

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

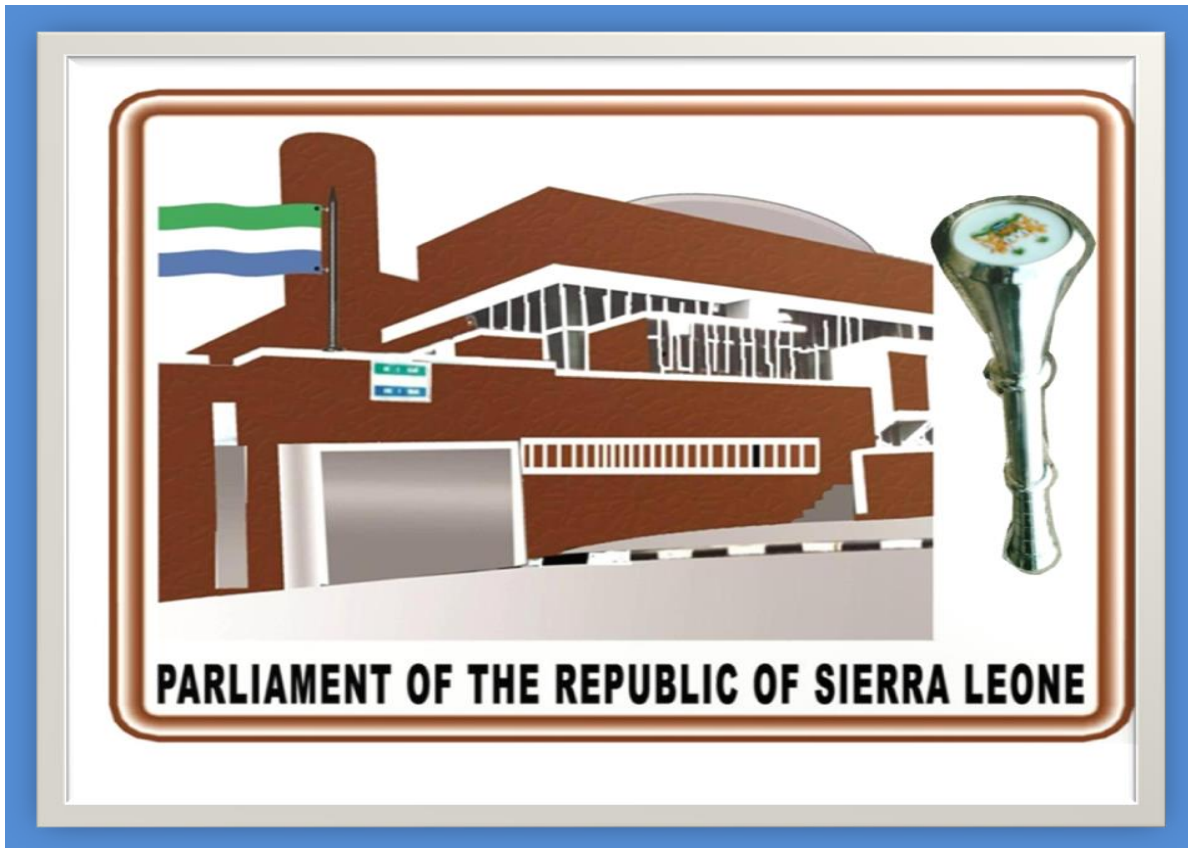
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION -SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

*SESSION – 2019/2020*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 2**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

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

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

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**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:10a.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*

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Alusine Kanneh.

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

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS** [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a slight amendment on the Order Paper as follows: Item No.4, under laying of papers [B] 3 and 4, the Memorandum of Understanding and the joint communiqué to be expunged from the Order Paper. [B 3 and 4] is the memorandum of understanding on cooperation and the joint communiqué on the occasion of the working visit, those two to be expunged from the Order Paper, and then after item Roman No. VI, that is the Bill, we would also have No.VII which is announcement of Special Select Committee. That is my Motion Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in line with the Bo declaration, where Leaders and some Members of this Honourable House met to discuss and engage each other on the running of Parliament with subsequent signing of the Bo declaration, I want to stand on S.O [82] to amend S.O [70], to move a Motion to increase the Membership of Committees from 16 to 19. Also, to create second deputies in large Committees like the Committee on Lands where we have both Lands and Environment, so we would have two deputies and this amendment is also going to affect Membership to International Parliaments. We have decided to work as a team, the governing party and the opposition parties in Parliament, we signed to it and we are going to implement it. I so therefore, move this Motion Mr Speaker [*Applause*].

*[Question Proposed, put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion by the Leader of Government Business to increase the Membership of  
Committee has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, effect the Amendment. Proceed!

**II CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we shall now go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. Honourable Members, Page 1 to 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9 and Page 10? Can a Member move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019?

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Parliamentary sitting held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 has been adopted.]*

**III SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE**

The following Members took and subscribed to the oath of Office:

- i. P.C. Alhaji Kandeh Paria Kawalleh II - Karene District
- ii. Hamidu Hulla Mansaray - Constituency 043 *[Koinadugu District, Kabala]*

[1] "I P.C. Alhaji Kandeh Paria Kawalleh II, having been elected a Member of Parliament, do hereby in the name of God swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of Sierra Leone as by law established, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution of Sierra Leone, and that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of a Member of Parliament, so help me God *[Applause]*."

[2] "I Hamidu Hulla Mansaray, having been elected a Member of Parliament, do hereby in the name of God swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of Sierra Leone as by law established, that I will uphold and defend the Constitution of Sierra Leone, and that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of a Member of Parliament, so help me God *[Applause]*."

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to again make just one more amendment to the Order Paper and that is under laying of papers. 4[a] instead of Honourable Segepoh Solomon Thomas, Chairman Public Accounts Committee, the paper would now be laid by Honourable Titus Kamara, Deputy Chairman, Public Accounts Committee.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion was carried]*

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

##### **A. HON. TITUS KAMARA [DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE]**

**HON. TITUS KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House "A Consolidated Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Local Councils for the Financial Year 2017."

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Titus Kamara, there is another document to be laid.

**HON. TITUS KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, the Performance Audit on the Assessment and Issuance of Building Permit; Ministry of Lands, Housing and the Environment, dated October, 2019 *[Applause]*.

**B. MADAM NABEELA F. TUNIS [MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the Honourable House the following papers:

1. The Agreement between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone on Visa exemption for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports.

2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Turkey concerning the abolition of Visas for holders of Diplomatic Service and Special Passports dated 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.
3. Proposal for the Ratification of; [1] The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol [2] the Bamako Convention [3] the Band Amendment to the BASAL Convention [4] Charter Gender Protocol and [5] Additional Protocols to the Abidjan Convention by the Government of Sierra Leone *[Applause]*.

**C. DR FRANCIS KAIKAI [MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, G7+ CHARTER]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I beg to lay before this Honourable House the G4+ Charter *[Applause]*.

*[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service]:*

**Proposer:** Honourable Sidie M. Tunis

**Seconder:** Honourable Hassan A. Sesay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Mr leader, let us proceed. The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Development, you are free to go. Yes, proceed!

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Seventh Report of the Second 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 to select the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices met on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and interviewed Presidential Nominees for appointment to the following positions: Two members of the Political Parties Commission *[PPRC]* and a Member of Independent Media Commission *[IMC]*. There was a fourth Member but the Panel did not conclude that particular interview.



## *2. Procedure*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee conducted the hearing within the ambit of its established criteria. The Committee requested for public inputs into the vetting process to ascertain the suitability of the nominees for their proposed Appointments and Members strenuously examined the specified documents provided by the nominees. The Committee also ensured that the nominees were cleared of any criminal records by the Criminal Investigations Department [*CID*] and further assured itself that the nominees have the relevant qualifications and necessary back up experiences to mend such important offices of state. Probing 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 to the State and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure.

## *3. Eighth Sitting of the Committee on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2019*

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

[i] *Mr Christian Sawyer, Proposed Member, Political Parties Registration Commission*

Mr Christian Sawyer is currently a Barrister and Solicitor with the Gevao and Associates [*Mamuto Chambers*]. Mr Sawyer is an enthusiastic practitioner with a strong ability to easily adapt to different working environments for positive result.

Responding to the Committee's enquiries, Mr Christian Sawyer believes that he is adequately qualified for his proposed appointment as a member of the Political Parties Registration Commission. **"Being a legal practitioner, I believe that my services will be needed by the Commission to provide guidance on legal issues as may be needed. The functions of the Commission are to monitor, regulate, supervise the internal Democracies of Political Parties and to mediate in inter and intra Party disputes. This is where I believe my service as a Lawyer will**

**have the greatest impact,**”he said. Mr Christian Sawyer assured the Committee that he would work strictly according to the law as provided in the PPRC Act.

[ii] Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams, Proposed Member, Political Parties Registration Commissions

Mr Alhaji M. Williams is currently the Vice President, Sierra Leone Labour Congress. Mr Alhaji M. Williams has a wealth of top leadership and managerial work experience in several business houses and institutions in this country. He also has a wealth of board experience.

Reacting to the Committee’s enquiries, Alhaji M. Williams informed the Committee that he was not a registered Member of any Political Party, **“Because my job at the PPRC calls for neutrality’. He admitted voting in the last election, but I did so only as a civic responsibility. My task on the PPRC is to implement the Law as set out in the Act that established the PPRC. I intend to maintain my neutrality and to work without fear or favour for the good of this country”**, he said.

[iii] Mr Emmanuel A. B. Turay, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission

Mr Emmanuel Turay is a Media and Public Relations specialist in the Ministry of Information and Communications. He is very proficient in an array of Management and Administrative skills, Newspaper and TV Programme languages, concepts and technologies. He has a proven leadership and collaborative talent, easily motivates and guides staff in their daily tasks and responsibilities. Responding to probing questions, Mr Emmanuel Turay disclosed that he was currently serving as Acting Director for Information in the Ministry of Information and Communications, and hence representing the Ministry on the IMC. **“I am therefore drawing on my local and international expertise for the success of the IMC”**, he said.

Reacting to further questions, Mr Emmanuel A. B.Turay assured that the Committee will very shortly commit a Bill on performance Act, particularly Films and it will be proposed for legislation. The IMC Act, he said, has nothing bordering on Film Industries in Sierra

Leone. "We need to regulate and control the emerging Industry before it gets out of control".

#### *4. 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 Christian Sawyer, Proposed Member Political Parties Registration Commission;

[ii] Mr Babatunde Williams, proposed Member Political Parties Registration Commission;  
and

[iii] Mr Emmanuel A. B. Turay, proposed Member Independent Media Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eighth Report is a unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore, move that the Eighth Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendations contained therein be approved. The Report is signed Honourable Sidie M. Tunis, Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. HASSAN A SESAY:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the question is; that be it resolved that the 8<sup>th</sup> Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Honourable Members, I would accept three from each side of the aisle, please. Debate begins!

**HON. HASSAN A SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again today, going through a procedure which is not new to this House. That is approving people to work in different areas; The Political Parties Registration Commission and the Independent Media Commission. Of course, we all expect that when people are

nominated and come here for approval, we expect that no matter who or which Party you voted for, when appointed to such positions, you must go there with an element of neutrality. Otherwise, you will not be able to discharge the duties as expected of you. And of course, we have always been looking forward to those Institutions to do better, and we hope that these nominees will always measure up to the expectations of Sierra Leoneans; because you are going to serve the people of Sierra Leone and not a particular Political Party or any particular interest. So, having been scrutinised by the Appointments Committee, there will not be much to say about these individuals, because all the nice things have been said about them. What we expect now is to see that when you go to your respective Offices to which you are nominated, you will deliver for the people of Sierra Leone and not for a particular party or particular interest. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before we move on to the second debater or contributor, may I at this stage recognise the presence of distinguished individuals from Malawi. We are honoured by their presence this morning; they are here on a visitation tour to the Parliament of Sierra Leone. They are:

Honourable John Francis Bandy, a Member of the Malawian Parliament *[Applause]*;

Honourable Madaliso Kamboiwa Wolayma *[Applause]*;

Honourable yona Adadawi Zankadawiya *[Applause]*;

Honourable Idrissa Pongolani Kazembah *[Applause]*; they are accompanied by their protocol staff, Mrs Constant Kilimo and Mr Raphael Kapalamula *[Applause]*. Of course I met with them yesterday in my Office, but let me reiterate that you are heartily welcome to the Parliament of Sierra Leone. Yes, Honourable, Proceed!

**HON. DR MACMUD KALOKOH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I just want to ensure that I comment on somebody who has been nominated into this highest position and that is no less a person but Alhaji Muctarr Williams. In the Trade Union field of this country, Alhaji Muctarr Williams is a household name in the Trade Union field of this country. We gained a lot of experience from his mentorship as a Trade Unionist whiles we were

with him at the Sierra Leone Labour Congress. Seeing him here today, I just want to inform this House that his nomination is very important. Mr Alhaji M. Williams, I hope you will exhibit what we learnt from you; of maintaining the balance. You were always telling us at the Sierra Leone Labour Congress that “if you want to progress, you want to be with people, you always ensure that you maintain the balance”. And I hope you will continue to maintain the balance, because that office you are about to go is a very critical office. Alhaji M. Williams, participated immensely in ensuring that Democratic dispensation returned to Sierra Leone when the Government of His Excellency, Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabba, of blessed memory was overthrown. We fought; we played our roles to ensure that that Government was reinstated. Thank you very much and I wish you all the best.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Bashiru Silikie.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again we have nominees presented to this House for approval. To the nominees; you have been given a responsible position, and of course we know the current state of the political dynamics in this country. You are going to play a very pivotal role to see that Political Parties adhere to the PPRC Codes of conduct; to see that transparency and accountability are in these political parties. In the interview yesterday Honourable Members, we deliberately asked the nominees if they are members of political parties. They assured us, and we expect that the assurance given to us yesterday should be adhered to; we expect that you should not take pressure from any source; the only pressure we expect you to take is from the Act that gives you the power. This is Parliament, we were convinced yesterday as a Committee that these people are fit for the positions, but we expect that when you go there, you should be neutral. We don't take excuses; performance should be the watch word.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join my colleagues in supporting the nominees here today so that they can be approved. Thank you Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Sahr Charles!

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the effort of the Appointments Committee, from what they did, it shows that indeed the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament is starting on a better footing than before. Now we have started seeing Members of Parliament exhibiting patriotism and loyalty to our nation. When Presidential nominees are sent to this House, and the Committee on Appointments is given the responsibility to screen them and bring them fort to this House, we believe that they would do this nation good by screening them thoroughly. From what happened for the report we are here approving, I believe the Committee on Appointments deserves a commendation *[Applause]*. This is what we expect; don't look at appointees because they are appointed by the president, and because they are coming from your political party or whatever, you just pass them through, no! Give Members of the Committee the opportunity to ask probing questions, critical questions that will indeed prove that these people being nominated by the President will serve the nation well. So, I just want to commend the Committee, and for those Appointees, I want to say you are going there as Sierra Leoneans and we expect you to exhibit patriotism to the fullest; you are there to serve Sierra Leone and not there to serve any political party. Whenever I have an opportunity to address nominees, I always remind them of that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as for the man who said he doesn't have a political card that does not matter, we are not concerned about whether you have a party Card or not. As a Sierra Leonean, you have right to belong to any political party of your choice. So by saying to the Committee that you don't in fact have a political party card, I don't think it adds any credence to your approval. All what we are concerned about is that when you go out there to serve in your capacity, *[Interrupted]*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order! Mr Speaker, if you look at the PPRC Act, it is mandatory that if you are working for the PPRC, you should maintain neutrality; you should not be a Card carry Party Member. So it is crystal clear, that we asked that question and it was clarified by the appointee. So for the Honourable

Member to insert that type of language; that to have party card doesn't matter, contravenes the very Act passed by this House of Parliament. So I ask him to withdraw that statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is alright, it's alright. Honourable Member, please take note!

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. All what I am trying to say here is that the political party identity is not much a consideration in serving the people of Sierra Leone; that is my point Mr Speaker! And it cuts across all nominees or Appointees from the President. When they come here, we address them as Sierra Leoneans and we expect them to judiciously carry out their functions as Sierra Leoneans, devoid of political party. That is my point and on that note, I want to wish all the New Appointees well. As you will be approved today, go there and do this nation good, thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I wish to again recognise the presence of another dignitary among us. He is Dr Alieu B. Sengor; he is a Committee Clerk of the ECOWAS Parliament. Doctor, you are welcome to the Sierra Leone Parliament *[Applause]*. Yes, proceed!

**HON. OSMAN WURIE JALLOH:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I wish to start by congratulating and thanking His Excellency the president, for making a wonderful decision in choosing these gentlemen to the various positions. I don't want to take much of our time here, but I want to specifically address Mr Sawyer who will be going to the PPRC. The PPRC over the years, as we all know, has been very helpful in solving political party disputes in this country especially, during the past elections. We knew what we the SLPP experienced as a political party during the time we had our turmoil; dispute upon dispute, argument upon argument, trying to understand our Constitution as to which way we should go. And I must assure Mr Sawyer, that you are going to an institution that is well grounded in the Constitutions and Rules of all the Political Parties in this country. I want you to go and help the staff of PPRC to continue to exhibit not only a wonderful job but also do justice to this country. From all I can see, there is a huge task ahead of you and the Institution as a whole. If you take note of late, all the

political parties are now busy reviewing their Constitutions, including my own political Party. So, we expect you to go there as neutral as you can and to do justice to this nation. It is not going to be easy, but I know as a Legal minded person, you will be well prepared to do your job. I wish the gentle man next to you that will be going to the Independent Media Commission [IMC]; I hope that when you go there, you will do justice to this nation. I thank you so much and I wish you all the best. And I waste no time in appealing to my colleague Members of Parliament, that we approve these gentlemen speedily.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Member. At this stage, I wish to recognise the presence of our only Draftsman in this nation, Mr Thompson who incidentally happens to be the Lecturer of the Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, the Lecturer of the Acting Speaker, the Lecturer of Gevao and so on, you are welcome Sir! Also, let me recognise the presence of the Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, Mr Napolion U. Koroma, can you please stand up for all to see? And the presence of the Deputy Commissioner, Anti- Corruption Commission, you are all welcome to Parliament. Yes Honourable Member, proceed!

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I am very much thankful to His Excellency the President, Dr Julius Retired Brigadier Maada Bio, who has again today given us these fine nominees. We welcome you all here today and we wish that what the people want is what you people are going to do. But I want to remind you that in politics, you are now going to take care of our responsibilities more especially, us the women. The women are vulnerable; in most of the cases, women are really suffering in terms of politics, especially when politics is at the high peak. So we are calling on you people that when taking those positions, you please give chance to women to really perform or go wherever they can go, always listen to the women because we are vulnerable. We want to see more women in positions; we want to see more women in Parliament, Councils or other leadership positions the next time. We welcome you all and we thank



you. On that note, I ask that this House speedily approves these fine nominees, thank you.

**HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to add an independent voice to this debate. Mr Speaker, I want to say the nominees are qualified to hold those positions. Maybe, what I would add is that they should endeavour to bring some changes; the changes that we desire for those offices. We have had people holding those places or positions before them. Now there their business should be to carefully study the Institutions they are about to serve and to ask themselves what value they can add to those Institutions. I must remind them of the pledge His Excellency the president, made to this nation to move this nation in the "New Direction". Moving a nation in a new direction means, to bring those changes that the citizens desire. We know that our country is one of those countries in Africa that are struggling to make progress and His Excellency the president, has assured this nation that his presidency, will bring the changes that our hearts desire. He cannot do it alone; he has to do it with a team. So when you go to those Offices, is not a question of collecting allowances or sitting in Air-conditioned Offices, it is about translating the dreams of His Excellency into reality. You are not going to say what you have done in your offices in speeches. The Ordinary Sierra Leoneans should be able to see for themselves and to feel the changes that you will be implementing. So, I want to urge you my dear brothers that when you go to those offices, learn very fast and do those things that will bring the required change or changes that our hearts desire. Don't say I am alone, I cannot do it. You are working with a team and by carefully studying and analysing the situation, you may be able to bring in valid suggestions that the team may adopt; the suggestions that will help to move this country forward. So I want to congratulate you in advance, I want to use this opportunity to ask this House to approve these gentlemen. I know some of you have been nominated by your institutions, some of you have been nominated because you have been very active party Members, but the only way you can prove your loyalty to the President or your love for your Party is to serve very well; serve very well to bring those changes that will

push our country forward, thank you very much Mr Speaker, for listening to me  
*[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we on this side of the aye, continue to hold the view that it is important for us to continue to work out the system, to make it operational. We will insist on the word operational principally, because some people have worked for these Governments, many, many times, and I will take the example of Mr Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams, who has been nominated by the President to hold an important position that is so vital and for the importance of this system. Mr Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams, is known by many to have served this country many times, and in fact for some of us, we remember him as somebody who also stood up for the importance, that is so vital for the operations of the systems that has made this country one important state. Mr Alhaji Muctarr Babatunde Williams, can be seen as a man who, became the man who has served this country, and at the same time have also served the important Presidents. He served formal President Ernest Bai Koroma, but also served formal President Ahmad Tejan Kabba. So we want to remember, that here was an important Sierra Leonean who saw himself serving two important members who were very, very important people that we will never, never forget. Mr Leader, I also want to remember this, that today, we had small difficulty, but the difficulty was resolved. We want to make it very, very clear that we on this side of the aye continue to see ourselves as a people, who believed that Sierra Leone must be seen as one united country. So when somebody made the mistake, by stating that he now sees the united party working together, it was not an error, he was merely stating the fact. The fact is that we are determined to work together as one united people. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity ones more to thank those people, who have performed very, very importantly, during this very important period. In Yesterday's operations when we met at both Parliament and when we decided to discuss the issues of the operations of the people before us, Yesterday was a clear indication that all of us are working together.

So Mr Speaker, as I conclude, I want to make it very, very clear that all of us have to continue to be seen as one united people. Thank you very much Mr Speaker  
*[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader!

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my Honourable Colleagues for supporting this Motion. I think you have said it all. To our nominees, I want to assure you that Parliament is there for you, please don't feel intimidated in your offices, if there are any issues, come back to Parliament, we are here to ensure that the job of Government is done. So please come back to Parliament, we are always with you at all times. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call on this Honourable House to speedily approve the nominations of these nominees. Thank you very much!

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you move?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that, the seventh report of the Second 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:** Mr Leader, let us have one clarification, is it the seventh or the eighth report?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** This is the Seventh Report, what I read was the eighth.

**THE SPEAKER:** Ok! It's alright.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** You can have several meetings, and then prepare one report. Thank you.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the approved persons, rely on the support of Parliament. Parliament is always there to be referred to, but let

me state one basic fact about nominees to Parliament; every nominee that comes to Parliament comes with a solution. Everybody would say that they have the solutions to the problems in these institutions, but at the end of the day when they go to their offices, the same thing continues. That is all the more reason why we are where we are today. Please gentlemen, when you go to your offices, for God and country, do something different. I thank you very much.

## **V. BILLS**

***[The Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, introduction and first reading by the Anthony General and Minister of Justice].***

**NAPOLEON U. KOROMA** *[Deputy Minister of Justice]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, be read for the first time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the question is, that the Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, be read the first time.

*[Question proposed, Put and Agree to]*

*[The Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, has been read for the first time]*

**NAPOLEON U. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, be read the second time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the object of this Bill is to amend the Anti-Corruption Act No. 12 of 2008, to:

- a. Increase the penalties for offences under the Act;
- b. Strengthen the protection of those who assist the Commission;
- c. Provide the Commissioner with alternatives to prosecution;
- d. Widen the scope of corruption to include that the Accused "Offered, Solicited, Obtained or Received in addition, to Give and Accepted an Advantage;

- e. Reduce the yearlong requirements that people who ceased to be public officers have to file a declaration in respect of their Assets and empower the Commissioner to specify categories of public officers for the purposes of declaration by statutory instrument published in the gazette;
- f. Provide for Administrative Sections for public officers who failed to submit their Asset declaration forms or unknowingly record false, inaccurate or misleading information in the forms; and
- g. Vest the Commissioner power to direct, that contracts may not be proceeded with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the war against corruption in our country is a continuous one. All we need to do is give our brave soldiers who are working to fight corruption in our country the weapon. This Amendment, if passed by this House, will serve as one of those very significant weapons that will change the narratives and story in the war against corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, be read the second time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the question is, the Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption amendment Act 2019, be read the second time. The debate starts.

**HON. SHIAKA S. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind this House, about the speech graciously delivered in this noble House, by His Excellency the President, on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 10:00 am. President identified corruption as one of the menaces that is responsible for the backward state of our country. Before this very House, His Excellency the President, assured this nation that one thing he is going to do is to fight corruption. With that Mr Speaker, fellow Members of Parliament should be seen supporting the effort of the President in the fight against corruption. We know that there are a lot of efforts that has been made by this present Government to improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans. For I know as somebody who was born and has grown up in this country, know that one of the main obstacles to development is corruption, for some of us, it is a habit that we have to struggle to change. I have gone

through the Proposed Amendment, it is about given extra powers to the Commissioner, and it is about reviewing the fines and the punishment for various offences. We are going to support His Excellency the President.

Before us is the Minister of Government who I am sure has gone through the provisions we are about to amend, and I know that the Minister is a lawyer, he knows very well the legal implications of the Proposed Amendments, only that we have to be very, very careful, because the Commissioner is a person, he is not the President, he is not even the Minister who is here to tell us to give him additional powers. The Commissioner is an individual, and as an individual, he might make mistakes and there are certain mistakes that have grave consequences for the nation or for the individuals. So while we are about to give additional powers to the Commissioner, we must be very careful that he is an individual, and he could make mistakes, and we know sometimes, absolute powers corrupt absolutely.

Mr Speaker, we must be careful in giving one person power, we must have checks and balances. Mr Speaker, we saw a very short time ago, His Excellency the President, apologising for the action of the Commissioner. So we must be very careful, because as an independent Member of Parliament, my business is to support the programmes of the President and to guide him, so that he succeeds. So I believe, that if he fails, God forbids, it will be a failure for all of us. There is no way one part of Sierra Leone can enjoy and you have the other part suffering. Our destinies are linked together; we either prosper together or will perish together. We must be seeing supporting His Excellency's agenda. One way to support him, is not to praise sing him, but to critically look at proposals that we have to affect his job, for God and country as you said, and to advise him the best way possible.

Mr Speaker, I support the Amendments, but the areas where we have to give additional powers to the Commissioner; we have to be very careful, so that we will not end up having a Commissioner that is even more powerful than the President. I hope we will not end up having a Commissioner that we get up one day and become crazy in doing

things, and give the President more problem of apologising on his behave. Mr Speaker, I am saying this for God and country, like you said.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this House that we have to look at the Propose Amendment very carefully, and to give the Government and the Minister and the Commission the powers they are requisitioning for. We owe them one thing Mr Speaker, if the Ministry or Commissioner says, this is what we want to empower us and to be able to support the fight against corruption, we owe it to the President to support the Amendment, but not to the detriment of the nation. So I have made some notes, which I will share with the Members of Parliament when we come to that stage in looking at the specifics, I will be ready for God and man to give my contribution to the best of my ability. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Sama Sandy.

**HON. ISHMAIL S. SANDY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having gone through the Proposed Amendment of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008, I have been intuited by the fact that, this particular Amendment has made all efforts to enhance the policy, legal and institutional intricacies of the Anti-Corruption Commission. There by positioning our Anti-graft institution in a better position in the fight against corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a cancerous disease; Corruption continues to eat into the Cultural, Political and Economic fabric of our society. And we should therefore, decisively put on the whole armour of morality in the fight again corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as an independent state, Sierra Leone for 59 good years, cannot effectively cater for its citizenry, just because of corruption to a great extent. And if not dealt with, it will continue to impede the viability of our state organs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that reservation, I will continue to assert to the fact that corruption is the greatest challenge of our society today. And corruption at all front continue to undermine governance effectiveness in Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Clergy, I always references the Holy word of God. In Proverbs chapter 24...

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Point of Order Mr Speaker!

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ishmail S. Sandy, please sit down! Yes proceed! What is your order?

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** I stand on S.O.32 [4] which says that, "*A Member shall not read his speech, but may read short excerpt from books or papers in support of argument and may refresh his or her memory by reference to notes*". But Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member there has begun his statement with reading and till I interjected, he was still reading; which is against the S.Os. So I was expecting him to make reference and beret back to us, but he was just reading as if what he was reading has been written by somebody else [*Undertone*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I granted him leave [*laughter*].

**HON. ISHMAIL S. SANDY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the efficacy of a brave warrior cannot be told; by his looks, you can see the strength. My colleague knows my ability, but this has become a contemporary practise, even in the House of Common. I am abreast, and I go strictly according to International Norms and Standards [*Applause*]. Let me continue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, don't remove the steam. Proceed!

**HON. ISHMAIL S. SANDY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I was saying, as a Clergy I always reference the Holy Word of God; the Bible. In Proverbs 29:2, the word of God says; when the righteousness increases, the people will rejoice, but when corruption which is tantamount to wickedness in the Bible prevails, the people will suffer. And in Ephesians 5:11, the word of God says, we should not condole corruption, but rather expose it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a peoples representative, I am not only representing by constituency, I am also representing the "Body of Christ" in this House [*Applause*]. The Bible says, in Romans 13:4, as the people's representative, we are ordained Ministers of God, and we should not bear the sword in vain; but rather we should use the sword to deal with evil. And fighting corruption is exactly what the Bible



is prescribing. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am of the opinion that we should be seen as MPs playing a vanguard role in fighting this epidemic, in fighting this ugly monster of corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now come to the debate as my colleague is demanding. When you go through the Amended Bill, they have done everything to address the lacunas. Before this time, especially around areas of declaration of Assets, we have been seen people who were mere average life livers going into politics, and after just 5 years or 10 years, today, this people are talking about Tens of houses, and the rest of it, "Unexplained wealth". If this should be addressed, I think we should be prepared morally, and in all other facets to really face the fight against corruption and this to me, is a national concern, it should not be partisan. If we want our people in the villages to realise effective service delivery, we should see this fight against corruption as our fight, because it is our resource that has been side fund into personal Bank Accounts and Pockets. If they are properly earnest, I believe they will help us. Today, some Members of Parliament are Health officials, constructing schools, bridges, and all the rest. This is because our resources meant for these things are been diverted to peoples' pockets, and the burden is resting on us *[Applause]*. In view of these colleagues, I want you to see this fight as your fight. Helping the ACC will help you. Because, they will make sure that these resources are been properly used and services will be made available, accessible, affordable and acceptable by our society. Mr Speaker, I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Our Paramount Chief.

**HON. P.C BAI KURR K. SANKA III:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, may I bring the attention of this noble House to the fact that anytime we bring in Amendments to an Act, the original Act must be presented to the Members of Parliament *[undertone]*, it should not be given when we are already in the debate, I have mine, I was here and I brought mine and have read it last night, but I am talking of sharing it now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I read this Amendment, I found it very interesting, very powerful; and some of them are to the point. But if you go through the Act, Mr Speaker, I brought the attention of the Attorney General to Section 64 [3]; you will see that there is going to be some conflicts, with the Attorney General's office and the ACC. There will be conflict with the National Public Procurement Authority [NPPA] and the ACC. So, our duty is to support Government and to see that differences will not deter the progress of this Government. But when come to the Committee of the House, we shall point out this, and we are happy the Attorney General is leading the debate in terms of the Government side. And we will do our duty to point out certain issues, which definitely they would see.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are as Paramount Chiefs; support Government in its entirety, because we are the custodians of the culture, customs and traditions of this nation. In the Administrative aspect of Sierra Leone, we carry the grassroots, we carry the rural development and we carry the rural people. I am sure 95% of all the citizens are all from the rural areas. When you think of the Ministry of Local Government and rural development, it affects us all, so I am going to stand here and say, I support the Amendments and we have to work together with the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Commissioner, to see that we build a better nation. When I was in class 3 or standard 1 at that time, I was told to read the daily mail, Sierra Leone was far better than China in terms of GDP. We were at par with Malaysia, Singapore, and today, where are we as a nation? So therefore, we have to support ourselves. Supporting this Amendments means, we are supporting ourselves, and trying to make Sierra Leone a better place. We are trying to make Sierra Leone a place where we can be proud of ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I look at the session, I compared the Act, but when we come there I will begin to highlight certain provisions of the Act that even contradicts the present Amendments. It doesn't mean I am opposing, it just means that we have to amend them to operate universally, so that when the Bill is done, nobody will go to court to say, it is contradictory. When you look at the position of the Attorney General, it is clear in our constitution, that there shall be an Attorney General and

Minister of Justice, appointed by His Excellency the President, it is quite clear. Nobody can dispute that, S.O. 64[3] made it very clear, that all offences prosecuted in the name of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall be at the suit of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice or some other person can be authorised by him in accordance with any law governing the state. This particular Act, was Amended here in this Parliament with simple 3 words, the New Constitutional Amendment that is now prevailing, that gave the powers to the Anti-Corruption Commissioner and Chairman, was simple, it says, "all offences prosecuted in the name of the Republic of Sierra Leone shall be at the suit of the Attorney General with the exemption of the Anti-Corruption Commission". That was what was amended here in 2012. The Leader of Government because was here at that time. But when you go further, there are certain rules and regulations that we have to make available, so that we will make the Attorney General's office and the Anti-Corruption Commission, to work effectively and bring in peace, stability, development and end corruption.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Point of order sir!

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable!

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Honourable Speaker, I stand on S.O. 34 and 37. 34 as a point of order, and I want to quote 37, dilatory Motion. "A Member, who wishes to propond to some future occasion for further discussion of a question which has been proposed from the Chair, may claim to move that the debate be now adjourned or that this Parliament do now adjourned..."

Honourable Speaker, the Anti-Corruption Act, is an important Act, we need to reflect on the Amendments that have been proposed, they have constitutional implications, we had given this assignment to the Committee, there was pillage and we don't have a report on that. We are not experts; we are not Lawyers *[Applause]*. This issue is important for the future, for the future! I underline. It is not about any Government in Power or past Government, it is about Sierra Leone.

I wish to move a Motion colleagues, that first, we ask the Committee to report to us. Second, we are given time to reflect on this and set a future date to continue the debates *[Applause]*.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, hold on let me just briefly respond to Honourable Kandeh Yumkella. Honourable, this is a new session, this Bill was introduced during the last session and we did first and second reading and was committed to the Legislative Committee, but this is a separate session, so that is the reason we are starting all over again. But don't worry, just after the second reading debates, you can move your Motion, and we would certainly commit it. The only thing is, we need to hurry up with this particular Bill, because this Bill is becoming an embarrassment to Parliament. So I will adjourn from today to Thursday, so that by Thursday they will bring the report to this Parliament, and we will try to do something about this Bill. Already, this Bill has embarrassed Government, this Bill has embarrassed Parliament, and we have to do something about it. Please, Honourable it is noted, it is very much noted!

**HON. MATHEW NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, you have said it all, but I am afraid when the Honourable Member moved the motion, you are the presiding officer, and you have the right after looking at all the options we have, knowing this Bill laps the second session. In your wisdom, it is for you to move the motion that we take the bill to the Committee stage.

**THE SPEAKER:** No! I cannot jump to the arena. What I am saying is that after the second reading debates, anybody can move the Motion please, don't allow me to jump into the arena, because I cannot be the Judge and the Jury, thank you very much. Yes proceed!

**HON. P. C. BAI KURR K. SANKA III:** Yes Mr Speaker, we are happy to work together as a Parliament to bring in peace, stability and development into this Country. Anytime a Bill passes in this Parliament, whether you voted for it or not, it is an Act of Parliament you carry the responsibility. So therefore, some of us have suggested before

and we are still going to suggest, that when things come out better, we will be proud of our nation, we will be proud of our children, for this Bill is going to serve the entire Country of Sierra Leone, it is a Non-Political Bill, it is a Non-Partisan Bill. It is a National Bill and it is internationally going to be recognised. It will give us the energy to move the nation, so as we are now arguing and debating, trying to send it back to the Legislative Committee, I think we have to look at this and I am happy all of us now have the Anti-Corruption Act. In Amending certain Sections of this Act, when you read further or behind, you will find out that when we amend this, we have to go back and amend that. Mr Speaker, some put three months, but when you look at the Act, itself, in some places, they said, six months. So, we have to properly amend them. Yes sir, this is the Act. I was here when we passed it and I read it last night, I looked at it and I picked at certain Sections. If you go down to sections 3 and 4, you will find out that it saying six months and the other is saying three months, and if you are to amend only Section 3[a] and sometimes let me tell you something when you go back at Section 1[19] you might not even need sub Section 2, it is there again they said, three months for the commencement of this Act, but the Act, is no longer commenceable. We can take that out now, that was made possible for the Act to come to effect. So by amending the Laws, doesn't mean we are watering down. I am seeing some people there shaking heads; they know that it is a statement of fact, because I read it. I am the oldest man here now in this Parliament since 1996, so I have the experience of Amendments. I am not looking only where you Amended, but what the Act, is saying, but we also want this Parliament to be a useful Parliament, a Parliament that will record the history of Sierra Leone for the future generations to know that we did our homework well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, which is all I might need to say here this morning. I support the entire process, but we have to look into details and I felt for those who didn't have this Act last night, they couldn't go through it, but I went to my records, I took the old one and I compared, I saw the contradictions in some cases and I know that we have to just put them together as a Parliament. I thank you very much and we

all should work together to make Sierra Leone a better place and Stop Corruption, End Corruption and let us don't be at the bottom of the ladder in terms of poverty. When I was in the "PAN African Parliament", I was the President of the S.D.Gs and I was the focal point on "End Hunger" S.D.G. 2 that is why some of us are concern about the welfare of the entire people of Sierra Leone. I thank you very much and we will work to make Sierra Leone a better place for mankind. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Yes Honourable Leader of the C4C.

**HON. SAA EMMERSON LAMINA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and whiles I will subscribe to the Amendment Bill of 2019, for the Anti- Corruption, I also deemed it necessary for us to go back to history lane. What I also find oxymoronic in this particular Bill is the power of empowering individuals as oppose to institutions, going back to history lane, I noticed the confused fight between National Revenue Authority [*NRA*] then boss, Mr Allieu Sesay and the Minister of Finance. So in proceeding with this debate, I am calling on the Committee stage to critically look at *S.O. [51]*, it will help us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since we inherit self-governance over six decades, it is no doubt that this nation has been devilled by few nightmares;

- i. Coos and counter coos;
- ii. Wars, the almost eleven years interregnum;
- iii. Corruption;
- iv. Ebola; etc.

Those nightmares troubled this nation very, very well and in bringing solution to tackle corruption, we need a critical look at *S.O. [51]* to help us. I want to applause the Government of Late President, Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabba and even former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for their efforts in putting those structures in place to strengthen the fight against corruption. It is no secret that if this Anti-Corruption Act, Amended Bill 2019, work very closely with the ACC original Act, 2004, the Payment System Act, 2014, the Financial Regulation 2007, the Payment System of 2009 and the Bank of Sierra

Leone Act, 2011, that will be a fine synergy. But I must also commend the object of this particular Amended Bill, the object in giving powers to the Commissioner for those that will not comply with certain regulations in filling the Asset Declaration Forms and at the end of it all, we must also come back to history lane that when the Amended Bill was strengthen under the tenure of former President, Earnest Bai Koroma, we realised big fishes been behind bars. Typical among those were the former Commissioner General of NRA, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Health and Sanitation and the head of Attitudinal and Behavioural Change etc. all those names really showed that the Act, was really enacted. We also see the fear of few things;

- i. Politicisation of key institutions;
- ii. Weakening of our revenue base;
- iii. Political patronage; etc.

So, I hereby will subscribe very, very well to the memorandum objectives and the reasons for the particular Amended Bill, but at the same time call upon the Committee stage to look very well in empowering individuals as oppose to institutions, or we will begin to see some dictatorial tenancies. I thank you very much for this time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, the Paramount Chief, after the Paramount Chief the Deputy Leaders, after the Deputy Leaders, Honourable Tawa Conteh. Yes Chief proceed!

**HON. P.C. SAHR Y. K. MBRIWA II:** Mr Speaker, Colleague Honourable Members, I rise to say that the Leadership of Kono District including myself, we support the objective of this Bill and we also support in addition, any measure that the Government and this Parliament will put in place to energise the fight against corruption, our reasons are very clear. Corruption is a big menace in this country; Sierra Leone is not moving, in spite of all what we have that can help us go ahead without any external support, the impact of corruption in this country is very clear for everybody to see. In the first place, we all from experience around the world, uncontrolled corruption lead to economic decline. We have seen that in many countries including us, and what follows when economic decline set in is hardship, and hardship it cut across. It affects every household, every family, every community; and it leads people at a loss, this is very

serious. So, any measure that comes before this House that will energise the fight against corruption, I think we are all reasonable people, let us find a way of promoting and supporting this particular Bill to ensure that we have serenity in this Country. You know the sad impact about corruption is this, corruption produces Autocratic Politicians, it produces Autocratic Leaderships, and when you have all these elements in a society, it leads to conflicts, followed by agitations and unrest in the country, and eventually it results to war. I have said this before in this House, that the cost of corruption is war, we should not underrate this and therefore, all the semantics and the detail of this Bill, Okay, we can understand, but the objectives of this Bill here, we should not put aside in the interest of semantics and other flimsy reasons. I therefore say, that the people of this country need this Bill and we must therefore, give it the necessary support it needs. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't intend to stay long on this debate, because it is very clear from my colleagues that have just spoken. Of course, the Honourable Leader of C4C, Honourable Emmerson Lamina quoted the Standing Order for the committal of this Bill, which I perfectly agree with. If we want to fight corruption, we should be sincere with ourselves, with what we do. But how do we fight corruption? We can only fight corruption when we have strong laws. Today, people are looking at the Commissioner by name. It is not the person we are trying to address; it is the Commission we are addressing. That is the reason we are putting these entire frame works in place, so that Sierra Leone we can stand tall. Sierra Leone can succeed in fighting corruption as the Paramount Chief said; it is a crazy menace, a cancer in our system, we want to stop this business of corruption. So in fact, in the Bill you can realise that there is a Section talking about "Public integrity", and we need to address it, because it is very important. But my colleague from my back from the SLPP quoted a Biblical explanation to that for me; I will just give a human explanation, that we came into this world naked, and so Mr Speaker, we shall return. Because I believe, that we have to try to provide for our generation, to have equitable distributions of



resources, but what is happening in our society is, that people want to take everything and give the praise; so when they are passing, S.O. [2]“You borbor den dae ya ooh, or bra, wi dae na ya”. We can't accept this for too long; if we do, then we are killing the next generation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are happy because the Anti-Corruption Commission seeks to address some of the issues that we are fighting to do. This Bill will always tell us that we are going towards a sanitised country, by fighting corruption.

Mr Minister has just given us the objects and reasons why he is here to present to us this Bill. One, he said, is to increase the penalty of offences committed and also to strengthen the Commission. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at Section 7 of the Bill, you will see that, that is the reason I said, let us have strong laws and not strong men. We are doing business of restitution; because the Commission is very sincere and they want to fight Corruption with all what they have in their powers. We have seen without given them the appropriate powers, they are now using restitution. But in this Bill Mr Speaker, with your leave, I read this portion; they are not forcing you to go into restitution, but they said, if you want to engage in restitution, you are going to pay an extra amount of money levied. Sections 7 sub Section B1, it Says, “Enter into an agreement with a suspect, to [1]; refund the amount involved plus an interest of not less than 10%”, so you see, they are not forcing you. We don't want to make crime lucrative, we want to make crime very punishable Mr Speaker. So because of that, you don't even know how much the individual or the Public Officer has collected, or how much he has side funded. So, what they are saying is, if you even want to go into the real restitution, you have to levy extra amount of percentage on what you are going to pay, to see that it is a clean business. If you calculate what will come perhaps what you only know is \$1mln, that is equivalent to Le1bln. So, if you say okay just pay that amount, but now you are paying some particular amount as levied by this particular Bill, we are going to enact. So if you don't even know that, he has been involved in side funding over Le1bln, the 10% can give you a compensation for you to pay additional cost. So right now, the real restitution is going to be very firm in this particular Bill. And

the area of impersonation is also clear in this Bill, because it is happening right now. People are using the cyber space to impersonate people into massive corruption. So if you impersonate me, the Anti-Corruption Commission is already seeking imprisonment for not less than 6 months, but is been increased to 3 years, if we pass this Bill.

Mr Speaker, we also seek in Section 85, Protection for Assisting the Commission; as I said, we are not trying to make the Commissioner powerful. I agree with my colleague from Pujehun, he said, because they Marshalled people at the Cotton Tree, that is an abuse of power; well for me, there are always checks and balances to the system, that is the only reason we have the first gentleman of the nation, the President, and he always come in to say, look at what you are doing now, there should be some checks. So, if we are giving the power, we are not giving the power to the Commissioner, let us don't address the person in question, we should be addressing the institution that we are trying to empower in the fight corruption. If we agree that corruption is a cancer in our system, we can only fight corruption when we have strong laws, so in protecting those who will assist the Commission in finding out or bringing out corrupt practices is really important Mr Speaker. So for me, I believe for example, they are very reasonable trying to talk of Public Officer, but let us bear in mind that we have in this Act, from what we have heard from the Honourable Paramount Chief, Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka iii, was saying that we have to do some Amendments over certain things, this is right. A Public Officer needs to be redefined, what we mean by Public Officer? We need to redefine that language Mr Speaker, but we will come to that when we get to the Committee stage. I know my Honourable Paramount Chief will be with me when we take the podium to try to arrange whatever we want to. Believe me, this is not about partisan issue, it is about trying to fight corruption. If today you are in the system trying to put these laws, just be a decent man and believe in public integrity. If you believe in that you will not look at yourself as if you are going to be the next victim. You can only be a victim if you are a corrupt person in this nation, even when we are trying to crop up corruption. Corruption is everywhere, and it is a cancer created by humans and must be eradicated by humans. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. That is my submission.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh!

**HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker! The Bill before us today could not have come at a better time, though there are issues, there are inconsistencies, there are gaps in the Bill with reference to the parent Act, but that notwithstanding, the discussion today, more or less surrounds the act of corruption and what the fight should entail. The Honourable Leader of C4C was precise, that the objective of this Bill is very strong; the objective of this Bill should be able to fight and bring corruption to its knees. But however, in the fight against corruption Mr Speaker, and Honourable Members, Sierra Leone in particular, let me start with the Commissioners before the current Commissioner for the Anti- Corruption Commission. They have all been devilled by the same menace, that is to say, they were playing partisanship. Fighting corruption is beyond lip service, corruption should be an honest fight, corruption should be a sincere fight and should go beyond what is happening now, and it is serious, looking at the generation coming after us. I have my 3 children. I am sure some other people have 4 and others have 5, my generation will face off, and they would come.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Kanneh! Sorry Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh!

*[Suspension of S.O.5 [2] for the Business of the House to continue]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed!

**HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH:** Thank you Mr Speaker! Like I was saying, the generation after us, the foundation that we are going to lay, what we are going to do now will define the future of this country; and to date Mr Speaker, let me say with all honesty and all sincerity that the foundation we are laying now is not laying any precedence for a successful Country and a successful Nation, that we expect or that we yearn for. When this Parliament was first constituted, the people of Sierra Leone had high hopes that 75% of Members of Parliament are new, 75% of Members of Parliament don't understand the gymnastics of Parliament, but today, in the month of October, signals the first sitting of this Parliament, which shows, that accountability and

honesty in the fight against corruption start with the very Members of Parliament that are supposed to fight for the people. What are we doing? We are expected by Sub-Section 4 of Section 86 to have 120 Sittings in a calendar year. Today is the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sitting of 2019, what are we doing? Is that how we fight Corruption? Is that how we cob Corruption? What message are we sending? Is it just the Act? Are we passing the Act because we want to pass the Act? Do we want to enact Bills, because we want to be counted that we are here or that we were present when the Bills were enacted? No! The act of Corruption starts from our own very door step, what are we doing to clean Parliament? What are we doing to set the records straight? What are we doing to help the President that is so determined to fight corruption? The Commissioner is determined. The Commissioner wants more power, although I see some of the powers that he wants are too much like the Honourable Shiaka Musa Sama said, and the words of Aristotle which says, " Powers corrupt, but absolute Powers corrupt absolutely". And today, we are enjoying the fruit of absolute powers corrupt absolutely in our midst, in our own every precinct. Last week I was in Parliament, and I saw kids from Tower Hill Municipal, they wanted to use the Toilet in Parliament. I felt pity, and it was painful. Young kids that don't know anything, they entered into the lavatory of Parliament that stinks. They went there and pick up diseases, what is the future of this nation? What nation are we fighting for? What are we doing? Is it just lip service or do we actually want to fight corruption? Corruption is a fight that should not cherry-pick, corruption is a fight that we must fight and we must fight honestly [*Applause*]. If we are ready to fight corruption, let us face it, they say, "Charity begins at home" let us start with us, let us begin to look at the Parliamentary calendar, the business Committee, Standing Order 11[6] says, the Clerk should help the business Committee to step the business of the House, but where is our Clerk [undertone]? What is the business of the House? We come, we have become a puppet of the executive when the executive has papers, and Parliament is summoned, is that how we fight corruption? Is that how we fight for this nation? Is that how we help President Bio no? The answer is a big no! We have to be honest, what are we doing in Parliament that is not right? Members of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies in this Country don't fear Parliament, you call them,

summon them, they will not come. What are we looking at? Today I started by saying this Bill could not have come at a better time, because we have just witnessed the Deputy Chairman for the Public Account Committee laying their report, go back to the Auditor General's report, there are more sensitive issues in that report as against what was looked and what was presented today to us. There are issues of withhold tax not paid to NRA, it is a crime by the parent Act, Section 36, should you deprive a public institution from its revenue, it is a corruption offence. What was done with that, how have we helped the system? What have we done to make the system effective? What have we done to make the system efficient? Is it just to come and say all those in favour say Aye, and then we say Aye? All those against say Ney, keep quiet! is that how we are going to help the system? The system is weak, the system is paralysed and if we want to fight, we have to fight sincerely. If we want to fight, we have to think of the generation after us, if we want to enact Bills, if we want to enact Laws that will help the fight against corruption, we must do it and do it with sincerity. President Bio, one time the Leader of the Opposition now occupies a small cubicle call office cannot see everything, what are we doing to help President Bio? We are coming very soon to the Sub-Appropriation process, what are we doing to ensure that what comes to us, to review, we review honestly and sincerely, and say this Vote is not qualified to pass. Every Vote passes, every Vote comes and goes through, garbage in, garbage out. Parliament must take the fight against corruption seriously. The Honourable Kandeh K. Yumkella has asked that the Bill be committed to the Committee, please this Bill is just a leaflet, but what would fight corruption is in this Well. How have we prepared ourselves to face this battle? It is not a battle for Ben Keifala alone, it is not a battle for the Anti-Corruption Commission alone, but it is a battle for Sierra Leone. And if we fight Corruption cleanly, diligently, honestly, sincerely, we would see Corruption will not fight back. Why Corruption is fighting back is because when we fight Corruption, we say, Abdurahman is not my brother, and I will fight him to his death. Mohammed is my brother doing something that is not right, but because he is my brother, I will not say it in public, that is not how to fight Corruption. If Mohamed is wrong, and he is your brother, tell Mohamed that you are wrong. When Abdurahman is wrong and has no

relationship with you, tell Abdurahman you are wrong, that is the first level Sincerity, and let us face the issue *[undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am SLPP, I cannot change, and nobody can be more SLPP than me in this part of the seat, because I have put my life on the line, people know I am SLPP. I cannot change, but how am I going to help President Bio, is it by lip service? No! Is it by seeing Parliament spending 75% of the Parliamentary budget on Air Ticket and say nothing? No! Is it by seeing Parliament spending 55% of the Parliamentary budget on per diem without saying anything? No! Is it by looking at the report coming from Parliament to the P.S.C. *[Parliamentary Service Commission]*, that Parliament holds Le1.4bln in 6 months and in 3 months Parliament holds another Le1.8bln without saying anything? No! *[Applause]*. Let us fight decently, let us fight honestly, and let us forget our individual benefits, this is a general fight, this is a general course, the Christian song says, "Oh my comrades, let us fight together", are we going to fight by looking at other people and say nothing? Are we going to fight by seeing other people that will say, I will not do this to you? I am here to fight for the people of Sierra Leone, whether benefit "A or B" comes, it is not my business *[Applause]*. I Left everything I have in this world to come to this place to fight for my next generation, to fight for my children. Most of us here have assimilated, please let us come out from that assimilation, let us stand for this Country, let us face the fact, let us face reality and let us be honest, and let us for once sit a Committee in Parliament and a particular MDA comes to us and we say no! Thank you very much, let us assess your papers, your papers are what we have come to assess. What we see in Parliament nobody sees it in this Country, what we allow to pass over the bridge, nobody allows it in this country. We are as good as a watchman that will sit in the gate of his master, the master will have Millions of properties in his house, and the gateman will collect Le 500,000 and allow a thief to enter and clear everything that is what we are doing for this nation. We sit here to protect their Finances, we sit here to protect the revenues of this Country, we sit here to checkmate the way wages and revenues are expended, but we sit, fold our hands and see the wrong things be done without saying anything.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, I want to appeal to the consciences of every Member of Parliament present today, that let today be a turning point, let us come together, let us forget partisanship and let us fight for Sierra Leone "the Land that we Love", United we stand, divided we fall. Thank you very much [*Noise in Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, that was well said, and this goes for every Chairman of a Committee, every Chairman, take note from Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. And of course Mr Leader, take particular note of the Parliamentary budget, this question keeps coming up. Of course, I have said to myself, that the implementation of the 20/20 budget is going to be different, especially that budget relating to Parliament. Every month, we are going to ensure, I said this few days ago that come 2020, I am going to move a Motion at the P.S.C to ensure that we have monthly report of the execution of the Parliamentary budget; it is very serious, [*Applause*], it is very serious, if possible, we lay on the table of Parliament the monthly report of the execution of the Parliamentary budget; it is very serious, because this question keeps coming up. About one month ago, I personally summoned the Financial Secretary [*F.S*] and I summoned the Clerk of Parliament to provide explanation relating to the execution of the budget. Of course unfortunately, not every Member of Parliament was present in Committee Room 1, but I think of course, Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh you were there, and the explanation proffered seemed to be convincing to every one of us that were there, but there are still toning issues, there are certain things some people are not saying. Of course, I said to myself, there are certain things some people are not saying, but come 2020, I am going to be very, very strict relating to the execution of the Parliamentary budget; let us have monthly reports of the execution of the budget, we all know that transparency pays, because if we do not have monthly reports on the execution of our budget, then we create room for suspicion and I think, as Members of Parliament, we deserve to know everything that happens with our budget; so of course, I take the queue Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, I really take the queue. I am with you in all of this. So Honourable Members of

course, the left side of the aisle seems to be a little quiet today I don't know. Ok yes! Honourable Hassan, Ok sorry, your Leader is up.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. The fight against corruption which all of us have been committed to without doubt in this Well needs wholesale reforms, if we are to forge ahead as a country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to queue from what the Honourable from Lumley was saying. Let me borrow a statement by Prof. Lumumba who said, "Sometimes, we protect our thieves, because they are our thieves, because when they steal, they bring to their communities and so they are protected", those are the thieves that we protect because they are our thieves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about the budget of Parliament; I agree with you, let us monitor that. But also; the Ministry of Finance must do what they use to do. Salaries of Members of Parliament must not be paid or directed to the Parliamentary Budget, sometimes those are the caveat which they create and all of those if we want to fight corruption, we must prevent some of these unhealthy things. Let those things be taken care of and then we address issues. The Ministry of Finance knows it is in the Constitution, that salaries and emolument of certain people must be decided by Parliament, is that being done? No! Mr Speaker, I want to assure you of one thing, that as we sit here, there are disparities in salaries paid to Cabinet Ministers; there are huge disparities Mr Speaker. Let us try to harmonise our wages, we have been saying it year in, year out, but Mr Speaker, when you have a Minister who collects Le40Mln, another Minister collects Le20mIn, another collect less than Le20mIn Mr Speaker, where is the harmonisation? Where is the motivation for those Ministers *[Applause]*? We know there are senior Ministers, but the variance, the difference must be minimal to ensure that you as a senior will collect something better than your junior is accepted; but when the disparity is so huge Mr Speaker, it sticks to something else. Let us amend the Constitution and the Act. Mr Speaker, let us move from Personality-Oriented Institution to Institutional-Based Governance, so that the Institution become the key not the individuals that occupy the offices. We are not making laws for people



who occupy the offices now; we are making laws, that would stand the test of time that is what we must be careful with, that is why I want to support my colleague who suggested that we commit this Act to the Committee again, so when we come to that stage, we will move and support it and we will justify why it must be. Let them cross the T's and dot the I's so that when we come back, we have something we know will last and will do the job that is intended to do, Mr Speaker. Let us understand these things, we are not saying, there is no corruption, nobody ever said that, but those loop holes are what we must collectively close, so that if you don't open the door for the thief, the thief will not enter the house; if he has to break into the house, you will hear the sound, and you might call the police. But when you create a situation wherein people become more powerful than being just the head, then we have a problem and I think, those are some of the reservations that I have. Let the Institutions function; let the individual be there and then we know we are heading for somewhere. So, if you get out of there Mr Speaker, when somebody else comes in, he knows that I have to go by these rules.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me digress a little bit, let me put the Minister of Finance on notice now, that in this Well, I will quote my leader, the Leader of Government Business who advised when we read the Financial Management Act, in this Well, he said, "certain aspects in the Financial Management Act, must be expunged". "Expunged" was the word used by the Leader of Government Business and we all supported that. Mr Speaker, I am sure and I hope when the Minister of Finance comes back to this Well with the budget, those things must be taken care of otherwise, that is where we start the battle with the budget and like you said, the budget coming to this House now, is going to be something completely different, because we are going to ensure that everything we say in this Well must be agreed with. If we say "aye" here, and you say "nay" out there, we are not going to deal with what you bring here; let them understand that the "Power of the purse", lies in Parliament not with them. Mr Speaker, I think for now, I will stop there and let us wait until we get to the Committee Stage, let us commit this Act back to the Committee Stage, let the professionals go and

do their job and come back to us and then we will know when it passes and we will know, we are passing something that will stand the test of time. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Hassan Sesay, I totally agree with you. Let me state this of course, I have already started hearing that as Chairman of the Parliamentary Ethics and Privileges Committee, I am so passionate to ensure that as Members of Parliament we are treated a little decently. I want to see that clearly in the 2020 budget. I have insisted that at least for this particular 2020 Financial Year that is coming, we must implement some aspect of the Laws that we have not been implementing *[Applause]*. There is a clear provision in our Constitution, that it is Parliament that determines the entitlements, so we would ensure that some aspects of this particular law is implemented, it is very good, because as a matter of fact, if we want MDAs to treat us seriously, we must treat ourselves seriously to start with *[Applause]*. Honourable Members of Parliament, I can assure you that we are working very, very seriously to ensure that we achieve the niceties for Parliament, lest we deviate.

Mr Minister, please proffer some explanation. Alright Mr Minister, let us listen to the Leaders; yes Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** I am going to be very brief by stating, that I would ask that we go to the Committee Stage Mr Speaker, so as to handle the business of the day. Mr Speaker, I think that it was now time we begin to address the business of the day by also ensuring, that we will begin to work towards going to the very important move of addressing those important things, that have to do with the business of the day. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Leader.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues for their brilliant contributions to this particular Bill. I am very pleased to say to this Honourable House and to the people of Sierra Leone, that for the first time in so many years that Sierra Leone has once more been recognised as a responsible State that is fighting corruption. His Excellency the President, during his campaign made it

very clear that he was coming to end the menace of corruption in this country. This morning, I heard the Deputy Publicity Secretary of the main Opposition Party on radio saying, that the fight against corruption was discriminatory; but I want to assure him and the people of this country that the fight against corruption can never, ever be discriminatory. As a matter of fact, if you are talking about the Opposition, the only relationship between officials of the former Government and the Anti-Corruption Commission today is the forensic Audit Report. Going forward Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the ACC will have no dealings with any former Government Officials; they would be dealing with us, the current Government Officials. So, I want to assure every one of them, that this is a clean fight and the President, is very determined and the Commission is very determined and the people of this country are very, very determined to fight it. We know corruption would fight back but believe me as a Government, we are also ready to ensure that corruption will end in this country. I agree with my colleague Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh on a lot of issues that he spoke about, but I just want to make a correction on the sittings of Parliament. The definition of the sitting of Parliament is not just the "Plenary" every sitting of the Committee in this Parliament is counted, so if we talk about the sittings in Parliament it is not just the "Plenary Sittings", that is why we always say and the law says: Committee Sittings are a Microcosm of the sittings in this Well. So therefore, I want to assure the people of this country that yes, Plenary Sittings may be very, very low, but Committees are working day and night. Yesterday, there was a Committee on Appointments sitting and just few days ago, there were other Committee sittings all over this place. So, if you are counting, all of those have to be taken into consideration. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure you again, that we are not waiting for 2020 at all. I informed the Honourable Speaker yesterday or maybe few days ago that I have directed the Chairman of the Transparency Committee to write to the Ministry of Finance to inform this Honourable House about every single cent that he has spent on contractors, suppliers from January 2018 to date *[Applause]*. We have to have justifications and I have to make it very, very clear. This is something we are taking very seriously. I discussed with the Speaker yesterday, if any of those payments

are not in order, those people who were paid would be forced to pay back to Government *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, ACC fight is a very serious fight, the Bill we have before us is just a clear manifestation of the seriousness of this Government to fight Corruption. Like most of you have been saying, the memorandum and object of the Bill is very, very clear, it is to increase penalties, for offences under the Act, but it is also there to make Corruption really painful, that is the reason why we have this Bill. There are contradictions; there are MPs who may be thinking that, yes this should have been done or that should have been done, that is why it is very clear that we are not going to rush any single Member of Parliament in this House, know very well that this Bill has been with us for some time. We have been running back and forth making corrections doing pillages, having several meetings on this Bill, but today, we decided to bring it to the plenary, we decided we should Debate it and send it back to the Legislative Committee to look at it again, but this time round, only for 24 hours. Therefore, I will call on Honourable Members who have very serious issues about this Bill to please ensure that they attend the Legislative Committee meeting tomorrow. They should work with the Transparency Committee, the Finance Committee and all the other Committees that are associated with it. All Honourable Members are invited to attend that particular meeting, bring the issues out, to ensure that we come with a law that will stand the test of time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Paramount Chief Member of Parliament was talking about the Constitutional issues, some of those issues were actually handled before even coming into being in the 2018, Anti-Corruption Commission Act. But like I said, it is better for us to go to the Committee Stage, go to the Committee meeting don't just sit outside and comment, go and make your contributions. I believe that should be the best thing for all of us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank all of you again for supporting this Bill, and I hope and pray that when we come to the Committee Stage, all of you will again contribute to ensure that we have a very strong Anti-Corruption Act, and make

sure that Corruption is made very difficult and also made very painful in this country. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Mr Minister!

**NAPOLEAN U. KOROMA** [*The Deputy Minister of Justice*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have listened with rap-attention to all submissions made by Honourable Members of this Parliament. I am deeply humbled and happy that I have been given the privilege again today to come before this house in another progressive Bill in the redemption of our great nation. I am also happy that all of us, speaker, after speaker, we have all agreed that corruption is a very serious issue in our country. We have all, also agreed that we should all come together as a united force to fight the most dangerous enemy in our country which is Corruption. The Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice drafted the Bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Act, of 2008. Some concerns have been raised by some Members of Parliament, that is meant to put or to give more powers to an individual, but I want to say with all certainty, that it was never in our contemplation as the office of the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice. We contemplated to look at the Act and see how best we can be able to re-enforce the fight against corruption and review certain provision of the Act, which we believe will be able to aid the fight against corruption. Many a time, we have listened to the public or the ordinary Sierra Leoneans who will say, that somebody for example sold Le 1bln and when convicted, he is fined a sum as prescribed by the Act. Now the new Amendment is saying, if somebody is convicted of syphoning certain amount of money and you are found guilty, you are not only going to pay the prescribe sum now; you are going to pay the full amount for which you have been convicted for. So if you stole Le1bln, you will be asked to pay the same Le 1bln back to the consolidated fund. These are some of the things we are looking at as a Commission, we are not amending this Bill in the interest of any individual, somebody rightly said, that we are doing it in the interest of our Country.

The Honourable Leader of the NGC said, we are doing this for posterity, for our future. It is not about me standing here, it is not about Members of Parliament Sitting over

there, it is about the future of this Country. So, I am grateful that first of all Honourable Members have acknowledged that indeed it is timely for this amendment to be done and secondly, we should treat it with all the seriousness it deserves. I am happy that the two Leaders have spoken and they have proposed that this Bill be taken to the Committee stage for proper deliberation, and to be brought back to this Well for our final decision.

As a Government, and as a Ministry, we will continue to support the process and I hope when you go to the Committee Stage, you shall be thinking about Sierra Leone and it shall be Sierra Leone, nobody should be clouded by any colour or any position, let us think about Sierra Leone and do what is right, so at the end of the day we shall all be proud that this Parliament made a very progressive law and was able to enforce, and that was able to give a new dimension to the fight against Corruption in our Country. So, I thank you very much for your patience and I thank you all very much for your very wonderful deliberation on this Bill, I thank you all Mr Speaker, and all members of this Parliament *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, is been read the second time.

*[Question Proposed, put and Agreed to]*

*[The Bill entitled the Anti-Corruption Amendment Act, 2019, been an Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act, 2008, to specify categories of Public Officer to whom the declaration requirement under Sub Section one of Section 119 applies to increase Penalties for Offences under the Act and for other related matters has been read the second time].*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O.51 *[1]* for this Bill to be committed to both the Legislative Committee and the Transparency Committee.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Bills have been committed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, of course I had the brilliance of the debate that went on relating to this Bill. Of course, several debaters or Members of Parliament contributed impressively to the debate during the second reading, we would urge those Members of Parliament that have issues, that the Committee should look at to please attend the Committee meeting and make their inputs, it is necessary so that when the report come back to Parliament, we don't have to go right around the same issues again, let us address all issues at the Committee stage, at the Legislative Committee, so that when we come back at least we will have a very easy flow, at 11:00am tomorrow. Where is the Chairman of the Legislative Committee? The Chairman for Transparency is here, please reach out to him and tell him that tomorrow without fail at 11:00am, and all Honourable Members that have issues you know to be addressed, please make sure you attend the Committee meeting tomorrow. Thank you very much.

Any announcement?

*[Announcement of Sectional Select Committees]*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move to announce Membership for Parliamentary Delegation to International Organisations for Parliamentary Muslim Caucus *[undertone]*.

This is not Turkey. I am sharing Turkey. By the way, no interference!

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed! Mr Leader *[Honourable Sidie M. Tunis]*.

**PARLIAMENTARY MUSLIM CAUCUS:**

1. CHAIRMAN - HONOURABLE P.C ALIE BADARA SHERIFF III;
2. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN - HONOURABLE P.C BAI FARAMA TASS BUDU NGBAK IV;
3. MEMBER - HONOURABLE DICKSON MOMOH ROGERS;
4. MEMBER - HONOURABLE SATTIE BANYA;
5. MEMBER - HONOURABLE HASSAN A. SESAY;
6. MEMBER - HON. P.C BALANSAMA MARAH 111;

7. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ABUBAKARR FOFANAH APC;
8. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ABUBAKARR FOFANAH SLPP;
9. MEMBER - HONOURABLE FODAY KAMARA;
10. MEMBER - HONOURABLE HAJA MIATTA AMARA;
11. MEMBER - HONOURABLE MARIE CONTEH;
11. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ALIE IBRAHIM KAMARA;
12. MEMBER - ALIE IBRAHIM KAMARA;
13. MEMBER - MUSA FOFANAH;
14. MEMBER - ALHAJI SORIBA TURAY;
15. MEMBER - HONOURABLE SHIAKA SAMA;
16. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ABU KEMOKIA;
17. MEMBER - HONOURABLE MOHAMED BILO SHURR;
18. MEMBER - HONOURABLE MOSES JOKIE;
19. MEMBER - HONOURABLE MOHAMED KANNEH; and
20. COMMITTEE CLERK - HONOURABLE ABDULAI SANNOH.

**PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS-  
SIERRA LEONE - ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP CAUCUS:**

1. LEADER OF DELEGATION - HONOURABLE REV. SAMA ISHMAEL SANDI;
2. DEPUTY LEADER OF DELEGATION - HONOURABLE REV. AIYA SHERK DAVID KASAGBAMA;
3. MEMBER - HONOURABLE SENGEHPOH SOLOMON THOMAS;
4. MEMBER - HONOURABLE SIDI MOHAMED TUNIS;
5. MEMBER - HONOURABLE MATHEW NYUMA;



6. MEMBER - HONOURABLE DOMINIC JAYBEH L.TSHOMBE;
7. MEMBER - HONOURABLE PAUL SAM;
8. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ABDUL TITUS KAMARA;
9. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ALUSINE KAINDEH ALU CONTEH;
10. MEMBER - HONOURABLE RUGIATU ROSALINE KANU;
11. MEMBER - HONOURABLE REV. ABDUL KARGBO;
12. MEMBER - HONOURABLE ROSEMARIE BANGURA;
13. MEMBER - HONOURABLE REV. HORACE VINCENT;
14. MEMBER - HONOURABLE NENNEH LEBBIE;
15. MEMBER - HONOURABLE JAMES OSAN THORLLEY;
16. MEMBER - HONOURABLE REBECCA YAI KAMARA;
17. MEMBER - HONOURABLE FESTUS M. LANSANA;
18. MEMBER - HONOURABLE P.C JOE KANGBAI MACAVORAY;
19. CLERK TO THE DELEGATION - HONOURABLE UMARR PARAN TARAWALLY; AND
20. ASSISTANT CLERK TO THE DELEGATION - MR MANAH K. BEREWAH.

I so submit Mr Speaker.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARA:** Points of observation, when they created this, what are the terms of reference?

**THE SPEAKER:** Is like any other Committee.

**HON.P.C BAI KURR KANAGBARA:** No! It is not like any order Committee. When they make Housing, Lands; you know it is specific, but if you say Muslim Caucus, there must be terms of reference [*Undertone*].

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, I have just announced the Membership, the terms of reference will follow. The only thing I can assure this Honourable House is that

the Muslim Caucus has nothing to do with Turkey. It has nothing absolutely to do with Turkey.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, it is just a concern. This Parliament has just approved a loan agreement between Sierra Leone and the Islamic Development Bank, a \$20 Mln loan. And one of the conditions in that loan is that we must not deal with Israel. It is condition precedence for utilisation; "we must not deal with Israel". So I don't know how we will compromise the Israel Caucus and the loan that we have approved with that condition. It is a condition on the loan.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Sectional Selection of Committees announced by the Leader of Government business has been approved]*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this announcement is purely for Honourable Members of Parliament. There will be no Committee meetings tomorrow between the hours of 11am to 1pm. All Committee Members must focus on the Committee meeting for the Anti-Corruption Amended Act. Please, Honourable Members, everybody should ensure that they are there at 11 o'clock, no Committee meetings at all! Thank you very much.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** S.O. 23 Sir!

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, proceed.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Yes Sir, it bothers me when Parliament is been treated with levity sir, you would agree with me that most recently, that is within the last one year, a lot of institutions like, Statistics Sierra Leone, NASSIT and all other MDAs have employed a good number of staffs. But interestingly Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the other staffs employed have been paid their full salaries, since the day they were employed *[Applause]*. But it bleeds my heart to note that Parliament has employed staffs for over seven months now, and up till now they have not received a Diem. They are paying their transportation to and from Parliament. They are busy doing due diligence for what they are employed for and yet not paid. And very recently, in the just

concluded debate, we were talking about how to tackle corruption, you cannot tackle corruption when you don't do a root cause analyses. And one of the reasons for corruption is when you deprive somebody who does something, this is what I consider as total deprivation. I want to make it essentially clear, that I and a good number of Honourable Members will be against the Ministry of Finance when they come with their budget, if they don't expeditiously pay the salaries of these staffs *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Member, I agree with you and we will take note, we will actually take note. We are also concern about that particular thing and we think that should be addressed and addressed now. Yes Honourable Hassan.

**HON. HASSAN SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, again I have raised it sometime in this Well but to date nothing has been done. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know that some of our Members were removed from Parliament by court order. Mr Speaker, we did file an appeal on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, and now is October. Mr Speaker, the Constitution, 78[4] is very clear on this, "that a case that there is an appeal on, must be dealt with, within four months". Mr Speaker, to this date as we speak, no panel of Judges have been put together to sit on this matter. Mr Speaker, we are not saying the ruling will go in our favour, but let justice be seen to be done. We still have within this Well; those Members of Parliament that were hastily sworn in. The court appeal cases have not being sat on in the Court of Law.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we are to continue in a very tranquil Parliament, these things must not be left to gradual dust in the chaff in the Court of Law. And I don't want to refer to the justice system; I stop it for a purpose. But please Mr Speaker, let me draw the attention of this House, that those people deserve the right to be hard. If the appeal were rejected, we will understand, but they have been accepted and have the receipt of the payment. But to this day as we speak over four Months, and the constitution 78 [4], is very clear on that. I just want to draw your attention.

Mr Speaker, I wish that the Deputy Minister of Justice was still sited here to hear me, but unfortunately, he has left. But Mr Speaker, let me bring it to your notice again, that let us try to remove those issues which have the potential to create crisis. We want to

have a flourished Parliament, one that we will enjoy. We don't want to come every time somebody has something in his mind, no!

And those Members, who are here, are still finding it difficult to even contribute in this Well; they sit in Committee meetings, because it is clear that something was not done right, and somebody must take responsibility. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted! Yes Honourable at the back.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. [23] to bring to the attention of this noble House, that most of the questions or issues burdening the operations of various MDAs were brought to the attention of this House. We were advised during the last Session by the Right Honourable Speaker, that we should bring our concerns through questions. And till the last Session, some of us submitted questions for which we need answers, urgent answers, and up to the end of the last Session, those questions were not brought forward. And this is the second Session. We are on it again and these issues are still there, you know and these are very important like most of the issues Members are bring forward in the area of the one that has to do with employed staffs here in Parliament. These are issues which some of us have already propose questions on and submitted, but up to now nothing has been done to bring forth these questions to the House for deliberation. So, we may want to know what is happening with the Business Committee interims of what and what they bring forth to this House for deliberations.

Mr Speaker, haven said that, I will also want to inform you, that the Bo declaration has not been disseminated and has not been made public; I want to move that we bring forth that declaration to this House and debate and approved it as a document that this House will go by. It is not just a matter of bringing few issues from the report in the area of Committee increment, Membership increment in committees and what have you. The Membership of this House might not consent to that, you should give us the opportunity as a Parliament to look at this document, critic it and then see what and what we can approved and agree to, for us to move forward. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Hafiju M. Kanja.

**HON. HAFIJU MAADA KANJA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here to respond to what my colleague Honourable Member, on the other side Honourable Hassan Sesay express just few minutes ago.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you standing on S.O. [23]?

**HON. HAFIJU MAADA KANJA:** Yes!

**THE SPEAKER:** Then go stickily to personal matters please!

**HON. HAFIJU MAADA KANJA:** Okay Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, during our last sitting, I stood on S.O [75] and raised a matter in this Well, and the Speaker by then asked the Disciplinary Committee to look into that matter. The matter against "Salon Times Newspaper", wherein, I brought forward a complaint against the Editor and one of the staff that was attached to the Press galley here in Parliament, but the Committee which was assigned never contacted me for my complaint and the materials required. So Mr Speaker, I am asking that the Committee responsible for that particular task, ask me to supply the materials required.

Secondly and importantly, some few months ago, I brought forward a complaint also against a Mining Company occupying or Mining heavily in my constituency, the Sea Ride Mining Company.

Mr Speaker, I forwarded the matter to the Mining Committee Chairman here in Parliament, the company is operating the Sea Ride Mining Company in my constituency, and they are based in Kono District, where they are having their Washing Plant. And I brought that one forward here in this Well; Mr Speaker, I took it up with Lands Committee and the Mining Committee in Parliament. Very recently, Lands Committee made a visit there and I told them that they should invite the Land owning family to the company Head Quarter if they want to look into their matters, but they never invited any Land owning family, they left them out and deal with the Company alone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very dangerous things are trying to crop up in my constituency, about that particular Sea Ride Mining Company. It is more than nine months now, I have been complaining in this Well and the Mining Committee has never done anything about the complaints I brought forward. Mr Speaker, I am asking you to ask the Mining Committee today again, to bring forward that particular company, and bring us the concern citizens, so that we would sit together and solved all the problems or look into our problems. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr Chairman, Mining Committee. Please! Please! Please! Let us allow just three more after you, Honourable Mario Kamara and the Paramount Chief. Yes proceed!

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. [23] to bring to the attention of this House that the Mines Committee like any other Committee pursuant to Section 93 [36], of Sierra Leone Constitution should be seeing playing an oversight role over the Minister and other MDAs, which is our responsibility. What I have noticed of recent is weak institutional capacity of the very MDAs we oversee. The Mines Committee should be seeing playing oversight role, while MDAs with specific reference to NMA playing regulatory role over those Mining Companies, Mining Communities, etc. I will bring to you a typical example, at the moment; the Committee is battling with Valuya Chiefdom in Bo District. Let me bring this forward, that a particular Paramount Chief, with all due respect to the Chieftain, is standing in the way of the Committee even though Mining Companies have the authority locus standi to operate freely without any impediment. This Paramount Chief woman is still standing before decisions even after calling her here with the affected Communities to ameliorate peaceful co-existence yet; she is still standing before the Mining Companies and bluffing with powers from above.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, bringing it to your office that it is high time we brought forward those MDAs that are responsible to do their regulatory role, to do it, otherwise, you will see that this Committee, will soon bring forward recommendations for the withdrawal of this House's approval. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, this is what I think you should do. Mr Chairman of the Mining Committee, summon the Paramount Chief through the Local Government Ministry, to appear before your Committee. Probably, you can do this in conjunction with the Local Government Committee, you can summon her there is nothing stopping you, but do it through the Local Government Ministry, is as simple as that. As Chairman of your Committee, your Committee carry with you the authority of Parliament and Parliament can summon everybody except probably for the President and the Chief Justices, so try to summon her to put her on her toes, I think that's the best way around it.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** It will also surprise you Mr Speaker that this particular matter, has been brought forward not alone to the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, but also before the Chairman for the Council of Paramount Chiefs for the whole Sierra Leone. I wouldn't want to see the Committee taking stringent action against Chieftain; I have respect for Chieftaincy, myself coming from Chieftain. So calling upon the National Chairman for all Paramount Chiefs, bringing this matter reign to his office, I am still waiting for him, not that we are so weak, but we want to see MDAs responsible for Particular actions to do their work.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is about the more reason why I am saying, summon her. By summoning the Paramount Chief doesn't mean, that you are affecting her authority in her community, is just a matter of summoning her to Parliament so that you would see how you could arrive at conclusions relating to this particular matter. Because the Honourable Member of Parliament who is representing his people already, is aggrieved and of course his constituency want to see that he is capable of handling their affairs. So you can summon her that is no disrespect, that doesn't affect her authority in her Chieftain, you summon her with a view at arriving at some kind of conclusion relating to that particular matter, please let us do something. Yes, Honourable Foday Mario Kamara!

**HON. FODAY MARIO KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am standing on S.O. 23 to inform this House that the Committee on Agriculture has carried out a survey, and for now we are passing around a questionnaire which we are asking all

Honourable Members involved in Agriculture, to complete so that we will find a way forward to ensure that Honourable Members of Parliament are supported by either the Government or Partners in Agriculture, NGOs, to help Honourable Members go ahead with their Agricultural activities either at Constituency level or at individual level. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Yes please! Honourable can you make it 2 minutes, because everybody is already gone.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR K. SANKA III:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I am standing on S.O 23; I wish the Well is full, because this is for the health of everybody. If you go around the Groceries stores in Sierra Leone, Freetown particularly, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, you will see processed food, vegetables, bread, been sold. The languages that they come up with are Japanese, Portuguese, Russians, German or Spanish, and we buy their foods. I bought one the other day, and I took it back. The expiration date was 2018, December, it is still in their stores. We are accepting everything in Sierra Leone; when you go to the Grocery stores sir, you don't even know when this bread was baked and when it should be sold. When you go to International places, America, England, Germany, France, South Africa, Ghana, when you see the bread, the time they baked it and the time to be sold is stated. But here, by the time you take it, it's beginning to get rotten, what are we doing, with all these groceries stores running around? I challenge all of us, go around, you will find cans carry Spanish, Arabic, and some no English, and Sierra Leone is a English speaking Country. So, I want this Parliament to look at it health wise and we begin to do certain things.

Mr Speaker, I was once Chairman of the Mines Committee, the problems we are having is with the Government itself. The NMA have given licenses to this people exclusively, when the Mining Act said, you cannot give mining prospective licenses to artisanal areas, it is quite clear in Section 41 and 42. These things are there. I know the problem he is talking about, I raised it in this parliament before, nobody cares, when you go to NMA, they will sit down in their offices doing nothing. Sierra Leone is a funny Country; you will see somebody coming from Space, and he will tell you that I have gotten an



exclusive license right in your sacred Poro bush *[Laughter]*. Exactly sir! It is quite clear that artisanal Mining areas should not be given prospective licenses; it is quite there on the Act. When you go to NMA, they don't even listen, when you go to the Ministry, what it is, I cannot call names. Somebody will just come in and he gets a prospective license, they had paid \$250,000 and you cannot even give Le 50, you go and talk, they don't even listen to you. The Laws are been violated by the very Government, who set up those rules. I challenge NMA, I have been there, I challenged them, but they don't care and these people who take these licenses, they trade on them, they will tell you I have 14,000 square miles of prospecting License in Sierra Leone or Mining licenses and people are sending them from New York, you see them on the security stock market, you see them in the New York times from Sierra Leone and they make money, and we sit down here, become one of the poorest of the poor nations of the world. Thank you, sir.

*ADJOURNMENT*

*[The House rose at 1:20 and was adjourned to Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]*