

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

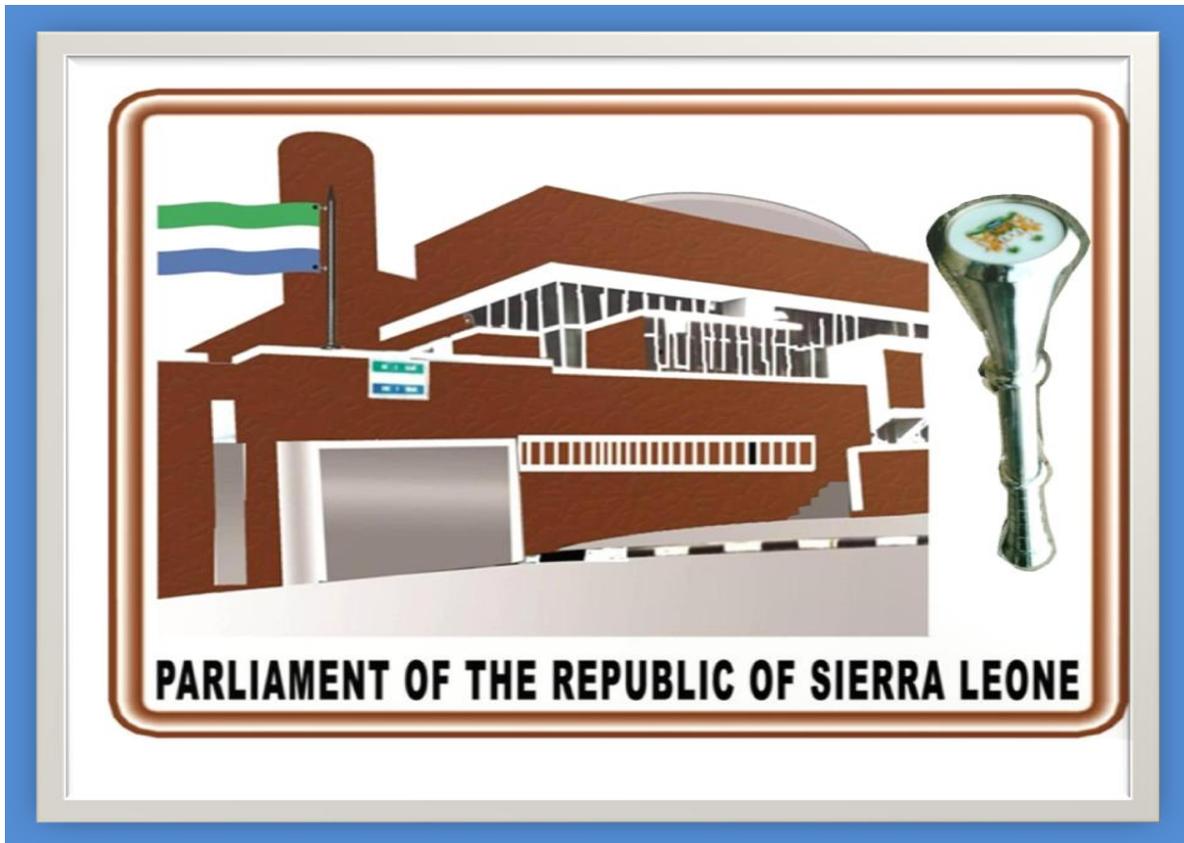
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

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First Meeting of the First 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> March, 2019.

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## **CONTENTS**

**I. PRAYERS**

**II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019.**

**III. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE]**

**PROPOSER: HON. SIDI M. TUNIS**

**SECONDER: HON. EMELIA LOLO TONGI**



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

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

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

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**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:40 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

*[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, in the Chair]*

The House was called to Order

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

### **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? If there is no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 as presented?

**HON. BRIMA MANSARAY:** I so move, Mr Speaker

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. JOSEPH L. WILLAMS:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 has been adopted as presented]*

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDI M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. EMELIA LOLO TONGI

**HON. SIDI M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I proceed, I want Honourable Members to understand that any Member of the Committee on Appointments could propose or second this Motion. Having said that, Mr Speaker, I present to you the Thirty-First Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service:

#### *1. Introduction*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting presidential nominees and

selecting the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices in the Republic of Sierra Leone met on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 and interviewed seven presidential nominees for the following appointments:

[i] Three Board Members, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA];

[ii] Three Board Members, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]; and

[iii] Board Member, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDS].

## *2. Procedure*

The Committee conducted the hearings within the ambit of its established criteria set out to elicit facts as to whether the nominees are fit and qualified for their proposed appointments. The deliberations of the Committee were guided by the principle of objectivity to the extent that beside perusing the specified documents provided by the nominees, the Committee went further to request for public input into the vetting process by furnishing the Committee with information of relevance to the suitability of the nominees or otherwise for their proposed appointments.

The Committee certified that the nominees were cleared of any criminal records by the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] and that they have the relevant qualifications and necessary backup experience to man such important offices of the State. Inquiring questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues pertaining to their track records in other pertinent work situations, their declared assets and liabilities, fulfilment of their tax obligations and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure.

## *3. Thirty-Seventh Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

*[i] Mr Tennyson M. Rogers, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]*

Mr Tennyson M. Rogers is a retired Public Servant who served the SLRA and held various positions ranging from procurement manager, logistic manager to tutor and facilitator for the 'internal training programmes' at the SLRA. He had previously served as Administrative Officer at the Bo-Pujehun Rural Development Project.

Mr Tennyson Rogers was very well commended by senior Members of the Committee as a hard worker and performer who could be relied upon to make this country proud.

Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Tennyson Rogers said, **"I think I will add value to the SLRA given my previous knowledge of the operations of the organization, particularly my specialty in procurement. The SLRA is a contract awarding organisation and I think I will be of special value."**

*[ii] Mr Amandu Dumbuya, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDSA].*

Mr Amandu Dumbuya is currently the Director of Finance/Financial Controller at the Sierra Leone State Lottery Co Ltd. He has an impressive mix of knowledge, skills and abilities in Finance and Management with over thirty one [31] years of work experience and fourteen [14] years at senior management level.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Dumbuya said that his first concern, if approved, would be the electricity network system we currently have in the country. **"Regardless of whatever generation plant we have, whether we have three power ships and Bumbuna, if the network system is not improved, the electricity position would not improve for the country. By network system I mean the underground cables, the overhead lines, and other gargets that transmit power to the consumers. Most of the facilities we have now were installed ten to fifteen years ago. They are fast becoming obsolete and need to change to be compatible to the present technological development that we have."**

*[iii] Ms Hawanatu Alarie Ibrahim, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]*

Ms Hawanatu Ibrahim is a former audit staff of National Petroleum, [NP] Sierra Leone Ltd and SALPOST, where she served as postal Assistant.

Reacting to the prompts of the Committee, Ms Hawanatu Ibrahim said: **"I accepted the Presidential offer because we want more women, up to 30%, at the decision making levels. And as a woman, I want to help the government in nation building process."**

[iv] Mr Mohamed Alie Swarray, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]

Mr Mohamed Alie Swarray is a retired SLRA worker who served that Institution for twenty years in various positions, ranging from Logistic Manager, Regional Administrative to Accounting Manager.

Reacting to commendations from Members of the Committee, Mr Mohamed Alie Swarray said: **“I want to thank the Chairman and Honourable Members of the Committee for your commendations. I promise to work collaboratively with my colleague Board Members to give this nation a safe, reliable and sustainable road network for socio-economic developments. That is our vision and we shall put our heads together to ensure the fulfilment of that vision.”**

[v] Mr Thomas Ninian Anthony Legg, proposed member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]

Mr Thomas Ninian Anthony Legg has a wealth of experience in Financial Management and audit work. He has served as Chief Accountant at the Union Trust Bank and as Assistant Auditor-General at the Audit Service Sierra Leone.

Responding to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr Legg said that if he obtained the blessings of approval from the House: **“The first thing I will do is to ensure that Board Members keep the procurement process under our watchful eyes. Secondly, we need to make ensure that we create new policies and enforce the procurement laws that are there to minimized corruption.”**

[vi] Mr Daniel Moijueh, proposed Member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]

Mr Daniel Moijueh is a retired US Military Officer, and a retired Senior U.S Federal Civil Servant with 26 years of Federal Government work experience in the US Army and international experience in procurement and acquisition management. He has a United State Department of Defense Security Clearance. He has served as Deputy Director,

Procurement and Logistic Service Division [GS-TS] at the United States Defense Intelligence Agency.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Daniel Moijueh said: **“I have 26 years’ experience in procurement in the US Government and with the US Army. One of the things that I will bring to my new job, if I am approved, is to retrain the entire stakeholders involved in procurement activities. And that will include: Parliament, Cabinet, and all the stakeholders. I will introduce E- Procurement. In today’s world, we have information technology to make things more transparent, and that will curb most of the corruptions that are happening. I will also ensure that we get our politicians to understand that we have procurement laws that have to be monitored, maintained and enforced.”**

*[vii] Mr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh, proposed member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]*

Mr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh is a Lecturer Education, Measurement and Evaluation, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology [MMCET].

Answering to the Committee’s probing questions, Mr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh said: **“As a Monitoring and Evaluation expert, I will draw on my knowledge and skills to monitor, evaluate and advise to help the Authority achieves those objectives for which it was established. That is necessary to instil accountability and transparency in public procurement.”**

### *5. Recommendation[s]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential Nominees to be fit and qualified for their proposed appointments and they are recommended to the House for approval:

[i] Mr Tennyson M Rogers, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA];

[ii] Mr Amadu Dumbuya, proposed member, Board of Directors, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDSA];

[iii] Ms Hawanatu Alarie Ibrahim, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA];

[iv] Mr Mohamed Alie Swarray, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA];

[v] Mr Thomas Ninian Anthony Legg, proposed member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA];

[vi] Mr Daniel Moijueh, proposed member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]; and

[vii] Mr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh, proposed member, Board of Directors, National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Thirty-first Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Thirty-first Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. EMILIA L. TONGI:** I so second, Mr Speaker

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I shall allow three from each side of the aisles, so that we do not waste time *[Applause]*. We have several meetings after sitting today and I should inform you that Members of the Anti-Corruption Commission are here and they want to meet the heads of all Committees and the Leadership.

**HON. EMILIA L. TONGI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again to approve presidential nominees. I wish you good luck in your different institutions and I hope you will make a great difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about Mohamed Alie Swarray. Mr Mohamed Alie Swarray is a workaholic and a lot of people have spoken about his good works. I have however made my independent investigations about this man. Of course he attended the Magburaka Secondary School and these are one of the qualities that we

are looking for in people. To me, this direction is the best direction for this country. Therefore, we want you to portray this anywhere you go, especially in your office. I am sure the President made no mistake to nominate you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the lady who commented on the **30%** women's representation. I do not know whether you are the only woman in that department, but I want you to let them know that women can do even better than men. Please, you have to be energetic, focused and make us proud. We are looking up to the **30%** quota, but we need to put our knowledge in practice before we could be given the **30%**. You have to let them know that women are not here to play at all. Please go and do your best for people of this country. I wish you all the best of luck. You can call on the Female Caucus whenever you encounter difficulties. We will visit you to see what is going on and to advise you on certain issues. Once again, I wish you luck.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by congratulating the nominees in advance. I want to register my partial satisfaction about proceedings of Parliament. As human beings, society is a movement and it is a forward movement. Mr Speaker, based on the concerns raised during the last sitting about the late provision of the Order Paper pursuant to S.O 11[8], we received this Order Paper 48 hours earlier than the statutory time. Therefore, this means the Leader of Government Business is a listening leader. For the education of the public, however, the Order Paper is like the 'table of content' of a book. This means that providing the content without the 'embodiment' of the book is inconclusive. The Leader has done a great job, he has to move further. I think we have to move further than this. I want to implore the Leader that since the content of this Order Paper cannot be divorced from other documents, I suggest that all relevant documents relating to any Order Paper should be provided together with the Order Paper to Members of Parliament twenty-four hours before the commencement of the sitting. If that is done, then we will have the opportunity to look at every document. For instance, in today's report, we have fine nominees in front of us. I have many issues with the SLRA, but because the report was not made available, I will not be able to talk about these fine nominees and the

reasons for their nominations. I cannot tell the public because I do not have time to read.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know the Leader of Government Business will work towards ensuring the smooth running of proceedings of this House. I want to once again state that I have little to say about the nominees. I however believe that they are qualified to assume the positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to speak specifically about the Sierra Leone Roads Authority. I want the nominee for the SLRA to pay special attention to the Tokeh/Lumley Road. Mr Speaker, the Tokeh Lumley Road is worse than the road to my constituency in Koinadugu District. I am not an engineer, but that road is less than 10km. The former President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, constructed the Waterloo/Tombo Road. We can say he did his best before he passed away. His successor, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma also constructed the road linking Lumley and Tokeh, which is very close to No. 2 River. He also constructed culverts beyond No. 2 River. He did his best as well. Since Government is continuity, I plead with this Government to complete this road. It is approximately less than 10km. I want to state that Tokeh is a tourist attraction area. Once again, the SLRA should pay special attention to that road.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Chairman of the relevant Committee to liaise with the SLRA to repair the road immediately after Old School, by Choithram. I think that area is over ten years old and it was not well constructed. I think it falls within the mandate of the SLRA, especially Road Maintenance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want to waste the precious time of this Honourable House, but to ask my colleagues to approve these nominees, so that they can go to their various places of work. Thank you very much.

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. We have before us fine nominees seeking parliamentary approval. Sometimes some of us admire the President the lens he normally uses to get these nominees. We thank him very much for giving us the people that deserve our praises.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about one of the nominees, who is my constituent, Mr Daniel Moijueh, proposed member, Board of Directors, NPPA. Mr Daniel Moijueh has been out of the country for decades, but he has never forgotten his people. He has travelled the length and breadth of this country. He has done so much for the people of this country. Mr Daniel Moijueh is someone to reckon with because he is a man of substance. He has come home to deliver and I believe he is going to execute his assignment to the best of his ability. I think he would do well if approved by this House. I thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the proposed Board Members for the SLRA that the last Government allocated a huge amount of money for the construction of our roads in Malegohun and Lower Bambara Chiefdoms. Mr Speaker, the bridge is a death trap. I want to implore the proposed SLRA nominees to make sure that the bridge and the roads in question are considered. Please ensure that the road is constructed because we want to be visiting our constituents. We want the roads to be constructed or rehabilitated. We want to reach out to our people on a weekly basis as Honourable Members. If this House approves your nomination, please do that job for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask my colleagues to waste no time but to approve these fine nominees. Thank you.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe today is another important day in the discharge of our duties as Members of Parliament. The nominees we have before us for approval have gone through the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service and based on the Committee's report, I believe the nominees are qualified. This is where I want to appreciate the President for giving us people who are qualified for the various jobs because qualification in terms of performance is one of the key aspects.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to give few words of admonition to the nominees. We know they are qualified, but the people of this nation have suffered a lot and this time we do not want excuses. As members of Boards to various Parastatals you

have been nominated to serve, you owe the people of this nation a lot by giving proper advice on policy matters that will yield positive results for the people of this country.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to one of the nominees whom I am very well pleased to stand here as one of his products, Dr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh. He is a man I have enormous respect for and I have no doubt in his ability to perform. I have gone through his tutelage and I am convinced that he is capable to serve at the NPPA. It is a blessing to have a man of his calibre in that institution. Mr Speaker, when Dr Abdulai Maxin Conjoh appeared before the Committee, he promised to use his knowledge and expertise to be advising, monitoring and evaluating the work of the NPPA. I have no doubt in him because he has proved it before and he is capable of doing it again.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Amadu Dumbuya, proposed member, Board of Directors, EDSA. EDSA is facing numerous problems, especially in the provinces. The quality of service delivery is something that we are concerned about and we hope your presence, as Board member, will introduce better policies that will enhance the operations of EDSA, especially the supply of meters. This has been a serious concern; and as we speak, I have paid for meters seven months for my two residences in Kono District, I have not got one. As I speak, we have over five hundred applicants for meters in Kono District and nothing has happened in that regard. It is disheartening to note here that the supply of meters the Authority often makes is not up to hundred. We want EDSA to be serious in service delivery. Let them know that this is business and the Authority should operate as a business. If the people are ready to pay for the service, please make sure the service is available. As a Board member, I implore you to manage the Authority as a business entity that would bring profit to this nation. That cannot be possible if the needs of the customers are not satisfied.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate all the nominees in advance. I believe your nomination is not a mistake by the President. Please prove your mettle in the next few months or years that you may serve in whatever capacity. I thank you very much for your attention *[Applause]*.

**HON. ABDUL T. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, we have another fine set of nominees who are here for approval today. There are two nominees I would like to talk about. These are: Mr Anthony Legg and Mr Amadu Dumbuya. They maybe surprise, but I know them personally and I have no doubt in their ability to perform. I know they can deliver. They are workaholic and they can do their best. I hardly stand these days to contribute because we usually sing praises instead of talking on issues and the institutions the nominees are going to serve. We do our best to approve them, but as soon as they are approved, to see them is a problem. However, I do not usually blame them, but those at the up. They tend to forget about parliamentarians as soon as the get power. They see us as nonentity and it is not good at all. Mr Speaker, I am merely re-echoing some of these issues, so that you take remedial actions. I know some of you will come to Parliament again for approval to serve in another capacity and you will meet some of us here. Therefore, go and do your job diligently if approved by this House. Please, do not forget the fact that parliamentarians are the ones who will always approve your nominations. I know you are going to be very tough, but I want to remind you that without parliamentarians, you could not have been nominated to those positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask my colleagues to unanimously approve these nominees. I am sure Mr Anthony Legg and Mr Amadu Dumbuya will perform exceptionally well. When I was in the university, I used to knock at the door of Mr Dumbuya for holiday jobs and he always gives me that opportunity. I have seen him work diligently and I have no doubt in his ability to transform EDSA as a member of that Board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Anthony Legg was at the Union Trust Bank Limited [UTB]. I know you have been there as Chief Accountant and today, you are going to serve at the NPPA, which is very good for us as a country. I know you will make us proud. I want to remind you that we are showering praises on you now, but as soon as you assume power, it will be very difficult to see you. Therefore, I call on the leadership of this House to equip parliamentarians, so that our respect is restored. I thank you very much.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Kambia District was talking about the status of parliamentarians and this is very important. Members of Parliament are suffering; therefore, I stand on S.O. 26, in tandem with Sections 74[4] and 25[1][g] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. S.O. 26 is a Privilege Motion and it clearly states that whenever a Member of Parliament mentions a Motion, the sitting should not continue until that Motion is discussed and disposed of. Also, Section 25[1][g] is referring to S.O. 26 which is one of the Privilege Motions that does not need 'Notice of Motion.' It can be moved at any time and that is what I am doing now. Section 74[4] of the Constitution talks about the right of parliamentarians to fix their salaries, pensions, etc. Mr Speaker, this is appalling and it is reaching the limit we can no longer endure.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I refer you to S.O. 83. In this situation, you do not have the final say, Mr Speaker. I want you to yield to the Motion I wanted to move. This is one of the rights I should enjoy as a Member of Parliament. I therefore move that we stop all proceedings from today onwards until issues relating to the welfare of Members of Parliament are addressed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Lahai Marah, do not underestimate the fact that I am also part of you. You have spoken well, but I do not want you to underestimate the fact that I am also equally concerned. I am a Member of Parliament just as you are and I am also extremely passionate about the issue concerning the welfare of Members of Parliament. In fact, we had a very serious discussion on that issue this morning. Of course you were present when we were having a fruitful discussion on that. I can assure you that henceforth we are proceeding and we will proceed in a robust manner to ensure that this issue is addressed once and for all. I could understand.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, let it be now and today. We can no longer continue to wait.

**THE SPEAKER:** I know exactly what you are saying.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** We can discuss all other thing later, but please accept my Motion and let it be seconded.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, please hold on for now. Let me crave your indulgence for us to continue since we have started this proceeding. Let us complete what we have on the Floor before we proceed with your Motion. Immediately after sitting, I will meet with leaders of the various political parties to a very serious meeting for us to address this issue. I am also concern, Honourable Lahai Marah.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, I thank you so much, but I will move this Motion after approving these nominees and wait for the Leadership's discussion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, Honourable Member.

**HON. BRIMA MANSARAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I want to thank the President for giving us another set of nominees. Those nominees I consider the positions they are going to occupy as very important. For instance, those who are going to the NPPA Board have to be very serious. This is where lots of resources go down the drains. The survival of this nation lies in the procurement process. We can attest to the fact that our procurement activities in this country are marred with corruption. That is certainly very correct because there are faulty areas. We want you to go and look at those faulty areas and correct them for the interest and benefit of this country. I have no doubt in you and I am sure you will perform to the expectations of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the SLRA. Majority of Members of Parliament are from the rural areas and our constituents are mostly farmers. One thing I want to make very clear is that the people of this nation are suffering as a result of poor road network. There is no serious development going on, including the diversification of the Economy. We cannot achieve any development without good roads network. I want to remind the proposed nominees that majority of the voters are living in remote areas, where they have no access to good roads. The women are equally suffering. In the health sector, for instance, there are referral cases from health centres

to tertiary hospitals and a lot of women have died on their way as a result of the poor roads network. Our education is also nothing to write home about because of the poor roads network. There are remote areas teachers are usually transferred. Some of them would have to walk twenty or thirty miles every day and that is the reason they are refusing to go to those places. Therefore, I want to implore you in the interest of the people of this county and on our behalf as Members of Parliament to ensure that our people have access to tarred roads. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO [Acting Leader of the Opposition]:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Today is definitely a different day from the last sitting. I see tranquillity and a sense of unity in our approach to this very important aspect of these deliberations. We have already accepted it as a statutory procedure that the President of the Republic, from time to time, will nominate citizens to occupy certain positions. Today, what we are witnessing is an effort by the President to meet that statutory requirement. Mr Speaker, you have forewarned us about time, especially when you emphasised that time is not on our side. The SLRA featured prominently this morning and it is a state institution that must be treated seriously. Therefore, anybody who is nominated and appointed to serve in that Authority must treat his appointment very seriously. The point has been made that without good roads we cannot develop this country. We have tried in the past, but these problems are still there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to emphasise that it is not enough to talk about the roads in Freetown, Bo, Makeni and Kenema. We should begin to talk about the roads in rural areas. Mr Speaker, many of our people live in the rural areas, but we have neglected or abandoned them because they have no direct connection to the urban areas. Therefore, Agriculture has been seriously affected because of the poor roads, which has affected access to our markets. I believe that every Member of Parliament knows the importance of roads. In that regard, it is refreshing that at least two of the nominees have worked at the SLRA before and we hope they will utilise their experience in performing their duties very well. I know SLRA very well because at one time I was a consultant there, but I am also certain that they will do their best in terms of performing

the duties they have been nominated to perform. I congratulate these gentlemen and a lady who are going to the SLRA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the National Public Procurement Authority. For those of us who are older will know that the NPPA is a new development. It was introduced for purposes of promoting accountability and transparency. The old method of awarding contracts had a lot of faults. Therefore, the World Bank and the Government of Sierra Leone decided that a more efficient system in the form of the National Procurement should be put in place. This explains why we should treat the national procurement very seriously. I want to state here that there has been a lacuna between the MDAs and the NPPA. For example, the NPPA would have listed what you would have to do, but when you go to the MDAs, they delay the process to the extent that even the contract expires. I have experienced a situation where a contract was supposed to be awarded to a company, but that contract expired because the MDA did not cooperate with the NPPA. I hope that this synergy and collaboration between the MDAs and the NPPA will be cordial and effective.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, electricity is very important and anybody who does not understand the role of EDSA and its importance is making a great mistake. But like we said in the case of the roads, we should not restrict EDSA's activities to Freetown, Makeni or Bo. EDSA should be seen as a vehicle for national development and an institution that should take electricity and development to the rural areas. This explains why whenever the Government comes up with an idea relating to the development of this country, we believe that electricity should be one of the components of that development. I think the President has done well by nominating these people. We also hope that the nominees will perform very well if approved by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by stating that this side of the isle is very reasonable. We have no difficulty with anybody. We have always been prepared and ready to cooperate with the other side and this explains why we stand here showering praises on the President's nominees. I also want to make it very clear that the action in the past sitting, when we took the rightful decision to walk out was because of

the name of somebody from NEC and not the judges. We want the judges to understand that we had nothing against them. They appeared before us and we screened them at the Committee level. We recognised them as part and parcel of the system. What happened that period is an error that must be corrected because NEC is a thorn in the flesh and we cannot continue to cooperate with them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very important for us to give hope to these nominees. It is not enough for me to say you have been nominated and therefore you should go and work. It is also our business to give them support through our oversight activities. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader of Government Business.

**SIDIE M TUNIS** [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I think I have heard enough commendations for these nominees. I want to thank Honourable Members and to call on all the nominees to always come back to Parliament if they encounter huddles. We will always give them all the supports they could need. Thank you and I want to congratulate them in advance.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me take this opportunity to congratulate, on behalf of Parliament, for your new appointments. I want you to be aware of the fact that the positions you are going to occupy today have been occupied by other people before you. All of them came to Parliament and they gave hope to Parliament. They said they knew the problems of these institutions and they were going to make a difference, but unfortunately the very institutions kept going down the drains. So, please go and make a difference. Go and do something good for Sierra Leone. I thank you very much.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Clerk, I hope you are taking notes. I stand on S.O 26, in tandem with Section 74[4] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 to move that until we discuss the welfare issue for Members of Parliament, no sitting will be reconvened,. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. MUSA FOFANAH:** Mr Speaker, this Motion is very important to us as Members of Parliament. Therefore, I second the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, like I said earlier, I am totally in favour of the Motion and by tomorrow, probably we are going to have a full compliment of the Leadership of Parliament. The Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah and others will be here. If possible, probably I will be one of the Leaders in respect of this particular issue. However, let us plan our actions carefully, so that at the end of the day, we are not blamed. Therefore, I will suspend putting the question until we meet for proper discussion on this particular situation. I will crave your kind indulgence to wait.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I am sure the Human Rights Commission and other matters relating to that Commission will be discussed during the next sitting. We have nothing against that, but I want to suggest here that we have a multi-partisan meeting on that issue before coming to the Well.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, I think that meeting will be subject to whatever discussions you have.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Sorry Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O 23 Sir. I want to reiterate what I have informed this House that a bridge project, which my community people undertook in my Constituency is about 84m long. It is as big as the Orogu Bridge. We have erected all the pillars and the next phase will start this Saturday. The work is in phases. Work usually resumes during dry seasons and suspends during the rainy seasons. This is the fourth year since we started this community project. So, it is my responsibility to inform this House that work will start in earnest on Saturday of this week. If completed, the bridge will link Koinadugu and Kono districts. If you are in Kabala, you do not need to come to Makeni to go to Kono after the bridge would have been completed. I want to kindly ask for your financial support. It is a national project and the SLRA is aware of it. They prepared and priced the bill of quantities. At that time or four years ago, it was **Le2.1bln**. We are on it and our brother, Napoleon Koroma is

also part of it because he comes from that area. So, it is indeed a national project. I want to ask you to please support us. We need your personal contributions. It is not compulsory at all. I thank you very much and God bless you.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, I know about that particular project and I have also contributed to that project and our Secretary General Napoleon Koroma is an active member of that community. He has been supportive of that project. In that regard, the SLPP Members on this side will donate 100 bags of cement *[Applause]*.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 31. Mr Speaker you just suspended a Motion but I do not know the rules you rely on to suspend that Motion. I believe the Motion is very important. I have moved a very important Motion and it has already been seconded. With all due respect to you, I want you to put the question because it is important. We can no longer continue to exercise patience. Motions can be withdrawn when necessary, but it is good that you put the question. The Motion has already been seconded. There must be a rule the Speaker must use to suspend a Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, let me address the House on that issue. The Motion you have just moved is procedural and all Motions relate to procedures in Parliament. Standing Order 42 takes care of the decision of the Speaker when it comes to procedure. That is why I said we should not rush into issues, otherwise it would be counterproductive. I am making this decision in the interest of the House and I have considered it fit to discuss this issue at Leadership level. Probably I will be on the other side supporting this issue. Therefore, do not rush with this issue, please Honourable Member. I am relying on Order 42, which says the decision of the Speaker is final. A Member of Parliament moves a Motion based on procedure and the Speaker has the final saying when it comes to procedure. S. O. 83 refers to issues not provided for and my decision in this matter has already been provided for. This will be against the interest of the people of Sierra Leone. We should not hold Parliament to ransom for our personal benefits.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want Members of Parliament to note that this Motion has been moved and seconded.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, Honourable Member.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you very much.

***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 11: 55 a.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.]*