidence building meetings, provincial security, coordination and interface with MDAs and Civil Society Organisations, staff capacity development among others. In 2013 financial year, the Office submitted a budget to the tune of Le7, 282,845,000 as recurrent budget but the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development gave them an actual allocation of Le3, 315,000. The Committee observed that the budget decrease on their original submission may affect the payment of risk allowance to personnel and also hindered the CISU's submission, sub-regional activities affects the payment of Membership dues by CISU, ONS to external intelligent organizations etc. As part of its action plan in 2013, the office highlighted the following:

- conducts security committee meetings;
- provide local and overseas trainings for personnel;
- re-establish office website;
- hold monthly joint border security; and
- conference building meetings etc.

Against this background among others, the Committee commended the Office of National Security especially for their ability in conducting weekly patrols along our border coasts. Therefore the Committee views their allocation as inadequate and recommends a supplementary budget to meet their operational needs.

Vote head No. 212 00 - National Drug Secretariat;

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, following the end of the ten years brutal war, the above office was established to provide leadership in and coordinate all issues relating to drugs control; its abuse and primary causes, illicit drug supply and drug related crimes. For 2012 fiscal year, the Agency original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance

was Le4, 874,000,000 but obtain an actual allocation of Le309, 600,000 as recurrent budget. However, the Agency received the sum of Le499, 456,500 as salary grant and recurrent expenditure for the period under review.

In 2013 financial year, the Agency made a budget submission of Le9, 036,400,000 to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. They were given a budget ceiling of Le340, 600,000 and an allocation of Le260, 000,000 excluding salary grant and development. With a decrease of Le8, 26,400,000 in their original submission, the Executive Director highlighted the following as areas that could be affected.

- Employment of 135 new personnel
- Establishment of offices at Lungi Airport, Queen Elizabeth II Quay and in the provinces
- Establishment of 5 (five) other stations
- Construction of new headquarters etc.

As part of their challenges in 2012 financial year, the Committee observed that the Executive Director faced enormous challenges to attend international drug sessions, conferences as he only attended one conference. It was also observed that certain key functionaries within governance cycle do not wish to see the smooth operations of the Agency thus; the Committee is of the view that if measures are not put in place to address these issues, they have the potential to prevent the Agency from meeting its parliamentary mandate or expectations.

Among its planned activities in 2013, the Agency mentioned the following among others:

- Providing operational infrastructure in terms of material resources;
- Recruitment of personnel;
- Provision of the required training; and
- Acquisition of new premises in both the Western area and the provinces etc.

Given the critical role of the Agency in the fight against the illegal drug trade in Sierra Leone, the Committee viewed their 2013 budget allocation as grossly inadequate and therefore recommend a supplementary budget to enable them perform to the expectation of Sierra Leoneans

Vote head No. 302 01 - Youth Commission;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Commission is determined to increase the productive capacity of Sierra Leonean youth through the promotion of their creativity, potentials and skills for national development among others thereby enhancing their participation in governance at national and community levels. In 2012 fiscal year, the Commission made a budget submission to the tune of Le1, 196,000,000 but the sum of Le644, 600,000 was allocated to them by the Ministry of Finance. From the Committee's observation, the Commission received and prudently expended the said amount in addition, the Commission received the sum of Le748, 530,000 as donor funding and according to them, the money was utilized towards organizing seminars, workshops and capacity building programmes. They further informed the Committee that purchased of materials was only done for Action Aid SL project in which building materials and tools were procured for Six Youths Enterprises project. In 2013, the Commission submitted (should be in 2013 fiscal year) the Commission submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development a budget estimate to the tune of Le3,136,456,579 but they were given an actual allocation of Le1b. However, (please insert Leone there it was not stated (the currency should read in Leones). However, the Commission expressed dissatisfaction over the huge deduction made on their 2013 budgetary submission. According to them, it would affect institutional and youth development programmes. Taking into account the determination of H.E. the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, his government to ensure the development and growth of youth in Sierra Leone, the Committee considered the 2013 budgetary allocation to this Commission as grossly inadequate and therefore recommends a supplementary budget to their allocation. Mr. Chairman, with your leave I go to

Vote head No. 308 00 - National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA);

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012 financial year, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development provided National Commission for Social Action with a budgetary allocation of Le1, 465,000,000. The Commission received the sum of Le922, 600,000 and counterpart funding of Le56.118b hence their total expenditure was Le57, 040,600,000. For 2013 financial year, their budgetary submission was Le30.9b but the sum of Le340, 000,000 was actually allocated to them. According to the Commission, the decrease in their original submission would affect areas like; reparation programmes, SL Community driven development project, the social action support programme 1 and several others. The Commission assured the Committee that they do not have domestic non-foreign debt. In 2012, their revenue target was Le150, 000,000 but they collected the sum of Le46, 500,000. Among the reasons highlighted by the Commission for not meeting their targets included; the lack of prepared plan for revenue generated activities, monitoring delays in obtaining authorization from the appropriate government authorities etc. The Commission disclosed that their primary source of revenue is through the sale of old vehicles, bidding documents besides, the Committee observed that the Commission did receive donor support as additional funding to government recurrent budget. Nevertheless, they have proposed a revenue target of Le20, 000,000 for 2013 financial year. In view of the above, the Committee considered the 2013 budgetary allocation to the Commission as inadequate and recommends a supplementary budget during the course of the financial year.

Vote head No. 403 00 - Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources under the Mines Division, submitted to the Ministry of Finance the sum of Le2,500,978,000 for 2012 financial year but they were given a budget ceiling of Le1,590,000,000 and an actual allocation to the tune of Le1,758,800,000. The Ministry received the sum of Le1, 758,800,000 as government recurrent budget in addition, the Ministry received donor funding to the tune of 1,964.401 US dollars and it was expended on institutional

strengthening, overarching regulatory framework, project management and several others. The Ministry's revenue target in 2012 financial year was Le350, 000,000. The projected revenue target was not met due to a shortfall in the projection target of African Minerals Limited however; the Ministry's collected the revenue of Le227, 303,542,522,000. Nevertheless, for 2013 financial year, the ministry has set a revenue target to the tune of Le3b. In 2013, financial year (if we want to be realistic) in 2013 financial year, the Ministry made an original budget submission to the tune of Le1,368,800,000 and Le495,600,000 for both the Mines Division and National Minerals Agency. They were given an actual allocation of Le1, 500b. In view of the above,

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee viewed the 2013 budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources as adequate and therefore, recommends its approval.

Vote head No. 403 05 - National Mineral Agency;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Mineral Agency is sub-component of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. During the period under review the Agency received their allocation through the Ministry of Mines hence; the 2012 budgetary allocation to this Agency was expended by Ministry of Mines as the current management team of the Agency was constituted only recently. In 2012 financial year, the Agency through the Ministry received an allocation of Le860, 000,000. In addition, the Agency received the sum of Le1UD dollars as donor funding. Under the same period, the Agency expended a total amount of Le855, 415,566,0o00 as government recurrent budget. Having critically examined the manner in which the said budget was expended, the Committee was relatively satisfied. For 2013 financial year, the Agency made a budget submission to the Ministry of Finance to the tune of Le13, 045,946,000 including salaries and recurrent budget. It was given a budget ceiling of Le13, 045,943,000 and an actual allocation of Le1, 200,000,000 as their recurrent budget. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Committee viewed the budget allocation to this Agency as adequate and recommends its approval.

Vote head No. 404 00 - Ministry of Transport and Aviation;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as a Ministry responsible for the development of policies and the provision of effective and efficient guidelines for the delivery of safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable maritime, land transport and aviation throughout the country, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development gave them the sum of Le4,842,700,000 as budget ceiling for 2012 fiscal year. Their budgetary submission for the period under review was Le4,852,389,936,000 but a total of Le2,078,400,000 was actually allocated to them. An additional sum of Le1,769,042,507,000 was also received by the Ministry for the Air Transfer Project (ATP). The Committee discovered that the Ministry expended a total of Le3, 948,258,806,000 as their regular budget for fiscal year 2012. Following further probing, the Committee was informed that the Ministry received donor funding amounting to 5mUSD for the Air Transfer Project and 5,781,505.3USD for IPA-SL Infrastructure Development Project (Transport Support Project).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for fiscal year 2013, the Ministry made a budget submission of Le4,798,502,624,000 but they were given an actual allocation of Le2,800,000,000. The Committee therefore considered the said budget as adequate and recommends its approval by the House.

Vote-head No. 409 00 - Ministry of Trade and Industry;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012, the Ministry under review submitted an original budget of Le3, 097,572,500. They were given a budgetary ceiling of Le2, 789,200,000 and an additional allocation of Le1, 530,112,801 in addition. The Ministry received the sum of Le808.859USD as donor funding towards the enhanced integrated framework project. According to the Ministry, they were only playing a supervisory role as the monies were set aside for a four-year project for certain government ministries such as Agriculture, Tourism etc.

For 2013, Financial year, the Ministry made a budgetary submission of Le3,150,737,625 to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development but they were given an actual allocation of Le2,400,000,000.

Responding to a probing question relating to trade monitors in the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary disclosed that their contracts expired in July, 2012 he said their recruitment was subject to Cabinet approval as their salaries were not included in the regular budget of the Ministry. He said, following the end of their contract, he submitted a Government 'White Paper' to Cabinet but the process coincided with the electioneering period and it has not yet been finalised. He added that the Minister has ceased sending attaché on Foreign Missions due to a wage-bill conditionality imposed by the International Monitoring Fund.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Government of Sierra Leone raised extra accounts by the Ministry generated from the rice donated by the Government and Peoples Republic of Guinea and the money is awaiting Cabinet and Parliament's approval for its utilisation. Also, the Committee observed that, monies received by the Ministry as domestic and foreign grants were expended towards building the capacity of private sector operators for the projects in the Ministry of Trade and Cultural Affairs and several others. The Committee further observed that the Ministry does not have constitutional mandates to collect revenue as that responsibility is given to the National Revenue Authority (NRA). Having critically examined its budget, the Committee recommends that a supplementary budget be given to the Ministry of Trade and Industry to enable them carry out their operations effectively and efficiently.

Vote head No. 409 00 - Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency; and

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency as a government Agency, supervised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry is mandated to coordinate, promote and generate foreign and investment and also to enhance the development of traditional and non-traditional exports diversification and value addition. The original budget submitted by this Agency 2012 was Le2,980,890,708 but

Le2,586,853,718 was actually allocated to them including salaries. The Agency received the sum of Le2,586,853,718 but however expended a total of Le6,131,122,000. Regarding the Committee's concern over the huge excess on their expenditure, the Agency informed the Committee that the excess amounts expended, included support from donor funding. The Committee therefore requested that a detailed breakdown of donor funding received by this Agency be submitted to the Committee, which they submitted the following day. The Committee proceeded to ascertain that the Agency was allocated Le1, 800,000,000 for fiscal year 2013 which was the same as the ceiling set by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for them. Going through the documents presented, the Committee noted that the figures on the table of contractors were in foreign currencies therefore, the Committee requested that those figures be converted to match up with the earlier figures provided in terms of allocations which they also did.

Vote head No. 415 00 - Sierra Leone Maritime Administration.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration as established by an Act of Parliament in 2000 was mandated as an autonomous body responsible for the registration of ships and other vessels and also to regulate and develop improved standards of performance and practice in the shipping industries, including the coastal and inland water transport system and Marine environment. Mr Chairman, the original budget submitted by the Maritime Administration for 2012 was Le14,410,400,000 which was reduced to Le4,923,312,381.6. The Maritime Administration received donor funding to the tune of Le647, 545,500 for project management expenses. The expenditure for administration's fiscal year 2012 was Le8, 481,354,704.64. It was observed by the Committee that there was excess spending as against what was originally allocated to them. In their response, the Maritime Administration informed the Committee that sometimes, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development provides additional budget to them. The Maritime Administration collected revenue on freight levies but part of it was paid to the Consolidated Fund and the remaining by instructions from the Ministry of Finance and

Economic Development was to be spent on the operations of the Administration. For fiscal year 2013, the Administration made a budgetary submission of Le17, 953,960,000 to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and was actually allocated the sum of Le720, 000,000. However, according to them, the decrease in their original submission would affect areas such as; payment of international subscriptions, training of staff and operational expenses.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members the revenue collected for fiscal year 2012 by the Administration amounted to Le16,875,764,957,000 out of a targeted revenue of Le17,659,728,000. The Committee proceeded to ascertain that the reason for not meeting their revenue target was due to the failure to meet its revenue target on freight level as no payments were made for exports by African Minerals and London Mining because of tax exemptions given to them by the Government of Sierra Leone. However, the revenue target for fiscal year 2013 decreased to the tune of Le18, 391,680,000 but more efforts is made to register local boats and vessels with the setting up of departments responsible for ships registration. The Committee was concerned about the shortfall in revenue collection of the Administration as a result of tax exemptions on freights levy given to mining companies; the Committee therefore asks that such matter be resolved without further delay and that mining agreements be duly reviewed or revisited. Having scrutinized the allocation of the Maritime Administration, the Committee is of the view that the allocation for fiscal year 2013 is adequate and recommends its approval.

Direct Transfers to Local Councils;

Bo District Council;

The Bo District Council submitted the budget to the tune of Le5, 111,558,217 and the sum of Le4, 067,927,267,000 was given to them as both the ceiling and the actual allocation in 2012. However, the Council only received the sum of Le1, 621,097,432.

HON. SONGOWA BUNDU: Mr Chairman, the time is now 3:00 pm. I move that S.O. 5 (2) be suspended so that the business of the House may continue.

MR CHAIRMAN: Any seconder?

HON. ALIEU BADARA MUNU: I so second Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: Any counter motion?

(S. O. 5(2) Suspended)

HON. AMADU KANU: The Council received the sum of Le211, 922,923.05 and Le192.069 Euro as other sources of funding from ENCISS and EU projects respectively. When asked to explain the areas under which these monies were expended on, the Council said the funds received from DSEP were utilized to rehabilitate schools, provide school furniture, rehabilitate etc. Also, funds received from ENCISS were expended towards the review and popularization of their 2013-2015 development plan and to coordinate and monitor the development activities of the Council. As for the funds of the EU project, the Council said they used the money to procure a hillux van, 1 truck, 3 motorbikes, 10 bicycles, office furniture, 1 computer desktop, laptops etc. to further ensure accountability, the Committee however, requested the Council to furnish members with detailed breakdown of the amount expended on each activity which they later did. For 2013 fiscal year, the Council made a budget submission of Le6, 123,343,223.000 but obtain an actual allocation of Le2, 238,468,638.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having critically reviewed the manner in which the previous allocation was utilized, the Committee considered the current allocation of Le2,238,468,638.000 to this Council as adequate and recommends its approval.

Koidu New Sembehun City Council; and

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Koidu New Sembehun City Council made a budget submission of Le3,67,728,955.5 for fiscal year 2012 the actual allocation given to them was Le994,577,234,000. For the financial year under review, the Committee observed

that the Council only received allocations for 1st and 2nd Quarters of Le223, 410,117,000 and L: e241, 526,725 respectively. Also, the Council received donor funding under the Decentralized Service Delivery programme amounting to Le379, 197,524. According to the Council, it was utilized in rehabilitating a school building, PHU, procuring tool for Solid Waste Management etc. In response to concern raised by Members relating to huge monies expended on travels, the Council said the money included travel allowances for officials from other MDAs as spelt out under the devolved functions. For 2013, the original budget submission by the Council was Le3, 803, 337. 67 but the sum of Le1, 448,126,557 was allocated to them by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The Council's revenue target for 2012 was Le2,970,203,319 but only collected the sum of Le677,111,616.52 as own source revenue. The poor revenue collection according to Council was due to low business performance caused by poor road infrastructure, electioneering period etc. Nevertheless, the Council has set a revenue target of Le3, 803,337,067 for 2013. As a revenue generating department, Council recommended the payment of property, rates and other charges by mining companies operating in Koidu City as additional sources of revenue. They also recommended that Council be accorded the right to collect building registration permits which was still under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Technical Maintenance. To achieve effective revenue mobilization, they further recommended that Council recruits and train staff to operate the proposed revenue cadastral to avoid manual collection of revenue and ensure a direct payment of revenue to Council's bank account. The Committee considered their allocation as adequate and recommends its approval.

Pujehun District Council.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2012 fiscal year, Pujehun District Council made a budget submission of Le3, 858,802,648 and it was approved by the Ministry of Finance as their allocation. For that however, the sum of Le1, 307,893,974 was received by Council for only 1st and 2nd quarters and according to them it included Government of Sierra Leone Regular Budget, Councilors sitting fees, senior staff salaries and payments

of 1st and 2nd term school subsidies. In addition, the Council received funding to the tune of Le1, 7,160,355.17 from education for all trust fast-track Initiative (EFA/FTI), reproductive child health programme and the Decentralized Service Delivery programme. Again, the Council said, part of that money included money for the 4th quarter allocation for the financial year 2011 which was only received in January 2012. The Council expended on the rehabilitation and construction of schools. PHUs, Wells, Nurses, Hotels among others in general, Council expended a total of Le3, 264,616.589.98 in fiscal year 2012. For 2013 financial year, the sum of Le6, 32,884,443,000 was submitted to the Ministry of Finance as budget estimate but the sum of Le2, 359,546.85 was allocated to them. The revenue projection of the Council in 2012 was Le203,000,000 but the sum of Le171,942,827 was generated according to the Council a short fall in the revenue target was due to poor tax education, conflict between Chiefdom Administration and Council Management over trade fares, market dues, local tax projects, precepts etc. On the poor tariff within the district for 2013, the Council has set a revenue target of Le203, 530,000. Regarding their suggestions as to how to maximize revenue collection and minimize wastage, the Council promised to embark on effective tax sensitization also, they pleaded with Parliament to facilitate effective cooperation among the Council District Offices and the Chiefdom Councils so that they can meet the requirements of the Local Government Act of 2004. The Committee would at this juncture, like to inform this House that Pujehun District Council was requested to furnish the Committee with detailed breakdown of schools which benefited from the distribution and/or supply of school subsidy and teaching and learning materials as claimed by Council during probing hearing. The Committee therefore recommends that the Appropriation Parliamentary Committee look into this issue during their oversight functions. Having thoroughly examined the Council's budget, the Committee considered the 2013 allocation as adequate and therefore recommends its approval.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that all budget heads including subheads of Ministries, Departments, Agencies listed below stand part of the

Schedule except for Accounts head 140 00 Mass Media Services who failed to appear before the Committee. Signed by Honourable Amadu Kanu, Chairman, Appropriation Sub-Committee 4.

The Clerk read the vote Heads and Subheads as follows:

<i>MDAs Account Heads, including Sub-heads of 2013.</i>	
Subhead No. 105 00 - Ministry of Political and Public Affairs	520,000,000;
Subhead No. 106 00 - Office of the Chief of Staff	2,260,000,000;
Subhead No. 110 12 - Law Reform Commission	432,000,000;
Subhead No. 110 07 - Anti-Corruption Commission	2,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 122 00 - Human Resource Management	700,000,000;
Subhead No. 137 00 - National Commission for Democracy	780,000,000;
Subhead No. 140 00 - Mass Media Services	100,000,000;
Subhead No. 207 00 - Prisons Department	290,000,000;
Subhead No. 210 00 - Office of National Security	3,315,000,000;
Subhead No. 212 00 - National Drug Secretariat	260,000,000;
Subhead No. 302 01 - Youth Commission	1,000,000,000;
Subhead No. 308 00 - National Commission for Social Action	340,000,000;
Subhead No. 403 00 - Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	1,500,000,000;
Subhead No. 403 05 - National Mineral Agency	1,200,000,000;
Subhead No. 404 00 - Ministry of Transport and Aviation	2,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 409 00 - Ministry of Trade and Industry	2,400,000,000;
Subhead No. 409 00 - Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency	1,800,000,000;
Subhead No. 415 00 - Sierra Leone Maritime Administration	720,000,000;
<u>Direct Transfers to Local Councils</u>	
Subhead No. 701 00 Bo District Council	2,238,468,638
Subhead No. 701 01 Koidu New Sembehun City Council	1,448,126,557; and
Subhead No. 701 01 Pujehun District Council	2,359,546,085.

All to stand part of the Schedule.

MR MOMODU KARGBO (Deputy Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Report is noted and the recommendations contained therein are also noted. I therefore move that the various Vote Heads and Subheads except Vote head 140 00, Mass Media Services for Le100,000,000 as has already been read by the Assistant Clerk of Parliament do stand part of the schedule. Thank you.

(Question Proposed)

HON. AMADU FOFANA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Chairman and Members of the Appropriation Sub-Committee 4 for their presentations. But I have few issues to raise as far as this Report is concerned. The first issue is on Page 5, under the Office of the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff's Office has planned its budget and submitted it to the Ministry of Finance. The submission they made was Le5 billion for their activities for the year. But it would interest you to know that they ended up receiving the sum of Le8 billion from the Government of Sierra Leone and donors. I am concerned because if we plan our activities around certain amount and received donor funding at the same time that exceeds what you have asked for is very interesting. I am a bit worried Mr Chairman. I think the money was not prudently spent.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us look at Page 9, under the Prisons. I am particularly concerned with the purchasing of office furniture and equipment. According the Accounting principles, fixed assets should be in each and every MDA for some years. We should not be buying them every year. But I noticed that most of the MDAs, if not all do buy these assets every year. It is a bit funny. We need to check that Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I also want to take you to Page 10, under the Office of National Security (ONS). The Committee recommends for a supplementary budget. But Mr Chairman, from the calculation I have made, this Office has not finished

expending what they asked for last year. Why are they asking for a supplementary budget Mr Chairman? Mr Chairman this Office received the sum of Le4, 700,000,000 and their total expenditure was Le4, 400,000,000. What are we saying here? Mr Chairman we need to check these figures thoroughly.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us turn to Page 11, under the National Drug Secretariat. Mr Chairman, this important MDA that is controlling drugs in this country wants to tell this Honourable House that they have not received any donor funding throughout the year. This is what this Report is saying here. No donor funding? Mr Chairman, this is just a concern. If that is the case, then, they need to do more work in that Department.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the National Youth Commission. According to this Report, the National Youth Commission did receive international support, but that needs to be probed into. The total budget for the National Youth Commission was Le1, 196,000,000 and the total money received from the Government of Sierra Leone and donors was Le1, 392,000,000. I am sure they have to account for a role-over for 2013. They should have a balance to be used in 2013. This is because according to this document, they did not spend all the money they receive.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I will now move the House to Page 12, under the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA); even though the Committee did not mention the amount they budgeted for, but according to the forecast made, it was Le30,000,000,000; and I am sure their 2012 was below Le30,000,000,000. They received from the Government of Sierra Leone the sum of Le922, 000,000. Nothing was mentioned about donor funding. According to the report, they said they did not receive anything from donors. But I want to know what is the counterpart funding they received. According to this Report, they received the sum of Le56, 118,000,000 as counterpart funding. Again, according to this document, the counterpart funds were spent whilst the money budgeted for was not spent. The money they received was

above the money budgeted for. The Report says that they spent exactly what they received. But Mr Chairman they forget to mention the revenue received and was not accounted for according to this Report. I am concerned because we are all talking about prudent ways of spending moneys. We all know that the money is not lying down waiting to be spent. The Ministry of Finance is only trying to put things together for the State functions. The money is not there at this point in time to fund this budget at all. Therefore Mr Chairman, the MDAs should spend State funds prudently.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, with this submission, I want to thank you all.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, since we are talking about accountability, I want to submit to this House that most MDAs are not spending those monies prudently. Let us look at Page 4. A huge junk of money was expended under an explained heading called 'Others.' Mr Chairman when they were asked what 'Others' meant, they told us that the Ministry of Finance asked them to use that heading. That was what they told us during the Committee hearing. And if you look at the Law Reform Commission, they spent about Le41, 000,000 in the 1st Quarter with the heading 'Others.' They spent about Le40, 000,000 in the 2nd Quarter with the same heading, 'Others.' The sum of Le72, 000,000 was also spent with the same heading in the 3rd Quarter. I started wondering what is this "Others?" This is because we are talking about Le150, 000,000 here. And when they were asked about their budget, they said thus: *"we are underfunded; and in fact, we have not got the 3^d and 4th Quarters."* But I can tell you Mr Chairman, Honourable Members that most MDAs have reserves in their accounts. They were not given the 3rd and 4th Quarter, yet, they have reserves in their accounts. How comes Mr Chairman? Those are the issues we need to look at.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I have one serious concern. This might look funny; but it is not funny at all. Let me take you to Page 11, under the National Drug Secretariat, Paragraph 4. It reads with the leave of Mr Chairman: *"It was also observed that certain key functionaries with Governance cycle do not wish to see the smooth*

operation of the Agency.” We are talking about drug control here Mr Chairman, yet, they are telling us that certain functionaries of the Government do not want the smooth functioning of this Agency. Does that mean we have Government functionaries that are involved in drug trafficking? I think that is serious indictment we need to look into very seriously. If you say this Agency was established to control drug smuggling, and yet, you are telling us that there are some officials in the Government that do not want the smooth running of that Agency, I don’t know what is happening here Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to toe the line of the last speaker, when he...- *(Interruption)*.

HON. ROSALINE J. SMITH: Mr Chairman, I rise on S. O. (34). I want to observe that the Honourable Member is part of this Appropriation Sub-Committee. He is a member of our Committee and this issue he is raising now has been discussed and exhausted at the Committee level. And as a member of the Committee, I think he is not doing justice to the Committee by standing in the Well to criticise the work that has already been done *(Applause)*. Therefore, I asked that he stop the criticisms. I thank you.

MR CHAIRMAN: point is noted, Hon. Member, I hope you take note of what she’s just said, the report is coming from the Committee and not from an individual.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Chairman, it is just a point of correction. I am not criticising at all.

MR CHAIRMAN: No Honourable Member. Do you understand what I said earlier?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Yes Mr Chairman.

MR CHAIRMAN: You are a member of the Committee and the Report is coming from the very Committee of which you are a member. Therefore, you are a party to that Report. That was what I said.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Noted Mr Chairman. But I think I was not criticising the Committee. Can I make my point clear Mr Chairman?

MR CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat Honourable Member (*Applause*).

HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of this House to a statement made by the Minister last week, concerning double dipping, and with particular reference to the observation one of my colleagues has just raised here in terms of MDAs requesting for a certain amount of money, and after that amount has been approved, they go into soliciting donations, etc. from the Ministry. We don't know anything about these donations or gifts until when it is time for budget hearing. Let me draw the attention of Members of Parliament to Section 118(7) which says:

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, Section 118 (7) of what?

HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU: Mr Chairman I am referring to Section 118(7) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. And with your leave I read for the edification of Members of Parliament, the Press and other people here present: "*Parliament shall be notified by the appropriate Minister or Authority of all gifts, donations, grants and pledges made to the State of Sierra Leone*".

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I believe if that provision is observed and we ensure compliance, all of these grants and loans that are being used which the Minister clearly indicated as double dipping would be minimized. I thank you very much.

HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI (Minority Leader of the House): Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I have read the Report and listened very keenly when the Chairman of that Sub-Committee was reading. Let me draw the attention of Honourable Members to few issues. Let us look at Page 9, under the Mass Media Services. According to this Report, officials of Department failed to appear with the requisite documents and as a result of which, their budget as recommended by this Committee should be withheld. But I think there should have been a catch here. Their budget should be withheld as a result of what? Well, this was what they said. According to the Report, Members of this Sub-Committee called the officials concerned but

unfortunately, they did not appear. Well, we were not told whether they are in existence or not. That is not clarified to us at all Mr Chairman. The Committee only said that the officials of that Department failed to come. The question is that, did they appear but failed to present the necessary documents or is this Mass Media Services in existence? We need to know because we cannot just say we should hold their budget when, maybe that entity is not even existing. Therefore, we need to know whether the Mass Media Services is in existence. We want clarifications whether the officials appeared but their documents were not in place and you asked them to come but failed to come for the second time. We also want to know if it is not an entity that presently exists. If it is not in existence, then, why are we having it in the budget? We should not even border with them at all. But if they are in existence and they failed to appear before this Sub-Committee, then, we want to know.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the second issue I want to raise is found on Page 16, under the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Agency, Paragraph 2. And with your leave Mr Chairman it reads: *"Regarding the Committee's concern over the huge excess on their expenditure, the Agency informed the Committee that the excess amount expended included support from donor funding. The Committee therefore directed that a detailed breakdown of donor funding received by this Agency be submitted..."* We are told that they submitted it the following day. But for our own edification and as with other Committees the full budgetary allocations normally should be presented so that we would know if they received gifts or not. That should be part of the Report Mr Chairman. By so doing, we would be in a position to know the amount of donor funds received. You have told us that you received the information; but that information is not documented in this Report at all. So, we don't know the amount of donor funds received. The Committee asked them to give the breakdown of all donor funds. But Mr Chairman, how can that happen when the actual amount received is not reported? We were expecting the actual amount to be part of this Report for our own edification.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to move the House to Page 17, the second bullet point. It reads: *"The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development provides*

additional budget to them then the Maritime Administration collected revenue on freight levy and part of it was paid to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the remaining by instruction of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development was to be spent on the operations of the Administration." Mr Chairman we are still talking about revenue collected and revenue utilised. Therefore, if they have spent some money, then, we want to know what was put in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and what was left with them that was used as the Report says. If we have this information, we would be able to get the total amount given to them by the Sierra Leone Government, what additional money collected, what part of that additional money was put into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and what amount was used. If we put all these facts, they would help us to know whether this Department had had adequate or inadequate budgetary allocation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move to the District Councils on Page 18, the first paragraph says: *"To further ensure accountability, the Committee however requested the Council to furnish members with detailed breakdown of the amount expended on each and every activity which they later did."* Again, this paragraph is saying the same thing with what I have just said. Maybe what I want to say as good practice is that every City or District Council had a shortfall in their revenue collection and this Report goes further to explain what were responsible for the shortfalls. According to this Report, this Sub-Committee went further to ask those Councils as to how they intend to address their inability to collect these funds. I think that is good. This is because we should not just leave issues unresolved. If there is a problem somewhere, we have to diagnose the problem thoroughly. As Members of this Honourable House, we want to know how you intend to address those problems so that next time when you appear before us, we would know whether those problems have been addressed. And if you take your time in addressing those problems, there would be an increase in your revenue generation. I think this is a very good practice we would want to emulate in the future. How do we intend to solve those problems in future? I want to tell this Honourable House that if these Councils follow the various recommendations of this

Sub-Committee, we would know when they come next year. If those recommendations are followed, there would be additional income generation which maybe other MDAs or other Local Councils can emulate. I also want to emphasize here that some the problems of these Councils are found in all the Councils, especially the issue of revenue collection. So, if a Council is successful by applying certain remedies, then, it can be a source of education and emulation by the other Councils.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I think these are the few comments I have to put forward. I noticed a few typographical errors as the Chairman of this Sub-Committee was reading. I hope, before this Report is finally submitted, those mistakes would have been corrected. Mr Chairman, these are my few comments (*Applause*).

HON. S. B. B. DUMBUYA (Majority Leader of the House): Thank you Mr Chairman. I will first of all like to commend the Committee for a fairly good Report. I qualify it as fairly good because it cannot be totally so. But Mr Chairman, I observed that even on the cover page, there is a photo showing the Committee Members at work. This shows how serious the Committee was (*Laughter*).

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, from the observations made by the Honourable Amadu Fofanah, I think there are few irregularities that have been highlighted and there that is a cause for concern. The Minister may want to give an explanation to some of these issues. I would also call on the relevant Oversight Committees to investigate these irregularities as observed by Members of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want us to look at Page 14, under the National Minerals Agency, Paragraph 2, the second sentence. It reads: "*In addition, the Agency received the sum of \$1,000,000.*" Mr Chairman, the Honourable Ibrahim Bundu, the Deputy Leader of this Honourable House has really drawn my attention to a relevant provision in the Constitution. The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone says: "*All gifts and donations should be made known to Parliament.*" Some of these gifts were never brought to Parliament and we cannot claim knowledge of them at all. Let us also look at the last paragraph, Page 14 that says: The Committee was informed that the Ministry of

Transport and Aviation received donor funding amounting to Le5 billion. Mr Chairman, I want to ask here that at the end of this exercise, the National Minerals Agency and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation be summoned to Parliament to give an explanation for some of these donor funds. These are my observations Sir.

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, would you like to comment on the various issues raised?

MR MOMODU KARGBO: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before I proceed, I want to crave your indulgence and patience to go to Page 15 so that we can make a quick correction Sir. Look at Page 15, under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the last sentence.

MR CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to Tourism and Cultural Affairs?

MR MOMODU KARGBO: With your leave Mr Chairman I read: *"He added that the Minister has ceased sending attaché on Foreign Missions due to a wage-bill conditionality imposed by the International Monitoring Fund."* Mr Chairman, this cannot be direct. The IMF would not say so at all. They would only advise us. And we cannot write it this way in a national Report at all. I will kindly ask your permission that that paragraph is reedited or deleted from the Report. We were advised that the wage-bill has become too high and the productivity of this was questionable so the decision was taken to stop it for the time being.

MR CHAIRMAN: Noted

MR MOMODU KARGBO: Aside that Mr Chairman, Honourable Member, I noticed a trend when I was reading this Report. I see a trend which makes me happy. I have been here for five years, and this is my 6th year. The trend I am noticing this year I have never seen it for the past five years. What I have seen is that, each Report is going in a direction and this is breaking grounds in its own direction. Appropriation Sub-Committee 3 Report queries the unauthorised use of visa fees. The Report also queries the revolving drug programme at the Connaught Hospital. These are the directions and breaking grounds in terms of the way the Committees are beginning to work. This

particular Report under discussion has its own direction. It has revealed to us that Ministries do receive extra monies from donor agencies without the knowledge of this Honourable House. The Report indicates that not all monies received from donors are disclosed to Parliament. Monies received from UNDP, UNIPSIL etc. are never disclosed to us.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Commission for Democracy received from the Government of Sierra Leone the sum of Le1.3 billion. We didn't know until after reading this Report we came to discover that ENCISS gave them Le1.4 billion. The total money they ended up receiving was Le2.7 billion. The question is that, do we need to give them more money? The answer is no. What this does to us as a Ministry is that, it creates problems for budget formulation and credibility for implementation. As I am speaking to you presently I look a little bit naked because the ministries that we give money are also playing with money we don't know about. I am a little bit naked Mr Chairman. I would like to come here on an oversight meeting and face them so that we discuss these things before Parliament (Applause). I would like to do that Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Honourable Amadu Fofanah also raised a very important point. He said that the Office of the Chief of Staff had a budget of Le5 billion. That was the amount they received from the Government of Sierra Leone. They ended up receiving the sum of Le8 billion. And it appears according to this Report that they spent all the Le8 billion. But their budget was for Le5 billion. How do you explain that? Again, this was why I said I was beginning to see new trends in these Reports.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Amadu Fofanah spoke about the Office of National Security (ONS) with some money they have not spent as per the budget. They have not spent all the money given to them, and yet, they are still asking for more money. In fact, they have increased their budget for this Financial Year.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Let me cite one example with the Law Reform Commission's 2012 budget. In 2012, the Ministry of Finance allocated Le344, 000,000. They managed with that amount. But in 2013, they are requesting for Le6 billion. You

cannot compare this junk they are asking for. The question is that, can they handle Le6 billion? No, I don't think so. Maybe this helps us to understand these officials more and more. They are using the technique of asking for Le6.8 billion, hoping to get Le1 or Le2 billion. We are beginning to understand what is going on Mr Chairman. And I am happy that Honourable Members of Parliament are beginning to read deep into some of these secrets. And the more you read deep into them, the more you see the problems which the Ministry of Finance faces.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is why Honourable Dixon Rogers, anchored by the Majority Leader said that there must be prudence in expending Government money. We have to start at the home level. We have to manage with what we have. We have to start from there Mr Chairman. We have to start managing our homes before we move to the Ministries and workplaces. I know that we want to live our lives; but we cannot live our lives from the workplaces. We cannot live our lives at the detriment of the State. That is not right at all.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to end with what the Deputy Majority Leader said. He drew our attention to Article 118(7) of the Constitution to the effect that it is a law of the land; and that law indicates public disclosure of grants, gifts etc. Mr Chairman, no matter how people look at that provision, it is a public disclosure. If you have money meant for the running of the State, you don't have to sit on it. It is not your money. It is money given to you to spend for and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone. Above all, we must bring it to the people's representatives so that they will be in a position to explain to their constituents. I hope both the Ministry of Finance and Parliament find ways and means of solving these leakages. The Ministry and Parliament have to come together taking this constitutional provision to the Ministries, Departments and Agencies. I am saying this because our Ministry don't spend money. We try to generate money and allocate it to the various MDAs to spend. Although the Ministry of Finance performs Oversight functions, but I think the Oversight functions of Parliament is more powerful than our Oversight functions. I think that is where I really want to end my comments.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the various Vote heads and Subheads as has been read out by the Assistant Clerk of Parliament, except for Vote head 140 00, Mass Media Services (Le100,000,000) and the amount thereto stand part of the schedule. I thank you *(Applause)*.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

The various Vote heads and Subheads and the amount thereto under Appropriation Sub-Committee 4 form part of the schedule with the exception of Vote head 140 00, Mass Media Services.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 3.55 p.m. and was adjourned until Wednesday, 27th March, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.).