



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2023

SESSION – 2023/2024



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PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 7th November, 2023.

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[A] THE HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

FIRST SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday, 7th November, 2023.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:35 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Dr Abass Chernor Bundu, in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Chief. I would want to take the opportunity to welcome him most warmly from his medical leave.

HON MATHEW S NYUMA [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, I beg to amend the Order Paper thus, item 'A,' which has to do with Laying of Papers, remains, but item 'B' be deleted and item 'C' now becomes item 'B.' Mr Speaker, I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to that Motion.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2023

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 through to 4 containing the names of Members of Parliament and we shall start consideration from page 5. Any amendment on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? If there is no correction or amendment can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023 as presented?

HON. HABIB K. FABBAH: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ABDUL K. BANGURA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 24th October, 2023 has been adopted as presented]

III ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have a brief announcement relating to the Inter Parliamentary Union [IPU] of which we are a member. The Assembly of the IPU met in Luanda, Republic of Angola about a week ago. One of the most important decisions made by that Assembly was the election of a new President of the IPU. It is my pleasant honour and duty to announce to you that we duly elected a new president who happens to be an African and more importantly a woman for that matter in the person of the sitting current Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania. Her name is Dr Tulia Ackson [*Applause*]. I think I should also mention that between my brothers and colleagues from Ghana, the Senate President of Nigeria, the Speaker of South Africa and myself led the campaign for the Speaker of Tanzania and we achieved a resounding success. I have no doubt whatsoever that our relations with the IPU, particularly the presidency of that organisation, will be strengthened even more than it has ever been going forward. So, that is the pleasant news that I have for you this morning. I thank you. The rest of what I have to say will be dovetailed in item IV on the Order Paper.

III. SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT [THIRD SCHEDULE] OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in conformity with the certificates of election submitted to the Office of the Clerk by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone [ECSL], I hereby declare that the following have been duly elected as Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Pursuant to Section 83 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, in tandem with S.O. 1[a], I hereby invite the Clerk of Parliament to administer the oath to Members of Parliament as established in the Third Schedule of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991.

HON. PARAN UMAR TARAWALLY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have divided MPs-elect into four different groups and once your name is called, you would have to come out and subscribe the oath of office as Member of Parliament.

Group 1

The following Members from Kono District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Lucinda Finda Kellie;
2. Hon. Tamba Kellie; and
3. Hon. Issic Tom Tucker.

The following Member from Moyamba District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Alpha Ben Mansaray

The following Members from Port Loko District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Ibrahim Aziz Bangura;
2. Hon. Memunatu Turay;
3. Hon. Abdul Kargbo;
4. Hon. Abdul Latif Sesay;
5. Hon. Aminata Sesay; and
6. Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara.

The following Members from Karene District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Cecilia Mabinty Bangura;
2. Hon. Alusine Bash Kamara; and
3. Hon. Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo.

Group 2

The following Members from Falaba District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Mohamed Conteh; and
2. Hon. Mohamed Alpha Jalloh.

The following Members from Koinadugu District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Hawa Conteh;
2. Hon. Daniel Brima Koroma; and
3. Hon. Hamidu Holla Mansaray.

The following Members from Bombali District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Mohamed Bangura;
2. Hon. Ibrahim Barrie;
3. Hon. John Charles Conteh;
4. Hon. Paul Samba Conteh;
5. Hon. Marie Kamara;
6. Hon. Peter Yamba Koroma;
7. Hon. Sallieu Osman Sesay; and
8. Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally.

Group 3

The following Members from Tonkolili District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Daniel Amadu Bangura;
2. Hon. Rose Marie Bangura;
3. Hon. Mabinty Forna;
4. Hon. Daniel Fornah;
5. Hon. Rugiatu Kamara;
6. Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma;
7. Hon. Aruna Papay Larkoh;
8. Hon. Jawah Sesay; and
9. Hon. Sorieba Alhaji Turay.

The following Members from Kambia District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Abdul Karim Kamara;
2. Hon. Mohamed Sheridan Kamara;
3. Hon. Ernest Dura Koroma; and
4. Hon. Mabinty Alice Taylor-Bangura.

Group 4

The following Members from Urban District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Alpha Amadu Bah;

2. Hon. Mariama Bangura;
3. Hon. Adama Conteh;
4. Hon. Abdulai Kamara;
5. Hon. Mahmoud Kamara;
6. Hon. Rugiatu Rosy Kanu;
7. Hon. Unpha Sorie Gbassay Koroma; and
8. Hon. Osman Abdal Timbo.

The following Members from Rural District subscribed to the oath of office.

1. Hon. Haja Miatta Amara;
2. Hon. Kemokoh Conteh;
3. Hon. Abu Bakarr Fofanah;
4. Hon. John Sartty Kargbo; and
5. Hon. Zinabu Timbo.

IV. WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I make my statement of welcome to our new Members of Parliament, I would first of all like to thank the Clerk of Parliament for administering the oath of office to our new Members. I would also like to look at a few administrative matters before I get on to the substantive statement that I have to make.

Honourable Members, we have in our midst very distinguished visitors from Ghana, the Business Committee of the Parliament of Ghana has done us the honour of visiting us today to familiarise themselves with international best practice through interactions and exchange of ideas with their counterparts in this Parliament. The study visit is expected to afford the delegation the opportunity to broadening their knowledge and understanding of the management and planning of the parliamentary business and to promote efficiency for the effective functioning of their own Committee in Ghana.

The delegation comprises the following:

1. The Honourable Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, Deputy Minority Leader;

2. Hon. Moses Anim, Member of the delegation;
3. Hon. Alex Tetteh Djornobuah, Member;
4. Hon. Della Sowah, Member;
5. Hon. Eric Afful, Member; and
6. Mr Peter Apenkwua, Principal Reporter, Supporting Staff.

I want to welcome all of you and I personally extend my best wishes to your Speaker, who is a very dear friend of mine and to wish you a successful visit to our Parliament. We also have a galaxy of local personalities in our midst. I am particularly heartened to see so many old friends in the Chamber today. I want to specially recognise the following:

Hon Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray, National Chairman of the APC;

Amb. Osman Foday Yansaneh, Deputy;

Hon Chernor R.M Bah;

Lansana Dumbuya Esq, National Secretary-General;

Bai Mamoud Bangura;

Sidi Yayah Tunis; [This is an individual I have heard on the radio many times, but never had the opportunity of seeing him in person].

Ibrahim Prince Tholley;

Osman Jalloh;

Hon Kombo Kamara;

Amb. Alimamy Petit Koroma;

Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer;

Deputy Mayor Kwaku Lisk;

Mayor Alie Tarawally, Port Loko;

Chairman Kasho Holland-Cole;

Chairman Mohamed Mansaray, Kambia Council;

Hon. Maya Kaikai;

Hon. Lahai Marah.

THE SPEAKER: There is a duty to be performed by the Deputy Whip.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, it is now 12:00 noon. I therefore move that S.O 5[2] be suspended, so that the business of the House may continue.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to that Motion?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: I so second, Mr Speaker.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, before the question, I refer you to S.O. 5[2]. The proviso clearly states that except for Fridays, other days S.O 5[2] must be suspended at 12:45.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his very astute observation. It is being the practice thus far to suspend the proceedings at exactly 12:00 noon, but that practice cannot supersede the written language of the Standing Orders. Therefore, the Motion is premature. We shall continue our proceedings until the appointed time in keeping with the language of the Standing Orders. I was asked to repeat a name that I had already called. For whatever reason I do not know, but I must confess in the Fifth Parliament, he was a very close friend, although a very troublesome one. He is the Honourable Lahai Marah.

Hon. Alhasan Kamara;

Hon. Dauda Kallon;

Dr S.S Marah;

Mr Alie Sumah;

Hon. Ibrahim Washingai Mansaray;

Hon. Nuru Deen Sankoh-Yillah;

Haja Isatu Kamara;

Rex Bonapha, Deputy Minister of Transport;

Hon. Dr Fatmata Hassan, Presidential Appointee for Parliamentary Affairs;

Hon. Zainab Kamara, former Member of Parliament;

Hon Saidu Baba Kamara;

Sheku Fantamadi, Minister of Finance;

Hon. Alusine Marah;

Alhaji Mohamed Dondodo;

Hon. Ibrahim Patteh Bah;

Chernor C.S Kamara; and

Hon. Martin Bangura.

It is now my great pleasure to also recognise the presence, in our midst, the United States of America Ambassador and his entourage.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, according to S.O. 42, the ruling of the Speaker is final and I respect that. However, I want to say something that has to do with the point raised by my colleagues and other leaders of the House. I want to engage the House with the interpretation of S.O. 5[2]. I deliberately refused not to challenge my colleague in the Chamber because of one reason or the other. Nevertheless, I also want to remind Members that Section 94 of the 1991 Constitution Act No.6 states that we have the power to regulate ourselves. I make a submission relating to S.O 5[2] to your office. All of us would have to discuss the interpretation of the said provision. However, your ruling is final.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, having announced the names of the membership of the All Peoples Congress parliamentary caucus of the Sixth Parliament, I will now wish to announce the following names of the composition of the parliamentary leadership of the All Peoples Congress for the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic. They are as follow:

1. Hon Abdul Kargbo, Opposition Leader;
2. Hon Daniel B. Koroma, Deputy Opposition Leader 1;
3. Hon Aaron Aruna Koroma, Deputy Opposition Leader 2;
4. Hon Abdul Karim Kamara, Opposition Whip;
5. Hon Catherine Zainab Tarawally, Deputy Opposition Whip 1; and
6. Hon Kemokoh Conteh, Deputy Opposition Whip 2.

May I now crave the attention of Honourable Members as I proceed with my statement of welcome?

Honourable Members, like the seminal date of July 13, 2023, when the Members of Parliament of the ruling SLPP Party subscribed the oath of office, today, November 7, 2023, marks yet another milestone in the life of this Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic. Fifty-two [52] Members of the Opposition APC Party who had followed the dictates of their Party to boycott Parliament have today also subscribed the oath of office as Members of Parliament. I therefore consider it a great honour to welcome all of you to this hallowed and sacred Chamber of Parliament.

Honourable Members, permit me to start with the question: what kept you away? On several occasions, I tried to plead with you to see reason and come to the House to perform the sacred constitutional duties for which you had been elected by your people. Instead, you chose to stonewall. You should have come a long time ago just as your honourable colleagues across the aisle did on July 13th and also as your Party comrades, Hon. Mohamed Bangura and Hon. Alfred Thompson had done so gloriously.

Honourable Members, although nearly four months late, nonetheless it is better late than never, more especially I feel deeply gratified that my urgings did not fall on deaf ears entirely and today this Sixth Parliament can proudly say its whole membership is now fully seated and in full conformity with the multiparty democratic Constitution of 1991; a Constitution that vehemently and vigorously eschews any return to anything even remotely resembling the one-party dispensation of yesteryears that it had ingloriously banished to the nauseating attics of history. Therefore, I should hasten to pay a very special tribute to the dogged determination and perseverance of the

Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion [ICPNC] for living up to its legal mandate and to the expectations of the general public.

Honourable Members, differences of opinion, perception and persuasion in the political arena, by definition, form an integral part of any truly functioning and vibrant democracy; and therefore it is of the utmost importance that national institutions are established and capacitated to speedily enter into the breach and provide the much needed relief where such party differences occur and particularly importantly where such party differences exhibit the potential of exploding into a national crisis and possible violence. So, all of us, the Executive Branch and the Legislature alike, today deserve the fullest commendation for having had the foresight to propose and legislate into existence the ICPNC which has worked tirelessly to bring about this exalted and much desired outcome. All of us therefore should applaud their timely intervention. By the same token, I would like to convey, on behalf of the entire House, our profound appreciation and our debt of gratitude to the special peace envoys deployed to our country by the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], the African Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat, all of whom had spared no effort in discharging their collective role as international interlocutors and moral guarantors to ensure the successful outcome of the dialogue between the ruling SLPP Government and the APC Opposition which today has been consummated by our colleagues from the APC agreeing to terminate their boycott and to assume their seats in the Well of this House to begin the process of discharging their constitutional responsibilities to the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic to which they have been duly elected by their people.

Honourable Members, we cannot afford not to acknowledge the presence, in our midst, of the indefatigable Hon. Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah, erstwhile Deputy Speaker of this House and former Leader of the APC Opposition in the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic. Indeed no meritorious accomplishments can be properly paid to the Fifth Parliament without a resounding and fulsome acknowledgement of the pivotal role of the Honourable Chernor Maju Bah. Not only was his contribution profound as an

illustrious Member of this House and the ECOWAS Parliament, but also his exemplary and visionary leadership throughout his tenure as a Member of this House have left an indelible imprint in the annals of our legislative history. Let truth be loudly and boldly told, Honourable Chernor Maju Bah you are a man who is missed in this hallowed Chamber as well as within every corridor of this House.

Honourable Members, I turn next to the quintessential Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo. It is most apposite that I should unhesitatingly describe you as both the political encyclopedia of Sierra Leone and a true first edition of all that stands out as remarkably good of the APC Party, the archetypal Alpha and Omega of Parliamentary politics. On behalf of this entire House, I commend you and extend to you our very best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, restful and well-earned retirement.

Honourable Members, last but by no means least, I turn now to the affable, tall and elegant Honourable Ajibola Manly-Spain. This is a man of many admirable qualities. His gentility, humility, and even his every slow but majestic steps still re-echo resoundingly throughout the portals of this hallowed building and the ECOWAS Parliament as well, with legendary wisdom and tenacity. True, in an age of renewal in any rapidly changing society, it is inevitable that there must come a time when the old has to give way to the young. Indeed one of the most difficult tasks in politics is not how to acquire power, but how to transfer it to a new generation of leaders. More difficult still is for leaders to deliberately create new and able leaders to systematically take over from the older when the time comes. But if I were asked to appraise the redoubtable Ajibola Manly-Spain on his character, ability, reliability and strength to connect and influence people, I would say without a doubt that only a handful of men would be able to match his qualities.

Honourable Members, these three Honourable Members have truly left their marks on the Floor of this Chamber and the least homage we can and should all pay them is to say you all carry with you to the rest of the world our most abiding love, respect and affection. Posterity will never forget to chronicle that indeed you once passed through this way.

Honourable Members, today, as we welcome our APC colleagues from the shadows into the limelight of Parliamentary politics and banter, let me take this opportunity to remind them that Sierra Leone is at a most critical stage where human capital and economic development have now taken centre stage and indeed are now the topmost priorities. It is indeed a formidable task to accomplish; and it is a task that beckons for attention from all, from all able-bodied men and women, the old and young, the lettered and unlettered, the high and low, no matter where you are, at home or abroad, in every nook and cranny of this land that we love so much. It also means it is not a task for one political party alone; on the contrary, it is a task for all of us working together but more importantly with us the Honourable Members of this Parliament taking the lead. Above all, I believe it is a task that is doable and achievable so long as our constant refrain is that Sierra Leone is and will always remain our only country and there's no other country we can call our own.

Honourable Members, before I delve into the nature of the task in hand, allow me to recall here a little instructive lesson of contemporary history to refresh our minds. Our country, Sierra Leone, obtained its political independence from our British coloniser in 1961, four good years ahead of Singapore, a comparatively small island country in Southeast Asia, which attained its statehood in 1965. It was and still is inhabited by a much smaller population than ours, consisting of Chinese, Malays, Indians and others. So, it is not any less heterogeneous than we are in Sierra Leone. But there is this remarkable difference. Singapore had nothing, literally no natural resource at independence apart from human beings and a deep sea harbour, just as we have our own Deep Water Quay. But we in Sierra Leone have a lot more assets to be proud of: we are endowed with gold, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, tantalite, rutile, palm oil, palm kernel, etc. etc. You name it, we have it. Yet, in 1961, Sierra Leone's per capita income was only \$140 and its annual GDP was \$328 million. Singapore's per capita in 1965 was \$517 and its annual GDP was \$975 million. By 2022, sixty years on, Sierra Leone's per capita income was still only \$488 and an annual GDP of not more than \$3,970 million

compared to Singapore's per capita income of \$82,808 and an annual GDP of \$466, 978 million.

Today, Honourable Members, with this galaxy of notables gathered in this Well of Parliament from both our two main political parties, I cannot resist the temptation to ask the question: where did we go wrong? It is certainly not for want of human capital, because we once prided ourselves with the accolade of the "Athens of Education" in West Africa although today we lament how that has plummeted to such low levels that the young at school are not ashamed to think they have a Divine right to spy to pass public examinations and our public servants are equally busy embellishing the desks of their offices with Degrees and Diplomas, not properly earned, but purchased from non-accredited "Dominion" Colleges with high sounding names. So while Singapore was busy obtaining laurels and moving up the development ladder rapidly from a Third World classification to a First World, Sierra Leone has remained behind wallowing in abject poverty and deprivation and fighting with other countries and hoping for the crumbs to fall from the dinner tables of rich countries.

Honourable Members, with all the brilliant minds we have produced in this country, past and present, where really have we gone wrong? To answer this question, I will invite all of us present in this Well today to borrow a leaf from Singapore's enviable Book of Development. First, they gave the highest national priority to educating and training their people to the highest standard. They sent them to the best of the best colleges everywhere at home and abroad and they got them bonded on scholarships that obligated them to return and work for Singapore after graduation. The success of this scheme reached such a point that those who went to the United States, the country with the stiffest requirements in the world for a visa, relaxed their entry requirements for Singaporeans because no Singapore graduate wanted ever to remain permanently in America after graduation because the salaries waiting for them at home were much higher than they could earn in America.

Second, Honourable Members, Singapore challenged their citizens to imbibe a sense of patriotism that was second to none. Those who have studied with Singaporeans in

colleges abroad can testify to this. A student from Singapore aspires to nothing but a first class honours degree and the day he gets it he is on the next plane back to Singapore.

Third, Honourable Members, Singapore developed a culture of appointing to high office people of proven competence and leadership based on meritocracy. Nepotism and cronyism died the very day an independent Singapore was born and they have remained permanently in their graves to this day. Remember, Honourable Members, how serious this principle is respected in a country with such a small population that everybody virtually knows everybody else. Amazingly, this is a country where their development plans are tailored to run for decades and they are executed to the last detail and it matters not who or which political party is in power.

Fourth, Honourable Members, in Singapore, the culture of incorruptibility is second to none. Their leaders do not govern; they lead and they also peremptorily lead by example. The first Prime Minister, Lee Kwan Yew, was once accused of corruption by a British newspaper in England. What did he do? He sued the newspaper for defamation but interestingly he sued not in Singapore but in the British Courts and he won. That in itself speaks volumes about the character of the man.

Honourable Members, I narrate all this simply to demonstrate the essential ingredients which combined to produce the phenomenal economic development of Singapore. But it also points to another simple truth. Singapore has achieved its phenomenal development and growth over the last 60 years not by luck or happenstance, but rather through good and transformative leadership that is highly educated, locally-driven, focused, motivated, dedicated, purposeful and incorruptible. This is the new challenge facing us today in this Sixth Parliament and it confronts all of us equally regardless of party colour or affiliation. I invite all of us to emulate the good example that Singapore presents and it's not yet too late to do so. It may sound like a feat of serendipitous proportions but it's not impossible. Together we can do it and achieve it!

Honourable Members, with that, I thank you kindly and will now take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations and felicitations to all the new MPs of the

Parliamentary Leadership of the All Peoples Congress in this Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic. I thank you for your kind attention.

Honourable Members, I now ask for your endorsement of the leadership of the APC Party in Parliament as read out by me a little while ago.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Parliamentary Leadership of the APC has been adopted as presented]

HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS: Mr Speaker, I had a counter motion against.

THE SPEAKER: I will end on a very sad note unfortunately. With a very heavy heart it is one of those unpleasant duties that I have to do.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, you made our day because I do not want to say you made my day we on this side you made our day. The former Speaker of this House usually says to thyself be true. The speech you just delivered to this Well I must confess that you have really made our day. With your permission, please furnish us with copies of this particular speech. It will guide us in our future proceedings. We are humbly requesting whether soft or hard copies that every Member of Parliament ought to have a copy of this speech. That is my humble submission.

THE SPEAKER: In answer to your request, I hereby give a copy to the Clerks-At-The-Table and you will have the opportunity of reading it in the Votes and Proceedings at the next sitting of Parliament.

Honourable Members, let me now proceed with the sad message I have for you. I want to inform you officially of the death of the mother of one of our own, the Honourable Umu Pyne. Her mother Ndamba Sinnah died on Friday the 22nd September, 2023 at Kossoh Town, Jui. May I ask all of us to rise and observe a minute of silence in honour of the faithful departed. May God forgive her mistakes on earth and grant the soul of the faithful departed eternal rest in His Heavenly Kingdom. Amen. Shall we proceed?

V. BRIEFING BY THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

HON. PARAN U. TARAWALLY: Honourable Speaker, just to inform our brothers and sisters that on Monday at 10 a.m. we will be having a very solid meeting to plan their induction process. Since your brothers and sisters on this side have all gone through three weeks of the induction, we also want you to catch-up with them. So, we will meet on Monday and plan this induction. I thank you.

VI. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE HONOURABLE SEGEPOH S. THOMAS

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

HON. SENGEPOH S. THOMAS [*Deputy Speaker of Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your kind permission, may I respectfully lay on the Table of this House Audited Financial Statement of the Parliamentary Service for the year ended 31st December, 2022.

[B] **RTD COL AMB. ALHAJI FANDY TURAY ESQ** [*Minister of Transport and Aviation*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following Paper:

Rail and Port Lease Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and Kingho Railway and Port Company Limited.

Mr Speaker, before I lay this Paper, I want Honourable Members to note here that this Agreement took into cognisance the Tax and Duty Exemption Act of 2023, especially Sections 6 and 7. I thank you.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I rise on Section 97[b], in tandem with S.O. 25[1] of the Standing Orders to give notice of a Motion. Mr Speaker, you know very well that sometime last week or this week, tariffs have increased by about **70%** and for the information of the public, cumulatively we have seen Orange tariff being increased to about **500%** for mobile calls and Qcell is about **1460%**. As representatives of our people, I think it is but fitting that this House calls

the necessary authorities to answer relevant questions. This is just a notice of Motion and I will approach your office to officially give the Motion through the Office of the Clerk to do the needful. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Well, I do take note of your request and your promise to do the needful; and by the same token, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are meeting here on Thursday and very likely that we will have before us the 2024 Finance Bill that might very well address the concerns and issues that you seek to raise and it will be followed by the reading of the Budget on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

[This House rose at 2:50 p.m., and was adjourned to Thursday 9th November, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.]