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OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

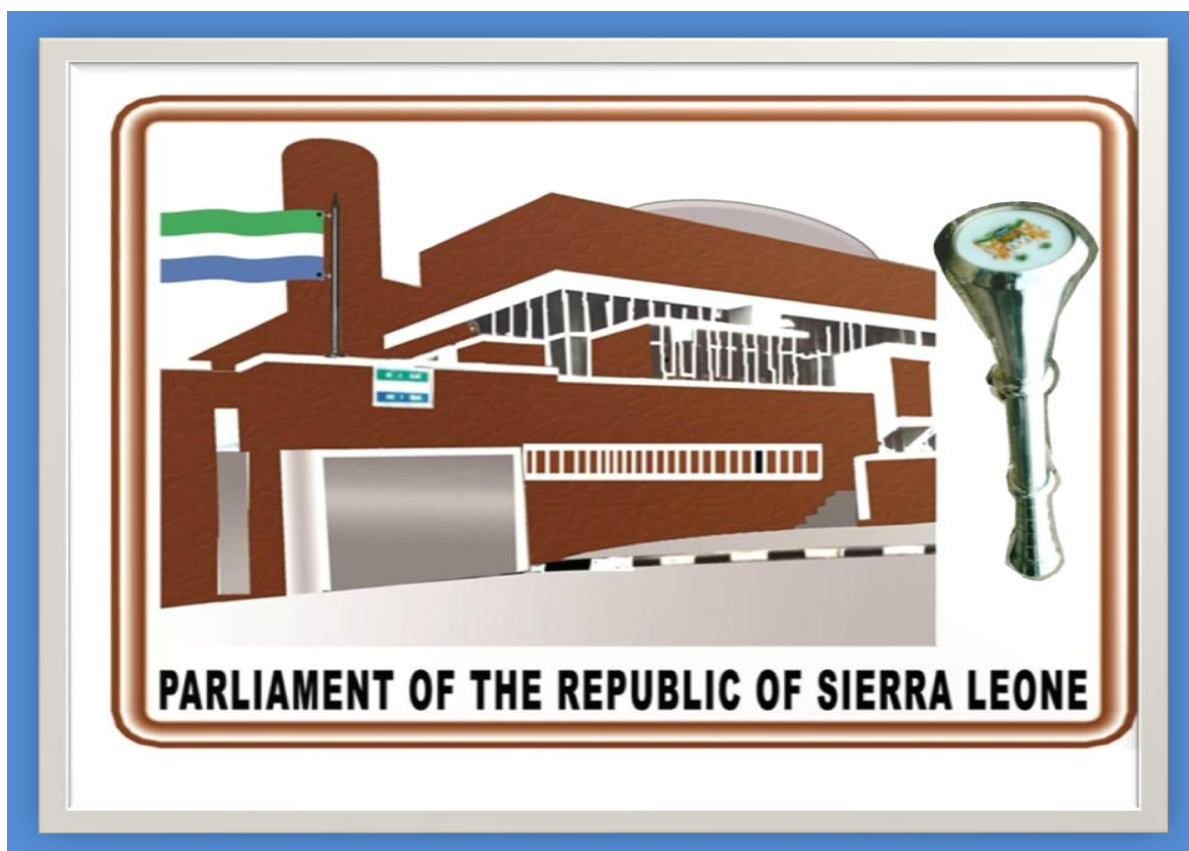
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 2024

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 8th August, 2024.

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V- MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

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CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT ON THE BILL ENTITLED: THE SIERRA LEONE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024

[ii] THE SIERRA LEONE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

B. [i] HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH

CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**REPORT ON THE BILL ENTITLED: THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

[ii] THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024

COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 8th August, 2024.

I. PRAYERS

[The Acting Clerk, Gilbert Bosco Nabay, Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:15am in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5 [2]

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS HELD ON TUESDAY, 23RD JULY AND TUESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2024 RESPECTIVELY

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we begin with the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024. As usual, we shall skip Pages 1 to 4. Page 5?, Page 6?, Page 7?, Page 8?, Page 9?, Page 10?, Page 11?, And Page 12?

Honourable Members, we now move on to Record on Votes and Proceedings for 6th August, 2024. Page 1?, Page 2?, Page 3?, Page 4?, Page 5?, Page 6?, Page 7?, Page 8?, Page 9?, Page 10? Can a Member please move?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 23rd July and Tuesday 6th August, 2024 respectively, have been adopted]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, due to the fact that we had the 2023 elections sometimes in the mid of 2023, and we had the first sitting of Parliament on the 3rd of August, 2023, there is no way we could have had the State Opening of Parliament

before the 3rd of August. So as a result of that, the Parliamentary calendar is disrupted. Ordinarily as a Parliament, we were expected to go on holidays from the very start of August. Even if we were to go very late, as a Parliament we are ordinarily expected to go on holidays at least on the 1st of August, if not the 15th of July. But as a matter of fact, we cannot go on holidays before the end of August due to our programs. So I am to inform you Honourable Members that we are going on recess this year on the 31st of August, 2024. And let it be recorded that the effective date of recess this year, is on the 31st August, 2024. Clerks, make sure it is properly recorded. So from now on to the 31st August, we shall be having our sittings. Thank you very much. Proceed!

IV. PAPERS LAID

[A] HON. NENNEH LEBBIE- ***CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES***

HON NENNEH LEBBIE: Thank you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a month or two ago, the Parliament supported the Parliamentary Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources and we made a tour to some industries.

Mr Speaker, in conformity with your ruling, I now beg to lay the Fourth Report of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources; an inquiry into the operations and activities of fishing companies and fishing communities in the Northern Region and Western Area respectively, from the 14th to the 19th June, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon. Nenneh Lebbie. I am to remind all Chairmen of Committees, especially those who have gone on oversight, to ensure that your reports are properly laid, please. Proceed!

[B] MOHAMED-LAMIN TARAWALLY [Esq]- ***THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE***

THE SPEAKER: Proceed!

MOHAMED-LAMIN TARAWALLY-*[Attorney General and Minister of Justice]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a great gratitude to stand before this esteemed Well of Parliament to formally lay the Statutory Instrument, a crucial document that will facilitate the conduct of National census. This is a critical step in our national effort to conduct a comprehensive and accurate census; a well conducted census that provides essential data that will underpin all aspects of government planning and policy making. It allows us to understand the demographic trends, social characteristics and economic conditions of our population.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the laying of this instrument before Parliament seeks your legislative backing, which is essential for formal adoption and implementation of the census scheduled for December, 2025. This Statutory Instrument has been developed in compliance with the Census Act of 2002. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers:

- Census Order 2024
- The Census Act, 2002, Act No. 14 of 2002 and
- Statutory Instrument No.8 of 2024

[C] ***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION***

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION [*Rex Bonapha*]: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on this Honourable House the following paper:

- THE SIERRA LEONE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY ACT, 1996 ACT NO. 4 OF 1996 AS AMENDED.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on! I have something different before me. I am seeing the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority Driving License and Miscellaneous. Is that not part of the paper, Leader of Government Business?

HON: MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I was expecting the Minister to read from the Order Paper that is in his possession. Can you please do so, please? Mr Speaker, the Minister just entered the Chamber; he did not go through the normal procedure.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, next time we would keep you here, *[laughter]*. Proceed!

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following paper:

- THE SIERRA ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY DRIVING LICENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES FEES REGULATIONS, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, Proceed!

[D] MR. SHEKU AHMED FANTAMADI BANGURA- ***THE MINISTER OF FINANCE***.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE *[Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House, the following papers:

- THE SIERRA LEONE MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COOPERATION ACT, 2023, ACT NO. 22 OF 2023.
- THE SIERRA LEONE MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COOPERATION; ALLOCATED MINERALS AND MINERAL RELATED ASSETS REGULATION 2024.
- STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.11 OF 2024.

MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on! The Attorney General and the Minister of Transport and Aviation, you are released.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, please, let the Attorney General and Minister of Justice stay.

THE SPEAKER: Why do you want to keep the Attorney General here?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Let him just stay, we will talk about that later.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the past, we know what happened. Basically, it is unprecedented for two censuses to be merged to form a base for elections, and that is what happened in those previous elections.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that census result for both 2015 and 2021 were merged and divided by two; which is not lawful neither constitutional, and all of us know that there were flaws in the census. So this time around, as Opposition, we want to let it be known clearly that this census must follow the standard procedure in analyzing how censuses are to be done, for obvious reason; we should not just be mono-focal or myopic during elections. Censuses are not only meant for electioneering processes; they are meant for developmental processes, they are meant to make sure that the wealth or resources are distributed right across the country.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want it to be known that the Oppositions would fully participate and the Oppositions would be very curious on the processes and procedures. Let me make this clear, I have said this, times without number, that in a democratic dispensation, protest is not a crime, and when processes and procedures are defaulted, expect to see the Opposition in the streets of Freetown, I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Is the Statistician General here? Proceed, Leader of Government Business.

HON.MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to thank my colleague on the other side. I rely on section 94 of the Constitution to regulate our own business. So, the Leader of the Opposition asked that he was getting late, and he would want to make a statement on the census, which he has done.

Mr Speaker, under your leadership, I want to assure my colleague from the other side that there will be full compliance. I am happy that he called on the Statistician General to ensure that we fully observe the processes and evenly distribute the resources. I am also happy that the Minister of Finance is sitting here. We have argued the two census reports; the one done under the APC Administration, and that of the SLPP Administration. So I think we can be in compliance under the full force of the law, thank you.

Mr Speaker, you mentioned that our recess will effectively start on the 31st August, 2024. In line with that, I want to draw the attention of Mr Minister to the fact that there is an arrangement that we need to observe in respect of the recess. My colleagues were frowning at the announcement that you made, but I want to assure them that recess is a recess, and that when the Speaker adjourns the sitting, let them be rest assured that there are some arrangements we are going to do before the 31st August, 2024. The Minister of Finance has given his commitment towards that recess arrangement. Leader of the Opposition let me assure you that under the esteemed leadership of Mr Speaker, you will enjoy your recess in a more comfortable way than ever before.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, I would urge you that let the recess allowance come from the point of view of the new calculations; we urge you to do the new calculations. Please Mr Minister, let it come through the new calculations. We need to have a meeting next week. Mr Minister, I would give you a call so that we meet together with your F.S on this particular subject. This subject is very, very important. Are you done? You may go.

Honourable Members, whenever I take a decision, if you do not understand my reasons behind certain decisions, you are free to meet me in my Chambers to ask questions,

please. Because sometimes when Members do not understand the reasons behind certain actions, they tend to misconstrue Mr Speaker. Whenever I say anything here or whenever I do anything here, if you do not understand the reasons behind whatever I say or do, you are free to come to the Chambers, please for the sake of the House. Proceed!

V. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA

[THE 20TH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, AUGUST, 2024].

1. INTRODUCTION

HON.MATTHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees to serve in public offices of state, met on Monday, 5th August, 2024 and interviewed **Nine** Presidential nominees for the following appointments to Public Offices:

- i. One Ambassador
- ii. Three Deputy Ambassadors
- iii. Three Board Chairmen and
- iv. Two Board Members.

2. PROCEDURE

In our usual procedures Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, the Committee conducted its open hearing within the usual framework of procedures. The nominees were vetted on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they had the required proven track records in pertinent work situations for appointments in such important offices of State. Further probing questions put to the appointees covered wide ranging issues relating to declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for productive tenures. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into by the Committee.

THE 24TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 2024.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 10 and 53 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991, His Excellency the President has deemed it fit to nominate the following suitably qualified Sierra Leoneans to be approved by the House of Parliament in a bid to transform the foreign, education and public sectors of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in fulfillment of its Constitutional mandates, the Committee interviewed the following presidential nominees on oath:

1. **MR IBRAHIM TURAY-** *PROPOSED AMBASSADOR, SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, DAKAR, SENEGAL.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ibrahim Turay is a Marine professional with vast experience in Fisheries Management, Marine Law and Policy. He holds a Master's Degree in Fisheries and Marine Resources and a Post Graduate Diploma from International Ocean Institute, University of Dalhousie, Canada.

From May 2018 to July 2023, he served as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Mining Resources; responsible to provide policy direction for achievement of the government's vision for development and sustainable management of the Fisheries Sector in Sierra Leone. Additionally, he was responsible to assist the Minister to implement strategic

actions of Fisheries policy with a view to conserving the suitable utilization of the marine resources in a manner that is ecologically efficient and socially viable.

In his response to probing questions from the Committee on seeking the interest of Sierra Leone, Mr Turay said *'As a patriotic Sierra Leonean, and being fully aware of the vision of His Excellency the President on deepening the diplomatic ties within the West Africa basin, I strongly believe that my immediate predecessor has already set the pace towards the trajectory, if approved by this Honourable House'*.

However, he underscored that he would work with the State Institute in Senegal to address some of the perennial migrant issues such as work permit, injustice and Human Right abuses. *'These are issues that need constant engagements and negotiations with the Senegalese authority'*, he concluded. The nominee promised to market Sierra Leone to potential investors, since Senegal is a hub for business in West Africa.

2. **MRS ASMAA JAMES-** PROPOSED DEPUTY AMBASSADOR, SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs. Asmaa James is a renowned award winning female Radio Broadcaster and Journalist with over twenty-two years of broadcasting experience in post conflict Sierra Leone. She has an Advanced Diploma in Journalism from London School of Journalism. Her passion for upholding and promoting active citizens' participation in strengthening democratic governance is always uncompromised and unwavering. She is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of Asmaa James Corporation, which comprises of a Radio Station called **Rise Radio** and the Asmaa James Foundation, better known as **Girl's plus**, which focuses on empowering women and girls.

She was also Managing/Executive Director of the Society of Radio Democracy 98.1 for over eleven years; a Radio Station well known for its institutional role in the fight for the restoration of democracy and the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. This is a testament to her hard work and commitment in contributing to the development

of this nation. Hence, in the recognition of her contribution to society, she received several awards, some of which include:

- In 2016, she was selected as a young and emerging leader from Sierra Leone to participate in the Young Africans Leaders Initiative, under the Mandela Washington Fellowship.
- In 2019, she was recognized as one of BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world who were regarded as change makers.
- In April, 2022, she was awarded the Officer of the Order of the Rokel [OOR]; Sierra Leone's second highest honour for civilians by His Excellency the president.
- In May 2022, she and six other women were honoured by the UK High Commission in Sierra Leone for championing issues affecting girls and women.

In her submission to the Committee on coping with the nuances and complexities associated with diplomacy, Mrs Asmaa James said *'I know the world of diplomacy requires special skills and fitness among others. However, I am going there with journalistic and public service sector experience to make it successful. I intend to work closely with the substantive Ambassador and staff to ensure quality representation in all spheres on behalf of His Excellency the president and the government of Sierra Leone'*, she affirmed.

The Nominee was praised across party lines for her unequivocal stands on issues of social injustices and her fair and impartial presentation on National issues. Members of the Committee expressed strong sentiments that the Nominee continues her advocacy skills to resolve some of the migrant problems that may arise in the Kingdom of Belgium.

3. **MADAM FATMATA SAWANEH-** *PROPOSED DEPUTY AMBASSADOR, SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, CONAKRY, GUINEA.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Fatmata Sawaneh is a highly motivated performance driven and result oriented grass root politician with over fifteen years active participation in politics and entrepreneurship. Her unique drive for excellence and success took her to the enviable position of National Women's Leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party, a position that she held from 2017-2022 and she demonstrated honesty and transparency throughout her tenure.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nominee was admonished by the Committee to acquaint herself with discipline, commitment and dedication in her new role. She was also praised across party lines for her extra-ordinarily support and contribution to national politics. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh was further acknowledged for her enviable role and input in enacting the Gender and Women's Empowerment Act.

4. **MR LUSINE KALLON-** *PROPOSED DEPUTY AMBASSADOR, SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, MONROVIA, LIBERIA*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Lusine Kallon is a vibrant young leader with a Master's Degree in Business Administration [MBA], with specialty in Human Resource Management from the Institute of Public Administration and Management [IPAM].

From 2018 - 2023, he served this nation as a Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, where he performed remarkably well in facilitating the establishment and operations of the Youth in Agriculture project which established one hundred and ninety-one [191] Chiefdom Youth Farms.

From 2014 - 2016, he served as Operations Manager, Uncle Hung Mining limited, Sierra Leone.

From 2011-2014, he was an Export/Import and a Store Manager for Tropical Farms Limited, Sierra Leone.

And from 2007-2011, he was the Administrative Assistant, Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization.

Commenting on his role of strengthening the Bi-lateral ties between Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr Lusine Kallon said, *'if approved by this Honourable House, I will work with the current Ambassador to deepen the bi-lateral ties with the Republic of Liberia by facilitating cooperation programmes such as; free trade zone, easing border restrictions and addressing issues revolving around human right abuses and employment for Sierra Leonean migrants'.*

5. **MR KABINEH MOINAMA KALLON-** PROPOSED CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Kabineh Moinama Kallon is a motivated individual with a lot of experiences in Case Management, Social Service and Community Development. He has served this country in several capacities, especially in the public sector with the goal of achieving government's public service objectives. He holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Harvard University, Washington D.C in 2001. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from the University of District of Colombia, Washington D.C in 1994.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Kabineh Moinama Kallon served as a Minister of Transport and Aviation from 2018 to 2023, where he superintended over a novelty Public Transport Modernization process in Sierra Leone, which seeks to make public transport services accessible, affordable, safe and comfortable for Sierra Leoneans. He was very instrumental in bringing to fruition several projects, including the '**Waka Fine**' Bus services, Overhead Bridges, the new Freetown International Airport and more. His nomination to the position of Chairman of the Board of the National Revenue Authority

by His Excellency the President is by no means a mistake because Mr Kallon had once served that institution with dedication and diligence in the following capacities:

- From September 2006-2008, he was a Senior Tax Collector and
- From November 2005 to September 2006, he was Collector, Preventive and Special Services Division, Custom and Excise Department.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nominee was hailed by the Committee for his steadfast commitment to the duty and the radical transformation of the Transport sector during his tenure at the Ministry. He was acknowledged for his role in the successful procurement of the '**Waka Fine**' Buses by the World Bank, which eased transportation for the general public.

On the other note, the Nominee assured the Committee that he would work collaboratively with all stakeholders to provide policy guidelines to increase revenue mobilization at the National Revenue Authority in order to enable the Government of Sierra Leone implement the **Big Five Game Changer** agenda to help transform Sierra Leone.

6. **MR EDWARD LEBBIE WILLIAMS-** *PROPOSED CHAIRMAN, SIERRA LEONE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Williams is a politician and teacher of no mean standing. He holds a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Bachelor's Degree in Education.

From 2005 -2018, Mr Edward Lebbie Williams served as Principal of the Bullom Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School, responsible to provide oversight and monitor the day to day activities of the school.

From 2018 to date, he served as the Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Airport Authority, responsible to provide policy guidelines and oversight on the management of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority.

Responding to the Committee's inquiry on transforming the Airport to meet international standards, the Nominee opined that, *'I will work with all stakeholders to ensure that the management of the Airport implements an effective aviation safety and security oversight system, address the requirements of the Chicago Convention of International Civil Aviation [1994], and ensure quality service delivery to customers at all times', he concluded.*

The Nominee also promised to undertake key policy reforms aimed at improving the working conditions of the employees in the Sector to maximize their output to meet customer satisfaction.

7. ING. ANDREW KARMOH KEILIE- *PROPOSED CHAIRMAN, ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SUPPLY AUTHORITY*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing. Andrew Karmoh Keilie is a qualified Mining Engineer with a Master of Philosophy Degree [M-Phil] from the University of Newcastle Upon time in the United Kingdom. He has worked for various Mining Companies, including the then Sierra Rutile Mining Company in Sierra Leone, the United State of America and Ukraine. He is a founding member of the Co-owner of C-Mat Group Limited; a major multidisciplinary Engineering and environmental consultancy in Sierra Leone, where he currently serves as Managing Director.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this fine gentleman is well vast in corporate governance issues in public and private sectors. Having served as the first Chairman of the Board of Ecobank Sierra Leone, Chairman of the Board of Trustee, NASSIT, and also member of the Board of Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission, Mr Andrew Keilie has been involved in the formulation of government policies and delivery of projects dealing with the Sierra Leone's electricity including being a member of the

Management team for the National Power Authority. He is also a recipient of the National Award of Grand Commander of the Order of Rokel. Also, his relevant project experiences related to electricity sector include:

- 1** In 2023; Lead Consultant for the formulation of National Energy Policy for Sierra Leone, funded by UNECA.
- 2** 2020; Project Director, Environmental Social Impact Assessment update to the IFC standards for the 66KV Transmission Line [Eastern Corridor] project for Kalpatru, India.
- 3** In 2016; Project Director, Resettlement Action Plan for Bumbuna phase two [2] Hydroelectric Project, Joule Africa Ltd, Sierra Leone.
- 4** In 2011 to 2012; Project Director, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Bumbuna phase two [2] project, Lahmeyer International, Sierra Leone.
- 5** In 2004; Project Director Environmental Management Services, Liberia Infrastructural Rehabilitation Project/upgrading of the Liberia Interconnected off-Grid Electricity system, World Bank, Liberia.
- 6** In 2000 -2002; Member of the Management team, National Power Authority and the World Bank, Sierra Leone.

In allaying the fears of the Committee on restoring sanity in Energy Sector, Ign. Andrew Keilie said, *‘I have spent the greater part of my professional career working in the energy sector. Therefore, I am quite familiar with the numerous challenges associated with that sector. I also have first-hand experience on how a lot of countries have resolved the problems to achieve sustainable energy supply. I strongly believe that a holistic approach is required and this can only be achieved through effective collaboration with partners, institutions, and building on the existing energy structures,’* He said.

8. MADAM CATHRYN PATRICIA FRANCESSE TURAY- *PROPOSED COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN REGION, TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION [TEC].*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Cathryn Patricia Francesse Turay is a Legal Practitioner with over twenty years' experience as the Chief Executive Officer of the Frandia Company, a private company responsible to provide logistics and office equipment for Public and Private companies. Madam Turay holds a Bachelor of Law Degree, with Honours from the University of North Umbria, Newcastle, United Kingdom.

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Turay served as a Legal Practitioner at Holloway and Partners; responsible to negotiate settlements on behalf of clients and represent clients in court and provide counsel on legal issues and litigations. She was also responsible to work closely with the clients to understand their needs and objectives and draft client's legal document.

Commenting on her role in ensuring strict adherence to the Tertiary Education Act of the Universities and Colleges, Mrs. Turay said, *'if approved, I will be providing the necessary legal advice to the Chairman and the Board to enable them provide effective oversight and monitoring mechanism for all tertiary institutions in the Southern Region and to ensure adherence to the Act'.*

9. REV. THOMAS JOHNNARD BARNET- *PROPOSED MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SIERRA LEONE BROADCASTING CORPORATION.*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Reverend Thomas Johnnard Barnet is a retired Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. He holds a Master of Divinity [M.Div] Degree from the Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque Town, United States of America. He was elected as head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra

Leone in 2003, and at the same time, served as President, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone and the Inter-Religious Councils of Sierra Leone.

In April 2014, he was awarded the National Honour of the Order of the Rokel in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the achievement of Evangelism in Sierra Leone.

As a representative of the Religious Council, the Nominee promised to work with colleague Board Members to effect the necessary changes needed in Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation to make a modern Broadcasting Corporation.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. MR IBRAHIM TURAY- Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal.
2. MRS ASMAA JAMES- Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Belgium.
3. MADAM FATMATA SAWANEH- Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea.
4. MR LUSINE KALLON- Proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia.
5. MR KABINEH MOINAMA KALLON- Proposed Chairman, National Revenue Authority.
6. MR EDWARD LEBBIE WILLIAM- Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.
7. ING. ANDREW KIELIE- Proposed Chairman, Electricity Distribution Supply Authority.

8. MADAM CATHRYN PATRICIA FRANCESS TURAY- Proposed Commissioner, Southern Region, Tertiary Education Commission.
9. REV. THOMAS JOHNNARD BARNET- Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the 20th Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the 20th Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Submitted by:

The Chairman, Committee on Appointments and Public Service

Hon: Mathew Sahr Nyuma.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just few days ago, we had Nominees before us again, and we critically looked at them and I could still remember in my speech, I said to this Well, that until we understand *[interruption]*

HON. MATHEW .S. NYUMA: Sorry, Honourable Member, I really do not want to obstruct you. Mr Speaker, I spoke to the Leader of the Opposition from yesterday to this morning that we do understand the atmosphere in the Chamber during approvals; people want to make contributions in respect of the nominees. But if you look at the Order Paper, it is as well loaded. So we are assuming that as the presiding officer, you

guide us to manage the time. I do not want to move the Motion which I know will be supported by my able Leader of the Opposition. So please help us manage the time so that we cannot be here for too long. We have been here all these days; from the State Opening, we had meeting yesterday, today we have sitting, and we intend to conclude tomorrow. So you know the workload on us.

Therefore, I am calling on you, on behalf of my colleagues and me, to help us manage the time. Our Order Paper is well loaded, and we also have another event during the break. So, it is just a plea, I do not know whether my colleagues on the other side would like to say something.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes Mr Speaker, I just want to add my voice to that of his; that we have hung heads before now and we have agreed that based on fact that Parliament has been very exhausted these two days, we want this session today to be very short and succinct, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Can we have two on either side? Honourable Member, you may proceed whilst I decide who to speak next.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, in the last appointment, I made it categorically clear that we must understand that when we have Ambassadors going out to represent Sierra Leone, they have a very huge task. And one of their tasks is to manage our information base and to also market our country out there. But today, we have Ambassadors going to two countries which I want to narrow on. One of them is the Ambassador going to Senegal, and by coincidence, he happens to be a Marine expert.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the sectors we have not adequately drawn from, is that of the Marine sector. Mr Speaker, if you go to Google now and you just Google Senegal, **10%** of their GDP is coming from the Marine sector, and it contributes **\$400Mln** a year just from the Marine sector. And interestingly, we have a bigger Marine space than Senegal. So the question is; what is happening with our Marine

sector? But we have an expert going to Senegal, and one of the major roles that we want you to play for us when you go to Senegal is to study the Senegalese fisheries industry and advise us on how we can manage our resources and how the fishery industry can contribute more to our economic growth. You are not just going out there as an expert and a diplomat, but you have an experience from the Marine sector; you are a marine expert and you have worked in the Ministry of Fisheries. How can we develop that sector to contribute to our economy? **\$400M** in a year will do much more good for Sierra Leone. We need to ensure that we contribute to that sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone and the EU are intertwined when it comes to development. In every aspect of our development, you would hear EU, all over. And interestingly, we are having one of the finest Sierra Leoneans going to the EU now. You know, if I say more, my Eastern Lions colleagues would take me to task for this. We have a person by the name of Asmaa James who possesses three characters; she is a football loving fan and a very strong person in the Eastern Lions where I belong. She is a journalist, not just a professional journalist, but one of the female journalists in Sierra Leone whom everybody will use as an example for journalism. For the first time, the Press Gallery is clapping in Parliament. Madam Aasam, this tells you that you have contributed in building the capacity of female Journalists and you are a role model to them. But you are going to a new capacity out there in the world. You are going to one of the places where Sierra Leone depends greatly for development support. We hope you will use your skills; your journalistic skills to market Sierra Leone. I have said to myself many times that one of the problems we have as a nation is not the resources. We have the resources, we have the manpower, we have qualified Sierra Leoneans, but what we have not agreed to as a nation is how to market our country. I have been to Ghana and I would tell you that in Ghana, there are several things that are not good but they would project the good issues and conceal those which are very bad about their country. Today Ghana is a hub of West African Democracy not because there are no bad things there, but because they are able to manage their media well. If you cannot clap for this, an undertone is disrespect to me. Let me say this again, if you

cannot clap for this, an undertone is disrespect to my capacity *[applause]*. We need to market our country out. This is what we need now than any other time. Every time you go out there, you hear bad news about Sierra Leone; if it is not the war, it is Ebola. If not Ebola, it is Covid 19. Are we not having good news in Sierra Leone? **S.O 2, Aaa bo, ous bad wey wi du wuna naw ba?** So I am saying, now that we are having a very fine Sierra Leonean going to the EU, I am sure we are going to market our country now. We have an opportunity to tell the good news to the world. We have the best of minerals as I have always said but we have not marketed ourselves to the world. Madam Aasma Jamea, go and make us proud and continue to do the good things for Eastern Lions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wonder if I would be buying newspapers again because most times when I buy newspaper, the first column I look for is '**Ponder my Thoughts,**' and I have learned so much from Andrew Keilie over the years. He is such a wonderful writer and he is one person most young people mirror and look at and say, '*I want to be like this person*'. Engineer Andrew Kielie, I hope this appointment will not plunder your thoughts. We still look forward to having your very good write ups that shape the opinion of government policies, shape the thoughts of young people, and also motivate young people to do better for this nation. Nobody can doubt your integrity when it comes to what you can offer in terms of writing. It is now an opportunity to put your good writings into good works and promote this nation. It is easy to say things about people, but it is difficult to make those things come to reality. I know you were dissatisfied and you left with your brother to NGC. Engineer Kielie, now that you are slowly coming back home, please contribute to the development of Sierra Leone. This is a moral lesson for all young politicians who think moving to other political parties is a solution. There is no place like home. I wish Honourable Mohamed Bangura was here today. Mr Speaker, moments like this, *[undertone]* no, I do not want to mention Honourable Emerson for a good reason.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a very busy schedule today and I do not want to take much of your time, but I want to reecho just few points that, as good as our country is, we have many media outlets and we have many opportunities in our

country. As Sierra Leoneans, let us join our voices together and market our country well, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member for your contribution. Honourable Fatmata Bockarie, you have the Floor. After Honourable Fatmata Bockarie, I would listen to Honourable Zainab Tarawallie, and then the mama of the House, who again? Honourable Latif, and then the Paramount Chief and the Chairman. Honourable Konneh, you will be the last and we round off. Five minutes each.

HON. FATMATA BINTU BOCKARIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say thanks to God Almighty for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of somebody under whose directives I have served. She is no less a person but Madam Fatmata Sawaneh. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh has worked diligently for our party. She has worked hard, and that is the reason she is here today for approval. She is a perfect and hardworking woman, the record breaker, the people's representative, the Iron Lady of our party and the Lioness of SLPP. I want to say thank you to President Bio, for giving her this opportunity. Thank you very much President Bio, you have done it all. We are still looking out there for other women to be appointed; we have District Women's Leader here, Constituency and Regional women who have diligently served our party and deserve to be appointed to other capacities. On that note, I want to urge this House to speedily approve Madam Fatmata Sawaneh.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now zoom in on Mr Kabineh Kallon, Mr Edward Williams and Mr Lusine Kallon; I doff my hat to you. You have all worked tirelessly, that is the reason you are before us today for approval. I want to say thank you again to President Bio for giving us these fine Nominees.

To the nominees, I want to call on you that as you see your people up the Gallery cheering you up, ensure that when you go to those offices you do not forget our party people. Serve with your consciences, serve diligently and serve the country as a whole.

On that note Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, I want you to please join hands with me to speedily approve these appointees, thank you very much.

HON. CATHERINE Z. TARAWALLY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is another time to congratulate fine Sierra Leoneans; Sierra Leoneans who have worked tremendously, tirelessly, energetically for the benefit of Sierra Leone. We are here this morning to say thank you to them. Approving them in this House means a very big thank you, it means sending a signal to other Sierra Leoneans that if you work tirelessly, if you work hard, the result will be a very unique one.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, we are saying thank you to Sierra Leoneans who have served this fine country called Sierra Leone. I have a Sierra Leonean that I always call a dear sister. We started it all when Journalism was just for men; we fought for women and we stood our grounds. We said, we wanted women to be at the forefront of Journalism, and we have what we call '***Women in the Media***'. It was not easy for us, and it was a workaholic thing. We want to say thank you to people like the Honourable I.B Kargbo and all the past Presidents of SLAJ, including the great man that is serving us now as the President of SLAJ. They were always there to allow women do the things that they are supposed to do.

Madam Asmaa James, we are here to say thanks to you and to congratulate you. We are also saying thank you to His Excellency for nominating you to serve at the European Union; the center base of the EU. Madam Aasma James, you are going there to represent Sierra Leone and us, the women. You will be also there to represent the Media; the platform that you served Sierra Leone with. We are sending you to do the needful for Sierra Leone. You have been somebody that has served tremendously in this country. We want to appreciate you so dearly. We want to wish you very well. Go and make us proud. We are journalists; it is our profession. A proud journalist, and make Journalism a world for every Sierra Leonean. We want to wish you well.

Mr Speaker, even though I am now a politician, I am still a SLAJ member. I pay my dues, a proud journalist and I will be a journalist so that nobody tells me about Journalism. It is the field that I love and that I will serve forever.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a sister is always a sister; whatever political party she belongs, it does not mean. When the blood runs, it runs for the benefit of Sierra Leone. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh is a dear younger sister; a little sister to me. I keep on telling you that some of us are aging but we are very beautiful. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh is a dear younger sister. From the moment I heard the announcement that she has been nominated, I became very satisfied because, when you work for somebody, the individual has to accept that you have worked well. Thank you, President Bio for accepting her tireless work. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh has always been there for the SLPP. I am an APC, I am not an SLPP but she is my younger sister. Fatmata Sawaneh's elder sister and I attended the same school together. Congratulations Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, and I wish you the very best.

I know Guinea is not a strange land to you, S.O 2, '*Balagasica Balagafa*'. It means you are going home, and when you go home, make us proud. We would keep on seeing you; we would keep on telling you to do the needful. Do not allow people to push you; do not allow the world to take you over. Do things that will be for the benefit of Sierra Leone, and remember that the ears, the eyes and the nostrils of every Sierra Leonean are on you. Please put your enemies to shame; tell them that you can perform, tell them that you would do it, and tell them that you are capable.

I was at your interview, and you proved them all wrong and you made us proud. So please continue to make us proud. If you make us proud, more women will come on board. We are all proud of you and thank you, we want to wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a dear friend, a long serving friend. Sometimes, we agree to disagree, and when you are not in the same political party sometimes friendship will be like a helter-skelter thing, but, friendship is friendship. Mr Kabineh Kallon has been a friend; a long serving friend. When he was a Minister of

Transport, I kept on asking Rex to bring the Minister whenever he comes here; otherwise we will not approve anything that will be brought here.

Mr Kabineh Kallon, we want to wish you well. Now that you are going to serve in the area of our money, we want to see more money coming at the NRA; we want to see our taxes improved, we want to see more resources for Sierra Leoneans because we want to see the changes in what we call '*the Life system of Sierra Leoneans*'. We know you have been at the Customs and you have been working tirelessly. Now that you are going to serve at the helm of affairs as the Chair of the Board, ensure you help Madam Jeneba to make things work for the National Revenue Authority. I trust in you, I know you, and this House believes in you. You have been a minister for five years untouchable, unshakable, and now you are going again to serve in another capacity and I know you will serve Sierra Leone. I know you will prove to all your enemies who think that you are not capable that you are capable. Show them that you have been there and you will do the needful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the rest of the nominees, I know that my former Deputy Minister of Fisheries worked tirelessly when he was in that office. You are going as an Ambassador to Senegal which is one of the Francophone Africa countries, and you have been there before as a Marine Officer. And as a Deputy Minister, you worked tirelessly in the Fisheries Committee together with Madam Chair, the Honourable Neneh Lebbie. You are an inspirational individual, and I know you will serve Sierra Leone very well.

Mr Turay, I know you are capable and you will do us very well. We want you to tap on all the good things from Senegal and bring them to Sierra Leone because we have the good fishes in our seas. Sierra Leone is the best, when it comes to fishing, mining, among other things.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the rest of the nominees before us for approval, I want to wish them well; go and serve Sierra Leone well. His Excellency the President did not just appoint you because you are a member of his party. His Excellency

appointed you because he believes in you; he thinks you will deliver in your various appointments, and by extension, support him to deliver on his ambition for Sierra Leone. I wish you well; I pray that this House approves you unanimously, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, please before you proceed, I wish at this stage to recognize the presence of certain eminent personalities that we have here this morning, starting with Dr. Julius Sandy, you are welcome. Dr. Julius Sandy was the former Secretary to the President and he is currently our Ambassador to Nigeria. You are welcome sir. Honourable Manso A. Dumbuya; he is the current Chairman of the SLPHA, and the Chairman of SLPP Western Area; he is the lord of the West. Dr. Francis Mustapha Kaikai, is he here? He is the former Minister of Planning and Economic Development and he was an Ambassador. You are welcome. We also have Honourable Bintu Myers; she is the current Chairman of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration, and the former Chairman of the Guma Valley Water Company. Then, we have Honourable Gladys Gbappy Brima, she was a former Member of this House, a strong one for that. We also have Mr. Mohamed Fuaad Daboh; he is the current Director General of NASSIT. So if you want to check your records, please see him. It is very important whilst you are here to try to check your records. Honourable Edward Amin Suluku, he is a former Member of this House and then, former Minister of Internal Affairs. You are all welcome.

Let me also go on to Mr Ahmed Sahid Nasaralla, he is at the back there; he is the current President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalist [SLAJ], and we have Ahlaji Manika Kamara, the current Secretary General of Sierra Leone Association of Journalist [SLAJ], you are also welcome. Let me also welcome Dr. Eldred Taylor, he is the current Deputy Minister [1] of the Ministry of Energy. We have Haja Hawa Turay, is she here? Where is she? Please stand up for the Members to see you. She is the Executive Director of Haikal Organization. Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, he is the all-round Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP], and the current Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. Alhaji Alpha Kallon, are you here? He is the current National Deputy Chairman of the SLPP, you are welcome, sir. We have Mr

Ambrose James, where are you? As a matter of fact, we all know the reason why he is here, not so? In any case, Mr Ambrose James is the Director of National Authorizing Office. He is doing a great job for Sierra Leone, you are welcome, Sir. Mr. Patrick J. Kaikai, are you here? He is the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority, you are welcome. And then, we have Mrs. Isata Wright, where are you? You are welcome. We also have Honourable Abdul Muniru Lansana, are you here? He is a former Member of this House. Where are you? Okay. Then we have Mr. Isaac Ken-Green, are you here? You are welcome. He is the current Director General of Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority. We have Mr Paul Hinga Tucker, you are welcome. He is the Deputy to Mr. Ken-Green. Thank you very much, Honourable Member, proceed.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must say thanks to the Almighty God for making it possible for this day, as we are yearning to see this wonderful day today. And I must say special thanks to His Excellency the President of our Republic, for nominating these fine gentlemen and ladies to serve in various capacities. It goes without saying that you are all qualified. Time will not be enough to talk about every one of you, but one thing I know is that you are all qualified; Mr Kabineh Kallon, Mr Turay, Dr. Andrew Keilie and the host of others.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very partial and I am going to straight to the point. What I am saying here is coming from the Region because I am the president for the women in the ECOWAS Parliament. I want to say that the women of ECOWAS Parliament wish you all well, and they have asked me to say thanks to His Excellency the President for giving our women the opportunity to serve. We talked about **30%** for women in governance and he is adhering to that.

Of course, Mr Kabineh, you are going back home. I know you love that area so much because you started there. When we went through your resume, we saw every little bit of thing that you did in that sector, and by going there again, I know you would do more. We need finances because we have a lot to do in Sierra Leone; talking about our

roads, schools and the likes. Of course Mr Turay, I have known you, and you have heard what my colleague said about the fishing sector. I know you would do the needful. Dr Andrew Kelly, I know you will do justice to the area of Electricity because it is your field.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in on the other nominees. Like I said, I am going to be very partial so please permit me to focus on the ladies. I am going to start with Mrs. Asmaa James who has been a household name and I usually enjoy her presentation over 98.1 Radio. Some people most times try to misunderstand Madam Asmaa James when she interviews or sits behind that machine. Some people will say, **S.O 2**, '*Dan dey na APC*', while others will say '*Dan dey na SLPP*'. But despite all of that, she does what she is capable of doing and that is why the President made no mistake in appointing her. Mrs. Asmaa James you are going out there to represent us. You were in the NGO world and Journalism, but this time is a political appointment and you are going to represent the people of this country. There are so many things happening over there, and so we are expecting you to work in harmony with your boss. The message that I want to send to your boss if ever he is watching us, including other bosses, is that they must realize that as bosses, they must not make their Deputies irrelevant; they have work to do and they can do more. So make good use of them. Do not make them subordinates to an extent that they are not allowed to do their jobs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am raising this because it has been the complaint we have been getting from the Deputies. Sometimes the deputies can do more, so please make use of them wisely. To the substantive ones out there, please we are sending our ladies but our eyes are on them. Ensure that you give them time to work; do the needful. If you lead well, others will follow.

To the young Journalists, this is an example for you; you have seen the result of patience. Please copy from Madam Asmaa James, maybe you might be the next person. Make sure you do the correct thing, do what you are capable of doing so that you too

can be like her tomorrow. Madam Aasma James is now going as Her Excellency if approved by this House today. I encourage you to go there and do the needful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come down to my own daughter, Fatmata Sawaneh. Shakespeare said, *'there is no art to find the mind's construction on the face'*. But today, I am seeing the construction on your face as the happiest, including the faces of all those who are here to celebrate you. I am happy as well, your mother out there is happy and everyone is happy.

I therefore want to say thank you to His Excellency for giving us this chance. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, let me leave you with this quotation, *'those who have suffered much, have a right to be happy'*. You have a right to be happy, Fatmata; you have done so much for the party, and sometimes, it is good to pay back. I know that some people were saying, **S O 2**, *'Ee nor sabi book, ee nor sabi dis, ee nor sabi dat; Ee nor sabi buk but buk sabi am'*. After being a women's leader, she is now going to be called **'Her Excellency'**, Fatmata Sawaneh. I doff my hat to you, and I know you are going to do the needful. You would make us proud and you have to work under the dictates of your boss. Be lukewarm, do your assignments that are stated to you. Do not say no, I am the women's leader, I was this and I was that. No, you are now going there to represent Sierra Leone; all political parties and everybody who goes there. Guinea is just a stone throw from Sierra Leone. Please make sure you do the needful. You have all the rights to get to this position, and I know you are happy for that, and we are all happy. Thank you very much, Mr President for nominating Fatmata Sawaneh. Madam Sawaneh, once again, **S.O 2**, *'U nor sabi buk but buk don Sabi u'*. I want to quote the words of former president Kabba, *'bad heart'*. Only the *'bad heart'* people will not be happy about your appointment. I know you are going to do the needful, you are going to do the best and you will live up to the expectations of all of us here today.

To the Party people, please give her chance to go and do her work. I know that Fatmata will not forget you; she will go the extra miles to serve you. I know that the last time Fatmata Sawaneh bought vehicles for all the District women Leaders. I want

to say thank you to those who voted and those who did not vote for her. Yesterday, she was called Women's Leader and now we shall be calling her 'Her Excellency' after her approval today. So on that note, I want to say congratulations to each and every one of you, and thanks to His Excellency the President. And I want us all to speedily approve Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Lady Asmaa James and my Moyamba finest and educationist. We know education comes from Moyamba District. All the goodies come from Moyamba District. We have one Patricia who is going there as an educationist. Please do the needful. And with that, I just want to leave you with the first stanza of our anthem for our women, thank you very much.

All Across the Nation,

All Around the World,

Women are longing to be free

No longer in the shadows

Forced to stay behind

But side by side in true equality.

Chorus

So sing a song

For women everywhere

Let it ring around the world and never, never ceased.

So sing a song

For women everywhere;

Equality, Development and Peace.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Veronica. I think after Honourable Abdul Latif Sesay, the Paramount Chief, after the Paramount Chief, the Chairman *[Undertone]*. If you want us to sleep here, we will sleep here. Okay, it is alright. Honourable Latif, before you do, let me also recognize the presence of Mr. Ibrahim Sheriff, the Country Director of FB- Group, are you here? We also have Honourable

Style Jengo, former Member of Parliament. And of course, Honourable Swahilo, M. Koroma, you are welcome. Honourable Latrif, proceed.

HON. ABDUL LATIF SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Of course, today is another important day, and I believe as a Parliament, these are the kind of nominees that we are actually looking for, and today we have them in our midst.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most times we do admonish nominees to go out there and work but we do not admonish the people that they are going to work with. When you look at the Civil Service, there are cadres. Most times, in the Ministries, you have the Permanent Secretaries, and in the Embassies, you have the Head of Chanceries, and these are most times the Vote Controllers. We have seen situations where a Permanent Secretary will tell the Minister that, *'Mr Man, listen; before you assume this office, there were others who have come and gone, and I am here always. So be aware that you too will have to serve your term and leave me here as the Permanent Secretary'*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are the people that most times deter development because if for example they do not like a particular Minister, they will ensure that the Minister fails and the President may be prompted to take a decision by dismissing that Minister from his or her position.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for us from Port Loko District, we are very happy, and as the Caucus Leader for the Port Loko Members of Parliament, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank the President for appointing a very senior citizen from Port Loko who is no less a person but Mr Edward Lebbie Williams. Mr Edward Lebbie Williams is going as a Chairman of Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority. Let me refer to him as Mr Chairman because I know in a few minutes from now, he will be approved as the Chairman.

Mr Chairman, for us from Port Loko District, we believe in you, and we believe that you are going to create the necessary change in that institution. I want to bring to your

notice that it is indeed true that our Air tickets are very expensive, and because of that, most people at times may decide not to use our airport despite its modernized facilities and prefer to go to Guinea and fly out of the country. I believe you have a responsibility as a Chairman of the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority to ensure you look at the cost of the tickets. Look at not only the price of the tickets, but also the additional costs attached to other services at the Airport. Mr Chairman, as a Caucus for the Port Loko District Members of Parliament, we want to assure you that we will work with you and we will ensure that you deliver at all cost.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as for the women that are appointed to serve in various capacities, I believe that they can deliver because they are result oriented. I will not go to the specifics but I believe they will not put us and the president to shame. Mr Speaker, let me go to a very young man whom I have worked with during the last session. He is no lesser person but Mr Lusine Kallon. Mr Lusine Kallon was the former Deputy Minister of Youth, and we used to call him Gangster. I do not know whether he would like that name today but that was the name we used to call him then. He is from the Ghetto. Well, most times, when you make mention of Ghetto, people may think it is a place where Marijuana and other drugs are sold and consumed. Ghetto in actual sense is where young people gather to enlighten themselves positively. The man that I am talking about is a person who is so passionate about the youths just like the current Minister of Youth; Orman Bangura.

Mr Lusine Kallon, please go there and make us proud as young people. President Bio believes in young people because there were people who served in that position but they never delivered the way the youths are actually doing now. Because of that, I believe you have a responsibility to ensure that you go and perform extremely well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for Engineer Andrew Karmoh Keilie, he is a very senior citizen with a lot of experience. For such a man to be nominated to serve at the Electricity Distribution Supply Authority, I believe Sierra Leoneans are very happy because we expect nothing less but the best from that institution. Engineer Andrew

Keilie, as a nation, we are faced with numerous challenges in relation to the Electricity Distribution and Supply. Most times, the sources are there to generate the electricity but the distribution of the generated electricity to homes and other areas is the problem. So Eng. Andrew Keilie, this is a big task for you to pay attention to when you shall have taken office. Currently in Port Loko City, our electricity is not working, and when you ask they will tell you it is a battery problem. We have a Hydroelectricity Plant there; we have the Bakasoka Hydro. Normally in the rainy season, we enjoy 24 hours light but now, we are having challenges. Dr Kailie, as soon as we approve you please ensure that our electricity is restored in Port Loko City. We trust you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also go to the woman that I used to call my girlfriend, even though I was recently dethroned by Honourable Timbo. Yes, she used to be my girlfriend for longest time but last week, Honourable Timbo stated that the lady was his girlfriend and I was shocked.

The lady I am talking about is no other person but Madam Fatmata Sawaneh. I can proudly tell Honourable Members that Madam Sawaneh is very strong woman. She is one person that I believe is not too political. I am saying this because we have met several times during campaign periods, and she is a person who has no barrier to mingle or relate with people irrespective of political differences. Yes, she is an SLPP member, but she highly respects others' view, which is very good. Madam Sawaneh, go to Conakry Guinea and make sure you prepare for us. I am your close neighbour from Port Loko and I will be going there frequently.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Asmaa James is a national figure also. I came across Madam Asmaa James during the Ebola scourge and by then, it was the APC party that was in governance and I know the role that she played in ensuring that we eradicate Ebola. Mrs Asmaa James, you will be going to Brussels Belgium to represent our country as a Deputy Ambassador. I want to say congratulations to you, and please make sure you go to Brussels and represent Sierra Leone as a whole. You are not going there to just represent SLPP; you are going there to represent all Sierra

Leoneans. Be informed that anytime I go to Brussels, I would ensure that I meet with you so we can discuss further. With that, thank you very much Mr Speaker, God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: Before the Paramount Chief Kargobai takes the Floor, let me also recognize the presence of Madam Saptieu .E. Saccob. She is the current Administrator and Registrar General, where are you? You are welcome, Madam. We also have Mr Ngolo Katta, former Commissioner of National Youth Commission. Mr Andrew Jayah Kaikai, Director General of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, you are welcome. Mr Amara Brewah is the current Director General of NATCA. You are welcome. Mr Robert Ganda is the Deputy Director of NAO. Honourable Josephine Makieu, former Member of Parliament, a very powerful one, you are welcome. Mr Maxwell Massaquoi, former Director General of NATCOM, you are welcome. Mr Israel B.K Jigba, former Permanent Secretary, you are welcome. Mr Jack Massaquoi, he is the current General Manager of SLAA, you are welcome. We also have Honourable Rev. Marie Yanseneh, can you please wave for your Members to see you? Honourable Rev. Marie Yansaneh was a former Member of this House and in fact, she was former President of Female Caucus, you are welcome. Madam Sitta Kaikai, Chairman of Students Loan Scheme, you are welcome. Honourable PC, proceed.

HON. PC. DESMOND MAHAYEI KARGOBAI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to start my debate by thanking His Excellency our president for nominating these energetic and good looking personnel to be approved by this House for different positions. From their resumes, I hope they would live up to the task after being approved by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to zoom in briefly on Madam Asmaa James. As a Parliament Chief of Serenga Chiefdom, I have a relationship with Madam Asmaa James. The James is a household name in my Chiefdom and they have supported the Chiefdom Development Aspiration in diverse ways for which I and my Chiefdom are grateful. Asmaa James is a proud wife of Serenga Chiefdom and we are grateful to

have her. Asmaa James is **S.O** 2, our Ligortie, Tayhuvu, Senior Maasende of the Kpa-Mende Clan.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me contribute to this debate by sharing two Testimonies of Madam Asmaa James. Madam Asmaa James was appointed as Station Manager for 98.1 FM in the year 2013, during a difficult or tough time. The Station then was evicted from its Tower Hill location. As a Station with no other premise, it had to go off air. Asmaa James assiduously worked with other partners to bring back the Station on air, co-located with Sky FM. Madam Asmaa James embarked on fund raising to ensure that there is a structure for FM 98.1. Luckily enough, FM 98.1 got a land at the New England Ville. So within six months' time, Madam Asmaa James with her team was able to construct an Office and Studio for Radio Democracy. We can all attest to the fact that Radio Democracy has played and continues to play a critical role in strengthening our democracy in this country. Madam Asmaa James is part of that story. Also, another testament of Madam Asmaa James can be linked to when she was appointed as the first female Chairman to the Female Premier League Board. Asmaa James, working with her team, successfully managed the Premier League Board and came in with resounding successes. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, it would interest you to know that before Asmaa James left the Board, there was a substantial amount of cash left in the Account that the present Board is now using to manage the Premier League. Madam Asmaa James has done a lot for this country. So, these testimonies make her very suitable for the position she has been appointed for. I know when she is over there she will make us proud as a nation.

I therefore want to request that we speedily approve her appointment so that she can go and work for us. She has already done a lot and she has shown the result before leaving and I believe she will do more, Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let me also recognize the presence of Mrs Mamusu Moana. She is the Deputy Minister of Basic Education. Madam Josephine Jackson, you are also welcome. Honourable Members, even as you say great things about the nominees, before the

Chairman, Honourable Conteh says anything, let me sit here to tell you that I sit here as a very proud teacher. I have taught several students that are now Lawyers, Doctors, and Accountants and so on. I sit here to add to that number, an Ambassador in the person of Mrs. Asmaa James. I sit here as a very proud Teacher. That is why I am proud of the years I spent teaching. Anywhere I go in Sierra Leone, I meet my students. That is why it has come to a time where I do not even like going to Banks, because whenever I go to any Bank, you see somebody calling me to say, please come. Those are the benefits of being a Teacher. There are two benefits Teachers always have. The entitlement for being a Teacher is nothing to write home about, but there are two blessings of being a Teacher. When you teach and you teach diligently, your children later on in your life will definitely make you proud. And secondly, even those children that you biologically gave birth to, will never be left at the way side. You observe that in the case of Teachers; Teachers who diligently do their work, not those who go because of the money. Even as I sit here, I am not only a Lawyer; I am a trained and qualified Teacher. If you observe the way I do things here, you would know this is how a teacher behaves. So sometimes you have to bear with me because the teacher in me sometimes speaks out. Yes, proceed.

*Suspension of **S.O** 5[2]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, after the Chairman, the three of you are so desperate to say something [*Undertones*]. We have a very long day today.

HON. DANIEL B KOROMA: Mr Speaker, based on the report, it is unanimous; there is no dissenting view, and we have a long day today.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, can you please bear with us? [*Undertones*] No, please, Honourable Members, can we round up now, after him? We have other issues to deal with today; I would allow you to talk, please. Honourable Member, proceed.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am going to make it very easy for you Mr Speaker, because mine is going to be very short.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President again for giving us fine nominees, but with special reference to the women of substance and style to serve in various positions of trust. For the gentleman we are having here; Dr Andrew Keilie, Mr Ibrahim Turay, Mr Kabineh Kallon, Mr Lusine Kallon, you are all not strangers to the Public Service; you have all made meaningful contributions to national development. All I would say to you this morning is that you should go and continue serving this country and make us proud. I want to be specific here; I want to talk about a grassroots politician; my former Women's Leader, a special person, and above all my best friend. Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, you took the risk, you gained the recognition and now you have been rewarded. You went through the ranks; from Zonal Chairperson, of course to National level, and now you are going to be referred to as Her Excellency. You have what it takes to market Sierra Leone at the highest level. Like most of the people out there, I have all the confidence in you, and I believe that you would do what you do best. The People's Ambassador, I want to be among the first persons to congratulate you in advance, because you would fly the Green, White and Blue very high. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not think we have to waste time on this. We have the best here in the House as unanimously agreed. Please, let us speedily approve them, thank you very much and God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Leader of the Opposition, you have the Floor.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, we have spent enough time to shower praises on the nominees. I want to believe this is the genesis of the assignment that has been given to them, and this is the best place to get them prepared for work. So instead of lavishing praises on them, it is incumbent on us, Members of Parliament, to prepare them for duty. And today basically, I am going to deviate from the trend other Members of Parliament have taken. I am going to specifically caution them and get them fully prepare for the assignment. This is because they owe it to this nation, and they owe it to the people of Sierra Leone. I will begin

with my constituent; Mr Edward Lebbie Williams, proposed Chairman Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Williams, you have a responsibility. I am happy for your appointment, but the battle which seems to have ended at your appointment has resulted to several responsibilities on how you would comport yourself in office. Never you leave an office the same way you met the office; it is a crime. You should create impact and the impact should be positive. Anybody now would be happy to be removed as the Chairman of Sierra Leone Airport Authority, and be made the Chairman of the Civil Aviation. Mr Williams was the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority and now, he has been made the Chairman of the Civil Aviation. This is something as a nation we should take into consideration; we should not be killing institutions. As far as now is concerned, the Civil Aviation Authority is very potent than the Sierra Leone Airport Authority, and the Civil Aviation Authority was a subset for the Sierra Leone Airport Authority. So we have an onus as a government. I say we; I generalize it because the Legislative Arm is a constituent of government; one of the three arms of government. So, government has to put more effort in making sure that we resuscitate the Sierra Leone Airport Authority. Today, we have a very big building there that is dilapidating. All the office televisions and the Air Conditions have been stolen. And remember, the Airport was in operation on to the eve of the commencement of operation of the new Airport. And because the Airport was in operation, it is a clear indication that all that was needed for an Airport to operate was available in that Airport before the new one began to operate. So the question now is where are those items? Where are the Air Conditions? Where are the Televisions?

Mr Speaker, all those items are not too important. Let me shock you, Mr Speaker; the contract for just the Control Tower of the new Airport was **\$9Mln**. Mr Speaker, it would surprise you to know that regardless of the fact that it was **\$9Mln**, equipment were transferred from the old Airport to the new Airport; they did not buy them. Now if you go to the old Airport Control Tower, you would find nothing there. Where are they? And we paid for the Control Tower in the new Airport. We paid for it! This is something that

we have to take serious as a Parliament because Sierra Leone is our country. Whatsoever goes bad in this country will affect all of us, so, we have to pay serious attention to it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, under normal circumstances, it is even a demotion for somebody to be removed as the Board Chairman for Sierra Leone Airport Authority, which is an umbrella body, and then send him to a subset body which is the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation. But the Civil Aviation now is more potent than the Airport Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, also, even though they may have paid some staff, there is a good number of staff members that were relieved or redundant under the Sierra Leone Airport Authority that have still not received their money. It is over a year now, clocking two, and these are typical Sierra Leoneans. Some of them are languishing, and interestingly, most of them are in my constituents. So as Parliament, we need to probe into that properly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what is most interesting is that those qualified Sierra Leoneans who were working for the Sierra Leone Airport Authority have been relegated to either Cleaners or selling in Tea Shops at the new Airport. It would interest you to know that Masters' holders, who are Sierra Leoneans, are now serving Tea at the new Airport. Some of them are cutting grass at the new Airport. That is the level some of them have been relegated to. Mr Speaker, I remember when the President came here on State Opening, he said a lot about human development capacity; capacitating Sierra Leoneans. So as a Parliament, we should ensure that we look at that very carefully. Mr Edward Williams, I wish you well in your new responsibility and I pray that you succeed and you create the necessary difference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will move now to Mr Lusine Kallon, the Proposed Deputy Ambassador for the Sierra Leone Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Like I said, it will be tautological for me to go over what other Members of Parliament have said here. So basically, my own debate is quite different; it is to caution you the nominees

that you owe an obligation to the country and to your families. People are dancing, people are singing, all of them are expecting you to perform that is why they are dancing and singing. They have not just come because they love you; they have come because they have an expectant hearts that you will do well to this nation. Out of seven million Sierra Leoneans, you have been choosing. The mere fact that you have been choosing, you should know that you have an obligation. I have known Mr Kallon for a while, when he was the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs. And like I said, one thing I will say is that, we the young people owe obligation to our colleague young people and to the nation as a whole. If one young person fails, other presidents will not have confidence in young people. That is why it is never in our prayers for any young person to fail. Whichever area we are to assist you as a Parliament, we will, because we want young people to succeed so that government will repose more confidence on other young people.

Mr Kallon, you are going to Monrovia, and there are lots of Sierra Leoneans there. And this goes for all those who have been sent to various Embassies; Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, Deputy Ambassador to Guinea, Mrs Asmaa James, Deputy Ambassador to Brussels, Belgium and Mr Abraham Turay, proposed Ambassador to Senegal. This is for all of you because there are Sierra Leoneans in all of those countries. One moral obligation you have as Ambassadors is that you are representing the government of Sierra Leone in all of those countries. Protect every Sierra Leonean regardless of their political affiliation. When somebody has problem in Guinea, do not ask whether the person is APC or SLPP; ask whether the person is a Sierra Leonean, and make sure that you protect him or her. You see, most of this opportunity you have, you only have it once in your lifetime. So, do not treat it lightly once it comes your way because you shall have to give account; even if it is not now, but posterity will not be happy with you if you fail. So you owe the responsibility that Sierra Leoneans in every part and corner of this world are your people. Treat them with equity, handle them with equity. The mere fact that Sierra Leone is a democratic state; it clearly shows that everybody has the right as stated in section 26 of our 1991 Constitution to belong to a political

party. So, nobody should be victimized based on his political affiliation. I trust you all and I know you will do well to this nation, I wish you well. Remember, you are representing Sierra Leone, you are representing your families, whatsoever you do, it will reflect to your families. I have said this times without number, that politicians determine what should happen to their generation based on how they comport themselves in office. We have seen people who have held valid positions in this country and their children's children are never serious; some of them have gone mad, and some of them are drug addicts. This is because of what they sow for their children. Do not treat your responsibility with carelessness, treat it with seriousness. I pray that you all succeed. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, for your patience, and I have listened to all what you have said. I also want to use this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this debate. Today, it is the 20th Report that has to do with the Nominees of His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are mindful of the national responsibilities given to us, and we were given clear resume of individual nominee present here. We summarized it as best as we could so that, we can capture the vital areas that have to do with their works and responsibilities. We are mindful of section 61 of the Constitution, and we are also mindful of that position given to the President to hire and fire. In taking public office that has to do with presidency, the executive powers are very clear and enshrined in various instruments. I have said this in several occasions that as a Leader, you should serve the interest of the people and not the interest of your very self. Most times, I like to use the motto of Fourah Bay College, '*Non Sibi, Sed Alis*'. If you are not a Fourabite, you can search for the interpretation. For those who went to Fourah Bay College, you know what it means; it is a Latin word.

Mr Speaker, there is a concern that I want to raise. My colleague on the other side spoke about the looting of items from the previous Airport. Mr Speaker, may I remind

you that because we are facing transition, we agreed that we are going to have Question Time for Ministers. I have already prepped the Ministers when I briefed the Cabinet sometime last month about Question Time. I have also given them a note on how are we going to deal with Question Time to Ministers. My colleague has raised a concern over a very important issue that has to do with the previous Airport without any form of malice. Fortunately for us, the Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation is here with us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring it to speed that we still need to look out for a time when we shall have come back after the recess to critically look into this matter. We already have some Questions to ask, and the issue the Leader of the Opposition has just mentioned is going to be one of the questions that we are going to deal with. We are not going to put defense when the opposition raised concerns about issues that have to do with national structure. We will make sure we use those structures to address what he has raised. Mr Leader of the Opposition, your concern is well noted in the interest of the spirit of working as a unit. In the Presidential speech, the President spoke about unification; coming together to unify this nation, not by rhetoric but by our actions. So by raising your point, you have captured the spirit of what the President said. To criticize or to raise an issue is something we should not treat with malice; we should treat it with the face of patriotism. And that is why I am asking the Speaker for us to have Question Time to Ministers in order to address certain issues. The Minister wanted to talk to me in camera but I told him that I am going to be very patriotic and I will address the issue on the Floor of this Chamber.

Mr Speaker, I know that you are a very steadfast man and we need to address some of these issues. It is not a debate between the Opposition and me; it is for us to look at those structures that are serving the interest of Sierra Leoneans who are paying their taxes. So, the Honourable was just cautioning Mr Williams, a teacher who has been in Kafu Bullom for a very long time and has served in the Aviation institution for a long time. So we believe that there must be some kind of responsibility that he needs to take

immediately in order to ensure we address those issues. Honourable Member, I thank you very much for bringing us to speed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have trended on series of issues affecting Sierra Leoneans. There is this issue of '*pull him down syndrome*'; there is this issue of people peddling lies on individuals. People will use the social media platform to degrade people's reputation. My colleague stated that there are Master's Degree holders working at a low grade at the Airport. But one thing about life is that the first law of nature is '*self*'. If I am not a cleaner, I cannot allow you to make me a cleaner; I would put myself on the pedestal that would let you know that I am a very serious person. So these are some of the issues we would like to address; how come a Master's holder can become a cleaner when we are talking about human capital development? We will try to investigate that. I am really happy about the concern that he has raised.

But Mr Speaker, let me just draw a nexus with what he and other contributors have said. You know, to go to University and have a Degree is just a matter of you reading books. But to be an educationist or someone who is educated depends on how you transform society; your contributions to the society and how your actions reflect in changing the lives of people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have classification of people in different groups; Members of Parliament, the Executives, Ministers etc. Members of the Fourth Estate are demeaned because we think they are not educated, and that is a big time lie. I do not need to have office for you to know that I am a very good person. Let us stop the innuendos and aspersions and try to justify our actions in criticizing people.

Mr Speaker, when you were to assume this position, some people said you were a very young man and you were not going to fit in that position just like they said about me. Performance is not by age; it is about how capable you are to deliver services to people. I like one thing about one of the Nominees, and I want you to listen carefully so we can copy from that nominee. When you are in courtship or marriage, one of your support weapons is your husband or your wife. I have observed and followed Asmaa

James carefully for the past ten years plus. She graduated from a very nominal point, a very subordinate position, on to the point where she became the leader of 98.1 FM. People were looking down on them as if they contributed nothing to society just because they did not bear the title Dr Asmaa James or Prof Asmaa James. But they believed that they have done something that you with your professor or your PhD Degree in politics have not done. Asmaa James and her team tried to convince people in our local parlance about transparency and democracy, and how to seek the voice of the minority, through programmes like *'Daddy Waka bot'*; voicing issues that are difficult for people to understand in a simplistic manner.

If a story is good or is in their favour today, people will call them to say, **S.O 2**, *'bo una sabi o, una go ahead'*. But when the story is bad, they will start to pelt lies and abuse on them over media. Let us give space to people to do their work. Asmaa James moved from 98.1 FM and she becomes the C.E.O of 'Rise Radio' Station. According to Awards in her possession, she has been recognized locally and internationally. It is not easy to bring a good woman down with the support given to her by her husband. Let us copy, emulate and stand strong with those who have fought for our democracy. I will not talk much about her because the records have already spoken for themselves. I have read their resumes in a simple way so that people can understand. It is not easy to bring a good man down. It is not easy to bring a very good journalist down. That is why we removed Part 5 of the Public Order Act. We see them roaming, we see them transacting the corridors of Parliament, and some people demean them. If you cannot provide information for them, do not despise them. Even if you do not like them, give them the information for the good of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Asmaa James was just a reporter with no qualification but aspiration and determination to lend her voice to enhance change in the lives of the people of Sierra Leone. Today, she is going as a Diplomat, thank you very much, I salute you. I cannot say much, but let us stop despising people. Degrees are just papers that we earned, but transformation lies in what you give to your people. I salute you, Madam James.

Mr Speaker, in conjunction with that, I want to talk about another person called Engineer Andrew Keilie who has also transformed himself. That is why I said I am going to draw the nexus; taking it from where my colleague stopped. My colleague stated that, if you take yourself from an inferior position to a superior position without marketing yourself or impacting the lives of the people, then you did not do well. That is the sacrifice you have to offer to your people, no matter what your challenge may be. Mr Andrew Keilie sited over there has been a critique of the Maada Bio's Administration, not in bad fate, but in good fate, through his regular column, *'Ponder my Thought'* which I have always read.

Mr Speaker, I told you the last time that the problem we have at the Electricity sector is not about money, but the Human Resource. Dr Kailie knows that very well, and that is why he said, *'I have stayed too long in this institution and I am here to make a change'*. Mr Andrew Kailie has been an Engineer representing companies at both national and international level. Money is not his problem, connection is not his problem and recognition is not his problem. MCC is coming and he has come on board to serve, to give his own part of the story, thank you, and God bless you. Ing. Andrew Kailie has a free mind; he is a Journalist, an Academician and an Engineer. He is a private sector man. That is the way we transform society, and that makes education meaningful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you know, the composition of this Parliament means so much to me. Today, we see people in the Chamber, and there is a complete nexus between how we sit here and how we connect to these people. In the Chamber configuration, we have the SLPP, APC and the Paramount Chiefs. That is just a nomenclature given to us. And with this combination, we will support these people called the grassroots who are here supporting us today.

Mr Speaker, I am saying this because, there is a humble servant; somebody who sacrificed, who has laid down his life despite the level of molestation he has faced, he still sacrificed because he believes in the course. He is one of the longest serving Ministers in that particular sector and it is on record. We do not respect people when

they are serving in offices; we despise them, we undermine them and we give negative descriptions about them. When they are out of the office, we start to praise them. What a hypocrisy system that we have.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the person I am talking about is no less a person but Mr Kabineh Moinama Kallon; a man who has served with humility and with respect. He has served in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation for five years, from 2018 to 2023, with dexterity and with clean records. He has lived up to the expectation in that Ministry. Mr Speaker, I was told that they were in a meeting NRA when he was pronounced as the Chairman going to the National Revenue Authority and the celebration was like a tsunami. That tells you that he was a man who served the interest of the Transport and Aviation Ministry. Deputy Minister, can you clap for that if it is true? The day I got his nomination, I was out of the jurisdiction. The next moment people started writing about him in the Newspapers; *'pull him down syndrome'*. As for me, as I stand here, even if you write about me, I am not worried. As long as my conscience is clear in my service, and I believe God is watching us, as a Catholic Christian, I do not have problem with that. If you do not want people to write about you, do not be a public figure. To be a real man you have to stand up to the test of time. But again, if you want to write about people, write the fact about them. A lot of things were pelted at Mr Moinama Kallon just after his name came up for this position. I called him and I said that is life, we are living in a society where people feel free to pelt lies about others because of grievances they may have nurtured against the person long ago. So Mr Kallon, you have to live up to the test of time; stand tall and defeat them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, President Bio is a right man, President Bio is a good man, he recognized the work that Mr Kallon has done for him and he said, *'I have read what is on the Local Tabloid, but I am going to appoint you as the Chairman of the National Revenue Authority at a time when there is economic difficulty right around the globe, please go and sanitize that place'*. People had to come again with another story that he was not even qualified to hold that position because Section 5[2] of the National

Revenue Authority Act which was enacted by this House in 2022 says a person must have knowledge about Revenue Authority, worked at the Revenue Authority and have exhibited transparency and leadership skills. I deliberately read the resume of Mr Kabineh Kallon, and I realized that he was at the Customs Department and he served there with dexterity, respect and he holds a Master's Degree. He is someone who has served in the United States of America, one of the countries that pay more attention to integrity in terms of public life. He then he came to Sierra Leone to render his service to the people of Sierra Leone. Instead of us giving support to Mr Moinama Kallon, we are busily pelting lies on him; that he is not fit for purpose, shame on them! He is our brother, a man who has transformed the lives of people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said, we need to be naming and shaming some of these people because we believe that our similarities are far better than our differences. We do not despise people, we say the truth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to salute my colleagues on the other side, I want to say thank you, President Bio, and I want to say it is bad for people to sacrifice their lives for you to succeed and when you have succeeded, you decide to throw them under the bus. I want you to know that President Bio is not like that.

When Madam Fatmata Sawaneh presented herself well, she was mocked but she said, *'I will pursue my goal in terms of bringing SLPP to power'*. She has always been in Parliament, fighting for the course of women; she has been around the corridors of the Sierra Leone People's Party, fighting for the course of the common good [*One country, one people*]. Today, she is celebrating, and she has been very poised. That is why I said if I am Master's holder, I would not allow someone to degrade me to a certain level. Madam Sawaneh has been very forceful; I read her messages right across, stating that she wants to be a Deputy Ambassador, and it must happen because she had sacrificed for that. The innate character of sacrificing and the intrinsic value of giving out your service, make you to be where you are today. I want you to know that our President is a listening President. So because of the instinct Madam Sawaneh had

throughout the years, she is going to be approved as a Deputy Ambassador by this House. I truly enjoy the fanfare, and that is our description of Fatmata Sawaneh. This fanfare is not new to some of us; it is just acclimatizing the event today. She can be emotional, and that is why we said during the interview that we are not sentimental. We always try to be futuristic and put you on track about the place you are going and how you should maintain standards. Madam Sawaneh is going to assume function in the diplomatic world and she has never been a Diplomat; she has been a typical traditional or native politician, and she has succeeded in that drive. She is a woman who is very challenging in her domain, and she argues on issues pertaining to the nation development. You might say her points are not valid, and cannot be taken on board, but the fact remains that she must make a point. Thank you, Madam Fatmata Sawaneh, there is no way we can throw you under the bus; she is going as a Diplomat. Honourable Members, I will challenge you that very soon, you will begin to hear positive things about her; she is a personality that cuts right across. When SLPP was in opposition, Madam Sawaneh was more popular with the APC by trying to know them better. For you to deal with your opponent, you have to live with your opponent. [*OSAI! OWAH!*]

Mr Speaker, I have read all their resumes but because we have other things to discuss on the Order Paper, I cannot go into details. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about Gender parity, and let me use this platform to say that we are not talking about rhetoric when we talk about gender equality. It is about the visible policy actions undertaken, and that is the reason any time we approve Bills here, we look for gender issues. Our focus is on how do we address the issues of gender parity and other societal issues that have brought our women down?

However, the transformative spirit of His Excellency the President brought women to substantive positions, and not in a surrogate positions where they serve as underdogs. Being a proposed Commissioner of the Tertiary Education, South is a sound position given to a woman. We have given women the platform to serve on quality positions on several occasions. Thank you, Mr President. To the ladies, you can do better, you can

do more and you can deliver. We have the configuration and transformation drives in changing the lives of our women not by words but by actions. Thank you very much, Mr President, and thank you ladies for making us proud; your resumes are very impressive. To the Members of Parliament, I want to say thank you very much for supporting the Committee. We have heard you and we now see that we have over **30%** of women in Parliament. We will continue to ride on that number as time progresses. Next, it will increase to **35%, 40%** or **50%** as the case maybe.

I thank the Opposition for bringing us to our toes. We are partners in development and not enemies. As I said Mr Speaker, the only way we can bring development to this nation is by working together. Mr Speaker, as a lawyer of no mean standing, in your first statement, you told us that if someone does not understand what you say, let the person resort to you and you will clearly explain to the person. As a leader, it is not everything you would have to say verbatim; you always like to live with the principles of law; 'Non juria jus, non-orator'. I know you like the principles of law, and I thank you very much for that.

Mr Speaker, the only way we can succeed in this Parliament and beyond is by working together. During State Opening, the President spoke about unity drive. Taking into consideration the unity agreement and the fact that elections should not define the pathway; rather, we should use elections as a gateway to interact with ourselves to produce a very good nation. The question now is; how do we start this formula? The only way we can get this formula is through unity by seeking the interest of Sierra Leone; the bigger picture is Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our political parties and those who support us are our vehicles, but they should not be used as a means of creating enemies. Political differences have nothing to do with the bigger picture of making Sierra Leone a better place for all of us. Thank you very much, thank you all for coming and thanks for your contributions and may the Lord bless us all.

Mr Speaker, before moving the Motion, I just want to bring you to speed regarding the First Session. This report was done in the First Session, and we are now in the second session. For the better part of the news, I know they can understand and they will not question what we are doing here. So I want you to note that this was done in the First Session but we are doing the approval in the Second Session.

On that note, I therefore move that the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service be adopted by this House and the recommendations contained therein be approved, thank you, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Leader of Government Business. Before I put the question, let me make this clear. Honourable Members, you know my stand when it comes to women. I know as a matter of fact that, all the Nominees here are hugely qualified. But I want to particularly state that the women you see here are going to work wonders for Sierra Leone. I know the character and the capabilities of Asmaa James, I know the character, the capabilities and the strength of Fatmata Sawaneh and of course the other woman; Madam Cathryn Patricia Frances Turay. They are going to make us proud. I told you the other day that I was taught mostly by women and I know how resilient women are. According to research, women are far less corrupt than men and they pay attentions to details. Go and make us proud! If you study them closely from where they came from, how they traversed through difficulties and how they managed to reach where they are today, you will know that, they are indeed resilient women. Like the Leader said, very soon, we are going to begin to hear about them and their exploits. Go and make Sierra Leone proud! Parliament will always stand with you, thank you very much.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

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

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, can we proceed or you want to take a break?

THE SPEAKER: No, let us proceed.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Sergeant at Arms, can you please clear the corridor? We want to continue the proceedings. Can you please do it fast?

VI. BILLS

A. THE SIERRA LEONE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY AMENDMENT ACT, 2024- THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

[Report on the Bill entitled; the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amendment Act, 2024. Hon. Abdul S. Marray Conteh, Chairman of the Legislative Committee.]

[The House resolves into Committee of the whole.]

HON ABDUL. S. MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the second report of the Legislative Committee, first session of the Sixth Parliament of the second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled; *The Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amendment Act, 2024, being an Act to amend the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Act, 2023, 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 Orders 51[1]. Subsequently, the Committee met on Thursday, 25th July, 2024 in Committee room No. one of Parliament building with the following objectives;

- 1. To scrutinise in detail the principles and provisions of the Bill and to make amendment if necessary.*
- 2. To ascertain the constitutional and legal implication contains therein.*
- 3. To report to plenary for consideration by the committee of the whole House in line with S.O 53.*

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in attendance were the Acting Director General and Acting Deputy Director General of the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority, the

Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Members of the Legislative Committee and other Members of Parliament.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee having scrutinized the Bill line by line and clause by clause, recommends the following amendments to the House for approval:

The short title be approved. The long title be approved.

CLAUSE ONE: Amendment of section one of Act No. 21 of 2023; the definition of the phrase "Public Transport" be amended to read; *means a system of transportation such as buses, mini buses, taxis, tricycles, motor bikes and other forms of transportation that carry passengers in consideration of a set fare.*

CLAUSE TWO: Amendment of section 16 of Act No. 21 of 2023 be approved.

CLAUSE THREE: Amendment of section 19 of Act No. 21 of 2023 be amended to read; *Paragraph A of Sub Section [2] of Section 19 of the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Act, 2023 is amended by the repeal of that paragraph and the substitution of the following new paragraph:*

- a. Holds a Bachelor degree in Engineering, Business Administration or any related field from an accredited University.

CLAUSE FOUR: Amendment of section 27 of Act No. 21 of 2023 be approved. The Committee unanimously agreed to keep this amendment as presented to the House based on the substantial justification for the increment put forward by the Acting Director General of the Authority. Please find attached justification for the **12%** increment.

CLAUSE FIVE: Amendment of section 33 of Act No. 21 of 2023 be deleted.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee having scrutinised the Bill entitled; The Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amendment Act, 2024, hereby recommends this proposal 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 Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amendment Act, 2024 through Committees Stage, Third Reading and into law. I thank you for yours attention.

Signed:

Hon.Abdul S. Marray Conteh,
Chairman, Legislative Committee,
First session 2023/ 2024.

[Clauses 1-5 stand part of the Bill]

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, Proceed!

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION *[Mr Rex bonapha]:* Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that clauses 1-5 stand part of the Bill.

[QUESTION PROPOSED PUT]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, Page 1? Can we look at the long title and the short title? Page two?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, as you can see from the report, Page 1; the short title and the long title have already been approved. So, I think it just a question of addopting the report and other things outside the report might be incorporated.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, are we okay with that?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes sir, I think Mr Chairman is correct. The approval by the Committee still stands as a proposal to the Committee of the whole House. So the Committee of the whole House still has the authority to look into that and agree or disagree. So the option should be given to the Committee of the whole House.

THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. Pages 1 and 2?, Page 3? Yes, Mr Minister!

THE MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that clauses 1-5 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Clauses 1-5 form part of the Bill as amended. The House resumes]

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, can you report?

THE MINISTER: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amended Act, 2024, having gone through the Committee of the whole House with amendments be read the third time and passed into Law.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Amendment Act 2024, being an Act to amend the Sierra Leone Public Transport Authority Act, 2023 and to provide for other related matters, has been read the third time and passed into law.]

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, you are released.

B. THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE AMENDMENT ACT 2024- THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS,

[Committee Stage, and third reading. Report on the bill entitled; The National Youth Service Amendment Act 2024. Hon. Abdul S. Marray Conteh; Chairman of the Legislative Committee.]

[The House resolves into Committee of the whole]

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I rise to present the second report of the Legislative Committee, first session of the sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled; The National

Youth Service Amendment Act, 2024, being an Act to amend the National Youth Service Act, 2016 and to provide for other related matters.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Bill having gone through the second reading, was committed to a Legislative Committee for scrutiny pursuant to Standing order 51[1]. Subsequently, the Committee met on Thursday, 18th July and Monday, 22nd July, 2024 in Committee Room No.1 and State Hall of Parliament building, respectively, with the following objectives:

- 1. To scrutinize in detail the principles and provisions of the Bill and to make amendments if necessary.*
- 2. To ascertain the constitutional and legal implications contained therein, and*
- 3. To report to plenary for consideration by the Committee of whole House in line with S.O 53.*

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in attendance, were the Minister of Youth Affairs, the Commissioner of National Youth Commission, the Executive Director of National Youth Service, officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, officials from the Commission and the National Youth Service, the Chairman of Legislative Committee, the Chairman of Youth Affairs Committee, Members of the Legislative Committee and Youth Affairs Committee, respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee having scrutinized the Bill line by line and clause by clause, recommends the following amendments to the House for approval:

The Short Title be approved, the Long Title of the Bill be approved.

CLAUSE ONE: Amendment of Act No.4 of 2016 be amended by deleting the words '*of section one*' on the second line, after the word '*by*', and before the word '*the*', to now

read; *section one of the National Youth Service Act, 2016 is amended by the repeal and replacement of that section with the following new sections.*

CLAUSE ONE: Interpretation; the definition of the word '*non-graduate*' be amended to read; Means *Sierra Leoneans with BECE, WASSCE, Diploma from any recognized institution and are below the age of 35 years.*

Clause one interpretation be amended by inserting the definition of the phrase '*service men and women*' to read; means *non-graduates who are enlisted in the National Youth Service scheme.*

Interpretation; Clause one again, be amended by inserting the definition of the phrase '*service member*' to read; means *both graduates and non-graduates.*

CLAUSE TWO: Amendments of section 4 of Act No.4 of 2016, be amended by replacing the figure '**2**' with the figure '**1**' on the second line after the word '*subsection*' and before the word '*by*' to now read; *section 4 of the National Youth Service Act, 2016 is amended in subsection [1] by the repeal and replacement of that subsection with the following new section:*

CLAUSE TWO: Amendment of section 4 of Act No. 4 of 2016, sub clause [1a] be amended by replacing the phrase '*Director of Youth*' with the phrase '*a representative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, not below the rank of a Director*'.

CLAUSE TWO: Amendment of section 4 of Act No. 4 of 2016, sub clause [1h] be amended by deleting figure '5', inserting the phrase '*at least two of whom shall be women*' after Sierra Leone, and inserting another phrase, '*subject to the approval of Parliament*' on the sixth line, after the word '*Minister*' and before the word '*and*' to now read; *a representative each from the administrative regions of Sierra Leone, at least two of whom shall be women with knowledge and practical experience in matters relevant to the functions of the service appointed by the President on the recommendation of Minister, subject to the approval of Parliament.*

CLAUSE TWO:, Amendment of section 4 of Act No.4 of 2016, sub clause 1[i] be amended by inserting the phrase, '*with no voting right*' on the second line after the word '*board*', to now read; *the Executive Director who shall serve as secretary to the board with no voting rights.*

CLAUSE TWO: Amendments of section 4 of Act No.4 of 2016 be amended by inserting a new sub clause [2], to read; *subsection 3 of section 4 is expunged.*

CLAUSE THREE: Amendment of section 7 of Act No.4 of 2016, sub clause [2] be amended by inserting the new sub clause 2[e] to read; *approve budgeted funding for the activities undertaken by the service.*

New Clause 4 be inserted. Side note to read; *amendment of section 8 of Act No.4 of 2016.*

CLAUSE FOUR: Amendment of section 8 of Act No.4 of 2016, sub clause [6] be amended to read; *the quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be six members.*

Previous clause four, amendments of section 12 of Act No.4 of 2016, be amended to now become clause 5.

CLAUSE FIVE: Amendment of section 12 of Act No.4 of 2016 be approved.

New Clause 6 be inserted. Side note to read; *amendment of section 13 of Act No. 4 of 2016.*

CLAUSE SIX: Amendment of Section 13 of Act No.4 of 2016 be amended by inserting the letter 'D' to read; *approve the annual work plan of the service.*

[19] Previous Clause 5; amendment of section 14 of Act No.4 of 2016 be amended to now become Clause 7.

CLAUSE SEVEN: Amendment of Section 14 of Act No 4 of 2016 be approved.

Previous Clause 6, amendment of Section 17 of the Act No.4 of 2016 be amended to now become Clause 8.

CLAUSE EIGHT: Amendment of Section 17 of the Act No.4 of 2016 be amended by changing the position of the letter 'D' to now read; *section 17 of the National Youth Service Act, 2016 is amended by inserting a new paragraph [e] after paragraph [d].*

CLAUSE EIGHT: Amendment of Section 17 of the Act No.4 of 2016 sub clause [e] be amended by deleting the phrase '*and the Minister*' to now read; *implement the budget approved by the board for the funding of activities and projects undertaken by the service.*

Previous Clause 7, amendment of Section 26 of Act No.4 of 2016 be amended to now become Clause 9.

CLAUSE NINE: Amendment of Section 26 of the Act No.4 of 2016, subheading ***compulsory service***, be amended by replacing the number [12] with number [26] to now read, 26, subject to section 28.

CLAUSE NINE: Amendments of Section 26 of the Act No.4 of 2016, sub section [B] be amended by inserting the words '*at least*' on the second line after the word '*for*' and before the word '*one*' to now read; *a non-graduate youth shall be enlisted in the service scheme for a period of at least one year and six months.*

Previous Clause 8, amendment of Section 27 of the Act No.4 of 2016, be amended to now become Clause 10.

Previous clause 9, amendment of Section 28 of the Act No.4 of 2016, be amended to now become Clause 11.

CLAUSE ELEVEN: Amendment of section 28 of the Act No.4 of 2016, be approved.

Previous Clause 12, amendment of section 38 of the Act No.4 of 2016, be amended to now become the new Clause 12.

CLAUSE TWELVE: Amendment of section 38 of the Act No.4 of 2016, be amended by inserting the phrase '*not less than*' on the second line before the figure '**Le 50,000**' to now read; *sub section [2] of section 38 of the National Youth Service Act, 2016 is*

*amended by the repeal and replacement of the figures **Le15Mln** with the phrase of not less than **Le50, 000** [thousand].*

CONCLUSION:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinized the Bill entitled; The National Youth Service Amendment Act, 2024, recommends this proposal to the House for approval. The report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee, and I therefore move that the House pass the Bill entitled; National Youth Service Amendment Act, 2024 through a Committee Stage, Third Reading and into law. I thank you for your attention.

Signed:

Hon.Abdul S. Marray Conteh,
Chairman, Legislative Committee,
First session 2023/2024

[Clauses 1 to 10 stand part of the Bill].

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that, clauses 1 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, Page 1; the Long and Short Title?, Page 2?, Page 3?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I think we had problem with the definition of the word '*graduate*'. I don't know maybe I did not listen properly or the report did not capture that one.

We had an argument earlier on that a person pursuing Diploma Certificate in African or Library Studies for instance, successfully graduates with a Diploma, that person will be taken to main stream for a Degree Course if he/she so desires, and the person will be admitted directly in year two. Therefore that course will be referred to as a Diploma

course, and not even an Undergraduate course. The Degree course is what is referred to as an undergraduate course. It is only when you graduate from that undergraduate course that you will be referred to as a Graduate. If you define graduate, using the Dictionary definition rather than University Act definition, you will realize that the University Act definition makes it very clear. As for the Dictionary definition, even my daughter who graduated this year from nursery to primary can be regarded as a graduate based on the dictionary definition of graduate. But in this case, we are talking about the definition of graduate based on the University Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Chairman, which definition did you use?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY. CONTEH: Well, later on, we resolved to give a clear definition of non-graduate and we leave the definition of Graduate as it is in the Education Act. We defined non-graduate to mean, *Sierra Leoneans with BECE or WASSCE and Diploma from any recognized institution and are below the age 35 years.* Of course, we entirely left the definition of Graduate as it is in the University Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: But, are you aware there is a definition of graduate and non-graduate in the University Act?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why can't we just use that definition instead?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Exactly, there is a definition. It is stated here that graduate means, *'a person who has received a Degree or Diploma on completion of a course of study in a university or college, and is below the age of 35 years'.*

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY. CONTEH: In the first argument we had, diploma was considered at first, even though some people were talking about post graduate Diploma, looking at it as a Degree, and later on, we resulted to have Diploma. But then again, I think it will be fine if we revisit the definition in the University Act.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It is very clear.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY. CONTEH: It is clear but it is also worth looking at.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is wrong with the definition in the University Act? Is it troublesome?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY. CONTEH: It is not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Then why can't we use that definition? Would there be any legal issues if we decide to use that?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No harm, at all.

HON. ABDUL LATIF SESAY: Mr Chairman, I think we struggled a bit when we were at the Committee Room one looking at the documents. The reason being, the Service is now trying to inculcate people that are having lower qualifications. It is not like University Act which is straight forward. Initially, the Service was only handling graduates, and now they want to bring in people that are not graduates but have some educational qualifications. So that is why it will be difficult if we use the University definition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on! Let me ask a question, Mr Minister,...

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, let me explain this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, the rationale for this Bill is to incorporate more people; more beneficiaries. The substantive Act limits this facility to only ...

THE CHAIRMAN: ... alright, or in institutions and communities. Am I correct to say so? They should go and do service in the communities, institutions and in MDAs. Mr Minister, tell me, what service would somebody who has just done his or her BECE, or even WASSCE should go and do?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. This is the beauty of having smart Members of Parliament who are also passionate about

young people in this country. That is why we enjoyed the debate between Honourable Daniel Koroma and the Chairman of the Legislative Committee for almost ten to eighteen hours.

Mr Chairman, the general thinking in this Bill is that, when we talk about graduate, we mean individuals graduating with Degrees. The purpose of bringing undergraduate is to ensure that young people that have got skills such as, masons, plumbers who have got those skills and at the same time have technical certificate but want to do national service, when you have for instance, project like the renovation of Parliament and you need plumbers or electricians, those young people that are within the national service, and have spent six months or one year training will come and do the national service by fixing the Parliament or as the case maybe.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, this is what I am saying. I mean, you are completely right when you stated that, people who have skills, who are knowledgeable in particular field, yes, I understand that point. But the question that I am trying to ask is related to those who have done their BECE and even those who have done their WASSCE. We are not talking about any specialized skills here for somebody who has done BECE and somebody who has done WASSCE. My thinking actually is that, if somebody would have done BECE, I expect that person to hurry up to go to either vocational school or a polytechnic, or I expect that person to go to the university to do something. I really do not expect somebody of that kind of qualification, without the relevant skills, to go and begin to do Youth Service; Youth Service for what? How do you want to do Youth Service With just BECE or WASSCE without specialized skills?

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on. I wanted the Minister to qualify that first.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Chairman, we want to help the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on let me hear the Minister first, and then you can come in.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Thank you again Mr Chairman. Like you rightly said, the general thinking is to ensure that the National Service incorporates more young people in the service. Having a qualification in BECE, WASSCE and other disciplines, makes it very easy for a young person that has vast knowledge in other skills like plumbing, carpentry etc. They can be trained just like they are doing in Paramilitary training; put them in a camp for three months or six months and train them to do national service.

THE CHAIRMAN: You train them into other fields; you train them to do something else, right?

THE MINISTER: The training of doing national service is quite different from all other services. That is why most of these young people are going through Paramilitary trainings at the Military Barracks. So basically, we train them on nationalism, patriotism and at the same time they go out there to do national service.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hold on Minister! Yes, Leader.

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I understand exactly what the Minister is driving towards. I noticed, if you look at the definition, we are talking about 35years and below, and he is now envisaging that we have a lot of BECE people who are above school age and are considered to be dropped outs. These are the people I think, he wants to cater for. Those people who sat to the BECE and did not proceed to Senior Secondary School can now be captured, instead of them going to ghettos, smoking and doing other bad things. He wants to capture them so that they can be viable for the Youth Service. The Minister is not saying that immediately you sit to the BECE or WASSEC you should go and do the Youth Service.

As a Parliament, we would encourage our children to proceed to Senior Secondary School level immediately they sit to the BECE exams to further their studies. For those who are above 25 to 30 years, and have sat to the BECE years ago, and maybe they have given up on life, roaming the streets, I think these are the people he wants to

capture. We should therefore try to redefine it for us to know exactly that these are the people you are trying to capture. Otherwise, if you leave it like that, it is assumed that, when someone sits to the BECE, he/she should go for the Youth Service.

So Mr Chairman, as I said earlier, we should not encourage our BECE children to go for the Youth Service. But for those who have dropped out of school and have given up on life, I think he wants to capture them so that they make them viable to provide service for the nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: So that is the rationale? Yes, Honourable Songa. After you we shall have Honourable Sellu, Honourable Kemokai and then we will proceed. Yes, Honourable, let me hear you on this point.

HON. WUYATTA BERNADETTE SONGA: Mr Chairman, in conjunction with what my Leader has said, I think the idea is to capture them and not to leave them out. But the very important area that I want to add my voice to is the fact that some of these BECE or WASSCE dropouts, if we could term them that way, are more competent than some Graduates; some of them can deliver more than some Graduates with Masters. A typical example is that some of these BECE and WASSCE pupils that have not got the opportunity to further their studies because of finances or lack of support from family members, but are now volunteering in some schools, are doing better in terms of delivery than some graduates teachers. In my Constituency, 008, I have got a lot of volunteers that have just finished their WASSCE and BECE; I will tell you that some of them are doing extremely well. Just last week when I visited my Constituency, one of my schools got approved, and when they brought the list to me, I noticed that seven of the teachers that have been teaching in that school are all WASSCE pupils, and they only had one T.C holder Teacher there. So when they wanted to approve the teachers teaching in that school, it was only the T.C holder that was qualified. So the WASSCE pupils asked me about the way forward for them. When I interfaced with these WASSCE students, I realized that they articulated themselves more than the T.C teacher that was in front of me, Mr Chairman. So it gives me the impression that it was

lack of support and lack of finances that is making them do what they are doing today. So, if we can now incorporate them into a service that desperately needs them, and at the same time help improve on them, I think we will be doing justice to the nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you for your contribution. Honourable Sellu, you now have the Floor.

HON.MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I think we just need to broaden the scope of the Youth Service. I have a friend in Ghana who told me that in Ghana, after junior school, they have to provide Youth Service for the country and for the government; it is kind of mandatory. If you look at Clause 4[2g] of this document, it states that they will now work with different agencies; *'operate with the assistance of Office of National Security, National Disaster Management Agency and other public institutions during emergencies and disasters'*. Talking about Graduates with Degrees, if there are emergencies like flooding in slum areas, we cannot ask that cadre to go and support ONS or Disaster Management Agencies with the necessary support that the survivors may need. We have the lower cadre who could provide such youth service as enshrined in this particular document. I think we just have to broaden the scope and not leave it like this. Let us broaden the scope a bit and ensure that we capture these levels of key players so that they can come into the game.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well to me, the scope is already broadened.

HON.MUSTAPHA SELLU: Yes, but I think we should have have those specifics and assist the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: I now understand what the issue is. The only reason why I asked that question is for me to understand why BECE and WASSCE? When it came to my own assessment of what youth service is actually about, I thought that Youth Service is about those who have graduated from the University, those who have specialized skills, who have graduated from Polytechnic and who have graduated from Vocational Institutions. I did not anticipate WASSCE and BECE because I thought, children who

have done their BECE and WASSCE should be proceeding to vocational Institutions, Polytechnic, or should be proceeding to a University to further their Studies. This is because, the moment you begin to bring in BECE and WASSCE, it will cause our children to get the idea that the moment they have taken their BECE exams, they would not want to do any further studies again, they would want to just go and do Youth Service; they would find the easiest way. We all know, when we were kids, we were not enthusiastic about further studies; we just wanted to arrive quickly. And the Youth Service will be a means of encouraging these children to think that, just after BECE, I can go and achieve something, I can even start working. So they would not be enthusiastic to pursue further studies. So that is my only worry, and that is the reason why I asked that particular question, because I thought we should have limited it to those who have graduated from Polytechnic institutions, those who have graduated from Universities, and believe me, Mr Minister, if you want this nation to give you the numbers of people every year, the numbers that you need, you can get those numbers from Universities, Vocational institutions and Polytechnics. You can get the relevant numbers; you would have thousands and thousands of them every year.

Anyway, in any case, the Ministers are the professionals, they have had engagements at different levels, and they have interacted at different levels with different countries, probably, they have a rationale for that. So, we are here to make the laws and to help them to achieve what they have to achieve. Yes Leader, you have the Floor. After the Leader, Honourable Kemokai would take the Floor.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE. Mr Chairman, that is reason I said we should redefine the definition. If you leave it at BECE, it will be assumed that when you sit to your BECE, you can now go for the Youth Service. I know what the Minister is trying to say and that is, to capture those that are already in the street.

THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe, there should be a cutoff point.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, even in the case of WASSCE, we should equally encourage people who have sat to the WASSCE to go to the University or Polytechnics

to do something instead of providing them with Youth Service. This is because as a youth, you should have the urge to do the Youth Service after University or college. The moment a person starts to do Youth Service and begins to collect cash, the person will become lazy to further his or her studies. That is why I said we should redefine this one.

THE CHAIRMAN: And let me tell you the danger of that. You know we have this concept of stagnation. If you allow somebody to lose the trend for one year doing Youth services, let us say probably from BECE, for that individual to catch up academically again will become a problem. Of course, we are all Honourable Members of Parliament, right now if you leave this parliament and you have not been studying for one or two years, and you want to go to the university, you would find it difficult to cope because you have left that world of academia for some time. For you to go back and meet these little boys who have left WASSCE to go to the University, you would find it difficult to understand certain things while they would have captured it ever since, when you sit with them. This happens just because of that stagnation. So those are all the issues we should be looking at.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, the rationale of the ministry catering for all young people is pivotal. But to my understanding, we cannot also do things to undermine the rationale of the quality education we are all clamoring for. By the way, having BECE or WASSCE Certificates should be an entry requirement to either the University or a Vocational institution, and not a requirement to Youth Service. If we do that, we are creating a room to undermine the quality education we are asking for.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would have a whole lot of half-baked people who would be there in the villages speaking big jargons.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Yes, we agree that everyone can go to the University to attain Degrees, but there should be a place for them, and that is why Vocational Institutions are there. BECE or WASSCE should not be an entry requirement to the Youth Service

because it would undermine the quality education we are asking for. Let us be mindful of this because to me, this is not good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr Minister, you are somebody that I have the greatest respect for, and I know, as a matter of fact, you have made strides to ensure that the youth sector of this country is properly catered for. You have been up and down and you have not spared any effort. But I want us all to exercise our minds on some of these issues. They might be very difficult to deal with when it comes to implementation. I know of course that you want to cater for a certain cadre of people, but probably, if we try as best as we could to have a cut off line so that our children do not think that if they sit to the BECE, they will start earning money somewhere, or they will take them somewhere to a camp and start training them, and they will be fed for free, be catered for and at the end of the day provide job for them. **S.O** [2] *pa, den ten den day wa small, if na mi sef sef den bin tell say Segepor, wey yu don BECE, yu dey go some sai mek dem begin train yu, to God, ar nor for dong reach dis level.* Let us be frank, because I would have wanted to start earning something at that age. So in any case, let me hear the Minister. Hold on Chairman, the Minister wants to say something, please. Yes, Mr Minister [*Undertone*] is it above 35 or below 35?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Below 35 years.

THE CHAIRMAN: So it can be anybody at the age of 12, 13 and 14 years.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, like you rightly said, I came to Parliament with an open mind, and I am very pleased to inform Honourable Members that the Membership of this Committee has done justice to this Bill. I see nationalism in the debates prior to this one, I see patriotism and we have three scenarios put together; we have the good, the bad, and the ugly, which we all share. It was in the spirit of honesty and sincerity that this document was debated. And as you know very well, the general thinking is to expand the National Youth Service by bringing on board non-graduates. When we talk about non-graduates, it can be from every facet below a Degree; that is a general thinking.

Mr Chairman, the bone of contention during the Committee meeting was the definition of non-graduates. So Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, what is good for the young people of this country should not be only in the hands of the Minister of Youth. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: So that definition is where the problem is. Maybe, we need to take a look at that definition. If we are able to coin a beautiful definition to capture the intention of the Minister, then I think we would be fine. By capturing the real intention of the Minister or the Policy, then we would be there. If we leave it as it is, it will not be good. We do not want to be trying to create something good, and we end up creating something bad. We know that our children are lazy, they do not want to learn, and in fact we have to force most of them to go to school. We know this because we are all parents. Some of them we would force them to go to school, and they will riot against you and say, do not take care of me, and they will go away and be in the camp without your knowledge, because they do not want to further their studies.

So, Mr Minister, we are going to take a look at the definition. Honourable Members, let us take a look at the definition in order to close the gap. We will stick a pin here.

HON. ABDUL LATIF SESAY: Mr Chairman, I think as Members of Parliament, it is our job to ensure that we scrutinize whatever that is in front of us. When the 6-3-3-4 system of education was designed basically, there was a component that was looking at those that were going to drop out from the BECE level and could not proceed to the Senior Secondary School level, including the WASSCE pupils who cannot obtain the requirements to go to the University.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, they can go to Vocational or Polytechnic. I thought we should have captured it from that point; when you go to Vocational institutions, Polytechnic, or to the University and you all graduate, then you will come to the Youth Service.

HON. ABDUL LATIF SESAY: Exactly. But now, you have those that cannot proceed to those institutions and we also want to capture them. We have young people out there who are BECE holders smoking Kush, washing cars and other things.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, let me tell you what the concept of Youth service actually is. When you graduate from a professional course or an academic course, the principle is that you are expected to give back to your nation for one year.

S.O 2, *u don do tailoring, u don do carpentry, u don graduate en u don do a professional course as a teacher, den dey sen you bak to society for go help the Society from watin yu don learn.* That is the principle. *Somebodi we don drop out of skul at BECE or WASSCE level, in di fos place nor get any professional knowledge in eni tin at all.*

Honourable Members, except the Minister tells me that all of those people should be captured, taken to a camp, and vocationally trained. But three months, six months, even one year is not going to do that. I expect the Minister to establish institutions all over Sierra Leone so that when these people are captured, you take them there. **S.O 2** *di tin wey dem refuse for do, den go do am by fos.* We force them to learn and make them relevant Sierra Leoneans and then we take them to the field.

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I believe it is now time for the Ministry of Youth Affairs to collaboratively work with the Ministry of Education because the essence of the 6-3-3-4 was not to allow dropouts. When once you get to the BECE level and you are not able to make it up to S.S.S, there are schools that are referred to as Techvocs where they are later enrolled. That is why they are graded on psychomotor and cognitive from JSS1 to JSS3 to determine whether they are qualified enough to go to S.S.S or not, and these assessments lead them to either Senior Secondary School or Techvoc. So I believe it is now time for the Ministry of Youth Affairs to consider working with the Ministry of Education so as to establish more Techvoc Institutions. We should not just concentrate ourselves as a government on the cognitive aspect of education. That is why when you look at the report cards, you have psychomotor, but what these

teachers do now is to just write 2, 3, 4 on the Report Cards with no thorough assessment.

THE CHAIRMAN: They too do not even understand.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Exactly. So Mr Chairman, I want to appeal to the Minister of Youth Affairs that this is the time for us to go back to the drafters of the 6-3-3-4 policy and see how best we can train our teachers to assess our children not just on cognitive aspect but on those other aspects so that by the time they reach at JSS3 we will be able to determine whether these pupils will make it to S.S.S or to the Techvoc.

Mr Minister, please we need to create more Techvoc institutions that can capture our children from that end instead of waiting for them to become permanent dropouts and you now force them to do youth service which they are not prepared for.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, these camps should be vocational and Techvoc institutions, so that when we gather them, we will train them.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Clause 4 makes provision for those BECE and WASSCE dropouts to be captured and trained before they are allowed to do Youth Service. I think that is our concern. With your permission, Mr Chairman, Clause 4 states that; *section 12 of the National Youth Service Act 2016 is amended by the repeal and replacement of that section with the following new functions.*

The amendment states that; the object for which the service is established is to train graduates and non-graduates, and to enhance their ability to provide service to the nation.

So Mr Chairman, this is why we are here now. The object here as opposed to the parent Act is that the Parent Act was limited to what you are saying now; that is, to Graduates only. As in the case of this one, we are extending the facility to non-graduates but not just to take them and use them, rather, it is to take them, train them and make use of them. That is the object, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we are talking! So I think we are fine now.

HON. UNPHA SORIE GBASSAY KOROMA: Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Honourable Unpha, I think the Leader is not done yet.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Our only area borders on what we are doing now. The Parents Act says, Graduates only, and then the Amendment Act now adds non-graduates and provides definition for non-graduates. The definition of non-graduate is here. It says non-graduate means, *a Sierra Leone below the age of 35 years, who holds a T-Vec, BECE or WASSCE certificates, Diploma, or other relevant certificates from a recognized educational institutions.*

So, this one includes Diploma, which is fine and distinct from the word Graduate. Graduate means, a person who has received a Degree or Diploma. In fact, for you to define graduate, you must consult the University Act because it is the Universities that produce Graduate. Therefore, their own definition must stand.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the definition of non-graduate is okay, but the definition of Graduates should be based on the University Act.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, I just want to throw light on that. The argument was to have Diploma under that definition of graduate. So, we can move forward simply by adopting the definition in the University Act, but then also, to add age limit because that one does not have any age limit. Our target is the age.

THE CHAIRMAN: 35 years and below.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Fine, so, the definition from the University Act, plus the age limit is okay for the definition of graduate because the problem was, having Diploma under the definition of Graduate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, so do that and let us take a look at it.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Honourable Unpha.

HON. UNPHA SORIE GBASSAY KOROMA: Mr Chairman, what I was going to add was the fact that you hit the nail right on the head. We should not restrict the Youth Service to just Graduates, WASSCE or BECE; we need to capture the ones that have never attained formal education as you may call it. I mean, we have brothers and sisters in the villages whom Youth Service should also endeavor to capture because we need to broaden the scope. But if we limit it only to people that have attained only formal education, then what is the opportunity given to those who do not attain formal education? We need to note that as a small nation for that matter, we need to see how we can broaden the scope and bring other people and train them formally. So for me, instead of sticking it to the age below 35, we should also consider the age of maturity. Let us say, if you reach the age of 18, you should come into the Youth service. By so doing, we can go to villages, bring young boys and girls that are 18 years, train them, formalize them and increase their capacity. So I think we need to look beyond formal education.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Minister, that is a powerful position made by Honourable Unpha Koroma, and I hope you followed what the Honourable was trying to say.

HON. ABDUL M. CONTEH: Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

HON. ABDUL M. CONTEH: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, everything that we are discussing here is exactly what we want to cater for in the National Youth Service. Talking about BECE or WASSCE does not limit the scope only to those levels; even those who have to attain skills. You can learn be a carpentry, once you have that skill and a certificate from a recognized institution as mentioned by the Honourable Member, then you are qualified to be sent into the camp, trained, and after that, you will be sent to do national service for the period that is stated in that Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: So in that definition, we add BECE, WASSCE with relevant skills not so?

HON. ABDUL M. CONTEH: It is there already.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, fine.

HON. BEN ALPHA MANSARAY: Mr Chairman, I felt at ease when I heard Honourable Dr. Unpha and the response of the Minister. You see, I now realize the reason for the huge talent mobility we have from our country. Other countries are making use of skills that we have, whiles we are more focused on these BECE, WASSCE and Undergraduate. In fact, I am foreseeing that this nation again review the Curriculum to ensure that the courses are tailored towards more skills training rather than just to cram, pass and then you graduate at the end of the day.

Mr Minister, if you are asked now to give us a report on the skills assessment of the total number of plumbers, carpenters, or those in the mason unit, you cannot give us that correct statistics because our mindset is being narrowed just to those that sat to their WASSCE and are qualified for the Youth Service Scheme. If we are to assess our actual skill strength of our human capital, it is far beyond what you think from Primary Secondary, or the Free Quality Education.

So therefore, when I heard you say this is unlimited, I felt at ease. In fact, you should now begin to scout from district to district to know the strength of the skills we have in those Districts, so you can have a proper data on that. As such, we can transfer these skills, instead of us relying on expatriate to come and train the youth we have. We had the late man called Macco who was a very good carver, did not attain formal education but he went to represent this country in a competition. So you have those carvers and other people with wonderful skills. So, let us create a pool of talents to see wherein these skills can be transferred. So making it unlimited, I am the happiest person.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let us try to round off. Honourable Lamin, you have the Floor.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I have carefully listened to how the debate is unfolding. I think the issue of non-graduate is well stated in the document, and you also said it will limit the scope or the enthusiasm of our children to proceed with their academic work. Mr Chairman, I beg to differ with an example. The Professor Kanu you have today at the Milton Margai Technical University grew up in Makeni and attended the Makama Institute where he did his courses. I also want to testify to this House that even myself, when I completed my O' Level, I could not afford to go to the University and my first entry point was at the Ministry of Social Welfare in Bo which at that time instituted a training program for Social Workers. That was the genesis of my academic journey before I proceeded to other higher institutions. The document has explicitly stated that, you must start somewhere with T-Vet, WASSCE or BECE. The Youth Service gives skills; hands on duty, I think that is what the Youth Service is about. It is not talking about Degrees and other Certificates, but how to use your hands.

Mr Chairman, you can testify that even the disaster we had few days ago, people were using their hands to do the service and not their Degrees. Their Degrees were locked up in places while they used their hands to reach out. I have followed these youths carefully and I have noticed that when they leave Universities without skills, it becomes difficult for them as to how could they could use their hands or adapt to the challenges. Today, I want to tell you that a number of Okada or Kekeh Riders are in the University today. If you go to Ernest Bai Koroma University, Milton Margai University etc, you will see a lot of Okada Riders packed there and at the end of the day, they go back to provide services to our nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Okay, let us proceed. Yes, Leader from the Opposition.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, this is just to allay our fears and to let us know that our Minister has done a very good work. All these concerns that we are raising now for Graduates and also to incorporate BECE or WASSCE and to also include the informal sector, according to Honourable Unpha. The Fifth recommendation here

makes provision for that. We inserted a new word; '*Service Men and Women*' to be captured. Service Men and Women can cover anybody who has skills that can be further modified to meet the national taste by the National Service. Such people can be captured and then further modified based on the national taste, and then they can be sent for national service. So, all our concerns are incorporated here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. I think we would try this one. Let us continue. Pages 4&5?, Page 6? Page7? Proceed!

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Clauses 1 to 10 stand part of Bill as amended.

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[Clauses 1 to10 form part of the Bill as amended]

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, report on the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS *[Third Reading]*: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled; the National Youth Service Amendment Acts 2024, having gone through the Committees of the whole House with 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 Youth Service Amendment Act, 2024, being an Act to amend the National Youth Service Act, 2016 and to provide for other related matters has been read the Third time and passed into law.]

C. THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION AMENDMENT ACT, 2024- THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

[Committee Stage and Third Reading: Report on the Bill entitled; The National Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024. Hon. Abdul S. Marray Conteh, Chairman of the Legislative Committee.]

[The House resolves into Committee of the whole]

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I arise to present the second report of the Legislative Committee, First Session of the 6th Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone on the Bill entitled; The National Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024; being an Act to amend the National Youth Commission Act, 2016 and to provide for other related Matters. Subsequently, the Committee met on Thursday, 18th July and Monday, 22nd July, 2024 in Committee Room No.1 and State Hall of Parliament building respectively, with the following objectives:

1. To scrutinize in detail the principles and provisions of the Bill and to make amendments if necessary.
2. To ascertain the constitutional and legal implications contained therein.
3. To report to plenary for consideration by the Committee of the Whole House in line with **S.O 53**

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in attendance were the Minister of Youth Affairs, the Commissioner of National Youth Commission, the Executive Director of National Youth Service, Officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Officials from the Commission and National Youth Service, the Chairman Legislative Committee, the Chairman Youth Affairs Committee, Committee Members of the Legislative Committee and Youth Affairs Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee, having scrutinized the Bill line by line and clause by clause, recommends the following amendments to the House for approval:

The Short Title be approved. The Long Title of the Bill be approved.

PART ONE; Preliminary: Clause one, amendment of Section 3 for Act No. 11 of 2009. *[It should be Act No. 11. Clerk, please take note of this one].* Side note to be amended by inserting the number '**11**' after the word '*Number*', and inserting the word '*of*' before the number '**2009**' to now read; '*Amendment of section 3 of Act, No.11 of 2009*'.

Clause 1, amendment of section 3 of Act, No.11 of 2009.

CLAUSE ONE [b] be amended to read; '*a representative each from the Administrative regions of Sierra Leone, at least two of whom shall be women*'.

CLAUSE TWO; amendments of section 4 of Act, No.11 of 2009, be approved.

CLAUSE THREE; amendment of section 6 of Act, No.11 of 2009, be amended to read; '*the non-statutory members of the Board and any other person coopted by the Board under subsection [2], Paragraphs [A], [B] and [C] of section 3 shall be paid such remuneration, fees and allowances approved by the Board and shall be reimbursed by the Commission for expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their functions*'.

CLAUSE FOUR; amendments of Section 10 of Act, No.11 of 2009, be amended by replacing the heading '*Functions of the Minister*' with the phrase, '*Functions of the Commission*'.

CLAUSE FOUR 4; amendment of Section 10 of Act, No.11 of 2009, sub clause [2i] Roman figure three [iii] be amended to read; '*conduct elections of Youth Councils and provide capacity support for them*'.

CLAUSE FIVE; amendment of Section 17 of Act, No.11 of 2009, sub clause [1] be amended by interchanging the position of sub clause [1a] to sub clause [1b] and sub clause [1b] to sub clause [1a].

CONCLUSION:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Legislative Committee having scrutinized the Bill entitled; The National Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024, recommends this proposal to the House for approval. The Report reflects the consensus of Honourable Members of the Committee.

I therefore move that the House pass this Bill entitled; The National Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024, through Committee Stage, Third Reading and into law. I thank you for your attention.

Signed:

Hon.Abdul S. Marray Conteh,
Chairman, Legislative Committee,
First session 2023/ 2024

[Clauses 1 to 5 stand part of the Bill.]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS *[Mr Mohamed Orman Bangura]*: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that clauses 1 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, Page 1; the Long and Short Title? Page 2?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Page two.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I do not properly understand Clause 4, which has to do with the amendment of section 10 of Act No.11 of 2009. The side note reads '*functions of the Minister*'.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: That was changed to '*functions of the Commission*'.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 3? Page 4?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I notice something on Page 2, Clause 6.

THE CHAIRMAN: We do not have Clause 6 in Page 2.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Sorry, Mr Chairman, I mean Clause 3[6]; under the proposals; *'the Chairman and other Members of the Board shall be entitled to such remuneration, fees and allowances as the Minister may after consultation with the Minister of Finance'*.

Mr Chairman, it is only this Parliament that determines an increment or decrease in salaries. As a Parliament, we are making laws that will stand the test of time. Today, we have a Minister that has a good relationship with the Board. But let us assume tomorrow, we have a Minister that does not have a good relationship with the Board and he is the one that is responsible to determine the salaries of these Board Members. What do you think will happen in such instance? That is why we indicated in other laws that remuneration should be determined by Parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please check the Report. I have just been informed that it has been dealt with by the report, please check it.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Okay, thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Page 3?, Page 4? Yes, Mr Minister, proceed, the Leader is fine now.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS [Third Reading]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Clauses 1 to 5 stand part of the Bill as amended.

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[Clauses 1 to 5 form part of the Bill as amended. The House resumed.]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled; The National Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024, having

gone through the Committee of the whole House with 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 Youth Commission Amendment Act, 2024, being an Act to amend the National Youth Commission Act, 2009 and to provide for other related matters has been read the third time and passed into law]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON. SORIE GBESSAY UNPHA KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I want to rise on **S.O** 23. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, persistently, the people of Tassor Island have been victims of the activities by Leone Rock Company along the Tassor River. By the way, Tassor Island and the sea town of Pepel are right across from each other. The primary source of livelihood of the people in that area is fishing, and their activities are being immensely affected by plyers of huge vessels along their waterways. Some of these people have suffered the destruction of their nets and boats. Mr Speaker, I think the people of Tassor Island have been immensely affected by these activities. Unfortunately, the Mines and Minerals Act does not capture communities that reside along the corridors of these Mining Companies.

Mr Speaker, under your leadership, I want to crave your support that we should, as a parliament, consider how we can revisit the law when it has to do with communities along the corridors of mining activities. The main livelihood activity in Tassor Island is fishing, and if the Mines and Mineral Act is not amended to support or capture communities in these corridors, the people will continue to perish under these laws. Leone Rock Mining Company is not that supportive to the people of Tassor community. The Coordinators of the communities have tried to reach out to the Management on several occasions, and I have been informed that if the laws are not changed, Tassor will continue to suffer. We have seen how much money the Leone Rock is given to other communities...

THE SPEAKER: Okay, Honourable Member, what you have to do, is to write a comprehensive letter of your position to the Chairman of Mines and copy the Leader of Government Business, Clerk of Parliament and me. Then we will see how we are going to deal with that.

HON. BEN ALPHA MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, I stand on **S.O** 23 to bring you greetings from the people of Moyamba District, and I also bring you good news. You know, it is very good at all times to identify the gains of government and commend government on the areas they have done well. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House about the progress being made on the road from Makoror to Mabang; a jointly funded project by both the European Union [EU] and the Government of Sierra Leone, which was commissioned on the 1st of November, 2023. As I speak, they have started making the road already from Songo. If you use that highway, you can see the Tarmac Road, and I know by 2025, they would have completed it.

Mr Speaker, on the other hand, I also want to bring you sad news. The sad news is that, Moyamba District has a population of 346,771 [*three hundred and forty-six thousand, seven hundred and seventy-one*] based on the Midterm Census. Amongst the 14 Chiefdoms, almost 8 Chiefdoms are cut off; from Mabang Bridge, to Bradford, Rontifunk, Bawuyah, Moyamba, Senbehun, and up to Shenge. My colleagues Members of Parliament from our district share the same story with me. Mr Speaker, at the moment, I want to appeal...

THE SPEAKER: What has happened?

HON. BEN ALPHA MANSARAY: The road from Mabang to Moyamba has over thirty cut off points.

THE SPEAKER: Is it due to the construction of the road?

HON. BEN ALPHA MANSARAY: Due to the rains. The contract from Songo to Mabang is the one that is jointly funded, but the one from Mabang to Moyamba and to that of Shenge is not under construction. So as it is now, we have a lot of cut off

points. Mr Speaker, if somebody goes there now, even with a 4X4 Land Cruiser, that person cannot make his or her way. In fact at certain points, you can have a depth of **1.3** or **1.5** meters of potholes and a lot of ponds along the way.

However, I also want to commend SLRA for being very receptive. We have contacted them and they have promised working on it. I just want to plead on behalf of the people of Moyamba District whilst they are pursuing support for the project. As Members of Parliament, Honourable Umu Pyne and I sent in a little support yesterday for stones to be transported on the road. Out of the thirty points, only one point can be addressed with our resources which can only last for a week. We want to plead that you talk to the Minister of Finance or the Director of SLRA to expedite that support, please, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Alright, I would call them up.

HON. BEN ALPHA MANSARAY: Please, Mr Speaker, we are under threat. In an event of any emergency around maternal issues, we cannot have easy access to the hospital. Please, Mr Speaker, we need them to come to our aid.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, it has been noted.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, in support of what my colleague has said, we have approached the Minister of Finance this morning and he has given us his assurance but because of the topography of the land where we find ourselves; the coastal area with not too hard land surface, the road is bound to face such challenges. We are in a negotiation with the Minister of Finance, R.M.F.A and S.L.R.A to see how they can support us the Members of Parliament from that side to cushion the problem in particularly the hotpot areas so that people can manage to ply the road. Like you rightly said, people are looking at us as representatives of the government and that we must ensure that these roads are fixed.

Mr Speaker, one good thing I would like to bring to your attention is that when the President went to Moyamba to launch the Medium-term National Development Plan

[MTNDP], the road from that stretch to Gbangbantok Junction in my own area, negotiation is at advanced stage for a Donor to tar that road. The stretch now from Gbangbantok Junction to Shenge, the minister said they are planning to do that. So for now, we are pleading with your noble office to ensure that the hotpot areas are dealt with before the end of the raining season, Mr Speaker. I just want to add my voice to what my colleague from Moyamba district said, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Shaw, you have the Floor.

HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW: Mr Speaker, my **S.O** 23 has to do with the Western Area. I am not representing the Western Area but by virtue of my position as a Member of Parliament, I am representing the whole of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, there is a slumping area after Ojuku Junction towards Allentown on the right flank. Mr Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House that there is a construction going on there that I consider to be a deathtrap. I therefore call on your office to please instruct the Committee on Environment or the Chairman of Works to do the needful.

THE SPEAKER: Who is the Chairman of Environment? The Chairman of Works happens to be a Leader and he has been listening to all of these comments.

HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW: Mr Speaker, it is nice we do a joint inspection on that site and advice accordingly, because if a structure is erected there, then we shall be waiting for a disaster to strike.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Chairman for Works, have you done your Oversight?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We visited that road.

HON. BILLOH SHAW: I am not talking about the road; I am talking about somebody who is erecting a structure in a slumping area. My call is for Parliament to intervene for that individual not to erect a structure there because if he does, then we are awaiting for disaster to happen. We need to prevent the disaster from happening.

Secondly Mr Speaker, before the Chairman of Works come in, I want to also say that the road starting from Wellington to Masiaka is in a deplorable state, although some form of renovation is ongoing. Mr Speaker, we have a contract with the Chinese Company [C.R.S] which is working on that road, and they are collecting dues, using those monies to do the road. Even the roads done by our local contractors are more standard than the one done by these Chinese people.

Mr Speaker, we are representing our people here, and if we do not do something to protect the future generation, then we are not leaving anything for our people. So I crave on your leadership to call for the document that contains the contract we have with these Chinese people. Let us take a thorough look at it and see what we can do about the situation. If they leave that road with us for a year, we will be driving on potholes to Masiaka, I assure you.

Mr Speaker, I know, probably, it has taken you a while without driving to the provinces. If you have not, please do so and when you come back here, you will call for an immediate meeting with the Chinese people.

THE SPEAKER: The Chairman of Works, are you following up?

HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW: I am talking about the standard of the road. When I spoke about it the last time, some Members of Parliament were attacking me. I told them that I was not talking about their joint oversight; I was talking about the quality of the road and the money we are paying for that road. We have just increased the cost at the Tollgate and yet the road is not in good state. If you drive just between Willington to Calaba Town, you would notice that there are portions of potholes because some of the granites on the road have been washed away. That road work is so poor that you cannot allow such contractor to even work on your house.

So please Mr Speaker, I want to crave on the indulgence of the Chairman of Works to pay keen attention to this.

THE SPEAKER: Let me hear the Chairman of Works on this.

HON. TAMBA KALLIE: Mr Speaker, before the Chairman takes the Floor, I want you to allow me to say something just for a minute. I am not here to lambaste the construction, but just want to add my voice. Mr Speaker, the road from Matotoka to Kono was constructed by two Companies; SALCOST and the Chinese Company. The one done by the Chinese Company is now a deathtrap [*Undertone*] no, I am not saying that. I prefaced my contribution by saying I am not here to lambaste or lampoon.

Mr Chairman, when you leave the SALCOST part of the road and enter the Chinese part, you would notice the wobbliness of the road. I think I raised it some time ago that there is a segment on that road where potholes have begun to appear. Even the road from Grafton to Jui, I do not know how recently you travelled on that road, but I would like to say that the status of that road is getting bad. As the Honourable likely said, maybe we should be looking at some of those contracts to see how best they are implemented, although some of us are not experts, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Chairman. The Chairman is going to be the last person to contribute and then we adjourn.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Honourable Member from Falaba, I have listened carefully and these are very serious concerns that you have raised and I respect you. Few days ago Mr Speaker, we were on that road; the whole Committee went to inspect that road.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we need to do a lot of country planning. We visited that road and the entire environment where TESCO Petrol Station is. We went into that community and we discovered that all the drainages have been blocked by the structures that are built there. They have blocked all the water ways to the point that, somebody built a petrol station which has occupied almost six to eight town lots. So today, all the debris coming from the Hills are being deposited on the road. The Committee Members, including coopted Honourable Members who went on the tour also noticed that the entire road going to Wellington is not in good shape. In fact what is now happening on that road is that people are excavating the right of way to build

houses. We were there, we took photos and we brought those photos to this House. We are doing our reports as a Committee as well.

Mr Speaker, we the Sierra Leoneans are responsible for most of the problems we are facing. The way at which people are treating the waterways is unbelievable; they are even building houses, blocking the waterway. The whole street around Wellington to Calaba town is not accessible. We were there, people were crying and nobody will voice it out. In fact, the entire right of way has been encroached, and the drainages constructed by the Chinese have been blocked because people are building houses on those drainages. The fact that we understand exactly what we need, and those people constructing the roads are being paid to do quality job, we should also encourage Sierra Leoneans and the Ministry that is responsible for planning the country to do the needful. Mr Speaker, let us go back to the drawing board. Even the Wilkinson Road and Lumley to Tokeh Road have the same complaint, especially during the rainy season; the waterways have been blocked.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Committee, including SLRA, we have said countless times that people should not build houses on the right of way. Today, starting from Shell New Road, to Waterloo, on to Masiaka, the entire stretch of the right of way has been encroached. So Mr Speaker, this is a serious matter, and we need to summon people who have been building houses on the right of way and the drainages for these issues to be solved.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader, can you as Chairman of the Committee of Works get those people that have built those houses to be summoned to Parliament?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, Mr Speaker. When we went there the last time, we took down some of their names and contact numbers. Had it not been the State Opening and other busy schedules, we would have summoned them since. In the next few days, we are going to summon them so that we will come and talk to them.

THE SPEAKER: Certainly, you actually need to do that, thank you very much. Before the announcement, Honourable Members, let us not forget that on Saturday, we have our Dinner at 6pm, at the Bintumani Conference Hall. Please make sure you are there with your spouses or your better halves. But know that you will be responsible for your choice. This dinner is a formal requirement of Parliament. It is used to happen before but it was stopped and we are trying to reintroduce it. Everybody knows that, every year after State Opening, we have a Parliamentary Dinner. Let us try to make it very big and interesting. Let us go there and interact and let us make sure, whatever we have to do to enjoy ourselves, let us do that because we have worked throughout the year, throughout the session and we deserve to be happy, especially with our spouses. They also have to go and see how Honourable Members relax themselves. So please, make sure you are there at 6pm on Saturday coming at the Bintumani Conference Centre. You will collect your invitations from the Director General. You have to collect two; one for you and one for your spouse. *[Undertone]* Okay, they will take your invitation to your Pigeon Holes. But please make sure you collect them before attending on Saturday.

Then secondly, immediately after this sitting, we have a program at the State Hall, it is going to be very brief and I think it is going to last about 15 or 20 minutes. Mr Clerk, are you here? So please, let us all go to the State Hall immediately after this sitting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 2:50pm, and was adjourned to Friday, 9th of August, 2024 at 10am.

