

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

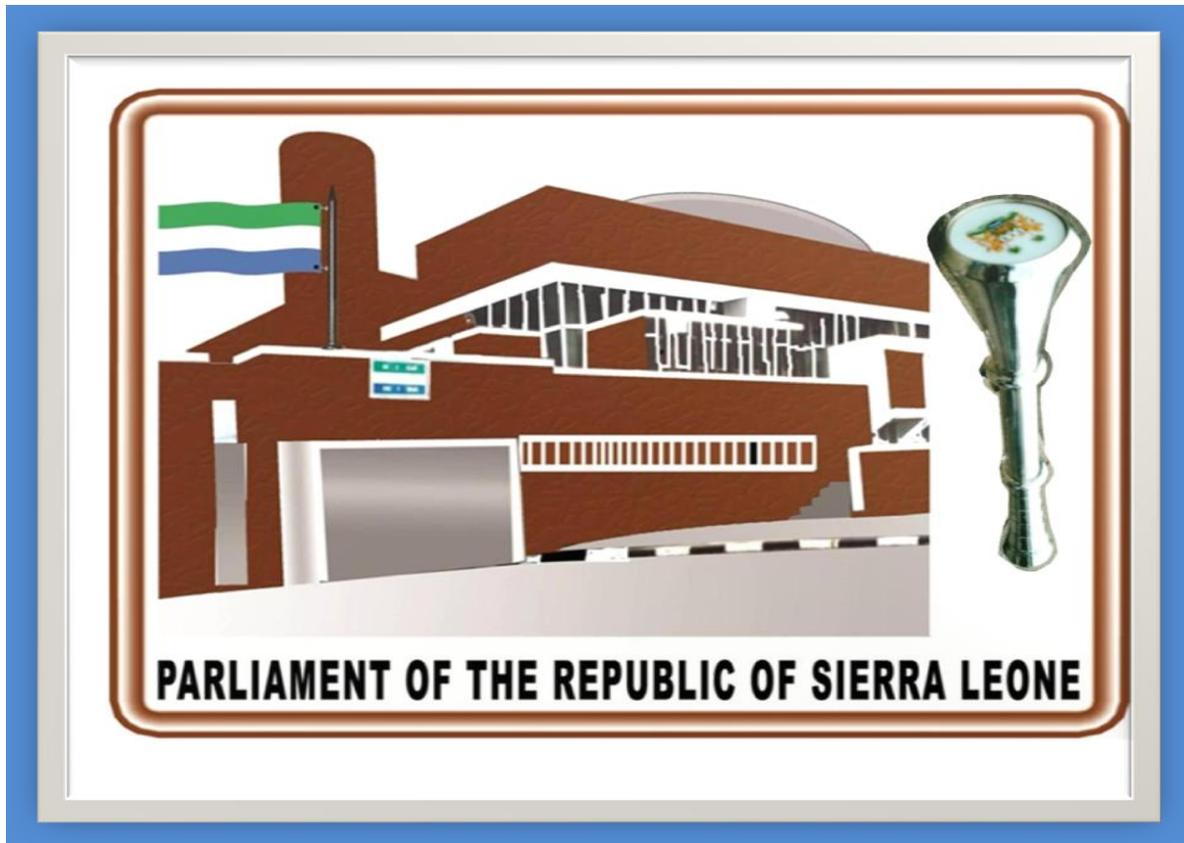
(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2015

SESSION – 2014/2015



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(HANSARD)

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Thursday, 5th March, 2015.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 5th March, 2015.

The House met at 10:25 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, and Freetown.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O. 5(2)

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that item III on the Order Paper be amended to read: 'Laying of Papers,' instead of 'Laying of Paper.' Item I should now read, 'The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and item II on the Order Paper should be Hon. Hassan Sheriff, Chairman of the Finance Committee: Remuneration and Allowances of the Chairman and members of the Independent Media Commission (IMC). Item V should be deleted from the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, is there any objection to the proposed amendment? Since there is no objection, the Order Paper is accordingly amended.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 26th February, 2015.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 26th February, 2015. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? There being no amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 26th February, 2015?

HON. ALHAJI S. DUMBUYA: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. BENNEH BANGURA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

(Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To)

(The record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 26th February, 2015, has been unanimously adopted as presented)

III. PAPERS LAID

(a) HON. HASSAN .B. SHERIFF

CHAIRMAN, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION (IMC)

(b) HON. AUGUSTINE B. TORTO

CHAIRMAN, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

DONATION OF 150 BOOKS BY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE, WRITTEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, XI JINPING FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND STAFF.

IV. QUESTION TIME (002)

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR BALOGUN L. KOROMA (*Minister of Transport and Aviation*): Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, responding to queries raised during the meeting held on Friday, 27th June, 2015, between the Committee on Transport and Aviation and the Ministry's officials about the status of the African Charter on Maritime Contingent, I made a promise and the Minority Leader, who is the Chairperson of the Committee on Transport, Industry, Communications, Energy, Science and Technology of Pan-African Parliament (PAP) would be in position to update the Pan-African Parliament on the position of Sierra Leone on the Charter. In conformity with my promise, we submitted a copy of the Cabinet decision, which I have here with me. The document has been with the Cabinet Secretariat for several months. However, because of the Ebola Virus Disease, all Cabinet meetings have been directed towards the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease. Thus, Cabinet has not been able to address normal Governmental issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, question 2 talks about the availability of 2 vehicles to take care of broke down vehicles on the streets. The current Executive Director of Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority is here with us; and I would like to ask for the permission of Mr Speaker... - (*Interruption*).

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, the luxury you enjoy standing on that podium cannot be enjoyed by others. So, it is better for you to refer to the answers you sent to this House.

MR BALOGUN L. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in answering to that question, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority has 3 tow trucks and they are expecting 4 more tow vehicles. Also, I am happy to report here that the procurement process for the 4 tow trucks is ongoing. Question 3 talks about compliance and I must say that the level of compliance in respect of the payment for hiring SLRTA vehicles by prominent people for private engagements is very minimal. I have the list of those who have paid and those who have not. A copy of this list has already been submitted to Parliament; and with the leave of the Speaker, I now lay on the Table of the House the list of debtors (*Applause*).

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would have loved the Minister to explain in detail the status of the 3 tow trucks. I am saying this because there are many abandoned vehicles all over the city and there has been no attempt to remove them from the streets. This has resulted in traffic congestion and even accidents. Thus, I had wanted the Minister to have told us the status of those 3 tow trucks in terms of their viability to ply the streets of Freetown. This is one of things I was expecting from the Minister.

MR BALOGUN L. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to agree with the Honourable Member that we do not have enough tow vehicles; and this is why we have many broken vehicles on the streets. It's high time the number of tow vehicles is increased, so as to reduce traffic congestion and road accidents. I want to also say that the 3 tow trucks are operational.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have 3 tow trucks in the whole of Sierra Leone under the purview of the appropriate Authorities. If you travel from Freetown to Makeni at night, you will see a lot of broken vehicles without reflectors to signal to an oncoming vehicle.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please refer yourself to 21 (1b) of the Standing Orders. We cannot express opinions without the proper reference to the Standing Orders.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The question that is before us today is relevant to what I am saying, Mr Speaker. In other words, what I am saying is not necessarily my opinion. I am only helping the Minister and the people of this country in making sure that the appropriate services are provided for the travelling public.

HON. SUAHLU M. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister said that we have 3 tow trucks in this country. I want the Minister to explain where these 3 vehicles are operating. I am saying this because if you drive along the Makeni or Bo highway, you will see a lot of broken vehicles. Furthermore, the Minister said that 4 more tow vehicles would be procured shortly. Mr Speaker, that statement is not qualified and I want him to do so. How far have they gone with the procurement process?

MR BALOGUN L. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 3 tow trucks are at the SLRSA Headquarter and they operate on call. Mr Speaker, once there is a call from the Traffic Wardens or the general public about any problem concerning broken vehicles, a vehicle is immediately dispersed. In response to the stage of the procurement process, the tenders are out and the procurement process is ongoing. As Ministers, we are not to interfere with the procurement process.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in your answer to question 002-1, you said you have the Cabinet Paper which you have laid on the Table of the House in May 2014. The promise you made has taken almost a month, Mr Speaker. I want you to further explain what has transpired since then. I believe you would have done a lot of things to ensure that the maritime process is strictly adhered to.

MR BALOGUN L. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that there is a process in the preparation and submission of Cabinet Papers. In this instance, we had to obtain the concurrence of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. In doing so, Mr Speaker, it takes time to get the approval. Essentially, our work ends with the submission of the document to the Cabinet Secretariat. We must not be

seen to be putting pressure on the Secretary to Cabinet to bring up Cabinet Papers at Cabinet meetings.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am sure that there are no more follow-up questions.

ADJOURNMENT

(The House rose at 11.05 a.m., and was adjourned to Friday, 6th March, 2015, at 10.00 a.m.)