



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FOURTH SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021**

*SESSION – 2020/2021*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
held Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE THIRD REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED



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

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

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### **FOURTH SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

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

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

The House was called to Order

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make an amendment in the absence of the Leader of Government Business on the Order Paper. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, item [v], the proposer should be Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, and with the amendment, the Secunder should now be Honourable Bashiru Silikie instead of Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina. Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that item Roman figure [VI] be expunged from the Order Paper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is that all?

**HON BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, any Secunder?

**HON. ISHMAIL S. SANDY:** I so second Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Motion moved by the Deputy Leader of Government Business to amend the Order Paper has been carried]*

## **II CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we shall now take up the Votes and Proceedings. We shall skip pages one to four and start from page 5. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? I see none, can someone please move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021?

**HON AMBROSE M. LEBBY:** I so move Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Secunder?

**HON. SIMEON FEFEGULA:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Speaker, point of Order. I was just going to ask Mr Speaker, I see the Votes and Proceedings is getting narrow and narrow. I just wonder when exactly they finish the Hansard, because some of us get the Hansard very late and there is no opportunity to really change what has been written in terms of our contributions. So I just needed for the Clerks to let us know how often they would be releasing the Hansard so we see a little bit of it *[Interrupted]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would allow you to repeat your observation or concern. The Clerk needs to make a pronouncement before I call on you.

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Parliamentary Sitting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 has been adopted as presented]*

**THE SPEAKER:** With that adoption, now you can make your point.

**HON KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. I was just saying I see the Votes and Proceedings becoming thinner in terms of contributions by Members so one would expect therefore, that the Hansard could come also early so we can take a look at our substantive contributions.

**THE SPEAKER:** That's the idea.

**HON KANDEH K YUMKELLA:** That's the idea, Sir. So I was wondering if the Clerks could help us understand how often they would be giving us the Hansard so we see them much earlier than waiting till everything is compiled probably months later.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would ask the Clerk to find out what the status of the Hansard is, and that should be reported to plenary. Can you do so before we rise today?

**THE CLERK:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Good.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I don't have a new one except to congratulate all of us for being a little more punctual than the last meeting, and recognising the fact that when plenary is due, all Members are required to give it priority over any other

matter. I hope in the remaining days of this year we would continue to demonstrate the same promptitude in our attendance of plenary meetings, thank you.

#### **IV. LAYING OF PAPERS**

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

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

*THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY UNIT ANNUAL REPORT, 2020*

**[B] THE MINISTER OF LANDS, HOUSING AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

**MR TURAD SENESIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the following paper:

*AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND LANDREG (SL) LIMITED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE PROCUREMENT OF BIOMETRIC PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROJECT ON A BUILD, OPERATE AND TRANSFER BASIS DATED 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021*

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

**PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA**

**SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before that, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence in our midst this morning of the EU Electoral Follow-up Mission. They were here a little while ago but I understand they have left to attend another meeting. We would suspend that to await their return if they do return. We would acknowledge the other local personalities later on when I receive the list from the Clerks. Leader of Government Business, the Floor is yours.

**HON MATHEW S NYUMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC  
OF SIERRA LEONE

THIRD 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, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Monday, 25th October, 2021 and interviewed **five** Presidential nominees for the following appointments: [i] Electoral Commissioner, Western Region, **three** Board Members of the Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission, Chief Medical Examiner and an **excerpt** of the Second Report for an absentee nominee; Mr Musa Salam Conteh, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion

**2. Procedure**

The Committee maintained as usual, strict consistency with its usual established procedure and interviewed the nominees on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to hold such important offices of State. Several probing questions especially put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were strictly looked into by the Committee.

**3. Third Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 25th October 2021,**  
**Fourth Session of the Fifth Parliament.**

*The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:*



*I. Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray, proposed Electoral Commissioner, Western Region*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 33 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone gives the mandate to the National Electoral Commission to conduct Public Elections and Referenda; hence the replacement of any Commissioner is most times urgent and compelling for elections preparedness. The appointment of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray recently by His Excellency, the President as the Western Region Electoral Commissioner pursuant to 32 [3] of the 1991 Constitution raised a huge political and media debate that is not strange for such appointment.

A letter of allegations levied against the said nominee was written to the Chairman of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service by three Political Parties namely: The All Peoples Congress [APC], The National Grand Coalition [NGC] and the Unity Party [UP] on the following alleged grounds that:

- i. The provision , Section 32 [3] of the 1991 Constitution; *'the members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament'* was violated
- ii. That Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray, proposed Electoral Commissioner for Western Region was under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission[ACC] for serious financial and other irregularities that occurred during her tenure as Acting Registrar at the All Political Parties Registration Commission [APPRC] .**See Annex 1** for further information

To execute due diligence pursuant to **S.O** 70 [9 b & c], the Committee Secretariat was mandated to sought clarity on the allegations through correspondence to the ACC **(Annex 2)** for further clarity.

On Monday, 25th October, 2021, the Committee conducted a public hearing in the presence of the following stakeholders notably:

- The National Elections Watch [NEW]
- The Institute for Governance Reforms [IGR]
- Campaign for Good Governance [CGG]
- All Political Parties Registration Commission [APPRC]

- Representatives of all Political Parties
- Cross section of Print and Electronic Media.

During the opening session, the Committee adjudged the following:

- i. That consultations took place and some Political Parties endorsed the nomination of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray thus:
  - a. Peoples Democratic Party [PDP - see Annex 3
  - b. United National People's Party [UNPP]- Annex -4
  - c. United Democratic Movement [UDM]- Annex 5
  - d. Alliance Democratic Party [ADP]- Annex -6
  - e. Republic National Independent Party [ReNIP]-Annex -7

ii. That the **Anti- Corruption Commission [ACC]** – [see Annex 8] clearly dispelled allegations levied against the nominee as stated thus:

*'Upon verification of these documents and the totality of the complaint file, the Commission did not find any evidence of corruption against Mrs Zainab Umu Moray [Applause]. The crux of the allegation concerned issues within her administrative competence and she provided clear explanation and justification for her administrative actions. APPRC could not provide reliable evidence to substantiate their claims beyond merely stating that the actions of Mrs Moseray were arbitrary and maligning. The ACC therefore closed the investigation and treated the issue as a prevention issue. The file was closed with no findings of corruption against Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray.'*

The nominee Mrs. Zainab Umu Moseray is an acclaimed and proven elections Administrator and Arbitrator with extensive knowledge in elections and Human Resource Managements. From September 2013 to July 2021, she served as the Acting Registrar of the Political Parties Commission in Sierra Leone. She holds an advanced Degree and many Certificates in Management and Electioneering processes and procedures.

Responding to the Committee's varying issues relating to political pluralism, women empowerment and her value addition to the National Electoral Commission [NEC], the

nominee said, *'I acknowledge the enormous task ahead but my long disposition at the corridor of the APPRC and proven neutral political dispensation, I will work assiduously with other Commissioners to uphold the tenets of fair elections and to make the women of Sierra Leone proud as we aspire for the affirmative actions'*, she concluded.

## II. Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma, Proposed Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Simoen Owizz Koroma is a seasoned Forensic Pathologist who is registered with the General Medical Council [GMC], Medical Defence Union [MDU] No.1535662 of the United Kingdom, the Medical and Dental Association of Sierra Leone and the Gambia. He is currently acting as the Chief Forensic Pathologist for the Government of Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Committee on allegations and feature of unattractive field of pathology, the long serving and revered academic said, *'the disappointing thing is that the field is not attractive to our young people. I am concerned that my long years of service could not produce more Pathologists to challenge the increasing trend of murder court cases in the Districts. Autopsy to date faces herculean tasks of modern forensic laboratories unavailability for timely production of results and the perennial blames on Pathologists the sooner court cases are not in favour of victims.'*

He concluded on the note that he had a vision to create a faculty that would train young and qualified Sierra Leoneans to take up Pathology as a career and a means of helping Sierra Leoneans.

## III. Mrs. Mary Penn-Timity, Proposed Member-Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission

Mrs Mary Penn Timity is an educationist, social work expert with strong Leadership Fund Raising and Advocacy. From 2016 to date, she served as Executive Director, Sierra Leone Autistic Society- a Non-Governmental Organization responsible for Children and Young People with all categories of disabilities.

Outlining her vision to make the Teaching Commission a success, Mrs Mary Penn-Timity said, *'I am not a stranger to the Commission since we have collaborated on varying programs implementations whilst working with the European Union, and so to make the Commission more dynamic, it takes efficient and effective action. I will share my project management experience that will lead to sustainable national development of the higher educational system in Sierra Leone.'*

#### IV. Ms. Mary Yeanoh Musa-Proposed Member-Sierra Teaching Service Commission

Ms Mary Yeanoh Musa is an emerging Legal Practitioner and Solicitor with extensive knowledge on Taxation Laws and Compliance Regimes. She is currently serving as Manager, Domestic Tax Department [DTD] of the National Revenue Authority [NRA], Freetown, East Office and Cline Town.

Responding to probing questions on her key deliverables, Ms Mary Musa said she will draw on her past experience to collaborate and ensure that the Commission acts as a catalyst to promote the ideals, professional teaching, career building and service rewarding.

#### V. Rev. Mrs Ethel Marjorie Gage, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission

Rev. Mrs Gage is Veteran Educationist who has a natural passion for the teaching profession. In her notable career development achievements, she served as a Senate Committee Member of the University of Sierra Leone to guide and counsel students during difficult career achievements.

Questioned on the value she would add to the Tertiary Education Commission Rev. Mrs Gage said she would undertake analytical review of policies, organizational structures and administration of relevant bodies involved in decision making in all Tertiary Education Institutions [TEIs], so as to ascertain cost effectiveness and quality delivery.

## ***Excerpt of the Second Report***

### ***VI. Mr Musa Salam Conteh, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion***

Mr Musa Salam Conteh is a seasoned educationist and Civil Servant with a spanning experience of eighteen years of dedicated services in the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Local Government. He has eighteen years spanning experience in local governance serving in various positions in both Internal and Local Government Ministries.

Responding to the Committee questions on what values he would be taking to the Commission, he explained that to achieve Peace, all stakeholders; Paramount Chiefs, teachers; Civil Society Organizations etc. must be involved to solve conflicts.

Addressing the Commission's take on the celebration on remembering national conflict periods in our history, drawing example from Rwanda, the nominee said he would recommend to the Board for the issuance of memorial certificates to those who suffered or participated in our conflicts so that moral lessons could be learnt for both perpetrators and victims to help prevent future reoccurrences. *'By consultations at all levels, we will work together as a Board and take decisions in consonant with the Act to gain the optimal independence and obligations reposed in us'*, he said.

Mr Salam Conteh was hailed for his excellent work records by cross section of Membership of the Committee.

## ***4. Recommendations***

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are unanimously recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Dr. Simeon Owizz Koroma, Proposed Chief Medical Examiner
- ii. Mrs Mary Penn- Timity, Proposed Member, Sierra Teaching Service Commission
- iii. Ms Mary Yeanor Musa, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission

- iv. Rev. Mrs Ethel Majorie Gage, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission

### ***Excerpt of the Second Report***

- v. Mr Musa Salam Conteh, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion

### **EXCERPT**

Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray, the proposed Electoral Commissioner, Western Region whose recommendation was decided by **majority of Members** present on the Committee by voting. **Six [6]** Members voted in favour and **five (5)** voted against the nominee, in compliance with **S.O 74 [2]**.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, based on the aforesaid, I therefore move that the **Third Report** of the **fourth Session** of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Faithfully read and submitted by Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma, Chairman of the Committee and Leader of Government Business representing the people of Gbokakajama Gbolambayama, and may the Lord bless us all *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Leader of Government Business. Before I ask for a Secunder to that Motion, I want to take notice of the fact that the European Union Electoral Follow-up Mission delegation has returned and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their presence in our midst this morning. They are seated at the Gallery in the area reserved for Diplomats. We have the following visitors:

Mr Norbert Neuser who is a member of the European Parliament and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee who is here as the Chief of Mission. With him is the Ambassador of the European Union to Sierra Leone. Accompanying the Head of Mission is Miss Julia Ruppel who is a staff member of the European External Action Service. And he has also come with two experts; Mr Dominic Howell, Electoral and Gender Expert,

and the other, Florence Ganoux and the first Secretary of the European Union Delegation, Mr Frutos Juan Antonio and Bertaina Serena. You are most welcome to our country and to this August Assembly of parliamentarians *[Applause]*. I would now call for a Seconder to the Motion.

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

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr Seconder.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting these fine nominees to this Parliament for approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees; you have been selected from the people of Sierra Leone to occupy sensitive offices of State. The President has bestowed a lot of confidence in you; he believes you will help him in achieving his agenda. He believes you will be very supportive to his course and he believes you will be having a very pivotal portion in his Manifesto for 2023.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the appointees who are going to various offices, I want to remind you that this Parliament taking into cognisance the promises you made to us during the interview, the various Committees would be visiting your various offices and we would be making sure we help you in delivering because at the end of the day Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when these appointees fail, Members of Parliament will suffer for their activities. At the end of the day Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our faces are on the ballot papers, we are the ones who go to the people and ask for their mandates, and most of the time they punish the Members of Parliament and His Excellency the President for the activities of these appointees. So as a Parliament, we are going to make sure we follow up on them. We are going to do exactly what is enshrined in the Constitution and the Standing Orders because we would not want them to fail, if they fail we would suffer. If you see the turnover in this

Parliament Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not of our making, it is most times the making of the appointees and the Civil Servants.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no iota of doubt in my mind that the people presented here today are fit for purpose, they are going to contribute immensely to the achievement of the New Direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the appointees going to the Teaching Service Commission, of course it is no secret that the Teaching Service Commission; the Educational Sector is the principal goal of His Excellency the President. In 2018 when we were campaigning we promised the people of Free and Quality Education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President was bold to have declared that we should venture into that adventure. Today we have seen the enrolment of pupils and students in various institutions have increased. Of course, if we collectively should achieve the quality aspect of the education, Teaching Service Commission should play a pivotal role because teachers employment, teachers retention and teachers motivation should be part of achieving the quality aspect. So for those going to the Teaching Service Commission, you should know that this is the prime programme of His Excellency the President. Please contribute, please work as a team, please make sure we have teachers' retention, motivation and that the teachers stick to the classrooms and teach so that we achieve the Free Quality Education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the Chief Examiner, Dr Owizz Koroma is a household name, he is the only Pathologist in Sierra Leone for the longest time. Mr Speaker, in the interview he was bold enough to say he is going to train successors. Fortunately for me Mr Speaker, I was the Chairman for that sitting. I asked him why he had not trained people to succeed him before now and he told us the challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Owizz Koroma, you have given us what you want to achieve in the short and long terms. We wish you would deliver and train more people to succeed you so that in future we have more Pathologists. We would not want



to have people moving from Kailahun, Krubola to Freetown to be examined for the cause of death. Please train more people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Electoral Commissioner, Western Region. It is no secret that since 2012 our brothers from the other side have been working assiduously to discredit the National Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since 2012 we saw the Press Release from them that they would not participate in elections conducted by the then Chairman and Electoral Commissioner of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen Electoral Commissioners being appointed and presented to this Parliament and our colleagues on the other side either walked out or they tried to stifle the approval of those appointees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as citizens of this Republic and as Parliament, our business here is to make sure we approve nominees and do due diligence and that has been done to the Electoral Commissioner, Western Region.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, series of issues has been raised but all of them had been clarified at the interview stage.

Mr Speaker, as Members of the Appointments Committee, it is expected that this is the most high-ranking Committee in this Parliament, it comprises all Leaders of Political Parties, and when we make decisions and recommendations we expect this House to holistically approve those recommendations.

Mr Speaker, if you do not accept the decisions of your Leaders it means you do not trust them, it means they are not fit to be Leaders of this House Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. The reason why we have Leaders is because as a Party or as an Organisation we have a lot of confidence in them and we rely on their judgement.

So if we begin to question the decisions of our Leaders Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it means they are not fit to serve us as Leaders and we should just relegate them to the back seat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President for considering young people of this Republic *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the Leadership on this side you see the vision of His Excellency to promote young people in governance. And when you look at the entirety of the Cabinet of this Government Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you see that **60%** of appointees are young people below the age of 40 Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Mr Speaker, this is a President that believes in young people, this is not a President that has laid his life for the youth, but this is a President that has stood for the youth and will continue enhancing the development of young people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we have a young person who is going to be an Electoral Commissioner Western Region. Mr Speaker we have a young person below the age of 40 who is going to play a pivotal role in deciding who becomes Members of Parliament, Councillors, Paramount Chiefs and President of this Republic.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to us young people on either side, I would encourage you not to venture to oppose any young person that comes to us. When we have young people coming, they are representing us as young people, let us not just say that we want young people to occupy offices and when they are provided we go against them. We know you are under pressure from various Political Parties, but let us consider the fact that we are young people, and when a young person comes here, all of us as young people should collectively galvanise and support that person.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the women, we want to see how sincere you are. You have been always pushing for the women and today His Excellency the President has presented us with a woman. We want to know whether you are sincere to the woman course or just paying lip service to the woman course. When you see a woman before you, whether you are pleased or not you should be supportive. You are asking for 30% and His Excellency is delivering on the 30%. We don't want to see insincerity on the side of women, we trust the judgement of the women in this Parliament, and we

trust the judgement of the women on the other side. Please let us support our colleague because she is one of us. For some of us who are supportive of women we have no iota of doubt in the saying that '*what men can do women can do best*' [Applause].

So I am appealing to the women on the other side, we have the Vice President of the Female Caucus in this Parliament; we have the women on the other side who are pushing for women activism in this Parliament. We want to see where you stand today when your colleague is in your presence. We want to see if you are going to oppose one of your kind and we want to see if you are going to vote against one of your kind. Please, we know you are under pressure, but consider your womanhood and support your woman colleague who is in front of us asking for your support.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the other women in other Political Parties, we have the Gender Bill that has been pioneered; it is still in the process in this Parliament. You are asking for more women in governance, you are asking for more women in this Parliament, but it is not just asking, you should have the spirit, you should have the love, you should have the zeal or zest to talk to your Leaders and tell them, '*we know you have reservation but this is a woman, let us support this woman*'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not just the women, even we the men must support women I know the Leader of the Opposition is a very supportive man to the women course.

Mr Speaker, I have known colleagues on the other side for the last eight to nine years, and I know most of them are supportive of women. I have no doubt; the Honourable Hassan Abdul Sesay has been the Chairman of the Social Welfare Committee.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Point of Order Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, a point of correction; we don't have Honourable Hassan Priest in the Well of Parliament; we have Honourable Hassan Abdul Sesay.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable from Magburaka was presented with the '*He for She*' in the Great Britain for his support to the woman course.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want my colleagues to be blackmailed by their Political Parties because you stand for womanhood. You should not stand by segment; you should not say today I support this group and tomorrow I am not supporting this woman. The lady who is in front of us is fit to be a child for some of us here, and she is a sister to some of us. We have no iota of doubt that her qualification is fit for that office. We have no doubt that her integrity is fit for that office.

Mr Speaker, talking about consultation, we have proven beyond all reasonable doubt, both in the Committee and out of the Committee that all Political Parties were consulted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, I have known you for the last ten to twelve years when I was a member of the All Political Parties Youth Association.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this astute woman who was the Registrar at PPRC happened to manage the activities of young political leaders in this country. Imagine how complex it is when youth leaders from various Political Parties come together, and how difficult it is for us to put our interest together. She had the guts; the finesse to put all of us together to make sure we worked in unison for the good of the young people of this Republic. She was never associated to any Political Party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were in opposition, we were crying this woman down when we had our internal issues. She was always mediating and some of us were crying her down.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President believes that this is a woman that cannot bend and she is an astute woman. She is neither the favourite of this side, but she is the favourite of this Republic because of her past track record of sincerity and steadfastness. She is never a favourite of us, I remembered and some of us can attest,

we used to complain to you about her activities. She has never been our favourite and she would never be anybody's favourite; she is just a favourite to her job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we do not want to know which Political Party she belongs. She is even coming from the North, she is a Limba, and that should tell you how strongly we trust her integrity and her steadfastness.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us would want to see if our colleagues on the other side can reject their own sister who is coming from their stronghold because they are blackmailed by their Political Parties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, you are going to occupy a very sensitive position of State. Please do not be blackmailed by anybody in this House. I know the strategy they are using; they are trying to discredit you and the Commission [NEC] to the lowest ebb, and at the end of day they would be barging into your office to be blackmailing you. Please don't be blackmailed. When you go to that office make sure you serve your conscience and your God, please, don't fall for blackmail. If anybody blackmails you here, that person is just blackmailing you because he is under pressure from his or her Political Party. All of us here know you are very strong, the Honourable Member from Constituency 66 can attest to it. He has been a political leader, he has been a Chairman for APPA and he has operated with you. He is also a strong supporter for '*He for She*'. There is nobody who can associate Madam Zainab Umu Moseray with any Political Party Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to continue by appreciating His Excellency the President for the level of support he is giving to the women and the young people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if some of us can stand here and say we are Leaders and Deputy Leaders of Government Business is because of the willingness and the love of the young people by His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I implore all colleagues, especially political leaders in this House, there is no way you blackmail somebody who is going to conduct Elections

for you and who is going to determine your fate. Please political leaders, there is no way you come here and blackmail somebody who is going to determine your fate, you have no option.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with my little experience in this Parliament, I can tell you there was a time we said we were not going to accept Christiana Thorpe and we walked out. That did not help us Mr Speaker, when we were in opposition. When N'far Alie came here again, we had wanted to walk out because our Political Leader came and said we should walk out and not support his approval [*Interrupted*].

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, for the records, the Deputy Leader was not in the House when Christiana Thorpe's reappointment was brought to this House. So he cannot say that authoritatively.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, this is Parliament [*laughs*], it was the decision of this Parliament.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I am a living testament to that, I was here, we marched out of the Chamber on that fateful day but we made our position very clear. We did say that she had no right at that time to invalidate our results; she lacked the integrity to carry that Office so we walked out. That was what transpired, so we walked out Sir, thank you, continue my brother [*laughter*].

**HON. HASSAN SESAY:** But he was not here.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker...

**THE SPEAKER:** I am just curious, Honourable Members, I am just curious. Leader of Government Business, what did you do then, you walked out?

**HON MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, we walked out and they continued and approved her.

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Order! I just wonder. Order! Order! Order! I just wonder [*Interrupted*].

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Point of Order Mr Speaker, the Leader is very clear, there is no more clarification needed, let us proceed.

**THE SPEAKER:** What lesson did you draw from that? That walkout does not win Elections.

**MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, we walked out, we made our position clear. We did not only walk out as if we are birds coming from the bush. We walked out; we made our position very clear; based on integrity. And because the rules are very clear and they had the number, they voted and approved her.

**THE SPEAKER:** Workouts don't win elections.

**MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I am coming. Walkout doesn't win anything in this place. When you walk out you always be a loser.

**THE SPEAKER:** Walkout doesn't win, carry on.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, that decision was made in this Parliament and I am a Member of this Parliament. Whatever decision this Parliament takes future Parliamentarians would stand by that decision, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the former Chairman of the Electoral Commission was appointed when we were in Opposition Mr Speaker, a lot of us wanted to walk out. For the Honourable Member from Kitchum, let me just explain to you what happened on that day. Mr Speaker, even our Political Party Leaders came in this Parliament asking us to walk out in opposition of the Electoral Commissioner.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we had experienced Members of Parliament who calm us down and said the person that would be conducting the next Elections, why should we walk out of him? And we defied the decision of our Political Party Leaders. We were very stubborn because we believed at that time that, that was the person that would determine our fate in 2018 and we stood by him; we supported them and

collectively we all voted and approved the Commissioner. Few months down the line Mr Speaker, they went against their own appointee and we supported that appointee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a period when they even said we should collectively vote against their own appointee and we refused. Mr Speaker, I am just saying this for people who want to contest for the Presidency; please don't vote against somebody that you will be sitting on the same table with. Please do not condemn, please do not blackmail somebody who will be determining your future. Please set the pace for you to have an interactive session when you go to NEC.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, the Deputy Leader is now blackmailing Members in the House, and they should not be blackmailed

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please do not blackmail somebody you would want to take your complaints and issues to. Please do not blackmail somebody you would want to sit on the table with to determine the Electoral Process. If you blackmail that person, you would not even have the moral authority when she is approved by this House, to even sit on the same table with or take your complaints to. Please Honourable Members, for the sake of posterity, taking into cognisance your vision, please do not be blackmailed by others; continue supporting like you supported the last Electoral Commissioner.

Mr Speaker, I could remember vividly when the last Chairman of the Electoral Commission came, I personally engaged the Leader of NGC. He wanted to oppose but I believe our discussions in his office encouraged him and he came and gave his support. Today I was not opportuned to talk to him in his office but I am talking to him in the public.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for our colleagues the Leader of Opposition was the former Vice Presidential candidate, and by the grace of God, we are praying for him, he will also be the next Vice Presidential candidate for the All Peoples Congress. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I appeal to his judgment; if you are selected from your Party as the running mate, you would want to have the free face and confidence to go



to NEC Office and negotiate on behalf of the Western Area, taking into cognisance the challenges you will be faced with. I expected you to be bold and free to go to NEC Office and discuss issues of Western Area. Don't forget, you are also doubling as Chairman of Western Area APC; therefore you have no business to oppose or condemn anybody representing Western Area at the Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the women, if you dare speak or vote against this woman, I assure you, we will no longer support any woman or issues of your interest whenever they come here. We would believe you are not sincere to your course.

Mr Speaker, look at the women of this county, these are Political Party women, and they are looking at you even the Vice President of the Female Caucus, and the Members of the Female Caucus who are here. If for any reason you appose and vote against, the women will reject you tomorrow. And because we do not want the women to reject you, please don't fall for the blackmail of your Political Parties.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, what is your Point of Order?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** 32 [5].

**THE SPEAKER:** I don't know how much more time you need.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have read 32 [5].

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** And is in place?

**THE SPEAKER:** I have read 32 [5], and I am asking him how much more time he needs.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** I am the Seconder of the Motion, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I know you are the Seconder, *[Undertone]* I am not taking your Point of Order.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I still have 20 minutes.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Which part of the Standing Order is saying that?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I have your protection Sir.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, which part of the Standing Orders says that the Secunder should take as much time as he or she wants?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** I am protected by the Speaker of this House, Mr Leader.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** So Mr Speaker say it; you are protecting him.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Leader, I am protected by the Speaker of this House.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** I agree with you, say it Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** He assured me he is about to wind up now.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you. Mr Speaker, to the young people, especially us below forty five [45], we have no business to reject any young person here. Our business is to support young people to grow; it is not just to talk about young people but to have the mentality. When we talk about young people and we don't have the mentality that is insincerity.

So I appeal to you, I know if we look at your back, people are here to blackmail you so please don't listen to them. Let us do and let us serve our consciences in this House, we are under oath. Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, you are taking that Office and you are seeing the pressure. The President has a lot of confidence in you and you can deliver for this Republic, for the women, and for the young people. If you fail in that office Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, you are not just failing yourself; you are failing the young people and women of this Republic. So please don't fail, don't be blackmailed, serve your conscience and do the President and this Parliament good. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Secunder of the Motion for his contribution to the debate. Before we proceed any further, I would like to recognise in addition to our distinguished visitors from the EU, we have in our midst a galaxy of prominent personalities and no doubt a reflection of the importance of the matter before the House this morning.

We have Mr Jimmy Batilo Songa, Deputy Commissioner of NaCSA *[Applause]*, Mr Abdulai M. Bangura, Chairman of the PPRC *[Applause]*, Mr Joseph Kapuwa, Director General of the SLBC *[Applause]*, the Honourable Justice Tonia Barnett, Justice of the Court of Appeal *[Applauses]*, the distinguished Dr Dennis Bright, Chairman and Leader of the NGC *[Applause]*. We also have in our midst Ambassador Dr Alhaji Osman Yansanneh, the National Secretary General of the All Peoples Congress *[Applause]*. We also have Mr Ansumana Mohammed Idris, the Director General of CISO and with him we have Ahmed M. Idris, Chief of Operations of CISO. Ibrahim Dumbuya is also with us from NATCOM. We have another distinguished personality whose voice is heard most mornings across this country on FM 98.1, Madam Asma James *[Applause]*. Richard Hindolo Senesie, Assistant Commissioner NRA is also in our midst. Lahai Lawrence Lema, *[Applause]* Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. We also have Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, the Women's Leader of the SLPP *[Applause]*. There are other personalities also to be recognized; Madam Femi Claudius Cole *[Applause]* of the Unity Party. I see also a man with whom I served as a Legislator in the August body, the Honourable Sani Sesay *[Applause]*. Madam Maria Bangura C4C Party *[Applause]* you are all welcome.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me this golden opportunity to lend my voice on this approval of Presidential Nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I listened to the Honourable Member from Bo, I felt sorry for the women of this country.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is still too early so I would allow you fifteen minutes *[Undertones]*. Is fifteen minutes too limited?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I do not want to interfere with your powers and authority but I am kindly pleading with you that you do not lose sight of S.O 38. There might be some who will talk for five minutes but other might want more.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, no, I have to be even-handed.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Well then let's apply S.O 38.

**THE SPEAKER:** We shall be here till the wee-wee hour [*Undertone*]. If you are prepared for that, I have no problem with that. Go ahead the Honourable from Koinadugu.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, as I just said earlier, when I listened to the Honourable Member from Bo I felt sorry for the women of this Country. I see women under serious intimidation, I see women who are about to be forced not to be themselves. And as human beings, one of the principles of humanity is to be yourself, but if women of this country are being threatened for being themselves; which is their natural right, then I think we are heading for the wrong direction.

However, I believe that women of this country are adults, and they are noble minded. They know what they are doing and they know what is good for this country and the nation as a whole. So that is left for the women; don't feel intimidated, don't feel threatened, and be yourselves.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you have the Floor and I hope you are going to respect the provision of the Standing Order quoted by your Leader?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** I am bound to respect it provided I am not interrupted from the other side. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having gone through this Report, I have seen series of correspondences and consultation processes in respect of certain aspect of this approval process.

Mr Speaker, if can I refer you to *annex one*; annex one is a letter written by Consortium of Progressive Political Parties. In that letter, an issue was raised due to breach of section 32 [3] of the 1991 Constitution which requires consultation upon nominating any nominee to serve as Commission of National Electoral Commission. I am now confused, and I want to know what is referred to as consultation? At which point consultation begins and who starts the ball rolling for consultation? I have gone through all these documents and have seen one for which I will give kudos to the Leader of Government Business. The Leader [*in appendix 2*] wrote a letter addressed to the

Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission requiring him to make some clarifications regarding the legal status of the said nominee. In *Appendix 8* the Anti-Corruption Commissioner replied to the Leader of Government Business and by extension, to this House.

However, as far as I know and based on what I know regarding the beginning of consultations, I am not privy to any letter addressed to Political Parties. It is not exhibited here.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. For the edification of the House, because I was not able to get that clarification from the Constitution; the miscellaneous provision, session 171 of the Constitution, I got letter from seven Political Parties, and I went further to get a way book because consultation itself is not clearly defined in the Constitution. So for my brother on the other side to ask about the beginning of consultation, let him show this House the legal document that tells us when to start consultation. What I acknowledged was the letter I received endorsing the appointment of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray. So, that tells me that there was consultation in writing because they acknowledged the letter that was addressed to them on 6<sup>th</sup> July. So that is what I need from your clarification; where do we start consultation? As far as I know that is not defined in the Constitution, thank you.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, you don't need to pass BECE to know what consultation is and how it starts. The exhibit presented before us here represents the end of the story. When you talk about endorsement, it means the end of the story. My question is, how does it begin?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker I deliberately attached the document because I have asked the question; where do we start consultation? If the Honourable is talking about consultation, let me read the letter from the Alliance Democratic Party written to the Secretary to the President to prove that there was consultation on this matter. Mr Speaker please permit me to read the letter written to the Secretary to the President.

Office of the President  
State House, Tower Hill  
Freetown

Dear Secretary,

Re: Appointment as Electoral Commissioner, Western Region

I write to acknowledge receipt of your Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 in respect of the appointment of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray by His Excellency the President as Electoral Commissioner, Western Region.

If the Honourable Member is asking me for the reference, this is the reference. This letter clarifies that. It is a reply to the letter informing them about the appointment, thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the edification of the House and for all viewers and listeners, permit me to read the relevant section; 32 [3]. It says, with your leave Sir; *'the Members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Leaders of all registered Political Parties'*.

Mr Speaker, with all due respect, the letter which the Leader of Government Business is referring to deals with the appointment of the nominee, not a letter showing consultation before appointment. I am asking for a correspondence evidencing consultation in compliance with 32 [3]. Where is the evidence of the letter?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we on this side, are we opposing the said nominee because she is a woman? *[Resounding 'no!' from the opposition side of the aisle]* Are we objecting to the confirmation of the said nominee because she is not qualified? *[Resounding 'no!' from the opposition side of the aisle]* Are we objecting to the confirmation of the said woman because we think she is not credible? *[Resounding 'no!' from the opposition side of the aisle]*. As far as we are concerned, in addition to others, the due process was not followed; no compliance to the grand norm 32 [3] of the 1991 Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and the last time I attempted to lend my voice on the recent activities of NEC and the position statement dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021,

written by Consortium of Progressive Registered Political Parties in respect of the recent Bye Elections in Koinadugu District. On that day, you cautioned me to leave NEC to sort out NEC affairs, and being a law abiding MP I agreed. Today NEC is before us, and we need to talk to NEC on NEC affairs as the people's representatives.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 32 [5]. NEC is not before us, we have a candidate here to occupy a position at NEC. We have a candidate that has not been approved by this House; she cannot be held responsible for any activity of NEC now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Carry on Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, now that NEC is before us, there is no better time than today to talk to NEC on NEC affairs. And on that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I advise NEC and all relevant stakeholders in this country both National and International to listen to the recommendations of the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties. Have a look at it, you may decide but please have a look at. The first provision goes as follows:

That as it is now, the title of NEC is Independent National Electoral Commission. Contrary to the word Independence, the Steering Committee of NEC, according to this Press Statement, is being chaired by the Chief Minister. How Independent is NEC? For the edification of the House, Sierra Leoneans, in and out of this country, listen to me, how independent is NEC when the Steering Committee is headed by the Chief Minister?

And the recommendation says that the Chief Minister must, in the interest of national peace and cohesion relinquish that position and allow the Minister of Political and Public Affairs to take charge. He is still your Minister; we have no problem, but let the right things be done. How can the Steering Committee be chaired by the Chief Minister and we expect that independence to remain? It cannot. I said the last time that to be true to myself, since the head of NEC, Mr Mohamed Konneh took over, he has done well so far.

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

*[Question proposed put and agreed to]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you may continue.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Mohamed Konneh, kudos to you so far, and I want to say kudos to the head of PPRC. During our consultative meeting in Kabala, you were the strongest leader that spoke very strong on that day regarding the adherence to the principles of electoral processes. That was my first time I met with you officially, you spoke very strong on that day, kudos to you. As it is now, I know it must be to your disappointment that the recent Bye-Elections, to be specific Ward 155 in Constituency 046 is contrary to your instructions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to know that globally, eight hundred people are killed annually by lions, and to your surprise 1.7 million people are killed within the same period by mosquitoes, as tiny as they are.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as little as Ward 155 is, compared to Constituency or District elections, with a term of less than twelve months, please don't allow that irregularity to stay because it has a potential to kill your credibility nationally and internationally.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order 32 [5]. Mr Speaker, please, I have tremendous respect for the Honourable Member. You have put in a complaint twice to NEC and they are investigating. This matter is under investigation but as Honourable Member you keep attacking the Commissioner of NEC. This is not appropriate, talk to the nominee please, for the integrity of NEC.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M.BAH:** Mr Speaker, with deference to the Leader of Government Business, I want to state that S.O 32[5] has nothing to do with the investigation, it is not sub-judicial. The investigations are within, and they are not within the Judiciary. So S.O. 32 in its entirety has nothing to do with what the Honourable Member is saying.

Mr Speaker, may I also remind this House that whiles the Secunder of the Motion was making his submission, he brought in many other issues within and those issues will have to be responded to during the debate and at the appropriate time.



**THE SPEAKER:** And in doing so, please take due cognisance of the provisions of S.O 32 [5]. Let me read it for the edification of the House before you people go astray; *'A member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.'*

**HON. CHERNOR R.M.BAH:** Mr Speaker, I thank you very much. That is why when I was making my submission I referred you to S.O 32 in its entirety. One of the nominees before us is a proposed Commissioner for the National Electoral Commission. So the discussion that is going on has to do with NEC and the credibility of the institution *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Frankly, it is up to you Mr Leader, if you want to stray beyond the subject matter presently before the House.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I don't know whether I was clear, I said when the Secunder of the Motion was making his submission.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not going by the Secunder.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** No, this is a debate Mr Speaker, we have to respond to them because he made statement which we have to counteract, we cannot allow them to just pass under the table, he has to respond to some of them. These are statements he made, he talked about NEC credibility and he used the word blackmail. These are words coming from the Secunder of the Motion and we have to respond to them.

**THE SPEAKER:** And he used those words according to my own hearing, with reference to the nominee before this House.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order on 38.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, no, and no! I am talking of the Speaker, Mr Leader.

Mr Speaker, referring to the nominee before this House, is Christiana Thorpe a Nominee, was she not mentioned? Was absent N'far Alie a Nominee, was he not mentioned? So what we are saying, allow us to respond to the issues that were raised for clarity of purpose, Mr Speaker, please.

**THE SPEAKER:** Or are you clarifying the issue raised in connection with Christiana Thorpe? You are entitled to clarify the issue relating to Christiana Thorpe because specifically, I did hear the name of Christiana Thorpe.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I am sure we are debating.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course you are.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** And the debate has rules.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course they are.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** So we want to keep within the rules, Mr Speaker that is all.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please let's do.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** That is what we are doing.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to re-emphasize that you keep within the rules of 32 [5].

**HON. MATHEW S.NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I want us to keep within the rules, I stand on S.O 38; limit of speeches.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, no! That is for me.

**HON. MATHEW S.NYUMA:** It is a Motion; I want to move a Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is for me. Carry on please, I have a time keeper. Go on.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, if you are approved today, an important issue you would be addressing together with your colleagues are as follows:

1. The issue of Ward 155, station number one [1], Funbakoro Village. This is the issue you would be addressing together with your colleagues; upon the recent Bye Elections, the RRF forms which evidence I have forwarded to you Mr Speaker for your perusal, the scores for APC for the said station [1] is registered 083, and the scores for SLPP is registered 049, and the invalid vote is registered 11[*Interrupted*].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order 32 [5]. Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member is talking about elections conducted, and not about the nomination. You brought this issue the last time for the other Nominees, we challenged you and you conceded, you have raised it today again. Mr Speaker, Point of Order 38[2] *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you going to allow me to listen to the Point of Order or not? I want to listen to his Point of Order.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, because I want Members to react to what we have said, that is why I stood on 38[2].

**THE SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** My Point of Order is 38 [2]. If you don't mind I can read.

**THE SPEAKER:** I can read myself.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, for the edification of the House. So I want to move a Motion for us to reduce the debate time for individual Members so we can have many speakers. Mr Speaker, can I move?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, for the records, you had earlier ruled on S.O 38 and your decision is final.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No, he did not rule.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** That cannot be revisited.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No, he did not.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** He did Mr Speaker is here. He said he would apply S.O 38. Mr Speaker, you pronounced that you would apply S.O 38. Mr Leader, you were outside when the Speaker ruled.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Leader of the Opposition, you did not move a Motion. I want to move now.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, I did not move a Motion.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** You started but did not complete.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** I averted the attention of Mr Speaker to 38, and in his own wisdom, he ruled.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He ruled on 38 [1] without a Motion.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** 38, I did not say [1].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** You mentioned 38[1], I am now moving 38[2]. So you see the nexus? Mr Speaker, let us control the debate. We want to hear Members, so we want to have a comfortable time. I do not mind talking to Leader of the Opposition so we can agree on time. Can we agree on time, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, so we can hear everybody instead of 30 Minutes? I want to move Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will ask that you reserve that issue and you both come forward [*The two Leaders approached the Speaker's Table*].

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, by way of consultations we have managed to resolve the provisions of 38 [2] and 35 [2]. You are almost up to the maximum time you are allowed, going by my watch. But I would allow you because of the interruptions you suffered, another Five Minutes to wind up. After that, following your own contribution, every other Member will be limited to fifteen minutes, not more than fifteen minutes. So please try and wind up.

**HON. DANIEL B KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, on that note, I am calling on Members of the Civil Society, International Community, and all key stakeholders to look into this figures.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speakers, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 32 [6].

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, let me round up.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** No, I stand on S.O 32 [6] Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** What is the matter that he has made reference to?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, he is still referring to the Local Council Elections in Koinadugu and the matter is now in Court.

**HON. DANIEL B KOROMA:** No No No

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** The matter is in Court. The Matter is filed by Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara.

**THE SPEAKER:** No No Carry on, please. Carry on you are limited to five minutes to wind up.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The three RRF Forms, the one for NEC, the one for APC, the one for SLPP all of them speak 049 for SLPP, but in the entry done by NEC at the Headquarters in Wellington shows Hundred and Forty-nine [149]. How comes?

Mr Speaker, finally as I wrap of the entire scores for APC, SLPP and void votes amount to hundred and Forty-Three. How comes SLPP gets Hundred and Forty-Nine [149]?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I encourage you to follow the recommendations of a consortium by doing Regional Audit of NEC Staff and also ensure the assessment of Government control of NEC. If the Chief Minister remains to be the head of Steering Committee then I wonder how NEC can be free from Government control. On that note Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. Thank you and God bless you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to this debate. I now want to recognize the Honourable Member from Samu, Kambia District.

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** Honourable Speaker, colleagues, I am honoured to be part of this debates. I want to thank colleagues who have also approached me the last 48 Hours and the last few hours here expressing their views. I have also listened carefully to the debates. I congratulate Honourable Bashiru Silikie for his rambunctious, personate historical presentation, liaised with humour, innuendos and full of admonitions. It also even had a robust advice for potential presidential

candidates. So we thank him for his generous advice, those of us who might have such ambition today or tomorrow or in the future. I thank him and the Leader of Government Business for also bringing history. History matters, they referenced what the SLPP had to do in 2006 when Christiana Thorpe was nominated and presented to this House. There is part of that history I also know, that His Excellency, the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba consulted Political Parties, and I know that some of the names he had, he withdrew because of strong concerns expressed by Political Parties. The father of Democracy chose nation, peace and stability of the country and democracy over his Party interest. Section 32, subsection [3] of the Constitution says I quote, "*the members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultations with the Leader of all registered Political Parties and subject to the approval of Parliament.*"

I know that our Party, our Leader was not consulted. History also will show that I stood in this House, made a personal plea in the face of very strong opposition to support the nomination of the current Chairman of NEC. Let us not forget that history. It was very tough. It was a very tough debate that day, the appointment of the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission. That history is important because it was in the face of a very strong opposition. In the 1991 Constitution section 32, subsection [3] says, ***all Political Parties***. It is therefore relevant if thirteen out of seventeen Political Parties in this nation expressed deep concerns about the process followed to nominate the candidate for the Electoral Commissioner for the Western Region. It matters if thirteen out of seventeen Political Parties challenged the integrity and capacity of the candidate, it matters. Why does it matter? The issue here is not just the candidate; it is about the integrity and credibility of NEC, the electoral Reform Processes that are on-going and of course the elections of 2023. It is about the Democracy of Sierra Leone. So it matters what thirteen out of seventeen Political Parties say. We know currently, in the last three to four months when government imposes on people, or when second or third term ambition overrides the interest of the State and people feel imposed on, the citizens will revolt, so we have to be careful. So these debates are important that we listen, and of

course the consultations matter, that is why the Constitution stated that all Political Parties have to be consulted so that in anticipation of Local Government Elections and in General Elections itself, people have confidence in the process and how people can manage it.

My Party, well in advance stated its position. I personally stated the position of our own NGC caucus here; that today, just like 2006 for Honourable Bashiru Silikie and Honourable Leader of Government Business and others, they found themselves in that moral situation where they have to make a choice. To put nation above self-interest even if you have presidential ambition or MP ambition, put nation above self, put the Constitution and the flag above self, think that bad precedence will be multiplied and scaled up in the future. Bulldozing candidates without consensus were done before, is not good. Bad precedence will be duplicated, replicated, modified; they will muff and force our democracy in the end into authoritarian autocracy. We have to be careful.

In this regard, Mr Speaker, colleagues, I cannot remember the history, the robust defence I put for the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, knowing that he also has the responsibility of ensuring that we save our democracy, that we have elections that are free and fair and honest and credible. In that context, it is clear therefore, if I stand here knowing the candidate, remember, I have been here seven years. Remember the history where I started, remember how many times I went to PPRC personally with colleagues in the alliance, and remember what we had to go through to register our Political Party and other Political Parties. The tenure matters, the experience in previous capacities where integrity was crucial matters because in this higher office, it is even more important for neutrality and impartiality. In this regard, Honourable Speaker and Colleagues, I cannot in good conscience...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order, I beg.

**THE SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** My Point of Order is simple. I am confused, my colleague representing the NGC as Leader is talking about PPRC, I don't understand, I want to understand the story.

**HON.DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** I could help you.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I am coming; I want to understand the story.

**HON.DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** I could help you.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It is the story I want to understand. You have Commissioner and you have Registrar. The Registrar is under the instruction of the Commissioner. Their role is defied. She cannot work alone so make us understand your point.

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** I will help you.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I sympathize with your situation. So for the edification of the House, the Gallery, and for every Sierra Leonean, we are live on air, can you thoroughly explain to us.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you referred me to 34[1].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will now refer you to 34 [2].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No Not me.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have made your Point of Order.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I said 34.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have made your Point of Order.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Okay, thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Take your seat.

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** If I may continue then. In the higher echelons of cooperate organizations that we led, we have appointed senior managers



paid big money. Some of us had even served in such committees for the Secretary General on very sensitive appointments. The capacity the candidates occupied before, their tenure, what they did or did not do matter when they go for higher office, that is why I referenced PPRC, and that is why I referenced the experience from 2015 to 2021. I know the role of the Registrar or Acting Registrar and the Commissioners fully. So again I stick to my point which I will conclude in a minute but firstly let me say there is no doubt about my track record; about '**He for She**' support to women, and there is no doubt about my credibility in supporting the youth. I went as far as sending a Bill to the Honourable Speaker for gazetting and I have also been to the recent workshop of the Gender Empowerment Bill- the only male MP there.

So again, there are issues and positions we have taken that are grounded on morality and principles. So let nobody feel that I am not supporting a candidate that is a woman. We cannot manipulate gender and youth and sacrifice integrity. We cannot manipulate and use youth and gender to put a risk on Democracy. Democracy is a higher price, and Democracy is the survival of this polity ensuring that our youth of the thirteen Political Parties that opposed this candidature do not feel aggrieved or do not become suspicious of the elections even before they begin, let us watch that risk. So in that respect, I cannot support this candidate. My Party, we have consulted. I speak on behalf of our Caucus, we cannot support this candidate. We stick with our Party position and Mr Speaker; I rest my case [**Applause**].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Before I call on my next speaker, I would like to recognize the following personalities: Mr Foday Massaquoi, RUFPP Chairman, Mr Victor King, Citizens Democratic Party, National Chairman; Mr Nabieu Musa Kamara, National Chairman, Peace and Liberation Party; Mr Mohamed Jalloh, National President for the All Political Parties Youth Association; Mr Daniel Kaitibi, Director General, NATCOM; Madam Mahmadi Gobeh Kamara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr Phillip Kanu, Principal, Milton Magai Technical University. Thank you. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Member from the Western Area [*Undertone*]. Are you reading my mind? [*Laughs*].

**HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker for recognizing us at the back. The last time we pleaded that the back bench should be recognized and today, gracefully Mr Speaker, you have consented to acknowledge and recognize us at the back. We thank you Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I always do.

**HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the issue before us today is simple. I have listened to my colleague from Koinadugu, putting questions whether they were rhetorical or they were meant to be answered to his callings as to whether the integrity of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray is under question. The responses from them was 'no'. Whether or not she is capable to carry out the duties and assignment of the office for which the President, His Excellency, Julius Maada Bio has considered her for, they said 'no'. So what is under question here?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker that was not the question [*Undertone*]. The question had to do with 32 [3], the Consultation. Others were answered.

**HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am surprised that in the midst of deafening silence, my Honourable senior colleague from the Western Area could not hear his colleagues responding in uniformity to 'No' [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, this speaks to the fact that the candidate before us is a good candidate, the nominee before us is an excellent nominee and the nominee before us is a representation of the true face of the New Direction; young people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I have also listened to our senior colleague from Kitchum. The issue before us now is whether sub-section [3] of section 32 can be invalidated by another section of the Constitution- that is the issue before us.

Mr Speaker, in that direction, can I take you to sub-section [14] of section 171?

Mr Speaker, with your leave, it says; *'where under any provision of this Constitution, any person or authority is authorised or required to exercise any function after consultation with some other person or authority, the person or authority shall not be*

*required to act in accordance with the advice of that or other person or authority, and the question whether such consultation was made shall not be inquired into by any Court.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, can I also take you to examples of methods of consultation? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from among the numerous lists of methods of consultation, there is one called '**Exchange of Letters and informative materials**'. And as far as all the Political Parties here are concerned, a letter was written by the Secretary to the President informing all Political Parties that Mrs Zinab Umu Moseray would be appointed as the new Commissioner for the Western Area. And to that effect Mr Speaker, with clear conscience, every Political Party responded to that correspondence, quoting sub-section [3] of section 32.

Mr Speaker, if consultation also means sending formal letters or materials as a means of information, I think the Political Parties were consulted appropriately.

Mr Speaker, it behoves us as Member of Parliament to come to our Constituents. That is why whenever we have Constitutional Instrument I always speak to the fact that we must include Paragraph **K** of Section 77 so that Political Parties behind the scene would allow us to do our job. This is a job of interpretation and this is a job of doing what is right. It behoves us as Members of Parliament to come to our people and say yes, these are the methods of consultation, and one of these methods was used for the appointment of the appointee before us.

So I see no reason why we should waste time here talking about issues happened in Constituency 45, 46 in Koinadugu regarding RRF. We are not here to talk about RRF forms. We are not here to talk about the integrity of RRF forms. We are here to discuss the quality, integrity and position of the newly appointed Commissioner, Western Area. And by this Constitution Mr Speaker, consultation was done, consultation was made and that consultation fits the description in this Constitution. Mr Speaker, I see no reason why the nominee should not go through, because other Political Parties have responded to the letter without any objection.

Mr Speaker, I also heard some colleagues saying that the Political Parties that responded to the letter are Political Parties that do not have Councillors. I wonder whether the Unity Party [U P] has a Councillor but the Unity Party Member is the Deputy Chair of the new surrogate Consortium of Political Parties. So, if you are disqualifying Political Parties without Councillor seat or Members of Parliament seat, then please, Unity Party is not qualified to occupy any position in Political Party discussion.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as diversify as the SLPP should be, and we have been, that is why today the Chairman of the NGC was a former Minister of Sports under the SLPP. And it is that diversification that has prompted His Excellency the President to appoint a very young, dynamic, charismatic and a beautiful lady to occupy that position of trust.

Mr Speaker, why is it that people should not allow young people to grow? Why is it that people are frowning at the provision that at 40 you should be eligible to occupy the Office of the State? She is a young person given the responsibility to decide our own fate. Mr Speaker, I am a candidate in the Western Area; I am a Member of Parliament for Constituency 132 and I am going to contest the election again and I am going to win. And in this Chamber Mr Speaker, when it comes to SLPP, I am the highest placed National Officer in this Chamber [Applause]. Mr Speaker, so when I speak, it means I am re-echoing the voice of the National Chairman, I am re-echoing the voice of the National Leader and I am re-echoing the voice of all National Officers of the SLPP. So as a Party Mr Speaker, this Constitution has not disqualified Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray to occupy her position. So on that note Mr Speaker, before I take my seat, I want to encourage my colleagues on that side to understand and to believe in the spirit and intent of this Constitution. I know we are going to quarrel because their patrons are here, they must ensure that their patrons see their effort, but that effort should not be a stumbling block to the approval of this fine Lady, thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now recognize a Lady to debate.

**HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, first of all I would like to thank His Excellency the President, and I would like to inform the Members of Parliament in this Well today that when we went to interview the nominees seated over there, we were so happy because among all the nominees only one person was male and that person was Dr Owis Koroma. So that means His Excellency is actually considering a lot of women in this country. He said it, he is doing it and we are seeing it. I therefore say thanks to His Excellency for actually putting smiles on our faces and that was why we were extremely happy on that day for the number of women we saw.

Now, let me come to business proper. All the nominees are qualified, especially the ladies, congratulations I have nothing to say much, but I want to emphasise my debate on Madam Moseray. Madam Moseray, you know I asked you a question in Committee Room One regarding your state of readiness and you said to me that you have a thick skin.

Today's debate is little bit like the one we had when the current Commissioner of ACC, Francis Ben Kaifala was nominated. Madam Moseray, I want to tell you that when I look at your present situation, I see myself in you; I see what I went through in you. I remembered the time I stood as an Independent Candidate, I received all sorts of missiles; stones, insults and all kinds of names, but I stood firm against all of that and today I am here. That shows that women in this country are ready to face the men not by fighting, but to be side by side so that we can take Sierra Leone to another level.

So Madam Zainab Moseray, I want you to be strong, I want you to prove to Sierra Leoneans and the women that you are ready to work with us. Thank God you are not a Politician; you do not belong to any Political Party according to what you told us at the interview. And therefore, you are going to your new office to do what is necessary for each and every Sierra Leonean, and be rest assured we are here for you.

I want to end up by addressing Dr. Semion Owis Koroma. Dr Koroma, you said something which mesmerised me a lot. During the interview you told us how long you have worked and the experience you have had so far. You expressed that even though

you are about to exit but you would like to leave a legacy for those coming after you. You told us that you are leaving your job not for the sake of money or for other personal benefits but to create room for your successors.

I would encourage you to not only teach your successors, but also inculcate in them the extra ordinary values you have demonstrated over your years of experience. And on that note Mr Speaker, I am here today to talk on issues and not to make revenge speeches. I therefore want to ask colleague Members of Parliament to debate on issues and not to bring up issues depicting revenge or counteraction. Let's not present a picture as if the President is not doing the right thing; His Excellency the President is doing the right thing. So I thank you and I wish every one of you good luck.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution. I would now like to recognise the Honourable Lady from Kono.

**HON. REBECCA YEI KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here today as a woman. I have heard all the different speakers, and from my analysis I can see some of the misunderstanding, grievances and thoughts about this one candidate [*Madam Zainab Umu Moseray*]. I am standing here as a woman to say whatever they are saying about this candidate can be said about a male candidate too. Male candidates have come here with a lot of controversies around them but at the end of the day we approved them. Today we are saying good things about them because the perception and thoughts we had about them is different from what they are delivering.

Men have done a lot of bad things in this country but they continue placing them in different positions. Today a woman is here, and maybe because of issues that happened among Political Parties at the time she was a Registrar, we want to use that against her.

I am not trying to defend her, but maybe she must have gone through all what you are alleging because she is a woman, maybe she was under duress and command to do what she was told to do [*Undertones*]. I was not there and I have no justification for

that, that is why I am saying maybe that was the situation she found herself at the time.

I am not saying things in order to force people to approve her, but I am appealing that we give her a chance, maybe from our different submissions she would change her style of work because this time she would be leading in her Office. Although she will be under the leadership of the NEC Commissioner, she would be leading in her jurisdiction.

Colleague Honourable Members, I know we are talking as Political Parties, some people will say, **S.O 2**; *'na C4C MP'*, some will say, *'na SLPP en na so E always dae'*. I am talking in favour of Madam Zainab Umu Moseray because I am a woman activist, no matter the situation, whenever I see a woman nominated I will speak on behalf of that woman to survive just as the men would stand their grounds to ensure their colleague men get what they want. I am therefore appealing to every Honourable Member here today to ensure that this particular woman be approved alongside the other women. I am sure if approved Madam Zainab Umu Moseray will definitely deliver beyond your expectations. Let us please remove our political lens and look at how this woman would serve in her office.

I want to also thank His Excellency for nominating more women into the Teaching Serving Commission. To the women who are here today as candidates for the Teaching Service Commission, please be mindful that even though the Flagship programme of the President is Quality Education, yet our education is almost going down the drain. The quality aspect of our Education is yet to be achieved. Please when you go to the Teaching Service Commission as women, ensure that very good things are done for especially the teachers, and discipline is restored in schools to enhance quality education.

To the only male among the nominees; Dr. Owis Koroma, for you to say you do not have an apprentice to replace you is a serious matter. Please look out for one so that things will not go bad when that place is vacant. Please Dr Owis Koroma, encourage young people to specialize in Pathology otherwise, God forbid, if you die today that place will become vacant.

I would conclude by calling on all Honourable Members to please approve these fine and beautiful nominees so they can go and serve this nation diligently, I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would take four more speakers before we wind up; two from either side of the aisle.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I would not be incessantly interrupted with Standing Orders. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would begin by taking a look at some of the critical statements made here by colleagues before I come to my point proper.

If I am to speak in the words and in the voice of the Deputy Leader, I would say, 'don't vote against a woman that would determine your future', that is what the Deputy Leader said here; that we should not vote against a woman that would determine our future. Under a conducive democratic country, the Commissioner does not determine the future of the candidate or electorate, but in Sierra Leone, we have seen where Commissioners have turned forty-nine [49] to one hundred and forty-nine [149] that is why he is saying so. So he is saying that we are in a country in which our future as candidate will be determined not by the electorates but by the Commissioner, that is why we should not vote against the Commissioner.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34.

**HON. ABDOLE KARGBO:** The Deputy Leader also said, '*don't vote against somebody that you would have to take your complaints to*'. In other words, he is saying, in all of our elections we should expect complaints because they are not straight forward.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on! There is a Point of Order. What is your Point of Order?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** S.O 34, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Port Loko is mis-quoting me.

**HON. HASSAN A SESAY:** Mr Speaker, go to the Hansard.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Okay let's go to the Hansard Sir, let them play the tape.



**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Should I continue now Sir?

**THE SPEAKER:** No, I do not want this debate to be prolonged. If you are saying he mis-quotes you, then tell us what the mis-quote is.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was referring to the Honourable from Pujehun and my exact words were; 'Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we would have to interact, and we have to interface with the Electoral Commissioner Western Region [*Undertones*] and there is no way we should blackmail her'. That is exactly what I said, Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, I have heard you. The Honourable Member from Port Loko carry on, please.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by the time I would be rounding of almost all of them would have changed their statements in this House. Again, the Honourable Member who is the Deputy Leader did say, '*vote for her, she is a Limba, she is your sister, she is coming from your region*'- that sounds tribalistic. Mr Speaker, if they are tribally sensitive, they would agree with me that out of four Commissioners, three of them are coming from the same tribe. That is an absolute tribal insensitiveness.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me just flip down to the comment made by my Honourable in Constituency 132; Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. I noticed he was struggling to understand the definition of consultation. This is a Free Lectures I am giving him, from Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary; '*consultation is defined as the act of discussing something with somebody or with a group of people before making decision*'. You cannot write a letter informing them of your appointment and you call it consultation, it is not. I wish he was here; this would have helped him subsequently. And I want him to also note that the letter sent to all Political Parties was not to seek their consent, that letter was an Appointment Letter sent to Political Parties. So you cannot struggle to distinguish between Appointment Letter and consultation, it is clear Mr Speaker.

And also, the Honourable Member from Constituency 132 did say here that we are not here to discuss RRF Forms. How can you discuss NEC and not talk about RRF Forms? In other words he is saying let us not talk about the bad things of NEC but let us talk about the good things of NEC.

**HON. ALUSINE KANNEH:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, Point of Order Sir, for the records, Mr Speaker. The Honourable Member from Port Loko did mention tribal, saying three out of the four Electoral Commissioners at NEC are coming from the same tribe that is not true. The Lady in question is a Kiss by tribe, from Kailahun, she is not a Mende, thank you.

**HON.ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr speaker, Honourable Members, this is not new to me, I know I will be incessantly interrupted because when once you are making sense that is what they do. There is a proverb which says '*old people feel uneasy when dry bones are mentioned*' and I am going to mention them here, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Leader also said, '*let us support women, let us campaign for women, look at all the women seated...*' Whiles he was saying so, the Leader of Government Business was saying Christina Thorpe does not have integrity. So they were contradicting themselves, there was a fuss between them; one was saying appoint women and the other was saying no, this woman does not have integrity. So they are selective of the women they campaign and also promote.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order S.O 34. That was not what the Leader of Government Business said. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Leader of Government Business said they walked out of Parliament because Christiana Thorpe cancelled four hundred and sixty [460] Polling Centres and she did not have the authority at that point to take that decision. Our Party was very strong, she did not have the authority, she did not do it within the context of the law and that was why our Party walked out when she was re-appointed, thank you very much. I want to make the record very clear.

**HON. CHERNOH R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I do not want the debate to be diluted. The Honourable Member is very simple and clear; they are advocating for a woman today. All what the Member of Parliament is saying, is that they rejected a woman yesterday, so there is no nexus for them to justify the acceptance of a woman who is not totally credible- that is the point.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** That is not what the Honourable Member said, Sir. The Honourable Member said we walked out because of her integrity, and that was not the reason, Sir. We walked out because she cancelled the ballot votes she did not have the authority to do [Undertone]. She did not have the authority, the Hansard is there, and that is not what the Leader of Government Business said, thank you, for the record, Sir.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, should I continue Sir?

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Hansard, I am sure will reflect what was said accurately or inaccurately.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that tensions are flying because we are debating the approval of a NEC Official. If NEC had conducted themselves with grace, dignity and respect; respect not out of the sense of sycophancy of blindness, but out of the sense of commitment and loyalty to our only county, we would not have reached this stage.

NEC has done sufficient enough to be discredited. I was a victim of the Constituency 110 Elections in which Ballot Papers were destroyed in my presence, and at the end of the day NEC went ahead to count the ballots, and when they discovered that the person they supported did not win, they cancelled the election. Why did NEC count the ballots when they knew it was going to be cancelled because the centre was disrupted? It happened because you were of the opinion that your candidate was going to win.

**HON. MARTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.

**HON. MARTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, such statement can be dangerous for the good of this House. The person at that time responsible for the Western Region was Miatta French, she was the Commissioner and responsible for counting the votes. What we have in front of us is the approval of a proposed nominee as Commissioner for Western Region. For goodness sake, let us address this nominee, what you are checking for is the integrity of the nominee and the procedure followed. Today you are talking about NEC; we do not have NEC in front of us. We have a nominee and not NEC. The incident you are talking of happened under Miatta French whom you brought to this House and approved to serve in that capacity and she was in charge of that election, I rest my case.

**HON. CHERNOH R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, as the rules expect us to do, Miatta French is not in this House so she cannot speak. I am speaking because I am here like the Leader did, I did not stop the Leader from speaking. Miatta French was a Commissioner, and the Chair of NEC whom you have replaced did not just abuse Constituency 110, but also abused Tonko Limba. The Commissioners were there, but he was absolutely in charge determining all what was happening. We knew what happened in Tonko Limba; the Returning Officer had a position.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have made your point. I want to remind the Honourable Member, when he is trying to impute the integrity of the institution itself to be a little bit careful.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, until we begin to see white and call it white Sierra Leone will not move from where we are. We need people who are man enough to see societal wrongs and point them out clearly unhesitatingly. You would agree with me that on several occasions during the conduct of Tonko Lima Elections, NEC Officials were caught changing figures and at the end of the day the Official was changed.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not aware of that.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Well I am informing you now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you informing me as a matter of fact or as a matter of opinion?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** As a matter of fact. I have heard NEC respond to this in a Radio Station, that is why I am telling you now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well they are not presently in the Well to defend themselves. I would treat your statement as one of opinion and not as fact.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, we have no better time to talk about NEC until when we discuss their nominees, Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** You would have another occasion; I believe the NEC Report is before us.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move ahead, I know couple of seconds you would say time, so let me move ahead, I agree with you, I am moving ahead for the sake of time, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was part of the team sent by the All People Congress to monitor the Electoral Reforms and the Calendar of NEC for the conduct of the 2023 Elections. And what I noticed initially, in the calendar, NEC proposes delimitation for 2024 in the calendar that was distributed to every participant and we endorsed that unilaterally.

However, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after the representatives from SLPP said we should do the delimitation before the Elections, NEC began to shake in a bid to accepting what the representatives of SLPP were saying, regardless of the fact that majority of those who attended the work shop supported the idea for delimitation to be done after the general elections. This is to show how NEC is highly influenced by the sitting Government.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I take great exception. As I said, let us restrict ourselves to the topic in question. You have accused SLPP, and we here representing our Party and the country at large. He is accusing SLPP, we are SLPP, and if you don't have evidence don't accuse us. He must withdraw Mr Speaker. We are waiting; he has made series of allegations against us.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will treat his statement as a statement of opinion.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Statement of opinion when you don't have fact? Your opinion has no bases. This is Parliament; he should provide us the evidence.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is his opinion; I do not think he is making any attempt to state that as a matter of fact because if he does, he will have to substantiate it.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He said it. He said it is a matter of fact, he re-echoed it, and we cannot allow that to be a slap on our face. Let him provide the evidence or for him to withdraw.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear you.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, please discourage Mr Leader here, whom we respect immensely to stop losing his temper too quickly and to allow you to run this Chamber

**THE SPEAKER:** I am afraid that is a matter of perception.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker,...

**THE SPEAKER:** Did you state it as a fact? Did you state that what you've just said as a fact? If you do, you've got to provide the substantiating evidence to this House.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you have taken sides.

**THE SPEAKER:** You know I am not.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** The MP is saying that he did not say that, take him for his word.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you imputing words into his mouth now?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** I am not.

**HON. HASSAN S. SESAY:** And Mr Speaker, what are you doing?

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear him directly.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you are helping the other people...

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear him directly.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, be the referee, don't be a player.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear you.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, as I said earlier, when we are debating, the essence of a debate is for us to convince them or for them to convince us. And in the process of debating, inferences could be drawn to justify positions. What the Honourable Member did was to list scenarios, steps, developments, and as a result of that, in his own opinion, that is the inference he is drawing.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is all I want him to say.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** That is what he said.

**THE SPEAKER:** No.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Because he listed examples, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** No.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I differ, Sir, he did not say that.

**THE SPEAKER:** He did not.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I listened to him carefully. He said it is a matter of fact; SLPP is controlling the Chairman of NEC.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** So what do you want to do, you will take him to Court for what he has said? No!

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He must substantiate that statement.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M BAH:** How?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He said SLPP is controlling the Chairman of NEC.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** That is his perception.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He said it is a matter of fact, ask him.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what the Leader said is at variance with what I said. I did not even call the name of the Chairman of NEC. And just like my Leader said, there are inferences; we have two types of inference; the conclusive inference and the logical inference. What I was saying is a logical inference, Sir. I was stating instances that these things revealed themselves, and that is the inference I am drawing at, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** And I am sure you stated that as a matter of opinion?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** It was never an opinion, I was part of the meeting Sir, I told you that I was part of the meeting.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, but from the instances you cited, you arrived at a certain conclusion with a matter of opinion, obviously.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** The statement I made is contingent on the inferences I have drawn that is too simple to understand, Mr Speaker, I know I would be interrupted. Mr Speaker, I know that I would not be opportuned to speak today on all the issues I have intended to talk on, I know that, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** My concern was when you said *'as a matter of fact'*.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I did not say as a matter of fact, I said all the inferences I have drawn, and I was reaching at the logical conclusion contingent on those inferences. I was looking for anybody to contend with those inferences instead of attacking what I said but nobody said I was lying; they all accepted what I was saying *[Applause]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, inference is inference; it's all about conclusion, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I did Logic, and all I know is that inference is inference whether logical or conclusive, you end up making conclusion. He said he was there, and SLPP is controlling the Chairman of NEC and he said is a matter of fact. If you have withdrawn no problem, but you cannot use the name of SLPP and allow you to go in with it. we can challenge it times without number.



Mr Speaker, if he has said he did not mention the name of SLPP, and that what he said is squarely within what he observed and his opinion, so be it. However, if you mention the name of SLPP, I will stand here and ask you to withdraw because we are a very credible institution, thank you.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I still see no reason why the Honourable Member should withdraw a statement that he believes in. We are debating, it is for them to debunk. He believes in it that the SLPP is influencing NEC, and he has stated it and that is his position, Mr Speaker. Let them debunk it, but that is his own view, that is what he believes in, and we are debating, let then convince us that our statements are not correct. We believe that the SLPP is influencing NEC that is our position, we are debating.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I have tremendous respect for the Leader of Opposition. If I accuse you of something in this Honourable House, I should be able to provide incontrovertible evidence. The Honourable Member has used his opinion to accuse us, so we have the right to challenge him because he has used our name.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, okay, okay!

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We have the right to challenge him because he has used our name. I will challenge him to produce the evidence because we are a credible institution; you cannot put us in a funny situation.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of Government Business, I heard you loud and clear. Honourable Member from Port Loko, I want to try and resolve this matter. Are you adopting the statement made by your Leader?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Of course, yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is a matter of belief?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** A matter of opinion?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Thank you, Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whenever we are accused or whenever statements are made against us in debate, before we tell people to withdraw, we should draw inferences to substantiate that what the person is saying is not correct. So I was expecting them to have stated instances in which they can correct me *[Interrupted]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let's not go over that issue again.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Okay Mr Speaker, let me forge ahead. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying this because we are at a very critical stage of our democracy in Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** By the way, I have been advised by the Clerks that you have exhausted your time *[Undertones]*.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Thank you Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, no, I am going to allow him time to wind up, I did not say he should stop, I am only reminding him that he has exhausted his time, according to my time keeper. I would allow you two minutes to wind up.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, Mr Speaker, we had a friendly understanding between the three of us *[Interrupted]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Which understanding?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** That interruptions will be counted, that the fifteen minutes will be uninterrupted.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, that is between the two of you.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, no, you were there, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, I did not subscribe to it. Honourable Member, you have two minutes to wind up.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Leader...

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, no, I never subscribed to it.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, in future when we agree I will pronounce it publicly before we proceed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do that and go ahead Honourable Member you have two minutes to wind up.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, let me explain the spirit behind that very Clause in the Constitution. The spirit behind the Clause in the Constitution is to ensure that the President does not appoint his cousin or his Party member to run an election which we all expect to be independent. So when the President appoints, the Political Parties must ascertain that, that person appointed by the President is not his blood relation, and is not a member of the Political Party the President belongs to, before ever the President goes ahead with the appointment, that is the essence of the consultation.

So, when you consult with other Political Parties, they would advise the President. Let me tell you, nobody is saying that the President does not have the right to appoint. It is his prerogative, but the essence is that the President should not appoint a staunch Political Party member or his relative to conduct elections which are expected to be independent. who are the moral guarantors to ascertain that? It is the Political Parties that is why you consult with them before you go ahead with the appointment. If the President appoints his cousin and writes to inform the Political Parties that this is the Commissioner, what will they do? They will have no influence because the appointment has already been made. That is why the consultation precedes the appointment, let us respect that, that is our Constitution; it is the book that brought the President to power and it is the book that is going to take the President out of power, I rest my case.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, he said the President appointed a strong party member or his relative.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, he did not say that.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Alright.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, for the records, he did not say so.

**THE SPEAKER:** He did not say that.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Thank you very much Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now recognize the Honourable Member from Kailahun.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including my elder brother, the Honourable from Samu have engaged in a lot of filibustering [*Undertone*].

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order?

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** Mr Speaker, you gave us time to make our statements, I did not even use all the time; I used seven minutes, so how can I be filibustering? I was making a point.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** I could have justified but now that you have helped me, thanks. Honourable Chernor Bah, Honourable Kande Yumkella has just defined it for you; it is not an abusive language.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** I did not say abusive, I said it is a negative word.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** No, it is not negative; it is an act of making very long speech to delay a legislative process.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** That is it! 'Delay', I underline the word delay.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** It is my opinion.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, it is negative.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** It is my opinion.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** He needs to learn [*slight altercation*].

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members! Yes, please.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member from Kailahun said the Honourable from Kitchum was filibustering, and the man was saying he only stood for seven minutes. And according to Honourable Gevao's definition, Filibustering means making long statement to delay proceeding.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** It is my perception.

**HON. HASSAN A SESAY:** Seven minutes cannot be a delay wherein the Honourable Member was given more than seven minutes.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have another definition of filibuster; it is a clever way of subverting or circumventing S.O 32 [5].

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Much obliged.

**THE SPEAKER:** S.O 32 [5]; when you bring so many irrelevant issues and avoid addressing the matter at hand. Go on.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reason why colleagues on the other hand always become very agitated anytime this particular Administration appoints an Electoral Commissioner is because, before this ruling Government, people never used integrity into consideration when they appointed people in sensitive positions like the one the young lady is being appointed to.

The young lady we are here to talk about today is a woman full of integrity, she hails from a religious family, for your information, her mother is a Reverend. She is not the type of woman who will circumvent laws or procedures, if all of us agree to approve her today. She is a woman who has served this nation diligently in one of the conspicuous national institutions as a Registrar. And as a Registrar, I believe all of us crossed her path.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will just address the House on few issues, particularly on S.O 32 [3]. We are over emphasizing the word Consultation. I would tell you, Consultation includes writing of letter to another person. I believe if Honourable

Dr. Kandeh Yumkella is to fall ill today and he calls his Medical Doctor on Zoom to explain to him his condition, he would have consulted him. We are in a Global Technological World; let us try to advance our minds to match up with global advancement. Let us move from this archaic interpretation of dictions [*Undertone*]. I beseech you, listen and learn.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the edification of all here, I will throw light on the provision of Section 32. Section 32[4] says:

A person shall not be qualified-

*[a] for appointment as a member of the Electoral Commission if he is not qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament, or*

*[b] to hold office as a member of an Electoral Commission if he is not a Minister, Deputy Minister, a Member of Parliament or a public officer, or if he has attained the age of sixty-five years.*

We are not questioning her qualification; we all believe she is over qualified. She is not a convict and we believe she is not a lunatic. Why belabour the point, is it because she is a female? And for your information, when we say gender it means man and woman. Gender does not only mean woman, and here we have educated people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the fact that the Secretary to the President, according to the attestation of all Political Parties wrote a letter to these Political Parties informing them that the President is desirous or intends to appoint the nominee as Commissioner, implies he had informed or consulted them sufficiently. Honourable Abdul Kargbo, Section 32 [3] does not say in agreement. Consultation does not mean in agreement. You people are misunderstanding consultation to mean agreement. Honourable Kargbo please allow me.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I Stand on 32 [4] because the Honourable Member called my name.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Honourable Kargbo I did not misquote you; I mentioned your name but I did not quote you.

**HON.ABDUL KARGBO:** You did.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** No, I did not quote you, I was merely teaching you.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Honourable Member, you did it to the hearing of everybody in this House.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** I mentioned your name.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Well, that is what I want to substantiate.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** So I should not mention your name, Honourable Kargbo?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, 34 Sir. Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member misrepresented me that is why I want to clear the air.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** By calling your name I misrepresented you?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** No, no, you said I did not understand the difference between consultation and agreement.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** No, no, I did not say so.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Okay, well carry on.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** I did not say so. If you want to stand on S.O 34, please don't malign me I am still alive.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, fortunately for us, the Director General of SLBC is here. My attention has just been drawn to a caption on Television that '*Parliament approves Presidential Nominees,*' you see that? It says Parliament approves new Presidential nominees, have we reached that stage?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Even before the House approves you have approved.

**THE SPEAKER:** Have we reached that stage? Please get your people to correct it.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a definition of the word consultation, which means '*exchange of letters and informative*

*materials*. If all of us in this House; all the Political Parties are in agreement that the President did write a letter to them to which they replied, that is sufficient consultation. The President is not in violation of section 32 subsection [3].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to beseech all in this House that the President is merely trying to satisfy certain instrument that all Sierra Leoneans will actually evidence. The Truth and Reconciliation Report says at least some percentage of youth and young people must be represented in Governance. Look at the nominee today, are we objecting her because she is a young woman? Are we objecting because we think she is a woman?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should try to support women whom we think have the capacity, the capability and the integrity to serve this nation. I am totally surprised. I am totally taken aback by the way we are trying to belabour the point over the appointment of this nominee, especially when there is nothing in the Constitution saying that she is not qualified.

I will hastily move to Dr Owis Koroma. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Owis Koroma is here as a nominee of the President to serve as the Chief Medical Examiner. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for me, this is one of the most important nominations I have experienced since I became a Member of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Examiners Act that this House passed is so much important that I would crave the indulgence of the Speaker to charge all of us Members of Parliament to educate our Constituents about the content of that Act.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by approving Dr Owis Koroma, this nation will have the opportunity to investigate suspicious and reportable death incidents in this country. This nation will have the opportunity to hold the Medical Professionals to stick to the highest standard of their profession.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so much has gone under the bridge. I am so happy at this stage that one of the most experienced citizens of this nation is before us here to be approved, and if approved, he will hastily go to continue doing his job.



Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the first time I was privileged to be present yesterday at the Connaught Hospital when an autopsy was done by this most experienced Sierra Leonean. Little did I know that if proper job is done Sierra Leoneans will be saved and our Medical Profession will actually adhere to the highest of standards.

Mr Speaker, I therefore beseech all of us to do everything humanly possible to educate ourselves about the Medical Examiners Act. It was passed by us, and if we read it, the Chief Medical Examiner will have so much job that he would hardly have time to sleep in Freetown. Mr Speaker, according to this list, we have well over 25 incidents that are supposed to be reported to the Chief Medical Examiner whenever they occur before you touch that corpse.

Over the years, when people die, we just take them and drop them into the Mortuaries, give them formalin in a form of embalment with no investigation. This has affected us as a nation; it has even suppressed the jurisprudence of Medicine.

With the approval of Dr Owis Koroma today, the jurisprudence of Medicine will be far advanced, wherein so much medical research will be done using the Medical Examiners Act. This will be done in such a way that young Doctors will soon start to hack in, or will soon start to yearn to becoming Pathologists like him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I honestly hold the view that when we come here as a nation, instead of us holding on very tenuous issues and spend the rest of our time, we should just look at the people and what they have done and hastily approve them. I, Honourable Gevao, I have no issue with the NEC nominee. I have checked the Constitution, she is not a lunatic, she is not a convict, she is over 18 years and of age, and she is not up to 65 years of age. Colleagues, there is nothing before us to say she is not qualified. Our interpretation as to the work of consultation is subjective. The only body that has the right to interpret this Constitution, as Honourable Chernor Bah will tell you, is the Supreme Court. If we think we are having problem with this diction it is high time we approached the Supreme Court for interpretation. As Members of Parliament, it is not our function to interpret the Constitution. If we attempt to interpret

this Constitution we are usurping the functions of the Judiciary. We are an Arm of Government; we should give the Judiciary the opportunity to perform their own function. When we come here, our responsibility as far as nominees are concerned is to check or vet them to see whether they are qualified, and if they are, we should approve them. There is no point for us to bring NEC into this Well. It is not NEC that is before us for approval; it is Madam Zainab Umu Moseray who is a woman of high integrity- her integrity cannot be questioned. I understand we had similar exchanges even when the Chief Electoral Commissioner came before us for approval. After we had approved him, all of us are happy today that he is doing a good job. I assure you, by the time we approve this nominee, she will go to her office and she will do a good job and she will do all of us proud, I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Before I call on my next speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the presence of the Chairman of the SLPP, Dr Prince Harding. The C4C Honourable Member, you will be the last speaker before we wind up. Go on madam, you have the Floor.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of this noble House, my intervention is going to be brief, to the point and to plead with those who do not understand.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I want to take this special honour to thank His Excellency for fulfilling his mandate due to his passion for women. We have been crying for 30%, we have been crying for Affirmative Action, and there is a Bill that has been laid here but we are struggling to pass it. I am foreseeing something, but that is where my appeal will come in.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Female Caucus of this House has a vision, mission and objectives, and I think this is one of the missions or visions we are working towards. Whenever we go to our secret meetings or other gatherings, we always tell ourselves that irrespective of our different Political Parties, we should speak with one voice as women because we are the voice of the voiceless. I am happy again to see a woman as head of a Political Party, she is here. We should be in this together; no

matter the Political Party, no matter what comes our way, as long as it has to do with a woman with substance, a woman with integrity, a woman who is a mover, a woman who is developmentally oriented, I believe we should give her a helping hand. It is a pity to have heard from my noble Honourable from Kambia who is always posing that he is a '**he for she**,' that he will not support this candidate. I was taken aback because whenever we talk, he always gives us the assurance that whenever there are issues or situations to vote for women, as long as he is there he would support those women. I am lost in wonders when he got up and said he will not support this candidate. So was his promise just a lip service?

To all our '**he for she**' men who are here, I think we should start demonstrating our support for women now. If we are going to vote, I am sure we have eighteen [18] clean votes because I know our women here should be speaking with one voice irrespective of Political Parties. So if we are voting, I have the assurance and trust in my women that we will give that young lady the votes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to quote our former President, may his soul rest in peace, His Excellency late Ahmad Tejan Kabba who once said, **S.O 2 'Salone man get bad hat'**. Today, it is only a '**bad hat kombra**' **S.O 2**, that will frown at the appointment of that young lady. The only thing I was expecting from colleagues is to proffer advice; advise her to be lukewarm, do the correct things and listen to her Boss when she takes up office.

Just like others have said, Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, please do not be carried away, be strong and steadfast as a woman, you have to be thick skin because this is our chance and we have **52%** of the country's population. As one of my colleagues Honourable Member said, we have been approving male nominees in this House without much objection, why can't you also help us for the very first time? There is a Bill we are currently pushing for and the women out there are listening and waiting. So my ladies, I believe that if it comes to voting we would surely vote for her.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me draw your attention to our song that says with respect; '*no longer should men in front and the women at the back, but men be*

*seen walking side by side*’. And now there is this nominee, why can’t we see this as an opportunity of *‘walking side by side*? Let us leave this political saga and say *‘put the right people in the right places*.’ You may have your passion or perspective about her, but she has been exonerated from all the allegations you have made against her.

I told Madam Zainab Umu Moseray that if there was an iota of truth regarding the allegations against her, I would have been the first person to throw stone at her, but she was exonerated. So, I believe she is woman of substance and she can do it. As somebody rightly said, *‘what men can do, women can do it better*’.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to recite few lines of our song; *‘no longer in the shadow forced to stay behind, but side by side in true equality*’.

Mr Speaker, I want to quote again in Temne as I did the last time during the approval of that young man at the Anti-Corruption Commission. It’s just the same quote, **S.O 2**; *‘or yei or lol kere or lolley*’. In other words, a mango can be small but very delicious. So, Madam Zainab Umu Moseray may be young qualified for the job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk a little bit about Dr Owis Koroma. Dr Owis Koroma, your name is a household name; we have no doubt in you. I just want to join the whole country by saying thanks to you and His Excellency for appointing you. I know you will do it because you have been doing it before. My only advice is for you to do more, do not listen to any distractor, and just do more.

Mr Speaker, our male champion; ***‘he for she***’ is here. Thank you very much and we want to welcome you. We were crying, and we want to say welcome to this House. We have been muzzled but we want you to release this tension by supporting and voting for our candidate. She is a woman of substance, she can do it, she is a mover, she is a multiplier and I have no doubt in her ability.

To the other ladies, we are saying **30%** and this is even more than **30%**. So I am saying thank you to His Excellency again for that. For the nominee to the Teaching Commission, we saw your resume and what it contains. You are rich in experience, go and demonstrate your expertise, and show the people the right thing because

education is our flagship programme. We want to see our children become Honourable Members, President, Ministers and to even do more.

I have no doubt in you, please go and do your best, you are blessed and we are fully in support of you. The Female Caucus is supporting you, all the supportive men, including those who have sisters, mothers, aunties, girlfriends and wives, please support this lady, I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution to the debate. I now recognize the Honourable Member from Tonkolili.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again we are in the process of approving people nominated by His Excellency the President, but let me make it abundantly clear here; we are not going to object to any of them i.e. Dr Owis Koroma and the other ladies that have been nominated to serve in different capacities.

However, during the process of vetting these nominees in Committee Room One we raised some issues. Unfortunately, I have heard several speakers talking as if we are questioning the nominee because she is a woman. That has never been, and will never be the issue with us. For people to use the plenary session to campaign or lobby is not the right way to go. Those are the discussions that we must have had before getting to the Well. For one to come and cast aspersion in order for people to see us as ones that are opposed to Gender issues is not correct. We are not that kind of people and let it go down in record that, that is not where we stand. We have questioned the procedure and aspect of this nominee and that is still where we stand.

However, let us make it clear that we have beating **S.O** 32 [3] to death, but what we are still looking at is the fourteen [14] Political Parties, and the Constitution is saying all Political Parties must be consulted. There is no provision in the Constitution that says it is okay to consult some if the others are not there. Out of the fourteen [14] Political Parties, seven [7] were contacted or informed. We say they were not consulted because there was no agreement between them and the President. So we are saying, let us go

by the Constitution. We are not questioning her qualification and we have nothing personal against her. We are saying let the procedures be followed, let the consultations be done, and it was made very clear that consultations were not held with the Parties that were contacted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Commissioner was brought to this House, we questioned him not because he was not qualified, but the credibility as to whether he would stand to the test of time. We have seen him performed in the Tonko Limba Election and how it ended; we have seen the end of the elections at Ward 155 in Koinadugu District and the result.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me draw the attention of this House to the Bye-Elections held in Kailahun District after the demise of our colleague, the Late Honourable Samuel Panda, may his soul rest in perfect peace. We also saw the election of the Honourable Osman Kamara in Bo, may his soul also rest in perfect peace. There were no qualms, no issues in those elections because they were in the strong hold of our colleagues on the other side. We knew we had no strength there, so we did not put up a fight and there were no issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know that in Tonko Limba they cannot challenge us and they very well know that. When we went there, they knew we were going to win the election so they created some skirmishes. The same situation happened in Koinadugu. Over seven Political Party Members from the other side were in Koinadugu just for a Council Election.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are raising these issues because we need to be proactive rather than reactive. My colleague over there was referring to us to where we should take our complaints to. We would not take our complaints anywhere; let us deliberate it now so there will be no complaints. We are not asking our Leaders to be Electoral Commissioner. All we are saying is that we should have somebody that is acceptable by both Parties. If we are objecting one individual because of certain reasons, allow those reasons or views to be heard and be dealt with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also know that elections are not only won on the day that the voting takes place, the processes that lead to the voting day is what we are talking about.

Mr Speaker, all that is on-going is geared towards the 2023 Elections, and there is an on-going exercise that was not properly laid in this House; the Mid-Term Census document.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that was the reason somebody was talking here about delimitation to take place after the elections. Now, the Mid-Term Census which we objected to at the Bintumani Hotel is going on even though the document was not properly laid.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. We had the brouhaha at the Bintumani Hotel regarding the issue about Mid-Term Census. We know what transpired; you had the opportunity to move a Motion to debate whether to throw the Instrument out or not, you fought and you ran away. And 21 days have passed, it is now a Law, Mr Speaker, we do not need controversies in this House, please I beg.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I am referring to that because we very well know the acrimony that resulted in the attempt of moving our Motion. So, if the Leader of Government Business is now saying we fought and ran away, I do not know what he meant by that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Exactly.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** We were kicked out of the House. Mr Speaker, we are only raising it because we want you to know.

**THE SPEAKER:** I do not recall anyone running away.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Nobody ran away but we were pepper sprayed out of the Chamber.

**THE SPEAKER:** So carry on.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you. Mr Speaker, what we are saying here is that having that kind of a thing is a recipe for doubt as to what the outcome would be. That is why we are saying, let us be proactive rather than reactive; let us address issues now before they create issues that may bring into doubt whatever the result might be. We are not saying the woman is not qualified. Credibility and qualification are two different things; there is a variance there. She might be qualified but her credibility as per Party affiliation maybe is what we have doubt over. And to clear our doubt, let us ensure we do the right thing. There are other people who are qualified within this nation that are Sierra Leoneans also. We are not satisfied with having her as Commissioner because of reasons we might not discuss here.

Like I also said, the process of the Mid-Term Census is on-going; the document was not properly laid. If we want to stop violating the document that we called the granum, let us revisit that issue because it is not constitutional, it is not proper, and it is not doing us well. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I would like to recognize the Honourable Member from Kono, the Leader of C4C [*murmuring*].

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I need your protection [*undertone*].

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, I believe as a Member of Parliament, I have every right to represent my people and my voice must be heard in that respect [*Undertones continue*].

**HON EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, I am sure I am protected.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I stand on **S.O** 32 [2].

**THE SPEAKER:** The Honourable for Kono, Leader of C4C, you have the Floor.

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am asking for decorum, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and four hours ago I was in Koidu City and I brought a message



from KOWONET [*Kono Women's Network*] which happens to be the umbrella women's organization in Kono. Mr Speaker, I came with a specific message from KOWONET for the nominee before this House at the moment, in the person of Zainab Umu Moseray.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have watched the Constitution of this country; the granum that guides the activities of Sierra Leoneans. Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution makes it very clear that His Excellency the President has the power to create offices. I have also seen in section 32 [2&3], wherein the appointment of the Electoral Commissioner is highlighted. Looking at the appointment of the Commissioner, Western Area, in respect of consultation, it is an assignment for law makers to now identify grey areas of clauses in this Act, and make necessary amendments whenever the moment of Constitutional Review comes to the Floor.

Mr Speaker, I can attest that my Party was consulted, and as the Leader of C4C was also consulted. This, I consider as a fulfilment of the rituals and protocols concerning the appointment of the Western Regional Commissioner [*applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other day I quoted Martin Niemoller, a Lutheran Professor from Germany who said, I quote: *'when they came to the Socialist, I did not speak out because I am not a Socialist; when they came to the Trade Unionist, I also did not speak out because I am not a Trade Unionist; when they came to the Jews I also did not speak out because I am not a Jew, but when they came to me there was no one left to speak out for me'*.

Today, it is the turn of Zainab Umu Moseray, and I am going to speak for her [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, I have done several research, and among one of the researches I did some ten years ago, I came to the conclusion that when women are in position of trust corruption is minimized.

Mr Speaker, I was at the Appointments Committee the other day when ACC, the Legal body that has the authority to censor each and every Sierra Leonean concerning corruption, cleared her image from every finger pointing of corruption against her. I

was at that meeting and I listened with rapt attention to the letter read out by the Clerk on that day.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can tell you also that Sierra Leoneans would begin to put this nation first when we deviate from unproven allegation, from half-truth, and we deviate from booing at constitutional authority with no proof. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after censoring the lady on that day, I also came to the conclusion that she happens to be one of the fine Sierra Leoneans who has stood the test of time at a very chaotic office; the PPRC, that has all the turbulence romancing with big Political Parties. She has saddled her Leadership skills in that particular office with a very excellent attendance record; proficiency, dexterity and effectiveness during the decade long period in that office and I came to really grow love for the lady.

Mr Speaker, on that day I watched at Lady Zainab Umu Moseray and I made a remarks that her integrity is synonymous to a white virgin sheet of paper *[applause]*. Umu Zainab Moseray, your integrity is unmatched, and your integrity can be synonymous to a white virgin sheet of paper.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is against this short backdrop that I am calling on colleagues from both aisles to lay away the malice, the rancour and the toxic politics by bringing out the "Sierra Leoneanness" in our inner man; selling out our very good citizen nationally and internationally. I therefore call on all to ratify Zainab Umu Moseray with the swiftest ratification spirit that we have, I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I would now recognize the Honourable Member from Bombali, you have the Floor.

**HON. IBAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Over the years Mr Speaker, a good number of us have sacrificed our time in favour of improving on the condition of women folks in this country. To us therefore Mr Speaker, this important component of society must always be seen to be part and parcel of the governance of this country. And this explains why our own side here would have no reason to stand against or to oppose the appointment of women to important government positions. In fact, history

has it that we have always supported the appointment of women. If you ask very important citizens like Nannah Pratt, Nimatta Maddi and others, they would tell you that we played a very major role to ensure that the women folk in this country are recognized as part and parcel of the administration of the State. So when my friend from the other side admonished us to vote for the female nominee here because she is a female, very simplistic Mr Speaker, I looked at him and I smiled; I really did not know what he was driving at.

But Mr Speaker, let me make the point clear, that before this nominee was even considered by His Excellency the President, there was already a female Commissioner; Miatta French, except if you tell us that she is not a woman [*Undertone*]. We are not even saying that we came with her or you came with her; we are merely saying that she was there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to advise ourselves, and I think I have discussed this matter with you almost privately that the issue of consultation, when it comes to the appointment of people working for NEC, it should be addressed very clearly, otherwise it would continue to create problems like we are confronting this afternoon. I remembered, and if you want you can ask Shaka Mansaray who was the Secretary to the President at the time, President Kabba made it very clear that he was going to put this whole matter to rest; by insisting that there was actual consultations, and then, Members of Political Parties were invited to Presidential Lodge to consult with President Kabbah. Mr Speaker, I remembered when I was an Adviser to former President Koroma, we encouraged the President to advise his colleagues and to invite his colleagues from other Political Parties to meet with him to discuss the issue of appointments. I remembered the case of N'far Alie, I was there at State House, he came and he sat before the Leaders of Political Parties. One Political Party refused to agree with President Koroma but that did not affect the outcome of the appointment. In the end, even though Mohamed Kamarainba Mansaray said he did not agree with that man, President Koroma reminded him that he could not stop him from appointing him. So Mr Speaker, whether we agree or not, the moment we consult the other Political

Parties the outcome is very clear; the President still has the final say to appoint his choice. Instead of us coming here every now and then, spending months and months, weeks and weeks debating on matters that are unnecessary.

Mr Speaker, in my introductory remarks, I made it very clear that we have no reason from this side not to support the NEC nominee. We have good reason to support the NEC nominee because from her Curriculum Vitae, she is qualified. The moment they begin to suggest something against you, you correct it. I have nothing against this lady, but Mr Speaker, I am going to emphasize again that the business of consultation has to be addressed. All of us here should accept this, it is important, it should be addressed. Some of us would volunteer on our own to meet President Maada Bio and talk to him on this issue. We will plead with him to understand why we are doing so; we do not want a situation whereby each time the President nominates somebody and his or her name comes here, it becomes a centre of controversy. We do not want this controversy anymore.

So Mr Speaker, whether you like it or not, I think it is the best thing to do; that the presidential nominee should not be the centre of controversy, and therefore, some of us believe that the whole business of clarifying or certifying whoever qualifies should be addressed better this time. It has never been addressed properly at all.

**THE SPEAKER:** Did you say whether I like it or not?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Whether you like it or not.

**THE SPEAKER:** what have I got to do with that?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you are part of the team.

**THE SPEAKER:** Part of what team?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, are you dissociating yourself from the team? Definitely you cannot, he is my great friend.

**THE SPEAKER:** But do not add tribute to me for things that I do not do.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** No Mr Speaker, you are a very brilliant man, you are an intelligent man.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, but you are saying whether I like it or not.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** A man of History, but I want you to understand, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Those who forgot History?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** No Mr Speaker, I do not even want to quote what teacher Sandy said about you *[laughter]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Go ahead.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** He said you are a very brilliant man.

**THE SPEAKER:** And just stop there *[Laughter]*.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** He said you are a brilliant man, and therefore Mr Speaker, we rely on you to come up with sensible things.

**THE SPEAKER:** And I am trying to, if you let me, but whether I like it or not, I am afraid was the wrong choice of words.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, talking about the interest of women folk in this country; when we went to Magburaka three years ago, and we addressed the women folks of this country about the importance of women in Sierra Leone, and the importance of the day associating with women, President Koroma said, *'I think we should put aside a special day for this purpose'*. And this is why today, Mr Speaker, we have the **Women's Day** recognised as a very important day in this country because people interested in the women folks of this country. So anybody who attempts to suggest that we are not interested in the women is making a big mistake. We have worked time and time again to ensure that the women folks of this country are treated seriously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know that the time has come for us to continue to address issues that have to do with elections. Again, I am not repeating the words, I

am merely stating Mr Speaker, that whoever is a Politician, will also be interested in the manner in which elections are conducted in this country. If you don't, then of course you lose elections, and if you lose elections you know the implications and the repercussions. Those people who have lost elections know exactly what the implications are and the repercussions. Both sides have lost elections. You lost elections and you knew what you went through, and we lost elections and we also know what we are going through.

But Mr Speaker, we cannot sit down carelessly and allow ourselves to lose elections just because we want somebody else to win. We want to be very certain that if we must lose elections we should lose them fairly. This is why our colleagues, our friends from Port Loko, from Tonkolili, all of them raised this issue about fair play in the conduct of elections. Elections must be seen to be conducted in a very fair manner; otherwise the very credibility of the electoral process will be put to question.

Mr Speaker, when we conduct elections in this country, it is not just a matter of the APC and the SLPP, or perhaps the NGC and other smaller Parties, it is important that the international community is also watching us. Are we civilized enough to conduct credible elections?

And we have discovered that in many countries, because of the lack of credibility of elections that in itself has created civil wars, and we want to avoid that, Mr Speaker. This country cannot continue to go into a state of fracas just because elections are not conducted properly.

And therefore Mr Speaker, whoever is appointed to an important position regarding the conduct of our elections, must go through the necessary scrutiny, must be a credible person. We are not going to say that because this person is my relative therefore I am going to allow him/her to become the next Commissioner, what if he/she goes there and messes up, and this country is in trouble? So to us, it is important that we look at it from that direction.

So Mr Speaker, when our younger people here raised the issue about the need for us to have credible elections, it is very important that we also take into consideration the fact that we are talking about the future of this country. We are talking about the credibility of our electoral process in this country, and we hope I am going to repeat it, we would find time to discuss the issue with the leadership of this country; how do we make sure that we come to this place to discuss appointments without rancour, without hatred? Thank you very much, Mr speaker [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, the name Owis Koroma is famous, is popular, and I know him very well. And for me, I must be very fair, and I must also state openly that being my own cousin, I always feel very proud when his name is mentioned, not only because of his level of academia; his level of science and achievements all over the world, but because also, Dr Owis Koroma is known for his honesty and straight forward approach to issues. And therefore, I have always said to him that, you will not achieve those things you want to achieve if you want to continue to be so stiff about everything in life. But he will always reply, '*I.B. this is how I was made, I cannot change*'. So here today, he is here with us and I know that he is going to perform remarkably well wherever he is going, and he has given himself an opportunity to make himself available for a new generation of people who should be able to learn from him, so that the whole business of medical science in this country does not fade away. We are very certain that Dr Owis Koroma will be able to transfer his knowledge to a younger generation of people.

So Mr Speaker, there are other nominees sent to us by the President, my point of observation, I want to state that our position is very clear that Madam Zainab Umu Moseray is not our adversary; she is not against us, we are not against her, but like we said, in all other cases now or in the future Mr Speaker, the business of consultation should be clarified so that we all know where we stand before we even go ahead.

Mr Speaker, again I see the name of Salam Conteh who has been praised by some people as an educated person, as a great important person who has contributed immensely to the education of this country. All we can say about that Mr Speaker, is that those people appointed by the President to go to the Tertiary Education must know

that they have been given a very responsible job to address an issue that is very important to the hearts of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, I thank you very much, and I also would want to continue state that we have nothing against anybody, but when it comes to the truth we stand by the truth. The fact of the matter is that consultation has to be very clear, and it is your responsibility as an Adviser to this Government, as a very important person in this Government to make sure that this message passes on to the President; that we must address the issue of consultation once and for all, thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to the Debate. I would now stand the House down for five minutes reasons that I am sure reasonable people would understand.

*[The House stood down at 14:32 and resumed at 14:46pm]*

**THE SPEAKER:** The Honourable Deputy Speaker, you have the Floor.

**HON. SEGEPOGH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and the nominees before us this afternoon, I wish to submit that all of them are qualified. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to plead with the nominees for God and country, help this nation. The seats you are seeking to occupy today are seats that were occupied by your predecessors, but it is unfortunate that as a nation we still continue to struggle not because of what is happening today or not because of those that are occupying the seats today, but because of those that occupied those seats in yester years we are still having the effect of what they did. So as a nation, I wish to tell you that we would continue to pray for you so that you would succeed because when you succeed the nation succeeds. So I hope and pray that when you occupy those positions, go all out to work for your God and your country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly deal with the NEC issue. There is too much confusion by Political Parties relating to the word consultation. Like my colleague Honourable Gavao said, consultation does not mean agreement. And besides, there is never going to be an agreement on a matter as sensitive as this one. It is even



humanly impossible for the Opposition to whole heartedly accept a candidate appointed by the President who is also supposed to be a candidate whole heartedly.

So the problem Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, is with the very law. Consultation has not been properly defined in the Constitution, so there has never been any agreement on the word consultation in section 32. Because the word consultation has become contentious in our law, it is only prudent, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that as good citizens we refer to section 124 [1a]. You know, as a nation we fail to be litigious whenever we have contentions relating to the law or whenever we have legal questions, we tend to refer to Parliament. We want Parliament to solve legal questions, or recently, Political Parties tend to go to Social Media to gain public sympathy relating to legal questions.

In other jurisdictions Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when there are gaps in the law, private citizens go to Court for definitions. We do not need to go to Court as Politicians, or we do not even need to go to Court as Political Parties, private citizens go to Court for definitions. We have refused as a nation to solve legal questions by going to the appropriate arena, instead we would be all over the place making loud statements about something that we could easily handle if we so desire. You see, the law is like gold or silver. If you want to get the best from gold or you want to get the best from silver, you subject that mineral to the experts because it is only them that pay can remove the impurities in gold.

So if we find gaps in the law, it is for us to go to the appropriate arena to remove the impurities. As it is, there is no agreement on what we mean by consultation, and believe you me, because there is no agreement, Parliament cannot solve the disagreement. You know I am a Christian Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so when I make statements I want to be quoted exactly. This question about consultation can never be solved without going to the Supreme Court because Parliament is not the Constitutional Court of Sierra Leone.

**HON. DR. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Is the Honourable Member suggesting that we go to the Supreme Court for definition? Our learned friend can guide us.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, where we have questions relating to the law, we go to the Supreme Court for interpretation otherwise we are never going to have answers. You know, I am saying this because year in year out we have this same problem. During the last term Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, their argument was our argument last term; we said the same things they are now saying, and they defended themselves. Letters were written as consultation and they defended those actions. What they are saying now they should have said yesterday but they did not, and in several instances Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we could not take the heat, we marched out as a way of solving the situation but it remained unsolved. So it is interesting that what could have been solved yesterday is still persistent today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as far as I know, and let me submit with all authority that Mrs Moseray is qualified to be a Commissioner for NEC. Section 32 [4 A&B] are clear on the qualifications. She is not a Member of Parliament but she is qualified to be a Member of Parliament, she is not occupying any public office as the case might be, so as far as we know, she is properly qualified. Of course, the qualification for being a Member of Parliament is clearly stated in section 75 and the disqualification stated in section 76. Those are the issues as Members of Parliament we should be dealing with; we should only be dealing with qualifications and nothing more. The moment we delve to solve contentious issues in Parliament, especially matters relating to our Constitution, then we are transforming ourselves into a Constitutional Court, and we are not a Court. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is exactly what I said at the Appointments Committee. I thought that issue was solved, and going forward Mr Speaker, I would urge you to be doing rulings on some of these matters for the records. We can compile Parliamentary rulings on some of these issues because

they keep coming up and if you go to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court will tell us what the accepted definition of consultation is.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, since you have invited me to make a ruling on a matter of this nature, I would say as far as that particular provision is concerned I am not competent to do so simply because, if it had said that Mr Speaker should make the appointment after consultation, then of course it will fall within my competent to define and make a ruling on it, but it is from Mr President.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** No, probably you have misconstrued me, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** But you said I should make a ruling.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** No, no, you have misconstrued me.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well maybe I misunderstood you.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Yes, that is what I am saying. In a matter of this nature, you can easily say, '*a matter like this cannot be determined by Parliament, a matter like this can only be determined by the Supreme Court.*' That could be a ruling, because this matter keeps coming up.

**THE SPEAKER:** But I thought it is so explicit in the provision itself. It is the President who does the consultation.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** And if you are not satisfied with the consultation of the President, you go to Court for interpretation.

**HON. MARIO FODAY KAMARA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

*[Suspension of S.O. 5 [2]]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Mario, what is your Point of Order?

**HON. MARIO FODAY KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I want to bring to your notice that there is no controversy here over the definition of consultation.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you sure?

**HON. MARIO FODAY KAMARA:** Yes, Mr Speaker, it is not the definition that matters here. The point here is, Political Parties are saying they were not consulted, and there is no proof; the Leader of Government Business has a document here to show us that the APC, NGC, or UP were consulted. This is the problem.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I am afraid, I would rule you out of Order. My understanding of the proceedings and the discussions so far is that the word **consultation** in terms of the nature of consultations and the content of consultations has been called into question many times by many speakers. Carry on please, Honourable Member.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** So that is what I am saying. Mr Speaker, some of us believe that when you do a letter informing the other side that I am appointing this particular individual it can be a consultation, but they are saying no. So the only arbiter of circumstances of this nature can be the Supreme Court which is the Constitutional Court. You do need to wait until the nominee is in Parliament to use that as a ground for defeating the nomination, you do not need to wait. Our only woe as a nation is the fact that people fail to subject their laws to scrutiny. Laws are made by Parliament, and not all the citizens in Parliament are Lawyers. So it is imperative that sometimes would be interpretation problems here and there, there would be gaps here and there. So if you have issues with the law of the land, you subject the issues for interpretation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to be extremely careful not to turn this House into a Constitutional Court. As far as I know, I submit Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, that our argument relating to whether there was consultation or not is of no moment, as a House. If you have parochial reasons, you have other reasons for refusing the candidate or the nominee, say so. Of course is not surprising to me, a matter like this, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, would never be surprising to me because Election matters are serious matters. If I am to run an election with somebody else, and that person tends to choose the referee of that election, nobody is going to accept. Don't begin to meander around legal issues.

Of course, I know as a matter of fact that the only way my brothers are going to accept an Electoral Commissioner nominated by the President is when Ambassador Yansaneh is nominated as Commissioner *[Laughter]*. That is the only way my brothers are going to accept. Even if the Pope is nominated, they would challenge it. Nobody is going to accept a thing like that. Interestingly Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for whatever reason, this law was made during the APC Days. I don't know why that particular provision was inserted in this law but it was made during their term.

Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to urge you to support these nominees. Let's support these nominees for God and country, let support these nominees, they do not mean harm to any of our interest. I know why you are questioning the Commissioner. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is interesting that my brother Honourable Daniel Koroma, I have the greatest respect for him, very good reasoning, of course as Lawyers our training is so complicated that our reasoning cannot be dismissed by anybody as nonsense. So when Honourable Daniel Koroma raised the point that the Chief Electoral Commissioner has been doing so well along the line I nearly clapped.

But Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, do you recall when we brought him here? We all know when we brought the Chief Electoral Commissioner here *[Undertone]* but thank God, a very strategic Member of our brothers is now saying that the person we brought here that was challenged is now doing extremely well. And the same commendation is going to be given to her case. She is extremely independent.

**HON. DANIEL KOROMA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you saying he is misquoting you again?

**HON. DANIEL KOROMA:** No, he is not, but I am urging him to quote me fully, *[Laughter]* not partially; let him quote me fully as to why I said so. This is a proof that we are true to ourselves. That is a clear proof that when you do well, irrespective of our Political Parties, we will say so. So let him quote me fully, not partially. It shows we

have no *'bad heart'*, as others say, **S.O** [2]. When you do well, we say so, but let him quote me fully and not partially.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our brothers have been fighting ever since we came to this Well, even from the very first day we have been fighting, even for your election Mr Speaker, we fought [*Laughter*].

**HON. DANIEL KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, let him quote me or otherwise I will say so. I said, we on this side, to be truth to ourselves, we have been satisfied with his record so far, except the recent bye-elections in Ward 155. And I even quoted that eight hundred people are being killed by lions every year, but **1.7Mln** people are being killed by mosquitos. So let him not allow a tiny thing like this, of which the term of office is not even 12 months to kill his credibility.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay.

**HON. SEGEPOH S.THOMAS:** Thank you very much Honourable Daniel Koroma, you know you have always been my brother. And believe you me, whether you try to defend whatever you said or not you will still get your symbol [*Laughter*]. Don't mind Ambassador Yansaneh, he cannot do anything to you, I know [*Laughter*], you will get your symbol my brother.

Now, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me state a clear point for the edification of the citizens of this nation. I am saying this with all authority and I want the nation to hear me. President Bio does not depend on NEC to win any election [*Applause*]. President Bio at the time NEC was under your control, at the time you had the Police under your control, at the time you had the Military under your control, at the time you had all the Institutions under your control he won an election [*Applause*]. So what is it? What is it? Do we need a Western Area Commissioner to win an election? No! We do not need a Western Area Commissioner to win the election for the Republic of Sierra Leone [*Applause*]. We don't. In those yester-days when we were all over the place, humiliated and beaten all over the place, we still succeeded in winning an election. So why all these scruples? Why are you afraid? Your fear has become palpable; even the

citizens of Sierra Leone are beginning to see that you are scared of nothing. We have not done anything but you are scared already. Even going into the elections, you are beginning to defeat yourselves *[Applause]* because these days every little step the SLPP takes; every little step the Government takes you are worried, you have become crying babies *[Applause]*. What is it for Heaven sake?

And those years when we were here Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the same letters were written; appointments were made without our approval. We did not challenge the Electoral Commissioners nominated to this House. The same method was used to appoint Electoral Commissioners, in fact at a point, my brother, the Leader of the Opposition could attest to the fact that we were against the reappointment of Christiana Thorpe. We were against the reappointment because of what she did; in taking upon herself the authority that she did not have. And Mr Speaker, do you know what? When Christiana Thorpe cancelled those votes, she justified herself, and it was after that time that a Bill came here to justify what she did, interestingly. Just imagine, somebody taking an action and they brought a Bill here to justify that particular action *[Undertone]*, you can't deny that my brother. He was here, she cancelled votes, she had no authority to cancel but Mr Speaker, and we went on. You know I am telling you this, and my brothers to demonstrate the strength of the grand old party; the oldest in the sub-region. SLPP is a very strong Party that I can assure you of. And as long as we continue to go into a free and fair election, no Political Party can defeat SLPP. My brothers needed the cancellation of Kailahun for them to have won 2007, they needed the cancellation, and otherwise they were never going to win. And 2018, while votes were still being counted, the results were announced. Our father can tell us that of course one of the operatives, he can tell us that whatever I am saying is the truth; while votes were still being counted, the results were announced. That is the kind of mechanism that they needed to win those two elections. And now it is interesting that the Party as strong as APC has become a crying baby, criticising every little thing.

Mr Speaker, it would come to a time towards election, we would even bring the Finance Act or the Budget here and they will be challenging it, and they will be even challenging

the existence of the nation. They will be challenging that because they are now crying babies.

However, let me allay your fears, Honourable Members; we have no intention to do wrong in conducting 2023 elections because we know we have enough of the votes, I can assure you. The interesting thing is that other Political Parties are now buying in; they seem to be wrapped up only at the end of the day for them to be dumped in the future, it happened with PMDC. It would always happen, but in the circumstances Honourable Members, let me assure you that this fine citizens are qualified, if you have any other personal reasons for not wanting to approve them, say so. The only thing that is going to help this nation is the truth, don't go behind the laws, as a nation we have very beautiful laws. So don't go behind the laws to present a picture as if the current Government is doing the wrong thing. So in the circumstances, I urge this House to speedily ratify these people so that they go to work for the Republic of Sierra Leone. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. The Honourable Member from Kono, do you still want the Floor?

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Yes, Mr Speaker

**THE SPEAKER:** You have been reminded that your Leader has spoken, in spite of that you still want to talk?

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, thank you *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Leader has spoken *[Interruption]*.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, I am elected to this House as a Member of Parliament to represent a Constituency.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, I will give 10 minutes to you.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of the nominees before this House is very critical, and as a Parliament, we are morally bound to see how we do justice to this nation. I will not



delve further into the issue of consultation because for all the nominees that have come through this House, proper consultation with Political Parties has not been followed. So every now and then we keep asking whether this President will respect the Constitution and Democracy *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, please allow the Honourable to be heard in silence *[Undertone]*. I am trying to protect you. Go ahead please.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker, that is it; it is part of Parliamentary proceedings anyway, I can understand.

On the issue of the nominees, I would first of all take on the nominees for the Teaching Service Commission. Having been in the Classroom for some time before coming to Parliament, we know exactly what teachers are going through out there. And as a Commission, we believe you have the responsibility to look into the affairs of teachers in this country. And for you the Board Members of that Commission, you should know that when issues are brought forward to your office, you should address those issues as Sierra Leoneans and not on partisan line.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, of course the main bone of contention here is the issue of the nominee for the Western Area Commissioner. I want to believe Madam Zainab Umu Moseray is a fine character, I believe she did well irrespective of pressure during her days as Acting Registrar of the PPRC; she stood her grounds and took certain decisions that make some of us proud of her today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the contrary, if we ask for the Constitutional provision to be adhered to, we are not doing that because we are against persons nominated to this House, we are doing it in the interest of Sierra Leone, and in the interest of Constitutionality that is our concern. If you talk about consultation, when was the consultation done? What is the report of the consultation? All of these things are important. I heard the Honourable Deputy Speaker saying that we should be litigious, that is to say, we should be taking issues *[Interrupted]*.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, some few minutes ago the Leader of C4C was very clear in this House. He said that the leadership of C4C was consulted, and even himself as Leader of C4C in this House was consulted. So, if you as a Member of C4C is saying you were not consulted, I begin to see the indifference within yourself *[Interruption]*.

**HON. SHAR CHARLES:** I know you will always come to that point because he is serving in your best interest as an individual in this House. So definitely it is clear that you would support him. And I would not want to delve into the issue of the Leadership of C4C in this House because as a Party, as far as we are concerned, the necessary communication has been made to this House with regard the Leadership of our Party. So I would not want to go into that because it is an open secret that everybody knows the Leader of our Party. So in that regard, I would disregard that comment from the Honourable Deputy Leader of Government Business and move ahead.

All what we are saying, we are not questioning Madam Moseray as an individual; we are questioning the process of her nomination into that critical office. She will be part of the decision making body that will decide the future of this country through the electorates. We are therefore saying that Constitutional provisions must be followed. So as a Party and member of the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties, our position is clear; we have made it clear that we will oppose her nomination for that position due to the various reasons we advanced as Political Parties. And if we are to move forward as a nation, we must be true to ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this nation will not move forward if we are not sincere with ourselves and take the issues of Sierra Leoneans seriously. We need to take the issues of Sierra Leoneans and the Constitution seriously. We cannot continue to sit here and allow the Constitution to be abrogated in a broad day light and called ourselves Law Makers. That is why as members of the Consortium of Progressive Political Parties, we are saying no to the nomination of Madam Zainab Umu Moseray as Western Area Commissioner. Thank you very Much Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to represent the views of the people of Constituency 028 in Kono District.

**THE SPEAKER:** We will now wrap up this debate, starting with the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wonder whether I have much to say before sitting down, but I would still confirm that as far as the nominee for NEC is concerned, our position is 'no', Mr Speaker [*Applause*]. I will advance reasons as to why we have said 'no'.

Mr Speaker, a lot has been said on consultations, but with your permission again Mr Speaker, I am sure you have your telephone with you, it will help you to guide what we are talking about. Mr Speaker, I want us to be together because the Honourable Deputy Speaker has called your attention on certain actions you are supposed to take as Speaker of this House.

Mr Speaker, first, let me see whether I can use Advanced Oxford Dictionary to define the word **Consultations**; not my words. Mr Speaker, Advanced Oxford Dictionary defines **Consultation** as, '*the act of discussing something with somebody or with a group of people before making a decision...*'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would just want to add for what it may be worth, the addition that was made by my colleague from Kailahun. He defined **consultations**, amongst other things to include, '*exchange of letters and informative materials, amongst other things*'. So Mr Speaker, if both definitions are correct, I want to state clearly that no consultations took place, if both are taken cumulatively.

Mr Speaker, I would read a copy of the letter that was sent to the Political Parties to commence the consultation process.

Mr Speaker, the letter which came from the Secretary to the President reads;  
**Appointment as Electoral Commissioner Western Region**

Date 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*I write to inform you that it has pleased His Excellency the President to appoint Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray as Electoral Commissioner...*

This is the first letter that was sent out to Political Parties. So Mr Speaker, the appointment had already been made, and even with that, when they sent this letter, Political Parties, because they believe in supporting Sierra Leone first, without challenging the content of the letter, they then replied to His Excellency through the Secretary to the President again, requesting the CV of the nominee or the appointee, that CV never came, we are still waiting for the CV. So where is the consultation? So you consult by just sending a letter?

Mr Speaker, we were once jokingly told in this House that this is the time for 'Paopa'; this is not the SLPP. It is true; we are now seeing the 'Paopa' in actual practice *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, a lot of emphasis has been made on the specific words that are used in the Constitution. Mr Speaker, I know you want to debate, I can see you want to debate, I can see the urge in you, I can see *[Laughter]* but you cannot debate, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Gone are the days.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** You know we know each other, I can see the urge.

**THE SPEAKER:** Gone are the days *[Laughed]*.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, I agree so let's make progress.

**THE SPEAKER:** I just want to admonish the Gallery; observe and watch. You are not part of what takes place down here. I heard some clapping from you *[Interruption]*.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Respect the direction of the Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am sure they would respect your directions.

**THE SPEAKER:** So please clapping is not allowed there.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** I would be happy if we face each other, because when I debate I face the Speaker so at least you would not be distracted.

**THE SPEAKER:** You derive inspiration from that? I would grant you if you derive inspiration by looking at me.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, no, no, I don't want you to be distracted, thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Go ahead.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, with your leave let me read 32 [b], it says, *'the members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultations'*.

The letter I read presided the consultation, and it says, *with Leaders of all registered Political Parties* not some, but let us take it for what it may be worth, Mr Speaker. I was shocked, because I just asked for the C4C Leader but I see that he is not in here again. He rode on the road for four hours from Kono to Parliament because he needed to make that statement. I noticed it, we appreciate him for that, but he failed to acknowledge the good works of the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma because he should not have been here in four hours, *[Applause]* but that is not the point that is an aside, Mr Speaker.

The point I want to make is that the Leader of the C4C said he was consulted. He said it there as what? The Constitution is very clear; not Leaders in Parliament, but Leaders of Political Parties. These are his own words.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Point of Order! The Honourable Member is not here. He said, his Party was consulted and his Party consulted him.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, no, no, he said he was consulted. That is why most times when I debate, like my colleague from Kailahun, I told him not to go out because I will be making reference to him. I did the same to the Deputy Speaker because I do not want to be making reference when the people under my discussion are not within the Chamber.

Mr Speaker, there are other things that happened but those are personal and I would pick them up with you later because I am sure you did not notice, that is why you allowed them to roll through *[Undertone]*. I am sure if they attempt to repeat similar issues I would raise the issue in the Chamber.

Mr Speaker, some Members of Parliament have said that they have little or no issue with the nominee for the Western Region but some do. I would start by quoting the Seconder of the Motion who happens to be the Deputy Leader of this House in his own words again. He said, while they were in Opposition, they were having a lot of issues and challenges with the proposed Commissioner, he said it. So controversies is not starting today with her, it's a continuous controversy. She was in that post for ten years without being confirmed as a substantive Executive Secretary- that speaks a lot, Mr Speaker *[Interruption]*. He wants to respond? I would give him if he wants to and then I will go to the next level *[Undertone]*. No, no, no, no! This is a House of records. Honourable Member, you cannot ask me to rewind, this is a House of records. If you are out, you go to the Hansard or you play the tape.

Mr Speaker *[Undertone]* no, no, no, you want to respond? No, I want to give you time. No, no, no, Honourable Ibrahim Conteh, leave the Honourable Member.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition...

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** You are treading dangerously close to intimidating your colleague.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** No, no, no, I am saying if he wants to, let me sit down because he is distracting what I am doing *[Undertones]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** He was not here, carry on, please.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. So Mr Speaker, as I said, for her to occupy that office...

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order!

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker, what Point of Order? Which Order is he referring to, Mr Speaker?

**HON. SAA E LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, **S.O** 32 [9].

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker, let me go to 32 [9] then I would go to the next level Mr Speaker, to tell you that we allowed the Honourable Member early this

afternoon to speak out of deference, but for him to continue, except you go against the rules [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** Don't raise that issue here.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Show me the Standing Orders.

**THE SPEAKER:** Don't raise it here.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** I am just from the provinces.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** I told you I did not want to say anything.

**THE SPEAKER:** Don't raise it here, I over looked that aspect as I did for others.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Like who? No, Mr Speaker, there is a rule in this House that Jens, short sleeves and casuals are not permitted in this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Look behind you.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Show me one, please respect the rules of the House.

**THE SPEAKER:** He is having a coat on not the full complement of the attire that should be accompanied by a coat.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** He is having a coat on Mr Speaker.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Show me where it is written in the Standing Orders.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me allow your Point of Order.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I object.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you on a Point of Order?

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** On which Point of Order?

**THE SPEAKER:** Allow him please; I want to hear the Member.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** 32 [9]? Mr Speaker, anyway, let me allow him.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, I have just been intimated upon entering the Well that the Honourable Member representing Western Area; the Leader of the Opposition did mention me in his words that, I should have thanked former President for making the necessary provision for one to drive between Koidu to here in four hours.

Secondly, he also stated that my Party did not in any case suggest that they were consulted. I must clear two things here.

Mr Speaker, number one, I want the Honourable Member from Western Area to know, like all other Parties in this country *[Interrupted]*, Mr Speaker, am I protected? Mr Speaker, am I protected?

**THE SPEAKER:** You are definitely protected. No, let's allow him to complete his Point of Order.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, for the purpose of clarity; like all other Political Parties in this country that have meandered in little conflicts, yet they are opportune to rebound. C4C is also going through their turmoil, but the assurance I can give the Honourable Member is that at the moment our national officers have been given injunction by the High Court of Sierra Leone. That notwithstanding, I would like the Honourable Member from Western Area to know that there is Leadership here in Parliament, and there are also other Leaders that have not be given injunction, and who also have the locus to understand from daily correspondences, whether from PPRC, State House, or NEC etc. The assurance that I can give this Leader is that C4C has Leadership in Parliament, and I can also attest with all alacrity that upon the appointment of Madam Zainab Umu Moseray, I was adequately informed, and part and parcel of the Leadership of C4C were also informed.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, he is making the clarification. I would allow him under 32 [13] to clarify the point.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** He said 32 [9], Mr Speaker. You cannot put words into his mouth.



**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Secondly Mr Speaker, let it be also known that Kono benefiting from the road between Matotoka and Kono is not a favour. Every President Signs social contract with his electorates and the benefit that Kono gives to this nation is quantum. For your records; Koidu Limited alone, we contribute **\$35Mln** yearly that is huge. So benefiting from the road is not a favour but our right, thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me entertain the Points of Order.

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I have three Points of Order.

**THE SPEAKER:** Three Point of Order?

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** I came to this Parliament two years ago with a Safari African Jacket short sleeve, I was asked to go out and get dressed, I went back, called at my home and they brought me a suit.

**THE SPEAKER:** Correct.

**HON. DR. KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA:** Second Point, I left here last year to go for an official event on Electrical Reform organized by National Election Watch [NEW] and the European Union [EU], I came here late, I explained here why, and I tried to take the Floor twice, you overruled and admonished me that I should have prioritized, and it was on social media.

Third, my colleague came very late, no explanation, took the Floor, had the equal chance like everybody and then he is given two bites at a debate. That is not proper Sir. It is a bad precedent.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you have the Floor.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order, this is very important, please.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not allowing you to speak, please take your seat; the Leader of the Opposition has the Floor [*Slight commotion*]. Carry on, please, carry on.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, there is no decorum in the House, how can I speak?

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Order! The Leader of the Opposition has the Floor. Order! Carry on.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I would continue to encourage you that the rules are even for all. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I spoke while the Honourable Member was outside, he came back, having been misinformed, he attempted to respond and has left again, that is unacceptable, Mr Speaker. He raised a Point of Order and the Point of Order must be responded to because he rose on 32 [9].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No, 35 [1] Sir.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** No, no, no, 32 [9].

**HON. MATHEW SAHR NYUMA:** No, 35 [1], but he has gone to do something.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** No, he rose on 32 [9], we have rules. Mr Speaker, with your permission, 32 [9] reads; no Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member'. Where are the improper motives? What did he say that caused the improper motives?

**THE SPEAKER:** But why don't you wait for him to come back?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** I should not, that is not why am here, Mr Speaker. We are here to work, we are not here to wait for him. He has to be in the Chamber, you have allowed him to speak with him wearing Jeans, and now we know you would continue to allow him, so why did he go? It will make no change.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, he is not here but I want to remind the Leader of the Opposition that he left on the grounds of **S.O** 35 [1]. He left with a reason, when he comes back you can see the reason.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker, when the Honourable Member from Kono entered, the whole of that side applauded him. Now he has left, the Leader is defending him, what message are we getting? That is why the C4C is divided.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He left on the grounds of the Standing Orders 35 [1].

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Okay Sir.

**HON. MATHEW SAHR NYUMA: S.O** 35 [1], I can read.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** I am just asking a question.

**HON. IBRAHIM T CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, the message is Government is collective a responsibility.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Thank you. Mr Speaker, if the Honourable Member from Lumley uses his mike again without your permission, we would have to ask him out of the Chamber through you, Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have asked you to continue.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** I cannot, with these interruptions, I cannot. Mr Speaker, when the Deputy Speaker was on, I ensured that my Members were calm.

**THE SPEAKER:** Really?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Yes, when the Deputy Speaker was talking everybody was calm.

**THE SPEAKER:** Really?

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Yes.

**THE SPEAKER:** I was here?

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Yes, here.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am hard to hear?

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Maybe your ears are now open.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** No, no, then something is wrong.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not heard of hearing? I was here and I saw and heard.

**HON. SEGPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition should not be saying that.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Then you need to visit an E and T.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** Mr Leader of the Opposition do not say that.

**THE SPEAKER:** You will accompany me.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Yes, I will.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** At least we are in the face of the Gallery, don't say that.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** No, no, Mr Speaker, when the Deputy Speaker was on and the Deputy Leader, there was decorum on this side.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** No, no, we are in the face of the Gallery, don't say that because they know the truth.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** No, that is the truth.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition you have the Floor.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please continue.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** No, no, no, I will continue to rebut what he said before going back to the debate. I will rebut; I never said that I had interfered at any point in time with the Leadership of the C4C in Parliament. At no point did I say it whiles contributing, and I also said and I will repeat, which he has just said again, that he was consulted, he has just reconfirmed it. So what did I say that goes opposite?

Mr Speaker, again as I said, for people to say that it is unanimous, that we are not challenging the suitability or the credibility of the nominee is not true. Some of us are challenging it, Mr Speaker. I have mentioned her role at the PPRC, the fact that she was not confirmed ten years, the fact that the Deputy Leader of Government Business himself confirmed that the SLPP whiles in opposition had issues with her, these are serious issues, Mr Speaker [*Undertone*]. Yes, the Deputy Leader said it, you were not here.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. The Deputy Leader is not here but I can vouch for him. Madam Moseray cannot be held responsible for her not being confirmed, it was the responsibility of the then administration to do that. For SLPP, we do not have problem with Madam Moseray, let the Opposition Leader prove here with evidence that we had problems with the Nominee [*Undertone*]. No, he did not say it. We had no problem and we have no problem with her, I put my point to rest, Sir.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I am quoting the Deputy Leader while he was seconding the Motion this morning to your hearing, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Hansard will establish that.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** We can adjourn to go and confirm then we come back.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, no, no.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** We can adjourn Mr Speaker, this is Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** No we cannot.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition you have the Floor.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you. Mr Speaker, we believe that this nominee for NEC is not suitable for the position [*Undertones*], I will tell you why, so wait.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please, let's have decorum. Allow the Leader of the Opposition to make his point, go on.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, in Law we normally say, you either beg a question or if you are trying to bring an analogy that is not consistent, you are appealing to pity. To say '*she is a lady, a woman*', that is a serious statement. Was Miatta French a man, was she a man? We need to know because the statements that are being made are contradictory of what we have; '*President Bio's Government has empowered women*'. O yes, that is why the EPA Boss was replaced by a man, the NRA by a Man, SLRSA by a Man, and even the Attorney General [AG] he appointed, he

replaced her with a Man [*Applause*]. Let us not appeal to pity, let us talk on fact and not appeal to pity.

Mr Speaker, we are talking about young people. It is true that the President has done a lot in empowering young people, but is it new? Even Dr Abass Bundu was a Minister below 40 years under the APC [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, she is young, we like that, she is a woman, we like that, but we want young people or women that are fit for purpose; not square pegs in round holes.

Mr Speaker, young people have been promoted ever seen, I was Deputy Speaker in this House in 2012, just check my age then. So young people have been tested in this country, not just now and it will continue. We applaud the President for that, but it will continue; young people will continue to have spaces [*Undertone*]. I clearly heard the voice of Honourable Ibrahim Alieu Kamara talking about unfair. He is here because ten Members were illegally removed from this House [*Applause*] and I am hearing his voice [*Undertones*].

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker using the mikes for undertones is not permissible in the Well of Parliament, please control that.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you very much Sir. Mr Speaker, again, normally before we start, the Chairman of the Appointments Committee, he will always remind and inform nominees that our work is not limited to the documentation they submit to the Committee; we consult outside.

Again, they might be perceptions, they might be speculations, but there are almost credible rumours around the Congo Town axis where this nominee resides that herself and her family have always been active in SLPP matters [*Undertones*] that is what I was told.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Mr Leader no, no, you are too respected for that.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have asked for Point of Order because the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is a very credible man in this House. I expect him to tender issues of such nature with evidence because those things are very serious charges against the nominee. So I expect him to tender those evidences in this House today so as to clear the credibility of this nominee in question. Otherwise, I do not expect him to dwell on rumours. I beg him, please, you are a very senior person in this House, you have gone for a position of a running mate for a major Political Party in this country, I expect you to give us tangible evidence when making accusations, thank you.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, in this House we listen to each other and we listen to words.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I asked for the evidence, Sir.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Now let me come Mr Speaker, I will repeat my words again that normally, before interview commences, it is the usual practices at the Committee; the Chairman of the Committee will always remind nominees that their documents are not the only source of the questioning they are going to face. So as Members of the Committee, we also investigate outside of Parliament and outside of the documents.

So I will repeat what I said, that speaking with people around the Congo Town axis where she resides, they have the belief that herself and her family have been engaged in SLPP activities, that is my statement [*Undertones*]. That is my statement, we go out to talk to people and we are bound to protect our witnesses.

Mr Speaker, let me just digress a bit. Mr Speaker, when we approved the Chairman for NEC, there was one thing I said in this Chamber, and I said it in the presence of the Chairman and my friend then, Umaru Fofanah who was there. I would just read an excerpt from the Hansard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these were my words, so it is not new today; *'the proposed Chairman and Electoral Commissioner knew when we were at Fourah Bay*

*College [FBC] 1996 that only few of us at that period were brave enough to venture out in supporting the APC, others moved to other political parties and I do not want to name them here, and since then, some of them have had respect for me and I have always been consistent'.*

Do you remembered that day? I reminded him, all of us knew where we were; I was APC, he was SLPP, but if he has changed, is not me, these are facts. I do not know the lady, so all I did was to talk to people around the area where she resides.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Deputy Speaker did very well, and I agree with him. Not just President Bio, but each and every candidate for whatever position should not need NEC to win an election because it is the people that vote. So we on this side do not need NEC to win an election. Like the Honourable Member from Lumley said, he said Dr Christiana Thorpe was engaged to Momodu Maligie. Yes, it is true; Sam Maligie then was a Member of Parliament of the SLPP in this House when she was made Chairperson [*Applause*]. She was engaged to Sam Maligie, and Sam Maligie was a Member of Parliament representing the SLPP [*Applause*].

**HON. IBRAHIM CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order, I want to make a clarification. Mr Leader, I think the Point I made regarding Christiana Thorpe and Sam Maligie was a direct response to the fact that the Honourable Leader referenced that people from Congo Town are stating that our nominee and her family members are seen involved in SLPP activities. I am right to say I was born in an APC home, my father was APC, does that make me APC? So it disqualifies the point that because people around her and her surroundings are doing SLPP activities makes her SLPP.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not say much on Hon. Ibrahim Conteh, I will leave that, but all I did was not for him to come and add to the debate, but to confirm his statement I don't want that to be diluted. Even though Sam Maligie was SLPP, but because Christiana Thorpe was credible, as a Party then, we accepted her.



Mr Leader, do not forget, when consultations are mentioned, late President Ahmad Tejan Kabba of blessed memory, his first nominee was turned down by the Political Parties after thorough consultations; not by exchange of letters, he withdrew him. They withdrew him and then brought in Christiana Thorpe. It was the SLPP, not us. We have seven million Sierra Leoneans plus, everything is 'Paopa' and 'Paopa' will not work, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Deputy Speaker made mention of us been fighters in this House since the day of your elections, but I am happy undertones have addressed that, I do not want to go into the details because that is a sad path of our country's history. Mr Speaker, I keep hearing the name Yansaneh, the SLPP is always afraid of Yansaneh like they are afraid of Dennis Bright [*Laughter & Applause*] I don't know why. And you know Mr Speaker; I just wanted to remind the Honourable Deputy Speaker that when we talk about over voting, the Eastern Region is notorious [*Applause*] Mr Speaker, I will remind you of 1996, they had to reduce votes, Mr Speaker. The first time in the history of the world, Tejan Kabba and Karifa Smart, they said no, **S.O** [2] 'E don pass mak, leh WI pul som' [*Applause*], in the Eastern Region. Mr Speaker, you know what I am talking about. And do you know who was the District Officer in Kenema? N'far Alie, he was the District Officer then. They over counted and over reduced, it has never happened Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, we did it few years after Independent in 1967, so in 2023 is going to be easy again, the people are fed-up, we do not need NEC. All we want NEC to do is to be free, fair, open and transparent, that is all we want. We are not dealing with individuals, we want to deal with the institution.

Mr Speaker, I am sure they are just giving more justification as to the call for a tribal audit in NEC, they are just justifying it, Mr Speaker. We do not want to just deal with Commissioner, S.O [2]; '*Ooo na Limba, na ouna sister*'. We want to deal with NEC as an institution, not on individual bases; the operatives on the ground, those who are in charge of elections management. So the call for tribal audit in NEC is a must, Mr Speaker. This Parliament should support that [*Applause*], we should support that. This

is the Parliament of all faces from everywhere in the country, we must also support a NEC that is of all faces.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Deputy Speaker also said, amongst other things, that it was the APC that came up with this Constitution. Oh yes, that was the APC of Salia Jusu Sheriff, Peter Tucker and others, that was the APC. That was the APC of Peter Tucker, your elder from Bonthe. He was Chair, we used him because we believed in his capacity, not because he came from Bonthe.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, when I debated, I did not mean to put the APC on the defensive. Let the Leader of the Opposition contribute to the debate, do not be on the defensive, because by being on a defensive, I think this side has already won the debate because you are in the defensive *[laughs]*.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker, you know the Deputy Speaker hardly debate. You know why he debated today? It is because he knew they had made no sense, so he had to come in to support. The Deputy Speaker was the backup, I know him, we know ourselves, Mr Speaker. You know, I wanted to say something before the Point of Order was brought in. He should not forget that whiles this Constitution was enacted in 1991, it is the SLPP that personalized this Constitution. They had eleven years to have corrected most of these things we are talking about today. They are satisfied with it, we are satisfied, so let us move on.

Mr Speaker, in your wisdom I am sure you will not end this debate today. Based on what the Honourable Member from Kailahun said, I am sure you will not put the question to a vote; you will refer this matter to the Supreme Court for interpretation *[Applause]* I am sure you will do that. You have been invited by the Deputy Speaker, you have been invited by the Honourable Member from Kailahun, and you have the authority to lay this matter to rest once and for all *[Interrupted]*.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. My friend is a very good Lawyer; you are a very, very good Lawyer like myself. When a Lawyer speaks, a Lawyer should understand.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** I do, I do.

**HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS:** In fact what you are saying now, you have taken the whole argument entirely out of context. So address the issues I raised, you are a Lawyer please, address this House as a Lawyer.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker...

**HON. GEVAO MOIWO HINDOLO:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, reference was made to me as the Honourable Member from Kailahun.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** When a senior Member speaks, please keep quiet.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Mr Speaker, I will beseech Honourable Hassan Sesay to watch his diction, you are a very senior Member of Parliament, you cannot tell a colleague to keep quiet.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** I said sit down, but sorry if it offended you.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made reference to me.

Mr Speaker, what I said has nothing to do with the decision of the Speaker referring the subject matter to the Supreme Court. I merely said that, it is the function of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution, and I know and my Colleague knows it is the Supreme Court that has original jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Constitution, and it is an Arm of Government separate and distinct from the Legislature. So you cannot say the Legislature cannot do its job unless they refer to the Supreme Court that was not what I meant.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I have heard the two separate objections. What they are saying is different from what I said, and again Mr Speaker, I am calling

on you to use your good offices in ensuring that you refer this matter to the Supreme Court for interpretation, you have the authority to do that.

**THE SPEAKER:** At a future date?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** No, you can do it today Mr Speaker, so we lay it to rest. I am inviting you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well I am making a ruling now; at a future date maybe I might. Carry on

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, you see the impression I am getting from that side is that they are happy with the confusion so that is why they are supporting you, they are happy [*Undertone*]. You know is not me, I only go to him for official business and he knows that very well. I am not just an MP; I am a responsible Member of Parliament [*Undertone*]. It is an irresponsible undertone, from a senior MP? It is irresponsible, no Mr Speaker, she is a senior MP, we have to be serious with the words we use, we are live on TV. I do not go to your office if it is not official. No, I am serious, Mr Leader [*Undertone*]. You don't make irresponsible statement, MPs don't go to him for anything, and he is the Speaker of the House, not Speaker of the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, the impression I am getting from that statement is that we are to believe that you are a Speaker of the SLPP and that nobody belonging to another Party should go to your office that is the impression I am getting.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, tempers are rising, let us allow the debate to proceed with decorum please, so we can bring it to a conclusion. If you refrain from making undertones it might help the situation a great deal. I implore all of you to minimize your undertones and not to use the mike for you undertones. Allow the Leader of the Opposition to make his statement, to be followed by the Leader of Government Business and then we would proceed by bringing this proceeding today to a close. So Leader, carry on.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I have been distracted so much, even for me to flow the way I wanted has been very difficult. The Leader has made all efforts to calm people down but they are still doing the opposite, and it is unacceptable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have just invited you to use your good offices in referring this matter to the Supreme Court; it falls within your purview. Beyond that Mr Speaker, this House is becoming irresponsible [*Undertone*]. You do not mimic in public as a Member of Parliament. MPs should know their limit and limitation, Members of Parliament don't mimic.

Mr Speaker, I am sure you listened to the Leader when he was presenting the Report this morning. He read the excerpt that we disagreed on the appointment of Madam Zainab Moseray and we agreed on the others. If we look at the Report keenly Mr Speaker, page 7, all of these are just pointers to show, because you need more acceptability in that office. Mr Speaker, if you look at the votes, you would notice a very narrow margin; 6 in favour and 5 against. I am talking about the office they want her to occupy, the acceptability should be greater; 6 to 5 is a very, very narrow margin.

Mr Speaker, it is a list of Parties within the Consortium that were not consulted. When you go to the Annex, Alliance Democratic Party [ADP] was one of those who sent a letter, and the person who signed as Acting Chairman is a somebody that those in the ADP are complaining about; that he was imposed on them by the PPRC whilst she [Madam Moseray] was serving as Acting Executive Secretary at the PPRC. Kamaraimba Mansaray is still in prison but there are others who are running the Party without going to a Convention and PPRC has decided on who is supposed to head their Party. She acted as Executive Secretary, these are serious issues we cannot run away from [*Undertone*]. Mr Deputy Speaker; it is part of the Report [*Undertone*]. Yes, I said I have their own letter here, I have it that is why I am talking. Don't you have a letter from the Consortium? The Leader read the letter from the Consortium and ADP is part of the Consortium. The letter is attached, one of them is ADP's letter. I am saying representation has been made to me by members of the ADP that without going for a Convention the PPRC within which the nominee was serving as Acting Executive

Secretary has imposed an Executive on them [*Undertone*]. Yes, they will, but Kamaraimba is still in prison, he is still languishing in prison [*Undertone*], the bail is onerous, he has been unable to fulfil the bail; the Police have refused to give him his Police Report. So the bail is onerous and as a Lawyer, a senior Lawyer like you know that bail should not be onerous. If you cannot meet bail conditions then that is not bail, as a Lawyer.

Mr Speaker, we have been told we should support women, yes we would support women but let us not forget that it was this same Parliament that did not present the nominee of the Office of Ombudsman before this House when Miss Kowa was nominated by His Excellency the President, we did not see the women in this House coming out, did we? [*Undertone*] No, but she was nominated, I was a Member of the Committee.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order Sir. Mr Speaker, we had an issue with the time of practice; the duration, she did not qualify for the duration, so when we prepared the Report at the Committee Stage we did not present her to the Plenary because we knew if we had done that Members of this particular body should have rejected her. So, we discussed the issue with the Leader of the Opposition together with you in your Chamber and we agreed that we should not present her. So why are you mentioning it?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Leader because he has been very magnanimous to me, but *'what is good for the goose should be good for the gander'*. The same interpretation which was used to disqualify her was applied to somebody else in a different institution but that person was approved by this House. I would not name names; I am just saying the same interpretation. I would make progress, I would not name names, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, with all what I have said on the nominee for NEC, talking about her role at the PPRC, the method of consultation whether it was conclusive or not, other statements coming out of this debate on challenges they had with her; from the Deputy Leader to the Honourable Leader of the NGC, we believe that there are many questions

and issues surrounding her. So occupying that office would not be good for the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The others, we would wish them well and we would continue to support them. There are many women amongst them, so many women going to the Teaching Service Commission, we are supporting all of them. So for them to say we are going against women, it is not true. Very young ladies; Mrs Timity, and my sister Mary Musa is there, very young ladies and we believe that they would perform. When you are good we would say it, when you are qualified we would say it, but we do not want to put people into offices just because they are young or they are women. There are many other women outside, the President can come up with more women and we would approve them, but let us follow the laws.

Mr Speaker, I just have a word of caution for Honourable I.B Kargbo's Cousin, Dr Owis Koroma. Dr Koroma, all of us supported the Medical Examiner Bill and we believe it's a necessary Act that is why the House was unanimous. You would have a lot to do in that institution, and we know that there are two Consultant Pathologists in the Country as I speak. He is going now as Chief Medical Examiner, so it would be good for him to leave the environment in a proper stead so that there would not be a vacuum. It is a very important office, and he knows because he has been working there all his life. While you train Sierra Leoneans to step in, also work with the Consultants to ensure that you have effective people to replace you because when you take up this office, you would have a lot to do, and I am sure you know more than I do because it has been your daily life.

For the others, I want to wish them well, there are many other things on the nominees but some of them might be personal, and as a Leader, I would not talk about personal things, but based on what I know or what I have heard and what I have said, I am calling on this House, irrespective of the divide, to support the nomination of the others but not the nomination of Madam Sauna Umu Moseray, I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would now invite the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker, thank you Leader of the Opposition for your contribution, thank you Colleagues for adding your voices to the debate of these wonderful nominees. I thank His Excellency the President for giving space to our women, for giving space to Sierra Leoneans to serve not at the sub level, but at a very tangible and clear level of State performance, thank you very much. For the President to nominate four women and two men this gives us clear space in mind that His Excellency is ready to accommodate the women in his administration.

Let me quote the words of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray for Women as we are going for affirmative actions. I am going to quote her words from the Report; *'I will work assiduously with other Commissioners to uphold the tenet of fair elections and to make the women of Sierra Leone proud as we aspire for the affirmative action.'*

Mr Speaker, permit me to quote the words of Shabba Ranks who said, *'it is not easy to bring a good man down'*. Madam Moseray, you are a good lady, nobody would bring you down *[Applause]*.

I did not receive a letter from Consortium, I received letters from APC, NGC, and UP, I do not know about Consortium. I am a very magnanimous Chairman of the Appointments Committee and Leader of Government Business, a very open minded person. I do not look low on anybody, I take every bits and pieces of information to my administration as a way of informing me to act in the direction as a Leader or a Chairman of that Committee. I did my assignment very well, I am not here to tarnish the image of individuals or talk about something that is not substantive or without facts. What I am presenting to the House today are facts.

I have exonerated Madam Moseray on one occasion. According to the letter I received from the APC, the NGC, and the UP, they said she has been involved into malpractice and she is under investigation at the Anti-Corruption Commission. I instructed the Clerk to write to Anti-Corruption Commission for clarification. Today nobody is talking about corruption against her *[Applause]*. What I tried to do was to clean the image of the nominee in question, and I have succeeded in doing that. Nobody is talking today about the bad image of this candidate because I have already cleansed her before bringing



her here. She is a good person and she has done well for this nation. So I am not bothered about the Ant-Corruption Commission allegations against her because she was cleared of all corruption charges against her. I do not believe in malicious propaganda or a malicious statement against Sierra Leoneans. Forget about her being a lady; let us address her as a Sierra Leonean who has served this nation and young people, who has taken a position of a fundamental block to our democracy. The letter sent to me was written by a lady from the Unity Party [UP], I did not look up to that, we are still going for affirmative actions. I look up to cleaning the image of our nominee, which I did. God bless the Ant-Corruption Commission for doing a very good job, I think people respect ACC's decision so nobody mentioned about corrupt charges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to the issue of **consultations**. I intend to read Section 32, Sub-Section 3 of the Constitution, Mr Speaker. I am doing this for the edification of the listening public, and to further tell these people that this Administration is a very responsible Administration; we don't do rhetoric, we do real things to push the business of Sierra Leone and put the interest of Sierra Leone first.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I read; *'the members of Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Leaders of all registered Political Parties and subject to the approval of Parliament.'*

Mr Speaker, this is the argument, the popular 32 [3], this has been the crux of the matter here today. Let me first of all start to address the issue the Leader of the Opposition put forward.

This Committee in question is a very credible Committee; we have worked hard to present every candidate here in unison. Some candidates faced challenges but we voted and won the votes. For me, when I got the information, I shared it with all of my colleagues in the Committee, I read every correspondent given to me. In his words, he said the lady in question has been living around relatives who belong to a Political Party.

Mr Speaker, I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that the lady is over 18 years and she has the right to make her own decision, that is fundamental. That is the reason if you are not 18 and above you would not vote. Don't call me because my friend is a thief, judge me based on my character or for what I do. There is no Act established in the Well of Parliament or in the Constitution that says if I am affiliated with an APC or NGC friend it means I am an APC or NGC. I was expecting the Opposition Leader to bring that up to the Committee for us to argue it out. Madam Moseray was asked during the vetting process whether she was a card carrying member of any Political Party and she said no.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me read from the last paragraph of the Report which says, *'issues of unsuitability or otherwise were strictly looked into by the Committee'*. I assume by what he said, he did not present that particular discussion to us, if he had done that, we should have discussed it thoroughly. But I am happy he said it is a rumour, and we don't dwell on rumours. I just want to tell you that in the Committee, we do consultations and we argue out or discuss every bits of pieces of information given to us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go back to the popular 32 [3]. They have said so much about 32 [3], people have turned crying babies over 32 [3]. I gave you an assignment the last time about the Electoral Commissioner, you have brought in a lot of definitions about **consultation** but Section 171 of the Constitution talks about the miscellaneous Section that defines Public Officer etc. but did not define **consultation**. What I did for my colleagues on the other side on that faithful day was to challenge them to go to the Supreme Court for interpretation but they failed to do that.

Today again, let me refer them to Section 124 of the Constitution. Mr Speaker, I will read section 124 of the Constitution so we cannot be labour on the point talking about **consultation** or no **consultation**. If there is a problem with the Constitution and you want to get clarification, go to the Supreme Court. The argument about **32** [3] is enshrined in the Constitution. So, go to the Court [*Undertone*] it is very unfortunate to say you don't trust the Court. It is the same Court that ruled against the late Solomon

Berewa and brought you into power, is the same Court that ruled against certain people whose names I would not mention, is the same Court that you used to remove former Vice President Samuel Sam Sumana from power and today you are saying you do not trust the Court?

Let me read for the good of this House and the wider public so that after today, I would tell you again to go to the Court and seek for interpretation. Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for bringing me up to speed on that. They misconstrued what you said, you indirectly referred them to the Court. Thank you very much, a very good Lawyer coming from Bonthe Island *[Applause]*.

Take a look at the side note; Interpretation of Constitution. Allow me to read section 124 Sub-Section 1, I would read verbatim; *'the Supreme Court shall, save as otherwise provided in section 122 of this Constitution, have original jurisdiction, to the exclusion of all other Courts-*

*[1] in all matters relating to reinforcement or interpretation of any provision of this Constitution; and*

*[2] where any question arises whether an enactment was made in excess of the power conferred upon Parliament or any other authority or person by law or under this Constitution.*

This is a real political argument brought up to derail, taint and tarnish the image of this beautiful lady we have here. Madam Moseray, with the stature and dexterity you have displayed over the years, nobody would bring you down *[Applause]*. I am going to take my time as I did to clear the image of this lady from corruption, so also I am going to clear the image of **consultation**. If you really want to judge and interpret the word **consultation**, you should have gone to the Supreme Court, using Section 124 of the Constitution but you did not; you refused to do it. I challenged you on that day for the other Nominee and you have repeated the same issue about **consultation**.

Mr Speaker, we are honourable People, we should behave honourably. Using the platform of Parliament to cry down or tarnish the image of nominees whenever they come here can no longer be accepted- that is not our role.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a very careful and listening Leader of Parliament, and a very good Christian. I will use the words of the former Speaker, S.B.B Dumbuya who used to say, 'to thy self be truth'. I am under oath.

Mr Speaker, let me now deal with this issue of **consultation** proper. Mr Speaker, I have tremendous respect for the Leader of the Opposition irrespective of the divide, so also for other Leaders in the House. We are Leaders, I respect what we say, I respect what we do because for me to succeed as Leader of Government Business, I need to work with them. That is a force I have to reckon with, but I also like to reckon with the fact and be very sacrosanct in what I do and I believe because I am under oath. I have said it time without number that I am a Catholic Christian, I am not an ordinary Christian, and I am a Knight too *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, I am going to present evidences to the House to prove that consultation was made. There is no form of interpretation of **consultation** in the Constitution, I cannot take Oxford definition for interpretation of **consultation**, neither the Michael West definition nor the Goggle definition, but by the simple fact that consultation means a way of informing anybody.

Mr Speaker, my colleague from NGC was asking for the letter of the nomination. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July letters were written to Political Parties, you have the attachment. I have additional letters from other Political Parties; the RUFPP, the CDP, I have them here. As I stand here, out of ten Political Parties only three have denied being consulted and only these three Political Parties are against the nomination of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray. Is it because they have representation in Parliament so we should believe them? In the field of Democracy, majority carries the vote. Look at the span, three as against seven who do you believe?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they have levied the assertion that they were consulted after the nomination. That is not true, they were not consulted after the nomination, they were consulted before the nomination. And let me read the caption of the letter of appointment given to Zainab Umar Moseray subject to Parliament approval.

Office of the President, State House,  
State Avenue, Tower Hill,  
Freetown.

7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

Zainab Umu Moseray

Freetown

Dear Mrs Moseray,

Appointment as Electoral Commissioner, Western Region

So tell me, where is the misnomer? You are doing this just because you want to tarnish the image and stature of this young beautiful lady who has served so well at the PPRC. You want to bring her down just because of political reasons; you want to bring her down just because your political mentors are around- that is the only reason.

The President, His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio has done everything humanly possible to listen and adhere to the tenet of the Constitution; he consulted Political Parties, and they are here refusing to reckon with that. What else can we do? Do we need to lie down and beg you people? As Honourable Deputy Speaker said, you can only accept **consultation** if the President appoints Ambassador Yansaneh as Regional Commissioner- that is the only time you can understand the word **Consultation**.

Mr Speaker, I went further to do additional investigation and I realised that C4C was consulted and NGC was consulted. I have the way-book, I have photocopied it because I do not believe in saying things that are not facts. I always look for facts, I said I am a Catholic Christian. Mr Speaker, through the Clerk, here is a copy of the way-book.

Mr Speaker, after they refused to take their letters, the Secretary to the President forcefully took the letters to their offices. Honourable Members, if really you wanted a discussion on the consultation, the appointment was on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021, today is 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, you should have gone to the Supreme Court for the interpretation or definition of **consultation** so we can go to the President and present the definition of consultation to him and advise him not to continue with the usual format *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the good and the integrity of this House, we should have gone to His Excellency the President and tell him to look at the interpretation of **consultation** as enshrined in section 32 [3] of the Constitution. Now you are asking the Speaker to differ and that is very dishonest of all of us. We have not done the right thing; we have not done our assignment very well. All of these people listening to us have been here since this morning, as I speak, it's almost 5 O'clock. These people respect this House.

**HON. DANIEL .B. KOROMA:** Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with due respect to the Leader of Government Business *[Interrupted]*.

**HON. CHERNOR .R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, we have to stop these things, Honourable Member *[Undertone]* it is not for him to ask, it is for the Speaker or the Leader, not you *[Undertone]* no, they should not. It's unacceptable.

**HON. DANIEL .B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, the Leader of Government Business just referred or impute an improper motive on what the Leader of the Opposition just said before he wraps up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the Leader of the Opposition to say that it is within your purview as Mr Speaker to refer this matter to the Supreme Court is no way a dishonest behaviour. And imputing that motive to the Leader of the Opposition that he is being dishonest by referring to you that it is within your purview to refer this matter if you so wish, of which you had ruled, that cannot be dishonest, Mr Speaker. And therefore, I ask that the Leader of Government Business withdraws that statement.

**HON. MATHEW .S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much. Honourable Member, noted, but let me just reiterate myself. I said you are asking the Speaker to do something that he cannot do; to tell us to differ the approval of the appointee on the grounds of **consultation**, and there is a provision in the Constitution which you have refused to accept. You said you do not believe the Court but we believe in it because it is the same Court we used to go through our SLPP Constitution. We believe in this same Court that has stood for so many things, irrespective of politics.

So, I said you did not use that provision and you are asking the Speaker to stop the approval and go for another consultation. Anyway, for the good of the House, I rest my case and I withdraw, let me proceed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have said and I will continue to say it; we are here representing people, we are here representing the nation with a motto Unity, Freedom and Justice. We can be united, that is the mantra. When we use our platform, let us talk good things about people, when we want to bring people down, let us look for tangible evidences to bring them down, not on hypothetical basis; talking about hearing say etc. That is exactly what you have done to this young lady here today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when they brought in malicious things against her, I took my time and invited stakeholders to the Appointments Committee to hear us so that the issue of consultation can be demystified and at the same time clear the air over the malicious allegation of corruption against her.

Mr Speaker, permit me to read from the Report. *'On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, the Committee conducted a public hearing in the presence of the following stakeholders notably, the National Elections Watch [NEW], The Institute for Governance Reform [IGR], Campaign for Good Governance [CGG], All Political Parties Registration Commission [APPRC], Representatives of Political Parties and a cross section of Print and Electronic Media'*. That is the way you treat serious issues.

I had to dispel all of these issues about her and I also gave documentary proofs to show them that they have been consulted. What type of consultation do you need, the

APC type of consultation? Well let me tell you about the John Benjamin's scenario. I was very close to John Benjamin when he was the Chairman; I was his Campaign Chairman, you know that very well. On that day, they called Mr John Benjamin who was the Chairman and Leader of the SLPP on the phone, I was with him, and they said, *'well we just call from State House to inform you that we want to nominate Christiana Thorpe again for this position'*. Mr John Benjamin was very furious and he said the SLPP was not going to accept that. That was the end of that discussion. I was a Member of Parliament at that time, we went and sat down *[Undertone]*, let us be patient, not all what the Leaders of your Political Party always tell you is right, argue with them. We went for a surgery in our Party office to carefully interpret section 32 [3]. We realised that there is no interpretation of **consultation** in section 171, we also called batch of Lawyers who told us the same thing. Mr John Benjamin was asked whether he was called and he said yes, we then agreed that he was consulted. That was why when we came to the Well for her approval we did not raise issues on **consultation**, we only questioned her credibility. Before we matched out, we made our point; the late Moon Pujeh said, *'you had no authority to cancel Kailahun votes and you did, so we are not going to participate because you have credibility issues'*. We did not talk about **consultation**. It is not all the time you do what your Political Party tells you to do. What makes you a liberal person in society is when you stand for the truth and nothing else but the truth. During that scenario, we told Mr Benjamin that, you are the Chairman and Leader of the SLPP, we are your Parliamentarians, and we are not going to match out on the grounds of **consultation** because you were consulted. We told him we were going to challenge Christiana Thorpe's nomination on the grounds of credibility.

Honourable Members, you have not proven any point on the grounds of credibility of this lady, you have not discredited her *[Undertone]*. What you have questioned is the procedure; the level of **consultation** is what you have questioned. There is nothing wrong with her credibility. She is not the maker of what you are accusing her of, and you are not even right to say so because you were consulted.



Madam Moseray is a good person; she has served with dexterity, stature, integrity and profound commitment. That is a lady *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a very proud Sierra Leonean to stand here today after I received a letter from those people you are proud of today and you called them Consortium. They are misleading you that no consultation was held; they also said that this same lady was charged with corruption and she was under investigation at the Anti-Corruption Commission. I was able to prove them wrong, and today I am a very proud Sierra Leonean to do that for a very young lady that has worked very hard to build her own career.

Mr Speaker, let me give a word of caution to my colleagues on the other side; I believe we need to look out for compromises. The reason why you are not comfortable with the Court today is because we have used our platform to intimidate or disgrace people. We had Judges whom you had promoted to serve in the High Court booed at by your Members when they came here for approval. And today you do not have the confidence to approach them in the Court- that is the problem, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, my colleagues on the other side want to win election, but let me assure them that we are going to approve the appointment of this very lady today because we are going to win the vote *[Applause]*. You have made a lot of accusation against her but you have not given any substantive proof of evidences against her. All what you have done is hear say, I have given evidences here to prove that she is a credible lady, I have read her resume and she is qualified for this job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, how are you going to confront Madam Moseray when you have problems during elections? How are you going to engage her when you have discredited her without reasons? You need to discredit somebody with facts. The people on the other side called Consortium have done all of these accusations to gain political favour or make political point, why?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy that we have reckoned with the fact. I am happy with what Honourable Emerson Lamina said; that as Leader of C4C he

was consulted and that they had evidence to the effect that C4C and other Political Parties were consulted. If Democracy dictates that majority carries the vote, then Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray, having seven Political Parties as against three acknowledged her nomination, I am proud to say His Excellency the President did the right thing; he did consult. If the Leader of the Opposition said the voting gap at the Committee meeting was one, and the gap for this one is big, it means we should endorse Mrs Zainab Umea Moseray [Applause].

I think I don't have much to say to convince you, but to ask you to behave like Sierra Leoneans, to behave honourably and approve these fine nominees, especially Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray.

Also, you said for ten years Madam Zainab Moseray has not been approved- '*to thy self be truth*'. Seven out of the ten years you were in administration and you did not approve her. In the space of three years, we have given her a higher platform because she has performed [Applause].

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH:** Mr Speaker, let me just guide my brother. I said ten years, I did not say under the APC. They have been in office for almost four years, they are about to exit office in 2023, count it inside.

**HON. MATHEW .S. NYUMA:** Thank you. I can understand, I am a science student, he is a Lawyer, I know the numerical strength of numbers; I know 1,2,3,4 up to 10. We are now three years plus in governance, so let me say six or five years you had her as Acting Registrar, you did not approve her. We on the other hand have seen the ability in her of bringing our election system to a class that all of us will appreciate. We appreciated her work under your administration, we appreciated what she has been doing for PPRC and we appreciated her work with the young people. Those are the reasons we have brought her to serve as Regional Electoral Commissioner. Madam Zainab Moseray, thank you very much for serving the people, thank you President Bio for what you have done.

I know you are going to vote against her, but let me remind the ladies; ladies, if you think you are convinced with what she has done, and also for the sake of integrity and the affirmative action for women, the gender policies you have been fighting for; the **30%** quota, please free your conscience. I will quote the words of Bob Marley; *'emancipate yourself from mental slavery'*. If you are convinced, which I am fully aware of, I am calling on you to know that you are not betraying your Political Parties; you are only standing with the truth, nothing else but the truth. Approve her nomination if you think you are fighting for women affirmative actions by voting for her.

We on this side will assure you of her fairness, her level of integrity, her level of administration to serve and to deliver in that office. So I call on you all to vote for her. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have just made a plea to my colleagues on the other side for the women because we want to subsume the **30%** quota. I am not a hypocrite, I am a Catholic Christian. I have put mechanism in place to work for the **30%** quota system, but this is going to be a test for you, we are watching you. Tell your Political Parties that you have a mark to make for the good of this country, let us come together to support the women of this nation. I believe as women your similarities are far greater than your differences. So come together, be you SLPP, APC, NGC, C4C, all Political Parties, support Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray.

I said you are going to vote against her, but I will end with these words again; for we know we shall win, for we have confidence in the victory because Sierra Leone comes first against any individual interest, thank you very much, and may the Lord bless us all *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members,...

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you about to move?

**HON: MATHEW .S. NYUMA:** Yes Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** May I invite you please to come forward, two of you. *[Speaker engaged the two Leaders briefly]*

**HON. MATHEW.S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that this Honourable House approve the following nominees:

1. Dr Owis Koroma, Proposed Chief Medical Examiner
2. Mrs Mary Pine-Timity, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission
3. Ms Mary Yeanoh Musa, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission, and the last but not the least,
4. Reverend Mrs Etal Moigury Cage, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission. I so move, Mr Speaker

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service as amended, with the exception of Mrs Zainab Moseray as Commissioner of Western Region at the National Electoral Commission Sierra Leone [ NEC-SL ] has been approved]*

**HON CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, on the next nominee, considering all what you have heard, and judging from precedent like they did in the past, we are not just questioning her on Section 32[4]; her competence and neutrality are all in question, so on that note Mr Speaker, I am not too sure we will be participating on the next nominee, thank you very much. *[Members from the other side of the aisle chanted 'Una go, Uma go, una go']*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I move that this Honourable House approves Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray a proposed Electoral Commissioner, Western Region.

*[Question proposed, put and agreed to]*

*[Motion of Appointment on the Public Service Commission for the appointment of Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray as the Commissioner for the Western Area Region of the National Electoral Commission has been approved]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, it has been a very long day. Order! Order! It is now my pleasant duty and privilege on behalf of the House, to congratulate all the

nominees who have been approved by this Honourable House. By your approval, you have endorsed the trust and confidence that His Excellency the President has reposed on each and every one of the nominees.

For Mrs Zainab Umu Moseray, I am sure she is going to proceed with the onerous execution of her new duties bearing in mind the debate that has just ended in this House. And in doing so, this House has no doubt whatsoever that you will be able to discharge your responsibilities with distinction and to the credit of your good self; your past records and the institution that you served previously. I Wish all of you well, good luck and you go with the blessings of this House, thank you very much and congratulations. You may take leave off us now.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

**HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, we cannot have a pre-legislative for more than four, five, six, seven Bills in one day. It is practically impossible, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Correct yourself, Clerk.

**TABLE CLERK:** The pre-legislative is only for the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 2021 scheduled for Friday, and Monday is the National Investment Board.

**HON. ISHMAEL S. SANDY:** Mr Speaker, **S.O** [23].

**THE SPEAKER:** You are still shying away from Question Time; you are hiding behind the cloak of **S.O** [23]. I would begin to disallow that.

**HON. ISHMAEL S. SANDY:** I am sorry Sir, I want to...

**THE SPEAKER:** I would listen carefully the content of your S.O [23] and decide whether it is more appropriate for you to bring a question or to go under S.O [23].

**HON. ISHMAEL S. SANDY:** It is **S.O** [23] indeed, Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this particular issue raised under **S.O** [23] is a concern to every Sierra Leonean. A Sierra Leonean Lady by the name of Frederica Ifeoma Oruchs, age 30, of 24A Old Railway Line, Brookfields, was reported dead on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Yesterday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 post-mortem was done on the remains of lady Federica and it was reported that lady Federica's death was as a result of fracture, strangulation and there were injuries on her body, and she had a blunted face, and she suffered from a severe physical assault. It is alleged that these things happened to the deceased at the Shuman Hospital in Freetown here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Human Right Campaigner, I want to bring this to the knowledge of the House, more especially the Health Committee and the Human Right Committee to see how best we would bring to this House the Authorities of the Shuman Hospital for further investigation to know how it happened and if possible, to engage Authorities to investigate further and ascertain the cause of the death.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would refer your question to the Committee on Health, but believe you me it is more appropriate for a Question rather than under **S.O** [23]. You people keep coming under **S.O** [23], is not designed for that.

**HON. ISHMAEL S. SANDY:** Mr Speaker, it is as a result of the exigency of the situation. This involves the life of a Sierra Leonean.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, this is a very serious matter. What I think we can do is to encourage the Human Right Committee to further call the parties that are involved and open investigation on behalf of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** I refer the matter to both the Human Right Committee and the Health Committee to work together and try to investigate and report to the House within fourteen days.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So they can meet at any time? So can we have that one as a Motion, so that they cannot delay?

Honourable Members, based on the issue at hand concerning the death of a lady allegedly in a hospital of Dr Shuman, I move that the Human Right Committee and the Health Committee open a Parliamentary investigation on the case at hand and report the matter to Parliament within fourteen days.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** I second the Motion, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

**HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, by saying a Committee should look into this; I think we should have on board Dr. Owis Koroma, the Pathologist. Otherwise, supposing the lady would have been buried, how are we going to get the truth of the information?

**THE SPEAKER:** I am sure Dr Owls Koroma would be summoned by the Committees.

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO:** Mr Speaker, for his edification, the autopsy was done yesterday and the result went contrary to the cause of death stated on the Death Certificate by the hospital. So the Police might be giving the family the go ahead to lay the deceased to rest, but as you can see, some of the students from Njala University are here presently to seek the attention of Parliament so that the investigation is done urgently like the Honourable Speaker has directed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, another **S.O** [23].

**HON. REBECCA YEI KOROMA:** Yes Mr Speaker, I want to inform this House that last week I was in my Constituency and I donated as a way of supporting Government flagship programme; Education, I donated two hundred Books and Bags to children that passed the B.E.C.E in my Constituency. The Bags that I gave to them were made in Sierra Leone, which by extension implies providing more money for Sierra Leoneans. I am saying this to encourage other Honourable Members who have been buying ready-made Bags to undertake similar venture to also start purchasing our locally manufactured bags. These bags are more durable and sustainable; you can wash them, and even use needle and thread to repair them. They are good for our children and the proceeds can help augment our local fabric makers.

Secondly Mr Speaker, an issue is going on in some parts of the country and it also happened in Kono last week. A woman was kidnapped sometime last week and placed in a boot of a car. The car had to cross all the checkpoints with the victim unnoticed. However, the taxi driver whom the kidnappers hired on arrival in Magburaka pretended

to have run out of fuel. The two kidnappers, upon suspecting that they were about to be trapped by the driver took to their heels. The driver then took the woman out of the boot and the matter was reported to the Police and the matter is currently under investigation in Kono. It is also reported that recently, two guys who allegedly went to kidnap children at a school in Kono were arrested. A lot of similar incidents, including ritual murders seem to have started in some parts of the country again. I am bringing this up for the attention of everyone so that we can talk to our Constituents, including children and those from the villages to know that people are in the habit of kidnapping people for various reasons. That is what I want to submit Sir, thank you, Mr Speaker for your attention.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, with that Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021 at 10 A.M. prompt.

*[The House rose at 17:45pm]*