

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

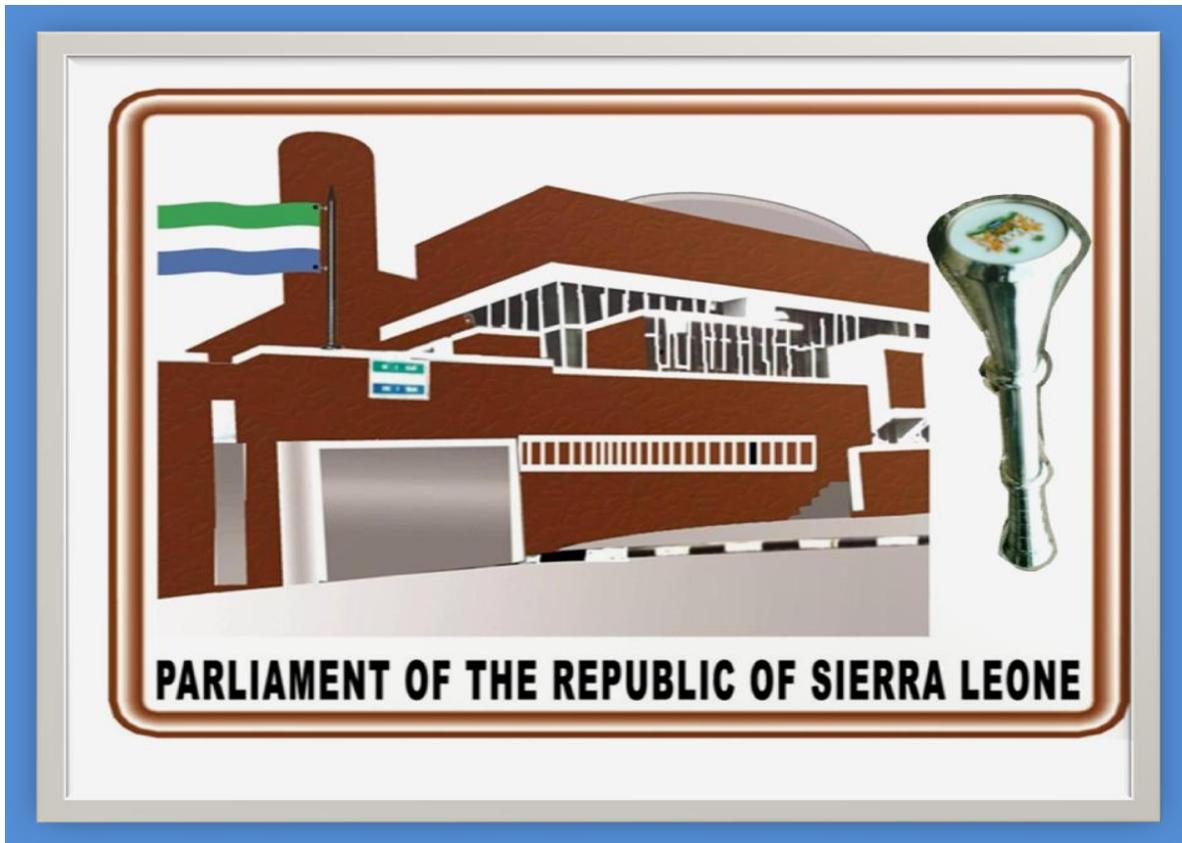
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2013

SESSION – 2012/2013



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 28th November, 2013.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

**FIRST SESSION-FIRST MEETING
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

Thursday, 28th November, 2013.

The House met at 10:55 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

HON. BUNDU SONGOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that S.O 5(2) be suspended to commence the business of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALHSSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motion?

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)

HON. CLAUDE KAMANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move to effect changes on the Order Paper. Amendment on the Order Paper and that is we have a new roman III to read Laying of Paper by the Chairman of the Education Committee and then III becomes IV.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON ALHASSAN KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am sure no one is averse to that amendment so we take it that it has been accepted by the House.

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2013.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 26th November, 2013. Page1?

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Speaker, I was here but my name is not in the register.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note of that. Any more on page 1? Page 2?

HON. BUBUAKEI JABBIE: I was also here but my name is absent from the register.

THE SPEAKER: Where were you Honourable Member? Mr Clerk, please take note. Any more on Page 2? Page 3? Page 4?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to look at Roman figure III on Page 4. The heading: "The following Member" and below that heading, we have series of Honourable Members. It should read 'the following Honourable Members.'

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Any more on Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? If there is no further amendment, can someone move that the record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 26th November, 2013 be adopted as amended.

HON. GLADYS GBAMOH GBAPPY BRIMA: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: I so second Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any counter motions?

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)
(Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 26th November, 2013
was unanimously adopted as amended).*

III. LAYING OF PAPER

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY

HON. SULAIMAN M. SISAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, I wish to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the First Report of the Committee on Education on an Oversight visit to twelve districts in the provinces on Tuesday, 16th July, to Saturday, 27th July, 2013. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please don't convert your undertones to overtones.

IV. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR F. B. L. MANSARAY (*Minister of State Finance and Economic Development*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 26th November, 2013:

(a). ADDITIONAL FINANCING AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA) TO FINANCE THE SECOND PHASE OF THE REPRODUCTION AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECT, DATED 11TH OCTOBER, 2013

(b) FINANCING AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) TO FINANCE THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT)

(i) LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND – (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013

(ii) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013.

(iii) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (ACTING AS EXECUTING AGENCIES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY) (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013.

(iv) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (ON BEHALF OF THE FRAGILE STATE FACILITY) (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT) DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013.

(v) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with the Reproduction and Child Health Project. As Honourable Members will recalled, an amount of 20 million dollars from the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund (ACGF) was approved on the 18th June, 2010 for the Second Phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Project. On the 27th September, 2012, 5.69 million U.S Dollars was also approved by ACGF, which became effective on the 20th April, 2013, making a donor financing of 25,690,000 US Dollars which has almost been exhausted. The overall objective of the Reproductive and Child Health Project is to increase utilisation of a package of essential services by pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under the age of five. In essence, the project is meant to augment Government's efforts in its Free Health Care delivery services for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under the age of five. The Project, as it is, constitutes the Second Phase of the programme and consists of the following components:

- strengthening service delivery. Under that, we have the grant transferred to the local councils to finance specific development sub-projects for the provision of all basic services in the health sector, such as the rehabilitation of health centre facilities;
- performance based financing services grant. In this component, specific development sub-projects are carried out through the provision of PBF services, grants to health service providers, comprising preventive and curative services such as primary health care and preventive services for pregnant women, post natal care and immunisation for children under the age of five and family planning services;
- another component is the distribution of long treated bed nets;
- Local Council grant administration is the next component. In this component, there are programmes of activities aimed at building the capacity of the Local Government Finance Department, supervision and monitoring of implementation of the provision

of core basic services in the health sector, including the provision of training a medical waste management system to Local Councils and environmental committees; and

to carry out programme of activities aimed at improving the capacity of Local Councils and eligible health service providers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second component, which is capacity building is meant to carry out a programme of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the Project. These activities are:

- a. to carry out programme of activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of Njala University and the University of Sierra Leone for the provision of basic services and postgraduate medical training;
- b. to carry out a programme of activities aimed at:
 - (i) strengthening the organisational and management capacity of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, including the establishment of an Integrated Health Project Administration Unit;
 - (ii) Operationalisation of the Health Services Commission;
 - (iii) to carry out comprehensive review of the legislative and regulatory frame work for the health sector, with a view to identifying gaps and making recommendations;
 - (iv) to strengthen health management information system;
 - (v) to carry out a comprehensive review of health sector financing, including, sustainability of the Free Health Care initiative and the development of a Social Health Insurance Scheme, through the provision of technical advisory services, operating cost and training, and

(vi) to maximum commitment charged rate. These are the conditions of the loan. The maximum commitment charged rate payable by Government on the un-withdrawn financing balance shall be one half... - *(Interruption)*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a maximum commitment charged rate payable by Government on the un-withdrawn financing balance and that shall be one half of one percent per annum.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with this clarification, I move that the Additional Grant Financing Agreement in the amount of \$8,700,000 special drawing rights, which is equivalent to 13 million US Dollars and the letter of agreement on the Multi-donor Health Results Innovation Trust Fund in the tune of 5 million US Dollars, both totaling a grant of \$18 million for the Reproductive and Child Health Project that were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on Tuesday, 26th November, 2013, be ratified.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at the next paper, the Financing Agreement, signed between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the African Development Bank to finance the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project. The overall objective of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is to provide safe drinking water to 625,000 people in the rural areas, 47% of whom are women. The Project will also restore access to 361,000 people. The Project will be implemented over a 5 year period in five districts across the country, which includes Kono, Koinadugu, Kambia, Pujehun and Bonthe districts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Project comprises of 4 components.

The first component involves the supply of water and sanitation infrastructure. The objective of this component is to provide water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Under this component, the following will be financed:

- rehabilitation of 1,440 old water pumps and the construction of 570 hand dug wells and spring boxes, 90 bore holes, 25 rain water harvesting systems and at least 160 gravity flow skill taps and also 250 solar power pump stand pipes;

- there will also be 390 sanitation facilities, including toilets in public institutions; and
- it will embark on private risk management infrastructure, including 200 rain gauging stations and 20 survey and ground water monitoring stations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second component is the national rural water supply and sanitation programme development. The objective of this component is to develop a comprehensive frame work to facilitate effective sector management and resource mobilisation. Mr Speaker, the third component is capacity building. This will involve the training of 30 professionals like staff of water resources and climate change management, the training of 165 small scale service providers, including pump mechanics and other artisans for construction and maintenance of infrastructure. The Project will strengthen Community Based Organisations (CBOs), including training and supporting 40 community leaders and 100 sanitation and hygiene education trainers. Support will be given towards coordination and provision of field and office equipment and tools. Implementation support on the job training will be provided through technical assistance for District Councils, Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Local Government Finance Department. And Mr Speaker, under this component, we have sector coordination and development support, including annual sector reviews.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the final component of this project is project management. This component relates to the overall project coordination and administration, practical oversight and quality assurance, supervision of service providers, monitoring and evaluation and reporting, including environmental and water quality monitoring and office supplies, and logistical support for all implementing agencies. The executing agency of this project is the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO). The Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources will be responsible for external monitoring, including reestablishment of water monitoring infrastructure, while the Local Government Finance Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will provide fiscal Oversight.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now come to the terms of the loan. Government shall repay the principal of the loan for a period of 40 years, after a 10 year grace period at the rate of 1% per annum from the 11th to 20th year inclusive and at the rate of 3% per annum thereafter. A service charge at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1% per annum on the principal amount of the loan disbursed from time to time will be disbursed. Additionally, a commitment charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1% per annum shall be paid on the undisbursed portion of the loan which shall begin to accrue 120 days after this agreement has been signed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, giving the importance of this Project in terms of providing adequate and portable water for the people in the project area, I move that the financing agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the African Development Bank Group on the 22nd of October, 2013, in the total amounts of units of account 9,065,000 units of account 2, 854,000, units of account 8,467,000, then 5,300,000 Euros and 4 million US dollars be ratified. I thank you.

(Question Proposed)

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a man who has always been critical about the manner in which papers are laid on the Table of this Parliament. These papers were laid the day before yesterday. I think Members of Parliament should be given adequate time to read these papers so that they can raise issues we can adequately debate on and address them accordingly. But how many Members have actually read these papers? That is one observation Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I think I must respond to what you have just said. I will first of all like to thank you for that observation. But I want to remind you that these documents had been with us before Tuesday. They were laid in this Well on Tuesday but they had been distributed before Tuesday. Each member is expected to have read his or her document upon receiving it. Also, in consultation with the leadership, an announcement was made

on Tuesday even before the order paper came out that these agreements would be debated today. That is what I wanted to say.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my second observation is that it has been the practice of the Executive Arm not to treat Parliament with seriousness. That is we are coming to give more moneys to the Ministry of Health, but the Minister is not here. The Minister for the Water and Energy Resources is here but the Minister of Health on the other hand is not here. He should have been here to take note of queries that are raised during the time of debate. I want this to serve as a warning, or a notice to the executive branch that comes with this budget, if the executive are not here, I Honourable Foday Rado Yokie representing constituency 68 will move a motion for that particular portion relating to each department not to be addressed. We will not debate it until that particular representation come to this well. You must be here to listen to us, whilst queries are raised on those issues. With those two observations Mr Speaker, Honourable, I will go now to my contribution on the issue at hand.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister talked about an additional loan. He said we have exhausted \$25 million during the First Phase on the Reproductive Health Care. We have two papers here. One of these papers is about the health sector and the other paper is about the water sector. What I am saying here concerns the health sector. Having spent those amount of monies and with the present amount we are about to ratify, I was of the opinion that an annual work plan (which is one of the prerequisites of the World Bank) will be presented alongside these documents so that Members of Parliament will also be privy to it. I am saying this because it is a necessary condition put forward by the World Bank for the implementation of the said project. Nobody in this country is averse to additional funding for the implementation of the free health care. We are in support of it. It is timely but I have always cautioned the judicious utilisation of those resources. In 40 years time from now Mr Minister, the contributors of these monies would not be alive. Plenty of us here would not be alive. With this in mind, we should judiciously utilise these loans because our children, in some cases, our

grandchildren, will be the ones that will be paying for these loans. Therefore, the judicious utilisation is what I have always queried here. Nobody is averse for additional loans. But we have to be prudent in the utilisation of funds.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the case of the Water sector, I am representing the people of Bo District. I want to inform Honourable Members that Bo is the second capital city of this country. But despite the numerous loans we have ratified in this Parliament, Bo had never been mentioned even though the Deputy Minister of Water Resources is coming from Bo. Mr Randolph Bayoh is the Deputy Minister of Water Resources and he hails from Bo. By extension, he is my constituent. I am disappointed because Bo is not mentioned as one of the beneficiaries of these agreements. Bo is very important in the political history of this country. But the question is why Bo is not mentioned at all?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Bo was not mentioned in the first phase of this Project and we were told not to be worried because the Project will be done in phases. The other phase has come and again Bo was not mentioned. Mr Minister, we want to be included so that we will also be part of that development. I will tell you with authority that for the past 30 years, Bo has not benefited from a pipe borne water. Therefore, I want to crave your indulgence to ensure that Bo is part of whatever phase you may think of. I thank you very much.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank the Honourable Member from Bo for that contribution. But I think he would have given me the chance as the Chairman of the Finance Committee in this Parliament to open this debate. But I still want to refresh the mind of the previous speaker that the gentleman sitting before us is a Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, in the absence of the substantive Minister, I believe he is in place to represent him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe we have a loan agreement and are grants. What is the meaning of grants? A grant is money coming from other sources to benefit other communities paying back the funds given. I want to thank those who have

provided these funds to meet the challenges in our various districts. I believe a survey has been done before this time, targeting the rural areas where water is also needed. Therefore, if Bo is not included here, it means it is not among those that mostly needed it. Let us commend the work of the Ministry of Water Resources and Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO). (SALWACO) is the agency responsible for delivering water services to various communities in this country. Officials in that Agency have done a very good job and the business of this grant is to target the rural poor. The majority of us are representing the rural areas. So, it is our responsibility as Members of Parliament to provide the basic needs of our people. They say, water is life and it is important for the survival of our people. I want to thank God for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister as we all heard did mention the four components of this project. One of them entails water supply infrastructure which will enable them to deliver efficient services to the rural poor. There has to be a management team for them to be able to look at the aspect of administration so that they monitor, evaluate and report accordingly. This will make it possible for these communities to have sufficient water supply.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe there should be capacity building for this project to be implemented. Most of the projects that are being funded in this country lack the necessary capacity to execute them. I think it is now time for us to begin to look at capacity building. We have our youths and young graduates from the universities who should be given the opportunities to undertake professional trainings so that they can deliver the necessary services for which these loans and grants are meant for. I believe all of these things are in place. Therefore, I must commend the work of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, SALWACO is an agency responsible to deliver water supply to only the rural areas of this country. This first component covers all the 5 districts and I want to believe that the newly appointed Director General of SALWACO will take into consideration Port Loko District, where you have the majority of the rural poor. I want in your next report Port Loko District to be captured; and perhaps by

extension Bo District so that all the people of this nation will receive or get the necessary services we all deserve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the area of the loan agreement, the Minister said that they went through the normal practice which is the standard policy of financing of 40 years and a grace period of 10 years. We all say that we may not be around to pay these loans but for goodness sake, let us prepare the ground for our children and the children yet unborn so that when they come, they will find something on the table without much trouble like what we are going through today. I believe that is the basic work that we are doing here. We should be applauded for that Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is this question of who is going to pay the loan. I want to tell you that there is a government in this country. There is no power vacuum in the operation of government. The APC Government will pay the loans if the SLPP cannot pay them. All they have to do is contact us. We know where to go and ask for help. All we have to do is to knock at the doors of donor partners. I believe when you have the opportunity to come in as Chairman of Finance Committee in the next government, you will do the same thing. For now, we have to play a soft ball and have these agreements ratified by all of us with sincerity of hope that we will deliver the services to the people of this county.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second phase of the Reproductive Health Project has to do with more of the capacity building for the free health care program that is still ongoing. Our problem here is the proper monitoring and sincerity of service to the various health care centres we have in the country. I believe this phase will address that particular issue. Our young graduates from the various universities will benefit from these loan and grants because it is going to extend training facilities to those young graduates from Njala. Mr Speaker, I commend these agreements to the House for approval. I thank you very much.

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the two agreements which we are discussing this morning are timely, and I

think we need not waste much time in talking about them. I believe what we need mostly in the health sector, as my senior colleague who doubles as Chairman of Finance Committee said, is proper supervision. The Honourable Member from Bo also laid emphasis on that. The first segment which we did approve here did not reflect on the lives of our people and so we had problems with that agreement. That should be a warning to those of you in the Executive Arm of government who are executing these programmes. State resources have to be properly managed. You will recall that all of these resources are coming on the basis of loans to the government. If we do not manage these resources well, we would be leaving a very bad legacy for our children.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the area of rural water supply, we do have a lot of water resources in this country. But the sad thing is that the harnessing of those resources for the benefit of our people has not been done very well in the past. If my memory could serve me well, the last time I saw pipe borne water in Koidu city is over 40 years ago. I am sure this agreement will attempt to address the issue surrounding water in Kono District. This is why I am particularly happy for this agreement. I am happy because of the objectives enshrined in this agreement. And two of the objectives of this agreement are to increase sustainable access to safe drinking water and increase basic sanitation in rural areas. These are the two basic necessities that are lacking in Kono. Kono does not have safe drinking and sustainable drinking water system. In terms of sanitation, there is nothing to write home about. Like all other areas I have been to recently, sanitation is a major hiccup. I will therefore advice the Ministry of Water Resources through SALWACO to address this pressing issue very quickly, particularly in our school environment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy again to know that one of the other objectives is to develop a comprehensive national frame work. We hope in the implementation of this programme, a proper national frame work will be developed so that we will have an uninterrupted rural water supply and proper sanitation process set in motion. If we do not have the proper well-coordinated comprehensive programme, all what we are discussing here will come to nothing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, the last thing I will talk about is capacity building. If you do not have the necessary capacity to do your work, you will not be able to implement the programmes as planned. I am happy to note that capacity building is included as one of your focal points. The good thing about these agreements on rural water situation is that, we only have to pay for one loan agreement. The loan agreement is about 9 million dollars. The rest of the agreements are grants. However, if you do not manage those grants very well, the givers might not be willing to give more for future development. We have learnt a lot from our past mistakes. A lot have gone down the drain. I want us to get rid of the wastages so that we do not have a repeat of what had happened in the recent past. This is welcome idea and I will give my support to it. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. ISATA KABIA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to say thanks to the Minister of Finance for making it possible for these loans and grants. The loan and grants are to be used in areas of priority of this Government. The Honourable Member from Bo was in his own way praising the Minister of Water Resources and his Deputy. We hope it continues because the Executive is now working for the national interest of this nation and not on a personal interest. The Honourable Member from Bo also complained about the lack of pipe borne water in his home town for 30 years. His senior Member of Parliament also mentioned similar sentiment. For this Government to be able to have done what they have done in the last 6 years, I know they were praising our current Executive Arm.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the loans and grants announced here today show the importance of natural resource management. At the moment, we are talking about our children and grandchildren that will be paying these loans we are signatories to. It is therefore important that we lay the foundation for prudent natural resource management, which will ensure that those resources are not just enjoyed by this current generation, but our future generations since they would be inheriting our debts. These loans and grants the Minister has announced today really show a new targeted focus on our development issues. The Free Health Care was actually commendable

worldwide. We saw the Government of the United States of America shutting down on a similar pronouncement by their current president because their current presidency wants to ensure that those who cannot afford health care can be protected. And yet we were able to do it in Sierra Leone without any rancour, despites our limited resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this second phase has to be and must be about better monitoring and greater oversight by this Parliament. We have to do this as a Parliament in order to ensure that our people are benefitting from the Free Health Care programme. In addition to the Free Health Care, the child health and reproductive issues such as family planning that have been highlighted today have to be the second phase of the Free Health Care.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not lack of medicines that is making our Free Health Care not completely reachable to all the people. It is the lack of proper monitoring and oversight of those particular services that the Government has made available to the populace. I commend the Local Councils' involvement in the next phase, especially in terms of repairing most of the facilities. They must however be a caveat to the Ministry of Health. While decentralisation and devolution is going on, there has to be proper monitoring. I also see an aspect of financial planning and financial management training to those Local Councils.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, capacity building to the Ministry of Health is also mentioned. I think it is an absolute necessity to make sure that these funds are used judiciously. The combination of a wash programme of the Free Health Care is the right path to take. This is because in Sierra Leone, lack of basic hygiene knowledge kills more people than lack of big hospitals and large equipment. I will like to personally pay tribute to the Ministry of Water Resources for what they have done in my constituency. For the past 30 years, we were also not privy to any pipe borne water. But today, we have running taps in my constituency. There is a proposal for those facilities to be extended by this Government into various homes. We paid a recent visit to Kambia and we saw that they now have pipe borne water in their homes. The people of Kambia had none of such facility for over 30 years. And when cholera hit our country, Kambia was

the most affected area. I advised my people in Kambia that if they are not willing to pay the Le15, 000 water rates, they would have to pay the Le300, 000 to treat the cholera epidemic in the hospital. So, we must make sure that we educate our people that these services are not free. We have seen the kind of monies that are read here today. The facilities people are craving to have cost money. Those facilities cost government a lot of money. Therefore, we must make sure that these facilities are sustained by paying our monthly bills. I will like to implore my fellow Honourable Members to make sure that we ratify these loans and grants today for the health of our people. Thank you.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: I rise to commend the efforts of those who have made it possible for this ratification to be in this House today. But I also want to state that this is a constitutional function of this Honourable House (*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this is the last time I am warning Members. I don't want to do something which might surprise all of you.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a constitutional function that is being carried out by the Executive. But I want to remind the Executive that we are tired of being a rubber stamp Parliament. We want to participate at various levels as and when these negotiations are going on. In a country where parliamentary democracy strives, when negotiations and programmes of this nature are developed, the Executive comes to Parliament to consult Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament should participate right from the start to the finish. I am saying this because a lot of my colleagues, especially those whose undertones I have heard do not have the requisite experience to know that as Members of Parliament, we should take our job seriously. Members of Parliament should take their functions seriously. This means Members of Parliament should not just be endorsing whatever agreement that is before them. They should be able to participate from start to finish.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard Pujehun is going to benefit from this programme. I thank those who have made it possible for that to happen. But I am also aware of the fact that these programmes did not start today. The very Minister who is

seated here started these programmes when he was the Deputy Minister of Finance in the last Government. So, it is not a new... - *(Interruption)*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, he is referring to somebody in our presence. He is not talking about somebody who is not here. You have no right to respond on his behalf.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am calling on all of us to be highly patriotic and to take our duties and our commitments to our constituents' very seriously. These programmes are tailored made for this country and they come in segments. I want to remind the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Water Resources who are both present in this Chamber to realise that Makeni, Bo and Kenema are provincial headquarter towns and were scheduled to have been the first beneficiaries of this in accordance with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) programme which has been nick named the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity. These are parts of our 2020 or 2025 programmes. We have committed this nation to it. And they must be carried out as scheduled.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please listen.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: They will not learn so they will remain were they are *(Laughter)*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please don't swear them.

HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI: I will not swear my own siblings Mr Speaker. I am just saying that these programmes started then, and they must be continued because we are committed to both our people and particularly the international community who are in fact providing these funds. I also want to remind all of us that such programmes are meant for the infrastructural development of this country and should be treated very seriously, otherwise these are opportunities that we may not have again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on the Members of this House to take their oversight functions very seriously. The Ministers then committed themselves to

periodically reporting to this Parliament as to how these programmes and the infrastructural developments that are taking place are carried out. But I have not seen such a report here yet.

On that note Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on this House to speedily ratify these agreements. Thank you.

(Suspension of S.O. 5(2) being 12:00 noon)

HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA *(Majority Chief Whip)*: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to make my contribution and to wrap up as I step into the shoes of the Majority Leader of this House. For the records, I may not say that the Deputy or Acting Minority Leader is misleading this House, but I must make it very clear that this Parliament is not a rubber stamp Parliament at all. And I must make it very clear again that as far as these agreements are concerned, Members of Parliament that have been given the chance to speak this morning have made meaningful contributions. This means that we have useful and educated Members of Parliament in this house.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no need delaying the ratification of these agreements. This is because those that have contributed made it very clear that these particular agreements are very useful and timely. But one of the concerns they raised was about the management of funds. That is also my utmost concern.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first agreement according to the Order Paper makes provision for a Technical Steering Committee. And according to the Honourable Member from Kono, Phase 1 almost failed. Therefore, I want to ask the Ministry of Finance and the concerned Ministry that this Technical Steering Committee should be reviewed if Phase 2 is to succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Part One of this agreement we are debating today talks about the Free Health Care programme. That is, the first agreement will support the Free Health Care Programme. If you were listening to the radio this morning, Heath

Alert was talking about the health centre in Newton being very filthy. We should send a very strong message as a Parliament that the saboteurs of the Free Health Care will not go free at all. We will chase them wherever we find them; from the drug store, right down to the PHUs. This Free Health Care must succeed because it is for the common man and the common woman of this country. It is meant for the pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under the age of 5.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, almost all the Members of Parliament commented and raised concern on the sustainability of the water resources. We must sustain what we are building together and that is paramount. We want the Ministry of Water Resources to put modalities in place in order to sustain what we are giving to our communities. Again, the agreement talks about the rural communities. I come from the rural area in the Western Region. But most times when it comes to the Western Rural, it is associated with the Western Area. But we are also sending a message to all MDAs that it is by law established under the 2004 Local Government Act that Western Rural is a district of its own. It is the same like Bonthe District with 3 constituencies. Western Rural has four constituencies; and by the next census, we would have not less than six constituencies. The question is, why are we depriving the Western Rural of the facilities and social amenities of the people?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on every MDA to treat the Western Area Rural District as a district of its own. When the package of the headquarter districts was implemented, Waterloo was not included. Western Rural was also excluded from solar light. Now, we are talking about water for the rural areas. We are calling on each and every one to treat Western Rural as a district of its own.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join other colleagues, especially the Acting Minority Leader that we ratify the agreements. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, you might want to say a few words.

MR F. B. L. MANSARAY (*Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development*): I want to thank all the members that have contributed to

this debate. It has been a lively debate and in summation, I can say that everybody is in support of the ratification of these agreements. Certain useful comments and suggestions have been raised. I am going to respond to one or two issues raised. I have to offer clarification, especially from the comments made from the first speaker and to add to what Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai has said about me. This is because I am a witness to a project called the Three Town Water Supply and Sanitation Project. This Project was approved whilst I was the Executive Director of the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund, 2004 to 2007.

THE SPEAKER: And you were even a Minister.

MR F. B. L. MANSARAY: No Mr Speaker. I have left the Ministry by that time. That Project was designed for Makeni, Bo and Kenema. The Bo facility was the largest facility outside Freetown; and hopefully, this Project will be commissioned in 2015. It would take time to accomplish it. This is a Project that is designed to serve the people in the townships of Bo, Kenema and Makeni. I want to state here that under this Government, water projects have been provided. Most of the projects have been completed in communities like Pujehun, Lunsar, Mile 91, Yonibanna Chiefdom, 24 communities between Hastings to Masiaka. Recently Mr Speaker, a loan agreement was signed in my Ministry for the provision of water to the Kabala Township and the villages lying between Kabala and Musaia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Kossoh Town, Lungi, Yiléh, Port Loko and Kambia are areas that have benefitted. I don't want to preempt what the Minister of Finance will tell you tomorrow, but to give you a quick preview of what we have planned for some of these provincial areas in 2014, we plan to provide water for Segbwema, Blama, Bonthe Island, Tombodu and Masiaka. So, these are some of the programmes we plan to undertake under this project. Direction was also made to the presentation of an annual plan to Parliament. I am not too sure of the essentiality of this, but I can say that the presentation of an annual plan is a prerequisite for every funding agency that

has to be presented to them before they can agree to provide either a loan or a grant. This is demanded by the World Bank and all other funding agencies.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Chairman, I am standing on S.O. 34

THE SPEAKER: Are you referring to S.O 34 (1) or (2).

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: I am standing on S.O 34 (2). Mr Speaker, the Minister is misleading this House... - *Interruption.*

THE SPEAKER: Let us go to S. O. 34 (2). Do you want to read it for the benefit of Honourable Members?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: It says: *“when a point of order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat...”*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please allow the Honourable Member to read.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Sorry Mr Speaker, it should be S. O. 34 (1).

THE SPEAKER: Please read S. O. 34 (1).

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, S. O. 34 (1) says: *“any member deviating from the provisions of these Orders may be immediately called to order by Mr Speaker or the Chairman. A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker or the Chairman for decision.”*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, what point of order has been deviated from?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am talking about the point I want to make.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, S. O. 34 (1) is very simple. You only raise a Point of Order under 34 (1) if another Member has deviated from one of these orders. I want you to tell me the order that has been deviated from.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, the order of information by the Minister.

THE SPEAKER: What order has been deviated from Honourable Member? Are you referring to order 1 or order 82? Which of the rule(s) in the Standing Orders has/have been deviated from?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker it is order 1.

THE SPEAKER: If you can't tell us, please resume your seat. Mr Minister you may proceed.

MR F. B. L. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was talking about the presentation of the annual plan to this Parliament. If you want to know the annual plan of any project, I will advise that you go to the MDA concern. They normally have what is known as Project Document. That Document covers the implementation of any project and in it, you have the annual plan and everything that relates to the project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said in my opening statement, almost everybody was in support of the motion; and in view of that and having given these two clarifications, especially for the provision of water supply to Bo, I will like to say that the projects we are about to ratify is designed for the poor regions of the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the intention of this Government is to cover the entire country through the Ministry of Water Resources and its implementing agency, SALWACO. With these clarifications Mr Speaker, I move that this Honourable House ratify the following agreements which were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 26th November, 2013.

(A) ADDITIONAL FINANCING AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA), TO FINANCE THE SECOND PHASE OF THE REPRODUCTION AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECT, DATED 11TH OCTOBER, 2013

(B) FINANCING AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) TO FINANCE THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT.

(i) LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND – (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013;

(ii) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013;

(iii) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (ACTING AS EXECUTING AGENCIES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY) (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013;

(iv) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT AMONGST THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (ON BEHALF OF THE FRAGILE STATE FACILITY) (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT) DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013;

(v) PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT), DATED 28TH OCTOBER, 2013.

(Question proposed, put and agreed to

*Government Motion by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development
has been ratified)*

Announcement

The office of the Clerk, in partnership with Parliamentary Assistant Coordinating Office, Public Relations Department and ICT Department is launching the Parliamentary News Letter and introducing the Parliament's Website to Honourable Members in Committee

Room 1. Honourable Members are requested to attend this event. Copies of the Newsletter would be distributed and refreshment would be served after the programme.

ADJOURNMENT

*(The House rose at 12.24 p.m. and was adjourned until Friday, 29th
November, 2013, at 10.00 a.m.)*