



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SIXTH SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 2023

SESSION –2023/2024



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PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Tuesday 8th August, 2023.

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**FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE**

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC
SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.**



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday 8TH August, 2023.

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Alimamy Lincoln Bangura, read the Prayers]

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

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, incidentally if the light of the mic in front of you is on kindly try to put it off. We are still having technical challenges with our equipment. Is the Leader of Government Business here? I am sure he would want to amend the Order Paper.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA [*Leader of Government Business and Majority Leader*]: Mr Speaker, good morning, I was having discussion with the Clerk, I saw you on camera when coming to the Chamber. Can you give me 5 minutes so that I may get the draftsman to come?

THE SPEAKER: Would you want me to stand the House down?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, please give me five minutes I will come back.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to amend the Order Paper of the House. Mr Speaker, with your leave: Item [I] remain the same, item [II] remain the same and item [III] which is Announcement by Mr Speaker, remain the same, item [IV] will now be swearing-in of elected Members of Parliament, [third Schedule of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone], item [V] motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. Mr Speaker, I so move that this House amends the Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to that motion?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Thankful to the Leader of Government Business and the Chief Whip for that motion.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of Amendment of the Order Paper moved by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]

II. THE CORRECTIONS OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY 27TH AND MONDAY 31ST JULY, TUESDAY 1ST AND THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I presume that you have all received either the hard or the soft copies of the Votes and Proceedings for the dates just mentioned by the Clerk. On that presumption that we shall proceed, I hear no objection. I thank you all. We shall now take up our votes and proceedings starting with the sitting for Thursday 27th July, 2023. We shall skip where your names appear that is from pages 1, through to Page 4 and our consideration will start on Page 5: Any amendment on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9 and Page 10? Can someone please move for the adoption of the votes and proceedings for Thursday 27th July, 2023?

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. MOHAMED KANNEH: Mr Speaker, I so second

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 27th July 2023, has been adopted]

THE SPEAKER: We would now go to the Votes and Proceedings for Monday 31st July, 2023. We shall again skip pages 1 through to page 4 and start our consideration on Page 5 to the end. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9 and Page 10. If there are no amendments can someone please move for the adoption of the votes and proceedings for Monday 31st July, 2023?

HON. JOSEPH WILLILAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. HABIB K. FABBA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for Monday 31st July, 2023 has been adopted].

THE SPEAKER: Next on my list is the votes and proceedings for Tuesday 1st August, 2023. We shall do likewise by skipping page 1 through to 4 and start from Page 5. Page 5? Any amendments? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10 and the last is page

11? Since there are no amendments, can someone please move for the adoption of the votes and proceedings for Tuesday 1st August, 2023?

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. PRINCESS K. DARAMY: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: When you are moving and seconding a motion can you please rise so that the Clerks can very clearly identify you for the records?

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Record of votes and proceedings for Tuesday 1st August 2023, has been adopted]

THE SPEAKER: The last record of Votes and Proceedings, is for Thursday 3rd August, 2023. That is so straightforward: Page 6? and Page 7? Can someone please move for the adoption of the votes and proceedings for Thursday 3rd August, 2023?

HON. FATMATA S. SOUKENAH: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. EMELIA L. TONGI : Mr Speaker, I so second

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 3rd August 2023, has been adopted]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, at this stage of our proceedings I do not think I have any announcement but in any case, I really do not have any substantive announcement to make at this point. I cannot say whether it would remain so to the very end of our proceedings for today but for now there are no substantive announcements. So let us please move to the next stage.

IV. SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT BASED ON THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE ACT NO. 6 OF 1991

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in conformity with the certificates of election received from the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone by the office of the Clerk, I hereby declare that the following has been duly elected as Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone: Honourable Alfred Ayodele Thompson [*applause*].

I thank Honourable Members for that resounding welcome that you have extended to the new Member. Pursuant to Section [83] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 read in tandem with S.O [1a], I hereby invite the Clerk of Parliament to administer the oath of Members of Parliament as established in the Third Schedule.

HON. PARAN U. TARAWALLY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before calling on the Member of Parliament elect to the Table, I would want to invite the Leadership of Parliament led by the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business and the Acting Minority Leader of the Opposition to join me, other Leaders, can you please join me? I would now invite Alfred Ayodele Thompson to come forward for the Oath of Office [*applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Member of Parliament elect is prepared, able and willing to take the oath. When I say 'I', call your name and repeat after me:

The Member subscribed to the Oath

Having being elected a Member of Parliament, do hereby in the name of God swear, that I would bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of Sierra Leone as by law established; that I will uphold and defend the Constitution of Sierra Leone and that I would faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of a Member of Parliament. So help me God [*applause*].

Honourable Alfred Ayodele Thompson, having subscribed the Oath and signed the Oath Book, I hereby hand over the instrument of the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone to you. This is your tool and this is what you would use throughout the

Sixth Parliament. The Honourable Leaders will now usher the Honourable Member to his seat especially the Honourable Leader of Government Business and the Honourable Minority Leader will now usher the Honourable Member to his seat.

Honourable Speaker, I have concluded your assignment.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, on behalf of the entire House, it is now my pleasant duty to extend a very warm and hearty welcome to the Honourable Alfred Ayodele Thompson as a Member of this Honourable House having just sworn the oath of office, on your behalf I want to say Honourable Ayodele Thompson, you have earned the respect of your colleagues in this House and mine as well, for your courage and fortitude; we hope there are many others like you who will soon follow your brilliant example. Let the records show that you were duly elected to represent your people in this August Assembly; and there is no valid reason whatsoever why you should not come and take your seat and represent your people in this August Assembly. Like the Honourable Mohamed Bangura, you have demonstrated beyond all doubt that you are faithful to the promise that you made to your people and now today, you have fulfilled that promise to them. From now on consider yourself to be under the protection of this House as you duly discharge your enormous responsibilities and duties as a Member of Parliament. Once again, on behalf of this House, I welcome you and for the time being, I will assign to you the seat that you have just occupied by the Honourable Mohamed Bangura until further notice.

Honourable Members, I am quite confident that there are many more on the way coming and it is just a matter of time before they reach their destinations. We would now get on with the rest of the day's business.

IV. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. SAA E. LAMINA

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, the fourth report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service in tandem with its Constitutional obligations met on Wednesday, 2nd and Monday 7th August 2023, and interviewed Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- i) Two proposed Ministers of Youth Affairs and Transport and Aviation.
- ii) The proposed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and one proposed Permanent Representative to the United Nations Assembly, New York.

2. PROCEDURE

The Committee maintained its usual consistency and established procedure and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to lead such important offices of State. Probing questions covered wide ranges of issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for a sustainable and productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

Fifth sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023, the Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. Mr Mohamed Oman Bangura, Proposed Minister, Ministry of Youths Affairs.

Mr Bangura, is a graduate with an Accounting background. He has served in many outstanding financial Institutions and also private Companies with outstanding

performance records. From 2019 to date he served as Minister of Youth Affairs with immense contributions towards youth's development programmes.

He became very popular in the national youths support programmes for his simplicity, modest, interpersonal skills and football loving fans where he motivated in diverse ways. He revived the Youths Service Scheme [NYSS] in Sierra Leone with huge employment opportunities in the Youth Sector.

Currently he is supporting youth projects in the Agricultural and Fisheries Sector and Youth Village for increased vocational skills.

Responding to the Committee on his progress and what he would be doing in the second term, the proposed Minister said he did a lot to streamline the following youths programs: established car wash projects that cater for over 100,000 youths at District head quarter towns, Youths Service Coups that anchored 10,000 jobless educated young elites and Youths Employment Scheme that engaged young people in Agriculture.

On his contributions towards the creations of 500,000 job by His Excellency as one of the big five changers in the campaign manifesto, the proposed Minister said; "it is the mind-set and trust I have in the process and to achieve these, I intend to take Agriculture and seeking soft loans schemes from credible financial institutions for young entrepreneurs to add value to the production chains. This in overall will increase participation in Agricultural activities"

He acknowledged that the prevalence of youths in drugs abuse was rise and impacted negatively on productivity; the reason why he intensified the campaign on drugs. He promised to review the National Youths empowerment policy that will take cognizance of the current national youths age bracket(15-35yrs) expansion to ` young people" that will now cater for the teeming masses of deprived young generation.

ii. Mrs Francess Piagie Alghali, Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Alghali is an Educationist, Administrator, a Human Rights activist and a very humble politician who has served this Country in several capacities. Apart from her role as Board Member to notable educational institutions, she served as the first female Registrar of the now Njala University [NU] after the University separated from the University of Sierra Leone. Her professional inputs during such formative years immensely gave rise to the giant and resilience Njala University of very high international standard today; this cannot be dissociated from the Alghalis et al. Furthermore, in 2010 to 2015, she served as Executive Secretary of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone as Head of Operations and Programmes with exemplary records.

On the Political front until this appointment, Mrs Alghali was Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President from 2018 to 2023 where she was the Principal Adviser to the Vice President. Under her supervision Sierra Leone became eligible for the Millennium Challenge Corporation Unit [MCCU] of the United States Compact Programmes.

She holds several Certificates to her credit plus a Master's degree in Education from the Njala University College.

At the Foreign Ministry, she promised to use her wealth of expertise to work with the Minister to promote the interests of the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

iii. Rtd Col Ambassador Alhaji Fanday Turay Esq, Proposed Minister, Ministry of Transport and Aviation.

Rtd. Col Ambassador Alhaji Fanday Turay is fine retired soldier. A diplomat and a legal practitioner of no mean standing. Prior to this assignment, he served as Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the position he held with excellence that promoted our representation on the United Nation Security Council as member in the non-permanent category.

In May, 2021, during the Fourth Session of the last Parliament, the Committee adjudged this nominee of having the necessary academic backgrounds and character to serve the State. Thames Valley University, United Kingdom, Bachelor of laws degree of in 2002, London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, Master of laws in International Transport and Maritime, 2004. University of Ghana, Master of Arts and International Affairs, 2010, Sierra Leone law School, degree of Utter Barrister.

The Committee reaffirms the conviction with no doubt that he will preside over transport parastatals with diligence in this new appointment that generate substantial revenue for the State.

In his remarks on how he would impact on reforms and upward revenue drive, the learned diplomat softly said "re-examinations of Statutory laws guiding the operations of the Transport Departments and Agencies will be considered and I will work closely with relevant stakeholders including the National Commission for Privatization [NCP] to ensure that the Ministry delivers on its mandates. As former Chairman of NCP I have detailed backgrounds of challenges including agreements and imposed tax regimes "He promised to look into the additional Airport charges causing declining air traffic flow to Sierra Leone, poor maritime transport situation and other factors causing low revenue generation.

iv. Ambassador Dr Michael Imran Kanu, proposed Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Dr Michael Imran Kanu until this appointment, was the deputy Permanent Representative for Legal Affairs at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York. At the UN, he Co-chaired the review mechanism of the International Criminal Court [ICC] and became President of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [UNCLOS] 29TH meeting of State parties; also acted as coordinator/legal negotiator of the African Group in the Intergovernmental Conference [IGC] on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He

has served on several other working Groups on Terrorism, disputes resolutions and trade.

The nominee is a Barrister and holds a Doctoral of Juridical Science [SJD] in International Business Law and a LLM Degree, both from the Central European University; Budapest, Hungary 2014-2018. He has distinguished himself professionally as hardworking and exemplary personnel in all his previous assignments.

Responding, to the Committee on his vision and international diplomacy he said his long period at the United Nations helped him to gain supports that made Sierra Leone a non-permanent member on the UN Security Council. He promised to look into violations of the Vienna Convention relating to Sierra Leone and would continue on the path to ensure that more Sierra Leoneans were employed in the UN system.

3. RECOMMENDATION[S]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and they are recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Mr Mohamed Oman Bangura ,Proposed Minister, Ministry of Youths Affairs
- ii. Mrs Francess Piagie Alghali, Proposed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- iii. Rtd Col Ambassador Alhaji Fanday Turay Esq, Proposed Minister, Ministry of Transport and Aviation
- iv. Ambassador, Dr Michael Imran Kanu, Proposed Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fourth Report of the first Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed.....
Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma
Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business for the report that he has so ably read in the House. May I now ask if there is any seconder?

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: I will give the Floor first and foremost to the seconder of the motion and after him; I know many Honourable Members who are at the extreme end of the Well may feel disadvantaged in the sense that, they might think that they are not visible enough. Today, I am going the extra mile to recognise you and give you the assurance that no matter where you seat in the Well, I will do the best to recognise and identify you for the purposes of participating in all the debates within this Chamber. Honourable Lamina, you have the Floor.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the nominees in advance because I am inclined to believe that they will definitely seek the favour in the face of this House. I also want to thank His Excellency, the President, Rtd. Brig. Julius Maada Bio for fetching out fine Sierra Leonean for a credible and enviable curriculum vitae presenting them to the House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, once again in concurrence with Section [61] of Sierra Leone's 1991 Constitution, I thank His Excellency. He has proven to this House that our Country Sierra Leone is not in drought of good materials that will represent this Country and beyond the shores.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in consolidating the New Direction's gains for Sierra Leone transformation, these nominees have roles to play and I believe that we are in haste to develop this Country but we from the Legislative organ of Government cannot

do it alone, our hopes are banked upon the Executive as well as the Judiciary so we urge you to ignore complacency. Nominees, it is the wish of the President that you ignore complacency and presses the gear forward to prompt response to your duty call; that is your first assignment and number two purposeful resolution to keep to your commitment and third, promised readiness to obey the command calls to execute your duty, obey the call as that is the call we are expecting and at the end of the day do not be surprised as Parliament may use Section 107[2] to call upon the Minister to enquire of your offices whether you are in overseas or here, Parliament is empowered with the law to even request for documents where necessary to enquire from you and to give to Parliament whatever policy you might bring up in the future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, time may not permit me much to elucidate on the various curriculum vitae of these nominees but one thing I am convinced is that they are all eminently qualified enough to serve this Nation. His Excellency, the President has shown Sierra Leoneans that the age of Methuselah has no role in Solomon's wisdom. Looking at the young, the middle aged, citizens that have been presented to this House, Mr Speaker, permit me to pick on the nominees one after the other since they are not much today starting with Mr Mohamed Oman Bangura, Minister designate for Youths Affairs. What Mr Mohamed Bangura's predecessors could not do, he did it in five years. From the records, I can tell you with all alacrity that Mr Bangura, has enrolled about 2,000 youths by creating the Youth Employment Scheme for them and today according to the statistics at least 25% are gainfully employed to various Ministries. He also established about one hundred and ninety youth farms across the Country with at least employing about 20 youths per Chiefdom. There are about 70 fishing communities that the youths are benefiting from under his watched and about 28 car wash centres across this Country. So, in essence what his predecessors could not do he did it in five years and even Mr Speaker, benefited from that youth farm.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I would now urge Mr Oman Bangura to do is for him to work in line with President Bio's Cluster 3 which is the Youth Employment Scheme [YES], he has promised that every year he will give one hundred thousand job

to the youths, can you imagine that? You have a big task Mr Bangura. When I sit in my quietude, I am convinced at heart that yes, President Julius Maada Bio has the capacity and when I looked at the Mining Sector alone about 300,000 jobs are given to young people as well as the aged, every year 100,000 jobs should be given to the youth which is your task as a Minister of Youth, how you can provide these jobs? Let me tell you what President Paul Kagame of Rwanda did recently. About six months ago, all those youths that are engaged in anti-social activities either in Kush or in whatever drugs, about 900 youths as guinea pigs were transferred to a whole Island for them to be there for three years where camps were built to learn various skills like carpentry, construction engineers, mechanics, computer engineers and that would help build their capacities so that after completion they would be useful citizens in society and not just engaged in drug takings.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Governor Fashola in Nigeria for over ten years ago did the same by bringing out those youths that were engaged in anti-social activities. Mr Oman Bangura, there are many tasks to be done but that is one of the ways for you to fulfil the President's 100,000 jobs for each year and I also want to urge you to bring out a policy to this House on Kush, as to how it can be curtailed as well as other drugs. Watching at those that are affected by the demon of Kush, it is not much of the aged or little children but mostly the youths. We look forward to seeing the first policy on Kush to be presented to Cabinet and you would be assured of the blessings of this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, also permit me to look at the legacies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation. Mrs Frances Alhali, is a fine Sierra Leonean that deliver assignment and on time. Our Foreign Affairs policy says; "seek first Sierra Leone's interest and the citizens of this Country, seek Sierra Leone's interest and portray the image of Sierra Leone that can be attractive. I believe this beautiful and hardworking lady has that capacity to deliver. Under the watch of your predecessor today, we have an ultramodern Foreign Academy and we have also produced a Speaker in the ECOWAS, a Sierra Leonean and that happened in Miami and Niger where the country has a Military hullabaloo.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we have a Sierra Leonean that is doing well in the ECOWAS Parliament under the watch of your predecessor, we have established Embassies in Cairo, Morocco, UAE and we have ratified agreements in this House under the watch of your predecessor, you can now go to South Africa as long as you have a Diplomatic or a Service Passport with no visa and even to Russia with no visa, UAE Countries with no visa these are the handwork of your predecessor and also Sierra Leone co-funded and co-sponsored and co-chaired violence against girls and little children in the United Nations by no lesser person but our astute First Lady, Mrs Fatima Maada Bio. Mrs Frances Alhagali, has that capacity and let me tell the secret of that woman when she was working at Njala University without prejudice to Fourah Bay College; I did not go to Fourah Bay College [FBC] but Njala University carried the day of becoming the best University between the year 2005 to 2010, when Mrs Frances Alhagali was serving as the Registrar for that University. Mr Speaker, S.O [2] Fourah Bay College was called FBC which means 'Fallow Boil n Course' whilst Njala University also called 'nah u cam' [NUC].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Fourah Bay College was doing three examinations which are first term, second term and third term but through her techniques and skills, Mrs Frances introduced a two-semester system and today Fourah Bay College has copied from Njala University, the two semester system. I am saying the truth. They used to do three terms but through her skills, she made Njala University to be attractive with Post graduate courses in social sciences, she even introduced schools rather than Faculties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Frances was a Human Right activist and she served Sierra Leone on the desk of the EITI. Today let me share you one secret in the new Mines and Minerals Development Act, a whole chapter was being designated to EITI. Transparency Initiative has values and she actually imported transparency and accountability in the Mining Sector because she was on that chair representing Sierra Leone at the EITI. Mrs Alhagali encouraged us when some of us came to the city as displaced to attend displaced Njala University, through her role at the British Council,

she organised Inter college quiz and debate competition and she would chairwomanship on that competition, I represented Njala University and I did well; that was my very first day at University and she awarded me a scholarship and so I enjoyed academia from Year one up to postgraduate masters, I could not pay a dine. Thank you very much Mrs Alghali.

Mrs Frances Alghali, is a goal getter, we are challenged at the moment in the Sub-region with geopolitical tension in our very region, ECOWAS as well as in the World but with her negotiating skills, she would protect the core values of Sierra Leone and she will help other Nations to 'pour oil on troubled waters.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at Rtd. Col, Fanday Turay, Esq, it is no secret that our Nation is challenged with transportation; you are inheriting a very difficult Ministry. I got reminiscence in the United Kingdom [UK], wherein somebody would just stand and in a minute or two, you would see transportation for you to board and that is the scenario I would want to see in Sierra Leone, no matter what you say, in London nobody would struggle for transportation. Mr Fanday, that is the Ministry we would like to see, we would not want to see a Ministry wherein people in the Private Sector will gang against the Government and in the twinkling of an eye they will pass negative circulars and by the time you are aware of it Okada riders will say we are demonstrating, taxi and bus drivers would say they are striking; so we would not want to see such scenarios but rather Government having real relationship with people in the Private Sector manning transportation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Rtd. Col Fanday Turay Esq, is virtually taking over a challenging Ministry but with his tact, I want to believe that he will perform. In Kenya as well as in Rwanda, most of their Institutions are being manned by a Soldier and the head of our police. Today, the Kenya Transport Ministry is headed by a Soldier, Defence Ministry by a Soldier. So, I am seeing discipline in those particular Sectors. Nigeria has adopted the running of the railway, Late President Probyn Stevens, killed the running of the railways, there was a rail but we only read it as history. Nigeria has passed a railway policy and the first rail has started running last year. With the railway, you can

complement President Maada Bio's pillar one of his agenda to feed the people; I spend about 4 and a half hour to go to my village but with a railway it would be 35 minutes and you are right in Freetown can you imagine that? Boost our transport Sector whether inland, in the air, at sea level or on land boost it. Bad news for Sierra Leone that expensive Air-flights could drop in Sierra Leone, Your negotiation skills can bring them back. Many Sierra Leonean can prefer going to Conakry, Guinea and pay less; negotiate the taxes with those Private Sectors' owners so that we can now feel to run through your ultramodern Airport just recently built. Mr Fanday Turay, I have no doubt and I know that you will perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be rounding up with a fine lawyer, he is under 40 years. This man deserves a standing ovation, Imran Kanu, lawyer, he has contributed to make Sierra Leone proud. The last time I checked it is about 53 years ago when we were represented at the Non-permanent seat at the United Nations, when we went last September for the United Nation General Assembly [UNGA] we saw Mr Kanu meandering up and down creating contacts, when we went to launch for Sierra Leone to get a Non-permanent seat at Manhattan, we were all there in the hall and I asked this young man whether he was really sure that we were going to bag the Non-permanent seat at the United Nations General Assembly and he told me not to be worried about that as they have already done the assignment and the multinational citizens I saw in that hall gave me enough confidence that yes we will be part of UNGA. About two years ago this man went to the United Nations; he was called at the International Criminal Court [ICC] for Law Review Process. Mr Kanu has PhD in law, I congratulate you dearly, he has made Sierra Leone a proud Nation, keep our legacy, showcase our story that we went through an eleven years erroneous war but we survived and we now have peace, showcase the Country called Sierra Leone that with this history of your own very Country, we can bring peace wherever in the World. He has made President Maada Bio a proud seat holder at the non-permanent seat in UNGA. We do believe that whatever resolution you have as long as you assure this House that we will definitely give you the backing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees before us have done well with credible curriculum vitae, I am really jealous of their various resumes and I believe they will not only keep them but to put them into action and it is against that backdrop that I am calling on this House, Traditional Authorities, MPs from the East, West, North and South across party lines, that we swiftly approve these fine nominees. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to the debate. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Member from Kailahun.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have very fine Sierra Leoneans before us as nominees who were vetted by the Committee on Appointments for our approval. As we have seen from previous appointments, the President has chosen to appointed young people to serve and we believe that these young people has all what it takes for them to deliver. I would not waste much time in actually concentrating on few of the nominees today; as a lawyer of 20 years of no means standing at the Bar, I want on behalf of my colleagues at the Bar, to say thanks to His Excellency, President Julius Maada Bio, for actually zooming into the Bar to make fine appointments. Today, we have two lawyers before us in the persons of Dr Michael Imran Kanu, a man from a humble beginning, as a very young lawyer at the Bar, he was chosen by the General Legal Councils to serve as Secretary-General for that most envious body, a position that he earned and discharged with excellence. Whilst most of us were running after money, Dr Michael Imran Kanu choose to leave the shores of Sierra Leone for his post-graduate studies and has a Master's degree with distinction in law, we thought he was going to come back and by them we needed him very badly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a gentle man who believed in unity. In 2012, he saw the need to bring young lawyers together with the view of lending hands for the development of Sierra Leone; that body even as I speak is a body that is in existence and is playing a very pivotal role in the development of Sierra Leone. That body has been able to shape the politics of this Country so much that the politics at the Bar today know no colour, know no boundary, know no tribe but had it not been for him we

would not have had such a successful body at the Bar. Dr Michael Imran Kanu whilst practising law, he was a fine Barrister, one such lawyer who when his is practicing law every young practitioner would love to be in Court to see or hacking into his submissions. He was appointed as Deputy Representative, Legal Affairs to the United Nations, when I was privileged to visit the United Nations I was proud to have a brother on such a seat, a brother even when talking to you he is always busy with his computer doing his research and encouraged us that even though you are a good practitioner in Sierra Leone, it is good for you to via into the International World and make a mark and belief that you can do it. He has always been there promoting and encouraging young lawyers to step up the stage in the international arena and to make a mark. This Nation is proud of such a brother because once you go to such a stage and you have chosen to co-chair such important organisation for you to be reckoned by people who have also discharged or being experts in their own areas like: the Law of the Sea, this is not only an accolade to you alone but also to this Country. We hope as you go as the Permanent Representation to the United Nations, you are going to continue what yourself and your brother Rtd. Col. Fanday Turay Esq did, it was a fine team, any time we went there we knew and felt the synergy between the two of you. He has now stepped aside to take up another assignment and you have been asked to fill the gap in the shoe that he was wearing, His Excellency, the President did so because of the role he saw the two of you played as a team. We have no doubt that whilst you are there, you are going to discharge that function with excellence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to another brother and colleague, Mr Fanday Turay, who is an Ex-Military officer and a lawyer, somebody who have really served very well in the West African sub-region. There are times when you asked about Fanday Turay you will be told that he is in Liberia, he is in The Gambia; he is somebody who is versatile about the security of the West African Sub-region. His Excellency, the President has chosen you to come and mann Transport Sector, your predecessor did well, under his regime we had school buses, under his regime I will say without hesitation that the difficulty of transportation in Sierra Leone was solved to a very large

extent, he brought in policies wherein Civil Servants were given public vehicles for the Government to pay 50% with a bond signed to pay the remaining 50% and upon completion the vehicle will be owned by them. For me, that is a fine policy because knowing fully well that your investment is there, you will maintain and take good care of it which is more the reason we now have very good Government vehicles plying the roads of Sierra Leone. The Transport Ministry is a very huge Ministry; we have no doubt that with your security background, your diplomatic background and with your legal background that you are going to discharge your functions with excellence. Like your colleagues said, it is our dream that we have the rail way again and if we have it we would move from here to Kailahun in 30 minutes. I remember when I was in the United Kingdom [UK] my first job was at Cilford, I will leave London to Cilford and in 35 minutes I would be there, we are not aware as to whether we have the technology, the landscape, the infrastructure maybe if we do a research it will come again but if possible, it is a venture that is very expensive make no mistake about it. Rail comes with excellence and electricity if you do not have excellent electricity in the Country you will not be able to run rail services because everything that goes on in Western Countries is anchored on electricity. Sometime ago I went to Zurich; you will see a fifty-storey building and then water supply right at the top of that building which is as a result of electricity. We are very happy as the Energy Sector is moving gradually in Freetown today without hesitation, I do enjoy 24-hours light, five years ago we could go three to four days in a week without electricity, we used to have a fellow at FM 98.1 S.O [2] 'waka bot' who every morning will tell you Calaba Town, Siaka Stevens Street and the likes are out of light but nowadays if even 'waka bot' is talking of energy we have constant energy supply not only in Freetown but in all Chiefdom headquarter towns, I am sure with such development, with such improvement, the issue of rail will be a project that would be actually achieved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Alghali is a household name, you are an academist and you have discharged your functions in different Ministries. There is something that actually caught my eyelids during this particular appointment by His

Excellency, the President, Rtd. Dr. Julius Maada Bio; I would say he retained the fine of the finest to serve as Ministers during the lifetime of this Sixth Parliament. Those who really discharged their duties with excellence I am sure they have been retained and you are one such person; yourself and your brother seated there, the Minister of Youths, if you move around Sierra Leone, you would hardly go to a District without you seeing a Car Wash Project, if you go to Kailahun there is one, Moyamba Junction, Brookfields and wherever you go the projects are not only there because we wanted visible structures but the youths are making good use of it. Those of us plying the routes to our villages are using it, he has the vision of making sure that the youths are engaged, he has done his best by also introducing the National Youth Employment Program. When at times you go to the banks, you will see these trainees and all of them being trained are ended up to be employed, it is a fine project and we have no doubt that you will continue in discharging your functions. The little admonition I have is that these offices are meant to serve the public. Like the Deputy Leader always say: we would be coming to knock at your doors because we as Members of Parliament, our Constituents look up to us for everything and up till now we have not been able to educate them to understand that building bridges, building Community Centres are not the functions of a Members of Parliament but rather being devolved to Local Councils but because we are always there, we are sometimes compelled to do some of these things and by so doing seeing the need, you will touch their lives and they will be happy. We would be knocking at your doors and whatever facilities or opportunities that would be coming from your offices to them, we assure you of our support. As I often say, there is every need as we have always been doing by touching the lives of our people. If I am here today healthy and under an air-conditioned office, it is because they voted for me and the best I can do is to knock on the doors of the Executive members to say; please give me a school to go and give to my people, please help me build a hospital though it is not my function.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would not want to take much of your time; I want to say thanks to His Excellency, the President, and I am sure you are all fine nominees

and we implore this House to waste no time in approving them to go and continue making us proud. I thank you [*applause*].

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for his contribution. Before I call on my next speaker, I think it is appropriate at this point that I acknowledge the presence of some former Honourable Members, we have in our midst, the Honourable Dr. Fatmata Hassan, the Honourable Mohamed Albert Tarawallie and the one and only Rabi of the Fifth Parliament, Honourable Syragin Rollings-Kamara and the Honourable Robin E.S. Fallay he is also in our midst and the Honourable Aloysius Massaquoi; you are all most welcome, you are greatly missed. I want to give a chance to those who are yet to take the Floor and catch my eyes and let us display some honesty here; I know you are at the very back the three of you, have you spoken before or you are now making over three, four or five attempts. How can I miss the tallest of all? So, I will give you the Floor so I wouldn't miss you the next time. You will be the next, the Honourable Member in white; I will stop there for now.

HON. FOYOH THOLLEY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, for given me the golden opportunity today to add my voice to this approval.

THE SPEAKER: What is your name please?

HON. FOYOH THOLLEY: Mr Speaker, I am Honourable Foyoh Thorley of Sama Bendugu, representing the people of Tonkolili District and the only surviving Member of Parliament under the canopy of the Sierra Leones People's Party [SLPP].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we have our son here by the name of Oman Bangura from Tonkolili, the only surviving Minister S.O [2] 'Orman nor wae.' A man who has worked assiduously towards the improvement of this Government, the people of Tonkolili are proud of you and want to say thanks to His Excellency, the President...

THE SPEAKER: We would not want the records to reflect that instead you may say 'alias' as far as I am concern 'Orman nor wae.'

HON. FOYOH THOLLEY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much Sir, I am sorry about it, we have been used to that name very seriously. Mr Minister, I am sorry for calling you

that name here. Mr Minister, is a man who has several track records in improving the youths, he is a Minister that has shown that the future lies in the hands of the youths in this Country, a man who has worked assiduously so that this Government succeeds.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, there is a certain etiquette that we use in this Well, you should not refer to either your colleague or a nominee of His Excellency, the President by his nickname, nicknames are for outside of this Well, but in this Well I am sure you have a copy of the report of the Committee where his name is very clearly indicated as Mr Mohamed Oman Bangura.

HON. FOYOH THOLLEY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. It is just that I have been used to that name for a while but I am very sorry for that. Mr Oman Bangura, I am sorry for calling you 'Orman nor wae' in this Parliament. Mr Minister, we the people of Tonkolili has no doubt in you, we know that you can perform your assigned duties and we believe reappointing you to that Ministry, you will perform more than before. On behalf of the people of Tonkolili, we want to congratulate you in advance and I plead to the House for us to speedily approve these nominees since we believe in them *[applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, we the people of Tonkolili wants to say thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone for given such appointment to our brother as we believe in him that he can execute his duties judiciously. Thank you very much *[applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Member, you are not the first nor will you be the last victim, I know quite a number of other Honourable Members, who have fallen fowl of the rule against using or addressing people by their nickname so do not get yourself worried, you will adjust yourself as time goes by. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable gentleman in white and kindly identify yourself as you speak.

HON. IBRAHIM KABBA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to say thank you to the Speaker for giving me at least a bite on this particular session. I would also say thanks to His Excellency, the President for nominating eminent Sierra Leoneans to

occupy positions in the Executive Arm of Government. I would also like to say thanks to the Committee charged with the responsibility to vet these nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk to the nominees collectively and I know that they were not voted for but they were appointed by someone that was voted for and that is His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and today they have come to the House of Parliament for approval and we the Honourable Members of Parliament, were voted for by majority of the citizens Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our people at the gallery have come early this morning for them to give support to the nominees but it would come a time when they would go to visit some of these nominees and they would tell them that they are not politicians *[applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the nominees that the people are suffering and some of the youths are dying because of 'Kush' and they have been nominated under a very trying times when all around the world some Countries have designed policies for their food not to go out of their Countries. As a Country, we have to grow what we eat and eat what we grow and therefore, we should come together as a Nation to step up to ensure that we make a difference, to make a change for our people to survive if not, we would be blamed. Mr Speaker, S.O [2] 'e lek nef sharp tay, nah 4 shap am bak.' I have no doubt in these nominees and I believe the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service charged with the responsibility of vetting them will not give us anyone that is not credible. Mr Speaker S.O [2] 'if u shek, de pa go wap' from Emerson the Musician, mine is not a long but just to tell the nominees that upon assumption of offices they should work as a team with the Chief Minister, for them to see how best Sierra Leone can be saved from the present situation in the World.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this House to speedily approve our nominees as we wish them well.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for his contribution to the debate. I would wish to take the opportunity to underline a point which is a salient one that the

Honourable Member has mentioned. The nominees may not have been politicians before coming to the House for approval but by extension of the fact that they have been nominated by a Politician that makes them politicians, take it or you leave it, you are politicians from now henceforth. Let me now give the Floor...

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, point of order. I am rising on S.O [41]. I noticed when you were speaking Members of Parliament, were continuously standing up, for the new Members of Parliament, please read Standing Orders [41] which says that; ***"whenever the Speaker is speaking every Member of Parliament should be seated."*** Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank you for that reminder. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Jonny.

HON. TAMBA J. SIMEON: Mr Speaker, thank you. I am Honourable Tamba Simeon from Kono District. Thank you for given me this opportunity to make my own contribution on the appointment of these fine Sierra Leoneans. I want to thank His Excellency, the President, for nominating amongst the seven million Sierra Leoneans to serve in various capacities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to zoom on Ambassador, Rtd. Col. Fanday Turay. This man is a goal getter; for us to attain a non-permanent seat at the United Nations, at this particular given time when some ill-Sierra Leoneans were bent on destroying the image of this Country, posting all sorts of information and did what they call 'montage'; they will take incidents from Lebanon, Middle-East and associate it with Sierra Leone, just for us not to have got that particular seat. But this man like any sober soccer-striker, he was very much focused and he did all he could after fifty years we last attained that position in 1971, it was after 50 or more years that opportunity has been given to us again I want to thank you for that.

Mr Turay, you have been assigned to oversee a Ministry that is characterised by a lot of challenges and our Deputy Leader II was talking about train to come to this Country, the importance of us having a train service again in Sierra Leone, that is the reason why

it is not good for a Country to have a bad leader, Sierra Leone was having the train service but because of the bad economic policy of the Late former President, Siaka Stevens and under the structural adjustment, World Bank Programme said; Government was not good at doing business so as a result, we were asked to abandon the train service as it was not making profit at that time. As you have now been nominated to serve in that Ministry, please I want you to do everything humanly possible to bring back the train service, I am coming from an agrarian society, my people are not knowledgeable about anything; I am a Kono man but where I am coming from, even if you come with a diamond that is bigger than my head, they would not be able to identify it, all what they know is production of plantain, banana, coffee, which are perishing because of lack of transportation. I believe, even if you come with a locomotive train we can be managed it for now.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you may continue.

HON. TAMBA J. SIMEON: Mr Speaker, thank you. Rtd. Colonel, Fanday Turay Esq, I am aware of the urban resilient mobility programme that they are going to have 50 buses and based on the description of those buses they are going to be the best Sierra Leoneans have ever set eyes on. But one thing that I should remind is that, Freetown is not Sierra Leone. So when those buses arrived, think about us in the Provinces. We have Kenema City, Koidu City, Bonthe Municipality, Makeni City and Port Loko City. As I earlier said, your Ministry has a lot of challenges; you have drivers determining transportation prices even when the Government will put out official prices but if you go to Shell to board a vehicle to upcountry, they have their own prices. So, I implore on you to ensure that the official prices at any time are being adhered to. Most of the buses that were brought in five years ago are no longer road worthy but please sir, make sure that we have new buses that would ply the road from Freetown to Pujehun; do not be afraid as they are tarmac roads. We would want to see buses plying the route from Freetown to Mattru Jong and from Freetown to Koidu City.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to also zoom on the Minister of youths, Mr Oman Bangura. This is a young man I do admire him if you go to countries like Egypt, it has a very vast land full of desert but they are at the top in terms of fish production in Africa, they do fish-farming. This is the only man who was not a Minister of Fisheries but has produced more fish from his fish-farming even more than the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to tell you that if you need the fresh fish especially 'Cat Fish', please contact Mr Oman Bangura.

THE SPEAKER: I think I can endorse that.

HON. TAMBA J. SIMEON: I am not doing an advert for him; because when he wants to catch a fish, he does it himself...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I can fully endorse that you are saying because I myself, have been a beneficiary of it. So, we say Kudos to the Honourable Member.

HON. TAMBA J. SIMEON: Mr Speaker, this is a man whose political magnanimity does not know colour. I was going to my home District at a particular time and met some young men whom we referred to as 'Okada Riders'; they were all going towards the various fuel stations in Magburaka, and when I asked one of them where they were going? They told me that Mr Bangura was in town and have decided to offer each of them 6 litres of fuel yes, over a thousand of them. They were in fact coming from Bombali; some came from Makolo very close to Magburaka, to get that good gesture. Mr Youth Minister, please ensure you continue that good gesture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for my former Registrar from Njala University; she has always been a mother, as echoed by the Deputy Leader II. When we were displaced, attending a Displaced University within a displaced community that was at the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] some of us were so deprived that even to get what to eat was so difficult let alone, to pay our fees. But we ensured we were always there on time before she arrived at the office and upon her arrival, she would want to know if there was any problem and she would be told S.O[2]; 'mama if u

nor intervene, wi nor go sit today oh.' She would ask us to write our names and upon doing that, she will contact the University Authorities in charge for them to allow us write our exams. Mrs Alghali, was the only one that whenever students may want to go on strike but upon seeing her would relent, not even the Chancellor, she was the emissary between us and the University Authorities. She was the one they would send to come to talk to us because they knew the students would listen to her based on their relationship. I therefore, have no doubt that if she could negotiate with tyrant students than certainly she will be ask to negotiate with the International Community.

Mrs Frances Alghali, please ensure to continue with what you have been doing so that the best can be derived from you for this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, I want to appeal to all Honourable Members, that we speedily approve these fine Sierra Leoneans to serve in those various capacities. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution and I want to thank him especially for the point that he drew my attention to and that is the issue about a particular Union being given monopoly to fix transport fares from Freetown to various destinations. That is the challenge amongst the many challenges that you would be faced with at the Transport Ministry. Time and again, I have heard that particular matter being brought to my attention but there seem to be a monopoly and how it came about I cannot tell; but a Union of Drivers has been given the powers to fix transport fares from Freetown to various destinations in the provinces and it is really causing concerns for most business people and ordinary passengers. Having said that; I do not know why the Deputy wants his bite at this time...

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, just one minute.

THE SPEAKER: You are never short in your presentations.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I am going to be brief.

THE SPEAKER: You are never brief, I know you too well. I will now give the Floor to the gentleman in green; I will come to you later.

HON. IDRISSA M. DAUDA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say thanks to all the nominees who have been nominated by His Excellency, the President. We use to say wise people come from the East but I want to say that in our own generation there is someone who said wise people are coming from the South, and that is no less a person but His Excellency, the President, Rtd. Brig. Dr Julius Maada Bio.

THE SPEAKER: Kindly let us have your name.

HON. IDRISSA M. DAUDA: I am Honourable Idrissa Moiwai Dauda from Bonthe District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you can attest that since His Excellency, the President took over office up till now we can see the vast development that have taken place in this Country, so we are moving forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President in his wisdom, thought it fit for this Country to strive ahead of development and that is why he has chosen these Honourable people to help him to develop this Country. We have heard so much about these nominees, so I hereby appeal that we speedily approve them as we have no doubt in His Excellency, the President and the Appointments Committee in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I say thanks to you and I want to congratulate all the nominees in advance. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, will you please acknowledge the maiden speech that has just been made? The Honourable Member, has just made his maiden speech and we have a tradition. I will take only two more speakers, I have not heard a lady speak this morning and I will give you the Floor, Honourable Lady. Your name please?

HON. ADAMA BANGURA: I am Honourable Adama Bangura, from Kambia District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my submission would be brief. I would like to join my colleagues to congratulate the nominees and I want them to know that the task

ahead of them is huge and the public expectations of them are high. I have no doubt in their ability to achieve the Government's agenda.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the successes of these nominees would be judged based on their performances. I want to admonish them that they have a record to maintain. Represent us well and I wish you best of luck. Mr Speaker, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her brief but sound contribution. If you know you have spoken, allow your colleagues to have theirs. I will give the Floor to the Honourable Member, in green, identify yourself please.

HON. IDRIS S. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara from Western Urban. Firstly, I will like to thank His Excellency, the President, Dr Julius Maada Bio for appointing these eminent and deserving nominees. I know it has not been easy for him to have hand-picked some of these nominees looking at the long list of qualified personalities in this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people of this Country voted for us because they believed in us so much that they have reposed their confidence in us and therefore, I want to ask these nominees to ensure they reciprocate accordingly by giving in their best to work for this Country. To be candid, this Nation has gone through difficult times and I believe with these nominees and us seated here we can make this Country as a paradise on earth. Therefore, I want to implore you all to work assiduously to ensure that our people are proud and feel satisfied with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate all the nominees that we have here and I wish them all the best they wish for themselves and I thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Thank you all for your attention.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank you Honourable Member, for making your maiden speech and for the contribution you have just made. Is there any other Member? I will give you the Floor and you will be the next.

HON. ARNOLD M.S BOIMA [RTD CAPT]: Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Rtd. Capt. Sylvester Boima from Cluster 98, Moyamba District. I bring you greetings from the people of Moyamba for your re-election as Speaker in the Sixth Parliament. I want to thank His Excellency, the President, Brigadier, Julius, Maada Bio, not retired but very active in politics, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for giving us these fine nominees. I want to encourage all of them present here today and I am referring you to Section 13[b] of the 1991 Constitution which states that: ***"You would have to cultivate the sense of nationality and patriotism in the discharge of your duty as citizen."*** So whatever you are doing during the discharge of your duty you would have to bear in mind that you are working for the people of this Country; do take that into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your permission, I would want to zoom on my Mama; who is the nominated Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister who happens to be the mother of Moyamba District. I want to join my colleagues particularly in adding value to my mother, the would be Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister; I have no doubt that in seeing Moyamba making a mark in the just concluded elections it is as a result of one of the contributing factors of the would be Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister *[applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, there is a saying that: 'behind any successful man there is also a hardworking and successful woman' but in this case, 'behind any successful Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, I want to recognise Professor Alghali, in the House.' Mr Speaker, with your leave, I also want to recognise the SLPP Jagaban, Smart K. Senesie, the District Chairman, Onana Jalloh, you are also in the House, you are welcome.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to zoom on the Rtd. Col. Fanday Turay. During my enlistment in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF] after our return from the Nigerian Defence Academy as Second Lieutenant, I met you as Captain in Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. I have no doubt in you with all the adjectives my colleagues have lavished on you; you have all what it takes as a Military Officer, you have the moral courage and brevity to lead whatever Institution you may find yourself.

I thank His Excellency, the President, for placing you particularly in that Ministry that is challenged and I know your background, your attention to details, the successes you have achieved from the United Nations will add value to that Ministry. Thank you very much Rtd. Col. Fanday Turay [*applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to zoom on the barometer of youths in this Country, who is no less a person but Oman Bangura. That is the man; as I speak, the fish pond you were talking about is on and of which you Mr Speaker, were a beneficiary. Mr Oman, the people of Kori Chiefdom Cluster 98 Bai-Lagor in particular, wants to congratulate you. I am saying this because there is massive fish pond and animal husbandry project going on now in Kori Chiefdom Bai Lagor Section which is the initiative from no other person but the right man himself, Oman Bangura. Thank you very much Oman, we are with you, we will give you all the support; I have already set plans for my monitoring team in ensuring that value for money and even the materials being used to invest in the project is actualised. The Councillors, Murana Forbi, asked me to extend their gratitude to you; we are with you and we will give you the fullest support needed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, let me pause for now and await the debate on the State Opening of Parliament. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. On behalf of the entire House, I want to say welcome, we lost a soldier and we had a soldier, I do not know whether they are of the same height? You have the Floor.

HON. KONKOFA F. MANSARAY: I am Honourable Konkofa Farah Mansaray from Koinadugu, the only surviving Honourable from the land of powerful mixture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a big thank you to His Excellency, the President for the nominees; these are fine young Sierra Leoneans and I believe they would deliver. My thanks goes also to the Committee for vetting them and we trust in your report that you have given to us, these are fine Sierra Leoneans and we believe

they would be able to deliver the five game-changer agenda of His Excellency, the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I want to circle the Minister of Youths Affairs Mr Mohamed Oman Bangura; you have been doing so well for the young people of this Country, your re-appointment as Minister of Youths Affairs I believe you will do more. I want us to focus more on Agriculture which is the number one on the agenda of His Excellency, the President and I believe with Agriculture this Country can prosper and if food production is increased it will bring income and the dollarization will be controlled because of exportation of food items would encourage the dollar to be circulated and the exchange rate will be reduced. Seeing a shift from His Excellency's second term re-election, he is shifting from the BBC's which means: 'born before computers,' people that are above 60 years are what we refer to as the BBC but focussing now on the AI technology, which is the Artificial technology, His Excellency will be focussing now on the AI technology...

THE SPEAKER: Let me warn you that a man who hates elders will never grow old with wisdom because you will die early in ignorance. Carry on.

HON. KONKOFA F. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. However, let me summarise that the Minister of Youths Affairs, should go into a robust agricultural project, before becoming a Member of Parliament, we started one called the Yeane Agricultural Limited in Koinadugu which created jobs for over 20 youths and rolled out a project called 'operation zero hunger.' When I saw the five game changer agenda of His Excellency, which is 'feed salone' and that fits into my agenda: 'zero hunger campaign' if we are able to increase on food production we would create employment for lots of people and have economic growth and be able to control the dollar. S.O [2] fowl foot is not edible food for us, so we can be able to have edible Sierra Leonean food like country chicken.

Mr Minister of Youths Affairs, trust me we would be coming to your office to see how best you will be able to gainfully engage young people in agriculture so that the

zombies could be removed from the streets and get them meaningfully engaged in agriculture. I thank you so much *[applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member, for his contribution. We will now wind up the debate. That is what I had wanted to do before you interrupted me and I hope the Deputy Leader is also going to yield but I presume you are going to step in the shoes of the Leader if he does not come. I will now give the Floor to the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this morning again we are here to approve the nominees of the President and for that purpose I will be brief in my debate because the nominees are few.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to advise the nominees that they are taking over office at a very difficult time and from the resume Members of the Appointments Committee, we have done our job, screened them, and the public also screened them and now they are here. I have said all I wanted to say in the Appointments Committee for you to approve them this morning. As for the Ambassadors and the Minister, I call them Ambassadors because they are together; they were peers at the United Nations, where we have made history after fifty years we once again got a seat at the United Nations as non-Permanent Representative. For us, it is history and the people of this Country are proud of you, so when His Excellency the President made his Cabinet and brought the Ambassador here as Minister and his Deputy as the Permanent Representative, it is no surprise to us because he has achieved something and made this Country proud again. I just hope that at the United Nations as a Permanent Representative, you would continue to make us proud not only the President because he is alone but I am talking of over seven million population; you are taking over a Ministry that has a lot of problems and we expect you upon taking up the office to help solve some of these problems in the Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the proposed Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you have exhibited what we call 'motherhood' from all the offices you have occupied so far and it is that 'motherhood' that we want you to take to the Ministry especially when you have

a young Minister, we expect you to be the mother for that Minister. Knowing you for who you, definitely, you are going to bring transformation to that Ministry; and will help the Minister to succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the proposed Minister of Youths, I have very little words for you because as a young man in the first dispensation of His Excellency, the President, you have proved yourself and that is why he kept you in that position, you have proved to be a young man who has come to serve; you cut across party lines, you have helped the young people, change the dynamics of the way young people think in this Country. There is a lot more to do but keep up the good job. And I believe you will make all the young people of this Country to be proud of you. I wish you best of luck in your Ministry, go there and deliver, go there and perform. I thank you [*applause*].

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition, for that very brief and succinct and for mature statement.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you all for your wonderful contributions to these wonderful nominees we have here today and we on the Committee have done our best and I carefully listened to Honourable Emerson Lamina, Deputy Leader of Government Business II, when he gave a general overview about individual nominees. I would not want to dwell on that but to extend my thanks and appreciation for their support given to us and these nominees especially those coming from the United States of America [USA] and we did it by way of urgency because we heard a call from State House as they are now doing induction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Fanday Turay, the proposed Ambassador and the other proposed Ambassador, for the good work they have done as we want them to get to their offices so that they can start working as fast as they could. For the only woman amongst them and as Honourable Emerson Lamina has said, there is no way the length and breadth of education can be mentioned without mentioning her name. The Car Wash Minister also who happens to be a comrade, a friend and a brother; that is his usual name, the Car Wash Minister. I admire him so much not because he is a comrade but he has shown to all that young people can do it; that is what he started manifesting

from the very day he took over. He is a very humble and pragmatic man in what he always does, I only want to encourage him to continue doing the same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know there are many challenges in the different Ministries that you are going but we were able to bring out very clearly as you said the last time which can be re-echoed to them because I would like to see a proper synergy between the Ministers and their Deputies, the Permanent Secretaries to ensure that proper Administrative works are going on so that the Ministry can work effectively. Of Course, that can be copied from the outgoing Permanent Representative and the one that is coming in. Honourable Lamina talked about the synergy and has explained about it and others have even elucidated about that very clearly that this is the type of relationship that we would like to see in this Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to thank the Paramount Chiefs for coming in their numbers and I would want to acknowledge that they are the principal advisers of this House, we look up to them so that they can continue to do what they are supposed to do and we have a very active Member as a Paramount Chief in our Committee. Mr Speaker, I would one day invite you to go and witness my Paramount Chief when asking critical questions; I salute you sir, thank you very much. You were asking such questions that make us feel as if we are really intertwined in terms of governance to see the aspect of Paramount Chief involving into the central governance system. But we have said it all, and the veracity of all of us is to see the APC on the other side, Paramount Chiefs and the SLPP which shows that a proper mixture is taking place now. My brother, my Honourable Colleague, Honourable Alfred Thompson, as I said that it is a proper veracity as to why we should be democrats; what you have done by coming to subscribed to the oath is based on the Constitutional mandate given to you. We on this other side, on behalf of the Leader of Government Business, my colleagues as I said to Honourable Mohamed Bangura, we would continue to collaborate, the office is opened because you are serving your people, serving the interest of the State, the hottest place in hell is reserved for those who do not take active part in politics. They voted for you and you won the elections you are here, you

have done nothing wrong my brother, defend the Constitution you are just taking oath, represent your people, make use of that platform say whatever you feel like saying it is on behalf of Sierra Leone, check us, you are not taking on board to compromise with SLPP if we are not doing what is right say it out loud and clear and Honourable Mohamed Bangura has been doing it. We look forward to seeing you work in line with what we are yearning for; we have the big five game changer and the Presidential debate is coming up so we are looking up to you Honourable Member, give us your input and if you find out that we are not doing what is right criticise us, do not hesitate to say it because we are ready for that and policies would be brought out though they are not 100% but they are there to shape the dynamics of the Country. Mr Speaker, is here to arbitrate us so we look up to you because the pieces of advice you give to us is what we take home and we on this side are there to shape our policies based on your individual contributions, you are part of this governance that was why I said the veracity of our democracy is to see SLPP, APC and the Paramount Chiefs, which is the beauty we have, unlike other Parliaments. Thanks to you all and God bless us all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I so move that the Fourth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore, move that the Fourth Report of the first Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been approved]

THE SPEAKER: Please continue to occupy your seats and this goes both for the nominees to my right and on my left, and also to those of you who have come as visitors in the Gallery; you are not supposed to rise until I rise. The House has spoken and has endorsed the nominees presented to us by His Excellency, the President; no doubt he has chosen wisely, he has reposed his trust and confidence in all of you and as you have heard yourself, the House has unanimously endorsed that trust and confidence and we look up to you in ensuring that you rise up to the occasion and live up to the expectations of both His Excellency, the President and the House as a whole.

It is now my pleasant duty to extend my own personal felicitations to all of you and to wish you well; may God bless you. Go and perform and deliver in the best interest of our Country. Good luck and God bless you *[applause]*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, thank you. With your leave Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 5[i] to move that the House sits on Monday for the first allotted day for the Presidential debate.

THE SPEAKER: Yes on Monday and the idea is for us to meet right through next week for the five days of debate on the Presidential Address; so that we can put it out of the way before we proceed on recess. Any seconder to the motion?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

*[Motion for the House to meet on Monday moved by the Leader of Government
Business has been carried]*

ADJOURNMENT

*[The House rose at 2:30 p.m. and was adjourned to Monday 14th August, 2023, at
10:00 a.m. prompt]*