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**PRESS RELEASE**



**PARLIAMENT APPROVES FINANCE MINISTER AND THREE OTHERS**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, has on Friday, 13/01/2023, debated and approved The Eight Report of The Committee on Appointments and Public Service, chaired by The Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma.

The following Presidential Nominees were approved by Parliament:

1. Ing. Alfred Jalil Momodu - Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)

2. Ing. Jacob Lahai - Tarlowoh - Member, Board of Directors, Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA)

3. Mr. Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura - Minister of Finance and

4. Mr. Edward M. Kpakra - Member, Independent Peace Commission - Southern Region.

Presenting the Presidential Nominees, The Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma, stated that, the nominees were interviewed on Thursday, 12/01/2023, in Committee Room One, Parliament Building in Freetown. According to the Leader, the nominees were interviewed based on specified criteria and procedures, not excluding the strict consistency on their educational background, track records, tax obligation, and vision for a nationally productive tenure amongst others.

Seconding the motion, The Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie, explained that President Bio has done his constitutional mandate in nominating people to promote his agenda and Parliament had also scrutinized and approved them. In light of patriotic admonition, he recalled and explained how the lethargic attitude of some approved nominees could cause attrition rate among Members of Parliament and also unseat government: "If these appointees perform, we would come back , and if they fail, we would not come back", he noted. He expressed hope that the nominees would deliver in the interest of the State.

The MP also heaped praises on the nominees, not excluding Mr. Kpakra and referred to the Minister of Finance as a man who is very genuine and best suit for the position.

He further spoke well of the youthful Director General of SLRA, in light of the confidence bestowed on him by President Bio. "I hope he would perform, because if he succeeds, more young people would gain jobs", he noted. He called on the nominee to fix many deplorable roads, as he gave some advice to Ing. Tarlowoh.

Hon. Dr. Mark-Mahmoud Kalokoh recounted the interview process of the nominees and informed the plenary that the latter possessed educational

qualifications and experience. He entreated them to work in tandem with their interview, as he admonished them to deliver. He called on the House to also approve the three other nominees.

The MP gave a special tribute to the Minister of Finance, in assuring the House of the commitment and capability of the latter. He assured everyone that the minister would be able to handle the State finance well, and build the state economy through taxation and would be a listening Minister and respecter of the rule of law. He continued to heap praises on the Minister of Finance and joined others in thanking President Bio for appointing him.

An independent MP from Kailahun, Hon. Lolloh Tongi, described them as fine nominees with the requisite qualifications. While heaping praises on some of the nominees, on behalf of her constituents, she profusely thanked the government and ended off in commending the Minister of Finance.

The President of the Female Caucus, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay, expressed her trust and confidence in the nominees and stated that the President did not make any mistake in appointing the nominees. She encouraged them to go and deliver. She zoomed out some nominees, including the Minister of Finance and Deputy Director General, for their outstanding performances. She advised them to work in tandem with the expected vision and interest of the State.

Hon. Dr. Roland Kargbo thanked the President for the nomination, but raised concerns over gender balance. He reiterated that the nominees are qualified and expressed great expectations on their output in addressing the global problem. He utilized the opportunity in drawing the attention of all to a certain road construction in Karena District.

Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh also thanked Ing. Momodu, and recalled his generous relationship and friendship with him. He informed the House that the Minister of Finance is the first ever appointee from Kambia District. He encouraged him to continue to perform in light of economic transformation.

Hon. Musa Fofana saluted the President on behalf of his people for appointing the Minister of Finance. He recalled the good work of Ing. Momodu, amidst praises. He expressed his unreserved confidence in the presidential nominees and affirmed the

fact that President Bio has appointed professionals who are capable enough to man the various positions they have been appointed into.

Hon. Dr. Sheku Muniru Turay followed with an expression of thanks and pinpointed the issues of performance and outputs. He raised concerns and suggested to Parliament to track down on performance. He advised the Minister of Finance to look into matters of financial leakages and asked the road sector nominees to work in collaboration.

Hon. Neneh Lebbie congratulated the nominees and categorically informed them that there is no space for failure. She noted that President Bio wanted to achieve his manifesto and that is the more reason they are replacing others. She described Ing. Momomdu to be a very receptive man. She encouraged him to continue in keeping up with the good work. She told the Minister of Finance to consider his position as the life wire of the country. She also advised Mr. Kpakra to work towards the enhancement of peace.

Hon. Hindolo Ngevaeo expressed happiness over the appointment, in the light of youthfulness, nationalism, and merits. He recalled the previous appointment and promotion of the Minister of Finance and admonished him to work hard, in order to address the inflation and global challenges as well as limited cash flow and promote agricultural production.

Hon. Mohamed Lansana thanked President Bio for the appointment of Mr. Kpakra and the Minister of Finance as well as others. He also heaped praises on the appointees.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee in Parliament, Hon. Francis Amara Kai Samba, narrated that the nominees are qualified, and in order for peace to be achieved, he admonished one of the nominees, Mr. Kpakra, to embrace and embark on peace and national cohesion.

The MP said that they are pretty sure of the Finance Minister's performance. He acknowledged the conclusive success of all the appointees.

In his submission to the debate, The Leader of C4C, Hon. Emerson Saa Lamina, exponentially stated that the nomination is a testament to the fact that Sierra

Leone has gotten no shortage of good people. He recalled the good work of Parliament and their devotion and commitment in approving budgets and other related works. He utilized the opportunity to ask the nominees to do well as Parliament has approved. In light of the admonition to the Minister of Finance, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina referred to other countries, amid good financial management.

Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina heaped praises on all the nominees, and thanked President Bio for his unflinching commitment to constructing roads. He further said that the nation needs peace experts like Mr. Kpakra who had undertaken pragmatic roles. He ended off by prevailing on colleague MPs to approve the nominees.

The Acting Leader of NGC, Hon. Foday Marion Kamara, recalled his statement of endorsing the sacking of some state officers and that his prediction has come to pass. He also insisted on the changing of some financial policies for better economic transformation. He asked his colleagues to approve The Minister of Finance and advised the latter to improve the economy in order to reflect on the welfare of the people.

In rounding off the debate, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Amadu Kanu, thanked all who had earlier spoken to the debate. He recalled the scrutiny of the nominees and informed the House on how the nominees were properly interviewed and also told colleague MPs that they are adequately and suitably qualified for their various positions. He called on the House to approve them. He used the opportunity to advise the nominees and called on them to work well, particularly now that the country is approaching elections. "You nominees should live up to the expectations of the President" he stated.

In concluding the debate, The Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Nyuma, expressed thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed to the debate. He advised the Minister of Finance to improve on policies that would improve the economy. He spoke about the good reception of the Minister and compared the good policies of other countries, in light of transformation of economies. He spoke about the high level of collaboration, relative to addressing the challenges of the road network. In a patriotic mood, the Leader used the opportunity to advise all and sundry to work toward achieving peace and National

cohesion. He later proceeded to reiterate effective and efficient work of the current Parliament and informed the Minister to consider their welfare. He went on to inform the House of the powerful nature of the nominees and asked them to go and deliver in the interest of the State.

In his felicitation, the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu, advised the nominees to work in the interest of the State and also encouraged them to work in tandem with President Bio's developmental agenda. "Nothing succeeds in life like success itself" he stated. The Speaker congratulated the nominees on behalf of Parliament. He admonished and wished them well in their new offices.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department

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