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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT APPROVES SUPREME COURT JUDGE, HIGH COMMISSIONER AND A CHAIRMAN

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 approved with unanimity the Eleventh Report of its Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, chaired by the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma.

The following presidential nominees were approved by Parliament:

1. Hon. Justice Miatta Maria Samba-Supreme Court Judge
2. Ms Isata Aminata Bundu-High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya and
3. Mr. Conrad Sackey-Chairman, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission

Seconding the motion, Leader of C4C, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina acclaimed the nominees as qualified for their respective appointments by President Bio. He said the appointment of Miatta Samba would enhance the democratic credentials of Sierra Leone and called on her to work in the best interest of the country. He congratulated her for her elevation to serve the International Criminal Court (ICC), holden in The Hague, Netherlands.

Being a teacher himself, he called on the Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) to play a pivotal role aimed at improving the education sector in the country.

He appealed to the High Commissioner to Nairobi, Ms Bundu to attract foreign direct investments to the country; thereby creating employment opportunities for the citizenry.

Hon. Williams Lamin, speaking on the need for the actualization of affirmative action, he called on the nominees to deliver on their respective appointments for the progress and development of the country.

He called on the High Commissioner to leverage on the legacies of her family by delivering on her appointment.

Hon. Abdul Latif Sesay referred to the nominees as "performers" and urged Justice Samba to dispense justice devoid of political considerations. He called on the Chairman of TSC to understand the issues on the ground and develop innovative ways of overcoming them.

Speaking on expectations, he said the High Commissioner is a descendant of Port Loko, but that she is currently on loan to Karene District; assuring that she is qualified and would perform beyond expectations.

Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silikie referred to the nominees as qualified and urged them to deliver on their appointments; adding MPs would knock on their doors to take development to their Constituencies. He called on the Chairman TSC to do well by overcoming the challenges affecting that sector. He said he was satisfied with the conduct of Justice Samba, the reason why she was frequently facing Parliament for additional responsibilities.

Speaking on the High Commissioner to Nairobi, he urged her to succeed in order to pave the way for other young people to serve in high offices of State.

Speaking on gender equality, Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally urged Justice Samba to do well at the ICC so as to bring more laurels to the womenfolk in Sierra Leone. She called on the Chairman of TSC to embrace team work in order to succeed on his new appointment.

She called on the High Commissioner to Nairobi "to make the Bundu family proud" by delivering on her appointment.

Hon. Rebecca Y. Kamara said the nominees presented by President Bio in light of gender equality has sent a clear message, "that it's now time for women to liberate Sierra Leone"; adding she has no doubt that they would do well in their respective appointments.

Calling on the Chairman of TSC to use his international experience to fix the problems plaguing the education sector; Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella cited recent events in USA, and called for

judicial independence aimed at interpreting, protecting and sustaining democracy in Sierra Leone.

Hon. Sorieba Turay aka "Tamemko" speaking on love for the nominees, especially his sister, High Commissioner to Nairobi, he called on them to work harder so as to deliver on their appointments.

Speaking on challenges affecting the education sector, Hon. James O. Thollie called on the nominees to do all they could in order to succeed in their respective appointments.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said he was impressed with the nomination of women to serve in high offices of State. Judging the importance of education, which he said had suffered neglect for far long, he called on the Chairman TSC to contribute his part by overcoming these challenges spanning recruitments and improved conditions of service for Teachers.

Recalling school days, he said Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu came first among his peers including himself, Dr. Samura Kamara in a test for which he was recognized as an would be diplomat in Form Three. That, he said had come to pass, and now his daughter is going to serve in similar capacity.

He called on Justice Samba to raise the bar for the Judiciary of Sierra Leone in respect of her local and international assignments.

Following no controverted contribution by MPs, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Chernor Bah deemed the nominees as qualified for their various appointments.

He said the High Commissioner to Nairobi is competent and qualified for the job and that she is not riding on the shoulders of her father.

He said the TSC is still on it embryonic stage, and encouraged its Chairman to work with Parliament and confer with his predecessor to overcome those challenges.

Speaking on the appointment of Justice Samba, he said the Judiciary is made up of good men and women who should do everything to protect their image and reputation as there is life after the Judiciary and Parliament.

Concluding, Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Nyuma spoke on the need for allowing the judiciary to do its work devoid of political interferences; adding that the nominees

are qualified for their respective appointments by President Bio. He also supported the view of using the Judiciary as a platform for the protection of our democracy.

He said issues surrounding education should neither be politicized nor toyed with as it is the only legacy for now and the future generations.

Hon. Nyuma said that the new High Commissioner to Nairobi is qualified for her appointment and encouraged her to emulate the good work of her father and Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu during his tour of duties.

Acting Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas congratulated the nominees on approval and encouraged them to serve in the best interest of the country.

In another development, the Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 ratified these agreements geared toward improving the health and education sectors by the establishment of the University of Science and Technology in Koidu Town, Kono District.

The following agreements were ratified by Parliament:

1. Loan Agreement Between the ECOWAS Bank For Investment and Development (EBID) and the Republic of Sierra Leone for the Partial Financing of the Construction of the University of Science and Technology in Koidu Town, Kono District in the Republic of Sierra Leone , Loan No. 147/AP/LA/BIDC/EBID/OS/2020
2. Loan Agreement Between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Islamic Development Bank Regarding the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Strengthening Project In Sierra Leone, Dated 26th June 2020.

Prior to ratification, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr. Patricia Laverley highlighted the significance of the establishment of a University in Kono District and noted that \$34 Million is set aside for the construction of the University; furthering that the other would enhance and improve the health sector considerably.

Submitting to the ratification of the University Agreement, Leader of C4C, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina welcomed the initiative of Government to construct of a brand new and Modern University in Kono District; underscoring the happiness expressed by the people of Kono District. "This time around, we will not be mining stones but we will be mining minds", he stated. He recalled the failures of past Governments and mining companies that had benefited so much from the District without constructing a University for the people of Kono.

Rounding, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Chernor RM Bah supported the ratification of these agreements for the development of the nation. He called on the Ministry of Finance to supply Parliament with a schedule of all loans and grants that have been ratified by Parliament for the purposes of keeping track of such loans and grants.

Concluding, Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma thanked Government for the positive initiative for the construction of a University in Kono District; adding that the agreements focused on the aspect of improving technology and training of lecturers. He spoke on the benefits the agreements would bring to the University, the people of Kono and the health sector.

Other MPs who spoke to the motion appreciated Government for developing and improving the health and education sectors in the country.

In another development also, the Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 with unanimity enacted into law with some amendments, a Bill entitled: "The Medical Examiners Act, 2020"; aimed at establishing the office of a Chief Medical Examiner.

The Bill is seeking to repeal and replace the Coroners Act, 1907 (Cap9) to establish the position of Chief Medical Examiner; to provide for the appointment of the Chief Medical Examiner and other staff; to require the reporting of particular deaths; to establish the procedures for investigation into particular deaths; including issues relating to public health or safety and the administration of justice and to provide for other related matters.

The Bill was piloted by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Lahai Lawrence Leema; following committal and presentation of a Report to the Plenary in respect of same by the Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Hon. Sulaiman Marray-Conteh before passage into law with some amendments.

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