

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

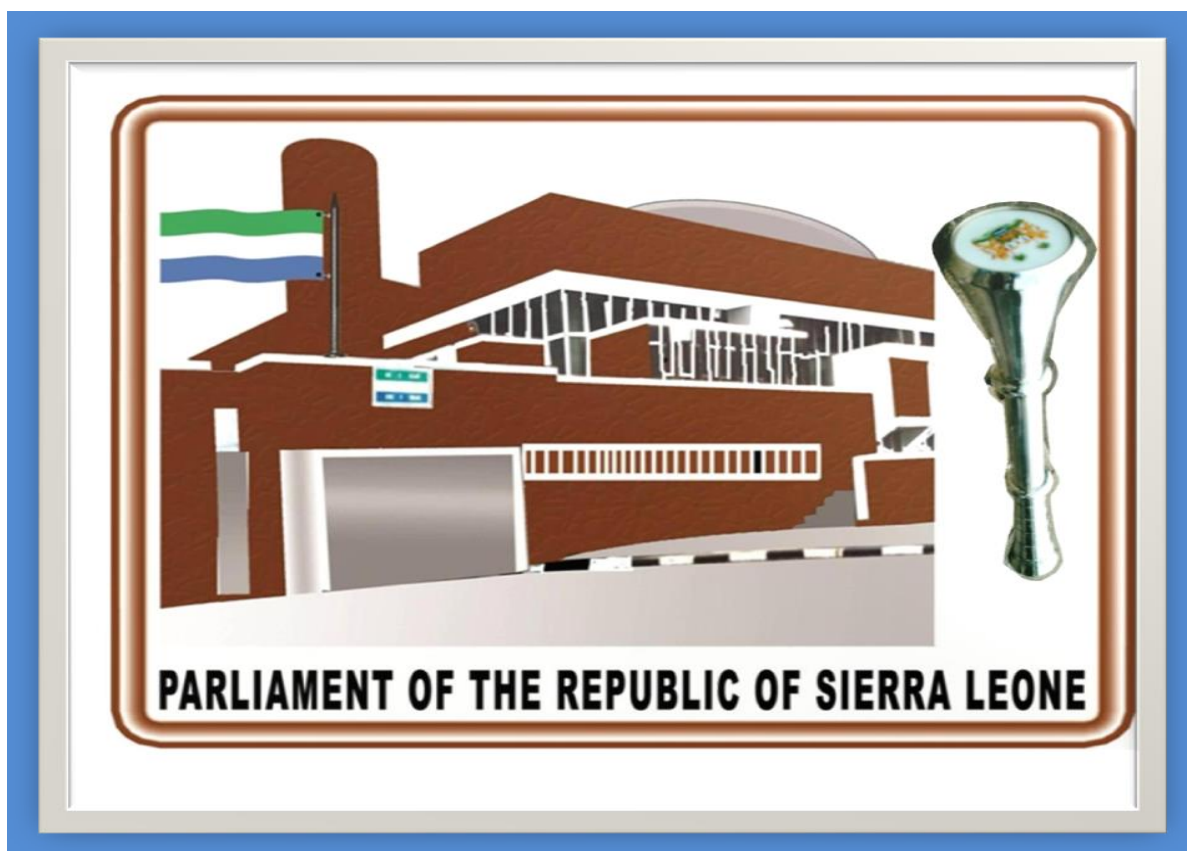
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Wednesday, 27th March, 2024.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2024



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 27th March, 2024.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Ibrahim Lincoln, Read the Prayers]

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

[The Acting Speaker, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

MRS FINDA F. FRAZER [Acting Clerk]: I announce the unavoidable absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker under Section 88[c] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No 6 of 1991 and Standing Order 10[1]. This House may therefore elect from amongst its Members a person to preside over today's proceedings, I therefore call for nominations.

HON. MARIAMA MUNIA ZOMBO: Good morning, I Honourable Mariama Munia Zombo of Pujehun District rise to nominate Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay to preside over this sitting on Wednesday, 27th March 2024.

MRS FINDA F. FRAZER: Any seconder?

HON. RUGIATU ROZZY KANU: I Honourable Rugiatu Rozzy Kanu, second the Motion for Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay to preside over today's proceedings *[applauses]*.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion moved to nominate Honourable Veronica K. Sesay to preside over the 27th March 2024 sitting has been carried]

MRS FINDA F. FRAZER: I call on the elected Member to withdraw to robe and take the Chair as the Speaker.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Madam Speaker, I want to move to amend the Order Paper, item 6 on the Order Paper that has to do with the Bill, I am doing an amendment Madam Speaker, though I had discussions with the Minister, and his team in line with further consideration of this particular Bill in question and the representatives of Labour Union are here. We want to have discussions with the Committee of Labour and Industrial Relations, we also want to have a meeting with the Legislative Committee in line with the said Bill, so just after the Sitting we are going to meet with the Chairman or the Deputy of both Committees so that we can chart the way forward.

Madam Speaker, it is important to the trade unionists and they want it to be enacted but we want to have some discussions with them. They have shown that by their

presence in the Chamber today, if you are coming as a Trade Union representative can you please stand? They are here so you see the eagerness that they want this Bill to be passed by Parliament, but as I said Parliament is progressive about it and this particular Parliament starting from the Fifth Parliament and to the Six Parliament we want to make laws by people participatory centre, and if we are saying we want to be participatory and people's centre, we must hear from them through the Committee[s] and it will be good for them to explain to us certain things that in the mere future as Committee of the whole House, we would sit down and do some of these amendments. We don't want to exclude them and leave them with the Minister, but we as Legislators, want to engage the different entities that are going to operate with the Ministry in line with the said proposed Bill and that is the reason I am expunging the Bill from the Order Paper for future discussions. So, let me reiterate that I would like to have discussions with the two Committees.

Madam Speaker, I therefore, move that item Six be expunged from the Order Paper that has to do with the Industrial Relations and Trade Union Bill 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Madam Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Motion for amending the Order Paper moved by the Leader of Government Business has been carried].

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2024

THE SPEAKER: As usual Honourable Members, we are going to skip pages 1 to 4. Page 5 any comments, or corrections? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? If there are no corrections and amendments can someone please move for the adoption of Vote and Proceeding for Tuesday 26th March, 2024?

HON. HABIB K. FABBA: Madam Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 26th March, 2024 has been adopted].

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MADAM SPEAKER

Thank you very much. Again, I don't have much to say but to thank you all for nominating me to sit here and preside over the business of this House for today. Thank you very much for the confidence that you have shown to me and I hope to do my best. It is not easy to sit here but I can do my best with your support, I need your support, I wish you all a fruitful deliberations, and I wish you a happy Ramadan and Easter to come. Thank you.

IV. PAPER LAID

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND LEADER OF THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO THE ACP-EU BUREAU REPRESENTING WEST AFRICA AND THE AFRICA REGION.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I think I only saw this one when you read it. I think we have to do some amendments sorry Madam Speaker it is not ACP-EU Bureau representing West Africa, Madam Speaker, permit me to make the appropriate amendment.

Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Sierra Leone Delegation to the OACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly. Madam Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. EMELIA L. TONGI: Madam Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Motion for amending the Order Paper moved by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]

LAYING OF PAPER

THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND LEADER OF THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION TO THE OACP-EU PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you. Report on the 64th Session of the Organization of Africa Caribbean Pacific State OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the first Session of the OACP-EU joint Parliamentary Assembly after the Samoa Agreement held in Rwanda, Angola from the 17th to 21st February 2024, Madam Speaker, I so lay.

V. GOVERNMENT MOTION

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MR TIMOTHY KABBA [*The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*]: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratifies the Following Agreements and Treaty which were laid on the Table of this House on Thursday 25th and Tuesday 30th January 2024 respectively:

1. TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
2. COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND THE MOROCCAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY [AMCI] OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.
3. THE FRAME OF COOPERATION AGREEMENT RELATING TO GRANTING OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS INTERNSHIPS AND SHARING OF EXPERTISE BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO REPRESENTED BY THE MOROCCAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

4. THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE RECIPROCAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENT.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, today we have a Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Sierra Leone borne from its experience of conflict has a very loud voice in the United Nations Security Council, accentuating the need for Global Peace and Security. Today, we live in a World that is fraught with many conflicts in many cases violent, Terrorism, International conflict etc. This poses a big threat to Global peace and security. The senseless and dastardly shadows of nuclear weapons remain a threat to Global Peace and Security. In the Ministerial meeting of the Security Council convened on 18th March 2024 Sierra Leone was represented by our Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Honourable Madam Francesc Algali, who in that session presented a compelling statement that attracted the attention of the Secretary General of United Nation. Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to quote from the statement that was delivered by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone it quotes "The continued possession of Nuclear weapons and the continued endorsement of nuclear deterrents perpetuate instability and security for all Nations instead of preventing their usage, nuclear deterrent policies have enable conflict and heighten the risk of nuclear weapons used. In this context, Sierra Leone welcomes the entering into force of the landmark Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons on 22nd January 2021. Sierra Leone is encouraged by the steady progress of the TPNW to date 93 States have signed the TPNW including Sierra Leone and 70 Countries have ratified or acceded to it. The Meetings of the State parties to the Treaty on proliferation of non-nuclear weapons including the most recent one in November 2023 have advanced an ambitious action plan towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. My delegation believes that the TPNW serves as a complementary instrument to the NPT and will end a long impasse in multilateral nuclear disarmament

negotiations, Sierra Leone therefore calls on all States to support and join the TPNW as a matter of urgency to advance the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons”.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, after this resounding message that was delivered by the Deputy Minister of our Country's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Secretary General of the United Nations then Twitted that Nuclear weapons are an accidental one mistake that humanity will pay the price, there we need nuclear disarmament now. Sierra Leone is a non-Nuclear Nation but the need for every party of the United Nations to push for a complete elimination of nuclear architecture in the World is imperative. Conflict like that between Russia and Ukraine are been threatened with nuclear weapons, one miscalculation the World will pay for that. In December this year, the Cabinet of Sierra Leone graciously approved the Treaty that is been entered into by Sierra Leone which now seeks your Honourable ratification. We believe if this Honourable Parliament ratifies this Treaty, Sierra Leone will be considered as one of those Countries historically and contemporarily that advances global peace and security.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the request for the ratification of Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The Cooperation Agreement in the field training between the office of vocational training and employment promotion of the kingdom Morocco and the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The past 5 years His Excellency's, flagship programme was free quality Education and we all understand that Education is the nerve centre of every Country's development so it is very imperative and quite compelling that we take advantage of this opportunity to train Sierra Leoneans in skills that will help to solve the problems that are affecting our Country and are relevant to the present development aspirations of our Country therefore I seek this Honourable House of Parliament to consider the ratification of this particular Agreement.

The Third Agreement had been frame work cooperation agreement relating to the granting of academic scholarships, internship and sharing of expertise between our two Countries. I dear you and to ratify this frame work Agreement because it is already in full implementation, the Kingdom of Morocco offers numerous scholarships covering different areas of vocational studies to Sierra Leoneans who continue to benefit from this scholarships in order to legitimize this opportunity that is given to Sierra Leone by way of ratification this is the reason why I will kindly and humbly seeking the ratification of this framework Agreement relating to the granting of academic scholarships.

The Fourth, been Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investment.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very important for us to create an investment climate that has predictable regulatory and fiscal regime for us to attract FDI, we must present as a Country that honours and respect covenant of Agreement that we enter into with other Countries and other parties that wish to do business in our Country. Of course, credit to the Fifth Parliament particularly and the Government of His Excellency the President. The past six years I have seen quite a good number of reforms undertaking in different Sectors of our Economy notably, the Mining Sector, the Fifth Parliament graciously ratified and enacted into law the Mines and Mineral development Act of 2023 and also numerous other regulations and laws have been enacted by this very sensible and gracious Parliament of yours. And also in the fiscal realm and many fiscal laws, policies and regulation have been enacted or promulgated by this Parliament. All of these reforms actually form the basis for a predictable and vestment climate. So therefore particularly investment reciprocity between Sierra Leone and Morocco it is but very important that this Parliament ratifies this Agreement that tends to promote and protect investment that may come from Morocco and Sierra Leonean investment that may go to Morocco.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, On this note be it resolved that this Honourable House here by ratifies the following Agreements and Treaty which were laid on the

Table on of the House on Thursday 25th and Tuesday 30th January 2024 respectively:

1. Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear weapons.
2. Cooperation Agreement in the field of Vocational Training between the office of Vocational Training and Employment Promotion of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
3. Framework Corporation Agreement relating to the granting of Academic Scholarships, internship and sharing of Expertise between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Government of Sierra Leone.
4. Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investment. I thank you.

Question Proposed

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members having listened to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, one can agree that the best to do is to legalize the Agreements that are before us. Legalizing what has been happening between the Kingdom of Morocco and Republic of Sierra Leone is a very important component of international relations. The last time I travelled with the Speaker, I was a Member of the delegation of the Speaker here to the Kingdom of Morocco. One of the very important things the Moroccans were saying about Sierra Leone, is that Sierra Leone was one of the first Country to recognize their independent and that has built the relationship starting back from the 1960s and since then we have enjoyed bilateral relations, trade investment, exchange of education, we have had our students that are there. I myself am a beneficiary, one of my brother's son is there and I know the Honourable from Bo also has his daughter who is in the Kingdom of Morocco. So what the Minister is doing is just completing what have already been existing, Members from the other side, the previous regime enjoyed a lot of benefits from the Kingdom of Morocco and there are beneficiaries ranging from Hajj scholarships and other donations so you cannot say you are not a beneficiary, if a single Sierra Leonean benefits from anything here or from any other Country, it is Sierra Leone that is benefiting, it is not

SLPP or APC or party A or party B those that are benefiting are Sierra Leoneans. I think it is a good Agreement and I urge Honourable Members that we ratify this Agreement. I thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable for his contribution. Honourable Members, please before we continue with the debate let me recognize some of the personalities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Mr Mohamed Sorie Conteh ESQ Director Legal and economic technical cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr David S. Yambasu Director Strategic coordinator in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sullay Daramy Acting Executive Director Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thank you very much. Yes the Honourable Lady you have the Floor.

HON. EMILIA L. TONGI: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. We should be very grateful to the Kingdom of Morocco. I remembered I went there during the Fifth Parliament and trust me the reception was extraordinary. Those people have been very kind to us, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs as you know is somebody who chats very well, and you need to see that gentleman talking to the Moroccans to convince them about the scholarships we are now benefitting. We were invited for dinner by the Marina and as you know their local language is French, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation was there and they were conversing and then I smiled and the lady said why are you smiling? And the other gentle man said no she speaks French and trust me as women they know us as people who talks a lot and the talking went on in our local languages. They appreciated us so much and even the Minister was pleased and we left there with quite a good number of scholarships. So, I am not surprised that it continues and we want to continue with this relationship, these are people who love Sierra Leone and we prove to them what they were doing to us is something extraordinary and we appreciate it very much.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, as far as the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, this is something any Country in the World will appreciate except the Western World probably because they still believed in fighting because Nuclear Weapons especially is

not something you see coming in the air you breathe it and you die. I remembered the war between Iraq and America, they used that nuclear weapon and you need to see the people on the Floor as if they were sleeping, thousands and thousands of dead bodies. So, it is welcome by the entire World that we stand against Nuclear Weapon that it should be prohibited in the entire World because we are victims of nuclear weapons. And one thing also the more they keep them the more it becomes decay and how do we get rid of these weapons? what do they do? What are the scientists waiting or have they made any formula of destroying these weapons? We don't know. Maybe your children, our children's children might suffer the consequences of these weapons that they are keeping in their Countries. So to really eradicate it completely each and every Country in the World should accept it because it the benefits every individual, in fact is not only for human beings but for anything that breath oxygen dies, is like the World will be gone.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note I am sure my colleagues also here will concord to everything and I hope we ratifies it as earlier as possible. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let me thank the Honourable Lady for her eloquent contribution. Honourable Abdul K. Kamara you have the Floor.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Madam Speaker, let me use this opportunity to thank this Parliament in the couple of weeks now we have been in the good books of Sierra Leoneans for many reasons starting from the toll gate and the kush fight. But one of the major pillars of the President for the next five years is to create jobs for young people, creating jobs for young people do not come by just bringing in investors, it also call for the empowerment and the required vocational training by young people. So one of the things this Agreement seeks to bring is vocational training which one of the areas we are lacking. Today our middle level man power in the area of vocational training and vocational education is very weak, we produce more Gara tie dyers than the way we produce even tractor drivers in a Country where we need more tractor drivers to do mechanical farming. We produce more soap makers than the way we produce even plumbers and that is why our market today in Sierra Leone is flooded by foreigners.

Most of the middle level man power jobs are done by foreigners and yet still we complain, I think the Agreement is on the right track in which we are trying to train, we are going to have an Agreement at least with Morocco to facilitate the training of our young people. Maybe with this we will reduce the intake of kush in our Country because we will have our young people to be very busy.

Madam Speaker, it is interesting to note that investment also is a very important platform we need. If we are to boost our economy it is no gainsaying that the current position of our economy affiliations, the dollarization and all the rest is grossly responsible for the hardship of our Country and the problem our people are facing, therefore investment is very much important. You know When we talk about investment we need credible investors and when you do bilateral Agreement with Country to Country in terms of investment that is very much credible. Sierra Leone had suffered in the hands of portfolio investment for too long and having such an Agreement that will create an enabling environment for credible investors is one we must appreciate as Members of Parliament on this side.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, let me end by saying we do not doubt the Minister who is piloting this Agreement, he has brought many laurels to Sierra Leone when he was in the Mines and even before becoming the Minister. At a time like this when Africa is navigating towards young people, I think the Senegalese example is one most young people in this Well are looking forward to and we will not just support you because you are young but we will also support young people who are making contributions to our society. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, for your contribution. Yes, Honourable you the Floor.

HON. RTD CAPTAIN SYLVESTER BOIMA: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Chapter [2] of the 1991 Constitution state the fundamental principles of which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Agreement forwarded here today is acting on behalf of the citizenry in this Country. Like my Leader mentioned an investor without an investment objective is like a traveller moving without a destination.

Madam Speaker, I refer you to Article [1] of the objective of the promotion of investment documents when you critically look at the objectives stated is in line with President Bio's big five game changers. I see that as a very big opportunity that we need to do a speedy ratification of this Agreement. And very importantly, I quote Benjamin Frankly who stated that; "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." So to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I thank you very much, I want to crave the indulgence of my colleague Honourable Members, to see that we speedily approve this Agreement to help President Bio fulfil his mandate. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member for your contribution. Let me take from this side.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Madam Speaker, thank you. I will be remised if I did not commend the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the remarkable job he has been doing at that Ministry. Madam Speaker, we are talking about a young man who speaks not less than four [4] foreign languages, so he is the right man at the helm of affairs at the moment. But coming to the Agreement been asked to ratify, we should be under no illusion that the mere ratification of the Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapon is going to automatically prohibit the use of nuclear weapons.

Madam Speaker, after the Second World War, nuclear weapons are treated by those in possession of them as a means of deterrent predicated on the principle of assured nuclear destruction so they are not going to go away by the ratification but we demonstrate our bonafides, the ratification is a signal to the rest of the World that as far as we are concern we appreciate not just the use but even the intention to use Nuclear Weapons, so it is in place that we ratify this Treaty.

In terms of the three other Treaties which actually border in capacitating Sierra Leoneans and equipping them with the rest of skills to contribute meaningfully to our economic development, I don't think there is any MP in this House with any modicum of common sense that will not ratify this Agreement.

Madam Speaker, let me end but again thanking the young man as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the wonderful job he is doing and I say to you Mr Minister, continue you have our support. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member, for your contribution. Let me hear the Honourable Member, from Kailahun.

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, good morning, I am Honourable Engineer Fallah Kanawah Tengbeh from Kailahun. I want to start as per tradition by thanking President Bio for giving me this wonderful opportunity to represent my people. I also want to commend us all as Parliamentarians, for the good job that we are doing. For the past few weeks there was this saga around the toll gate which we intervened and the people were happy, the kush problem also is another one that we intervened and things are going in the right direction, we only need to put more energy into what we are doing.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, today I hesitantly want to say the Agreements here are fine because of the following reasons; I would support the middle manpower development skills under the Vocational scheme and you will all agree with me that Sierra Leone is today suffering because of our middle manpower skills, you go to the Mines you hardly find skilled technicians, you hardly find people who are good at handling complex problems and we need those basic innovations, those skills which we would use to transform our industries. If we have an industry that we cannot operate ourselves but we have to pay for bringing in experts to run those industries for us then there is no way we can make savings. So, this vocational aspect where definite skills will be sustained, will add to knowledge dominance in Sierra Leone so that makes this Agreement a beautiful one. Another development this Agreement will bring is Technology, whenever we have technology in any Country then that Country is bound to grow.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I will briskly go to the Trade Agreement, you will all agree with me that Trade protectionism will foster what I will call economic and domestic growth, whenever you protect trade, whenever you have good cooperation

between Countries will the view of protecting how they go about doing normal businesses that will ramp up domestic industries. As I said early whenever your industries are up and running then your GDP is bound to grow then everything will just be moving up with ease and alacrity which my Honourable Members, from Kailahun want to hear.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now talk briefly to the next point which is nuclear weapons, as an Engineer when the Honourable Minister was talking about nuclear weapons it was scary in the first place, the name nuclear weapons nukes are things that we should be afraid of. One big thing that is a threat is having nuclear weapons is that we are all not safe because Sierra Leone is part of the Global environment. If the World is not safe then it means Sierra Leone is not safe. So, one big disadvantage of having a nuclear weapon in the first place it promotes the concept of violence and Terrorism as the Minister was saying. The other big thing is that it automatically becomes a big threat and security issue or concern globally for which Sierra Leone is also affected. So, I consider this Agreement as a genuine that Sierra Leone has toll the lines of other countries in eradicating fighting against Nuclear Weapons.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing that I want to share with the House is the fact that whenever you have Nuclear Weapons it automatically tends to produce ionizing radiation that kills, can pollute our environment and can even lead to health issues so Sierra Leone has boldly taken the step to move the concept or idea of eradicating nuclear weapon is a step in the right direction kudos to you, Mr Minister.

Madam Speaker, with your leave, yesterday I wanted to add my voice to the debate but I think I will use this opportunity to just conclude that the Yenga issue is a very serious issue, I would not touch on the Yenga issue much for today but I only want to draw the attention of the Public and this is for the President and us all that there are concerns about the peace bridge that is about to be built over river moa...

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Honourable Member, Madam Speaker, please be guided by the rules of this House. This matter is not relevant to this debate. We still give time to present it in S.O [23] because some of us are also interested in this matter, please.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable please advise yourself.

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Okay thank you. I want to agree with my Leader however that is why I took an excuse, I said with your leave Madam Speaker, I want to deviate a bit and bring up something different, so that been said, all these Agreements here today are very fine Agreements and I therefore call on Honourable Members, to join hands together to ratify them as quickly as possible. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member from Kailahun. Let us hear from the lady and then the Honourable from Bo.

HON. MARIAMA M. ZOMBO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to say, Madam Speaker, for the second day in my time here in the Sixth Parliament. I want to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for facilitating the process of putting together cooperation Agreements in the fields of Vocational Training and other fields. I am more interested in the Vocational Training Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sierra Leone, and looking at this Agreement I see a lot of opportunities for young people but I also want to note that the Minister and his team should put on their gender lens and have it written in one form or the other that young Women and Girls will have special opportunities in line with the Country progressive steps in Women's empowerment. I have not seen a word that makes this document gender friendly that is the first thing.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, for the Vocational skills, I think this is very timely for us in a Country where many young men and women are addicted to drugs and we are fighting a battle which has become a preoccupation both for this Government and for everyone else who wants to see Sierra Leone grow. Even as we battle the drug menace, we think about what happens to those youth if we can rehabilitate them, what can keep them away from the drug, and what can we do to

occupy the young people, so seeing an Agreement at this point time is quite pleasing but I think we can have more of this Agreement, I need some clarity about what types of skills are we signing for? New technical skills that fit purpose and create self-reliance are critical and I want the Minister and his team to critically look at what Morocco is bringing to us. Do we want skills that are going to be there just for certificate purposes? Or do we want skills that are actually going to create self-reliance for young people in this Country to prevent them from indulging in anti-social behaviour and further drug abuse out of frustration?

I was thinking about the skills for women, do we want to give the usual hair dressing skills for example to women? That is just an example, everything a man does a woman can do, everything I mean everything, we can build houses, we climb those roofs, we can paint, we can do everything a man can do so let the Ministry in this Agreement think about this and remember that we need special facilities to uplift women. When we talk about gender equality, we look further into equity. Equality gives us everything, the same equity gives women more so that they are uplifted to reach the level of the men.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I also looked at the scholarship aspect, are the scholarships going to be fit for purpose? Are the scholarships going to be fit for economic development in this Country? There were times when people went to Eastern Europe to do all kinds of courses and they came back but could not get employment and they were frustrated. I remembered there was a time when I met an old man at that time, he had studied in Europe and he studied Psychology, he came back at that time nobody wanted to employ him, there was nothing until the war came and that is when people were calling for those who have studied Psychology. But he had already suffered, he was a frustrated man, I used to work with him, and he was frustrated because since his studies ended he had no job but luckily in his old age he got a job to do psychosocial care.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, do we want to have skills or scholarships that are not fit for purpose? Let us look at all of these and consider what would bring Economic development to us. I know is going to be a wonderful Agreement in the end,

I thank you very much Mr Minister, and your team for working on this scholarship but please consider the questions and have a gender lens. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable for your passionate contribution. Let me hear from the Honourable Member, from Bo.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Madam Speaker, the International Business conventions do allow me to call her that way...

HON. EMILIA L. TONGI: Madam Speaker, can I observed please you are Madam Speaker, and let it be pronounced that way please.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: You have no Madam Speaker, in the Standing Order of the House. The International Business Communication Convention does allow you to refer to her as he, you refer to him as she as well Honourable Members.

Honourable Members, this is a very good Agreement before us here and one thing I know is that no Country is self-sufficient. Madam Speaker, I am not protected.

THE SPEAKER: Yes because you do not adhere and you know Parliament regulates itself, they can make whatever laws they want to make so if they have said Madam Speaker, I think you have to adhere to that.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, I think as far as we are here today you have laws in your bosom, you are not given that ruling, and she cannot rule, she is not the Speaker...

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Whether Madam Speaker, Mr Speaker, this gives assignment to Members of the Sixth Parliament for our review of the current Standing Orders that we have. It is very clear we know that S.O 10[4] is telling you, that no matter who sits at that Table should be referred to as Mr Speaker. Notwithstanding you will be a 'He for She' for once, we are He4She, are you jealous of us? You should not follow the modus of operandi that every speaker this times speaks to Madam Speaker, understanding let it be a precedent is not wrong in any case Honourable Members, we should know that

he is not wrong in any case this an assignment for us for future Standing Order that is all I will say for the future. Thank you very much.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much Honourable Member. I am a guided Honourable Member, a lawmaker for that matter as far as Parliament is concerned it is the Speaker that gives a ruling, not a colleague's Honourable Member.

THE SPEAKER: Okay thank you, I have ruled that I am Madam Speaker.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Now, if you have ruled that then I now have the locus standing to refer to you as Madam Speaker, because you have passed the ruling. You know Madam Speaker; I also explore and let us be guided, everybody we came here on our own accord, there is no child here, we are all Honourable Members, we should have respect for ourselves. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, this Agreements before us are very good one and normally when we say the role of Government in an economy every responsible Government there are certain things you have to adhere to, we refer to them as roles or functions of Government in an economy; one is an Administrative function, maintenance of law and order and the one we are discussing today is diplomatic representation, and this Government is poised to make sure that the diplomatic representation platform is really established.

Madam Speaker, the number one thing I want to make mention of is the prohibition of nuclear weapon, Sierra Leone is very important at International level these days because we do have non-permanent seat in the UN security Council and with that we need to adhere to by all UN protocols because that tell other Countries we are fit for that position, and we have to hastens to ratify it.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, these Agreement is also talking about academic scholarship, my colleague from Pujehun raised concerns about the skills the Moroccans are bringing to us, our students are going to be exposed to outdated courses? I want to allay his fears, I am well informed about the studies in Morocco, and they are doing modern courses that fit for purpose. In the first place the sooner you go to Morocco to

study after your studies you will become bilingual because their official language is French, when you go there you will be exposed to the French language afterwards you will be speaking French fluently and speaking English fluently that prepares you for International job market. They have very good courses like medicine, Engineering, Technology, and Economics as the case may be, we have forgotten about those days we used to study Greek and Roman culture those are not the courses they are doing there.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, another area this Agreement is talking about is promotion and protection of Investment, there is no Country that is self-sufficient, we depend on each other, what Sierra Leone can afford from Morocco and what Sierra Leone can give to Morocco Madam Speaker, Article 3.3 is telling us the types of investment, this is a very good Agreement, you want to buy shares in Morocco you can buy it, you have shares with stock, debentures, moveable and immoveable property, license authorization, all these different business we can exchange with Morocco and Morocco being an Africa Country but is far advanced than Sierra Leone so we are going to benefit more from Morocco because they would be importing more things for us here than we would be giving them because by our standards they are far ahead of us, Morocco is almost like Europe.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House that this Agreement be speedily ratified and I would also want to assure that we will definitely benefit from this Agreement, is not going to be a rubber stamp, we have started benefiting already. Morocco is one of the Countries that is giving academic scholarships to Sierra Leone every year, they advertise the scholarship, it is not done in hidden, I also want to assure you that I have been following up over the years, I am one of the beneficiaries, let me explain how did my daughter got it, she got it without my consent, she applied because she had a very good grade and there are a lot of people that acquired it because they have good results. So Honourable Members, if you want to be informed get connected online, don't liaise with me, if you

want to liaise with me on Energy matters you are free to do so but not educational sector.

Madam Speaker, on that note I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a saying on these all important discussing and I crave the indulgence of this Honourable House, to speedily ratify these Agreements. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Members, for his educative contribution. Now we are just going to take two speakers then we ask the Leaders to round up. Okay, one Honourable Member, from Bo and I know two of you are from Bo so let us hear from the one with the grey bared.

HON. JOSEPH BASH KAMARA: Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to start congratulating the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for bringing forward this Agreement, because this Agreement seeks to address one of the greatest challenges we are having as a Nation that is the attempt to capture the Youth sector. In retrospective, I should give you the characteristics of the Sierra Leonean youth, the greater percentage of us are uneducated, untrained, unqualified and therefore unemployed, this is one challenge and if you want me to give you a testimony you can go to the mining Communities, often our youths in the Mining Communities cry for not being employed if they are invited, you will discovered that the jobs most of them will be qualified for is menial jobs, they are not trained to drive the Tractor or other sophisticated machines that are there, that means the middle level man power is a gap in this Country, we have been grabbling in addressing it since the days after the war. We need a lot of youths in vocational and technical skills because that is where we have the greater percentage of our youths that could not make it to Tertiary level and even those that are graduating from colleges are still having a problem of experience, they can advertise the job and then ask for job experience. Where are you going to acquire this job experience? So having an Agreement that is catering for the provision of Vocational skills to capacitate our youths in various fields that will address our youth problems. I think this is laudable venture, and more so for our graduates that will be offered scholarship and opportunity to go for internship and

to capacitate them so that when they return back they can make viable contributions to the development of this Nation.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, talking about the nature of scholarships, I know that all modern Universities that offers scholarships today are going to be reflective of the needs of our Country. Therefore, I cannot question it because the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation that brought this Agreement know the felt needs of our youths and I tell you until we are able to capacitate our youths, if not we would not be able to have them employed, we are having investors that are coming and we are crying that these investors are coming with their expertise pertaining to drive tractors from other Africa Countries, surely they will not employ our drivers for tractors and other machines they are having but if we have our youths that are trained in these areas because we do not have them that is why we are almost always crying. So, to me this is a golden opportunity that we are having such an Agreement that seeks to capacitate our youths, something we could have done adequately but we do not have the resources and facilities in our Country.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I think this Agreement is not controversial, it is for our general good, the scholarships Sierra Leone have been benefiting and will continue to benefit more, the internship caters also for those that are graduates, the professional skills caters for those that are in the middle level and the middle level caters for the economic development of the Nation. We need to have qualified plumbers, Carpenters, Electricians, all these areas if we have then we will be assured of providing job opportunities in greater numbers for our youths across the Country and in the mining area with the investors that are coming.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I wish to appeal to Colleagues that we do not delay the approval of this Agreement because it is in the best interest of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, for your contribution. Yes Honourable Member, I think you are the last then we hear from the Leaders.

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, for catching your eyes to make a contribution to this debate. Few things I picked up from this Agreement as presented by the Minister and his team, thank you. Of course, Investment Agreement to this House has been the baby of this House because we know what normally this Country benefits from Trade Agreement. But we should be cautious at some point and some areas which maybe I picked up one or two things which we should not lose sight of them from the past experience.

Madam Speaker, I was the Deputy Chair of Trade Committee, we have ratified lots of Agreements in this Well but since the approvals of those Agreements this Parliament does not have any information about some of those Agreements, almost all of the Agreements and that is one of the grey areas which I think the planners or designer of this Agreement will look into it together with this House and the Committee on Trade to be part of the deliberation in terms of going out for negotiation, a representative from that Committee should be part of that delegation but ours here is just to sign and ratify Trade and Investment Agreements.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, the other thing actually I want to speak to in this Agreement is about the reciprocal Promotion. Of course, reciprocal means give and take. We agree we want investment in Sierra Leone but what are we going to give in return? What can we offer? How many billionaires would want to investment in Sierra Leone that we can earn foreign currency beside the tax that would come to this Country? So, those are some of the things we should be thinking around.

Mr Minister, in relation to the investments board we don't want that kind of Chinese investment that will scramble for those little investments like bread baking which should be perform or be done by Sierra Leoneans, we don't want that kind of investment but we want bigger investment. Of course, the Vocational Training from experience some of us are Teachers, we missed out some points when Sierra Leone wanted to adopt the 6-3-3-4 system of Education we didn't do thorough comparative studies, we planned and decided to implement it and today we are grappling with workshops and the industries to absorb it. So, the vocational aspect is very key in this Country, there is no Sierra

Leoneans we can boast of as a renowned cobbler in this Country all of them are Guineans because of our orientation. But these cobblers some of them are now millionaire in this Country, some have bigger shops but we look low upon them because of the mind set of Sierra Leoneans, this is an area also the civic Education department can also come in to create, the mind set of Sierra Leoneans, the white colour job is an orientation we got from the British. So, these are some of things we can look into as a Ministry.

Of course, the Agreement is a fine one as I said early that the Agreements of these nature are fine, the bilateral relations in terms of exchanges of programs.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: So, having said that I think this Agreement is not controversial, is a welcoming one, there are lots of Sierra Leoneans can benefit but also look at those few things that I have highlighted in terms of our comparative studies. Of course, some body said how Morocco can benefit from this Country, are they part of our career development plans?

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, these Agreements are beneficial to Sierra Leone, and to the citizenry of this Country if we actually implement it according to how it is designed because normally what is put on paper, the implementation can be different but we hope this time around, we will go strictly according to what is presented in these documents. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, for your contribution, the very last one the Honourable from Tonkolili you the Floor.

HON. DANIEL A. BANGURA: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura from Tonkolili District. I want to thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his team for putting up these fine documents and bringing them to this Honourable House.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know that in this Country we have had the 6-3-3-4 system of Education and that system of Education there was a provision for Technical vocational Education. We as a Nation should not only be good at putting things on paper and we must also be good at saying that those things that we have put on paper are implemented if we do then we would get less time or less ambition to go to other Countries for technical skills, we should also be envy in the sub region that Sierra Leone has something which other people from other Countries need as the old adage says "charity begins at home" now everybody here wants his or child or brother or sister to go to Morocco and get these international papers but what is wrong if we strengthen our institutions and get the required skills that will benefit Sierra Leoneans and implement them in our job market. So Mr Minister, please see what you can also do to collaborate with the Ministry of Education, to see what the Ministry of Education and your Ministry will put together to develop these skills so that we would have less time to fight for scholarships, we would have less time to go other Countries, it is good to get foreign Education, it is good to get a taste of what is happening in other man's land but it is better if we have it within.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, on this note, I want to encourage in as much other Honourable Members, are encouraging us to speedily ratify these Agreements, I want to encourage us all especially the Committee on Education to see what they can do to put the Ministry of Education on their toes to do the needful so that more Sierra Leoneans will benefit from this good Technical skills. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable from Tonkolili for your brilliant contribution. Let us hear from the Opposition Leader.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I could remembered when we had the GEWE Bill here we saw lots of women trying to persuade Parliament to expeditiously pass the Bill, when we had the Agreement here between our Military and the Military of Turkey and Egypt yesterday, we saw lots of Military personnel persuading the House to expeditiously pass the Bill, I am surprised today we are dealing with an Agreement that has to do with the business community and this House

is so empty. I am of the opinion that they are not well concertized as to the importance of this Agreement, I have carefully listened to Honourable Members, who have given their opinions on the Agreements but as usual I want to come in with my own opinion relating to the Agreements.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, these Agreements between Morocco and Sierra Leone is not intended to be parasitic, it is couched to be symbiotic, meaning Sierra Leoneans are expected to be investors in Morocco just as Moroccans are expected to be investors in Sierra Leone. But we have placed ourselves in a situation in which as a Country we have nothing to offer to other countries, we have plenty of raw materials here and we have plenty of businesses here that are needed in Morocco but what is our business Community doing?

Madam Speaker, when you look at Article [1.1] of the Agreement it deals with the objectives, which it says to promote investment that contributes to sustainable development in the host party, to promote Technology transfer and job creation and to enhance interaction between the private sectors of both parties. We have several businesses here that are of so much important to Morocco, I have always held the perception that even when we have what other countries need, we don't go there to promote what we have. We wait for them to come again to take what they need and send to their own Country which is not good for us as a Nation, this should be a very jubilant moment for the business people in Sierra Leone.

Madam Speaker, Article [2] deals with the scope says it the Agreement shall apply to the investment made by the investor of one party in the territory of the other party before or after its entry into force by laws and regulations in force in the latter party. And even for the exportation or Admission of business, this Agreement makes it very simple for Sierra Leoneans to create businesses in Morocco, we are where we are here as a Nation because we do not believe in investment, even on our soil we allow Foreigners to invest in business than us the Sierra Leonean so if the Foreigners want to undermine our Economy they could in the twinkle of a finger. How do we expect to live as a Nation when our Economy is in the hands of other people? Let somebody make a

check globally and see how many Sierra Leoneans are doing Business in another country, very small, you cannot compare it to the number of foreigners that are doing business in Sierra Leone. So, this a wakeup call for your brothers and sisters who are doing businesses to ensure that they don't only limit their business as to Sierra Leone. Morocco through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has extended an olive branch to ensure that they make it very easy for Sierra Leoneans who intend to do business in Morocco.

Madam Speaker, even in Article [5] of this Agreement talks about how your investment can be promoted in other Country. So, meaning if are you a Moroccan and you want to do business in Sierra Leone there are opportunities for your business to be promoted, vice visa, if you a Sierra Leonean you intend to do business in Morocco this Agreement makes provision for your business to be promoted.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I will tell you that it is not because Moroccans are coming to Sierra Leone to invest because no investor want run at loss or else they will not do investment. This meant they have what they are benefiting for us as a Nation why don't we also benefit from them. Why don't we all also benefit from them? Why don't we also encourage our business people? I believe there should have been a lot of sensitization to our business community so that they also take the advantage of this Agreement instead of just agreeing that yes, let them come. Sierra Leone is the only Country that is yarning for investors more than the way they are yarning for us to invest in other Countries, we have a lot of products that are needed in other Countries. Let us take advantage of that opportunity.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, Article [6] talks about facilitation of investment, it says each party subject to its applicable laws and regulation related to entering will have the nationality of the other party to enter and remain in the territory of the propose of engagement in activities connected with investment. So, meaning if you have an intention to engage in investment this Agreement makes it very easy and comfortable for you not to be harassed in morocco, for you to be at peace whiles investing in morocco.

There are times the businesses we have here are so many that is why we hardly get profit because imagine somebody is producing gari in Bo town and when you go to Bo town, you see thousands of people chasing vehicles to sell their gari, so assuming now we have an investor here who is going with gari to Morocco and after the Moroccans would have tasted the gari they will be running after it.

Like I have always said, most of the Members who have debated on this Agreement have thank the Ministry and have similarly thank the Moroccan Government because they have the perception that Morocco is coming to help, no investor will come from Morocco to Sierra Leone without the intention of making profit. So, let us go there similarly and make profit in Morocco that is the essence of this Agreement.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please can we just allow the Minister to stretch out please, I know you can understand. Mr Minister you stand a little bit.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes permissible.

THE SPEAKER: Are you okay? Alright thank you. Mr Minister you may resume your seat.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, Article [10] talks about exceptions to national treatment that again is a Clause we should capitalize on. I am of the firmest conviction that the Ministry should call business people to a very big conference and educate them about the essence of this Agreement. I want to assure this House that if that is done, you will see lot of investors making attempt to invest in Morocco. This Agreement also deals with granting of academic scholarships, internship and sharing of expertise between the Kingdom of Morocco represented by the Moroccan Agency and Sierra Leone. I strongly believe that it will be also helpful to us as a nation, when he was espousing on the granting Aid, the Honourable Member from Bo educated the House as to how his child has benefited from this very scholarship. It is my earnest wish and prayers that similar sentiments will be shared by Members of Parliament regardless of where they sit.

Madam Speaker, I want to seize this opportunity to plead with the Ministry that when those opportunities come, they should not only limit it to Members of Parliament from the Government bench, they should extend it to all Members of Parliament regardless from which side of the aisle they are seated. And the mere fact that conscientiously and in unanimously we are passing this Agreement shows the level of willingness and the level of acceptance we have also rendered as Opposition to ensure that this Agreement holds. So like I always say, we are here as one Parliament, we should in the capacity to defend and promote the senate of the Parliament regardless of the political sheds or colour that we have.

Mr Minister, I want to express my profound thanks and appreciation for this effort because as a nation we are to stretch forth our tentacles to other Nations.

Madam Speaker, Mr Minister, and colleagues Members of Parliament, I intended to deliberately punish the Minister that was why I was just talking. He did something to me and he is still doing it. I want to rest my case and ask the House to expeditiously pass this Agreement.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Mr Leader and I am pleading on his behalf don't punish him again. Thank you for your contribution. Yes Honourable Member.

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. I am a he, for she and I am so please for one of us steering the ship of today's sitting.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, in Section [40] of Sierra Leone 1991 Constitution, makes us to know that there shall be a President, the fountain of honour, the commander, symbol of unity who shall sign Treaties on behalf of this nation if he cannot, the Minister is the Principal adviser he does that on his behalf. He signs Treaties on behalf of Sierra Leone but without prejudice to sub Section 4[d] without prejudice it must be ratified by Parliament and this is just what we are doing today. They have done theirs at Cabinet many months ago; it is now our responsibility as spelt out in the Constitution to ratify this particular Agreement, Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and Sierra Leone for, the reciprocal promotion and protection of

investment Agreement and the corporation Agreement in the field of vocational training and employment promotion, promotion for the international corporation agency and promotion of Higher and Technical Vocation and Treaty on the Protocol of nuclear weapon.

Madam Speaker, it is important and it was no mistake Sierra Leone foreign policy makes it very clear that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall seek the interest of its citizens globally and to make friends with many nations and this is just what the Minister has done. The Minister in this Ministry is making his mark in reminiscent of him in the ministry of Mines and Minerals resources are still clear, he made phenomenal marks today the people living in mining communities can boast of 70% surface rent and 1% profit and in this Ministry also he is making a mark, a mark of banning the use of nuclear weapon, nuclear weapon is bad, if you see the massacre of nuclear weapon you will begin to see disabled people being breed, it affects pregnant women, it is dangerous that is why most times I urge the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] not to joke with mining companies dealing with mercury, it is so dangerous.

Madam Speaker, it was not a mistake for President Maada Bio to occupy the non-permanent seat in the United Nation Security Council because he saw war, he tested it, he fought and he joined the ranks of Mohamed Buahari who were once military men at the same time democratic President, J.J. Rowling, he joined that rank and he will be au fait to advise the world in that non-permanent seat about the dangers of nuclear weapon being a former Military strongman that Nuclear Weapon is dangerous.

Madam Speaker, we have realized in this document that 93 Countries have already signed, 70 have already ratified. Today, if this Parliament as I will beg my colleagues to ratify this document will be the 71 Countries in the World who could have ratified this particular document and a compelling statement of the Deputy Minister at the United Nations, I admired her, conflict is bound to happen even twins from the same womb, they might have conflicting views they are bound but how do we settle it? That is why I admired Article [11] of this particular document. Article [11] talks of peaceful

settlement, we will quarrel be it Russia or Ukraine but let us look out for the peaceful settlement rather than igniting Nuclear warfare that will breed plenty of our disabled, that will poison our waters. So, I admired Article [7] as well as Article 7[B] for the insanity is we have signed and they are also urging other Countries to do likewise. In any form nuclear weapon should not be used, it is dangerous, it is bad and as we are even taking the lead I must commend the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Madam Speaker, to the other Agreements, we have realized that Sierra Leone gains to benefits, for the fact that Sierra Leone interest should be protected in a Country called Morocco that as a Sierra Leonean like it is happening now in China the toll gate definitely will be protected by the Ambassador. He has interest, they have to protect it. So also if we have Sierra Leonean business men in Morocco they cannot be bullied because of this particular Agreement, they should not and they cannot be bullied.

Madam Speaker, when I read through the internet just now I saw Morocco population of 37.8 Million, Sierra Leone population is spanning to eight million four hundred and twenty one[8,421] interestingly both Countries has their census counting in 2021. Morocco 2021, Sierra Leone 2021 and these are the figures, we stand to benefit, Morocco having this youth population. Madam Speaker, the Mining Sector account for 8% export. Morocco should learn lesson that is to say whatever minerals or business Sierra Leone has the Mining Sector alone accounts for 80% for our export. Morocco can have another twin Country to twin for the diamond, the gold, the iron ore the bauxites even the Zacom, you cannot make a telephone call without the use of zacom, Sierra Leone has it because the chit they use to make sim card for communication. So also if you go to Morocco, you talk of renewable energy you talk of business, you talk of infrastructures that is what Morocco does and we can benefit from that if both are actually ready.

Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, our vocational Technical Education stands to benefit as well as our higher education, the people in Latin languages will say "Educere" is a Latin word which actually signify education that is from darkness to light. Morocco is about to shield the light in Sierra Leone likewise Sierra Leone also is about to shield

the light, the articles are so rich. Article [4] of this particular Agreement that we are not going to be parasites non Morocco being parasites it has to be a bilateral funding and bilateral sourcing for resources. It also has to be a multilateral where necessary that is how it is spelt out in article 4 financing of this particular Agreement. In article 5 we lack research if you go to most of the Universities research department is lacking so we don't have better writers and this Agreement is given us the opportunity for research and development. From the 2021 Technical and Higher Education Act that we passed here, Sierra Leone account for twelve [12] Universities; private six [6] and public six [6] for eleven [11] Technical and vocational institutions that is Sierra Leone have account for. Morocco is talking about 150 plus so you can see and this Agreement also gives opportunity for twinning and I wish to see Milton Margai Technical College of Education twinning with that of Morocco. I was a former teacher at Milton Margai, young Lecturer by then between 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and even 2008 and I will teach subject that will cut across engineering, refrigerator, mason, carpentry like in technical vocational at Kissy Dockyard.

Madam Speaker, what we actually happen if these students have the opportunity of twinning with other Universities. It will reduce from the Grammar Schools system of education. Sierra Leoneans too love Grammar School system of education I must have my 5 WASSCE at all cost to go to the University and that does not happen they don't mind taking the WASSCE once, twice, thrice and even quadruple times and at the end of the day they will just be disinterested and they will become dropout. We can seize this opportunity, this opportunity can be seized. If you twin our technical vocational universities to that of Morocco the only thing I will trust Mr Minister, I do not see prohibition on temple run, Morocco is very close to Italy somebody will seize the opportunity to run after Morocco going through temple run.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to know that this Agreement also has opportunity for amendment I cannot go Article [7] but if you read Article [7] you choose the opportunity for an amendment, seize opportunity in 90 days prior to the implementation and three years within these three years agreement spelt out in Article [3], 90 days in

Article [2], idea exchange is important within the three years what will be the report statistically Sierra Leone can gain? We cannot wait for us to see yes holding water I am talking about youth employment scheme, holding water, if Sierra Leoneans engage in developing themselves with the middle man power definitely poverty will go because if I am a graduate in mason or architecture I am a potential employer I can have my own employee, train my apprentices these are employees so I will not look up to the Government. Even in the United State and in the UK the middle man power, the private sector contributes a lot to the economy in terms of development.

Madam Speaker, Nuclear Weapon is a menace, unemployment and underemployment is a menace, Morocco is giving us the opportunity what can we do if Morocco gives us the opportunity? What can we do Honourable Members, even as I conclude? These are menaces and if you have menace threaten a Country don't say it is not my business, you should not. There was a folks that say at a particular time there was a rat who intends to make a trap for Mr cat saying oh I am making my trap and this particular ambush must capture Mr cat and the cat was laughing at the rat, looking how small you are, you are making trap for me I will just step on it and move away you are funny, and Mr cat actually discuss that with the chicken, chicken is saying ah not for me I can just jump over it. And it went further to discuss it with Mr Cow, the bull, the bull will say ah with my big leg I can just step on it and pass away. How about Mr Goat, they also discuss it with Mr Goat and Mr Sheep they say ah that trap of rat it is not for me. Sierra Leoneans is a menace threatening us, it is not this particular time Mr Viper falls into that particular trap the ambush, the trap actually captured Mr Viper and Mr Viper was crying for the whole of the night carrying I have fallen into this trap crying and at the mystic chilling morning that viper saw the chiefs daughter passing by and with a struck of a poison, that chief daughter died and as a turnout the chief was now asking oh we have people coming all over the city what can we do? What can we do and the cat, the goat, the sheep who said earlier is not our business, the chief was just calling bring one cow, bring one sheep let it be sacrifice and that was how nobody should say is not my business. Nuclear Weapon is dangerous we should not hesitate to tell you my

experience three weeks ago I was in Israel Talavi and Jerusalem I went as far as Gaza I saw war, I got a sharp reminiscent of Sierra Leones 11 years interregnum.

Honourable Members, I urged and plead to all us to for the speedy ratification of these four documents so that Sierra Leone socio-economy will boom and we will live in our peaceful State I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Leader for your story and your contribution thank you very much. Mr Minister over to you if you have comments to make on the issues that are been raised by Honourable Members.

MR TIMOTHY KABBA [*Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*]: Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much for your sentiments, insight and contribution to the debate. I am very grateful that all the comments you have made are in favour of the Agreement and Treaty that I presented before this Honourable House for ratification. I want to seize this opportunity to draw the attention of the Honourable Member who said the 6-3-3-4 was not properly constituted, the leadership role of the APC here and my good self are products of that 6334 system and so therefore the 6334 system by no measure is not a default or a problematic system is quite a very good system that was just an aside. Madam Speaker, Honourable Members, I think all the comments are favourable and therefore Madam Speaker, Honourable Members be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreements and Treaty which were laid on the Table of the House of Parliament on Thursday 25th and Tuesday 30th January 2024 respectively.

Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. [2] cooperation Agreement in the field of Vocational Training between the office of vocational Training and Employment promotion and the Moroccan International cooperation agency [AMCI] of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education of the Republic of Sierra Leone. [3] Framework of cooperation Agreement relating to granting of academic scholarships internships and sharing of expertise between the Kingdom of Morocco represented by Moroccan Agency for international cooperation and the Republic of Sierra Leone represented by the Minister Higher and Technical Education. [4] The

Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investment.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Government Motion by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister you have been with us here and I know you are constrained but you are now free to go and do the foreign business.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Madam Speaker, just few days we saw a message from the Principal from the Ernest Bai Koroma University EBK that is making round yesterday and today on social media and I want to draw the attention of this House to it because is very important. He is saying for the very first time they are inviting Military Officers to supervise a University examination. Madam Speaker, this is not just a novelty but I think as a House we need to bring the administration to explain to us what the rationale is. Is it that he has lost confidence in the Lecturers supervising their exams or is it that he needs a private body to manned their examination but it is very scary and it a novelty for Universities in Sierra Leone. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, I think we have to leave that with the Committee on Education to invite the Minister. Honourable Members, all good things must come to an end, I have been here for these two days and I believe I did justices to what I was placed here for and I have live to expectation I believe. So, I want again to take this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation and hope to meet you again at some other time.

ADJOURNEMENT

[The House rose at 12:45 p.m. and was adjourned to 13th April, 2024]