

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

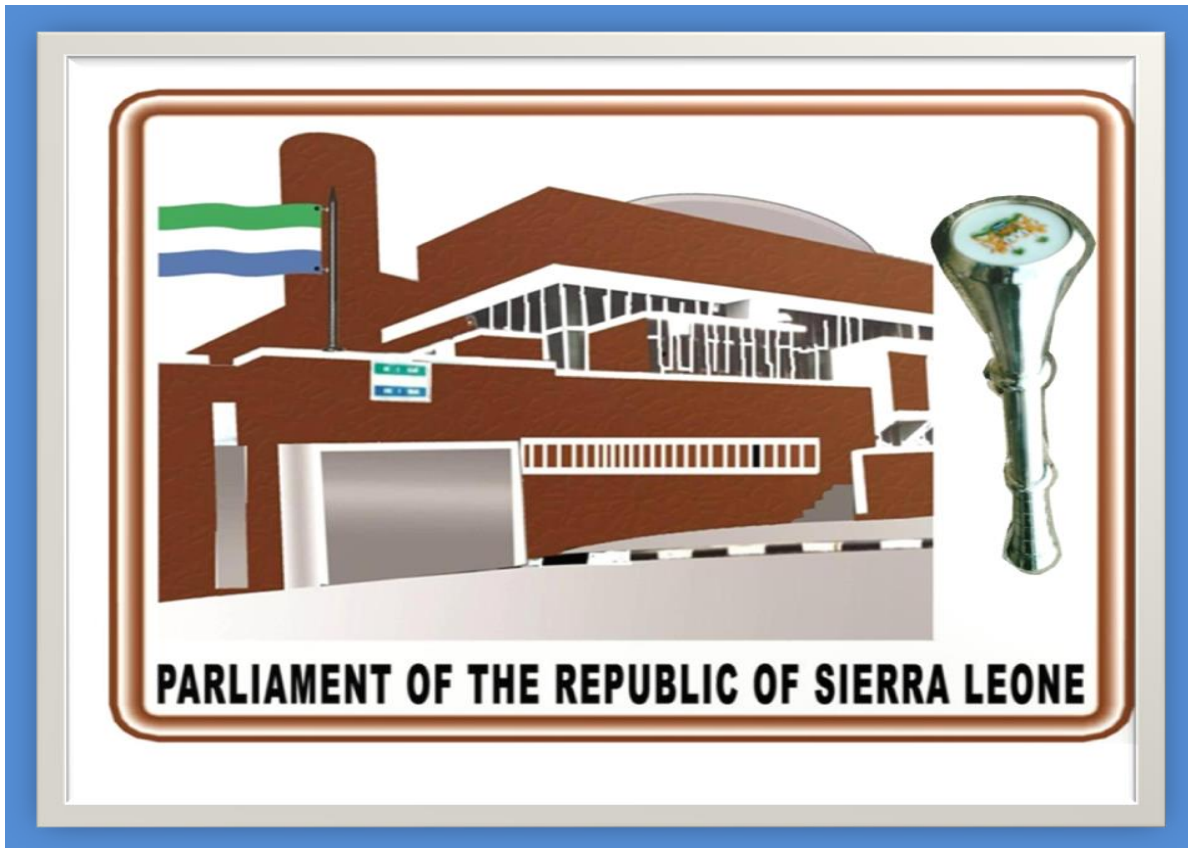
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Tuesday, 8th May, 2018.

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PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE SECOND REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION FO THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 8th May, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

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

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

The House was called to Order

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the following amendments be made on the Order Paper: under item III, the seconder should be Honourable Dickson M. Rogers, instead of Honourable Saa E. Lamina. Item IV should be completely expunged from the Order Paper. Therefore, item V becomes item IV. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to the Motion?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I second the motion.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Order Paper has been amended accordingly]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON FRIDAY, 4TH MAY, 2018

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 4th May, 2018. We go page by page. Page 2? Page 3?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, No. 106, Honourable Nyuma Mathew Sahr. The Sahr is spelt as 'S-a-h-r.'

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Any more corrections on that page?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, the best practice is, to write the surname of an individual first, followed by the first name and the middle name[s]. My name is always written in different ways. I want to refer you to Page 3. It is written as Honourable Sama Shiaka Musa and on the other page, it is Honourable Musa Shiaka Sama

THE SPEAKER: What number, Honourable Member?

HON SHIAKA SAMA: Mr Speaker, Page 3, No.115.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, how do you wish your name to be recorded for future purposes?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: It should be Honourable Sama Shiaka Musa. It should be surname, followed by first name and the middle name[s]. That is the best practice, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note. Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8 Page 9.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 4th May, 2018 has been adopted as amended]

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE SECOND REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE, BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Second Report of The Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, alive to its constitutional obligations, met on Saturday, 5th May, 2018 and interviewed ten presidential nominees for appointment as Ministers of Government.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency to its established procedure. Pertinent questions put to the nominees were related to their educational backgrounds, track records in public office, declared assets, tax obligations and their vision for a successful

and nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. Second Sitting Of The Committee On Saturday, 5th May, 2018

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i. Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt, proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Peace and Conflict Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. She also doubles as a Consultant and has a wide range of consultancy work experience with national and international organisations.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Mrs Memunatu Pratt opined that globally, tourism is one of the main sources of revenue for most governments in Africa. The case of small Gambia is a very good example. **"If I am confirmed as Minister by this Honourable House, the very first thing I am going to look at is the National Tourist Board, the regulatory framework for tourism in Sierra Leone. The tourism development Act of 1990 has a lot of gaps that I will endeavour to have amended. I intend to rigorously pursue the National Tourist Board to make it live up to its responsibilities."**

Prompted about making Bonthe Island a tourist centre, Mrs Memunatu Pratt said: **"Bonthe is a major tourist attraction, but it requires improvements in water transport and hotels, which with time is achievable."**

ii. Mr Joseph J. Ndanema, proposed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema has more than 20 years of work experience in development, programme planning, implementation and advocacy to overcome poverty. He is a strong campaigner for policy, knowledge, attitude and change, to help the poorest of the poor exploit their potentials for the improvement of their lives. Mr Ndanema is also a value chain analyst, food security and poverty alleviation expert, researcher to various organisational development training and planning processes. He

has a wealth of work experience on projects that are aimed at improving social development in developing countries like Sierra Leone.

Responding to Members prompting, Mr Joseph Ndanema said, **“The agricultural sector has been neglected for far too long and that has led to a very drastic drop in our capacity to feed ourselves. We are dependent on rice as a staple food and therefore we must ensure that we are self-sufficient in rice production. My plan is to reactivate mass production of rice.”** The nominee went on to say that agriculture is a flagship programme of His Excellency, the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, who does not only want to attain self-sufficiency in rice production, but to be able to export it. **“At the moment, I read from the records that we are spending over a \$130mln to import rice, onions and other commodities each year. This has to stop. We will introduce a programme that works with the private sector to mechanise the production, packaging and marketing process. If I am approved by this Honourable House, I promise that under my leadership, the Ministry will drastically reduce the import Bill on rice in Sierra Leone.”**

iii. Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], proposed Minister of Planning and Economic Development

I was not part of those that interviewed this nominee. She was interviewed by my deputy and Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella in order to avoid conflict of interest.

Mrs Nabeela Tunis is a highly trained individual whose areas of expertise include:

- Political Analysis and Governance;
- Gender and Development;
- Project Design and Management;
- Environmental Management;
- Conflict Analysis and Mediation;
- Human Rights Protection and Monitoring;
- Trainer /Facilitator;
- Election Observation; and
- Research and Report Writing;

Reacting to Members' questions, Mrs Nabeela Tunis said that she viewed her nomination as a blessing, the separation of the Ministry of Economic Development from the Ministry of Finance because development issues were largely overshadowed by financial issues. She said: **"My plans are to ensure that His Excellency, the President's New Direction is transformed into a national development plan. A plan that will span over ten years and look at how we could incorporate country's specific issues to address relevant international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals [SDG's], and the African Union Agenda 2063, which will ensure that we have a harmonized national development plan that will not be interrupted by successive governments."**

iv. Mr Anthony Y. Brewah, Proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development

Mr Anthony Y. Brewah is a qualified Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone since 1991, with 28 years working knowledge gained in political litigation, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Property Law, Wills & and Dispute Resolution. As an excellent and experienced teacher, he has been a Pupil Master for trainee Barristers since 2005 to date, while at the same time teaching at three secondary schools in Sierra Leone.

Questioned on the role of Paramount Chiefs, Mr Anthony Brewah said, **"The Chiefs are part of national politics and we have an unwritten law that Paramount Chiefs support the government of the day. If I approved by this Honourable House, I will encourage the Chiefs to promote national cohesion and peace in their chiefdoms."** Mr Brewah promised to look into the conditions of service for the Paramount Chiefs and would ensure improvements as and when funds are available.

v. Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de' Souza George, proposed Minister of Works and Public Assets

Mr Raymond de 'Souza George, is a multi-talented retired Civil Servant, an expert in Drama and Theatre Arts, play and song writer who has performed in Nigeria, London,

the Netherlands and in several cities in Canada. He is also an Ordained Minister of the gospel and a lecturer at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, where he doubles as the University Public Orator.

Questioned on how he planned to work with the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Works, Mr Raymond de' Souza George said, **"I believe that the Honourable Members on that Committee have a lot more experience on many things I may not have any knowledge of. So, we may have to cooperate with each other to have productive results at the end of the parliamentary year."**

Mr Raymond de' Souza George agreed with the Committee that there were too many incomplete projects nationwide that may require an investigation. **"I believe that every contract or project has a life span, when it started and when it must end. Projects not completed beyond their stipulated times may be looked into. I will delve into the statuses of all such contracts,"** he said.

vi. *Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, Proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources*

Dr Morie Manyeh is a Freelance consultant from 2011 to date. He had previously served as Lecturer, Institute of Languages and Cultural Studies, Njala University College, Bo Campus from 2010 to 2011.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries on the need for a complete geological survey to ascertain what minerals are available in Sierra Leone and where they are located, Dr Morie Manyeh said: **"I am ready to do anything that would improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans as far as mines and minerals are concerned. The geological survey, I believe, is in the pipeline and I will follow it up once I get the blessings of approval from this Honourable House."**

Responding to further questions, Dr Manyeh promised to hold mining companies accountable for their failure to mitigate environmental damages resulting in their mining operations. **"I will do all it takes to improve the quality of life for the people in mining areas. In some places I have visited in Kono, for instance, the people**

do not have good drinking water. All taxes and revenues due to government by mining companies will be collected. I will rigidly enforce that," he said.

vii. Mr Andrew Ansu Fatorma, Proposed Resident Minister – East

Mr Fatorma is currently employed as a Planning Officer at the Eastern Polytechnic, Kenema. His core competences include programme management and coordination, planning and implementation activities, budget management and team building.

In his interview, Mr Fatorma promised to ensure that all the three districts in the Eastern Region, Kenema, Kono and Kailahun are peaceful. **"I will also ensure that they work together for the development of the region."**

viii. Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie, proposed Resident Minister, South.

Mr Allie has a nursing background and after working in various hospitals, he joined the NGO world and is currently a Manager with Welt Hunger Hilfe [WHH]. Questioned on his strategy to bring development to the Southern Region, Mr Mohamed said: **"I intend to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we actualise His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio's vision of an inclusive development in the Southern Region and the country under the New Direction."**

ix. Mohamed Bangura, proposed Minister of Youth Affairs

Mr Mohamed Bangura is currently the Chief Accountant, eHealth Africa from 2015 to date. He had previously served as Accountant, London Mining Company [LFD] SL from 2011 to 2013 and Finance and Admin Manager at Total Global Steel, from 2014 to 2015.

In his interview, Mohamed Bangura implored the youth to endeavour to make use of the opportunities that are provided by Government to acquire marketable skills as that **"will increase their chances of getting rewarding and exciting job opportunities. The creations of youth centres are part of the 'New Direction' Programme. I will also ensure adherence to the local content policy, which is very key in achieving youth employment."**

x. Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma, proposed Resident Minister – North

Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma is a self-motivated, proactive, innovative, very popular young man and a strong opinion leader, who is always ready to fight the odds for his convictions.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Abu Abu Abdulai said: **“I will work assiduously to promote unity and cohesion by bringing all stakeholders to participate in governance and sustainable development.”**

4. Recommendations

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

[i] Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt, Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs;

[ii] Mr Joseph J. Ndanema, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry;

[iii] Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], Minister of Planning and Economic Development;

[iv] Mr Anthony Y. Brewah, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development;

[v] Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de’ Souza George, Minister of Works and Public Assets;

[vi] Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources;

[vii] Mr Andrew Ansu Fatoma, Resident Minister – East;

[viii] Mr Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie, proposed Resident Minister, South;

[ix] Mr Mohamed Bangura, Minister of Youth Affairs; and

[x] Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma, Resident Minister – North.

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I so second. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by thanking the Lord almighty for giving the wisdom to His Excellency the President to select the galaxy of ladies and gentlemen we have before us this morning *[Applause from the ruling Bench]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, his Excellency the President once said on BBC that 'I will prove my critics wrong, as I have always done.' This is exactly what he has done because he has given us nominees with unquestionable characters. Today, we have ladies and gentlemen who will help to move the 'New Direction' agenda forward. This President is prepared to develop the lives of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a galaxy of beautiful Sierra Leoneans and we have no doubt that they will work in the interest of this country. Today, for the first time we are having two public orators as presidential nominees; i.e., Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de' Souza George, Minister of Works and Public Assets and Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources *[Applause]*. Those fine gentlemen have stood the test of time in this country. I wonder where they have been hiding till now. However, if approved by this House, they are going to serve this nation in a ministerial capacity. If they had been identified before now, probably we would have passed this stage. I want to state with all sincerity that Dr Morie Komba Manyeh will serve in that ministry better than expected *[Applause]*. The names 'Manyeh' and 'Papa Ray' are so synonymous to development that we do not need to overemphasise their capacity to perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], Minister of Planning and Economic Development. She is a fine young lady that has served the people of this country diligently. This lady has worked in the UN system and I think she has made the women of this country proud. As young as she is, we just listened to her resume and what she has done for the people of this country. It is just for the sake of protocol that those fine gentlemen and ladies are here this morning,

otherwise they should have just gone to their offices because I am very sure they can perform in those offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a very fine lawyer in this country; i.e., Mr Anthony Y. Brewah, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. He has sacrificed everything he had to make sure that we maintain law and order in this country. That is the legal double bullet. This gentleman has left all his practice to make sure that the Sierra Leone Peoples Party succeeds in this country. Today, he is now reaping the benefit. However, I want to remind my colleagues that Mr Anthony Y. Brewah was not nominated because of his works in the SLPP, but because His Excellency knew he would do the job and he would perform in that ministry, him being a Paramount Chief himself.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for far too long the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs has not improved in this country. I am sure the proposed Minister, Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt, will work towards improving tourism more than Banjul The Gambia. When I listened to her, she proved to the Committee that she is a tourist expert. I know we have somebody who will attract Sierra Leone to the international community; and I know we have somebody who will improve the local tourism in this country. This is because what is lacking in this country is the fact that our tourism has not picked up or developed because we do not have too much disposable income. Therefore, a lot of people in this country do not think about domestic tourist. For example, if I leave here to go to Makeni or to Bo or Kenema, do you expect me to pay **\$100** for a room? Assuming I have **Le1, 000,000** and I want to go and spend the weekend in Makeni or Bo. This constitutes domestic tourism. I am simply saying that **Le 1,000,000** is not enough to pay hotel bills for two nights. Therefore, whilst we are approving the Minister of Tourism, I want to recommend that we pay attention to domestic tourism, so that some people will be happy to spend their weekends in other parts of this country. This will help to mitigate stress by going to the headquarter towns to spend our weekends.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we agree to have in this country a very fine nominee that will help to man the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. He has worked in different capacities and he has proven to us that he is a man we can rely on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie, proposed Resident Minister - South. He is a very young man and he is the only man I have known in my life as Secretary General of that District. He knows every executive member of the SLPP from Section, Chiefdom and District levels by their names. Therefore, when His Excellency said that he wanted to bring people closer to government, this is where Mr Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie comes in.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Mohamed Bangura has been nominated to serve as Minister of Youth Affairs. He is also a very nice young man; and if approved by this House, I want to remind him that he has a very big task ahead. We have clique boys all over the streets; and he owes that to the people of this nation to make sure that our youth are refined and are fit for purpose.

For the proposed Resident Minister, North, Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma, I have told him during his interview that he should be consulting his elder brothers and sisters in the North when he is faced with difficulties. He has to make sure that the North is united. We have people like Alhaji Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, Ibrahim Ben Kargbo and others you could rely on for advice. I want you to make sure that the SLPP gets **40%** or **50%** in the North.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to approve these reputable men and women, so that they can go to their respective offices and start work. You can be rest assured that within a year, Sierra Leone will no longer be the Sierra Leone you used to know. I thank you very much.

HON. SOLOMON S. THOMAS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was personally involved in the screening process of the nominees before us this morning. I can say without any iota of doubt that they are suitably qualified to man their respective

portfolios. I am sure, at the end of their term of office, they are going to surprise this nation and the President will be vindicated that he did not make any mistake in nominating them to man their respective ministries. I want to urge this Honourable House to speedily approve these nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the last sitting of Parliament, somebody said that this nation has no problem with having qualified and experienced people. In other words, we have qualified and experienced people in Sierra Leone, but like I always said, even in the last Parliament, we have qualified people but our institutions are not working effectively and efficiently. In as much as people who come to Parliament for approval have the required qualifications, experiences and knowledge, I kept asking why our institutions are going down the drains. Qualified people are always approved by Parliament, but at the end of the day, Sierra Leone is still at the bottom rock. My only advice to these nominees this morning is that they should go all out this time to do something different, something that will transform the lives of the people of this country *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by virtue of my current position as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I want assure this House that the Committee will be summoning these nominees to Parliament to respond to critical questions relating to their roles and responsibilities in their respective ministries. I want to restate here that several people have been appointed to man those ministries, but the same problems keep reverberating. I want to implore the nominees to do something positively different this time. This is not business as usual. I used to stand on the other side of this Parliament to make my contribution on serious issues, but I was not taken seriously. At some points, I became a laughing stock in this House. Those in the ruling party then took every matter I presented to this House as fun.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the nominees that I am always serious when given the opportunity to address Parliament on governance issues. Governance issues are not fancy. That is governance issues are very serious and we must take them very seriously. The President has not nominated you because he

wanted to compensate you. The realm of governance has nothing to do with compensation. You have been nominated today to serve the people of this country and serve them well. Martin Luther King once said that 'you have to be the best of everything, anything you do be the best of it.' If you are a cleaner, for instance, clean well; if you are a dancer, dance well; if you an administrator, administer well; and if you are a Minister be the best of it, so that when you are absent tomorrow, somebody would say that he was a Minister but he was the best of Ministers. Let this nation remember your works and this nation will be proud of you. Make a difference by doing something different, something that will positively affect the lives of people. That is my advice. Several people have occupied these Ministries before, but their stewardship has not impacted positively on the lives of people. In other words, this nation has not benefited much from their stewardship. Those who have failed this nation have been coming here with all sorts of qualifications and experiences.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to plead to all of you to make sure that you do something different. I thank you very much.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Today we have another set of nominees in front of us and they are part of the building blocks that will help to ensure good governance in this country. As my colleague Honourable Member from Bonthe said, you are not given positions because you supported His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. You were not nominated because you were shouting the paopa slogan. You are proposed Ministers of various Ministries because we believe you can perform. We also believe that you have the wherewithal to effect positive change we are yearning for in this country. The 'New Direction' can only work if you do your work well. In governance, you look at different sectors, but not to govern on tribal or regional basis. You have to govern on policies; policies that can transform this nation for the better.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the nominees that their jobs will only be simple if they look at Sierra Leone in terms of developing good policies that are consistent with the 'New Direction' agenda. The 'New Direction' is imploring you to go

to your offices to deliver well. As the Honourable Member from Bonthe said, Parliament is going to do its oversight functions effectively. Parliamentary oversight does not mean that when we summon you, you give us something, so that we can overlook some of the excesses of that particular Ministry. I am saying this because that has been the normal practice. We in the SLPP believe in good governance and that was why the people of this country voted for us. They elected us because we believe in good governance and we can change the lives of people of this country. The SLPP believe how to bring Sierra Leone to a model that can change the lives of everyone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de' Souza George, proposed Minister of Works and Public Assets. I am a member of the Committee on Appointments and the Public, and we interviewed him. He has a very rich CV. I have been following him throughout his campaign and he always used religion to cajole people to vote for the SLPP. He has been talking about God throughout his campaign. He always said, **"I can do this in the name of God."** He has been making reference to God. That reminds me of my Catholic Priest, who in one of his sermons talked about political holiness. He said that political holiness is when you bring God closer to you and will help you to effect change. Muslims and Christians or whatever religion, as long as it is decent, can help the individual to possess unique leadership qualities that will lead to positive change. So, when you govern, you have to govern with God and the policies you have put in place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to believe that it is not only qualification that matters. We have interviewed people in this Parliament with lots of qualifications, but at the end of the day, they failed to deliver. They have been making promises in terms of doing 'A' to 'Z.' I have got people with PhDs, but they have not lived up to expectations. We are encouraging you to perform and surprise the people. You have to do your best, so that posterity will judge you correctly. Please do your best, so that when you leave or retire, people will judge you based on your works. We voted for Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio because he has sacrificed for this nation. He sacrificed for democracy and good governance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a very interesting Latin word we use to describe Ministers, which is 'munus muneris.' Munus Muneris means 'you work and serve.' The nominees we have before us should serve and work for this nation because we believe all of us are part of governance. The last time I talked about conglomeration of representation. We had a very interesting Parliament here, but it would be interesting if we give you the policies and implement them very well. We are not making laws because we are looking at you as an individual, but the spirit of the law. If you follow the spirit of the law, you can govern well. I want to believe that colleagues Honourable Members on the other side of the isle will help us to direct our proposed Ministers, so that Sierra Leone can be a better place for all of us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to work together in order to make Sierra Leone a paradise where everybody enjoys the available facilities. I am happy because Sierra Leone is now on the platform of our new governance policies. All of us should work towards nation building. If you are criticising us, please do it objectively. You should not lambast the government because you do not believe that our policies are good. Do not attempt to make fake political points or fake promises. We believe in positive change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out a leader in disguise; a leader we believe he has started very well. As the saying goes, 'for every successful man, there is a woman, and for every successful woman, there is a man.' So, I have followed her for a very long time. In fact, we went to Fourah Bay College the same year. The motto of Fourah Bay College is, 'Non sibi sed aliis.' I am not going to tell you the meaning. If at all you did not go to Fourah Bay College, it is your business *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I went to Fourah Bay College with Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], proposed Minister of Planning and Economic Development. I followed her very well. She has started demonstrating it in her works for this nation; i.e., the Peace Building Funds. My colleagues on the other side of the isle should praise Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis because of her contribution towards the Peace Building Fund for

this nation. This is what we need from other Sierra Leoneans and we have to solidify those gains.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about a man I describe as 'pure and applied' Mr Mohamed Bangura, proposed Minister of Youth Affairs. We always glamour for change and we only appease the young people with fancy things. These are people we always fool with scrumptious statements during elections. Today, however, we have a man with a very good profile. His records are different from those with political actions. If you fail the youth population in this country who form the bulk of the voting population, it means you are taking the governance down the drains. We are not here to praise sing, but to tell you to work hard. We can criticise you and your government if you are not doing well.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Mr Mohamed Bangura that the youthful population is vulnerable. I want you to ensure that every youth is catered for, including those who were dancing the 'Tolongbo' dance. The SLPP believes in 'one country and one people.' This is what is common amongst all of us and we should use that to effectively govern this country through the 'New Direction agenda.' Therefore, the proposed Minister for Youth Affairs, Mr Mohamed Bangura, should serve us diligently. He has to serve this nation through policies that can transform this nation. I believe he can perform and he will not disappoint the youth of this country because that is the foundation for our President.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Andrew Ansu Fatorma, Resident Minister – East. It would be unfair if I refuse to mention something about him. He is an academician and he has contributed immensely towards the development of the Eastern Region in term of peace and socio-economic livelihood of our people. I am sure he is going to perform. I want to assure this House that he is going to do his work to the satisfaction of everybody, irrespective of your political beliefs. He is going to contribute to this nation, so that we can look out for a better change, a change that we can be proud of as Sierra Leoneans.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this Honourable House to approve these presidential nominees for the various positions they have been nominated to serve. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to comment on one nominee, Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. People might be thinking that because I am a Kono and I come from Kono that is why I want to make this comment. I want to state here that the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources is a very serious Ministry. That Ministry is expected to boost the Economy of this country. After the regime of the National Provincial Ruling Council [NPRC], the extractive industry of this country had nothing to point at, that people might call gains. The practice over the years has been from the mining company to individual pockets. I am a daughter of a mining community and I am also a miner. I have suffered a lot, including my people with special reference to Kono District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to tell the Minister that maybe he might not be au fait with a lot of issues in the mining industry, especially the diamond mining industry. However, I want to assure him that the Honourable Members from Kono District and other mining communities are ready to support him and ensure that compliances from mining companies are met. I saw, in the Minister's response, that he would ensure that taxes, fines and revenue are collected from mining companies. They have been collected over the years, but they are all gone into the pockets of individuals.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not just about collecting moneys and putting those moneys into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but how much would that reflect on the lives of the people living in those affected communities. Let us think about what has been happening over the years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly discuss about the 709 carats. The question is where is it? Well, that diamond was sold and **40%** was given to the man who found that diamond. Where is the **60%?** We were told that 60% of the money was remitted into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the proposed Minister of Mines that if approved by this House, he has to work with the President and work very hard to locate the **60%** from the sale of the 709 carats and how much will be given back to the people of Kono District. Apart from the 709 carats, there is another company called Mea Company in Kono District that found 400 carats and 20 carats of diamonds. We have not known the procedures they used to sell the diamonds and the amount involved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the proposed Minister to make sure that the people living in those affected mining communities are redeemed. We also have affected communities in the North, South and other areas where mining activities are taking place. Our people living in those communities are suffering from water, diseases and other environmental issues. I am sure if these mining companies are strictly adhering to the Agreements signed between them, the community and the Government, I think some of these issues would not have been recurring. The revenue meant for the communities should be taken back to them, so that we put smiles on the faces of those living in the mining communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the proposed Minister that over the years, I have been working with the NGOs and I have been working in the extractive industry on compliances by mining companies. Also, my role was to find out whether affected communities in the mining areas are benefiting from the revenue collected. Over the years, for instance, the EITI had not been taken a very good shape. The report from the EITI had not been favourable at all. Therefore, I want the proposed Minister to look into that issue. Presently, there is a process called Community Development Agreement [CDA], where a huge chunk of the money was deposited. That notwithstanding, some of it has been paid to the Community Development Committee. I want the proposed Minister [if approved by this House] and his staff to ensure monitoring of that money, so that the people can realise benefits.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is also something called the Diamond Area Community Development Fund [DACD]. These are funds meant for community

development, but those funds are not properly monitored; and that is why at the end of the day, the people continue to cry foul that they are not seeing the moneys and even developments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are lots of funds for community development from mining companies as their Corporate Social Responsibility. Regrettably, some of these moneys ended up in the pockets of individuals. There is also the surface rents that are usually paid by mining companies. We also want those surface rents to be paid and we are going to join you in ensuring that proper monitoring mechanisms are put in place. There is a document that came out two or three years back; and the World Bank has been supporting it, so that we domesticate it into Sierra Leone's mining vision under the Africa Mining Vision. It has a lot of provision if properly implemented. I am sure this country would benefit from our mineral resources. The MIA Mining Company is an exploration company and they are always doing what is known as 'blasting.' But according to the blasting law, before blasting, you have to relocate the people. But this company is blasting and the people are usually asked to go out and come back after sometime. They have not been relocated. I want the proposed Minister, if approved by this House, to look into that issue. In this country, we always have what is known as 'power from above,' which I believe this present Government will not be using.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot remember the date, but there was a Resident Minister for the East, Mr Karmoh Kabba, who went to Kono and barricaded one of the main roads in the name of mining diamonds. I am taking this issue to the proposed Resident Minister – East to always deny 'orders from above.' We do not want a situation wherein the main road in Kono is obstructed this time. That was done and nothing came out of it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to continue to appeal to the proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources that our Sierra Leonean youth, men and women are working in the mining companies, but if you visit these mining companies, the expatriates are enjoying more benefits than the Sierra Leonean workers. Our people are just enduring because they want to survive, but their conditions are not improved.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to emphasise here that this is a serious issue because the extractive industry in this country is a very big industry. During the last Government, I heard that they have started oil exploration. If proper laws and policies are put in place in terms of compliance, monitoring and providing revenue to the community for community development, I think the plights of the people of those communities will be minimised. Botswana is always a very good example of what I have been saying. It is a small country; but because they have put in place regulations to deter those moneys going into the pockets of individuals, Botswana is now a very beautiful place to live. We can join hands together to work with the proposed Minister, if approved by this House, to ensure that our communities in the North, East and South benefit from the mining industry.

On this note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate Dr Morie Komba Manyeh in advance and to remind him that if approved, he should work towards improving the lives of the people in the mining areas. I want to assure him that we in the Coalition for Change [C4C] is looking for a better change and we are ready to join hands in ensuring that the right thing is done properly. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please take your seat before I call on the next speaker. I would like all of us to acknowledge and recognise that a new phenomenon has happened in this House. We have majority of Members of Parliament who are very new and many of whom we do not know their names until the sitting plan is established and distributed to easily identify them. I think I would like to suggest, as a consequence of the tsunami that the last election brought, that the Honourable Members should identify themselves by name, constituency and district, so that we will be able to know each other for now. A sitting plan is being worked out and when that is finalised, established and distributed, it would make things more easier for all of us. Therefore, I want to start by asking the last speaker to rise up and give her name, Constituency and district.

HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA: My name is Honourable Rebecca Y. Kamara of the great C4C Party with the slogan, 'you see for me, I see for you.' I am from Constituency 029, Kono District.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina from Constituency 030, Koidu City, Kono Central, representing the C4C party. Mr Speaker, I want to start by congratulating the presidential nominees in advance. It would be very unfair if I single out two of them to sing eulogy, but because of time factor, I am going to look at just two. Their CVs show that they have no criminal record and I have no iota of doubt that they will do well under the 'New Direction' agenda.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to be very sentimental here because Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is my kinsman and at the same time my [S.O.2] 'karmɔkɔ' or teacher from Njala University between 2001 to 2004. I recalled vividly the semantics and the syntax, the tones and intonation definitely he would bring the dynamics into the mining sector. Being an astute and disciplined man, he will do this nation well and he will bring the mining sector to the apogee of Sierra Leone's developments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we go back to the historical records, you will find out that diamonds were discovered in the 1930s in Kono District. I have no iota of doubt that he will do well in that Ministry if approved by this House. I must not also shy away to highlight a few challenges he may face. For instance, from 1930 to date, there is no artisanal mining policy being put in place. This means that my 'karmɔkɔ' has to look out to beef up the meagre surface rent giving to community land owners. I want to remind this Honourable House that sharing the proceeds. For example, the **0.25%** out of **100%** is very small. I am saying this because I have had the experience in my capacity as Mayor. Mr Speaker, even though I have put what I am about to say behind me, but the contributing factor that made me lost my seat was as a result of the mining sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the PRSP 1 and 2 have not done us good in this nation. Again, the 'Agenda for Change' and the 'Agenda for Prosperity' did not do us

well as Sierra Leoneans. To be specific, in Pillar 2 of the Agenda for Prosperity, the plans and designs are so rich because the intention was to benefit the locals, but that did not happen. We need to review the PRSP 1 and 2, the 'Agenda for Change' and the 'Agenda for Prosperity' in terms of looking for good mining laws like Botswana. In Botswana, we are told that the mining companies usually reserve specific amount of money and that trend will continue as mining activities progress.

Mr Speaker, I want my 'karmɔkɔ' to think positively for this nation and displays diligence and discipline in discharging his duty.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at Local Government. Local Government has been my comfort zone because I spent eight years at the Local Government level; first as core staff and later became an elected official at the Local Government level. It was a mistake for us to have a Local Government Act before even a Local Government policy in this nation. Mr Speaker, I have been very proud for the nomination of Mr Anthony Y. Brewah to serve in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. He is going to look at the decentralisation process. We are told in Part 5 of Section 20 that 'a Local Council shall be the highest authority, be political or developmental, in their locality. The opposite is happening wherein certain authorities usually usurp the powers of the Local Councils. I believe we have to work closely with the Minister for a review of the Local Government Act of 2004.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to see, before leaving this House, gratuity policies being put in place for core staff and former Mayors and Chairmen of Councils. I want to believe that if all of us collaborate and cooperate well, we will do well for the people of this nation. It was a dream of our Leader, Chief Alhaji Samuel Sam Sumana to review the whole Mines and Minerals Act of 2009, but that did not happen.

On that note, Mr Speakers, Honourable Members, I implore you all to approve these fine Sierra Leonean men and women. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I keep looking to my left hand side and I noticed that there are Honourable Members itching to take the Floor, but the Party Whip is presently preventing them.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, the word itching itself coming from your side is not correct, but I want to assure you that we are not itching because we still have time.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, that word is synonymous to 'eager.'

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It is a great pleasure to listen from Members on the front bench. I am sure listening from the front bench gives us hope that this Parliament will do its job to bring peace and development to Sierra Leone. When I heard the various speakers who have spoken, I was moved because they said the right things that ought to be said. A Member of Parliament said that we have had so many Ministers approved in this House since 1996; and today, we are here again approving highly educated Sierra Leoneans. According to those who contributed earlier, we should work very hard to bring peace and development in every part of this country. I want to thank the past speakers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with all the resources we have in this country, Sierra Leone should have been far better, in terms of human development index, but we were busy fighting for almost ten years. Having listened to my colleagues, I am sure the nominees will listen and work towards the prosperity of this nation. I like the contributions these people have made and we are expecting that the new SLPP led Government, the Government of the Paramount Chiefs, which we created in the 1950s will serve the people of Sierra Leone. The Paramount Chief of Kambia District, Bai Faramatas Emba, should have been the first Premier, but he passed the mantle of leadership to Sir Milton Margai. Today, we have another SLPP led Government, led by a young man from Bo School. There has always been a keen competition that has existed between Magburaka Boys High School and Bo School and that rivalry is still ongoing.

We used to go there and play football from Boys School in the 60s. We also go there with our brass band to match. This shows that we have to keep Sierra Leone as a nation and as one country and one people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Mr Joseph J. Ndanema, proposed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. It is a pity that we have to import our basic food stuffs into this country. As a grandson of a Paramount Chief and now a Paramount Chief, I have been yearning for agricultural production in this country, but nothing has worked. Today, we are appealing to the great people that have been nominated by His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio, who handed over power to the late Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba on the 29th March, 1996 in my presence. I was here as a Member of Parliament and I still have the pictures in my album. I am sure he is coming with a different agenda because he has realised his mistakes and now he is determined to correct them and do better for this nation. It is a hope and that hope rests on the people's representatives. The people of this country are of the view that you would perform and represent them well. The time for politics is over and it is the time for you to give back to the people of this country.

In Sierra Leone, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the educated people are ones defecting from one political party to another. Today, all those who supported the APC are now supporters of the SLPP. They are the same people who go to you the Ministers and tell you about others. Do not listen to such people, but work towards the realisation of the agenda you have set to achieve. In Sierra Leone, everybody now S.O. 2 'dae lay bεε.' Presently, the Permanent Secretaries are directing Ministers what to do and what not to do. These were the same people in the previous administration; but today, they are dancing a different tune for their personal gains.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am appealing to the proposed Minister of Agriculture to think of the fertile lands we have in Sierra Leone. South Africa is the 13th driest country in the World. They are importing water from Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe, but they have enough food to eat. When you go to their restaurants, **\$3** is more than enough to give you a very good lunch. Look at the rivers we have and the

fresh water we have in this country, we have enough rains, but we still import food into this country. This is not a laughing matter, Mr Speaker. Look at the land degradation and deforestation taking place in the country. We are not a serious nation in terms of protecting our environment. We are not serious about climate change like America, Britain and France. Sierra Leone in particular and Africa as a whole do not care about environmental protection. Look at the wild fire in places like Bo, Kenema, Kono and other parts of this country, but nobody is doing anything about it. We cut down trees to make charcoal and wood. Today, we have savannah almost all over the country. What are we doing about that when the rest of the world is planting trees to protect the environment? They are worried about global warming, but we are not worried about the environmental protection of our country. People are attending some of these climate change conferences and workshops to get per diem, but they do not care about implementing the recommendations of those conferences.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should be very strict to control wild fire because we have seen how wild fire affected America, Canada and other countries. We were seeing helicopters going round to put off the inferno. We can do same in this country if we are serious as a nation. If you are driving to Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Magburaka, Kambia and other places, you will see fire on the road side and nobody cares to report to the Paramount Chiefs, the town Chiefs or Headmen to put off the fire. Mr Speaker, I was a very young boy when I was brought to Freetown; and by then, I was in Class V. In 1962, this Parliament was in the midst of a forest. This place used to be a forest, but if we have rain today, erosion will definitely take place because the top soil are removed from the hills, thereby blocking the streets of Freetown. So, I want to appeal to the proposed Minister of Agriculture to ensure that we have enough food in this country. If we have enough food, the children can go to school. Therefore, we have to do our best for this nation. When I heard the contributions from the Whip and the Deputy Speaker, I became optimistic that we will have a determined Government that will bring a better change, not a change that will deteriorate the lives of the people of this country. Some

Social Media writers are sitting at their homes and writing whatever. So, I am begging you to do what is good for this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the mining sector and Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is the proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. He is my old good friend. If you go to Kono District by helicopter during the Rainy Season, you feel sorry for Sierra Leone. You will see how the land is been destroyed and nobody cares to protect the land. Kono is my neighbour I am called the Paramount Chief of Kono. The diamonds that have been discovered from Kono since 1930 or 1933 do not reflect the environment in Kono. Today, we in Tonkolili are producing iron ore, but that does not also reflect in the lives of people of Tonkolili District. We do not plan and we not also have vision for this country. When the contract or agreement for Africa Minerals was brought to this House, I suggested that **20% to 40%** of the iron ore that is being produced be processed in Sierra Leone, so that we can have even big Iron Ore Company in this country. The question is, are we expecting that from the older Party; i.e., the Sierra Leone People's Party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us are expecting a thorough review of the entire process in order to ensure that you come up with better policies that will make this nation a better place for mankind to live. I am appealing to the proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources to also look at the Mining Act very carefully. Some of these companies are coming as mining companies or explorers, but instead of exploring, they indulge in grabbing people's lands. They did in Kono and in my place. It is clear in the Mining Act that where people have been mining for all these years, you cannot go there to do anything. However, they have been taking people's lands, instead of exploring. They continue to mine and deprive the people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the proposed Minister to look at the mining and exploration licenses that he will be offering to these companies. We sit in Freetown and provide mining licenses to people who are 14,000 Kilometres to 15,000 Kilometres away without considering the population. Is it correct when people want to

go and brush their farm, they are stopped from entering their land? I am happy that the front bench is appealing to the Ministers to do something different this time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, tourism is the biggest and viable industry in the world. Regrettably, Sierra Leone is one of the most backward countries in the World, despite the God given natural resources we have. We have wonderful mountains and good weather condition. Koinadugu District has good weather condition during Christmas Season. We have the great Gola Forest, a wonderful site along the Ocean. The proposed Minister of Tourism is a Lecturer and she is exposed with lots of experience. I am saying this because she has travelled widely and has visited many other countries. We are expecting much from you. We know that you will work towards improving the tourism industry in this country for the better. If properly revived and monitored, the tourism industry can create employments for thousands of Sierra Leoneans. However, when bringing tourists into the country, do not bring those who will to change our culture, but bring good tourists who will bring the right attitude. We do not need lesbians, homosexuals and prostitutes. Do not bring tourists who will stop at nothing, but destroy our culture, traditions and customs. I know you will not do it because as soon as they see you, they will know that you are somebody with high standards. I am appealing to you to take this opportunity to develop our economy through the development of the tourist sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I doff my hat to the proposed Minister of Local Government Mr Anthony Y. Brewah. If approved by this House, he will be responsible for rural development. If we are serious as a nation, the Ministry of Local Government should be the most important Ministry in Sierra Leone. Lack of rural development is one of the factors responsible for the cities to look like ghetto cities. Are moneys provided to develop the rural areas? In fact, when the NGOs come to Sierra Leone, they do not want to go to the rural areas. They prefer staying in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, etc., to enjoy themselves around the beaches. We have to change our policies in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the days of former President Jerry John Rawlings, whenever people wanted to build schools, the donors were not allowed to determine where to build those schools, but the Ministry of Rural Development. In other words, it was that Ministry that determined where to build those schools. Conversely, donors who come in this country will tell you that 'I want to build a school in Freetown.' Therefore, I want to inform this Government that this is the time for all of us to be patriotic. The time for politics is over and we are ready to support any Government, Minister or person who is ready to do the best thing to develop Sierra Leone. As a Paramount Chief, I am appealing to the proposed Local Government Minister and the Resident Ministers to work hard with the Paramount Chiefs to develop Sierra Leone. You must know that President Julius Maada Bio is also a son of a Paramount Chief and we have crowned him the Chief of Chiefs because he has great respect for Chiefs. Some of us have known him to be a respecter of Paramount Chiefs. He has respect for the tradition and that is why we are asking the proposed Minister to bring new innovations in terms of developing the Chieftaincy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the proposed Minister that Chiefdom Councils should be developed and this is where I want to be grateful to the past Government. That was the first Government that started paying Paramount Chiefs in this country, although the amount is very small. We want the salaries of Paramount Chiefs to be at par with the salaries of Members of Parliament. If Members of Parliament are getting **Le 20,000,000** or **Le 25,000,000**, the Chiefs should also get **Le 25,000,000** because when these educated people go to our Chiefdoms, the first place of call is the Paramount Chief and the visitors expect the best hospitality from the Chief. They also expect the best guards to serve them.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you and we hope you will deliver. You have to do what is good for this nation and make the difference, so that when the time comes, you will show what you have done. I thank you very much and we are grateful that we have a great man like you.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the veteran Paramount Chief Member of Parliament. I will swing the pendulum from the veteran Paramount Chief to the mother of the House.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before my intervention, I will like to thank and praise my lady from the C4C for that maiden speech. This has shown what the Temnes call [S.O. 2] “sa lɔl kɛɛ sa lɔli.” This means the women are few here, but we are strong and capable. I want to allay your fears that the women can do more and we can live to the expectations of our people. I know the women out there are preparing because when each woman stands up to talk, you will enjoy the voice of a woman. So, I want to thank you and please keep it up.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to caution the nominees before us this morning. First, I want to thank His Excellency for nominating these people for parliamentary approval. During the election campaigns, we were chanting ‘Paopa’ and I will keep on reminding you that ‘Paopa Salone go ‘betɛ.’ That slogan means hook or crook, Sierra Leone should be a better place for all of us; and if Sierra Leone should develop, that will depend on your performances. I have no doubt that you will live to expectations. I want to remind you that if you do anything that is contrary to the ‘New Direction’ agenda, we will call you here and ‘we go change per wuna,’ [S. O. 2]. We will call you here to answer some questions. You should not allow us to summon you here because it will be very embarrassing for you. If you do not want to face that embarrassment, you have to live to the expectations of the people and the President because he believes in your capacity to perform. I have no doubt in your capability to perform because you are more than qualified. I was part of the Committee that interviewed you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of time, I would like to talk about the women. During the first set of nominees we approved in this House, we had two women; but today, three women are being nominated for approval. This means the number is gradually growing and we will continue like Oliver Twist. However, I want to appeal to the President to appoint more women because behind any successful

Government, there are women. We have women of substance and not women of circumstance in this country. There are women out there who are equally capable as men. We are the first teachers and we are the movers; we are the developers; we are the shakers; and we are the multipliers. This suggests that women are powerful instruments for development. I have no doubt that these women will perform exceptionally well. Women can lead and men follow. I believe the nominees before us must have got their TORs. I want to however caution that they should not overdo things. They have to be moderate and lukewarm. You are going to represent the people of this country and not only the SLPP. In other words, you are going to represent all political parties and this note of caution is for the Resident Ministers. If approved by this Honourable House, you have to open your doors for everybody. We want to hear good results from your respective regions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to reiterate here that you should not overdo things. Learn to listen before you take a decision. If you are a Minister of Information, go and inform the nation what is there for us to here because information is power. If you are the Agriculture Minister, we want food and we want the revival of Tormabom. If you are the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, you heard what the Honourable Member from Kono District has said. She is grounded with information and I do not want you to underestimate women. We will not hesitate to bring you to this House for questioning. She has outlined major problems affecting communities in mining areas. I was so amazed and loss of words when she was making her maiden speech. I am calling on the proposed Minister of Mines to address the issues raised by the Honourable Member.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in an area that is so dare to me. To stand and talk in this House is not an easy task. When I told people the last time that when you come Parliament, you have to learn, that statement did not go down well with some people, but it was the fact. When you are here, you have to learn. When I first entered to Parliament, it took me four days before I made my maiden speech.

Though it is not easy, but you have to break the silence. Well, it was easy for me because I am an actress.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt, proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affair. The Honourable Member from Kono is a miner. This means we have lawyers, doctors, contractors, teachers and all other professions. Therefore, I am proud of my profession. I want to thank God because we now have a Minister who is an actor [Papa Ray]. This House can boast of having an actress. Again, the First Lady is also an actress. The entertainment industry is well represented in this Government. I want to appeal to the proposed Minister of Tourism to start lobbying for the establishment of a Commission, so that the entertainment industry will be part of the local content. If people are saying we should grow what we eat, we should also watch movies we produce in this country. Stop watching 'James Bonds movies' and 'Philippines.' We have talented people here, but if we have a Commission in that Ministry to help the entertainment industry, it will be fine. Please go and look for the Piracy Act we passed here. We are here to make sure that anybody that is found wanting would be punished. People should stop pirating the work of other people. As far as I am concerned, we should determine the prices of our own products. If the cost of a copy is **Le 10,000**, I think it is reasonable and anybody can afford it. So, we want to appeal to you to start lobbying for the establishment of a Commission. I am here to help lobbying my colleagues, but you have to do your bit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am the mother of the House and I will tell my colleagues to reason with us in terms of enacting your Bill into law. I want to assure you that we are ready to do it. However, I want to caution the female musicians. Sometimes it is disheartening to see you half naked on the stage. You have melodious voices, but the way you are exposing yourselves is very discouraging. You have to give men something to do by not exposing yourselves. Do you expect me or Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo to watch you on stage? Please madam proposed Minister, pay attention to the dress code of our actresses. They are not performing for themselves, but for the nation. We want to see the women maintaining their integrity, especially in

the entertainment industry. We want to see them appearing like Lady Felicia, Vicky Fornah, etc. The above named actresses always dress properly. If you are properly dressed on stage, men will be happy to see you performing. If this Commission is established, you start organising workshops and seminars as a way of scrutinising some of these entertainers or musicians. We are here to make sure that we pass whatever Bills that will promote our local artistes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you heard from the Paramount Chief Member of Parliament when he said that Tourism is a big Ministry that other countries rely on their tourism. You have to improve the Monument and Relics Commission. You have to work towards ensuring that places of Mortormeh, a place where the mudslide took place, is maintained and preserved for tourists who will want to visit that area. Maybe some of them would like to know where exactly the mudslide took place and that will be the time you will start collecting two Leones or five Leones. We will use those moneys to cushion the free education agenda. We are going to tackle all other areas to make sure that we succeed with the free education.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to leave you with these words that those who have suffered much have a right to be happy. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I recognise the Independent Member. Please let us keep it short this time.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Before this Honourable House, I am seeing very serious faces and I hope and pray that those serious faces will be translated into serious work for this nation. I want to remind the proposed Ministers that when the President said 'New Direction,' there is a meaning attached to that. The 'New Direction' could mean 'development should not be on paper; it should enter the communities.' For a long time, most of our developments have been speeches on paper, but when you go to the communities, you will not see those developments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us hold the view that when you are made Minister or appointed to serve in top Executive position, you should stay in the office to read the reports and sign other documents. Sierra Leoneans are very good at writing reports. We write very beautiful speeches. I want to advise the proposed Ministers to always find time to visit those communities to see whether the details in those reports exist. This country is very rich, but the people are poor. We have diamonds and many other minerals that should make the people of this country great. We have had minerals that could have made this Nation great. Those minerals have been used to improve the living standards of people in other countries, whilst Sierra Leoneans who own those minerals remained the poorest. When I said the other day that it is the poorest Nation, others said no. They said I should have said, 'Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the World.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are nominees before us I have had personal experiences and acquaintances. I will start with Mr Anthony Y. Brewah, proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. When I left this Parliament, I spent three [3] years in Court. Fortunately, Mr Anthony Y. Brewah was the man who advocated on my behalf. I was imprisoned twice, but I was assisted by Human Rights Defenders who raised the sum of **Le210mIn** fine. Mr Joseph J. Ndanema and Mrs Tunis are Human Rights defenders. I am happy that this is a Government of Human Rights defenders and I am very satisfied.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a 20 page statement was taken from me by the Police and Police said it was too much. I told them that we have just started. They said I should not leave and somebody should sign on my behalf. And Mr Speaker, the man who did that for me is here, Mr Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie, proposed Resident Minister, South. When orders came from above to arrest me, there was a very professional policeman who is not here with us. He is one of the finest policemen I have ever seen. He was given orders to arrest me. I was arrested, but he was very professional in doing that. The policeman standing on your right, Mr Speaker was the one who caused my arrest. Therefore, all the key players are here; i.e., the Layer,

those who raised funds to secure my release and the policeman who arrested me is also here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a very happy man today. At this point, I want to thank the President, the Speaker and this Honourable House for approving my nomination to serve in the ECOWAS Parliament. In the first Speech of the President, he said he will not be a President for only the SLPP, but a President for all Sierra Leoneans. Indeed, he has demonstrated that he is the President for all. There was no way I could have been nominated to serve in the ECOWAS Parliament amidst keen competition, if we do not have a President for all Sierra Leoneans.

[Suspension of S.O. 5[2] being 12:00 noon]

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, I will mention the SLPP version of Mohamed Bangura, who is the proposed Minister of Youth Affairs. He is a very young man; and as a young man, I want to remind him that he is not here to represent himself, but the youth of this country. If you succeed, more young men and women will be appointed to that position. I want to urge you to work very hard. Do not think you are too small or too young. You have great ideas and you have to use those ideas appropriately. You have to be focussed and you have to work closely with the parliamentary Committees to enable you deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, seated on your right hand side is a gentleman. I do not want to say he is a perfect gentleman, but he is a gentleman. He was my lecturer at the Njala University. He was one of the most revered lecturers on Campus. He taught me Communication Skills. His name is Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, proposed Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources *[Applause]*. When you see Dr Morie Komba Manyeh in anything you know, it is a serious thing. I owe no apologies for saying this. I am an Independent Member of Parliament. This means that I do not have to report to any party office. I am not answerable to anybody apart from God and the people who voted for me. So, I say what I would like to say. Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is a very serious man. I am not saying this because he is here, but because I have experienced his seriousness. With a man like him, he will deliver if approved by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a lady very calm and calculated lady among the nominees. She is no stranger to this House because she has made several presentations to this House. She is a Peace and Conflict Expert. People are of the opinion that the absence of war depicts peace and quietness. Well, we have not been listening to her. If we have been listening to her, we would not have been in this mess today. I am a Human Right Activist Mr Speaker. The name of the lady I was talking about is Mrs Memunatu Baby Pratt, proposed Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs *[Applause]*. We also know her to be a very serious person. I am sure she has a very clean track record who has been talking theory. This is the opportunity for her to transform those theories into practice. I want to wish her all the best.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by saying that we have had several appointments to ministerial positions in this country; and we have had several governments, but the lives of Sierra Leoneans are still miserable. You cannot compare any department in Sierra Leone to departments in neighbouring countries. I have travelled to at least nine countries in the World. If you compare those countries to the wealth of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone is above those countries in terms of mineral resources, but we are very poor. I want to appeal to the ministers to do their best. Things should not continue as usual. Get out of your comfort zones and visit those Communities. Again, do not just go there to make speeches and listen to officials presenting their reports, but find time to talk to local people in those local communities. Sometimes when you attend meetings, those who are allowed to talk are carefully selected. Those are the people that are selected to proceed but you have to find time to talk to people randomly for the truth to come out.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to finally address Mr Joseph J. Ndanema, proposed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The right to food is a Human right. There is one community in Sierra Leone where their livelihoods have been completely shattered; i.e., the Malen Chiefdom, Pujehun District. We have lost over **90%** of our farmland to foreign companies. We are not saying that foreign companies should not come into this country. We are saying when they come, it should be a win/win

situation. We have seen how past Government paid lip-service to the issue of food security. How can we be food-secured when we have lost all our farmlands? I am happy that we have a Minister who has been an activist; and a Minister who is a Human right defender. We have seen how people went to Malen to investigate how they will come back and turn against the people after receiving brown envelopes. If approved by this House, I want you to go down to Malen Chiefdom and talk to the people. Please sir, do not just read the reports that will be brought to you, but go to those communities and see things for yourself. Do not be distracted by those beautiful houses being erected in those places. They are not for the land-owners, but for the expatriates. They sleep in those beautiful houses; and because of those houses, we have lost our means of livelihood. We have lost all our lands. Even if they build skyscrapers in San Malen Chiefdom, they are not for the land owners because we have lost our rights to food. This means our human rights have been abused because those sky-scrapers will not feed our people. What will help our people is the right to have access to those lands. Our people depend on those lands for their livelihood. What we are asking for is a win/win situation. We want the Minister to go to Malen Chiefdom and make an independent investigation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this Honourable House that a lot of reports have been sent to the Government and some of those reports are written by people who have interest in the Company. We want an Independent team that will go there and talk to those being victimised. In this country, we have seen payments made to victims. The person who is suffering is victim-paid. That is most unfair part, Mr Speaker. About **90%** of those people cannot read and write and over **90%** of them have never gone to school and they have never signed any form or voucher. Their livelihoods depend on those lands. If you go to any of those villages in Malen, you will see people sitting down idly. The Company cannot employ up to **10%**.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the proposed Minister to take note of what I have just mentioned. I do not believe people who usually say 'politics is a thing of this world.' I believe that whatever good you do here on earth, you are going

to be rewarded hereafter. Politics should be a thing of worship. When you attain power or position, you should use that position to better the lives of the downtrodden. You should not use that position to enrich yourself or to sing praises on the person who appointed you. What the President wants is performance. He will not want to see a situation wherein all the ministers follow him to the provinces, leaving all important work in the office just to be seen or noticed by the President. If you are needed, you will be told to do so. If you work hard and produce good results, the President will be happy. We have seen leaders leaving this country with a fifty-man delegation. If he can pay all hotel bills, internal transport, per diems but refuse to pay the Military and Police, it is very unfair. We want serious business this time. It is not business as usual.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for allowing independent voice to be heard.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it is planned that we have another sitting this afternoon. I am kindly requesting to keep our contributions short.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again we have in our midst fine gentlemen and ladies seeking the approval of this Honourable House. I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for carefully selecting these nominees and presenting them to us for approval. I have always said in this Parliament that the Flag-bearer we used to have, who is the current President of this Nation, does not make mistakes. This is a man who has vision for this Nation; and because of that vision, he has carefully taken his time to bring professionals to man the affairs of Government. These are some of the fine Sierra Leoneans who will help the President to move this Nation from poverty to prosperity. Not the prosperity that was promised by the erstwhile Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, praises have been showered on the nominees, but my appeal is that I want these ministers to do their best. They should not disappoint the people of this Nation. I said, in my last presentation, that in the last three years of the last Parliament, I decided not to participate in any debate dealing with presidential nominees because they have been disappointing us.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am appealing to these nominees to make sure that they do the right thing. We will be monitoring their steps and if they disappoint us, I will take another decision. However, I have no iota of doubt in my mind that these set of people will succeed. I am very confident they have the experience and are not going to learn on the job. All of them have the experience, including the proposed Minister of Youth Affairs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start my submission with proposed Minister of Youth Affairs, Mr Mohamed Bangura. When the nomination came out, there was a joke on social media that there is another Mohamed Bangura. I was very much sure that the SLPP Mohamed Bangura is a performer and is the man that has been chosen for that job. Mr Mohamed Bangura is not just a young man, but a progressive young man. When I read his resume during his interview, I came to understand that he has served in many international organisations. For instance, he has been an Accountant for London Mining and he is currently the Chief Accountant for Ill-Health. I am sure he is not going to learn in that Ministry. He is going to move the Ministry forward. We have had situations wherein some of the Ministers we have approved in this House were without experience. When they went to these Ministries, they spent two years learning how to start. I want to believe these Ministers are going to start immediately because they have the necessary experience and expertise.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to talk about Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma, proposed Resident Minister – North. I have known this nominee before 2012, when I was fighting for the party symbol for Constituency 072. We were part of the Young Generation Wing and were highly involved in strategising and luring the young people into the SLPP. Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma is a man who has vision. He is one of the few young people who stood firm for the Sierra Leone's People Party. He was busy mobilising young people at a time when the APC was in governance. He succeeded in getting young people from the North to support the SLPP. The APC had wanted to permanently keep the SLPP in Opposition, Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma stood firm with

the SLPP [*Applause*]. He denied several opportunities promised to him. He believes in the 'New Direction' and 'Paopa' agenda.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Abu Abu Abdulai Koroma is one of the chosen few to lead this Nation after six to seven years of struggle. He has been rewarded today and I sure am he is going to perform. He has been nominated to serve as Resident Minister – North. Please treat everybody equally. We do not want a system wherein you have to say this is an SLPP; and therefore, he/she should be given preference. You are a Minister for all of us. I want to remind you that the North is the stronghold of the APC. You have to encourage them because I am optimistic that we are going to get majority of them on our side [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Mohamed Elogima Kendekpa Allie is the proposed Resident Minister, South. This is the man responsible for my re-election today. He is the Secretary for the SLPP in Bo District. He is the man who knows every Executive Member by name and even their telephone numbers. In other words, he knows every Executive Member by name, from Section to the least village. He can call them by their names. Anytime we have problems in Bo District, we run to him for solution. Sometimes we do not even think about the Chairman because he is very pivotal and instrumental in the Bo District politics. He was responsible for the **86.4%** victory of the SLPP. Today, he has been opportune to serve as Resident Minister - South. We know that the relationship we enjoyed with you will continue to thrive. I am very confident that by the next election, we will get **95.5%** or **96%**.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de' Souza George, proposed Minister of Works and Public Assets, commonly called 'Papa Ray.' I have not personally met him before, but I met him when he appeared before the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. Papa Ray is a household name because those who have been listening to the radio have always had the opportunity to get the advice of Papa Ray. Now you are going to work in a very difficult Ministry. I want to remind you that the said Ministry was the flagship programme of the last Government and lot of programmes are still ongoing. If approved by this House, you

have to work very hard, so that you can succeed. This is a very difficult Ministry and we want you to work with this Parliament very closely. This Parliament has always provided very serious oversight for that Ministry. We have enjoyed a lot of support from that Ministry and I believe we will continue to enjoy those supports we used to get.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Mr Raymond Ernest Denison de' Souza George that it is not going to be business as Usual. We are ready to do due diligence on the ongoing projects. We are also going to look at completed projects because we have to ascertain whether those projects were properly implemented. The parliamentary Committee on Works will help you. Definitely we are not going to leave this job to you alone. We are going to support you as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Morie Komba Manyeh has been nominated to serve as Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. He was my Lecturer; and as the Independent Member of Parliament said, Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is a serious man. He is always serious and he is going to be a serious Minister. Mr Speaker, during my four years at Njala University, Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is one of the most supportive and outstanding lecturers. This is the man whenever we had problems, we went to him, but when we took his paper, he never encouraged us to go to him. He did not want students to fail; but when you failed, he would fail you. I believe that is the principle he will be taking to the Ministry of Mines. We have a lot of problems that have been highlighted by the C4C Member of Parliament. I want to remind you that the Ministry of Mines is a very difficult Ministry to manage. Therefore, you have to work very hard, so that you do not disappoint us. This Parliament is showering praises on you and we hope and pray that after one year, you will come again and continue the praises. But if you fail, definitely we will come again and say you have not succeeded.

Before I conclude, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to briefly talk about Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], proposed Minister of Planning and Economic Development. Everybody knows the relationship between Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis and I. Therefore, I cannot conclude without saying something about her. She is a progressive mother and developmentally oriented. I have known her long before knowing

Honourable Sidie M. Tunis. I knew her when we formed the All Political Parties Youth Association [APPIA]. She was very instrumental in that Organisation and she was the brainchild of that Organisation. She provided lots of supports when we had problems with the PPRC and we have always run to her for help. When we needed financial support, we ran to her for assistance. I have no iota of doubt that she will succeed in that Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot talk on all of the nominees because of time, but I will ask this Parliament to approve all the nominees, so that they will start work immediately. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: As I indicated, we are having another sitting this afternoon, so it is about time we roundup this debate.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, our own side of the isle cannot now lend credence to this debate and give justice to it simply because we did not take part in the screening of the nominees. This is not to state that we do not recognise them as patriotic citizens. Thank you very much.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to continue to assure my colleagues on the other side that the dialogue will continue. I believe we will succeed as a team and I want to assure the general public that the dialogue is approximately **98%** success. We strongly believe that it is because of the ongoing dialogue that they did not participate in the last debate. I want to assure the Nation that they will henceforth participate in other Appointments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have qualified Sierra Leoneans before us for approval. My beautiful wife, Mrs Nabeela F. Tunis [nee Koroma], is amongst the nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that out of a population of seven million people, they have been chosen to serve this Nation. It is not because you are the most qualified or the luckiest, but it is simply you are the one God

has chosen at this time to serve. His Excellency the President believes in your capacity to perform and that is why he has nominated you for parliamentary approval. I want to appeal to all of you to remain focused and do your job diligently. I want to appeal to you that you should not only go to your offices and start removing people. Those professionals you are going to meet are all Sierra Leoneans. It does not matter whether they belong to the APC or the SLPP. They are all Sierra Leoneans and you have to work with them. This particular Parliament is aware because there are lots of old Members of Parliament who served in the last Parliament and we are also aware that there are many people who have no business in those offices. As Government Ministers, your business is to go there and work for the people of this country. You are not going there as Human Resource Officers. Your business is to go and work and not to go and sack people. Please work with those people you will meet there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about the nominees and I do not want to go over all that have been said. I want the proposed Ministers of Mines and Mineral Resources, Agriculture, Tourism and Planning and Economic Development, to know that these are four key ministries that will ensure the development of this country. We have so many incomplete projects across the country simply because we did not learn our lessons. There are funds coming to the Ministry of Finance, but because there was no proper planning, Economic Development was completely overshadowed by financial issues. We have spent carelessly and it is time for a 'New Direction.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Government, under the leadership of His Excellency Brigadier Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, is determined to ensure that proper planning is put in place. Therefore, I want to call on every nominee to ensure that you go to your offices and hit the ground running. Parliament is here to support your work. As I said the last time, our President is in a hurry to develop this country and this Parliament is going to support him. When you heard the Honourable Bashiru Silikie talking to the Minister of Works, he has been very sincere, especially when he hopes to become the Chairman of the Committee on Works.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House and the Nation that in the 'New Direction' agenda, there is nothing like 'orders from above.' I want to inform the Nation that we will respect Law and Order, but there will be no 'order from above.' My colleague on the other side spoke about 'Executive Orders.' The question is who is responsible for the issuance of 'Executive Orders'? It is because you chose to boycott Parliament. If you have been here, by now all of those 'Executive Orders' would have been here in the form of Bills. I am hoping that by next sitting, you will contribute to parliamentary debates.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Second Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to have the last say on the distinguished ladies and gentlemen who have been nominated by His Excellency the President for approval by this Honourable House. Well, mine is a word of advice. The challenges we face in this Nation are enormous. There are challenges that are awesome in nature and there are those that are quite formidable. I am sure you will all agree with me that they are by no means beyond the collective capacity of all of us as a Nation to solve.

Honourable Members, the nominees this House has just approved are distinguished ladies and gentlemen in their own rights. They have distinguished themselves in their fields of expertise and they have also become known over the years to most Sierra Leoneans. The reason you are here today for approval is because you have succeeded in impressing His Excellency the President; that you have the capacity to deliver and even the resources that this country needs at this most momentous moment. We hope and pray that you will live up to the expectations of His Excellency the President; that indeed you will live up to the expectations of the Nation and to the confidence and trust this Honourable House has reposed in all of you.

Honourable Members, I think by the approval this Honourable House has given, I want to believe that all of us should regard it as another re-affirmation of that confidence that the President has reposed in them. Indeed, this Nation is in a hurry and there is no doubt about it. We are in a great hurry to move forward; and we are in a great hurry to move along the lines other countries in the sub-region and beyond have moved. Some of you have travelled far and wide and you have seen the strides of development in other parts of Africa and beyond. It is a great shame that Sierra Leone is where she is today. So much is expected from you, commensurate with what has been accorded to you. On behalf of this Honourable House, therefore, we wish you well in your new responsibilities and we share the confidence of the President that you will live up to the expectations of this Nation. Please remember, if you fail, it means you have failed not only yourselves and this House, but the country as a whole. I think we all know what the consequences of failure will be. On behalf of this Honourable House once again, we wish you well in your new ministries.

Having said that and before we move forward, Honourable Members, I did say that we are going to have another meeting this afternoon, but let me conclude this particular meeting by announcing and acknowledging the leadership that has been long awaited; i.e., the Leadership of the All Peoples Congress [APC]. The Leaders of the All Peoples Congress in Parliament will be the following:

1. Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah, Leader of the Opposition;
2. Hon. Ibrahim B. Kargbo, Deputy Leader;
3. Hon. Hassan A. Sesay, Whip; and
4. Hon. Catherine Z. Tarawally, Deputy Whip.

By the same token, Honourable Members, I would like to announce the leadership of the Coalition for Change [C4C] in Parliament. We actually did so the last time when we recognised the Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina as Leader. Let me repeat once again that he remains the Leader in Parliament for the C4C [*Applause*].

Honourable Francis C. Bendu, Deputy Leader;

Honourable Aiah D. S. Kassegbama, Whip; and

Honourable Rebecca Y. Kamara, Deputy Whip.

Honourable Members, I have other announcements to make, but I have been advised to suspend that announcement until we come back after lunch. Further consultations will be needed between the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition before we proceed to make those announcements. That is in respect of the membership of the International Parliament and Inter-Parliamentary Association.

[The House was adjourned for lunch at 1:40 p.m. and resumed at 2:00 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, when we took the adjournment this afternoon, I did say that we are going to recommence our meeting at 2:00 p.m. I know we are getting adjusted to the GMT from BMT, but the only clock that I know is the clock made outside of this country and the time it carries is GMT. So, let us all agree here to adjust our mind-set to GMT.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENT AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATIONS.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I rise to announce the Membership to the International Parliament and Africa Parliament.

Pan-African Parliament:

- Hon. Solomon Segepoh Thomas, Leader of Delegation;
- Hon. Bashiru Silikie, Deputy Leader of Delegation;
- Hon. Amadu Kanu, Member;
- Hon. P.C. Alie Balansama Marah III, Member; and
- Hon. Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, Member.

ACP/EU Parliament:

- Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma, Leader of Delegation;
- Hon. Dickson M. Rogers, Deputy Leader;
- Hon. Emerson S. Lamina, Member;
- Hon. Aaron A. Koroma, Member; and
- Hon. Ibrahim B. Kargbo, Member.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Motion was carried]

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Order Paper be amended to include a Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service: 'The Third Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nomination.'

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

Proposer: Honourable Sidie M. Tunis

Seconder: Honourable Dickson M. Rogers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Third Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, alive to its constitutional obligations, met on Monday, 7th May, 2018 and interviewed six presidential nominees for appointment as Ministers.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency with its established procedure. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to hold such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. Third Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 7th May, 2018

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominees were interviewed on oath:

i. Professor David J. Francis, proposed Chief Minister

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Professor David J. Francis is a Commissioner/Board of Director, UK Government Commonwealth Scholarships Commission. He is also the Head of Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford and Director of the University of Bradford's John & Elnora Centre for African Studies. He provides high-level strategic leadership, operational management and oversight of administration and large-scale research project grants estimated at **£2.3mln**, including the **£1.75mln** Ferguson Trust 5 - year Grant to the Africa Centre/JECFAS.

Commenting on the difference between the role of the Vice President and Chief Minister, Professor David Francis said, **"There is no contradiction between the role of the Chief Minister and the role of the Chief Executive and the Vice President. Sections 52, 53 and 54 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone Constitution are very clear. The President is the Head of Government business and Chief Executive, the Vice President is the principal assistant to the President. The role of the Chief Minister is simply to follow up, and coordinate the decisions made by the Chief Executive and his assistant and make sure that they are delivered to line ministries and sectors. This has been the problem in terms of governance because everything leads to the presidency. That is a recipe for chaos. The President, in his wisdom, has therefore created the office of Chief Minister, who is essentially the office messenger of the President and the Vice President. The plan for the role of the Chief Minister is to facilitate and provide competent leadership that will ensure that what has been decided on by the President and the Vice are cascaded on to the line Ministries for implementation"** *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before the Leader of Government Business proceeds to the second nominee, let it be stated for the records, that in keeping with the provisions of our national Constitution, Professor David J. Francis is a Sierra Leonean by nationality.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: And I want to add that he does not hold a dual nationality.

ii. Professor Aiah A. Gbakima, proposed Minister of Technical and Higher Education

Professor Aiah A. Gbakima is presently the country Coordinator of the USAID/Predict Programme in Sierra Leone and also the Country Director of Metabiota Inc., representing the headquarters in San Francisco, California and the Office in Washington DC. He is a voluntary member of the CDC Ebola Vaccine Trial Data Management Safety Board [DMSB], Editor-in-Chief of the Sierra Leone Journal of Biomedical Research [SLJBR], Member of the African Journal Partnership Project [AJPP], Chair of the Sierra Leone Health and Biomedical Research Association [HBIOMEDSL] and is a former Professor of Microbiology, College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences [COMAHS], University of Sierra Leone.

Responding to issues relating to standards, Professor Aiah Gbakima said, **“There are many things that our colleges need to do. One of these is to have office hours for students in the area of guidance and counseling for students. We are not going to compromise on standards and discipline we will but ensure that we take punitive actions against those who cause disruptions in our tertiary institutions. We will have to engage the college administrations to find out whether they could adopt these measures. Secondly, I would like to implement strict disciplinary measures in higher institutions of learning. I have already started talking to my colleague, who is the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, to enforce high standards in Primary and Secondary schools examinations. We will set passing marks for all schools and students who fall below the mark will have to repeat. We will have to start with the primary and secondary schools because if you bring weak students into the colleges, the whole system is going to be weak. This simply means that we have to go back to that old system. I am sure the President approves of it and provides the necessary resources.”**

iii. Ambassador Foday Yumkella, proposed Minister of Political and Public Affairs

Ambassador Foday Yumkella is a former:

- Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and the Environment, 1996 to 1998;
- Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, 1998 to 2002;
- Minister of Presidential Affairs, 2002 to 2003; and
- High Commissioner/Ambassador, Sierra Leone High Commission to The Gambia, 2005 to 2008.

Ambassador Foday Yumkella promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of His Excellency's New Direction.

iv. Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara, proposed Resident Minister, North-West

Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara is a Senior Teacher at the Anne Walsh Memorial Secondary School, Freetown, 2000 to 2017. Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara viewed her nomination as a call to national duty and promised to work with all stakeholders for inclusive peace and development of the North-West province.

v. Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh, proposed Minister of Sports

Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh is a former employee of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority [SLPA] 1998 to 2004, where he served as Timekeeper, Stevedore Operations from 1998 to 2003; and Senior Foreman/Timekeeper, Ferries Department from 2003 to 2012.

As a former footballer and lover of the game, I will draw on my past experience to bring all the stakeholders together to find a lasting solution to the acrimony in sports. I will also work with private individuals and companies to invest in our local leagues to make it rewarding and exciting. **"If I get the approval of this Honourable House, I promise to revive this sector and to make His Excellency the President's New Direction for sports will be a huge success."**

4. Recommendations

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

- i. Professor David J. Francis, Chief Minister;

- ii. Professor Aiah A. Gbakima, Minister of Technical and Higher Education;
- iii. Ambassador Foday Yumkella, Minister of Political and Public Affairs;
- iv. Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara, Resident Minister, North-West; and
- v. Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh, Minister of Sports.

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I so second. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we are short of words because when you have people like Professor Aiah A. Gbakima, proposed Minister of Technical and Higher Education and Professor David J. Francis, proposed Chief Minister in front of you, I do not know what adjective you can use to describe their successes. Whatever adjective we can use this afternoon, it is like throwing water on ducks back. I am sure we have very fine gentlemen this afternoon. If approved by this House, it will send a signal to us in this country and the International Community that Sierra Leone is ready for business. I was fortunate and this is one of the best privileges I have had in my life to be on a panel to interview Professors. When these illustrious personalities were responding to the Committee's inquiries, it was as if we were in the lecture room. We learnt so much from them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure this House that Sierra Leone, under the 'New Direction' programme, is now ready to take this country to a higher height. In that regard, I want to re-echo what President Julius Maada Bio said when he was interviewed on BBC. He said, **"I can prove my critics wrong as I have always done."** Mr Speaker that is exactly what he is doing in our beloved country. There is no doubt that the gentlemen and lady in front of us will bring Sierra Leone the lost glories and make Sierra Leone proud. If for any reason Professor David J. Francis will go back

to England today and tell the British Government that I am the Chief Minister in the Sierra Leone Government, I think the British will start treating us seriously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Professor Aiah A. Gbakima, proposed Minister of Technical and Higher Education, has been an educationist in this country. He knows exactly what has been our problem in education. I want to remind him that education has been one of the babies of Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio flagship programmes. He wants to make sure that we give quality education to our younger folks. I remember when we were on a campaign trail, he said that he had the key to the success of every human being. And that is the key he wants to give to every Sierra Leone and that is why he has presented Professor Aiah A. Gbakima.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have another very nice gentleman amongst the nominees, Ambassador Foday Yumkella, proposed Minister of Political and Public Affairs. My colleague from Moyamba said this morning that this particular nominee has served that office once, which means he is not an apprentice. I want to believe that Ambassador Foday Yumkella will make Honourable Dr Kandeh Kolley Yumkella proud *[Applause]*. I told my big brother that we are going to make sure that Ambassador Foday Yumkella dismantles the NGC and that is exactly what he is going to do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, few months to elections, Madam Haja and I were on a podium arguing about popularity. I told her that the name Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is a household name in this country; therefore, when he becomes President, we would make sure that she works with that fine gentleman. Today, I want to thank you very much for accepting this nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh, proposed Minister of Sports. Mr Speaker, twenty-four, Sierra Leone won an international trophy under the leadership of Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio; i.e., Zone II Tournament and that was the last time Sierra Leone qualified for the Africa Nations Cup. Today, he has given us a fine gentleman to manage sporting activities in this country *[Applause]*. I am sure this House is going to approve your nomination, I want to remind you that

you are about to step into a shoe that is very challenging. I want to believe that the President will want to repeat that history that after twenty or more years under his leadership, Sierra Leone will win the Africa Nations Cup [*Applause*]. I am not sure the last time we had the Zone II in Sierra Leone, but with the leadership of Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh, even the premiership, we promise this House that it will be one of the best in West Africa. He has a team and I want to believe he will work with the passion the President has for sports. The love the President has for sports is not because he plays football, but he believes sports unite young people and promote peace in a country. I say to you go Mr young Minister, go and multiply the younger folks in this country. With those few words Mr Speaker, I want to urge this House more so when we are having in our midst a renowned UN worker and today he is coming to contribute to the success of his brother. I therefore want to appeal that without wasting time Mr Speaker, we speedily approve these nominees. I thank you very much.

HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have had the honour of serving in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. I had the opportunity to have taken part in screening at least thirty presidential nominees. On behalf of the National Grand Alliance [NGC], we have been very constructive in those meetings. We have screened individuals we believe they can perform. Having listened to Honourable Members' submissions, one almost fears that these nominees can walk on water. I hasten to caution that disappointment is proportional to expectations, but we must manage the expectations as well.

In that regard, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join Honourable Sidie M. Tunis and other Members of the Committee to restate in public what we said to each of them that they were chosen for a reason and that reason is to serve this country and the people of this Republic. The expectations are high, but the challenges are huge. They have a lot of work to do. We emphasised, in some cases, that whether it is a reward or not, it is all about delivery and we hope they will deliver. We are happy to see the Chief Minister, who is going to occupy a new position in this country. I want to remind him that he is now in a glass, which means that everybody can see him. Based

on his job description, he has a tough job to ensure delivery. The people of this country need Sierra Leoneans who can deliver; and this Parliament is ready to support the government as we have demonstrated during the interviews of these nominees. We are ready to render our help in a constructive manner, so that you deliver good policies for this Republic.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we wish all the nominees well. We want to assure those on the Speaker's right hand side that there is no dismantling of anything because we believe that if there is going to be growth and success, that growth will be for us all. God bless you *[Applause]*.

HON. HINDOLO M. GAVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for giving us the best Sierra Leoneans. I had the privilege to meet Prof. David Francis and within that short time, I noticed him to be a soft-spoken man. He does not talk too much and he always observes keenly and firmly before taking decisions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about education in this country. I left the University of Sierra Leone for about 17 years ago. During those days, unless a student wants to ask his lecturer outside the lecture room, it was not possible for you to spend five minutes with your lecturer outside the lecture room. Today, however, it is totally the reverse because we have had situations where students are using terminologies to extort moneys from their loved ones, including parents, so that they would give their lecturers for grades. This is prevalent in Njala, IPAM and Fourah Bay College. After taking a paper, you have to follow the lecturer in charge and offer him/her money for you to pass. This is very rampant in our colleges nowadays. We have had a report that is presently under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC]. It was alleged that some lecturers are in the habit of giving grades to students for pleasure.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to report to this House that we have also had situations where students are being asked out of the exams hall when they could not pay their university fees. During the last Semester, it was very disheartening to see students

being asked out of the examination hall. Although I consider the act as criminal, but students were left with no option but to forge payment receipts to enable them write their exams. When those students were later caught, they were rusticated from the University. I do not condemn forgery, but in law, sometimes we 'put up the defence of necessity.' I think it is wrong to ask students who have been admitted into the University out of the exams hall for failing to pay his/her fees. There is a better remedy that could be applied against defaulters. For instance, the University should not give out certificate to any student who has failed to pay his/her fees. I consider that particular act inhuman; and as I speak, those students remained rusticated. The University Court is not functional. I will say it is not functional because the tenure has expired and it goes without saying that when you are not properly seated, you will not function well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of the proposed Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education that if approved by this House, he must look into these issues and work towards ensuring that the University Court is properly reconstituted. Also, he has to work towards ensuring that the University Senate is functional. During our days, what we are seeing happening now was not palpable because of the disciplinary actions that were meted against defaulting students. In other words, those who were brought before the University Court were severely dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I listened to the President during the swearing-in ceremony of the Attorney-General and one key word I picked was that indiscipline is rampant and until we are ready to be disciplined. I crave your indulgence to do your best if approved by this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are lots of indiscipline in our Universities. This is why in our profession, people are using statement like, **"do you aware, did you investigated."** This means standards are falling and it pains some of us. As other speakers have said, people were just sitting in their comfort zones and nothing happened. You have to go there and investigate the problems and find solutions to

address them. You have all the qualifications and experiences, but if you fail to investigate the problems and work towards solving them, it will not help this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are seeing the creation of new universities, but I want to admonish the regulatory body to ensure that whatever qualification that comes from any of these higher institutions is authentic. As the Leader of Government Business said, you have promised to work side by side with the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, which is very important. When a nation is morally decadent, it becomes something that one needs to reflect upon and find solution. We have seen situations where parents usually accompany their children on the day of the National Primary School Examination [NPSC]; we have seen situations where the West Africa Senior Secondary School Examination [WASSCE] objective questions are sent on students' mobile phones; and we have seen situations where teachers are writing exams outside the examination room for pupils during public exams. If the outside world is to respect our education, these anomalies must be addressed once and for all. These things are not strange to all of us seated in this House because we all know they are happening. Some of us are only passionate about it because we are just young parents trying to bring up our children and it is our dream for our children to be admitted into these institutions. We want them to get the best of education that most of you got at Fourah Bay College.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of these nominees that if approved today by this Honourable House [I am sure there is a vacuum as to who holds the substantive office of that institution], make sure the proper thing is done. We do not know yet who is going to be the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone. I think some of these selections are carefully done in a bid to actually instil discipline in these institutions. For me, if we get education right, we have got everything right. We should not hesitate to report a lecturer to the Anti-Corruption Commission. I am passionate about education because after a good sojourn, I came back home to do a postgraduate degree in one of the Universities. I will never forget what a lecturer told me. He said: **"I am going to give you a test and an**

assignment. For the assignment, it is going to be 'penny for look,' and if you do not give me money, you will not pass." This happened to me. Again, I have had a situation where I was not interviewed for a Master degree programme at Fourah Bay College because of my name. I have gone through those experiences and I want to report to this House that tribalism is crippling into our institutions. Tribalism is seriously or has seriously gone into state institutions and that is why we need a dialogue forum, so that we can address this issue. I said earlier that if you get education right, you will get everything right.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to implore this Honourable House to approve these nominees. I want to remind them that they should not mortgage their integrity. When you put all their integrity together, it is bigger than this House. The President made no mistake because this is the first time we are having professors to serve in governance. I know what it means to be a professor. I recommend them for approval.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I stand on 34[i]. There are three Arms of government: the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature. For the Honourable Member to say **"the nominees, when you put all their integrity together, it is bigger than this hall."** I beg to differ and I am asking the Honourable Member to withdraw that statement. I thank you.

HON. HINDOLO M. GAVAO: Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will withdraw, but I was merely using symbolism. In the English Language, there is what we call symbolism. There is also what we call the literal and the mischief meanings of words *[Applause]*.

HON. MAADA KANJA HAFIJU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start expressing my profound gratitude to my supremo; i.e., the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency the President, Rt Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. I have a piece of advice for Professor Aiah Gbakima. I am asking you to pay special attention to the laboratory school. If I can perfectly remember the history of Sierra Leone, laboratory school was established by Prof. Gavao in 2006, but that particular school is

no longer in existence. Some of us were prepared to become laboratory technicians at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. That school helped us a lot and it was for that reason we were able to provide the voluntary service we provided during the 2014/2015 Ebola outbreak. Even the newly established BSc. School at the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences is gradually collapsing. The laboratory school at Eastern Polytechnic has been politicised and that is why you are not seeing people all over the country running to UNIMAK Laboratory School in Makeni. The establishment of the Diploma School at the College of Medicine resulted in the formation of Laboratory Technical Working Group [LTWG] during the outbreak. This aided Sierra Leone a lot and has improved many people in this country. For instance, I became the President of the Sierra Leone Medical and Laboratory Association. I was leading the team to collect the remains of Ebola samples across the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I still remember when the LASSA Research Lab was moved from Kambia and they left over 200,000 blood samples. They left them there and I led laboratory technicians and collected those samples under the supervision of ONS, Public Health England and the Ministry of Health. So, you have to help the laboratory school to grow. There are lots of people who are offering scholarships to laboratory technicians in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2015, Africa Centre for Excellence of Gymnastic of Infectious Disease [ASIGID], whose headquarter is in Nigeria, was able to provide 20 scholarships for Sierra Leoneans to study in Harvard University and I gained from that gesture. You have to ensure that we establish a communication link with them, so that Sierra Leoneans can benefit from their scholarships. I want to state here that without labs, the health sector will not grow. As a good biologist, you prepared me and taught me what I knew not. I was with you for four years. I am saying that you have to prepare the labs and lab technicians. You also have to pay attention to the school in Kenema; i.e., the Eastern Polytechnic. Also, pay attention to College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. That particular school has been politicised for the past eight years. For instance, if you are south-easterners, you cannot enter that school, including

the lecturers. I used to lecture Aetiology in that school and I was asked out of that school. I want to thank you very much.

HON. WILLIAMS L. JOSEPH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I never knew I will be a politician to stand in this noble House. I want to express my gratitude to the Heavenly Father to represent my constituents in this House. Today, we have these nominees and we have said various things about them. Contrary to other speakers who have downgraded our educational system in this country, I stand in this Well to acknowledge the high level of education in Sierra Leone. I am saying this because I launched a programme between the pupils at Cockie Bay, which is the community where I come from, have proved themselves excellently. Therefore, I am very proud of them and I stand to be proud of the academic status in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have constructed several schools in my community. I want to appeal to Prof. Aiah Gbakima to ensure that there is mutual understanding between the students and lecturers. I have noticed a huge gap between students and lecturers. In Sierra Leone, it is a taboo to call a Professor by his first name, but it is very common in the University in London, where I did my Master degree, a Dean of Faculty is called by his/her first name. It took me several months to familiarise myself with that culture. In Sierra Leone, it is a taboo to call people by their names *[Undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my humble appeal to these nominees is that they have to be the 'peoples' ministers' and they should not always be in their tinted vehicles *[Applause]*. The taxpayer's moneys have been invested and now you are going to be public servants. With all due respect to you, you are representing the people of this nation.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleading to these nominees to make sure that they perform their jobs objectively and to the best of their knowledge. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGHA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that I am impressed by the fact that since your election as Speaker of this House, you have demonstrated your key commitment to gender parity. I want to thank you for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that His Excellency the President is one person that sees a gem from afar and has given us these nominees. We have qualified people in Sierra Leone who are capable of delivering what this country desperately desires, but the APC led government of Dr Ernest Bai Koroma failed to recognise some of these qualities [*Applause*].

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, I stand on 32[8 & 9]. It has something to do with disrepute by the Honourable Member.

THE SPEAKER: I think I will invite the Honourable Member to read 32[8 & 9) very carefully. The personality to whom reference has been made ceased to be a Member of this Honourable House long ago.

HON. AMADU KANU: Honourable Members, even if I have to go by those Standing Orders, His Excellency is a Member of Parliament and he is still a Member. That, in itself, will justify the references that I made to S.O. 32[8&9].

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: He is still the President. She made reference to him.

HON. AMADU KANU: Honourable Member, are you with me?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you stood on S.O. that deals with decorum in this House. I will accept that

HON. AMADU KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the reference I made has something to do with bringing the name of any other Member into disrepute.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 32[i]. Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am only trying to be helpful. I am afraid the Standing Orders you have quoted will not help you

HON. AMADU KANU: With your intervention, I would have reverted to S.O. 32[5], but with your intervention... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: I rule you out of order, Honourable Member because you are not standing on the correct Standing Orders. I give the Floor to the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I stand on 32[5] and it is very clear and succinct that a Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion. We should allow the Honourable Member to continue her debates. Once it is accepted, I would like to plead with the Honourable Member that for decorum and peace to continue to reign in this House, names of President who have served this country should not be mentioned in a derogatory manner.

THE SPEAKER: As long as you stood under S.O. 32[5], I will accept. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGHA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, knows how to identify gems and has given us these fine nominees. I had a very unfortunate experience as a practitioner working in area of trust in the United Kingdom. I was working with an uncle who was a renowned medical doctor. I want to remind this House that the outside world does not respect our educational system. That doctor was not accepted to practice in the United Kingdom, but he was working as a Nursing Aid. I was in charge of a shift working with this man I used to call uncle. I couldn't ask him to do anything.

[Suspension of S. O. 5[2], being 3:00 p.m.]

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: The unfortunate side of it is the fact that our education is not respected in other countries. What we need now is to work on how to improve our educational system, so that when our sisters and brothers will have the opportunity to be in other countries will have respect. We are putting these nominees in

charge of these ministries, but the onus lies on us to ensure that they succeed. This is because we have to help them deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I had the opportunity of working with Isata Yumkella in the UK. She was the Deputy Youth Leader in our branch and I heard so much about her brother, Ambassador Yumkella. I know you have very good qualities and principles. I have heard a lot about you from Isata and I trusted her because she was one of the most trusted and capable party members that we had at that time. I had the opportunity to work with her and I have no doubt in my mind that you will deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Prof. David Francis. I have recently had the opportunity to meet him. During my acquaintance with him, I realised that he is very disciplined and principled. I personally admire him and I am sure he is going to be good as Chief Minister. I kept wondering in my mind where this fine gentleman was hiding. I was personally pleased when I saw his name for such position. I have no doubt you will deliver and what we need in this country is not the academia of Ministers, but the principle and the core values that you stand for. This is because if you say this is my educational background, but you do something else, your credibility will go down the drains. What we have in Sierra Leone is that people are growing more than the country. The moment you say you are an Honourable Member or a Minister, people start calling you 'di pa' or 'di mami' [S.O.2]. This is an unnecessary flattering and if you listen to them, you will forget the purpose for which you have been appointed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the UK, the Ministers are drivers for themselves. In Sierra Leone, however, our Ministers have drivers. It is good, but sometimes these luxuries or privileges make them feel as if they kings or queens. Those privileges are accorded to you not because you are handsome or beautiful, but because of the trust the people reposed in you. Therefore, you have to deliver based on that trust. I want to humbly request that the proposed Ministers seated in front of us deliver what you are expected to deliver. I want to caution that for you to win the people over, it has to do

with your credibility. I want to wish you all good luck and I am extremely impressed with the **30%** quota of women empowerment that we are talking about.

To my sister, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish her the best. I want you to forget the fact that you were not with the SLPP and you are not an SLPP, but you are a Minister for every Sierra Leonean. I want to remind you that you are there to represent hundreds of women because the women believe that you have the ability to deliver. If you deliver, it gives the assurance that women can deliver and more positions of trust will be given to more women. We have to show the President and any other President that comes after ten years that women can do it better and therefore they should be appointed to more positions. As a woman, I have been following your campaigns and I am sure you can effectively manage that office the way it must be managed. With that in mind and with His Excellency the President in government for ten years, you will be there. I am saying because after ten years, when the SLPP would have finished its work, we will be looking at the different set of government. I am very sure that we will govern for ten years or more. We are hoping that by the next elections, you will not have to be a running mate to anybody, but to come to the SLPP. I thank you.

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for catching my eyes. I am Charles Osman Abdulai from Constituency 079, Bo District. I have listened to several speakers on the approval of these nominees before us. Since this morning, all I have been hearing is the good things about the proposed nominees. I think the President has done a good job, especially when you look at their backgrounds, vis-a-vis their academic qualifications and experiences. This means the nominees are qualified for their respective positions they have been nominated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I will add from my own personal experience in Sierra Leone is commitment to duty. This has been mentioned very little in most of the speeches made by Honourable Members this morning and this afternoon. You may have all the qualifications and experiences, but your commitment to the job and your love for the job you are doing matters also. In Sierra Leone, for example, especially in the government service, how many people stay in their offices after their

official hours to accomplish certain assignments they did not complete during normal working hours? If approved by this Honourable House, which I believe will be done, the new ministers are going to encounter so many challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to add a cautionary note here for your reference. The nominees are all highly qualified and experienced people. We know this very well, but your commitment to duty counts a lot. Therefore, having listened to the various speakers, I have been tempted to do a short analysis. After a critical assessment of the problems of this country, I came to the conclusion that this country is in doom. From what I have heard from the various speakers, there is no Ministry that can objectively be rated up to **40%** or more in terms of performance. This means that the nominees have a very big challenge. They are going to face huge tasks ahead of them. As a Parliament, we will support you, but let us look beyond what usually happens in the working situation. We have to dedicate our lives to service of this country. We have to look at the challenges and put the country first.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I mentioned earlier, personal integrity also counts because if people in positions of trust look at their personal integrities, the issue of corruption can be minimised. I have no doubt in these nominees' capability to discharge their duties diligently. I know that President Julius Maada Bio is going to judge you based on your transparency and accountability.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to speedily approve the nominees before us based on the scrutiny they have gone through and based on the conviction we have that they will perform. I thank you very much.

HON. SAHR CHARLES: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the nominees before us. It is a new experience for some of us and we have started knowing exactly what it means being in this House. I stand to address the presidential nominees for the various positions being announced.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out Professor Aiah Gbakima proposed Minister of Tertiary Education. I want to start by saying that education in this country is a big problem. You do not need a magician to tell you that education is in a bad state. As a nation, we have not done much over the years to ensure that we solve the problems affecting our education. If the President has decided to divide that Ministry into two; i.e., Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and Ministry of Tertiary Education, it is good. It is good because the defunct Ministry of Education, Science and Technology was a very big Ministry. Therefore, dividing it into two is good, but I would like to admonish the two proposed Ministers to collaborate and work together. Fortunately, the previous Minister was here, I was unable to address him by then. You need to communicate frequently because if you are talking about higher education in this country, you cannot talk about it without making reference to Primary and Secondary Education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes I asked myself where we are going with our educational system? I have been a teacher, trainer, and a curriculum developer over the years. We have done so many works in terms of developing curricular, but where are they today? Have they been used? These are some of the things I am imploring the proposed Minister to look into. It is not a matter of coming with good initiatives or ideas, but how these initiatives are implemented. Many people have undergone series of training programmes, but at the end, are they gainfully employed? Are they putting those trainings into practice? These and other issues we need to look into very carefully. I have no doubt in the Minister who has been nominated to serve in that position, Professor Aiah Gbakima's ability to perform. A lot of people are saying that it is not all about having professors, PhD holders, but I want to believe that a man of his calibre has gone through the crucible of education up to that level, knows the value of education. Therefore, he will put every premium to ensure that higher education takes its rightful place in this country.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to remind my uncle, who is the proposed Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Aiah Gbakima, about

the urgent need to decentralise education, especially higher education. This is very key and we want to see that starts immediately. We do not want to see a system wherein everything about higher education is being centralised in Freetown and few other places. We want to see education decentralised in every part of this country. We want to see at least a University in every region. Of course, Eastern Province has been deprived in that direction for long. The Southern and Northern Regions have benefited a lot. We want you to look at it carefully because you are coming from the Eastern region. As Members of Parliament, we are representing our people and it is clear that whatever might have made the President to nominate you to that position, some of us believe that you will deliver. If approved by this House, you are not only going to serve the President; you are going to serve the people of this nation. Therefore, you must be true to your conscience. It is clear that without the people's mandate, no matter how the President loves you, you would never attain such position. That is why we are here representing our people. These are some of the issues you need to address for the people of the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh, proposed Minister of Sports. He is a young man and I want him to know that he is stepping into a very controversial Ministry. He needs to be careful. We would not want to see a situation wherein instead of putting better monitoring mechanisms and systems in place, he starts deciding who should play for Leone Stars and who should not. These are things we have been experiencing over the years. It is not a matter of you going there, but putting the right processes and systems in place, so that the Ministry of Sports can grow to a level we are expecting it to grow. That is all we need.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish the other nominees that they are going to serve Sierra Leone after the approval of this House. You have to know that you owe it to Sierra Leone and to the people of this nation to serve with your conscience. It is not about being partisan or political at all. Let us see how we can put this nation first in whatever we do. Of course, there are so many other Sierra Leoneans out there who are equally capable to man these institutions. Therefore, you must count

yourself as being a lucky man or woman to have been nominated to serve this country. Let us see how we can come out with results. I want to assure you that this House will not rest until you deliver good results that will transcend this nation forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with the proposed Chief Minister, Professor David J. Francis. I want to remind that him that his position has become an issue of public debate. This is because a lot of people are of the opinion that this particular position is not necessary. However, I want to believe that it is in the wisdom of the President to achieve his 'New Direction' agenda he has decided to create that office. You have a task to prove your detractors wrong. It is going to give you a hell of time, especially when you will be trying to synchronise your duties as Chief Minister and the duties of the Vice President. This is where the big problem lies. But I want to believe that from the responses you provided to the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, you will live up to that expectation.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to support these nominees, devoid of our political allegiances and affiliations, so that they can succeed. I therefore call on this House to approve their nominations. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I will take two more speakers before we conclude the debate.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for catching my eyes. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need not remind the nominees about the importance of their nominations. We have seen eminent Sierra Leoneans being brought before the people's representatives because we represent the voice of the people. Whatever we say here or whatever caution we give, it represents the views of the people of this country. His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, has carefully selected you amongst thousands of Sierra Leoneans to occupy serious positions in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Professor David J. Francis, proposed Chief Minister. This has been a controversial position and several nomenclatures have

been attached to that position. Some have called you the new Prime Minister; others referred to you as the man that has come to usurp the functions of the Office of the Vice President; and some say you are the President that was not elected. But I want to believe from what I heard yesterday when you were interviewed that you specifically understand exactly what is required of you. You said you were aware of the fact that Sierra Leoneans are in a hurry to move this country forward. I am confident to report to this House that we have a man who is ready to hit the ground running. We are not here to lavish praises on you because the expectations of the people of Sierra Leone come through us. However, we must give you hope and we must make you believe that we are supportive of this position and functions attached therein. You are the first person to occupy the Office of Chief Minister, and I want to state here that the start of any office is not an easy task. However, with your range of experiences, we want to believe that you will be able to serve as the conduit that you said you would serve, so that traders at Abacha Street will not have cause to go to the President when they have issues, but they will come to you as the Chief Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Ibrahim Nyelenkeh has been nominated to serve as the Minister of Sports if approved by this Honourable House. For the records, I was born and given an Islamic name, Ibrahim Conteh. In the course of life, I decided to play football and I was named Tawa. Today, Tawa has taken over the 'Ibrahim' and force to register a deep hole, including Tawa, into my usual name. Today, I am Ibrahim Tawa Conteh. Why do I take all this time to go back to where Tawa came from? It is to show that I am very personate about Football. Sierra Leoneans are very passionate about sporting activities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Sports has been redundant for the past ten years. I stood at the platform at the British Council, representing the Sierra Leone People's Party on the Youth Debate and I spoke a lot about how we can transform the lives of young people. May I not remind you that we represent **33%** of the population of this country and **67%** of us are unemployed. Out of that **67%**, I can assure you that **50%** are in football. They depend on football and they have built their

carer in football. I was not opportune to play for mighty Black Pool. I played for Real Friends, but those who are plying are desperate to move to Europe and other parts of the World through football. I want plead to you that if approved by this House, please pay attention to football, athletics and other sporting activities that are within your domain.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind all and sundry that education is the key to success. I told my brother on the other side of the isle at the Youth Debate that we are sharing this platform today because of education. If it was not for education, my brother on the other side because of his up-bringing, we could not have shared that stage. On the area of higher learning, I said a lot about technical and vocational education whilst on that podium. Majority of our sisters and brothers are dependents on technical and vocational education and that is why you need to come up with sound technical and vocational policy that will bring them back to the educational system, so that they can be empowered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these fine gentlemen and lady were not nominated by His Excellency the President because of political patronage. They were not given these responsibilities because they have been Vuvuzelas of the SLPP. For instance, Professor David Francis has never been into politics. When I was at Fourah Bay College, Professor Aiah A. Gbakima was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone. He has never been into politics. Again, our dear sister, Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara is not a member of the SLPP. This shows how far His Excellency is ready and determined to take this nation forward. From my understanding of direction, it requires guidance; it requires superintendence; and it requires monitoring. His Excellency the President has said we are moving to a 'New Direction' against an agenda which sometimes unfavourably referred to as hidden agenda. We have come out of the ten years of hidden agenda and we want to move forward. If the 'New Direction' and our desperation to move this country forward should come to pass, the responsibility is in your hands.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave your indulgence to speedily approve the nominees before us, so that they can start their work and move this country forward. I thank you very much.

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the presidential nominees will assume their offices after parliamentary approval. I am not here to shower praises on them, but to caution them that we are in a hurry to catapult Sierra Leone to its rightful place. We are here on this side of the isle because your predecessors' abysmal performance to the dissatisfaction of the entire nation. That is why they were kicked out of power. We want to remind you that we want to stay on this side because it is only on this side that Sierra Leone can move forward. It is only this side of the isle that is synonymous to progress, development, peace and patriotism. Therefore, I stand here today to admonish all of you and to remind you of your duties. With the invigoration you have, I hope you will translate it to actions with a view to delivering your compatriots from this mess. I want to state here that the various ministries are in the state of comatose and you need to wake them up from their slumbers *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must doff my hat to His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for his wisdom in choosing these fine gentlemen and lady to man the respective offices they have been nominated to serve. I want this House to look at the nominees who have been approved few days ago, those who have been approved this morning, those we are about to approve and those who are yet to come to this Well for approval. You may be aware that the previous composition of the Cabinet of the APC led Government was purely dominated by [S.O 2] 'wusim stars.' Today, we have different shades of people from different backgrounds, different ethnic groups and different regions, all in the interest of the development of this country. So, the patriotism of His Excellency the President transcends beyond ethnic consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make reference to a statement made by Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo. Mr Speaker, because of the composition of the then Cabinet in 2007, Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo was on 98.1 Radio programme 'Good

Morning Salone.' I want this Honourable House to know the composition of the Cabinet. The Honourable Member by then was the mouth piece of the Government as information Minister. He said that those who have suffered for the party have to be rewarded. I don't need to keep this information. The action by the then Honourable Minister, who is now the Right Honourable Member of Parliament, was not nationalistic. He said [S.O.2] "udat wok fɔ di paty n udat bin dɔn sɔfa na dɛm dɛ go apɔynt n Bombali dɛm bin dɔn sɔfa fɔ lɔng." Those were the exact words of the Honourable Member.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 33[b]. I want the Honourable Member to understand that I could not have uttered such a statement. And Mr Speaker, you and I grew up in the South from childhood and we were not brought up to discriminate against other tribes or ethnic groups. So, I want it to be recorded that my statement by the time was totally misunderstood. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you saying that you are being misquoted or it was an elliptical expression?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: I was totally misquoted, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: So it was not an elliptical expression?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: An expression that was not understood by the speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you may continue.

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am admonishing the nominees to distance themselves from such statements. They have to be nationalistic and to be reminded that the days of honeymoon are over and it is now time to work. I will not hesitate to say what the other speakers failed to say. I am sure failure is not part of you; but if you attempt to fail, the red flag will be shown to you. So, I want us to stay on this side for the betterment of Sierra Leone. I want you to put all your energies and professionalism for the betterment of this country.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave your indulgence to approve these nominees. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I think Honourable Members would agree with me that the debate has been very fulsome. I now invite the leader of Government Business to round up.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a very happy man again this afternoon considering the calibre of individuals who have been nominated by His Excellency the President to serve in various offices of state. I am beginning to see a trend in His Excellency's nominations. He is deliberately moving away from politics by nominating professionals and technocrats to work with him for the betterment of this country. I want to state here that the SLPP is known for that *[Applause from the ruling Bench]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for some time now, we have had government Ministers who took positions, but after a month or two, they began mixing politics and governance. Sometimes they are not even too sure whether they are governing or they are running a political party. I am sure that is the reason why His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, has deemed fit to establish the office of Chief Minister and has nominated somebody who is equally qualified to man that office. I want to inform this House that the proposed Chief Minister is not a politician. He always tells people thus: **"I am not a politician."** And he is indeed not a politician but a technocrat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as other speakers have said, there has been debate over the relationship between the Chief Minister and the Vice President. I want to inform this House that the proposed Chief Minister, Professor David Francis, told Sierra Leoneans that the Constitution is very clear. He said that the role of the Vice President is stated in the 1991 Constitution and the role of the Chief Minister is like a messenger of the President and the Vice President. His Excellency the President wants to ensure that once he makes his decision or his Vice President to do something, there has to be somebody who will ensure that those decisions are implemented. That is the job of the Chief Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt in the capability of the man who is going to serve as Chief Minister. I am sure he is going to ensure sanity in our

governance system. We have had situations wherein the President would go to his office at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. he will only be seeing ministers, some times for very simple reasons. His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, has said, 'enough is enough.' If a Minister has any issue, he/she should go to the Chief Minister.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to inform this House that we have highly qualified and experienced people who have been nominated to different positions, like Professor Aiah Gbakima, who is a highly placed technocrat and is highly revered in this country. However, I want to advise him to work with Honourable Dr Alpha Timbo, who is the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education for the benefit of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Foday Yumkella is no stranger to this House. He is a former Member of Parliament, a former Minister and a former Ambassador. Therefore, he has all the experiences that will make his work easier. I am sure the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs will be revived.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Ms Isata Abdulai-Kamara, proposed Resident Minister - North-West. During the last elections, she proved to be somebody with high integrity. She campaigned well and all the statements she was making clearly showed that she is the kind of person His Excellency will need to work with for the interest of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most speakers have said that sports has become a boxing ring in Sierra Leone because either the Minister is fighting with somebody or somebody is fighting the Minister. Today, we have somebody who loves sports and I want to believe that he is going to sanitise sporting activities in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that these are fine nominees and we should not waste their precious time, but to approve them as soon as possible.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Third Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Please be advised that the House is still in session. Honourable Members, on behalf of this Honourable House, I want to take this opportunity to express our sincere congratulations and felicitations to the presidential nominees this House has just approved. If my memories served me well, we have approved 27 ministerial nominees of His Excellency the President. In the first Report, the House approved twelve [12] nominees; ten [10] nominees in second Report and five [5] nominees, making a total of twenty-seven [27] nominees.

Honourable Members, today is a historic day. It marks a milestone in the history of Sierra Leone politics. For the first time since Independence in 1961, Parliament is being asked to approve the nomination of a Chief Minister, 'primus inter pares.' I know some historians would like to recall that the word Chief, as a prefix, has been used in recent past. But let me also recall that that particular Chief was not brought to this House for approval. This is the first time in the entire history of this country that this House is being asked to approve the Chief Minister. That is what makes it historic; and that is what makes this particular session unique.

Honourable Members, I want to once again take this opportunity to congratulate Professor David Francis for his appointment as Chief Minister and to congratulate all his other colleagues whom you have just approved. Let us be candid that the task ahead is enormous and is mind bothering. It is awesome and we need all hands on deck to extricate this country from the doldrums, so that we will be in line with the development of other countries in our sub-region. I want to remind Professor David Francis that the office of Chief Minister is designed to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services to the people of this country. With your wealth of experience against the background of academia, we have no doubt that you will live up

to the expectations of the President and you will live up to the trust that this House is prepared to repose in you and your colleagues.

Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that we need a disciplined society; we need society that recognises certain basic norms; and we need to depart from business as usual into doing things the proper way. You come with very high credentials, which I am sure every one of us in this House admires; and we hope and pray that with that kind of background, you will assist His Excellency in lifting this country to higher height in terms of development, governance and fulfilling the critical expectations of the people of this country. So, on behalf of this House, I wish to once again extend our thanks to the Chief Executive of the Country for the nominations he has presented to this House.

Honourable Members, Professor David Francis is going to occupy the third position on the pyramid, next only to the Vice President and the President, as far as the Executive Arm of the administration is concerned. That is a very great responsibility he will be carrying. We know you have excelled before in your previous locations; and we know you can do it again this time. You would do it again for the people of this country of which you are truly a part. We wish you well and fair thee well in your new responsibilities *[Applause]*.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 4:05 p.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 10th May, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]