

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

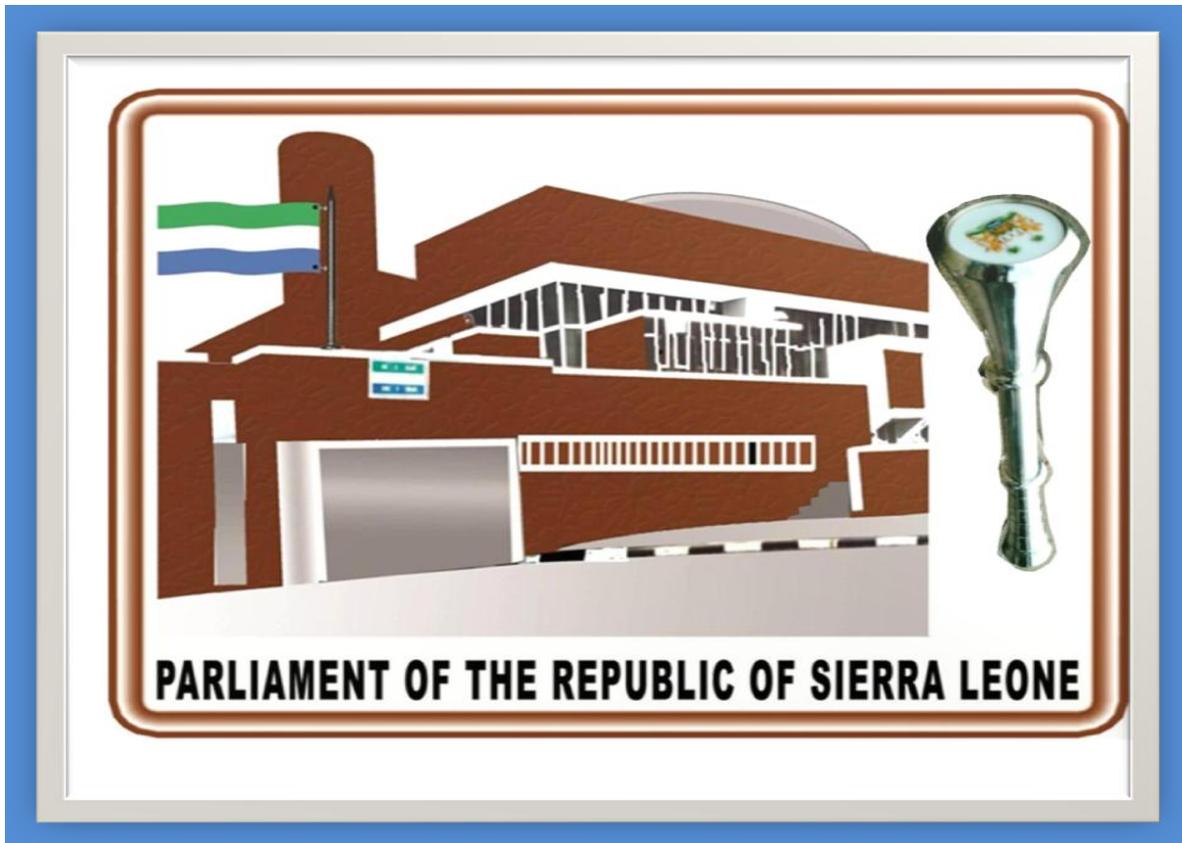
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Wednesday, 31st October, 2018.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2018

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE SIXTEENTH 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 CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 31st October, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 11:25 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2018.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me first of all enquire the whereabouts of the leaderships. Serjeant-At-Arms, I want the Leadership to be present. Honourable Members, there is no mistake about the mood in the House *[Applause]*. I am fully aware without anyone of you saying a word about the mood within the Well of this House. I want to assure you that negotiations have been taking place in earnest and it has reached a point that I consider it my duty to report dutifully to all of you the conclusion we have arrived at. In that regard, I would like to stand down this Parliament and to invite all of us to Committee Room 1 *[Applause]*. I have not finished. I am sure you will all appreciate the critical and sensitive nature of our engagement. As responsible Honourable Members, let us proceed quietly to Committee Room 1 and I shall reveal to you the state of play as of now. When I say all Honourable Members, it includes the leadership of all political parties represented here. I want to remind all of us that the meeting in Committee Room 1 will be in camera. I hope the distinguished members of the media will allow us to meet in camera because discussions are extremely delicate and sensitive. This means whatever is said there will remain within the domain of confidentiality. Once again, I renew the invitation for all of us to rise and go to Committee Room 1. We shall resume the sitting after the discussions in Committee Room 1. I hope all of you will agree with me.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. That is why you are there and we in the Welfare Committee have promised to give you our unflinching support. We are ready to listen. However, Members are no longer afraid of the public and we want them to know that. Secondly, we are not going to accept people doing negotiation on our behalf *[Applause]*. Let Members of Parliament who are getting the burden and are feeling the pains of representing their people to be directly involved in the

negotiation process *[Applause]*. In as much as we are ready to give you our total support, Members are demanding, particularly the Minister of Finance, to be in that meeting *[Applause]*. We respect our leaders, but for this particular meeting, we do not want you to be involved *[Applause]*. We are looking forward to frank discussions, so that you also get the pinch of each Member of Parliament. If not being our Speaker, no Member of Parliament will go out of this Well. However, we will honour you and we will give you our support. We are with you in whatever aspect and we are ready to stand with you. I will remind you for our demands to be heard. No leader should be in the meeting. We want the involvement of the Minister, but not deputy Minister or Financial Secretary [FS]. The Minister of Finance should be in that meeting. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I think the House has heard you loud and clear. I can only emphasise how deeply I feel and how profound my feelings are concerning the issues. You remember some time ago, all of you sent a memorandum to me. You set a Committee that met and prepared the set of those proposals. I am sure you did that with the expectation that your proposals are not simply going to gather dust in my Chambers, but something positive was going to come out from the request contained in those proposals. I have been working quietly to advance the dialogue on those proposals. I do not think I can say to you at this moment in time that we have reached finality, but it is my duty to report to all of you the state that we have arrived at. This is why I am inviting you to Committee Room 1, so that you listen to what I have to say and then we shall together take it a step further.

Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of every Member to please accede to this request and I will not advise that the Leadership of any Political party in Parliament be excluded from those consultations. We have come a long way over the last six to seven months. I am sure this process has been ongoing for quite some time and I think it will not augur well for anybody or any group to exclude the leadership from the consultations we are going to hold. They are equally important to be part and parcel of those consultations. So, whatever feelings you may have about the leadership,

I will ask that you put those feelings aside and work towards moving the process forward.

Honourable Members, to stagnate the process or exclude anybody from the process is not going to give us the progress that we need to achieve. Therefore, I am appealing to all of you, without exception, for us to go to Committee Room 1 and I want you to include the Leadership of all political parties. There will be a Minister in that meeting. You want somebody of Ministerial rank? *[Undertone]*. Honourable Members, I want you to trust my own judgement. Honourable Member, please take your seat for the time being. I want you to recognise that even if the Minister of Finance is not around in person, he has asked his Deputy to represent him at that meeting and to faithfully convey to him whatever transpires there.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have given our support to the Speaker. As A Member of Parliament, we do trust our Speaker and we are neither against him nor the Leadership of this House. We are fighting for ourselves. We trust your judgement and according to the Standing Orders, the Speaker's decision is final and we are not here as Members of Parliament to go against the Standing Orders. On behalf of the welfare Committee, let us go to Committee Room 1 and listen to the Speaker. I want to remind Honourable Members that we are going there to listen and make recommendations. The meeting in Committee Room 1 is not final and I believe Committee Room 1 will be the right place for us to talk. Please Honourable Members, let us go and listen. Thank you all for listening *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for acceding to the request I have made. Parliament consequently will stand down until further notice and we shall all retire to Committee Room 1.

[The House was adjourned at 11:45 am and resumed at 1:40 p.m.]

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS *[Leader of Government Business]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that items III and V be expunged from the Order Paper.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion for items III and V to be expunged from the Order Paper has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we shall now go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25th October, 2018. As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4 and if any Member has any problem with any of those pages, please refer your query to the Table Clerks. We shall now commence consideration of the Votes and Proceedings starting with page 5. Honourable Members, any comment or amendment? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? If there is no correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25th October, 2018 as presented?

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

THE SPAEKER: Any Seconder?

HON. NENEH LEBBIE: I second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 25th October, 2018 has been adopted as presented]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we move to the next item, may I draw your attention to Pages 5 and 6. All the Leaders of political parties, except the APC party and the Independent Members of Parliament at the last sitting endorsed the private Member Motion regarding the pledge I made on behalf of Honourable Members and proffered that the pledge shall commence from January, 2019. Now that we have the Leader of the Opposition here, I do not know whether he is sufficiently armed with the result of the consultations he promised.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH*[Leader of Opposition]*: Not yet, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, I am sorry to remind you that this matter is taken a rather inordinate and prolonged delay. I do not know whether you are contemplating uptill now or you still need time to consult. How much longer do you actually need?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: I will communicate it with you after sitting, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Very well, but like I said, take note that nobody is compelled. There is a clause you can utilise if you want to knock it out. I will however pay heed and wait for our discussion after this sitting. Thank you.

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE SIXTEENTH 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 [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, the seconder is not around and I would want to amend the Order Paper for Honourable Veronical K. Sesay to second this particular Motion.

THE SPEAKER: I would want to refrain from putting that question. You have to propose and when we reach the point, if the seconder is still not here, then we shall consider making the necessary amendment.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Report of the Committee on Appointments and the public Service.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of scrutinising presidential nominees and selecting the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices. The Committee met on Wednesday, 30th October, 2018 and interviewed four presidential nominees for the following appointments:

- [i] Three Members, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone; and
- [ii] Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

2. *Procedure*

The Committee relied on specified documents provided by the nominees and other information obtained from the general public to conduct its hearings. Pertinent questions put to the nominees were centered on their educational backgrounds, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and the nominees' visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. *Sixteenth Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 30th October, 2018.*

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

[i] Mr Shaka Abdulai Mansaray, Proposed Member, Board Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone

Mr Shaka Mansaray is a veteran Civil Servant who joined the Sierra Leone Civil Service as an Assistant Secretary in 1972. He rose through the ranks to the positions of:

- [a] National Security Adviser and Head of the Office of National Security, 1998-2000;
- [b] Secretary to the President and Head of the Civil Service, 2002-2008; and
- [c] Member, Government Team of Consultants, 2008-2009.

In his interview, Mr Shaka Mansaray said: **"If I am given the required blessing of approval by this Honourable Parliament, I promise to draw on my experience and to work to the best of my ability, as I have always done, for the success of the Bank of Sierra Leone and His Excellency's dream for this nation."**

[ii] P. C. Alhaji Alimamy Sorie Katherkeh II, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone

P C. Alhaji Almamy Sorie II Katherkeh is an Agricultural Economist with a wealth of knowledge and work experience in Agricultural Development and Farm Management. Responding to the Committee's inquiries, P C. Alhaji Almamy Sorie II Katherkeh said that he viewed his appointment as a call to national duty. He assured the Committee

that he would put Sierra Leone first and would work to the best of his ability to actualise the plans and dreams of the 'New Direction.'

[iii] Mr Sheikh Rahman Kamara, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone

Mr Sheikh Rahman Kamara is an Information Management Specialist with strong knowledge in Banking Technology and Computer Programmes. From 2011-2013, he served as Director and Secretary to the Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone.

Mr Sheikh Rahman Kamara was most thankful to the President for giving him the opportunity to serve his country as a Member, Board of Directors of the Bank of Sierra Leone. He promised to work with colleague Board members, staff and all relevant stakeholders for the success of the Bank. He also promised to draw on his accumulated knowledge and experience for the attainment of the goals set by the New Direction.

[iv] Mr Alfred Momoh Yarteh, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Mr Alfred Momoh Yarteh is a retired Public Sector Management Specialist. From 2010 to 2013, he served as Commercial Director, National Power Authority [NPA]. Answering to probing questions, Mr Alfred Momoh Yarteh said: **"If approved, I will be going to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank with the fear of God in me."** He assured the Committee that he would adhere strictly to his function as provided in the Act that established the Bank. He promised to work with all stakeholders to restore the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank to its former glory. **"I know for a fact that the Bank has been getting problems, particularly in sorting out their electricity supply with the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDSA]. With my background, I will be a very important asset to help the bank sort out the problems."**

4. Recommendation [s]

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

[i] Mr Shaka Abdulai Mansaray, Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone;

[ii] P. C. Alhaji Alimamy Sorie II Katherkeh, Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone;

[iii] Mr Sheikh Rahman Kamara, Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone; and

[iv] Mr Alfred Momoh Yarteh, Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sixteenth Report is the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Sixteenth 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 Hon. Sidie M. Tunis Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any seconder?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people we have in front of us have gone through the Committee on Appointments and they have been recommended to this House for approval. From the Report that has just been read by the Leader of Government Business, it is clear that they are qualified and all of them are prepared based on the answers they provided to the Committee. They are prepared to take up their responsibilities in the respective areas for which they have been nominated. Therefore, I can not contest that, but to wish them well. I hope after approval by this House, they will serve this country. They are going to serve this Nation and not parties or individual interest. Therefore, I ask that we speedily approve these nominees *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: We are faced with a new and unique situation today. I hope this set of new trend will continue because once we get a Report from the Committee on Appointments, proposed by the Leader of Government Business and seconded by a Member from the Opposition, then we are home and dry *[Applause]*. Let it be on record therefore that this is the first shortest approval ever given by this House. I think it is

also the recognition of the quality of the nominees that His Excellency has provided to this House for approval. I see no one interested in taking the Floor. I take it that refusing to take the Floor is confirmation of what I have just said *[Applause]*. Let us wind up the debate.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH *[Leader of the Opposition]*: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I am not endorsing your statement, but I want to confirm that I was part of the team that interviewed the nominees and on that note, I want to endorse them for approval *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I see the Leader of the Opposition in a different mood today rather pedantic. Nevertheless, I take note sir.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, I want to call on this Honourable House to speedily approve all of these nominees *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader of the Opposition, I think I am right to say that there is a unique situation. No wasting of time.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, on your behalf, it is now my pleasant duty to congratulate the new appointees of His Excellency the President. They can go from this House, not only feeling elated, but also with the belief that they carry, not only the confidence of His Excellency the President, but the confidence and the trust of this entire House right across the aisles. We wish them well. They are of such quality that I have no doubt in my mind that they will excel in their new assignments. Good luck and God bless.

AJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 2:05 p.m. and was ajourned to Thursday, 1st November, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]