



**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDING
OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL
FREETOWN**

E-mail: sierraleoneparliament@hotmail.com/admin@parliament.gov.sl



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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT OKAYS TWO PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 25/1/2022 with unanimity, debated and approved the Sixth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service chaired by the Acting Leader of Government Business Hon. Bashiru Silkie.

The following Presidential Nominees were approved by Parliament:

1. Mrs.Princess Dugba - Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation and
2. Mr.Bokarie Kalokoh- Deputy Minister of Finance 2 Ministry of Finance

Seconding the motion, Opposition Whip Hon. Hassan Sesay commended the appointment of the nominees by the President to serve the nation and called on the proposed Deputy Minister of Health to join hands with the Minister of Health to address the issues surrounding Pincode for the newly recruited nurses. On Deputy Minister 2 of Finance, he described him as a friend of Parliament and the people of Sierra Leone and urged him to transform the Finance Ministry as the way he transformed the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

Hon. Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella Leader of NGC commended Mr.Kalokoh for his proposed nomination and called him to add value to the Ministry of Finance based on his experience, in the banking sector; adding that private-public partnership is an engine for development. In the health sector, he called on the nominee to inject new development policies into the health sector.

Hon. Dickson Momoh Rogers Chief Whip of Parliament said the nominee for the Ministry of Health is bound to succeed, because she is a practicing Medical Officer and urged her to address the challenges facing the health sector. He spoke well on the appointment of Mr.Kalokoh and wish them well in their new assignments.

On his part, Hon. Abdul Kargbo referred to the nominees as "good people" and praised the experience acquired by these nominees to serve the nation. He applauded the president for nominating well-qualified Sierra Leoneans to serve the nation.

Hon. Joseph William-Lamin welcomed the appointments of the nominees and called on them to deliver for the interest of the nation.

Hon. Dr. Unfpha Sorie Gbassay Koroma commended the appointments of the nominees and called on the Deputy Health Minister to address the supply of essential drugs in the hospital and deprived communities in the country. He also acknowledged the work of Mr. Kalokoh in the service delivery for the nation.

Hon. Emerson Saa Lamina Leader of C4C said the nominees' curriculum vitae speak volumes in their contributions to society. He also spoke well and urged them to perform and delivered.

Hon. Allieu Ibrahim Kamara commended the President for nominating a good experience Sierra Leonean to serve and called on the nominee for Health to address issues of sanitation in hospitals around the country

Rounding up the debate, the Acting Leader of Opposition Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo commended the nominees for their nominations by the President and said Sierra Leone has one of the best Health Minister, in the subregion of Dr. Austin Demby and believes the new Deputy Minister with a health background would deliver quickly for the nation. On the Deputy Minister of Finance Mr. Kalokoh, the Acting Leader of Opposition expressed hope that, based on his experience in the finance sector he would deliver.

Concluding the debate, the Acting Leader of Government Business Hon. Bashiru Silikie commended his colleague MPs for their wonderful contributions to the nominees. He spoke well on the nomination of the two nominees and urged them to perform for the nation; "The country is in dire need for developments and achievements ", he asserted.

In his facilitation statements, the Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu said the nominees are eminently qualified and wish them well in their new assignments

In another development also, Parliament has debated and passed into law with some amendments, "The Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (Amendment)Act, 2022".

The Bill seeks to amend the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority Act, 2022 to provide adequate protection to the public, workers, and the environment against the harmful effects of radiation and to provide for other related matters.

The Minister of Environment Prof. Dr. Foday Jaward presented the Bill to Parliament

MPs who spoke during the debate supported the passage of the Bill and highlighted its significance towards the development of the state.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department
Parliament of Sierra Leone
+23278495023/+23276625960