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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT APPROVES CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT ASSETS AND PROPERTY

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 12th June 2018 debated and approved the Sixth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, chaired by the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mohamed Sidie Tunis.

In congratulating the nominee after approval and having regards for what the MPs had said, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu said that "he believes the nominee will discharge his duties with a high sense of purpose", whilst wishing him a successful tenure in office.

Introducing the ECOWAS Delegation, headed by Hon. Edwin Snowe, Dr. Bundu said that "the Delegation is on a follow-up visit to Sierra Leone based on assignment they had undertaken about two months ago in the country".

The speaker also recounted his days as Head of ECOWAS in the capacity of Executive Secretary of ECOWAS to which he said it was a gratifying period.

The presidential nominee was approved by Parliament:

I. Mr. Abu Hindolo Moseray-Chairman, National Government's Assets and Property Commission

Seconding the motion, Hon. Bashiru Silikie of the SLPP commended President Bio for keeping to his constitutional mandate by nominating competent Sierra Leoneans into high offices of State. He continued that he had no scintilla of doubt that the nominee will perform as there is no room for failure, cognizant of the contractual agreement between his government and the people of Sierra Leone. He averred that "President Bio is in a hurry to develop and change the lives of the people of Sierra Leone". He also called on the nominee to retrieve, collate, and protect all Government Assets and Property in the country.

In contributing to the debate, the Leader of National Grand Coalition (NGC), Hon. Alhaji Dr. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella implored the nominee "to provide a status report of all Government

Assets and Property, including the OAU Villas and Government Quarters". He concluded by saying that "those assets belong to the people of Sierra Leone and they are not for sale".

Hon. Shiaka Musa Sama, an Independent MP spoke on the lease of private property by government. He however encouraged the nominee to look into those lease agreements which had already expired and re-engage the affected families.

The Opposition Whip, Hon. Hassan Abdoul Sesay of APC stated that the supervision of Government Assets is a "herculean task", whilst decrying civil servants who are 80% occupants of Government Quarters, "for the deteriorating conditions of government Quarters. He called on the nominee to develop a comprehensive data on Government Assets and Property, the retrieval of Government Lands, whilst blaming officials at the Ministry of Lands for allocating such lands belonging to the State to private individuals. He also said that as politicians they only approve and do not handle funds, saying that as MPs, they are working under strenuous conditions, whilst lamenting the lack of maintenance on Government Property. He also commended President Bio "for relieving Mr. Charles F. Margai from his duties as Attorney General and Minister of Justice, describing his tenure as short-lived and characterized with friction, rather than promoting peace, justice, stability and tranquility".

Hon. Veronica K. Sesay of SLPP referred to President Bio as a "very good coach", saying "any player who falls short will be sent on the bench". She espoused that Government Property are acquired through tax payers' money, including women's contributions. She also called on civil servants occupying Government Quarters to mend the cracks, failing which "they should evict those that are handling the OAU Villas with careless abandon".

Hon. Paramount Chief from Kono, Sahr Y.K Mbriwa II spoke on the need for documenting Government Assets and Property in both Freetown and the Provinces. He also talked about the need to conserve our forest and to resolve the numerous inter-chiefdom and boundary disputes in the provinces.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Chernor R.M Bah advised the nominee to work with the relevant line Ministries such as Lands and Transport and expressed the need to support the nominee to succeed in his tenure.

Rounding the debate, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mohamed Sidie Tunis reminded the nominee of the daunting tasks ahead and requested the support of line Ministries, especially the Ministry of Finance to assist the Commission in its work of identifying Government Property that are scattered all over the country.

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