



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 30TH MAY, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



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PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Wednesday, 30th May, 2018.

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PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA

BE IT RESOLVED:

“THAT WE THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HERE ASSEMBLED WISH TO THANK HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE ADDRESS HE SO GRACIOUSLY DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE IN THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY, 10TH MAY, 2018”

[THIRD ALLOTTED DAY]



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 30th May, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH MAY, 2018.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th May, 2018. Honourable Members, make sure you go through because we would not want a situation where after we must have gone up to Page 5, only to come back to Page 1. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? If there is no further correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th May, 2018?

HON. MOSES B. JORKIE: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU: I second the Motion, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Parliamentary Sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th May, 2018 has been adopted as amended]

III. MOTION OF THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, RTD BRIGADIER JULIUS MAADA BIO

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA

[THIRD ALLOTTED DAY]

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to start this debate today. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start this debate by thanking His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for this speech and the effort he made to deliver same to this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here as representatives of this nation and it is only when you stand in this Well that you have the opportunity to criticise without being prosecuted. We are here to raise pertinent issues and other incidents that have happened in this country. We are doing this for this Government to take heed of them, so that they will not be repeated again. My duty this morning is not to castigate anybody, but is to lay the issues bare as I know them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will concede that the past Government did make positive strides in the bid to take our nation to another level. Efforts were being made in making roads; efforts were made to improve the electricity situation in this country; and efforts were made to improve other areas that will impact the socio economic lives of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President for the courage and fortitude to comment on certain issues and atrocities or abominable acts that were done under the past Government for which no Sierra Leonean has the courage to make his/her comments. I will refer this Honourable House to Page 37, which talks about Executive Powers and the Presidency. It is not a hidden secret that our Constitution was mutilated and violated by the past Government. First, the elected Vice President was recklessly removed from office. I call it reckless and recklessness is not an abusive word in English. It is the talking of an unjustifiable act. That act was indeed unjustifiable that had the potential of sending this nation into war. Mr Speaker, that particular act violated Section 54, Sub-section 3 of the 1991 Constitution of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Constitution says 'sovereignty belongs to the people and Section 54[3] says: **"A Vice President is deemed to be duly elected as Vice President if the candidate who designated him as candidate for election to the Office of the Vice President."** The deposed Vice President, Chief Alhaji Sam-Sumana, happened to be the running mate of that flag-bearer. This means that Chief Alhaji Samuel Sam-Sumana was duly elected by the Sierra Leonean populace. It is a violation of our Constitution for the President then, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma to single-handedly remove him.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH [*Leader of the Opposition*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I cautioned colleagues in this House yesterday on their utterances. This morning, we have almost accepted that the word reckless is not a bad language. Let us not forget that we are debating the President's Address. If that word has been accepted and Members are using it in this House, it will not send a good message. He is my younger brother and that is why I have decided to rise and make this statement. Also, I want to refer him to the Standing Orders 32[11] because the matter he is discussing went through the court. I want him to avert his mind to 32[11]. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please be advised, especially when it comes to the use of the word reckless. As the saying goes, 'the essence of communication is to understand.' In law, probably the word 'reckless' might not mean anything at all, but for the common man, when you mention the word 'reckless' to them, it is insulting and the essence of communication is understanding. So, please be advised.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for stating it categorically clear that under his leadership, he would avoid the reckless use of supreme executive authority and the so called 'orders from above.' I being a Sierra Leonean, I want to state here that the appointment of Dr Victor Bockarie Foh was actually bad for this nation and an abuse of the 1991 Constitution. That act was a violation of Section 54[5], which states: **"Whenever the Office of Vice is vacant or the Vice President dies, resigns, retires or is removed from office, the President shall appointment a person qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament..."** The appointment of Mr Victor Bockarie Foh was never effected as a result of Sections 50 and 51 of the 1991 Constitution. That was a blatant mutilation and violation of our Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, over the last ten years, we saw a situation where our brothers and sisters were unlawfully killed by the Sierra Leone Police without anyone being brought to justice. I would want to draw the attention of this nation to the shooting and killing of youth in Kono for demonstrating against certain mining

activities; I would also like to draw this nation's attention to the killing of youth in Kabala for taking away the youth village from their district; I would want to draw the attention of this nation to the killing of a student in Bo for demonstrating for academic or educational facility, which is one of his fundamental and human rights; I want to draw this nation's attention to the stabbing of the bodyguards of the current President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, by members of the security who were attached to the then President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma; I want to draw this nation's attention to the malicious and vexatious prosecution of Honourable Foday Rado Yokie; I want to draw this nation's attention to the malicious and vexatious... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please hold on for a minute.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I rise on 32[5]. It states: **"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce a matter of irrelevant thereto."** Mr Speaker, what the Honourable Member is saying is irrelevant to this debate because he introducing another mater into this present discussion. What he is discussing presently is out of the presidential debate.

THE SPEAKER: Which matter, Honourable Member?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member was talking about the killing of people in Kabala, Kono and elsewhere. This is not in the presidential Address.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I also want to refer my colleague to Section 32[11]. This is something that has been said earlier, but my colleague on the other side did not pay attention to the provision. I would like to read it again.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Hassan A. Sesay, you know very well that you cannot speak from that seat.

HON. HASSAN SESAY: Like I said earlier, Mr Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleague to Section 32[11] again. He had been warned earlier, but he seemed reluctant to heed to that advice. I want to call his attention to Section 32[11]. I want to remind him that we are in opposition. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Hassan A. Sesay, the whole world knows that the All People's Congress [APC] is in the opposition. In any case, Honourable Hindolo M. Gevao, please take note of that.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, under the rubric, 'the rule of law and protecting justice and human rights,' it is but proper we bring to light some of those human rights abuses for which no remedy was made or provided. It is not a hidden secret that no justice was given to those who were killed. Under the rule of law and promotion of justice and human rights, I want to draw the attention of this nation to the malicious and vexatious act against the Honourable Rado Foday Yokie. I call it malicious and vexatious because Honourable Foday Rado Yokie and others were taken to court and for six years the judiciary of Sierra Leone did not deliver verdict on that case.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH: Mr Speaker, I want to crave your indulgence to apply 32[11]. This House cannot continue in this direction. I want the Honourable Member to read the Standing Orders. Honourable Alusine Kanneh has to learn. Standing Orders 32[11] is something we cannot play with at all. We are operating under a democracy and the President has confirmed that he would die for democracy. We should not abuse S.O. 32[11].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, my ruling is whatever he is saying is in line with the debate for which we are here to debate. I want to refer you to Paragraphs 134, 135 and 136 of the Speech. Those paragraphs mentioned a lot issues about the Judiciary. So, if he is saying something relating to that, I think he is in line. That is my ruling.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH: We accept the ruling and we will follow the cue throughout the course of this debate.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader that is my ruling. Honourable Member, please try to round.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Honourable Members, I also frowned at the malicious and vexatious prosecution of Theresa Mbomaya. Theresa Mbomaya was taken to court

and later sent to the Pademba Road Prisons on two occasions. That was the trend and that trend must be frowned at by this present dispensation. Matters were taken to court, but were swept under the carpet. Some of these matters that were raised bothered on constitutional issues and when they realised they had no case, they were quietly abandoned. We cannot continue in that direction. I want to thank the President for promising the people of this Nation that he would overhaul the Judiciary. The Judiciary should be overhauled.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that the Judiciary is a sacred institution. The same injustice was perpetuated against a sitting judge for an alleged corrupt act. He was suspended for four years and later reinstated, but the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] did not have the courage to come out and tell the people of this country that they did not have a case against that judge. To me, this was an injustice against this judge. It was in this country we saw sitting judges being suspended for four years. That was a human rights abuse.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to talk about building and promoting national cohesion. Sierra Leone is one country and we are one people. I want to thank the President for promising us a united nation. It was an abuse on the rights of this nation for a Bishop to be prevented from doing his job in Makeni because he was not from the North. Such behaviour will not bring national cohesion. Everybody knows about the situation of the history of Bishop Aruna, who was asked to be Bishop in Makeni. He was prevented from doing his job because he does not speak the Themne language.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members on my left, please try as best as possible to moderate your undertones. Let us not forget that we have strangers in the gallery and I want to draw your attention to S.O. 43[2]. Please advise yourselves accordingly.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, I will now move to health. We have had the 'free health care,' but I must state here that my constituency is the most deprived constituency. I come from a constituency with 43,000 people with only one clinic. There was never a time when anybody in my constituency saw any supply of drugs on the basis of free health care. If we care about our children and the unborn children, we

must ensure that health facilities are extended to remote areas. If we care for ourselves in the cities, we must ensure that water and sanitation issues are taken very seriously, particularly in areas that share borders with other countries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about education... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, it is enough.

HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I have a whole list of about thirty Honourable Members who want to be heard on this particular debate. As a result, we have to limit ourselves within the allocated timeframe for all those who want to speak. I think ten minutes is fair enough. I will not allow any Member going beyond ten minutes. Please make sure that you debate within the ten minutes. There are certain Members of Parliament who were supposed to debate yesterday, but did not. So I am using my discretion to enable them to debate before I consider the list for today.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH: Mr Speaker, for the APC Members of Parliament, we want to use the list for today because we have made some amendments.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have just been informed by your leader that we consider the list for today. In that circumstance, I now call on Honourable Osman Timbo to make his contribution.

HON. OSMAN A. TIMBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Osman Abdal Timbo. I am representing the Constituency 130, Murray Town village, Aberdeen Road and part of Wilkinson Road. Mr Speaker, permit me to say a few words to my learned colleague and now Honourable Member. The realm of politics is different from the realm of law. We understand but at the same time we owe ourselves to be decent. I am not saying he is not decent, but we have to speak with candour... - *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you should not make such imputations.

HON. OSMAN A. TIMBO: I take the cue, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Withdraw that statement, Honourable Member.

HON. OSMAN A. TIMBO: I take the queue and I withdraw. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for two hours or more, I sat and listened to His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for delivering this wonderful Speech to this House of Parliament. I have also taken time to read through and also juxtaposed his speech with other speeches and presentations made both locally and internationally. I want to applaud His Excellency the President for this wonderful Address. In this Address, the President espoused the aspirations of many Sierra Leoneans. In as much as the Speech might be an incomplete piece with lacunas, it is a very good Speech.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to believe that even if it were Dr Samura M.W. Kamara and the APC that had won this elections, a presidential address before this Parliament would not have been fundamentally different from what Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio delivered in this House. Similarly, if Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella and his National Grand Coalition Party [NGC] had won the elections, his statement to Parliament would not have been radically different from what Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio delivered, likewise Alhaji Chief Samuel Sam-Sumana of the Coalition for Change [C4C] or Mohamed Kamaraimba Mansaray. I am saying this because it is not a bad Speech. It represents the aspirations of Sierra Leoneans.

That notwithstanding, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the phraseology, 'New Direction,' was a political term for the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP]. I believe while we campaigned on a message of continuity, they campaigned on the platform of 'New Direction,' which caught the attention of the electorate. However, having read this Speech, I do not see much new in this 'New Direction.' To me, it seems like an agenda for continuity, which is also good. Take education for instance, if we had not started 'free education' for primary and Junior Secondary Schools [JSS], if we had not cleaned the ghost teachers from the teachers' pay roll, if we had not increased the budgetary allocation for education, they would not be talking about 'free education.' But this is a step in the right direction. It is a continuation and not a 'New Direction' because we have been doing it. You should come and do better because this is what we want and it is what majority of the electorate that voted for you actually wanted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the Energy Sector, we unbundled that sector to encourage private investors to come and invest in this country. The President spoke about it in his Speech. If we had not unbundled the Energy Sector, you would not have seen Independent Power Producers coming into this country. Now, we have the Independent Power Producers who have signed contracts and they will be providing electricity. I want to bring to the attention of this Honourable House that the Bumbuna Phase II contract had already been signed; the CEC Agreement for the provision of 128 megawatts had also been signed. I want to bring to the attention of this House that the 50 megawatts is in two phases and the Solar Energy Agreement had been signed. So, this is a continuation of what has been happening. In fact, the President said he would look at the Mines and Minerals Act 2009. If we had not enacted the Mines and Minerals Act, you would not have talked about amending it; and if we had not established the National Minerals Agency, you could have talked about establishing it. So, development is a process and it is not an event.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not the time for us to say the APC did this when they were in power. I want to remind this Honourable House that we are going to start pointing at what you have done. You will not be judged for what the APC did, but what you will be doing *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President mentioned private investment over ten times in his Speech. He said his government would attract Foreign Direct Investment [FDI]. He also spoke about Public/Private Partnership [PPP]. If we have not set up the PPP Unit, if we have not enacted the PPP Act of 2014, if we have not enacted the Companies Act of 2009, and if we have not set up the Corporate Affairs Commission, the President would not have talked about attracting Direct Foreign Investment or private investors. We have set the framework for development of this country and I want SLPP to build on that. We want to develop this country and we want to help you to develop this country because this country belongs to all of us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, many people have talked about water resources. The question is who established the Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO]? The

APC led government enacted the Guma Valley Water Company Act. These are few examples of the things we did during the reign of the APC. I want to state here that the platform had been set and what I have seen in this document is not new to us, but a continuation of what we have done. This is good because governance is continuity. What we need now is positive continuity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that it will be unfair to judge the SLPP led Government for what is contained in this Speech because what is contained in this document are policies on paper and the SLPP had only taken fifty-five days in power. Five years is over one thousand, eight hundred and some more days. We should not be in haste to judge them. However, we must not be oblivious of the adage, 'coming events cast their shadows.' In that regard, I am going to assess the SLPP led government within the fifty-five days they have spent in power. For instance, some of us have noted that under Executive Order No.1, suspension had been levied on tax exemptions without consideration to those contracts that have been ratified by this Parliament which have tax exemption. The cleaning day, which is a violation of the freedom of movement of people as enshrined in Section 18 of the 1991 Constitution, is another issue. We have also had a situation wherein diplomats were sacked without proper arrangement. Also, our people in Eastern part of this country were displaced. The APC Members of Parliament were forcefully removed from the House of Parliament and the professional staff at the Chief of Staff Office were relieved of their duties, but behind the counter, we still have the PPP and MCC Units functioning. Again, the Sierra Leone Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative [SLEITI] is still functioning. I want to inform the SLPP led government that they should not be doing certain things for political gains. We have to be sincere with ourselves. We have also noted the suspension of the Finance Act and withdrawal of their initial decision. We have noted the killing of young people at Malama in cold blood. Again, a judge was forcefully evicted from his vehicle whilst returning home. The reinstatement or non-reinstatement of Sarah Bendu as head of Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA], the blackout, the false

alarm of a coup by a senior Member of the SLPP, the assault on the Mayor of Freetown, etc.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much for this opportunity.

HON. SAMUEL G. PANDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am in this House with a message from my constituents in response to the Presidential Address. We from the jungles of the East and we are three tribes; i.e., the Kissis, Konos and Mendes. In my constituency, we are one people, one country and we are in total agreement with the President's vision for this nation, which is the 'New Direction.' We give our total support to the 'New Direction' agenda.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Honourable Member, I hope the Coalition for Change [C4C] has got a list. Honourable Ahmed Samba Turay, where is your own list of speakers? I have noticed the absence of all the Paramount Chiefs. Can somebody explain to this House why they are not here. If they were invited to attend a meeting, it is okay.

HON. SAMUEL G. PANDA: Mr Speaker, the people in the Eastern part of this country are farmers and we have fertile soil. We need a market for our produce like bananas, plantains, avocado pear, coconut, etc. We are strategically situated, which means we could contribute towards the social economic development of this Nation. The people of the Eastern Province will be constructing a new city of the Eastern tribes, which would be located in Constituency 010. Again, we need roads from Tondola to Bunumbu, Manowa Peguiya, Peje Bongre and Tankoro, which is our trade route. I have been sent by my people to ask government to construct the road to Guinea. We are in the centre and we are ready to help this Nation and the President to actualise his vision

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about tourism. We have beautiful rivers and beaches in this country and tourists will like to come and visit those beaches. If I may coin a phrase, we have the most beautiful of bad roads in the entire country, but it is those bad roads we want visitors to come and visit? We have exquisite beaches in this country. In some of our rivers, we have fishes that are two to three

meters long and some of them have not even been documented yet. These are some of the things we want investors to come and admire. Our roads are very bad, but it is those bad roads we want to invite people to come and see. There are lots of people with vehicles who have never gone to that part of the country with their vehicles, but we want to invite them to come there. So, on the tourism sector, we are going to form an Eco-tourism resort to invite our brothers from the diaspora to come to visit us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this country is also blessed with mineral resources. We are farmers, but we are so blessed with mineral resources. However, this has been a blessing in disguise because despite those mineral resources we are endowed with, we still have the worst roads in this country. So, most of our resources are still intact because S.O. [2] 'na wae u see road nar e u dae go thief.' Our roads are bad, but we are ready to participate in the prosperity of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the manufacturing industry. We have professed that we are going to build a city. The things that constitute a city are good roads, hospitals, energy, etc. We produce coffee, cocoa and other raw materials, and we want to start producing finished products and export same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President spoke about private sector investment on Page 10. We want investors, but we prefer partners because investors come to invest and some of them take more than they invest. We want partners who will come and share with us whatever proceeds we get from that partnership. The partnership I am talking about is that we should be looking for our brothers and sisters in the diaspora. Some of our brothers and sisters have left the shores of this country for a very long time to gain skills and education in other countries. They are the people we should be inviting to come and help develop this nation. We are so blessed with abundant resources, but we have not been able to realise that blessing. What my people have asked me to come and deliver to this Honourable House was to take those blinkers out, so that we can see the beauty of this nation. We are ready to help in that direction. What we need is respect for our Constitution, respect for our culture, respect

for our various societies, respect for our citizenship and respect for humanity. I want to inform this Nation that the onus is on all of us to make this country a better Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here to represent my people and I promised to work with them, so that we can build a city but with the proviso that we respect one another, respect our Constitution, and respect our values. We are the people from the jungle of the Eastern tribes. We do not have problem with tribalism. In the Eastern part of this country, we have the Kono Kissi and Mende tribes. We are one people because we share common values, i.e., respect for one another. That is what has been missing in this Nation for a very long time. I want to thank the people of this Nation for giving us a new leadership. We hold between ourselves the belief that the prerequisite for a good leadership is wisdom, a leadership that has empathy and vision. We from the East have seen these qualities in the newly elected President. Therefore, we are willing to do everything humanly possible for this country to move forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would conclude with a short prayer. 'Loving father, we yield our lives to you, transform us inwardly that we might know your peace and joy and radiate that same peace and joy to all our fellow citizens that they too might desire you. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to join my colleagues to once again thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Rtd Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio, for presenting to this Honourable House a well thought out road map that is going to guide this country for the next five years. Before I proceed, let me register my concern as an Independent Member of Parliament that I am not happy with the way the debates is going on in this House. I am not happy because the President presented his aspirations to this House. What His Excellency is expecting from Honourable Members is for us to give him insight with regards to what he has articulated to this House and what he needs to articulate by proffering recommendations. This is what President needs, so that he will be able to deliver the services he has promised the people of this country. What I have witnessed for the past

few days is that Members on the Opposition Bench are taking advantage of the name 'opposition' to oppose, whilst those in governance are taking the advantage to support.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to emphasise that what is happening in this House is not what the President wants from us. What the President is expecting from us is to guide him on how to implement the policies and aspirations he has presented to us. In this regard, I want Honourable Members to work towards helping the President to achieve his programmes. As an Independent Member of Parliament, my commitment is to Sierra Leone and the President of this Nation. Therefore, I owe the President a lot to support him to achieve his programmes. If we fail to do this, the President will not be able to effect the desired changes. I am sure the President is presently watching TV to listen to recommendations this House will provide.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President presented several good things to this House. To me, I think this is the best Speech in my life. I am going to support my claim with explanations and examples. This is the best Speech in my life, even before I became an Honourable Member of this House. I have been coming to this Well as a spectator in the Upper Gallery to follow discussions on the speeches that have been made by ex-Presidents. I want to believe that it was deliberate by the President to present the best Speech ever. Now on this side and by virtue of the fact that I am an Independent Member of Parliament, that automatically makes me an Opposition to the running Government. However, that should not stop me from assessing issues from an objective point of view.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the past two days, I have been hearing concerns from my brothers on this side about the ambitiousness of the 'free education' scheme which is included in this Address. Some colleagues were very apprehensive about the teaching and learning materials; and others said it was unrealistic that the President may not achieve it. But I want to believe that it is too early for any Member of Parliament to start judging the current Government because rationally or realistically, it takes 90 days for a change to take place. So, since the new government has not taken that period yet, we have to give them enough time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about education, which the President spoke about on Page 13, Paragraph 52. He said that he would provide quality education at all levels, starting from pre-primary, primary, secondary and university. He was very clear on that and people might be tempted to ask how he would do that. He also stated that he would allocate **20%** of the national budget to education. This is a clear manifestation that the President is serious in terms of increasing budget allocation. He said that if pupils and students are encouraged to go through their academic pursuit, they would become economically viable and this aspect of S.O. [2] 'bra u borbor dae' would be eradicated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President also said that the 6-3-4-4 system of education is more or less 'epistrophe,' 'mesostrophe' or more or less catastrophe to this country. He further provided reasons for saying this. He said that the 6-3-4-4 system of education did not cater for more teachers, but rather expanded the academic journey. According to the President, this has created a gap. The nominal value of the school system has expanded, leaving the teachers behind. Therefore, the number of teachers in the school system could not match up to the number of pupils they had. This has automatically created a gap in the schools. He was also very keen to identifying some of the problems affecting the educational system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after identifying the problems, the President provided solutions. One of the things he promised to do was to eradicate the two shifts system and replace them with the single shift system. If this is achieved, the President also promised to increase the contact hours from 4 hours [i.e., 8:30-12:30] to 5 hours 30 minutes [i.e., 8:30-2:00]. This will add quality to the education sector. I want to inform this House that we used to know the single shift system in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President also told us that he would recruit more teachers to cater for those that would be encouraged by the free education policy. He was very clear on this and he was able to give us timeline that the free education would start in September, 2018. The President was very systematic in his presentation because he wanted the layman in the village to read and understand his Speech. He

wanted the layman to know the realistic nature of this project and its achievability. He told us that the donors had manifested commitment towards this course. Commitment in this context means the donors are willing to support this project. This was why the President made his presentation with confidence because of the assurances and commitments he got from our donors. In this regard, I want to believe that the aspect of apprehension should not drive us to be pessimistic because the President was very clear.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go Page 8, Paragraphs 36 to 50 of the Presidential Speech, delivered on the 7th March, 2017 by the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, he told this Nation that enrolment in the schools has risen considerably. Despite this increase, no provision was made to increase the number of teachers. I am interested in this particular aspect because I govern a Chiefdom of about 51,000 people with only one approved school. We have six schools that have not been approved and they are private schools with more than 1,000 pupils. So, I want to recommend to His Excellency the President to hastily approve the schools that have not been approved for the past ten or more years. If he wants the free education to work effectively, the President should make sure that the teachers who have not been approved are considered this time round.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to implore His Excellency the President to personally supervise this project. He must supervise it in the next two years. He has to make sure that the 'free education' works effectively and efficiently. I thank you very much.

HON. SAA F. BHENDU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank His Excellency the President for putting together his campaign promises as stated in the 'New Direction' Manifesto. I am coming from a deprived community that has suffered for far too long in the hands of different players. We from the Coalition for Change [C4C] are ready to embrace reality. We are ready to embrace ideas that will lift us from our current status quo. If you look at Paragraph 24, the President spoke about mines and minerals. Mines and minerals have always been major interest for successive governments over the

years. This is because it is believed that the Mining Industry forms the backbone of this country's Economy. Despite the fact that mining activities have created jobs and contributed to the economic growth of this country, there are corresponding challenges that have negatively impacted on the mining communities which have not been taken into consideration. Communities that are directly affected by mining operations remained poor in Sierra Leone because of lack of policies to address inequality. However, I am happy because His Excellency the President has promised to review the Mines and Minerals Act. There has been no policy that has to do with equity. We have not had the opportunity to equal share the proceeds from Mining Industry. This is why our communities in the mining areas are deplorable.

Recently, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we had the 706 carats diamond that was said by the former government. As we speak, the **60%** that is meant for the country or community has still not been given. So, I want to talk directly to the Minister in charge, to look at the policies, especially those that are dealing with equal distribution of the wealth. If you go to Kono, you will see the destruction that has been done on the environment. An artificial mountain has been created by the OCTEA Mining Company. If you go to Kono District, you will realise that my community is faced with water shortages because of these mining activities. Again, our communities are also facing agricultural challenges because the land for agricultural purposes is being used for mining purposes and there has been no alternative source for agriculture. I want the Minister to take cognisance of this; and when he will be reviewing the Act, he should take them into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to refer the House to Paragraph 86, where the President talks about disability. He said for far too long, disability issues were ignored. Well, during the electioneering process, people with disability were encouraged to come out and vote; but after the elections, they have been abandoned. I know the past Government has done a lot in establishing the National Commission for Disability [NCD] and the Disability Act, but the challenge we had was the implementation of these legal frameworks. Instead of benefitting the disability community, we saw those who

are charged with the responsibility to oversee those institutions benefitting more than the disabled.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President said in his Speech that he would provide incentives to those teaching the disabled people. This is a very good idea, but my concern is that we have people with disability in the University who are equally facing challenges. The former APC led Government introduced a 'free education' system for people with disability at the tertiary level, but it was a very big challenge for disabled people to access those facilities. Recently, I heard on radio that the disabled were begging the community people to pay their tuition fees. The facility is there, but they are not realising it. Now, the Government is planning to encourage teachers of the disabled people and I think we must applaud the President for taking that venture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to plead with the Minister of Technical and Tertiary Education to look into the issue of disability, so the disabled can have access to 'free education' at the tertiary level. We have to provide assessable education for people living with disability. The President has promised to ensure that all public buildings are disabled friendly. Again, I want the Minister of Labour to look into the job issue for people living with disability. No matter how educated you are, it is a very big challenge to get a job in this country. Priority should be given to people who are physically challenged in order to make them self-reliant.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people with disability have potentials, as mentioned by one of the speakers yesterday. We need to tap from those potentials, otherwise it is going to be a challenge. We saw the entourage of the past Government and people with disability used to accompany the President when he was going on tours, but where are those disabled people? They have been misused and dumped. We do not want to see such situation. We want to see a change and a complete turnaround.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to look at the security sector. Over the years, we have seen the recruitment process being regionalised. We want that to be devolved at least at constituency level. We want to see equitable distribution of the available facilities. This is because we are all Sierra Leoneans and it does not matter the

region or community you come from. We are all Sierra Leoneans and we should be beneficiaries of every facility that is available in this country. I am sending this message to the Ministers of Defence and Internal Affairs. We want to see every recruitment is reflected regionally. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I have noticed with dismay that only few Ministries are represented in this Well today. Parliament insisted that all ministries must be represented, so that whatever we say here is taken very seriously. Regrettably, few ministries are represented and this is very serious. Mr Clerk, please take note of this and ensure that a reminder letter is sent to every ministry. Any ministry that fails to send representation here tomorrow will be considered as 'contempt of this Parliament' and Parliament will take appropriate action. I want to congratulate the ministries that are represented here. They are:

- The Minister of Information and Communications;
- Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education;
- Minister of Water Resources;
- Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation;
- Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources;
- Minister of Energy;
- Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources; and
- Minister of Local Government and Rural Development.

I thank you very much and keep it up. Mr Clerk, please ensure that they are reminded and that Parliament is very serious about this.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for the Address he delivered in this Parliament on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament. I would like to refer the House to Paragraph 1 of the Address. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I read: **"This historic victory demonstrates the advancement that the people of Sierra Leone have made in consolidating our nascent democracy."** In addition to this, I would like to

refer the House to Page 2 of the inaugural Speech. It says: **"This historic victory clearly demonstrates the progress that we have made as a Nation to peacefully defend and consolidate our nascent democracy."** Mr Speaker, the President recognises the fact that the past Government was very peaceful. He is recognised the fact that the past Government encouraged freedom of speech and movement. He also recognised the fact that the past Government was politically tolerant. We have played our own part in making sure that we smoothly and peacefully transferred power to the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] without anyone going to the streets to demonstrate. However, political intimidation has taken the centre stage and our supporters are suffering. Some of us standing here have been petitioned for alleged over voting and electoral malpractices. This political intimidation is ongoing as we speak.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please choose your words. I want to remind you that over voting and electoral malpractices are serious matters.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I am saying this because 32 Members of Parliament on this side and 33 Members of Parliament on that side are presently being petitioned. This simply tells you that the entire electoral process was fraud. Three elections took place at the same time; i.e., Councillors, President and Members of Parliament. If the ruling party is questioning the credibility of that process, we are simply adding to the fact that the whole electoral process was not credible. The APC has petitioned 33 Members of Parliament and the SLPP has petitioned 32 Members of Parliament on this side. This is why I said that the elections were not credible. We are still awaiting the outcome of those petitions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to read Page 1, the last sentence in the second paragraph. It says: **"I am making this address against the backdrop of the worst economic situation."** The President said this statement in this Well. He mentioned certain indicators to explain his reasons. One of the variables he mentioned was the 'double digit inflation.' During late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba's presidency,

the rate of inflation was almost negative. You cannot compare the rate of the current inflation rate to the one we had few months ago.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President spoke about low revenue collection. When he was Head of State, we did not have anything like the National Revenue Authority [NRA]. In fact, we have never heard about revenue mobilisation. Today, the NRA revenue target is in trillions of Leones. Do you think this is justifiable to say we have the worst Economy?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to refer this Honourable House to the Presidential Address delivered by the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma in 2016. With the leave of Mr Speaker, Page 1, Paragraph 1 states: **"Our actions brought about the biggest investment flows into the country since Independence."** Mr Speaker, whilst President Maada Bio's said that he inherited the worst Economy since independence, former President Ernest Bai Koroma said that the country experienced the biggest investment flows since independence. Who is saying the truth here? With your leave, Mr Speaker, Paragraph 3 of the former President's Address mentions the reasons for the biggest investment flows since independence. It says: **"My Honourable friends will agree with me that the country needed massive investment in roads and we did that."** I want my colleagues on this side to help me say 'we did it.' My Honourable friends would agree with me that the country needed massive investment in roads and we did it. That the country needed the free health care for pregnant women and children and we did it; that the country needed to triple the salaries of teachers, lectures, nurses, doctors and civil servants and we did it; that the country needed to pay for students taking public examinations and we did it; and that our country needed to get women into the sciences in tertiary institution and we did it. That our country needed to put more resources into agriculture and we did it. We have done everything and we are expecting you to build on it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague was saying that the Speech delivered by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio was just a continuation of what has happened. If you go to Page 4 of the Presidential Address, the President

spoke about his readiness to diversify the Economy through agriculture, minerals and tourism. On Page 7 of the former President's Address, it states: **"Government is renewing its commitments to diversify the Economy through investment in agriculture, fishery and tourism."** Mr Speaker, what is the difference?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the information contained in the 2018 Fiscal Strategy Statement is exactly what we are seeing in this Address. This tells you that governance is continuity. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Those at the gallery were warned yesterday by the Speaker that you have no authority to record the proceedings of Parliament. You were warned and my attention has been drawn to the fact that some of you are still recording the proceedings of Parliament. I would draw your attention to Section 95 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone. If you are caught recording the proceedings, you would be in contempt of Parliament. The only people who have the authority to record the proceedings of Parliament are members of the Press. Please advise yourselves.

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of myself and the people of Constituency 017 in the Kenema District, I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. Having gone through the Speech, I came to the realisation that the President is a listening President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the electioneering period, the people of this country made a plea and that is exactly what this document is all about. What was it? S.O 2 'Paopa Salone go beteh.' I want to start with education. Yesterday, my colleagues on the other side spoke about the beautiful things that were done by the erstwhile Minister of Education. I doff my hat and I would like to state here that I admired the Performance Based Financing that was introduced in our schools to improve the performance of teachers, particularly in the rural areas. I would also want to add that he did excellently well in the areas of tracking fake Basic Education Certificates Examination [BECE] results.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to thank the Honourable Member on the other side for acknowledging the fact that the former Minister of Education failed to improve certain aspects of our educational system. In other words, she acknowledged the failure of the former Minister. This is why the 'New Direction' came out very strongly and told the people of this country that enough is enough. I would like to inform this Honourable House that we are ready to take education to another level. When we took over power, the first thing we did was to split the erstwhile Ministry of Education, Science and Technology into two; i.e., Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and Ministry of Technical and Tertiary Education. If the current Minister of Education also decides to go to the cemetery and look for ghost teachers, something else will happen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to the attention of the ministers of education, especially the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education that the Education Sector has lots of challenges. My colleagues on the other side were asking if we had got the required teachers to implement the 'free education' programme. The answer is yes they are there. In the last ten years, I could not remember any teacher training college that was not functional. The teachers training colleges were active and functional. We are very sure that trained and qualified teachers are going to turn out to support this programme. We have thousands of trained and qualified teachers. However, I want to know from the Minister if these teachers are going to be approved. I am sure they will be approved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will also want to talk about the 6-3-3-4 system of education as opposed to the 6-3-4-4 system. The 6-3-3-4 system never required an extension of time. What was required was adequate attention of our teachers. The needs of the teachers should have been catered for. They should have been appraised for promotion and approval. Therefore, one year extension was unnecessary because it brought more burdens on the parents and a risk to the girl child. I want to make it very clear to this House that the first West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination

[WASSCE] that was taken in this country produced one of the best results when there was no additional year.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to our most valuable asset in this country; i.e., the workforce. Since the inception of this debate, nobody has talked about the workforce. Thank God that area was left for me and I am going to address it. Our workforce in this country is misused by Government and the Private Sector. I am saying this because what they pay the workers is not commensurate to their labour. Their earnings are far below their out-put and their efforts. On the issue of expatriates, companies are always employing expatriates and they are usually paid in dollars. They are well paid. I want to remind this House that our people are also expatriates in their own rights. In fact, our people can perform far better than these expatriates. We have to review this by looking into our labour laws.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I want to briefly talk about the National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT]. To me, NASSIT is malfunctioning because it has not produced the desired results for which it was created in 2001 by the late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba. NASSIT is wasting the resources of the workforce. Huge amount of our money was used to procure a Ferry that never worked. Again, there are many incomplete buildings at Grafton. People are just wasting our money on investment that never yielded desired dividend. Those moneys are owned by the contributors of this country. Let us also look at the houses at Waterloo. I want to appeal to this House to look into the activities of NASSIT. I thank you very much.

HON. MARK M. KALOKOH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for his eloquent and comprehensive Address presented to this Honourable House on Thursday, 10th May, 2018.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer the House to Page 13, Paragraph 52 of the Address. With the leave of Mr Speaker, it reads: **'My Government will increase and sustain budgetary allocation to education to a minimum of 20% of the national budget.'** Mr Speaker, let me give you a short profile where the

increase in budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Education spans. Prior to 2007, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Education was **3.7%**. In 2017, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Education increased to **15%**. Therefore, the 'New Direction' has proposed a minimum increase of **20%**. Any meaningful Sierra Leonean will support the 'free education' initiative because it is education that brought us here. Let me remind the Minister of Education, whom I hold at high esteem, to remember the days when we were struggling to improve the teachers' condition of service. The Minister should work towards enhancing the livelihood of the teachers, so that they can stay in the classrooms. I want the Minister to pay more attention in ensuring teachers' retention. Teachers' retention connotes a lot of issues; i.e., salary increment, travelling allowance, which is nothing to write home about, rent allowance, etc. Thank God the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma was able to increase wages from **Le 21,000** to **Le 500,000**. I have spoken to the Minister and he knows what it means. He was a former trade unionist.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now go to Energy. In 2007, the APC led Government inherited 10 megawatts from the late President of blessed memory, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. Mr Speaker, before Dr Ernest Bai Koroma left power, he increased it to about 300 megawatts, providing electricity to Western Area and nine districts headquarter towns.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Let me refer the House to Page 36, where the President spoke about 'the rule of Law and the promotion of justice and human rights.' The Judiciary of this country is the third Arm of Government. I want to look at certain key words that were mentioned by Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I would like to read Paragraph 134, the penultimate line. It says: **"The Justice Sector in Sierra Leone is marred by poor service delivery."** I did not accept that at all, Mr Speaker. The third Arm of Government must be respected in this country. It should not be considered as an appendage to the other Arms of government. What we need to do as a nation is to give commendation to the Judiciary of this country. They might have their excesses, but that should not serve as a

subterfuge to demoralise them. In the 'New Direction' Manifesto, the President promised, as a matter of utmost urgency, to overhaul our judicial system. I hope the overhauling he referred to will be limited to rebranding its image and not interfering into the intellectual and professionalism of that institution. This is because they have the capability and intellect to perform exceptionally well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at access to justice. If you look at what the past Government has done, you will find out that it has improve the Judiciary with the contributions from development partners like the Department for International Development [DfID], you will realise that the Judiciary is practising its independence and impartiality. Today, we have the Legal Aid Board [LAB] that is helping our people to have access to justice. The LAB has trained over forty-one paralegals and they are out in the field, helping our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come to the Economy. If you look at Page 1 of the Presidential Address, the President states that his Government inherited the worst Economy. With the leave of Mr Speaker, the handing over notes of the former President, His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, states: **"In 2017, my Government's unprecedented development strides are reflected in Sierra Leone, now having a much bigger Economy than when I took over in 2007. Back then, the monetary value of Sierra Leone's Economy and business activities was estimated at Le5tln. By 2017, this is now estimated at Le30tln. In 2007, the annual revenue generated within Sierra Leone was Le500bln. Today, it is Le4tln ... - [Interruption]."**

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to admonish you all that we are representing people; and whether you are a Christian or a Muslim, you have to give account of your stewardship one day. Let us take our time to discuss issues. I am a trained and qualified teacher with over twelve years standing. Therefore, I will start with education. My brother on the other side mentioned certain aspects in the educational sector. They have supported the actions of the former

Minister. The former Minister did extremely well, but there were lots of lapses. I want to clear some doubts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleagues on the other side claimed to be seasoned teachers. You can be a seasoned teacher, but you may not know the issues in the educational system. I am talking to you as a school administrator for over eight years. I was fortunate to serve in the two systems; i.e., the 6-3-3-4 system and the 6-3-4-4- system. I taught at the Senior Secondary School level and not at the primary or Junior Secondary School level. Therefore, I have the *locus standi* or the capacity to explain to you how the Senior Secondary School System operates. Thank God the Minister of Education is here. I am going to give you tangible evidence. I want to start by saying that the SSS 4 is a waste of time and waste of resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am one of those preparing pupils in SSS 3. In fact, one of the pupils I prepared is teaching Business Management at the Hika Senior Secondary School in Bo. The money that Government usually spends on SS4 should have been diverted to recruit more teachers. I do not know why my colleagues on the other side are worried about accommodation and free education. It is not only 'free,' the adjective 'quality' is added. When we talk about 'free education,' we are not going to take people at random. If you want to be admitted, you are going to be thoroughly tested and if you are competent to be in a particular class, you would be admitted. By getting rid of the SSS4, one year is gone already.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education seated here has place for every pupil who will come for 'free education.' Therefore, I do not want my colleagues on the other side to worry about accommodation. I have been in the system and I know how it works. Honourable Timbo has enough space for additional pupils who will be going to enjoy the 'free education.' Of course the classrooms that are occupied by those in SSS 4 will be made available to those who are coming to join the 'free education.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people have been talking about recruitment of teachers. For the past ten years, I doubt whether 1,500 teachers were approved in this

country. Let me tell you something, the former Minister of Education was running after 'ghost teachers.' He left the worst educational system this country has ever had. When I was teaching, my pin code was, 373252. I resigned effective September, 2015. There was somebody teaching at the Ahmadiyya Primary School in Kambia. His name is Sheik Alimamy Kamara. He impersonated my name and established an account at Sierra Leone Commercial Bank. He was receiving salary on my name. I resigned and he was receiving my salary. There is another teacher whose salary is still running, although he has resigned long ago.

Suspension of S.O 5[2] being 12:00 noon

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, I want the Minister of Education to also know this information I am giving now. There is one Abdul Yusuf Kabia, with Pin Code 393718. He resigned long ago, but somebody is still receiving his salary at the ECO Bank at Shell. There is another teacher known as Mohamed Koroma with Pin Code 363285. Somebody is receiving salary on his name at the Union Trust Bank in Kambia. I just wanted to prove you wrong. Mr Minister, there is also Albert Max Thompson with Pin Code 391065. Somebody is receiving salary on his name at FIB Bank at Rawdon Street. This is telling you that all the efforts the former Minister did proved futile. This is the legacy he has left for Honourable Osman Timbo. I have a list of these issues and I will communicate them to the current Minister of Education. I just want to remind the Minister that he has a lot of work to do, but every cloud has a silver lining. I know he will live up to expectation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now move to the Mining Sector. It is disheartening to note here that this country has been brutalised and robbed. There is a policy in this country which states that all mining companies should repatriate **30%** of their mining proceeds. I have a list of about seventeen mining companies in this country. They were only able to repatriate **USD 72,437,000** in 2007. That is a mere nonsense, Mr Speaker. That is a mere nonsense! I also want to crave the indulgence of this House that this House has not been effective. I am sorry if anybody is hurt.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, mind your words and withdraw that statement.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, before I sit down, you have to give me time to go through the Auditor General's Report. The Public Accounts Committee of this House was indicted by the Auditor General. The Auditor General's Report is a public document we will have to mention it.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH [*Leader of the Opposition*]: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. If my memory serves me right and for those who have been in this House before, the Auditor-General has never indicted Parliament or the PAC. If he says so, let him make reference by giving the dates and specifics.

THE SPEAKER: I agree with you, Mr Leader of the Opposition. Honourable Member, I repeat, mind your words.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was saying that we had seventeen mining companies and every company is supposed to repatriate **30%** of its mining proceeds; and when those proceeds come, they will build on the national foreign exchange reserve. That has not been happening. As I have quoted, only **USD 72,000,000** was repatriated. This is nonsense! Nothing has been done about it. I want to I crave the indulgence of this House to take note of that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that in running a Government, there are three Arms; i.e., the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary. We are going to divide these three into two segments; the managerial functions and the administrative functions. At this point, this Parliament stands to serve as managers to manage the ministers. In this context, the ministers are our administrators. Whatever we resolve here is what they are going to implement. I crave the indulgence of this House to fully monitor the ministers to make sure that whatever happens in their ministries are properly carried out.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at the Economy. We have heard about the economic boom in this country. That is true, but the economic boom was not properly managed. When an Economy booms, it has to reflect on the lives of people. It never reflected on the lives of the people of this country. What happened?

We experienced high inflation with no investment or savings. Why are we talking as if we want to increase our foreign reserve? Our investment needs to be encouraged and you cannot invest if there are no savings. You do not have savings in a situation where you have minimal sum of money. If you are paid **Le1, 000,000**, but you expended **Le8, 000, 000**, how would you save? When the saving increases then definitely investment increases too.

HON. EMELIA LOLLOH TONGI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank His Excellency the President, Dr Julius Maada Bio, for this excellent Speech. It is rich, wonderful and sweet to read. Before I start, I want to cease this opportunity to talk to my President and wish him congratulations in our language we use to speak... S.O [2] Masseur de President, felitazion bravo eugosalu merci.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with 'human development' the President spoke about on Page 51. With the leave of Mr Speaker, the last sentence says: **"Human Capital Development covers improving education, developing skills, improving health-care, protecting the poor and vulnerable population groups."** This is very important. Our children are dying. Some of our youth are running away from Africa to die in the Mediterranean Sea. Our children are running from their countries to die in the Sahara Desert. We have the solution in our hands in this Well. What I saw when I went to Lampedusa in Italy was deplorable. I found some Sierra Leoneans went there with their friends because they could not get jobs in this country. Some of them are graduates who have graduated for past five to six years without jobs. When you leave University, you will sit for years without getting a job. This is sad for our youth. They will sit all day thinking about life. Probably, their thought might be good, but unfortunately some of them find their way to other countries to better their lives. They prefer to go and die in foreign land than to remain in this country simply because of nepotism. There is greed in our country and we do not want to share. When His Excellency spoke about this, I found it encouraging for future graduates in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about health. Health also is another problem where I come from. I am from the Eastern part of this country. I have said it once in this Well and I am going to repeat it. The Bible says, go to the world and multiply. That instruction was given to the women. All the men seated here were brought into this world by women. Therefore, it would have been logical and advisable to our Government to provide hospitals in those remote areas. A lot of our girls are dying. If a woman gets pregnant, instead of giving birth in her Ward, she has to walk to another Ward. In most cases, some of them die on their way. There are lots of miscarriages. This is disheartening and deplorable. I reported this to the former Chairman of Kailahun District, who is now late, Mr Tom Nyuma, about this issue. I kept sending reminder letters to him, but I did not receive any response. I met my people and one of them was very brave to tell me to stand for them and they would get me elected to Parliament. They have asked me to come and advocate for them. This is exactly what I did. They stood by me and they voted for me massively. Today, I am here to relay their cry to the Minister of Health. I want to remind the Minister that Freetown, Bo, Kenema and Makeni are not Sierra Leone. We have our villages in the interior and our people are dying there. We have no hospitals in those places. How on earth can we live for past decades without creating a dispensary for those people? Today, I am constructing a hospital using my own salary in my Constituency *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about defence. I have been talking about Yenga and I would like to report here again that Yenga is another trouble for us. The Yenga issue has not been solved and it is still causing trouble. Yenga is nurturing hatred for our people who are living on the border. There was a journalist from SLBC who went there to take some photos, but he was arrested. The people are devastated and they having been praying for His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio to use his military experience to talk to our forces to be lenient with them. They can no longer do their activities. They are there waiting and I hope His Excellency will take this into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, twenty-nine gun men entered Sierra Leone few weeks ago with the hope of killing a wild animal. This just shows that we are not safe in that part of the country. Anybody can come into this country and do anything. Thank God they did not come to disturb our people. They said an animal was destroying their crops and killing their cows. They were arrested and detained in Kailahun for three months. Therefore, I am asking the Government to kindly pay attention to our border areas because a country without security is vulnerable.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank everybody in this House. I know that we are here to talk on behalf of our people and we are here to move Sierra Leone together. There is one thing I would like to say to you. 'A broom stick stands no chance against a man who intends to break it. If it calls on the other broom sticks and forms a bundle, it becomes unbreakable.' Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. We have more Members on the list that will be contributing after lunch.

[The House was adjourned for lunch at 12:00 noon and resumed at 1:00 p.m.]

HON. AIAH S. D. KASSEGBAMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to first of all thank God for such an opportunity in this noble House. I believe it is an opportunity for us to know that His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. I want to believe he has positive plans for this Nation. I am standing here by the grace of God to tell this noble House that the past Government did well in some parts of Kono. The APC led Government provided electricity and roads. We want to thank them for that. However, I have a saying which says, 'good position bad condition.' That is the condition most Sierra Leoneans found themselves. In other words, we have roads and electricity, but the basic needs of the people are not met. It is not easy for us at all. I am talking specifically for the Kono people. S.O [2] Mr Speaker, our motto is 'you see for me, or see for you.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to believe that Honourable Members have seen the manifestation in Kono District in this past election. The adage, 'you receive

what you sow,' is real. In Kono District, out of **100%**, how many people did the past Government benefit? I agree that they provided electricity and roads, but we have a significant percentage of people in the city who do not have access to electricity. Again, if you go to the interior, the people are living in abject poverty. Our people are really suffering out there. That was why I said 'good position but bad condition.' Electricity and roads are not the solution to our problem. There are people living in mansions. They have electricity and sleeping on comfortable beds, but our people are living in sorrowful conditions. Most of you can attest to what I have just said that we are in 'good position, but bad condition.' We need to know the difference between 'serve' and 'save.' Most of us usually say we are here to serve our people. I want to remind this House that the C4C are here to save our people. Serving our people and saving them are two different things. Check your dictionary and you will believe what I am saying.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about 'Law and Order' in relation to mining companies in Kono District. I do not know whether the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources is here to listen, but His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio declared the first Saturday of every month as a general cleaning day across the country. However, I want to tell this House that there is a mining company in Kono District that is not abiding by this law. During the day of the general cleaning exercise, offices, parastatals and institutions are expected to obey this law. Nevertheless, OCTEA Mining Company never obeyed this law. In this 'New Direction,' nobody is above the law and OCTEA Mining Company is not above the law either. They should obey and abide by the law of the state. If the President says this is what we should do, they should adhere to the instructions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague Honourable Member was talking about our people who are working for these mining companies. It is good for this House to know that the so called expatriates are receiving risk allowances, whilst the local workers are not enjoying that facility. The OCTEA Mining Company is doing underground mining, which is very dangerous for our people. The expatriates and our people are more or less the same. The President needs to think about that because the President said on Page 6, Paragraph 26 thus: **"Mr Speaker, my New Direction Government will immediately allocate percentages of revenue from the mining sector to education, health and the general development of mining communities."** I have taken note of the word 'immediately' and I hope it will come to pass. During the past Government, these opportunities were not there for our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President spoke about full transparency on Page 6 and not 'half.' I hope the New Direction will do it on behalf of our people because today, the mining sector is not helping our people. Our people are suffering, some of them have been taken out of their houses and they have not built their houses as we speak. Why is this happening? The New Direction means we are heading somewhere positive. I want to believe that the President will do it for the Kono people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the health sector is very weak in my constituency. It is really pathetic to have a health centre which has been built five years ago without being given to the DHMT to send people there to officially open it. This happened five years ago in Kono District, Sandor Chiefdom, Constituency 026. I had a meeting with the stakeholders and the entire township. The District Council Chairman, the NaCSA Coordinator for Kono District, a representative from the DHMT from the hospital and I went there and we saw the structure that was built five years ago. Our people have been suffering. In fact, they used hammocks to carry pregnant women to health centres that are nine to ten miles away for delivery. Some of them give birth on their way to the clinic. This is very unfortunate for our people.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute left.

HON. AIAH S. D. KASSEGBAMA: Mr Speaker, I have trust in His Excellency the President and his team to keep to the promises they have made to the people of Sierra Leone. With those few words, I thank you very much for this opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. I now call on Honourable Rose-Marie Bangura to make her contribution.

HON. ROSE-MARIE BANGURA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lend my voice to this debate on the Presidential Address so graciously delivered by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. Today, we are in the New Direction and this Presidential Address has clearly spelt out what is expected of the New Direction. The Address is very clear on the intentions of the President's agenda to move this country forward. You would all agree with me that governance is ordained by God Almighty. You would also all agree with me that governance is a process and it is a process of continuity *[Applause]*. It is a process of continuity because from 1996 to 2002, His Excellency the late President, Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabba, who was our father of peace at that time, was steering this country's Economy. He took over power and did his own bit. He did what he could to restore democracy. He conducted the elections and handed over power to a dynamic leader, in the person of His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma was indeed the father of development, the father of youth empowerment, the father of women empowerment and the man who said let there be light and there was light and the man who came and transformed our Economy. We must give credence to him because he did his own bit.

Today, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the mantle of leadership has been handed over to His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. He is also a father of our democracy. I know he has meant well for this Nation. However, I have noticed throughout this debate that our colleagues on the other side have not done justice to this Address *[Applause]*. The President has spelt out clearly his intention and aspirations to us. He has good plans for this Nation. I was expecting our colleagues on the other side to first of all submit this Address to the will of God. I am saying this because the

Bible states: **“For by strength shall no man prevail, unless the Lord builds the city, the watchman watched in vain.”** We have to invite God, so that He will be able to see us through. We on this side are ready to offer constructive criticisms. We are together and we are in the same boat. We belong to different political camps with different political ideologies, but we have one goal; i.e., to take Sierra Leone to the Promised Land. We are not going backwards because backwardness is not our portion. All of us are going to see the Promised Land and we are ready to alleviate the sufferings of our people. If we do the right thing, we will see the Promised Land. There is no more time for playing around but to do what is needed, so that all of us will thank God.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of transportation in this country. This House would agree with me that commerce is the life blood of any Nation. Without commercial activities, we cannot move forward as a Nation. Sierra Leone is not a developed Nation, but commerce is the life blood of every Nation and transportation is one of the aids to trade. Transportation is a key component of a nation’s development. When the roads were terrible ten years ago, we used to spend seven to eight hours to travel from Freetown to Bo. It used to be a burden on transporters. Today, however, I can say with authority that most transport operating companies can travel twice from Freetown to Bo *[Applause]*. Sometimes we only see food on our tables without considering the cost. We do not know that we have poor drivers; and we do not also know we have business people who are in the Transport Industry who go the extra mile to provide services to the public. We should not take transportation lightly because transportation affects the prices of goods in the market. For instance, the cost of transporting rice from Freetown to Bo is much cheaper than transporting rice from Magburaka to Sambaia Bendugu because of the road network. This was why Dr Ernest Bai Koroma decided to prioritise roads in order to ease the transportation problem.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that road network is a key component of a country’s development. Therefore, I am asking this new

Government to also prioritise roads. They should construct more roads for us. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma has done his own bit and we want to see more roads being constructed in this new dispensation. We want our roads from Magburaka to Sambaia Bendugu upgraded and tarred. We want our roads in this country to be upgraded, so that the cost of transportation will reduce. If the cost of transportation decreases, there will be enough food in this city and people will move their goods at ease.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a time I went to Liberia on a business trip. I saw plantains that are produced from Sierra Leone [Kailahun to be precise]. Why are they taking our produce to neighbouring countries when those living in Freetown and other parts of the country are starving? I want to call on His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio to construct more roads for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to the notice of this House that the former President's handing over Speech states that he [former President] believes in this Government and he is under his leadership. I want to emphasise here that all of us are now under the leadership of Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio and we are ready to work with him. We are ready to positively engage our colleagues on the other, so that we will take this Nation to the Promised Land. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. I call on Honourable Festus M. Lansana to make his contribution.

HON. FESTUS M. LANSANA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join my colleagues to express my gratitude to His Excellency the President, for the Speech so graciously delivered on Thursday, 10th May, 2018. I will start by congratulating our colleagues on the other side for appreciating and accepting this Speech as one of the best speeches ever made. I want to however allay their fears because for the past two days, our colleagues on the other side have been very apprehensive about the 'New Direction.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make clarifications on some of the issues raised by colleagues. I would like to start with 'disciplined leadership' which the

President talks about in Paragraph 2 of his Speech. If you have the Speech, you would have realised that the President meant what he said about disciplined leadership, integrity, efficiency, professionalism and service delivery. This statement is in tandem with Paragraph 127, under corruption. What the President said in this Paragraph shows that they have evaluated the corruption index and he has come up with simple economics of corruption equation, which is $d + R - A$. So, this tells you that corruption is directly related to discretionary powers. This suggests that the higher the discretionary powers, the more corruption will thrive. It is also telling you of risk-taking; that is the higher the risk-taking, the higher the corruption. That is what the 'New Direction' is trying to reveal to the people of Sierra Leone. The President is trying to make sure that everybody is accountable; and the more people are accountable, the lower the corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to draw the attention of this House to the several Acts we have been talking about, especially the enactment of the Finance Act. This House would agree with me that the 2017 and 2018 Finance Acts were enacted, but the Commissioner-General and team of the National Revenue Authority [NRA] were only implementing the provisions that were comfortable to implement. In fact, they relied on certain provisions of the 2016 Finance Act, leaving the 2017 Finance Act. Therefore, I now call on the Minister of Finance to analyse the revenue laws of this country and take necessary actions. We are now talking about disciplined leadership and compliance is crucial in ensuring a disciplined leadership.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the Economy of this country. If you go through the Speech, you would agree with me that the President tried to assess our Economy. He has already carried out a situational analysis of the Economy and that was why he provided solution how he would revive the Economy for the next five years. He has given us various ways he would employ to reactivate the Economy. I will not bore this House with details of that because of time, but I want my colleagues to be mindful of the fact that the economic variables he used are subject to LEAD and LAG effects. This means that whatever variable you trigger

today, you can only get the impact after six months or a year. Those are the variables he is now triggering. He said he would diversify the Economy through agriculture, marine resources and tourism.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution will focus on agriculture. The previous Government spent **\$200,000,000** on Smallholders Commercialisation and all of us know that it did not take us anywhere. In the Smallholders Commercialisation, they cut the value chain, but the President has already appointed somebody in the Ministry of Agriculture who is a value chain specialist. I will tell you what was actually missing. The Agricultural Business Centres [ABC] were politically located without considering the comparative advantage of the output they brought, which I call 'one size fits all.' There are over hundred ABC centres in this country and so even when the then Minister of Agriculture wanted to transform the ABCs into viable entities, he decided to work on 52 ABCs. They could not measure up because they have already got equipment that were not suited for those areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to respond to the issue that has to do with debt sustainability. I want to inform this Honourable House that the International Monetary Fund used 'one size fits all' for all economies. If you look at the Economy of this country, you would realise that our Economy is weak. If you want to know about your debt sustainability, then you have to use your debt revenue ratio. I will refer you to the 2017 Budget. The 2017 Budget revealed that our total domestic revenue was **Le3.2tln** and the total interest for all payment was **Le0.6tln**. Our domestic and foreign debts amounted to **Le1.7tln**. If we work the GDP ratio, which was about **Le30 tln**, you will find out the debt ratio will be **6%**. So, we cannot say we are happy, but if you take it from the revenue generated; i.e., **Le1.7tln** divided by **Le3.2tln** then you will have **53%**. This means that you expended **53%** of your 2017 revenue to enable you to pay the debt. However, let us assume you are only going to pay the interest, if you work the interest over the revenue generated, it means almost **20%** that was supposed to have been used for the 'free education' was used to pay the interest *[Applause]*.

Therefore, this brings me to education. I want to allay your fears that in the New Direction... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute left.

HON. FESTUS M. LANSANA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Government was conscious of the enrolment and that is why they have taken note of the number of pupils who are now attending schools. The Government has used the 2016 census data to address those issues. Government is also mindful of the fact that people would travel from neighbouring countries like Guinea and Liberia to benefit from this gesture. This is why Government has made special provision for those that would want to come and benefit from free education. In that regard, Government is expecting 2,090,000 instead of 1,070,000 school going children. Again, Government is going to provide text books, tuition fees, exercise books, etc.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is up, Honourable Member *[Applause]*.

HON. KUSAN SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I would like to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for the Speech he delivered in this House on Thursday, 10th May 2018. We know that failure is not an option for our President and we on this side will give him our supports, so that he succeeds.

Without much ado, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer the House to Page 24, Paragraph 95, which talks about Energy. Sierra Leone is among the least developed countries in the world in terms of Energy. In any country where power generation and power supply falls below 100 megawatts, is a disaster. I want to make a comparative analysis. The output of Bumbuna is about 50 megawatts. Thank God the technocrat in Energy is here and I would ask him to calculate for us. The Dodo Dam provides about 6 megawatts; Charlotte is about 2 megawatts; Kingtom is about 10 megawatts; Black Hall Road is about 19 megawatts; Bankasoka is about 8 megawatts; Makeni is about 5 megawatts; Bo is about 4 megawatts; Kono is about 3 megawatts; Makali is about 2 megawatts; Lungi is about 3 megawatts; Magburaka also is about 3

megawatts; solar energy throughout the country is about 15 megawatts; and the UK energy funded project [*Applause*]. The question is why this Speech is saying that the 'New Direction' inherited a total output less than 100 megawatts? To me, this is totally misleading.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you add the figures I have mentioned above, the result will be 125 megawatts, which is more than what they have told this Nation. Mr Speaker, we are here to support the New Direction because if it succeeds, it is going to benefit our people and everybody.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please moderate your undertones.

HON. KUSAN SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to remind this House that we on this side will do our best to support the government to achieve its goals. You have five years because we are coming back in 2023. You are going to be on this side and we will be on that side [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the energy issue in Sierra Leone has been one of the problems in this country. However, we on this side would proffer solutions. I hope that our solutions will be taken in good faith and follow same. I want to state here that lots of energy projects have been ratified by this House and this is why I want to call on the Minister of Energy to ensure that those projects are implemented. For example, we have ratified the Copper Energy Cooperation [CEC] in this House, which is expected to provide 128 megawatts. Therefore, I want the Leader of Government Business to take my message to the President. The CLSG in Côte D'ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea are big projects we usually call 'West Africa Power Pool' [WAPP]. The source is from Côte D'ivoire and passes through Liberia to Sierra Leone. The people in Liberia will get some facility and our people in Gendema and Pujehun will also enjoy same. In fact, the same facility will go to Bo, Mile 91 and then Freetown. Therefore, I want the Leader of Government Business to take note of this and ensure the President and the Minister follow-up on this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to proffer another solution on the Bumbuna Phase II Project. We ratified the Bumbuna Phase II Project in this House and funds are

being provided [*Applause*]. The Leader of Government Business knows that funds were provided for the Bumbuna Phase II Project. This Project is in my Constituency and I want the Minister, who is not here, to ensure that this Project is implemented for the benefit of our people. If this Project is implemented, it would create employment facilities for our youth. In fact, it will create not less than 2,500 jobs and Constituency 045 will benefit more because the Project is in my Constituency. Please take note of this and work towards its implementation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not be doing justice to myself if I fail to talk about the mines and mineral sector. Sometimes it is good to praise where praise is due or condemn where condemnation is due. In other words, when something is good or bad, you have to say it. I want to commend His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, who promised to review the Mines and Minerals Act of 2010. There are some grey areas that are needed to be reviewed, especially Sections 75 and 76, which deal with the issuance of exploration licences by the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind this House that our Paramount Chiefs are the custodians of our lands, but what used to happen is that when investors go to the Ministry of Mines and obtain exploration licenses, they are given exploration licenses without the consent of the chiefs. The custodians of our lands are in their various localities, but they are not involved in the process [*Applause*]. What normally happens is that the investors would just present a document to the custodians of the lands, informing them that they had obtained permission for exploration. Nobody knows what the exploration exercise is all about. I want the President to speedily work towards amending the Mines and Minerals Act, so that what used to happen will be a thing of the past.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not conclude if I fail to mention the two major road in Koinadugu District. The APC led Government commissioned two big road projects in Koinadugu District, especially the road from Kabala to Krubola and the one from Macra to Yiffin. I am appealing to the President and the Minister of Works to work

towards the completion of those roads within 12 calendar months. The funds are there and it is just a matter of utilising those funds for the benefit of our people.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up.

THE SPEAKER: I now call on Honourable Edward George to make his contribution.

HON. EDWARD GEORGE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to salute the portrait of His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. S.O [2] Elongima 'e dia a pae lor. Batilo Julius Maada Bio na di only man wae say ar dae go, but are go kam bak.' This is the only President who has come again to serve the people of this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to draw your attention to the issuance of mining licences. In that regard, I would like to refer the House to Paragraphs 24, 25, 26 of the Mines and Minerals Act. Most of the problems we are having in this nation emanated from the manner in which mining licenses are awarded to these mining companies. I, Honourable Edward George, representing Constituency 097, I am coming from a very famous mining areas; i.e., Mokanji, Rutile, Mano Daseh, etc. I have worked in the African Minerals Company for eight years. The mining licences that were awarded to the African Minerals and London Mining actually mortgaged the people of this Nation to those mining companies. The APC led Government mortgaged the people of this nation to Africa Minerals and London Mining companies. There are examples to support what I have just said. There is a problem with the African Minerals and that was the same reason London Mining was closed. After awarding the mining licences to them, they never monitored the operations of London Mining and Africa Minerals in this country. The Government never verified the composition of the management teams of these mining companies. In fact, the Human Resources Manager, Operation Manager, the General Manager and eight other positions were manned by expatriates. Automatically, you have mortgaged the people of this nation to those mining companies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind this House that the Mines and Minerals Act clearly spells out the need to adhere to the Local Content Policy of this nation, but the experts who are working in these mining companies are more powerful than the nationals. This is why when His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio said he would review this Mines and Mineral Act, I was very excited. This Speech is very good for the people of this Nation and that was why I sought the permission of this House to permit me to salute His Excellency the President. In fact, I am even tempted to kiss this Speech because this is a wonderful Speech for this Nation *[Applause]*. These mining companies, Sierra Rutile, African Minerals, London Mining, Vimetco, etc. cannot point at anything they have done for this Nation. For instance, the road from Sierra Rutile to Moyamba is a death trap for many years now. We have had several companies in this nation, but they concentrate on extracting our minerals, leaving the people poorer.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Shandon Mining Company took over from the African Minerals. As we speak, they are refusing to pay the benefits to staff who were working for the African Minerals. There are Members of Parliament on the other side who worked for these mining companies, but have chosen to sit down without saying anything in that regard. Our people are suffering for personal benefits of few *[Applause]*. This is nothing but the truth. When they wanted to calculate the benefits of those staff, the African Minerals claimed that the licence that was given to them was for ninety-nine years. How can you mortgage this Nation for ninety-nine years to a mining company? In fact, they do not know how many years these mining companies will continue to exist.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader of the Opposition, do you want to say something?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH *[Leader of the Opposition]*: Mr Speaker, I want to remind my colleague that the maximum for mining licence is twenty-five years and is renewable. So, it cannot be ninety-nine years. Maybe the Honourable Member was referring to the ports and rails and not the mining agreement itself. He is however my friend and I do not want to disturb him.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I can understand you all have the rights to undertones, but sometimes when your colleagues are contributing to a debate of this nature, I would rather advise that you pay attention to some of these details. Sometimes we take actions here and we do not know the effects of those actions. If we pay attention and get some of these details, you have to take them to your constituencies and take appropriate actions *[Applause]*. I know you have the right to undertones and I do not wish to withdraw that kind of right from you. Sometimes it is also good for you to take note. It is sometimes good to take note of these issues, so that you can go back to your constituencies and enquire. Sometimes we bring such matters to Parliament for them to be addressed.

HON. EDWARD GEORGE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The calculation of the benefits of our people is very erroneous. If you look at the Local Content Policy or the labour laws of this country, you would find out that it was not properly done. For instance, if somebody is earning **Le1mln** or **Le5mln** and you use **9%** to calculate his/her benefit, how much do you think the person will receive? Somebody is earning **Le10mln**, but if you decide to use **3%** or **6%** to calculate his/her benefit, it sounds ridiculous. You cannot see this calculation in our labour laws in this country. To me, it seems as if they do not want to pay benefit to the workers.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up.

HON. EDWARD GEORGE: Mr Speaker, I am asking for additional one minute.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please occupy your seat. I now call on Honourable Moses B. Jorkie

HON. MOSES B. JORKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am really overwhelmed this afternoon and I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, who happens to be my constituent. I am happy with the manner the debate is going. When we started the debate, it wanted to go out of track, but I want to thank the Paramount Chief Member of Parliament, Honourable Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III for his intervention. Today, when Honourable Salia-Konneh

Quentin was making his contribution, he also spoke about the direction this debate should take. Frankly speaking, the speech delivered by the President is good and we need it because we are Sierra Leoneans and we have to be seen supporting good things.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to support this particular Speech because it speaks for the people of this country. I want to emphasise what other colleagues were saying that governance is continuity and we must also thank the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, for what he did for the people of this country *[Applause]*. We have to thank him because he did what he had done for this country and we are expecting the current President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, to continue from where Dr Ernest Bai Koroma has stopped. I want to state here that whichever way you may look at it, all the Presidents who ruled this country have done what they thought could be done for the people of this country. President Bio is going to continue where his predecessors have stopped.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Members of Parliament, especially the Honourable Member from Constituency 030 on the other side, gave some reasons why the APC lost the elections. The reasons given by the Honourable Member were correct. In 2007, the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, delivered his first Presidential speech in this Well. With your leave, Mr Speaker, I refer the House to Page 2 of the maiden speech delivered by the former President. **“...this underpins the fact that when a government fails in its principal duties of good governance, reneges on its promises to effectively serve the people and neglect to provide the basic needs of its people, that government is destined to be rejected by the people.”** That statement by the former President is enough to tell us why our colleagues are seated on the left hand side of the Speaker *[Applause]*. When the Ex-President won the presidency, that was the speech he delivered here and we are going to act on that particular statement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that we are not going to let our people down. Whatever is being mentioned in this document, I want the

ministers, who are representing the President, to ensure that he succeeds. I am appealing to you to follow the directives of the President. You have to work with him and one way of doing it is by taking this Address as your Bible. This Address should be with you every minute of your time. Make sure you read the areas that pertained to your Ministry and go along what the President has mentioned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about economic diversification the President mentioned in his Address. He links that aspect of the Economy to Agriculture. We know that the backbone of this country's development is agriculture. Majority of you can testify to the fact that this country used to export rice in the early 50s and up to the 80s. As you all know, Tormabom used to be the backbone of agricultural produce. The question is why always Tormabom? Well, Tormabom shares boundaries with Kwamabai Krim, Kpanda-Kemo, Nongoba Bullom, and Sogbini, where the President hails from. There are other Chiefdoms, but the above mentioned Chiefdoms are endowed with fertile bolilands. A rice meal was erected in Tormabom, which is a chiefdom situated at the Sewa River. This is why irrigation is not a problem at all. If we pay attention to Tormabom, importing rice into this country will be a thing of the past and the huge amount of money we used to spend on rice importation will be used to develop other sectors. In fact, during my campaign, I was calling that particular Chiefdom, S.O [2] 'Kɔvemeɛh,' which means 'you are well fed.' So, I hope we are going to cut down on rice importation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about the health sector. I want to start by thanking the former President, His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for introducing the Free Health Care Programme in this country. In the President's Speech delivered by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, gave some reasons on Page 17 of his Speech why the Free Health Care failed. This time, we are going to ensure that it works effectively. It would have been a very good initiative, but it was not properly implemented.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Free Health Care was a good idea and we are going to build on it. The implementers of the Free Health Care, who are the health

workers, were not motivated. Initially, government used to pay PBF to these health workers as a way of encouraging them to do their jobs, but that was stopped. As a result, the category of people who were not supposed to pay for the Free Health Service; i.e., children under the age of five, pregnant women and the lactating mothers started paying. So, they did not enjoy this particular benefit because there was no monitoring mechanism. If the Free Health Care was properly monitored, it would have been one of the best programmes of the APC led government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes the pregnant women covered long distances to find a health centre to give birth. Majority of them give birth on their way to the health centres. In Mende, these children are called S.O [2] 'Peima,' because they were delivered on the road. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. EMANUEL S. CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me join my colleagues to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for this laudable Speech he delivered during the State Opening of Parliament on Thursday, 10th May, 2018.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to first of all start with a very brief history of the State Opening of Parliament. I would like to make this known that during the State Opening of Parliament, as we all know, it is a tradition for our supporters of both parties to join us this ceremony. They usually accompany members in their 'ashobi' dress S. O. [2], to celebrate with their elected representatives. We met this tradition and we have been observing it for a very long time; but to my greatest dismay, we are denied of this memorable tradition this year. Our supporters were not allowed to enter into the premise.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please be reminded of S.O. 36.

HON. EMMANUEL S. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House to Page 3, Paragraph 11, under the rubric, 'Marine Resources.' Mr Speaker, since we started this debate, only one speaker spoke about the Fish Industry in Sierra Leone. I want to support my colleague on the other side. I have been in the Fishing Industry

since 1999, operating a private company. We all know that we generate revenue from fish products and our livelihood depends on fish. We have fishing vessels operating within the EEC of Sierra Leone and they generate foreign exchange. In the President's Speech, he mentioned how he would improve revenue mobilisation to support the New Direction agenda. We are aware of the many fishing vessels that come to our EEC to exploit our fish products.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are not here to criticise the good ideas and programmes of the President, but to support this document for the enhancement of the Economy of this country. Therefore, in order to generate the required revenue from the Fishing Industry to support the New Direction agenda, I want to proffer some recommendations to the Minister, even though she is not here. The advice is that if the fishing sector is properly managed, we will definitely derive a lot of revenue. This country needs to move forward. We have to deploy surveillance vessels in our EECs in order to curb illegal and un-regulated fishing activities in our water. Successive governments have attempted to deploy surveillance vessels that would cover 200 nautical miles to chase bigger vessels like the Tuna Vessels, but we have not been able to actualise that at all. Under the New Direction, it is of importance for us to get a vessel of that nature; so that at the end of the day, we will chase out these illegal vessels that come to exploit our fish and fish products.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to enhance and develop the Marine Industry. If you go to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, you will discover that the Ministry lacks enough space to operate effectively. If possible, I would like to recommend that we relocate the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to a place very close to the sea, similar to the Sierra Leone Marine Time Administration. I think with the devices within the purview of the Ministry, they can be able to detect vessels that are trying to exploit our fish products from afar. Over the years, our inability to trace these illegal fishing vessels has led to loss of millions of Dollars in the hands of illegal vessels.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to recommend to the government for the construction of a fishing port that would accommodate bigger vessels that usually come for inspection. This will help to generate more revenue for the people of this country. I have been in the Fishing Industry for quite some time now and we usually go to Ivory Coast or Senegal to inspect our vessels. This means we are losing a lot of revenue as a country. In other words, the money that is taken to other countries within the sub-region would have cushioned our revenue base. We usually pay airfreight, air ticket, and per diem for officials we send to those countries to inspect these vessels. If we have a fishing port here, we will generate more revenue for the development of this country. Again, vessels that normally come here will also bring revenue to this Nation.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Page 33, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 talk about fighting corruption and improving accountability. I want to limit my contribution on 'improving accountability.'

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up.

HON. REV. SAMA I. SANDY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am thrown into the most delightful mood of excitement this afternoon. I want to first of all thank God for granting me this opportunity to be part of these reputable men and women, constituting this august body. I also want to thank God for the intervention of divinity into the course of humanity in this Nation. I may be sounding theological, but the presidency of Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is a divine intervention into the course of humanity in Sierra Leone. Without any iota of doubt, I would like his presidency to be the biblical Cyrus in the book of Isaiah 45. If you read Isaiah 45, you would find out what it means.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a practitioner, I perceive governance as a socio-political investment in which the electorate invest their mandate in us [the representatives], with the expectation of a good dividend of service delivery. In view of that, no leader desires to fail his people. I want to recognise the efforts made by the former President and to also state here that governance is a continuous process. If that

is the case, I am seeing this debate as a strategic participatory governance reflection and review process. And the lessons learnt could be used to lubricate the New Direction machinery.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to discuss few issues and I would like to start with the Health Sector. The former President initiated a laudable Free Health Care Programme. I want us to integrate previous programmes and policies in order to enable us identify our pitfalls. If this is done, we can use them to inform our planning and the way forward. The Free Health initiative was laudable, but there are four ingredients in right based service delivery. We called them the four 'As,' which means availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability. They were made available, but were they accessible? They may be accessed, but how affordable were they? They could be afforded, but how acceptable were they? And when acceptability is questioned in right based programming, we say it is no right based service delivery. I want us to learn from that, Honourable Members.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are about implementing the Free Education Programme. I want the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education [unfortunately he has gone, but his deputy is here], to look at these four 'As.' It is the right of our people to be educated just as it is their right to receive quality medical services. We should be looking at the availability of the structures, the teachers and other related matters. We should be looking at the accessibility aspect of this initiative. How accessible are these facilities? I know that we are taking care of the affordability aspect. I also know that it is going to be acceptable. I am speaking from an informed point of view and I want to believe am an oracle of God. I prophesied that Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio was going to become President of this Nation and he has become the President of Sierra Leone. The God who told Cyrus that I would go ahead of you to flatten all mountains, fill all the valleys and break the iron bars is working with him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to 'take a leaf from Tourism and Culture.' I had wanted to delve into health, but I thought the Speaker would evoke S.O. 38 against me. I would like to refer the House to Page 5, Paragraph 18 of the Speech

which talks about Tourism. The President mentioned six key things I would want this House to take note of, but I would like to talk about the second bullet point, which talks about 'developing historic sites.' In January last year, I was in Dakar to facilitate a training of church leaders. I was opportune to visit Gorie Island. On my arrival at the tourist site, the tourist guide told me that Sierra Leone has similar facilities, but they have been neglected. I was ashamed by that statement. We have a lot of these sites in this country. If the Minister or her deputy is here, I want him/her to take note of this and to find possible ways of reviving our tourist sites. In my constituency, there is a site which I believe none of you in this House has ever known. It is a monument of three missionaries who were buried alive during the Hut Tax War. That prompted me to become a Pastor *[Undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are some echo-tourist sites in my constituency. We have the Gegba-gbotu Island in the Sewa River. That Island has beautiful species of animals and trees. This place could be used to attract people to come to Sierra Leone. This will in fact generate more revenue for us.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by thanking His Excellency the President for this wonderful Speech he delivered in this House. I thank you very much.

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, after perusing the presidential Address delivered in this House on Thursday, 10th May, 2018 I would like to discuss three areas. I would like to start with 'Disciplined Leadership' the President spoke about on Page 1. The second issue is mentioned on Page 2, which is culture. The last issue is on Page 25, which talks about transport. I do not know the date, but a group of soldiers came to this Chamber. On that day, I witnessed how discipline was displaced in this Well ... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please be mindful of S.O. 36.

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I was talking about disciplined leadership the President spoke about in his Address. I said I saw uniform men taken from the Congo Cross Police Station to this Parliament... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, how does that relate to the Address of His Excellency the President?

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I was talking about disciplined leadership... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I want you to forget about the subject you are discussing.

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I would also like to react to a statement made by a colleague on the other side few days ago. He is an ex-military captain. It is not a mistake that everywhere in Africa the Minister of Defence is always the President. It was only the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, who appointed a Minister of Defence. It has never happened anywhere in Africa. I think the current President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio has also emulated that idea of selecting somebody besides himself to become the Minister of Defence. This shows that the Ministry of Defence is very delicate. My colleagues on the other side spoke about security, which was not allowed at all. You cannot talk about anything on security because it is classified. He was inciting people in this House to cause chaos. I think that is unacceptable, but the Speaker encouraged him to go ahead ... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you heard me loud and clear when I warned the Honourable Member on my right to mind his words. I want you to do same.

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now move to agriculture. I hail from Kambia District, which was a rice producing area until Tomabom started doing same. This means that whatever I say here about agriculture will be said from experience because I am a farmer. In 2009, about 205 tractors were brought to Sierra Leone and they were distributed all over this country on loan basis. So, I was fortunate to have one of them. As we speak, I have completed

payment and it is now my bona fide property. For the past seven years, I have been using this machine, I think I was cultivating 120 acres of land annually. A colleague was saying that these tractors are being distributed to APC party members and APC strongholds. He also said that they had not been accessing those machines at all and those who had access to them were using them for the wrong purpose. That is not correct at all, Mr Speaker. I want to emphasise here that those machines were not given freely because we have been paying for those machines. We have been paying directly to the First International Bank. It was very unfortunate for a colleague Member of Parliament to say the tractors were kept somewhere. If you have the money and you are coming from a farming area, you will get one and I was fortunate to have one.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, under the APC regime, seventy community banks were established in every district, as a way of providing banking services to the door steps of farmers. Again, the APC led Government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma constructed 400 ward offices for councillors nationwide. The past Government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma also constructed Agricultural Business Centres [ABCs] in every Chiefdom. The past Government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma also constructed feeder roads in every district. This was why the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, was named the ninth agricultural President in Africa. The former Minister, Dr Sam Sesay, was recognised as Agriculture Minister in Africa. I think that is a very big achievement. If someone is saying the past Government of Ernest Bai Koroma did not do anything in the area of agriculture, I think those are some of our achievements we gained during the past APC led Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now go to the transport sector. We are aware that transport is the backbone of this country's Economy. This has been testified when former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, constructed lots of roads all over this country. There is a particular road from Kambia to the new Karene District. That road links Kambia and the Karene Districts. It was a very deplorable road; and during the President's campaign tour, he promised to ensure that the road is constructed within the shortest possible time. The Project is known as the 'Kambia Tomparey-Kamakwei

Project.' It has been funded by the Islamic Development Bank and I have documents to that effect.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute.

HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA: Therefore, I am asking the President, through the Minister of Works, to pay attention to that road. We want that road to be constructed within the shortest possible time. I thank you very much.

HON. YUSUF MACKERY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for this wonderful Speech he delivered in this House. To me, I usually refer to such Speech as detailed implementation plan. Of course, I am happy with colleagues Members of Parliament for putting a lot of efforts in the course of deliberating this particular document for the past few days.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with communication, which the President talks about on Page 30, Paragraph 115. He promised to improve communication services by making it affordable to all Sierra Leoneans. For the past ten years, the Ministry of Information and Communications has been under political pressure. For instance, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation [SLBC] has been politicised in the last ten years. They were only giving airtime to people who were ready to talk good things about the former President. It is really disheartening to see this happening in this country. We were not proud of the SLBC because we have lost confidence in that institution. However, I want to say kudos to the African Young Voices [AYV] because they have been informing the people of Sierra Leone on what has been happenings across the country. The SLBC is supposed to be an independent broadcaster, but for the past ten years, it has been politicised. Thank God to His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, who has promised to improve whatever he met. I think this is good for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma was not in a position to work in all the ministries and he relied on those he appointed to those

ministries to work on his behalf; but for the past ten years, the Ministry of Information and Communication only succeeded in training Honourable Members through the office of the President. The Honourable Mohamed Bangura and Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo will also attest to that. I am saying this because they passed through that Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now move to the National Telecommunication Commission [NATCOM]. We all know that NATCOM is responsible to regulate telecommunication services in Sierra Leone; but today, we cannot be proud of the national telecommunication, which is SIERRATEL. I am happy with the decision of the current President to improve the telecommunication systems in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to look at the Energy Sector. I am happy with strides made by the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma because he did his best to provide emergency electricity for the people of Sierra Leone. We all know that any Programme Manager who implements a project for five years without sustainability plan is not a good Programme Manager. This is where I want to agree with my colleague Honourable Member, when she quoted the former President to have said: **"Let there be light, and there was light."** On the same token, as soon as he handed over power, he also said, 'let there be blackout, and there is now blackout all over the city.' Therefore, as far as I am concerned, the then President never sustain the provision of electricity in this country. Now, if you look at Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio's Speech, he said that he would restore electricity supply in all districts headquarter towns in Sierra Leone. In contrast, the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, concentrated the provision of electricity to Makeni. Today, if you go to Makeni, Bo and Kenema, you would be tempted to ask if it is Easter celebration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about women. We know that women constitute over **51%** of our total population in Sierra Leone. This is why the President has promised to transform the Gender Directorate into a Commission. During the reign of the APC led Government, we saw how some men raped women at the SLPP office. That heinous act was orchestrated by an individual popularly known as 'Leather Boot.' Leather Boot was the security personnel attached to the former President, His

Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. The former Government made no provision for the empowerment of women.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for your kind attention.

THE SPEAKER: At this stage, Honourable Members, I wish to thank all Members of Parliament who have contributed to this debate. I want to say that your contributions were wonderful and they were quite in place. I hope and pray that the respective ministries took note of everything you have said and articulated here. I also want to thank the ministries that are represented here today. However, I wish to insist that other ministries that are not represented here should also endeavour to come. So, I thank all Members of Parliament.

Honourable Members, we have a very long list of speakers, but it is impossible for us to exhaust this list today. Nevertheless, I want to assure those who did not contribute to this debate that they will be given preference tomorrow. I would like the leaders of the respective political parties to submit names of not more than five speakers for tomorrow's debate because we have the old list we have to exhaust tomorrow. Once again I thank you very much for your contributions.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 3:50 p.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 31st May, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]