



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**  
**SECOND SESSION -THIRD MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

*SESSION – 2019/2020*



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# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

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THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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

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

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

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**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

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

*[The Speaker, Hon. Chernor Abass Bundu 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 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, My statement yesterday has been thoroughly vindicated this morning as I observe the front seats to my left are empty. Honourable Dr. Kargbo, we shall adopt you as Acting Leader. *[Applause]* Honourable Members, on a more serious note, I think we should try to address this matter of lateness right across the aisle. We should try to address the question of lateness. Okay, shall we start today's Proceedings please!

Honourable Members, the Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. We shall as usual skip pages 1 to 4, and we shall start our observations, comments and amendments from page 5. Any observation or comment on Page 5? I notice that the Honourable Lahai Marah is not here, but I wish to draw his attention to Page 5. If I heard him correctly, I do not think he said what is recorded; he meant "in the near future" not "in the mere future". Page 6? Page 7? Page 8?

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Yes, Mr Speaker. On Page 8, in the last paragraph, "Leader of Government Business, Sidie M. Tunis from Constituency 101, Kenema District". It should not be "Kenema District" but "Pujehun district" Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is it Constituency 101 in Pujehun District. Thank you! Is there any other observation on Page 8? Page 9?

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** On Page 8 again Mr Speaker; "Bashiru Silikie of Constituency 082, Kailahun District." It should be "Bo District" not "Kailahun District."

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the Constituency number correct? Page 9? Page 10?, Page 11?

**HON. DR. ROLAND F. KARGBO:** Yes Mr Speaker, Page 11, item 5, I moved a motion which was carried for two recommendations contained in my plea to be granted. One is

captured and the other is not. The second recommendation was that, this Honourable House Orders the Minister of Finance to make immediate payment to the Water Company "SONTRAP WATER and LARICA INVESTMENT SIERRA LEONE LIMITED", the outstanding sum of LE6Bln which is still not paid. Without the payment of this money, of course the Company cannot continue with the Project even after the pipings and other aspect may have been completed. So, this Motion was carried but it is not captured here. I want it to be captured Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Will you please formulate it properly so the Clerks will have it please.

**HON. DR. ROLAND F. KARGBO:** On that day, I moved that this Honourable House considers giving an Order to the Minister of Finance to instruct Bolore' Company to release the 6 Forty -feet Containers of pipings to the Companies "**SONTRAP WATER and LARICA INVESTMENT SIERRA LEONE LIMITED**" so that they can carry out the work of completing the water supply at Blama. Secondly, that this Honourable House also orders the Minister of Finance to make immediate payment to the implementing Companies [SONTRAP WATER and LARICA INVESTMENT S/L Ltd.] the outstanding contract payment of **LE6Bln** so that the Company can carry out the completion of the Project. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** In case you are wondering, it is not a new Motion; it is a correction he is making. Page 12? Can somebody please move?

**HON. ALUSINE KANNEH:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** I so second Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Parliamentary Setting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 has been adopted as amended]*

### **III. PAPER LAID**

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House, the Report entitled; "The 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, First Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Aviation engagements with the Transport sectors during the 2018/2019 fiscal year" *[Applause]*

### **IV. BILL**

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION [NACSA] ACT 2019

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE]

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Hold on! Mr Chairman Legislative Committee, considering the fact that the Report has just been distributed to Members of Parliament, I will allow at least fifteen minutes for them to read the Report before we proceed. I was thinking of standing the House down, but I think that will give an excuse to certain people to leave their seats. So, I am kindly asking all of us to remain seated and to read the Report for fifteen minutes after which, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee would be called upon to present it.

**HON. DR. MAHMOUD M. KALOKOH:** Mr Chairman, I have an observation. The document circulated to us, if you go to the title, it is stated: "*THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT ACT, 2019*" and it should not be the document we are supposed to debate.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Mr Chairman, the correction will be done. The Committee Clerk was under tremendous pressure to an extent of working up till 3:00 p.m. this morning just to ensure that this document is before us. Therefore, let us please be reasonable as this is human error. Honourable Member, you have a point, it will be corrected.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** It is a computer cliché, that is all. It is one of those clichés that you cannot avoid in a computer. It will be corrected. Read it, I have given everybody fifteen minutes to read, so please read first.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO [Acting Leader of Opposition]:** Fifteen minutes just to read the wrong document?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [Leader of Government Business]:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, can we just do the correction now please! Instead of "*THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AMENDMENT ACT, 2019*", it should be: *THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION ACT, 2019.*" I thank you very much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** So, is the proper document before you now?

**HON. DR. MAHMOUD M. KALOKOH:** Thank you Honourable Leader of Government Business for the correction made.

*THE HOUSE WAS ADJOURNED FROM 10:25A.M AND RESUMES AT 10:45A.M*

*To allow Members to read the Report*

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Okay, Honourable Members, those of you who are not in your seats, please take your seats. The Fifteen minutes is up. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee, you have the Floor

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The Second Joint Committee Report of the Legislative Committee and Committee on National Commission for Social Action [NACSA-NGO]; Second Session for the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled: "*THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION [NACSA] ACT 2019*" presented to Parliament on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

### *INTRODUCTION*

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the joint Report of the Legislative Committee and the Committee on National Commission for Social Action [NACSA-NGO]; Second Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled; "The National Commission of Social Action Act, 2019; being an Act to



provide for the establishment of the National Commission for Social Action which shall be responsible for the promotion and implementation of community based sustainable social protection and development programmes and to provide for other related matters.”

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Bill having gone through the second reading was committed to the Legislative Committee for scrutiny pursuant to the Standing Order *S.O 5[1]* to be supported by the Committee on National Commission for Social Action [NACSA- NGO]. Subsequently, the Committee met on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 in Committee Room One, Parliament Building, Tower Hill, with the following objectives:

1. To scrutinise the detail provisions of the legislative proposals after the second reading in the House;
2. To ascertain the constitutional and legal implications contained therein; and
3. To report to Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders of this Honourable House

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the attendance consist of the Commissioner and officials of the National Commission for Social Action [NACSA] who made meaningful contributions.

### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee and Committee on National Commission for Social Action [NACSA-NGO] having scrutinised the Bill line by line and Clause by Clause, recommended the following amendments to the House for approval:

#### Part I. PRELIMINARY;

- On the definition of the word "*Board*", be amended by deleting the word "*Section 2*" and replace it with the word "*Section 3*".
- That from the definition of the word "Commission" to the word "President" be approved

Part II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION;

1. Clause 2 [1, 2 &3] be approved;
2. That sub clause 4 be amended by deleting the word "Vice;"
3. That Clause 3 be amended in sub clause 3 by deleting the words "on the advice of the Vice President;"
4. Clause 4, sub clause 1 be amended by deleting the words "two years" and replacing it with "three years;"
5. That Clause 5 be amended as follows:
  - [a] sub Clause 2 be amended by deleting the words "if present"
  - [b] Sub Clause 8 by deleting the words "for the decision by the Board" and replacing it with the words "of the Board"
6. That clause 6 be approved;
7. Clause 7 sub Clause 1 be deleted;
8. That Clause 8 be amended as follows:

[a1] The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration, fees and allowances proposed by the Board and approved by the President and shall be reimbursed by the Commission for expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their function.

[b2] Co-opted persons of the Board under sub Section 8 of Section 5 shall be paid such remunerations, fees and allowances approved by the Board and shall be reimbursed by the Commission for expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their function.

9. That Clause 9 be amended as follows:

[a] Sub Clause 1, Paragraph [A] be amended by deleting the words "as the case maybe"

[b] Paragraph [B] be amended to read: "in the case of a Member, the Chairman shall have another person appointed to the Board subject to this Act".

[c] Sub Clause 2 be amended by deleting the words "as the case maybe"

Part III. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION;

1. Clause 10 be approved

Part IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION;

1. Clauses 11, 12, 13 & 14 be approved;
2. Clause 15 be deleted;
3. Clause 16 Sub Clause 3 be amended by deleting the word "Minister" and replacing it with the words "Office of the President;" and
4. That Clause 17 be approved

Part V. FINANCIAL PROVISION;

1. That Clauses 18, 19 & 20 be approved;
2. Clause 21 be amended as follows:
  - [a] Sub Clause 1 by deleting the word "Vice"
  - [b] sub Clause 2 by deleting the word "*they*" before the word "Minister" and replacing it with the word "a" and by also deleting the word "Vice"

Part VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS;

1. Clause 22 be approved
2. That a new Clause be inserted to read; "Clause 23[1 & 2] as follows: [1] the following enactments are hereby repealed:

[A] The National Commission for Social Action Act 2001.

[B] The National Commission for Social Action amendment Act 2015.

[2] Notwithstanding, Sub Section 1, Section 2 of the National Commission for Social Action amendment Act 2015 shall continue in operation until its expiration or its expressed repeal or revocation or cancellation."

Part VII. CONCLUSION;

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee and the National Commission for Social Action [NACSA-NGO] having scrutinised the Bill entitled; "the National Commission for Social Action Act 2019, recommend these proposals to the House for approval. The Report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee. I therefore move that the House pass the Bill entitled; "THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION ACT 2019" having gone through Committee Stage, Third Reading and into Law. Thank you, Mr Chairman *[Applause]*.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI [Minister of Planning and Economic Development]** : Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts 1, 2 & 3, Clauses 1 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, Part 2, 3 of the Report i.e. part 2 [4]; *"the Office of the Vice President shall have Oversight over the activities of the Commission."* As we have seen in the Report that has been removed.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, NACSA is a multi-stakeholder Institution comprising of MDAs, Paramount Chiefs, Civil Society etc. In the wisdom of Cabinet, they thought it was necessary to have a superior Office to supervise NACSA because that was the only way that, the superior Office of the Honourable Vice President can be able to bring all of those players together. You are not going to have the Minister of Labour calling on Minister of Development and others to come together. And this has proven very well as the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit[ MCCU], the Public Private Partnership [PPP] and Sierra Leone Extractive Industry and Transparency Initiative [SLETI] are now under the Office of the Vice President.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, His Excellency the President, Retired Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio is very much determined to decongest State House by giving substantial responsibilities to the Vice President. His Excellency is moving the Office of the Vice President from the traditional role of a mere support staff to a more robust role

by handing over key Agencies to the Office of the Vice President. Considering the strategic role that the Vice President has been playing in the Inter-Ministerial Committee [IMC], Local Government and the Decentralization, the Disaster Platform, the Inter-agency Platform for Social Protection and the MCCU, His Excellency has decided to add NACSA to his range of supervision portfolio.

Mr Chairman, Honourable members, in that regard, I am calling on all Honourable Members of this Honourable House to accept the designation of the Office of the Vice President and that of the Vice President as indicated in this Bill. I thank you very much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Leader of Government Business for his contribution. I will like to recognise the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, there is one thing that is very clear; we have a President and if we have a President he has the right to create offices which are even not within the constitutional realm, but people who can help facilitate or make job easier, that we know. This case in point here, we have the Office of the Chief Minister, it is not constitutional, but it is acceptable. And if the President thinks that some of His duties must be assigned to the Office of the Vice President, I do not think we have a reason to question such an arrangement [*Applause*]. I do not think we have it. We are here to make laws that are supposed to stand the test of time. If the Chief Executive thinks that he cannot handle all of these, because of the fact that the Vice President can also help in delivering his Agenda, it is fine. Mind you, he was voted for, because it was a ticket of the President and his Running Mate [*Applause*].

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the President is very much aware that there is a Vice President and issues that are to be dealt with by the Vice President can only be assigned to him by the President. Do we want to maintain a non-functional Vice President? No! So, if the President thinks that the Vice President must perform this role, let us accept it as he is the head of the Executive [*Applause*]. And by the way, for people who might not be aware, let us know that the Vice President's Office is an extension of the President's Office. The security details in the Vice President's Office are

run from the President's Office. So, he is still in control and there is reason for him to report to him on regular basis. That is how the structure is. So, I do not know why we must insist on just the name. The Vice Presidency is an extension of the Presidency. So, I think we must look at it and leave it like that.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, another item that I raised, but may give in to the Committee is that, the commissioners must determine their salaries and emolument. I think, if I may give in, I said it earlier but I have to be convinced, if not I have to raise the issues again. Why I am not convince and I think that is the essence of Debate to talk and bring issues of such nature...*[Interrupted]*

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, can we finish Clause 4?

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Chairman, in that vein, I want to ask that we leave it like that, because it will not change anything in terms of authority, power and in terms of organisation. I thank you very much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members, I do not want anyone to be under any illusion here. The part of the Bill that you are now debating and the Question that I have put is that parts 1, 2 and 3 Clauses 1 to 10 stand part of the Bill is that of number One. I cannot pretend, I did not hear somebody suggesting that we restrict the Debate to a particular part for now. You can range the Debate over that because that is the question that is before the House.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Honourable Members, I must apologise; I was not here for the pre-legislative, but I have looked through the recommendations. Mr Chairman, I would love to add my voice to that of my Leader. Mr Chairman, the Office of the Vice President is a very important Office and the Office of the President is a very busy Office. Even as Members of Parliament, sometimes we find it extremely difficult to cope with work. In most parts of Africa, the Vice President is left to act only when the President is absent. For me, that is not a good thing Mr Chairman. Because of the volume of work that the President has to go through on daily bases and he is human, considering that our Country is very poor and we have to do a lot of work to improve the life of Sierra Leoneans, I endorse this proposal.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the fact that the President and the Vice President are paid from the Tax Payers' money, the Vice President should be seeing working. Constitutionally, the Vice President is the Principal assistant to the President. So, if the cabinet thinks that it is proper or the President thinks, it is proper that he shares his responsibilities with the Vice President that is a good thing. We have nothing to lose; what we are going to benefit is high efficiency in work delivery. For most people, the Vice President is just in Office as a ceremonial head. If the President promised to change the living conditions of Sierra Leoneans, if the President promised to bring change, I have always said it in this House that he {President} cannot do it alone, he need a strong team and strong institutions to make him succeed. For me, it is a good thing that some of these provisions are giving more responsibilities to the Vice President. If a function is not delegated, then it becomes nobody's business. But if the Vice President knows that he has to perform A, B and C, then he has to report to the President, that is a good thing.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I agree that there are certain duties that we have to adjust. For example, *"the Commissioners fees and their salaries with the approval of the Vice President"*, that could be dangerous. We have to look at it. For me, with all respect to the Committees that made these proposals, you have done a very good work, but I want to advise this House that, we do not go by this recommendation.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Chairman, Point of Order!

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Chairman, I am giving my opinion not the opinion of anybody.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You have my fullest protection.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. For me, there are very good recommendations in this proposal, but I see these recommendations reducing the duty of the Vice President as proposed in this Bill. I think some of those responsibilities giving to the Vice President should stay, I agree that we should do some changes, but Mr Chairman, we should not have a Vice President that would just sit down and only

work when the President is not around. The President has thought it fit that he should dedicate some of his responsibilities to the Vice President. I think that is a good idea Mr Chairman. Let us go Clause by Clause to do the amendment that is my honest opinion. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Honourable Member. I will now recognise the Chief Whip of the House.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to toe the line of the three previous speakers. For long time, the Office of the Vice President in this Country has been a lame duck's Office. We now have a President that is determined to make sure that the Vice President whom we all voted for is functional. Like my colleague on the order side said, the Office of the President is so busy that he will not be able to handle everything. So regarding or relating to NACSA's activities, it is covering a whole lot of Ministries. And the President is not all the time free to call other Ministers to address those issues and I believe that the Vice President is not as busy as the President. Therefore, he {Vice President} will be in the position to call meetings for Ministers that have something to do with NACSA.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, very recently, I am sure the President has made the announcement that this Country has passed the Millennium Challenge Cooperation [MCC]. We are now about to go for the compact which I am sure we will pass. The Vice President has been very supportive of that, we are where we are today because he was more or less in charge of the Millennium Challenge Cooperation [MCC].

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, like my colleague on the other side said, I want to beg this House that, as Parliament, let us start giving responsibilities to our Vice President. Let us make that Office very busy. Like the Whip on the other side said, they are going to be paid out of our Tax payers' money. So it is high time we start giving them responsibilities. Let us make history as Parliament to say yes, it was during the Speakership of Dr. Abass Bundu, the Deputy Leadership of Honourable I.B Kargbo that the Office of the Vice President started getting the moral that it is supposed to get.



Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I therefore submit that we leave it as it is. Let us give that responsibility to the Vice President and let us leave it as it is in the Bill. When this type of Institution is under the Office of the Vice President, most of us Parliamentarians will have easy access to that Office than the Office of the President. Because it is not that the President may not want to see us every day, but because He is so busy to an extent that he cannot accommodate all of us every day. But I am sure, the Office of the Vice President will be able to accommodate us at any given time.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, therefore, I want to appeal that we leave this particular Agency under the Office of the Vice President. I thank you very much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Honourable Chief Whip of the House. I recognise the Honourable Lahai Marah.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I hold a different view on this motion. I do not know what is wrong or what are we trying to achieve? Are we trying to limit the functions of the President or that of the Vice President? Or is the Vice President afraid of the Chief Minister?

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the President has Supreme Executive Powers. Why are we limiting the functions of the President or the Vice President in a manner of including it in a Bill? There is an internal arrangement or there will be an internal arrangement between the President and the Vice President in which they would agree that the Vice President takes care of this or these MDAs, for Vice President to be reporting to him [President]. Who can go against that one? Why do we have to place it in a Bill in the first place? The Minister is here, what is happening to the New Direction? We are trying to take the responsibility of the Minister of Economic and Development Planning and transfer it to that of the Vice President? I am not against it, but it can be done in another direction wherein through an understanding between the President and the Vice President. The President would assign some of His responsibilities to the Vice President by saying, you take care of this or these MDAs, that would be an internal arrangement. But we do not have to place that in a Bill.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Leader cited some MDAs that, those MDAs are presently within the purview of the Vice President, but it is not stated in various Acts that, the Vice President should supervise them. It is not there, but they are under the control and purview of the Vice President. To me, we should not create a law that will be very difficult for us to understand. We have the Minister of Economic and Development Planning here presenting this Bill to us, the Vice President will not be coming to Parliament to present the Bill. So let us be direct and straight forward. Mr Chairman, let the Minister take up his responsibilities. If there is any confusion in the New Direction Administration, it should not be reflected in our Law books for God's sake please *[Applause]*. You have to manage it internally. If there is anything wrong in the New Direction Administration, why do you have to bring it in a form of a Bill for it to be passed in this House? Mr Chairman, I am neither against my boss nor my Leader, I am trying to state a different opinion that, we should not divert the rule of the game in the middle of the game. The law is the law, there are procedures informing the law, let us allow the Minister to take up his responsibilities. This is about development; let it be under the purview of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and an arrangement between His Excellency the President, Dr Julius Maada Bio and that of the Vice President. The President will give instruction to the Minister of Planning and Economic Development for him to be reporting to the Vice President that can be done. Why do we have to place it in a Bill Mr Chairman? That is my submission.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I believe we do not want to create controversy over this particular Clause. It is not a wishy-washy business; this is really to give the force of law to the Vice President. It is not about to go and do an internal arrangement, because it does not have any force of law. They would just say Mr Vice President, you perform certain role and that has no force of law. But because we want to change the narrative, that is why we have said, let us make it a business of enshrining it in this particular Bill.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I followed the debate of the Chief Whip of the Opposition. He has said it all that, gone are those days when we would just look at the

Office of the Vice President to say, Mr Vice President, you just do this. For certain reasons, there are constitutional rights given to the Vice President which are Acts of Parliament. So, I believe it is not anything about eroding the powers of the Presidency. Because our constitutional mandate is to make laws and the President is part of Parliament. So, for me, I believe it is for us to make it has the force of law, so it can become Oversight function of the Vice President. The Minister sitting here, everybody knows he is a Development expert; the one who headed the National Commission for Resettlement Reintegration and Rehabilitation [NCRRR], the Demobilisation and the Resettlement structures, he was in charge of those. So, Mr Chairman, I believe, this is an Oversight powers to be given to the Vice President. With your leave Mr Chairman, let me read, perhaps we can get it clear because they have just said in the Report that, we are deleting but let me read Clause 4 of Page 3; *"The Office of the Vice President shall have oversight over the activities of the Commission."* It is just an Oversight role given to the Vice President, but if you look at the role of the Ministry, you would realise that, the Ministry is really a Policy carrier. So, because you are dealing with so many different entities of NACSA, you should have somebody to come in with heavy weight like the Vice President to help the Minister in an oversight role. They are not saying the Vice President is coming to enforce policies; they are just saying, it is an Oversight role he will be performing. I think it is just a matter of semantics. Policies are to be carried by the Office of the Minister and that of the Oversight functions to be performed by the Vice President. There is no conflict there and there is no confusion at all. So, that is why I said, we are not doing any wishy-washy business. We really want to do the real thing that anything we do, we want to ensure it carries the force of law. Mr Chairman, this is my submission. I thank you!

**MR CHAIRMAN:** A very good one, but let us remember there is a line of demarcation between Oversight and Supervision. I recognise the Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, sometimes it is difficult to speak when people you respect so much in this House have made statement and commitments on certain policies and roles. But again,

as young Members of Parliament, we are not just here to contribute, but also to learn procedures and practices. Some of these practices we are imbibing now have the tendency not just to make bad leaders, but to make bad representatives in this House. Yesterday, as Members of Parliament, we spent a long time, we deliberated so much and we had a vote on this matter and the vote spoke so clearly. Almost 14 Members present, only 2 voted in favour of the Vice President to oversee NACSA and 11 voted against. In fact, technically with the advice of the Chairman of the Legislative Council, we did not limit the role of the President, the word is; "under the Office of the Presidency," I think for clarity sake, the Vice President is also under the Office of the President. What we are guided on was, we have not seen a law in this land, a Bill that has ever been taken to this Parliament that carries the inscription: "Office of the Vice President." If there is one, let the leaders here present it to this House and some of us joyfully will join them. As we said, this is a New Direction, but that does not mean we should go new way of questionable characters. We are saying here that, if there is one example as stated, we know there are certain commissions, Agencies that are sent under the Office of the Vice President. But in their Bills and in their Acts, it is clearly stated that, they should report to the President. And as our Chief Whip here in the Opposition said that, the Office of the President is overloaded, we agree and that is why the President is been given the mandate to create Offices. Under the Office of the President, you also have the Office of the Chief Minister. You have many other offices around him including that of the Office of the Vice President. For internal arrangement, there is nothing wrong for the President to say, because of A,B,C and D as they have stated already in the Cabinet conclusion, which the Leader of Government Business has quoted, then we would say it is good i.e. internally still the Vice President reports to the President on these. Let us not forget as Members of Parliament, we are here to perform three roles which are Oversight, Law making and Representation. But the fourth and unnoticed role is a burden on most Members of Parliament which is the Development role and that is what NACSA seeks to take from us. So, we must be careful when we make laws that would affect us.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, Point of Order! My Point of Order is 34, which is in connection with development role. There is nowhere enshrined in our Law books that Members of Parliament should adhere to development role. That is the problem we are having Mr Chairman with our constituents to say, we are in charge of development. We are not! Honourable Member, you highlighted the three main functions of Parliament, which are Oversight, Law making and to Representation. You were right there, but to say we are in charge of development, I beg to differ. We are usurping the powers of other institutions and we need to clarify that Mr Chairman. That is my Point of Order, Mr Chairman. Thank you!

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** The unseen responsibility is that which has to do with development and whether we like it or not, development is an unseen responsibility. So I think he is right Mr Chairman.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman that is the reason we make laws. When you make law, you give the force of law to do development that is an indirect way to do development. The power giving to NACSA is to carry on with development; go back and read the NACSA Act, that is the spirit to be in charge of development and that is the reason we have an expert. How can you say Members of Parliament unseeing role is 'development'? This is the reason our constituents are misunderstanding us Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I therefore submit my case that, I do not agree with my Leader on the other side.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Chairman, fortunately for me, I attended the school where people have been transformed from ordinary men to human beings of standards and that is the Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School. I said, the perceived role of Honourable Members. I want to see a Member of Parliament in this Well who has not been charged for a certain development that is supposed to be in his Community even though it is not his/her role *[Applause]*. The other day, I saw my brother on the other side, the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh in Lumley, he is not supposed to make roads, but that is the need of his people and he is been bothered to do that. So I also saw my elder brother here, the Honourable Kandeh Yumkellah is always been pressured

to do more for his people, that is a burden on us as Members of Parliament. I know the Deputy Leader on the other side knows better than I do. But I know for argument sake, he is trying to make certain things unclear to people, but I am saying NACSA is going to take the burden of building schools in our constituencies. I come from a Constituency with no Secondary School.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** As the old adage goes, "Perception can be sometimes greater than the reality".

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. So, we are saying....[interruption]

**MR CHAIRMAN:** But please, I know the debate is taking a certain trend. There is more than Clause 2[4] before the House, but it seems all the speakers who have taken the Floor so far have simply narrow their focus to clause 2[4]. There are even more important and more controversial clauses that are before you for consideration. So, I hope the debate will range beyond just the content of clause 2[4] to incorporate and capture what is being suggested for the other clauses. You may continue!

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Every bill that come to this Parliament and sent to the Legislative Committee always has a bottle neck. When we were dealing with the Anti-Corruption Commission Amendment Act, the bottle neck was the power to cancel transactions. For this one, it is the power of the Vice President over that of the Office of the President, there is a bottle neck and we spent so much time on this yesterday.

Mr Chairman, I still stand on the position of yesterday, which we all voted for. Some of us who had the time, some of us who know the role of NACSA and some of us who do believe our input were needed voted against that clause yesterday.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Do not get confuse, this is the Committee of the Whole House, that is now with the Report.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** I agree Mr Chairman.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** So, please!

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Chairman, I am building my premises based on what we agreed on Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Whatever you may have agreed or disagreed on, this is another body, the bigger body, so bear that in mind please.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. So, we are saying, let it be, "the Office of the Vice President." Mr Chairman, another burning issue is the composition of this Board. Mr Chairman, as we are all Sierra Leoneans, we have seen in Sierra Leone, we have seen situations in which even yourself have intervened in issues of Boards strangulating commissioners and chairmen from doing their due diligence to their duties. And in situations where you have the Board going against the Chairman or the Commissioner, the tendency for that Commissioner to perform his role excellently to deliver is very much slim. Mr Chairman, when you look at the composition of this Board, it is ten, which is very much unusual to have ten Board Members in an institution. We know of boards to have 7, 11 and 13 Members. If there is a disagreement there, it is always going to be a vote, but this Board of ten is faulty and uneven. Again, Mr Chairman, out of that entire Board, the Chairman is not inclusive according to the Bill. We have now, out of this ten, only one person is going to be a direct nominee of the President apart from the Paramount Chief. You have the Secretary to the Vice President, the Financial Secretary, the Development Secretary, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Local Government and the Chief Social Development Officer all of these ones are civil servants and they have tremendous role to play in their Ministries.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if the President who is the fountain of honour, we have more experts in Sierra Leone who are not Permanent Secretaries, who are not civil servants and I know in the wisdom of the President, he has so much range of curriculum vitae [CVs] laid in front of him. So if we are giving him the audacity, we are giving him the mandate to oversee this Institution, let us also give him the opportunity to have a Board that will be directly answerable to him.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, yesterday, one of the arguments I made was in a situation wherein you have a Permanent Secretary and the code of Civil Service is enormous, very much hard to interpret, they may punish one person by saying you were in this ministry, but because of A, B, C and D, we are transferring you to another ministry. If that person has questionable character, if he/she goes to another ministry but serves in that Board, he is not coming because he is Mr Kamara, but because of the Office he is representing. So, my position yesterday was very clear and today again, I want to say let us remove these Civil servants from this Board entirely and give the President the authority to choose competent Sierra Leoneans to serve in the Board. I know there are people who are not Permanent Secretaries but they are competent enough to serve. Before now, the Minister sitting in front of us had never been a civil servant, but he is a development expert. I know there are many more Sierra Leoneans like him. So let us give them the opportunity to come to the limelight and serve Sierra Leone better. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, I just want to make a quick reference to my colleague Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara. I want to agree with him in some ways, with the exception of the point on the Secretary to Vice President who is actually providing supervisory role over NACSA. I believe we should give President the opportunity to appoint Board Members. So, in a way I agree with him. Thank you.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank both the Leader of Government Business for his observation and the Honourable Abdul K. Kamara's observation. Honourable Members, this is a very important provision that has been touched on. It heavily relies on civil servants and to my knowledge, it is an attempt to turn NACSA into a Civil Service entity, which should not be. Civil servants by their calling, by their discipline and by their profession are politically neutral servants of the people. We are now transforming them, so to speak, from that sacred realm into the realm of making policy and this is in fact confirmed when you look at Clause 23. Part of the functions of the Board will be to make policies. Is that the role of a Civil Servant?



**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No, Mr Chairman. So, in that light, we want to make an amendment Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Let the debate continues. I recognise the Honourable Kandeh Yumkella.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Thank you Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I realized that Honourable Dickson tried to rope you into this debate, by recognizing that your legacy in the Parliament will be looked at in the future. I want to appeal to that too! In this House, may be only four of us have been Ministers, yourself, I, and the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo, and the Honourable Mohamed Bangura. So, I am persuaded, I was not in the Committee, but I listened to arguments and Mr Chairman that is why we are intellectuals too, by having a very good listening ability. So, I listened to the substance today and I have to agree with those who questioned this Bill. Why is this Act specifying this Institution to be in the Office of the Vice President? You and I have been Ministers together; the President can ask the Vice President to supervise any entity. Why do you need to enshrine it in this Bill?

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, secondly, are we setting a precedent wherein the Guma Valley will suddenly also bring a Bill that, they want to be under the Office of the Vice President [*Applause*]? The National Revenue Authority [NRA] will bring a Bill to say they want to be under the Office of the Vice President? Do not do something that is not necessary. If the President wants his Vice President to supervise the MCC, he would call him and say, take it over [*Applause*]. Why do you need to put it in this Bill? I believe we are creating a problem here. Last week, Honourable Emerson Lamina gave us one example and I have several others. He said, there was a situation in the last Government where the head of NRA refused to take instructions from the Minister of Finance.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Kandeh Yumkella has the Floor and no one else. The undertones are getting louder than the overtones.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Apart from that Mr Chairman, people like us come here, we know we are educated, but we listen, because we want to learn always. So, we are appealing to our colleagues that, when you do undertones let it not be the dominant issue over the debate. Debates are meant for us to learn, because what we are doing has implications. Honourable Emerson, I am learning from you guys.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Point of Order Mr Chairman! Who do you call guys? Mr Chairman, I do not understand who the Honourable Member is referring to as 'guys'.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** It is a slip of tongue.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Nyuma, I stand to be corrected, "You guys" *S.O. 2*. The Honourable Emerson gave us an example of a situation where the NRA Boss refused to take policy instructions from the Minister of Finance. There is another case wherein the head of the Road Maintenance Fund Administration refused to take policy guidance from the Minister of Works and there was nothing enshrined about that where the authority should come from except from it supervisory Ministry. I do not see why NACSA should be under the Office of the Vice President in a law. Give the responsibility to the Minister to do his job [*Applause*]. The President can say yes Mr Vice President supervise this particular MDA. I was in Nigeria as United Nations [UN] Representative where Atiku Abubakar was in charge of Privatization; he was in charge of Federal Territory and so on. So, the President is free to delegate whatever responsibility to his Vice President.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You know, we are all intellectuals as you rightly said. Maybe, let us do a teaser; in whom is Executive Authority vested?

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr President.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** So, from whom does Executive functions and responsibility flow?

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr President and his Ministers.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Bear that in mind in your contribution please!

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** For that reason, let us do not begin to undermine the Minister. Let the Minister be in charge of NACSA.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** That does not mean we are circumscribing the Executive Authority of the President.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** So, I side those who argued that the Vice President should not have a direct supervisory role in a bill like this.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, my second point is that, I agree with your argument and Honourable AKK's argument about the Board. This is supposed to be the entity that will provide social protection and this is the entity that is supposed to take development to the grassroots. We need people who know what to do in the Board. There are NGOs in this Country, Civil Society groups that are experts in Development. Let us give Mr President the freedom to constitute for us a Board that knows Development. You take somebody who is a Civil Servant and maybe he/she studied Literature and has been in that role of drafting documents, they are not Development experts on the ground. So, I agree with you Sir! Mr Chairman, the composition of this Board is not good. In my view, in fact, it should be dominated by Development experts and NGOs with 2 or 3 people from Government that are there to present the Government's view. Because already, the Minister as Supervisor of Development Cooperation will be in charge of this, but do not start a precedent where parastatals cunningly will begin to hide under bills to avoid ministerial supervisions by saying, we want to be under a particular Minister, that is going to create problems for the future. We are not here to create bills for convenience for today; we are creating institutions for the future and to stand the test of time. Thank you Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I believe the Honourable Member was not here when I made a presentation, but let me just repeat what I said earlier on Honourable Member before you came in. It is the decision of His Excellency the President to decongest State House. From all what I can see from your contribution,

you are still in the traditional days and you are still taking the Constitution to the traditional role of the Honourable Vice President. My dear Honourable Member that is no longer going to be the case. His Excellency the President, Rtd. Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio intends and is determined to make the Office of the Vice President very robust... [*Interrupted*].

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Point of correction, I was here when you made the point. So, I do rebut Sir!

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** No, I will not give you the opportunity now, maybe later. I have to give you the go ahead. Thank you very much. Mr Leader of the National Grand Coalition [NGC], my submission is that, the Honourable Vice President, apart from NACSA that you are referring to, has done extremely well with regards to the MCC, Public Private Partnership [PPP] and SLEATI. So, President is simply now saying directly and by Law that, Mr Vice President, I want you to take control and supervise NACSA. So, I do not want to see us as Members of Parliament challenging the Executive Authority of His Excellency the President.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, I think I deserve a rebutter.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I will give you the opportunity.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** The argument the Leader of Government Business raised is totally fallacious. There is no way we would reject Mr President's decision to create an Office. We know he has the Executive Authority. All the other institutions you mentioned about the good performance of the Vice President, he did not come here with a bill because he has the power already to assign supervisory role of any kind to Mr Vice President and that is what he has done. If you want a new direction for the Office of the Vice President, bring us a bill for the Office of the Vice President, if you really want to do it for perpetuity. What you are doing now is Cafeteria Policy. You pick and choose, then you do ad hoc. If you want to reform the Office of the Vice President, from one of just deputizing to one of Substantive Executive Power,

give us a bill, bring a bill here and *[Applause]* let us debate the Office of the Vice President.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, again, I count on my Honourable Leader of NGC that, it is very clear as you have given from your explanation that the President has the authority to even bring a bill concerning the Office of the Vice President. So, if the President in his wisdom has decided to bring a bill or has decided to authorise to this effect, why should we challenge it? You are in other words confusing yourself Honourable Member.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA [DR]:** No, I am very consistent! You said you want to empower the Office of the Vice President, bring a bill here and let us debate it. You are setting a precedent to create a problem for the future administration.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman Point of Order Sir.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Perhaps Honourable Dr. Yumkella is missing the point Sir. Mr Chairman, the President is the Chairman of Cabinet and this Bill is coming from Cabinet, meaning it has the approval and the blessings of the very President he is referring to. This Bill has a Cabinet conclusion and in that conclusion, it is stated that the Vice President should be head of NACSA. So what are we saying? It is from Cabinet and the President is the Chairman of the Cabinet, which means the President has approved the Vice President to be head of NACSA.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, *S.O 32 [10]* is saying, you cannot use the President's name in a debate. Look at the Standing Orders of Page 55 No. 10.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You have all been guilty of that.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, *S.O 32 [10]* is saying, "The President's name shall not be used to influence the House."

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You have all been guilty of that.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman!

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members, on a more serious note, the Honourable Kandeh raised a very important point of principle, but let me assure you, under the structure of our Constitution, the powers of the President are untrammelled except in one respect and that is in Section 156. He cannot make any other person Chairman of the Police Council other than what is prescribed in this Constitution. And you know, that is the only function, substantive function given to the Vice President by our Constitution. So, to make the Vice President more functional and effective [*Undertone*] one other argument to yours, is what this provision is saying, it is **exabundantica-teller** just to make the point absolutely clearer this time. That is why it is expressly stated that the Oversight responsibility of this organ shall go to the Vice President simple. It is not superfluous.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I want to start with the Constitution. In my presentation, I did say, we are doing it for it to carry the force of law. So, I will read Section 61 of the Constitution to buttress what you have said Mr Chairman. Section 61: "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of any Act of Parliament, the President may constitute offices for Sierra Leone, make appointment to any such office and terminate any such appointment." Mr Chairman, I think the President has not acted in any ways ultra-vires concerning what we are doing. I do not know if the Honourable Yumkella with all due respect to him was talking about fallacious which I do not understand what does that mean but we are making a law; this is a Bill we have in front of us. So, we are not doing it outside of the realm of making laws, we are doing it within the ambit of the Bill and how do you make laws? We are at the Committee stage, so we are now trying to insert that, we have the Office of the Vice President to perform such function.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Save the powers of this Parliament to supplement the Provisions of 156.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you Mr Chairman.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** When the Bill was first introduced here a few days ago, it was very clear to me that the Minister in charge of Development in this Country

was here in this Well and my thinking at the time was that his presence here will be utilized for us to properly understand this new thinking and this new Bill we are talking about. It is almost becoming embarrassing that we are discussing Development and discussing the outcome of a Committee Meeting without us stating what we think would be the function and the role of the Minister who was appointed by the President for purposes of Development but what I want to state Mr Chairman is the fact that we on this side, the majority of us on this side, agreed with the Bill and we wanted the process to continue except that the majority of people who did not want it to continue are the ones on that side who are now creating problems again. You stated exactly what you were against that day. So, Mr Chairman, on this side, we agreed that the Vice President could have a role or function to play but at the same time we also made it clear on this side that we have nothing against him playing that role except that some people from that other side were against that.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You also have Honourable Lahai Marrah toeing the line that is different from yours. Anyway, you can continue.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Chairman, Lahai Marrah's presence here is noted and we on this side have allowed our own young Politicians to learn to Debate, I will allow him to learn to Debate but Mr Speaker, the point here is that, I see no difficulty in us allowing the President to appoint people to perform certain functions of the State. This is not the first time [*Undertone*]. Mr Chairman, you were here in this Country, I do not know whether you were still in London when President Stevens appointed his Vice President as prime Minister as well. The position of Prime Minister was not part of the original organogram of the State but S. I. Koroma who was the Vice President was also Appointed Prime Minister.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, what I am stating is that, this whole idea of NACSA is being misunderstood. We all came here and we decided that; the whole concept of NACSA should be converted into a Ministry so that it can become more functional. It was a good idea and that was our Debate and our argument. We saw it as a Relief Organization that will bring Development to this Country until 2 or 3 people on the

other side decided that they wanted to go to the Committee Room. Mr Chairman, what I am stating is that, we on this side would continue to hold the view that, it has made sense and the President has made sense by creating this NACSA Ministry for the purpose of developing this Country. I do not really care as to whether the Vice President is liked by some people or not, if he is the Vice President today so be it but the fact of the matter [*Applause*] is that, the appointment of somebody to supervise a Government Business is within the rules and the role of the Presidency of this Country.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we on this side will continue to hold on to this view that we want Development in this Country. Mr Chairman, at one time, may I remind you Sir that I was Chairman of the NACSA Committee and I know the need for us to develop that institution. So, as far as we are concern, my own people have made the point; we hold the view that there is nothing absolutely wrong in us creating an Office for the purpose of developing NACSA. Thank you very much.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** With respect to all the Honourable Members to my left, your Leader has spoken. You have a point there [*Undertone*]. Take your seats Honourable Members. Honourable Sellu, you have the Floor.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to thank you for giving me the Floor and I want to thank the two Committees both the Legislative, the NACSA-NGOs Committee and other colleagues who joined us at the pre-legislative hearing in Committee Room One to vet out this Bill yesterday. The Debate is really interesting and it is taking the momentum that we were all expecting as Members of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, one thing I want to make very clear is that, yesterday, indeed, this was a controversial issue. We debated it very seriously and we are here again, but having listened to the Leader of Government Business on our side, we on this side are in total support or the entire House is in total support of the Vice President providing a supervisory role to NACSA as a Commission. Actually, some of us did not vote for the Provision of that particular role to go to the Presidency, but to stay with the Vice President. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara and I had some chat around



this issue outside of the Well but he has taking that position again. I want to join my Leaders who have spoken in support of this and I want to plead and talk to all Colleagues in the House to support this Bill. We should bear in mind that shifting this responsibility to a Ministry or to decongest the President's Office is key and if the President has thought it fit to relinquish this particular function to his Vice President who by extension steps in whenever he [President] is not around. So, let us please allow this particular Clause to remain as it is.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to comment on the composition of the Board. I totally agree with Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, who said that we should allow the President to have the total volition of nominating members to the Board. We want to really see a good composition of this Board. With the exception of the Paramount Chiefs, the head of Civil Society and also for me, because NACSA is 95% donor driven, I want us to look at this because some projects from NACSA or from the donors, they do normal request for a matching fund and if we have the Financial Secretary sitting on that Board, I think he would take the message for those matching funds since he is the Principal custodian, the technocrat of the Ministry of Finance. He been on that Board to me is something that we have to give support to because he is the Principal technocrat of the Ministry of Finance. So he should be on that Board. We should give the President the free will to nominate Board Members for parliamentary approval.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, maybe the other issue I want to look at in terms of the Board composition is the inclusion of the Permanent Secretary responsible for Labour and Social Security. Since NACSA is also charge with the responsibility of looking at social protection, I think we should maintain those two officials from those Ministries. It is my view and opinion as the Chairman of the NACSA-NGOs Committee.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, I want to implore my colleagues to support this Bill and pass it into law. We know what NACSA is capable of doing and the indelible development strives it has for this Country. NACSA is operating

in all districts of Sierra Leone. So, I think for us Honourable Members, we should not be looking at this Bill as a controversial Bill, but to support it, because it is trying to decongest State House. On that note, I thank you all.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank you for your contribution. I will take one lady and then we round up the Debate on this particular issue. If you know you are a lady, then by all means stand up.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA 111:** Mr Chairman, point of observation! We the Paramount chiefs have not spoken Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** You have not tried to catch my eye Honourable Paramount Chief.

**HON. P.C BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA 111:** I tried Sir.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** No, there are many more Clauses ahead, do not worry. The lady has the Floor. No observation is allowed, the lady has the Floor. You want to raise the decibels higher? You are free to do so. You have not got my eye. Would you please take your seat? Take your seat, the lady has the Floor.

**HON. EMILIA L. TONGI:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I think these gentlemen have actually monopolised the whole Well throughout this debate. However, I am thankful that am rounding up the Debate.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as we all know NACSA actually had its first Act in 2008 and today in 2019, they have requested a permanent status. NACSA is being actually financed by donors because they have confidence in it. NACSA is doing a very great job in this Country. It is financed by the Islamic Development Bank [IDB], German Corporation for International Cooperation [GIZ], because they have confidence in it and I am happy NACSA is still in existence in this Country. It was meant to be a temporal Institution, but based on its importance it is now permanent.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the functions of NACSA which I believe the Chairman did not look at. According to my own findings, when you look at Part 3 "*Functions of the Commission*", it reads: "*implement programmes for combating*

*irregular migration through Sierra Leone*". Do we need that? The answer is No. "Implement operational aspect of protection and assistance to Refugees." Do we have them? the answer is No. "Coordinate activities of Humanitarian Organization, engage in war reparation and provide guidelines for such activities". Do we have it? The answer is No. So, why do they still exist? Are we anticipating another war in the near future? The answer is No! So, I believe that, we should take them off because they are not necessary.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, finally, my one million question is this, If NACSA is doing excellently well, in building roads, schools and other institutions in the Country, what will be the relationship between NACSA and the Ministries, especially the Ministry of Works? I thank you.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Honourable Lady. We would now wind up the Debate. Honourable I.B Kargbo, you have the Floor.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, since we are at the Committee Stage, on behalf of our own side of the House, I want to thank you for your supervision and making this Debate very eloquent and active in the interest of the Country. We do not have anything against Presidential aspirations and ambitions because only when the President is ambitious with high aspirations can this Country develop.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, When the Debate started, like I said, we on this side, like all other cases stood up and supported the proposals of the Government and for those who may want to learn how Cabinet operates, no document comes to this Parliament without Cabinet approval, which means this document we are discussing was approved by Cabinet and by extension the Chairman of Cabinet is the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. So, it is totally not correct to state that this is a Bill imposed on us. It had the support of Cabinet and the President himself. I also believe, Mr Chairman that, this is our own view that if the President is putting in place a mechanism to make the Vice President more functional, so be it. We will support that move. To us functionality is a very important component in state development and

NACSA happens to be an arm that promotes state development. So, if the whole idea is for us to put in place those structures that will further develop the Country, we will always, at all times support such a move.

*Suspension of S. O 5[2]*

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Chairman, as I round up, I want to plead with the authority and for us, authority would also mean the importance of the Presidency of the Republic of Sierra Leone that the status and the Ministerial Authority of the current Minister is not undermined or downplayed. We say so because from the point of his appointment, we came to the conclusion that, that appointment was made because of the history of Dr Kaikai and the role he played in ensuring the development of this Country. Even for those of us who benefited from his holding of that public office, we would all so state that, he is the kind of man you can give the position of responsibility. So, notwithstanding the fact that, all of us are agreeable to the augment that the President Dr Maada Bio has the right to determine his administrative structure of his Government, we also plead that the Minister present in this House plays the role that he must play to make NACSA a very effective and useful entity.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before I sit down, I want to note this point that, we agreed that we cannot continue to overload Departments and state institutions with civil servants when they are already over loaded in their various departments and ministries. So, in future, I know that quite a number of Sierra Leoneans who can perform useful duties in the running of the state can be utilized for purposes of handling state institutions like being members of boards that is one point. So Mr Chairman, we would not forget and we should not forget about that.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I was making a point two days ago about what we should do with retired civil servants. We should not just throw them away; we still can use them instead of using the current ones. I went to one of the Departments in this City and I discovered that of all the people who were present there, I saw no former Civil Servant and no former Minister. In other words, these are people who have been abandoned. I was at the function of the British High Commissioner and also I saw a

good number of former Ministers and former civil servants. A clear indication that they recognise them, to us it is important that we continue to recognise these people even when they are out of Office. But more importantly, when they are in Office, let us utilize their roles and their expertise etc.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the point has been made that NACSA should be seen as an important entity that promotes national development. We have a historical data which has to do with the fact that NACSA has constructed roads which can be seen all over the Country. NACSA has developed schools, hospitals etc. And what we want to also do now is to ensure that we promote the status of NACSA especially in its role as a national institution that was put together for the development of this Country. The history of NACSA is easy, from the programme of Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Resettlement [RRR] down to this present day; it has always been seen as a very important institution. In fact, NACSA at one time was similar to present NATCOM where everybody wants to work there, because that was where the money was. So, we want to be certain that NACSA does not become only a source of income but also a source that ensures that development takes place in this Country.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is our position on this side and I thank you very much and I hope that Mr Minister will take note and not forget what has been stated here today. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition. I now call on the Leader of Government Business and this time to please come up with appropriate amendment to reflect the nature of the Debate so far.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to also thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition for sentiment in this Bill. I also want to thank you, Leaders of National Grand Coalition [NGC], Coalition 4 Change [C4C] and the Independent candidates. Mr Chairman, I would like to submit to this Honourable House that, I want Honourable Members to please leave the Honourable Vice President's supervisory role over NACSA as indicated in this Bill. All aspects of it should be left as indicated in this Bill.

Mr Chairman Honourable Members, secondly, on the issue of the composition of the Board on NACSA, I also want us to allow his Excellency the President to do his nominations with the exception of Paramount chiefs one of which shall be a female, head of one Civil Society Organisation registered with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Commissioner which shall be Secretary to the Board. The rest of the membership must come from His Excellency the President and approved by this Honourable House.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Would you state that in the form of an amendment please, so we are very clear.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, that is what I have just said. I said with the exception of the Paramount chiefs and the head of one Civil Society Organisation registered with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Commissioner being the Secretary to the Board, the rest meaning: "Secretary to the vice President, Financial Secretary, Development Secretary, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government, Chief Social Development Officer, Permanent Secretary responsible for Labour and Social Security" will all be removed from this Bill.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** And to be replaced by?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** To be replaced by "*Nominees from His Excellency the President*".

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Six Members?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Yes, six Members to be nominated by His Excellency the President. I think those are the only two key issues that came up in this Debate.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Subject to Parliamentary approval?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Yes, Mr Chairman.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

**MR CAHIRMAN:** Shall we go on please? Yes, Mr Minister you have the Floor!

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI** *[Minister of Planning and Economic Development]:* Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 1, 2 and 3 clauses 1 to 10 stand part of the Bill as amended.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[Parts 1 one 2 and three 3 clauses 1 to 10 form part of the Bill as amended]*

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that parts 4, 5 and 6 Clauses 11 to 23 stand part of the Bill.

*[Question Proposed]*

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Honourable Lahai Marah, you have the Floor.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Chairman part 4, Section 16[1] [2] and [3]. Section 16[1] with your leave, I read Mr Chairman: "The Commission shall have an Internal Auditor who shall be responsible to the Board" but when you go to 16[2], it states: "The Internal Auditor shall at the end of every three months submit a report on the audit of the books and records of account of the Commission in respect of that period to the Board through the Commissioner."

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am against the word "through the Commissioner." The Internal Auditor is supposed to be responsible for the auditing of the internal procedures or activities of an organization. During that process, he may bring out issues or errors that borders around the Commission and he/she would be auditing no other person but the Commissioner, because the he is in charge of the daily management or running of the Commission. If I am auditing you, I should be giving that independent hand or that independent function to report to the Board. How would I audit you and report to you? That would give the Commissioner the leverage or the opportunity to doctor any report coming from the Auditor. Maybe, there might be things in the report that are against him, he would remove them because the Internal Auditor

would not be reporting to the Board directly but rather to the Board through the Commissioner. So, Mr Chairman, I want us to remove the word "through the Commissioner" so that the Internal Auditor would be reporting to the Board directly.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, when you go further to 16[3], it states that, "the Internal Auditor shall forward copies of the report to the Board, or to the Internal Audit Committee" but what we do not have in this particular Bill is the composition of the Internal Audit Committee. Those who are supposed to be in that Committee we do not have them. So, that would also be another power given to the Commissioner to institute an Internal Audit Committee.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the problems we have, when I was a Member of the Public Accounts Committee [PAC], over the years, in the Auditor General's Report, there were big issues that have to do with the functions of Internal Auditors. Mr Chairman, if the Internal Auditor is thorough, if the Internal Auditor is given the opportunity to function without interference or with little interference, the work of an External Auditor would be minimised, because they would have to rely on the work of the Internal Auditor. But because of what is happening in the MDAs for instance, if it happens for you to audit your boss and at the end of the day, you have to report to your boss, there is every possibility that your boss would have to doctor that report and present a report to the Board that favours him. So, therefore, let us use this opportunity Mr Chairman, to create an independent mechanism, an independent method for the Internal Auditors to function effectively and efficiently.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let us ensure that we include in this Bill, the composition of the Internal Audit Committee. We want to know what the composition of the Internal Audit Committee will be and it should be included in this Bill. We have not seen one. We have just seen "the Internal Auditor shall forward copies of the Report to the Board" and Section 2 says, "through a Commissioner." I want this House to remove "through a Commissioner" and the Clause "*Internal Audit Committee.*" What is the composition of the Internal Audit Committee? We do not have it in this Bill. We want it



to be clearly stated Mr Chairman. We want to know who or what makes up the Internal Audit Committee. That is my submission Mr Chairman.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, we are rounding up the debate.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Leader, I just want to make some clarifications on the Internal Audit.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** It is okay.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I think the points echoed by Honourable Lahai Marrah are well taken! But I think there are some misunderstandings in the functions of the Internal Auditors in MDAs. Firstly, by the Public Financial Management [PFM] Act, Internal Audit Unit Staff of all MDAs are on secondment, they are not Staff of the MDAs; they are staff of the Ministry of Finance. They work for the Ministry of Finance and therefore, their direct reporting line is the Ministry of Finance. Hence, in every audit that you do internally, before you present the Report to your superior or to your reporting line, you have to present it to the Agency that you audit. Even with the Auditor General's Report, when they are done with their preliminary audit, they will present findings of the audit as part of the compliance procedures for the agencies to look at the audit exceptions, so that whenever they compile the final Audit Report, it will not be a bias Report that they did not see. So, for me, Internal Audit Unit submitting their Reports to the Commissioner to see the exceptions is to ensure that the Report is properly validated before onward submission to the Ministry of Finance for the Auditor General's final Report. That is the clarification Sir.

**HON. MUSA P. MOIGUA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, my own view is quite different from my colleague here on the Internal Audit issue. I want to toe line with what the former PAC Deputy Chairman was saying. Now, in an auditing situation, I know the standard is, whenever you audit, you need to have a meeting with the Management for them to see what you have written. But what happened if the Report is given to the Board even when they have gone through? It is

better to give the Report to the Board than to the Commissioner. Because all of the audits we have been doing in the PAC, there has been a gap in the Internal Audit Sector. This is as a result of the fact that Internal Auditors are part of the Management of these institutions and because they are part of the Management of these institutions, they are not practicing the standard of the PFM Act. So, I want to toe line with what the former Deputy Chairman of PAC was saying, that these Intern Auditors should report to the Board instead of the Commissioner, this is because they will surely see the Report that has been written by the Internal Auditor therefore, let the Report be given to the Board instead of the Commissioner.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, I want to still hold my view. He has already admitted that submission of Report to Management is a normal Audit practice. Management Report of every audit has to be submitted to the Management for a joint review and the issue of Internal Auditors been part of Management is an assumption. There is a law and it is clear. The PFM Act is clear on the fact that the Internal Audit Unit of every MDA is an Independent Unit that works directly with the Ministry of Finance. The Staff are on secondment to these agencies. So, therefore, they should not by any means mistake themselves to be part of the agencies. So, for me, if we decide to change it for NACSA, it means we have to change it for all the other MDAs and which means the Internal Audit Unit would come out from the Ministry of Finance. The Internal Audit Unit of Sierra Leone sits at the Ministry of Finance and all the Internal Audit Staff working in agencies are on secondment to those agencies. They work directly and are paid under the Budget of the Ministry of Finance. So, I think if we are going to move or we are going to shift the goal post on NACSA's situation, it means we would be radically moving from; [a] The normal audit practice; [b] we must also go and change all the practices in other MDAs.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** No, let us not prolong the debate on this issue. Hold on, let us clarify one thing, what I understand from Honourable Lahai Marrah is that, the three words at the end of Section 16[2] should be deleted which are, "through the Commissioner" but I think what Honourable Tawa is saying is that we should retain those words.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, let me just make a clarification please. For documents to reach the Board, they have to go through the Commissioner. But the Audit Report is not going through the Commissioner in his capacity as a Commissioner of NACSA, it is going through him as a Secretary to the Board. Also, in Section 6[3], it is stated that the Internal Auditor shall forward copies of the Report to the Board, the Internal Audit Committee and to the Minister.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want us to remove the word "Minister" and replace it with the word "Vice President".

**MR CHAIRMAN:** It is okay.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Hold on, let us take it step by step.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** The reason for that is, like I said earlier on, NACSA is a Multi-Stakeholder Institution that comprises the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. That is why the whole issue of the Vice Presidency came in to have a Superior Office to provide supervision to NACSA. So, these reports will have to go to the Office of the Vice President. I think those are the only two corrections. I do not know whether the Honourable Chairman of Water Resources will agree with me that it is better we just leave it as "through the Commissioner" since he is the Secretary to the Board.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Chairman, with regards to what my colleague the Honourable from Lumley has said, there are procedures in auditing and what is stated in the PFM Act are just the procedures. When you audit an MDA, at the end of the day you submit your audit findings to that particular MDA for it to answer questions relating to queries raised and from there you submit them again for you to go and do what we call verification to say 'yes' I have verified. But these are still the issues and those final products will then be submitted to the responsible parties; that is what we are saying and that is what I am clearly stating here. The Internal Auditor is auditing who? The

Commissioner! Who is the head of the Commission? It is the Commissioner and the Commissioner is responsible for the daily management of the Commission.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, we need your directives. Honourable Member, I think it is different. You are talking about the Commissioner at the same time you are talking about the Commission, but the Commissioner is the Secretary to the Board.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Let me ask you a simple question.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It is clear. Mr Chairman, for the essence of time, we need your intervention.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Now, this is a question for you. Who will be providing answers to the audit queries?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It is the Commission.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** So, please allow me! I am a professional Accountant for God sake; allow me to make my submission. Who will be answering audit queries?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It is the Commission.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** No, it is the Commissioner.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** We are running out of time.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Chairman, I know the Commissioner is a member of the Board as a Secretary to the Board. One of the issues we have in those MDAs is the independence of the Internal Auditors.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** No, please, address this one specifically.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, let me just make the clarification to the Honourable Chairman of Water Resources. Normally, when I was at the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] as a Board Member, I was the Chairman of the Sub Committee on Finance; we also had a Sub Committee on Internal Audit. So, I believe the Internal Audit Committee referred to here will actually comprise members of the Board based on

their backgrounds. These are Sub Committees in a Board. Please, I hope you understand what I am talking about? You are an Accountant and you have been a Vice Chairman of the PAC.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLAH:** Mr Chairman, on this, I think we need clarification from the Honourable Minister. Mr Minister, has been in the system before, we had to implement International Public Account Systems [IPAS]. It is a standard, I know for sure that my Internal Audit Report did not go through me; they went straight to the Board. They gave me their findings and I clarify the findings, they send the final Report to the Board and they published. So, I would ask the Honourable Minister since he is the one bringing this Bill to tell us his opinion on this! I think, if he says "through the Commissioner", he could sit on it. I think that, he is been audited as Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of the Institution. Anything that works well or bad is about him as well. So, can we get clarification from the Honourable Minister! What is your position Mr Minister?

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Sorry, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, before the Honourable Minister intervenes, I have seen what Honourable Lahai Marah is driving at and I think maybe we would have to rephrase and say: "through the Audit Committee of the Board". Mr Chairman, I moved that Sub Section 2 of Section 16 be amended to read "as the Internal Auditor shall at the end of every three months submit a report on the audit of the books and records of accounts of the Commission in respect of that period to the Board through the Audit Committee of the Board."

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Member. So, that is one amendment! The other amendment is... No! We are coming to that.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Chairman, he has only moved one Motion, can we second it and move to the other?

**MR CHAIRMAN:** There are two amendments in that Clause. So, let us take them together. The other amendment relates to Paragraph 3, in place of the "Minister" we will now have the "Vice President."

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman!

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Honourable Paramount Chief Member.

**HON. P.C BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** I would agree with the amendment proposed by the Leader of Government Business, but also in that case, we can put the Report to both the Minister and the Vice President. Because we cannot call the Vice President in Parliament here; it is the Minister that we can call to respond to questions.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLAH:** Mr Chairman, I want to support what the Honourable Paramount Chief is saying. Do not make the Minister redundant. He is not evaluated and not audited. I agree with the Honourable Paramount Chief.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** So, let us have it both ways, "through the Vice President and the Minister."

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Leader of Government Business, what is your opinion?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, we have been commenting on this particular topic repeatedly. This very Bill was taken to Cabinet by the Vice President and in that Cabinet meeting; there was a Cabinet conclusion that the Honourable Vice President should delegate the responsibility to the Minister of Planning and Economic Development of bringing this Bill to the House. So, the same Vice President here can at any time delegate responsibilities to anybody regarding any aspect of this Bill.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, it is simple; if we try to take away the Minister, whenever we call on him he would say, I do not have the Report. What we are looking at here is multi-purpose firstly, the Act itself, and secondly, the performance of the Act. So, when we think of those, we have to look at it in all categories. For instance, if you happen to be a Minister supervising an MDA or an

Agency, then the Report of the Internal Auditor does not come to you, how are you going to answer to Parliament? Supposing the documents were not sent to him?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, it is not the Minister that would be supervising NACSA, but the Vice President. As such, all audit reports would have to go to the Vice President. He has so many roles [*Undertone*]. Like I said in my opening remarks, NACSA this time around is a Multi-Stakeholder Institution comprising of several other Ministries.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** I am not opposing that Mr Leader, but my point is, for it to just be simply put that, "the Report of the Internal Auditor shall be sent to the Vice President and the Minister." If you bring the Minister to sit right before us and he cannot answer the questions, are we going to call the Vice President to sit before us? So, Mr Chairman, let us put in the two words.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, I agree with the Honourable Paramount Chief to put in the two words "the Vice President and the Minister."

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr Leader. Honourable Members, there are two amendments before the House, the one is Clause 16[2], instead of "through the Commissioner." It will now read, "through the Audit Committee of the Board" and in Clause 16[3] it will read: "the Internal Auditor shall forward copies of the report to the Board, the Internal Audit Committee, the Minister and the Vice President."

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Chairman, I second that Motion. The Motion was moved by Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Are you moving the Motion?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Yes Mr Chairman, I so move.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Is there any Secunder?

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Chairman, I seconded.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Mr Minister, move a Motion as amended.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members , I move that parts 4, 5 and 6 clauses 11 to 23 stand part of the Bill as amended.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[Parts 4, 5 and 6 clauses 11 to 23 form part of the Bill as amended]*

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, we have not finished. I want to draw attention of the Leader of Government Business to the Report of the Legislative Committee, the last part Clause 23[1] and [2].

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, I also move that a new Clause be inserted to read Clause 23[1] and [2] as follows: “[1] the following enactments are hereby repealed [a] National Commission for Social Action Act 2001 [b] National Commission for Social Action Amendment Act 2015. [2] notwithstanding sub section 1, sub section 2 of the National Commission for Social Action Amendment Act 2015 shall continue in operation until its expiration or its express repeal or revocation or cancelation”. I thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Chairman, there are two issues I want to comment on. Firstly, the report referred to makes reference to the Amendment of 2015 and did not make reference to the Amendment in 2008. Secondly, the parts that we have already adopted as Parliament, does not have part 6 but have part 7. There is no part 6 in the Bill. From part 5, we move straight to part 7. The issue of the report is, we have to include the Amendment Act of 2008.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, let us include 2008.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, for the records, I have a concern. If we have the present Act of 2015, what do we have to do with the Act of 2008 since the present one is what we are using which is the Amendment Act of 2015? Why do we need to repeal? I just want to be convinced. It is just a concern. Those things are not right, it is not legal. For me I do not see legality in it.



**THE CHAIRMAN:** I have not seen the instruments concerned but the Principal Act is 2001 which was amended in 2008 and again in 2015 that is my understanding and now all of those are been repealed to be replaced by this new Act.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled the National Commission for Social Action Act 2019, having gone through the Committee of the whole House.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** No, no, we are not done with that yet.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** I am very sorry. Let me go back. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members of this House I move that parts 4, 5 and 6...*[interruption]*

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Stop Mr Minister, you have already done that. What you are now moving Mr Minister is a new Clause 23. Please, guide the man.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that a new Clause 23 stand part of the Bill.

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[Clause 23 forms part of the Bill]*

*[The House resumes]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Now, Mr Minister you can go ahead.

**DR. FRANCIS KAIKAI:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled the National Commission for Social Action Act 2019 having gone through the Committee of the whole House with some amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into Law.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill entitled the National Commission for Social Action 2019 been an Act to provide for the establishment of the National Commission for Social Action which shall be responsible for the promotion and implementation of Community Based Sustainable*

*Social Protection and Development Programmes and to provide for other related matters has been read the third time and passed into Law]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Mr Minister. You are now relieved. Are there any announcements?

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, dear colleagues, I stand on *S.O. 23* to discuss *S.O. 70*. I was informed that I have been removed as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and appointed as Chairman of Committee on Economic Development. I have also been moved from the Pan African Parliament and placed at the European Union [EU], African Caribbean Pacific [A.C.P] Parliament. I want to state here that in eighteen months I have gone to three Committees, in this particular case without any prior notice. So, Mr Speaker, based on *S.O 70*, I want a clarity on how this was done because my understanding is, it should be discussed in the Committee on Selections and Appointments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Secondly, in the case of the Agriculture Committee, I was persuaded very hard to accept it. I wanted to stay in Foreign Affairs Committee which I was told was a dead Committee but I had worked there for a year to revive. In the Committee on Agriculture, I have spent five months also trying to build it. I was told meetings were not held last year I was persuaded why and also a comment you made here in Parliament that my expertise with the PhD in Agriculture was needed there. So, first point is the process. The BO spirit was that, we will all be consulted regularly as Leaders. I believe, it is very wrong to make changes like that at our level without prior consultations. Secondly, if you take the Pan African Parliament, I was asked to revive the Energy Infrastructure and Technology Committee, I worked on the work programme for that Committee. I have even organised technical sessions for that Committee and in 2020 we are going to move with implementation. Nobody asked me I just heard the announcement. So, I want clarity on what happened, when did the Selection Committee meet and how was this decision made.

**HON. MUNIR A. LANSANA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to the notice of this House that last year we heard the President making declaration that all

admission into Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Engineering classes in the Universities of Sierra Leone are to be free with the exception of other charges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I am talking to you here, I am still getting calls from members of my Constituency that the Universities are still forcing them to pay fees in full before they are admitted. As I speak Mr Speaker, I have a receipt for one of the students I am responsible for. Having paid all other charges, he is yet to be allowed to do registration based on the fact that they are demanding that his fee is to be paid in full. So, I want to bring this to the attention of this House so that the Universities will have it as a notice that the Government has made declaration on this point.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I stand on *S.O 23*. Mr Speaker, I was supposed to be part of the delegation to the United Nations [UN] nominated by His Excellency the President himself. My Office received the correspondence, the Leader of Government Business was notified and all the people who were supposed to know about my departure to New York were told, then suddenly it became extremely difficult for me to travel with excuses that, there is no money, no funding etc. etc. I travelled from this Parliament building to the Ministry of Finance more than seven times to make this trip. I suddenly discovered that it was impossible for me to travel. I hold the view that this was deliberately manipulated by the "Paopa" and I was surprised that the moment my departure was declared a failure, three days later, a number of people travelled to various parts of the world.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us have worked assiduously quite recently to ensure that there was peace and concord between the two main Political Parties and for good reason too but when you begin to perceive a total undermining of the efforts of one of the Members, lots of us will see that there is no good intention on the part of the other group. So, Mr Speaker, I thought for purposes of the records, this should be noted and I would not travel out of this Country to any part of the world again on a simple invitation from anybody. I believe that, the statutory functions of His Excellency the President, do not exclude nominating citizens of this Country from travelling with him, but it would appear that there are those people who did not want me to travel

with the President and my programme was undermined deliberately. I sat at home; I was told that a gentle man was going to travel from Bo almost immediately to ensure that I had a ticket and my per diem. To my dismay, no gentle man came from Bo; there was no per diem and no ticket. What I want to do Mr Speaker, is to write a letter officially to Mr President that his efforts have been thwarted by the fact that I was undermined and his own efforts undermined as well and the Speaker was as well made unhappy because I was supposed to sleep in the same place with the Speaker. If I had travelled to New York, Mr Speaker and I would have slept in the same place and I have good reason to believe so because the Speaker said so. Well, what I can only say Mr Speaker is, let us learn one lesson which is for us to be friends in this place. There is no need undermining the efforts of another Member of Parliament just because that Member of Parliament belongs to another Political Party. I also know and I will record it and it should be recorded Mr Speaker that, the moment I was declared not suitable to travel to New York, four, five people travelled to other parts of the world. I have a Visa for five years, I tell you right now as I speak [*Undertone*]. So, Mr Speaker, I thought, I should make these points. The President embarrassingly sat in the US; He was expecting Honourable I.B. Kargbo and Honourable I.B. Kargbo was nowhere to be seen. Thanks to the operations of good men. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I stand on *S.O 23*. Mr Speaker, I want to know why you and Honourable I.B. Kargbo would have to stay in the same Hotel in New York.

**HON. P.C BAI KURR KANAGBAROO SANKA III:** Yes, Mr Speaker. I stand on *S.O. 23* Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, in this Parliament, they gave us Identification cards [ID] that we carry along but Mr Speaker could you believe that I took my ID card to the bank and our ID cards that were given to us by this Honourable House was not accepted? They said, I should take either a driving license or a Voter ID card but the ID card given by this Honourable House in this Country was not accepted. I was wondering, why do we carry them? Is it only for Parliament? We cannot use it anywhere inside Sierra Leone? They told me that I should take a driving license, a voter

ID card or my Passport but as a Member of Parliament, a proud one too, serving under the Speaker of Parliament, the card that was given to me signed by the Clerk of Parliament was not acceptable and I have tried it on two or three places including the banks such as the Rokel Commercial Bank and the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and they would say to you no, you have to come with your driving license; supposing I do not drive anymore? For voters ID, I am not voting anymore why should I be carrying it? So, Mr Speaker, with your great influence, I hope our ID cards will be cards that are recognised BY the banks of Sierra Leone. I am sure that, even if I go to Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Guinea or Liberia I carry that, they will honour it but why is it not honoured within our Country? So, I am concerned Sir. I hope something will be done to really see that we use these cards. Thank you Sir.

**HON. MAADA K. KANJA HAFIJU:** Mr Speaker, I stand on *S.O 23* Sir. Mr Speaker, I have a complaint from teachers of my Constituency. More than Four Hundred teachers wrote a letter of complaint to the Chairman of Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Basic Education and copy the Chairman of Transparency Committee that, one International Insurance Company went to that location in 2015 and collected their pin codes and that particular Insurance Company did not go through any due process. They do not know any detail information about the Company and the Company have been deducting their salaries since 2015 to date. Last month, they came here in good number, about forty of them; I took them to Accountant General's Office and pleaded with officials of the Accountant General's Office to stop deducting the money of those teachers to that International Insurance Company. And I have been asking constantly the two chairmen for them to action the complaint from my constituents but they have not done anything. Even they last salaries of those teachers who are over Four Hundred was deducted. The letter was also copied to Accountant General's Office and the Company itself but they are constantly deducting their salaries and what I have received from the teachers this morning is that they are going to sit down and strike and I do not want that to happen in that particular part of the Country. That is my concern Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank all the Honourable Members who have raised issues under *S.O 23* starting with Honourable Kandeh Yumkella, Honourable I.B Kargbo, the Honourable Paramount Chief and the Honourable Hafiju. All of these are noted and they will be dealt with appropriately as soon as practicable. I do not know whether we will be able to do so tomorrow that is why I am using that phrase as soon as practicable. Honourable I.B Kargbo has informed the House that he plans to write a letter to His Excellency on that issue, I think he is at liberty to do so. I will be grateful if he could copy me because I was myself very surprised that the Chairperson of the Select Committee of Foreign Affairs could not make it to New York.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Yes Sir, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Again, *S.O 23*?

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Standing Order 83. I want to draw your attention to few things. One of them is, sometime ago, in the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament, you took some leaflets of the House of Commons, that is to say, when papers or documents are laid in the House, counting stops when the House is on recess, that is the leaflet from the House of Commons. Equally so, Mr Speaker, I want to remind and reiterate the point that, for us to have an effective Question Time, we must have a rooster published agency after agency because that is what is obtained in the House of Commons. There is a standard time on Wednesday.

**THE SPEAKER:** May I stop the Honourable Member? The questions that have been addressed by various Members of Parliament are currently on my desk for consideration. That matter would be addressed. With that, do you have announcements?

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 1:10 p.m., and was adjourned to Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]*