

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

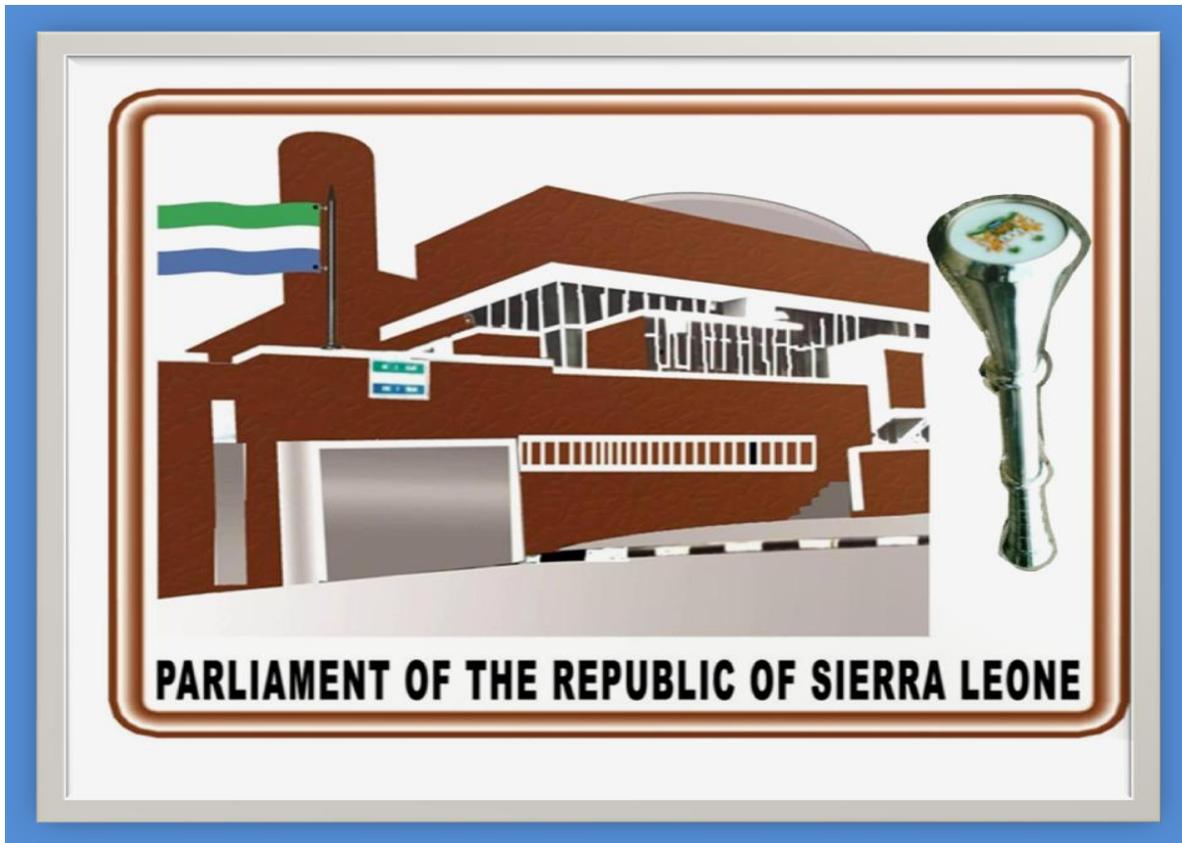
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION-SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014**

*SESSION – 2013/2014*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

**NUMBER: 8**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

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(b) LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE NIGERIA TRUST FUND) – (COTE D'IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA (CLSG) ELECTRICITY NETWORKS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT) DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013.

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PTOTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND – (COTE D'IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA (CLSG) ELECTRICITY NETWORKS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT) DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013.



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

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

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

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**TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014.**

*The House met at 10:07 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown.*

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Legislative Clerk, Mr Lamin Yansaneh, Read the Prayers].*

*[The Speaker, Hon. Sheku Badara B. Dumbuya, in the Chair].*

The House was called to Order

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY:** I so second Mr Speaker.

*(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to)*

## **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR FRIDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2014**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Before I ask for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014, I want to call the attention of Honourable Members to look at Page 4. It says: "The following Honourable Members of Parliament were absent with excuse." Mr Clerk, please take note that a Member of Parliament can only be absent with excuse where the Speaker is accordingly informed and where permission is granted; otherwise he/she is absent without excuse. And when there is a request for you to be absent, as long as it is a request, there has to be a reaction to that request. Honourable Members used to send an excuse request and go where they want to go. It is very wrong Honourable Members. I want that to have it rectified.

Honourable Members, can somebody move that the record of Votes and Proceedings be adopted as presented?

**HON. ROSALINE SMITH:** Mr Speaker, I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ALI KALOKOH:** I so second Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any counter motion?

### **III. PAPERS LAID**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU** (*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my task here this morning is to lay the Papers as stated in the Order Paper on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Development by virtue of the position I hold as Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business. Because of health condition of the Minister, the debate that has been scheduled for today will not commence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the following Agreements:

- (a) LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AS A LEAD FINANCIER OF THE PROJECT TO CO-FINANCED BY THE E.U-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND) (COTE D'IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA – (CLSG) ELECTRICITY NETWORKS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT) DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013.
  
- (b) LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE NIGERIA TRUST FUND) – (COTE D'IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA (CLSG) ELECTRICITY NETWORKS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT) DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013.
  
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(d) PTOTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND – (COTE D’IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA (CLSG) ELECTRICITY NETWORKS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT) DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013. I thank you very much (Applause).

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, as you’ve heard from the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, there was a communication this morning to the effect that the Minister of Finance and Economic Development detailed to do the presentation of the Agreements this morning is indisposed and therefore he is not available to carry out his assignment. On that note, debate on the Agreements and Grants is deferred until further notice.

Honourable Members, is there any announcement? Under my Speakership, I give preference to seniority. Parliament is about seniority. So, even in a situation where ten people stand to speak, if any of the senior Members happen to stand after the ten people have stood, I give preference to a senior Member.

**HON. DR BERNADETTE LAHAI:** (*Minority Leader of the House*): Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. I want to tell Honourable Members that today is World Cancer Day. That is why you are seeing us wearing this pink label dress. We may think that Malaria or Aids is one of the major killer diseases in the world. But I can categorically say that Cancer is becoming one of the most deadly killer diseases that is cutting across both men and women. Majority of the world’s population do not know this. For men who are above the age of 40, there is every tendency for them to have Prostate Cancer; and for the women, there is the likelihood for them to have Saliva Cancer. It is pathetic that in Sierra Leone, we still don’t have the basic equipment to detect early cancer sicknesses. We are relying for the basic diagnostic machines on nearby countries like Ghana. Ghana has more sophisticated machines to diagnose and treat this deadly disease. I want to call on Government and the private sectors to help us set up laboratories that will easily and quickly help Sierra Leoneans to diagnose this deadly disease.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the money Sierra Leoneans are paying in the name of air ticket fee from Sierra Leone to Ghana just to have an MIR test, Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy is not small amount. If that money were to be invested in this country, it will save a lot of Sierra Leoneans from this deadly disease. I have lived for a few weeks continuously in Ghana. If you go to the Korlebu Hospital in Ghana, you will see many Sierra Leoneans with various types of cancer diseases. Some have returned home only to die a few days after their return. What is more heart rendering is that non Ghanaians in Ghana pay their last Dollar to access those resources. This is because when you go for diagnostic test, they will indicate on your paper NG, i.e., non-Ghanaian and you pay two/three times what a Ghanaian will pay. We don't have the simplest of diagnostic machines in this country. Let me thank the Cancer Organisation in this country for the good work they are doing. This Organisation is busy sensitising and cancelling people for free of charge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we must work together with the Ministry of Health and the public to encourage the private sector to be involved in setting up laboratories in this country. In Ghana, those diagnostic services are not necessarily in the hands of Government. They are in the hands of the private sector. If you want to do a simple ECO in Sierra Leone, it will take you weeks. The last time it was only Dr Russell that has an ECO Machine; whereas in Ghana, you go to a private clinic where you will have ten to fifteen medical doctors doing ECO. Within 30 minutes, your ECO is done; you are given your result. So, this is a disease that is killing us and our people. I want us to do everything that we can to draw the attention of the Government to see what they can do to help Sierra Leoneans access some of the basic equipment so that we stop going to Ghana, South Africa or out of this country for simple diagnosis. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a plea I have. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Mr Majority Leader.

**HON. IBRAHIM R BUNDU:** This is just to remind Members of the Appointment Committee that we will be having our Committee sitting today at 1:00 p.m. Members of this Committee are encouraged to attend and on time. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Chief Whip.

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA** (*Majority Chief Whip*): Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O.11 (6).

**THE SPEAKER:** Sorry Mr Chief Whip. Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai, I know you are a very senior Member of this House, but the position of the Chief Whip supersedes.

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. 11 (6).

**THE SPEAKER:** S.O. 11?

**HON. CLAUDE D. M. KAMANDA:** S.O. 11(6) Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am bringing this issue up not only for my own consumption but for the consumption of each and every Member of Parliament. I have observed, since we reopened on the Order Paper the abbreviation 'OP/4/2/8' on the left hand corner of the Order Paper. I have been asked by my child but I could not explain the meaning at all. I want the Clerk of this House to educate us on the meaning of this abbreviation so that we can educate others?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Mr Clerk, what can you say about this abbreviation?

**MR CYRIL F. KING** (*Director of Legislative Services*): Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Cyril F. King, you would agree with me that this is an innovation. Is it?

**MR CYRIL F. KING:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well would you please explain to Members of Parliament what it means?

**MR CYRIL F. KING:** We are trying to upgrade our filing system in the Legislative Department. 'OP' means 'Order Paper' and 4 means 'the Fourth Republic,' 2 is the Second Session and this is the 8<sup>th</sup> Order Paper that has been produced. It's an innovation in the Legislative Department (*Applause*).

**THE SPEAKER:** I now call on Honourable Ansu J. Kaikai.

**HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI:** I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to inform the House that one of our kind, Honourable Dauda Fawundu... - (*Interruption*).

**THE SPEAKER:** You are speaking under which order Honourable Member?

**HON. ANSU J. KAIKAI:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. I was saying that one of us, Honourable Dauda Fawundu lost his elder brother this past Sunday. I rise to inform all of us so that we would pray for the departed brother of our colleague. I thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM R. BUNDU:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I have just received through the Office of the Clerk a letter from the Office of the President. I want to avail Members with the content of this letter because it is very very urgent. The letter talks about the official visit of the President of Cote D'voire from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. It reads: *"I am directed to refer to the above subject and to inform you that President Alassane Quathara, President of the Republic of Cote D'voire would be paying a two-day state visit to Sierra Leone from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, to which His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma has graciously consented. President Alhassan Watara desires to visit and talk with Parliament on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Parliament Building."* So, Members of Parliament are asked to take note of this date and endeavour to be here and on time. I want us to treat this date as a day for

Parliament. Let us endeavor to be here and appear as Parliamentarians on that day. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, following that announcement, it has to be made known to Honourable Members that the sitting on Tuesday is not going to be an ordinary sitting. It is going to be a special sitting and certain modalities have to be put in place. The Secretariat is now working on that and Members of Parliament would be informed accordingly.

**HON. SONGOWA BUNDU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am standing on S.O.23 to support what the Minority Leader has said here this morning. Before I start with that, I have to thank the Breast Cancer Organisation. When I came in this morning, I met members of the Breast Cancer at the lobby. I was reminded that this is a very important day for women as well as men. It is very important for the women to have our monthly self-breast examination. That is the basic for breast cancer. You can do that few days after your menstrual cycle. Also, the Minority Leader spoke about Cervical Cancer. If we do simple test, especially for sexually active adolescence, we will be able to identify the Papilloma Virus which is a risk for Cervical Cancer. I am appealing to the Ministry of Health and all the women of Sierra Leone and also the men to please take this disease as a life threatening disease. I thank you all.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Kadija Sillah.

**HON. KADIJA SILLAH:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here this morning on behalf of the Sillah family to extend our sincere thanks to all Members of Parliament who supported us morally and financially during our grief. And I also want to take this opportunity to inform this Honourable House that the 40<sup>th</sup> Day Ceremony will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014. I thank you.

*ADJOURNMENT*

*(The House rose at 10.12 a.m. and was adjourned until Friday, 7<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2014, at 10.00 a.m.)*