

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

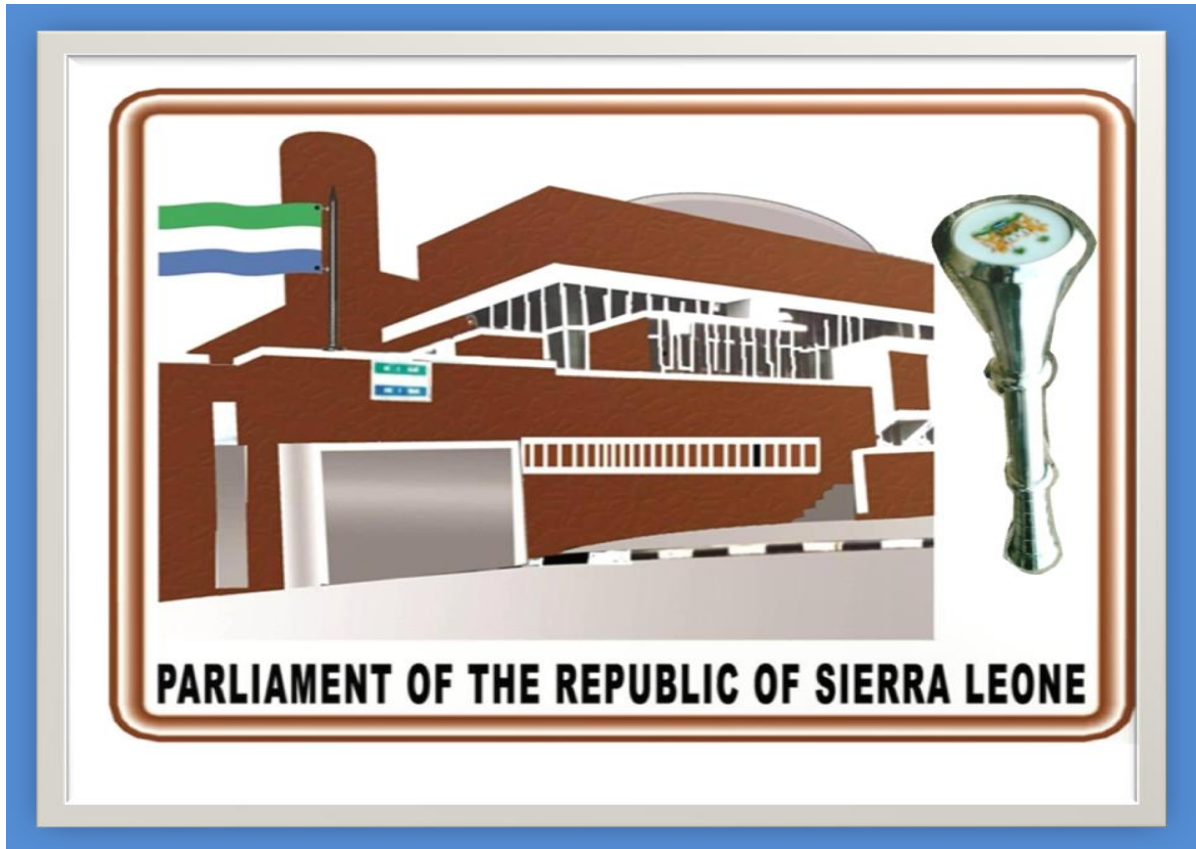
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: II**

**NUMBER: 43**

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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, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

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**IV. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

PROPOSED: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TWENTY-SECOND 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.

**V. PRIVATE MEMBER MOTION**

PROPOSER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

SECONDER: HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMN THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF STREET VIOLENCE IN SIERRA LEONE AND CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PUT AN IMMEDIATE END TO IT



*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

**Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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

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**WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:55 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

*The House was called to Order*

*Suspension of S.O. 5[2]*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to amend the Order Paper thus: immediately under item II, we now have 'Laying of Paper;' to be followed by Report of the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Pacific, Africa and Caribbean [ALDEPAC] 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 Kigali, Rwanda. Therefore, item I is now item II and item II becomes item III. This means we now have three Papers to be laid instead of two.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, can you assure me that the Papers have been distributed?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** We have them here. These are the three documents.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is the Motion, Honourable Members. Any seconder?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Amendment of the Order Paper has been carried]*

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS HELD ON THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go to the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. As usual, we will skip pages 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the understanding that if you have any problems, you will refer them to the Clerk. We go straight to Page 5. Any amendments, comments or observations? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9?

**HON. ALUSINE KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the last line on Page 9. The word is not 'metrological,' but 'Meteorological.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Page 10? Page 11?

**HON. ALUSINE KAMARA:** Under Standing Order on Page 11, the fourth line except otherwise, but I think it should be Sierra Leone Muslim Congress and the Leone is omitted. It should read Sierra Leone Muslim Congress.

**THE SPEAKER:** One thing I like about you, Honourable Member, you do read the Votes and Proceedings very well and congratulations. Any other observations, amendments or comments? Yes.

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** Page 8. Honourable Boston Munda, Constituency 021, Karene District, it should be Kenema District.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think that is a very major mistake, Mr Clerk. I do not know how that came about. Page 11? Page 12? For Members who may not have been present during the sitting of the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 an issue was raised under Standing Order 23 on page 11 and that is why we have it on the Order Paper today, which is the 'Private Member Motion.' So, we shall move to the Votes and Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I want clarification.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well in that case, I will invite the Leader of Government Business to make the clarification you are seeking. He did make an amendment earlier.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it still remains as five. The addition made is just sub-headings.

**THE SPEAKER:** That was my understanding as well. So, we move on. Pages 1-6.

**HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I want to make correction on Page 2. The abbreviation for Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation should read SLBC and not S-L-C-D [*Laughter*].

**THE SPEAKER:** Which page are you referring to, Honourable Member?

**HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA:** Roman figure III, the second line.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted, Honourable member. Thank you very much.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Page 1, under the names. I did not see my name here and I was present.

**THE SPEAKER:** You were present?

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, what do you have to say? The Clerk is telling me he did not see you. You may have brisk in and brisk out again *[Laughter]*. Is that the case? Did you catch the Clerk's eyes when you walked in?

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, I believe I was present and I participated in the process. The Deputy Leader can attest to that because we sat here together.

**THE SPEAKER:** I know you are an Honourable man. So, I accept your explanation.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, the correction will be made. Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? I noticed a document is been distributed.

**HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Page 9, the spelling for the word 'debate' is not correct. It should be 'd-e-b-a-t-e.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. One thing is certain, if I ever received a request for a proof reader, you will certainly be the one *[Laughter]*.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I appreciate your respect for Members of Parliament on this side, but as a matter of emphasis, that what we are going through should be seen as a very serious enterprise and therefore it is also a clear indication that the clerks must do a little bit more than they are doing at the moment. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think there is one thing I share with Honourable Ibrahim. B Kargbo and that is we come from an alma mater where perfection is deemed to be a virtue and I fully agree with you. Honourable Hassan, great respect to you.

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. MOSES B. JORKIE:** I so second, Mr Speaker

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings, held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 have been adopted as amended respectively]*



III. HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** MR Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lay the following papers:

[i] Parliament of Sierra Leone Delegation to the [ACPEUJPA] Report of the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Pacific, Africa and Caribbean [ALDEPAC] 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 Kigali, Rwanda.

[ii] First Report-Parliament of Sierra Leone Delegation to ACP-EU Parliamentary Assemblies

The 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Caribbean Pacific [ACP] Parliamentary Assembly and 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly [JPA], From 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium

[iii] Second Report - Parliament of Sierra Leone Delegation to ACP-EU Parliament Assemblies.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the African Caribbean Pacific [ACP] Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly [JPA], From 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium [*Applause*].

#### **IV. MOTION 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 and vetting Presidential nominees and selecting the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices, met on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 to interview fourteen Presidential nominees.

##### *2. PROCEDURE*

The Committee relied on specified documents provided by the nominees and other information obtained from the general public to conduct the hearings. Pertinent questions put to the nominees were related 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 by the Committee.

**3. *TWENTY-FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018.***

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

**[i] *Dr Victor Massaquoi, Proposed Member, Tertiary Education Commission [TEC]***

Dr Victor Massaquoi is an educationist with over twenty-five years work experience in organisational management, advocacy, project implementation, media and communication management, and social policy analysis. He is currently, serving as the Country Director and Head of Programmes of Voluntary Service Overseas, an International Non-governmental Organisation.

Reacting to questions on his role on the Commission, he said, "According to the Act, Members of the Commission are to develop policies for all universities in this country as well as the polytechnics. For me, I would have to ensure that those policies are created to ensure that we have an effective tertiary education in this country. My second function would be to ensure that we have a very good research system in the country particularly in academia. Thirdly, we are meant to work with the universities to develop policies that would help the universities make money on their own."

**[ii] *Dr Janette E. P. Saidu, Proposed Member, Tertiary Education Commission***

Dr Janette Saidu is an Educationist of no mean standing. She has Scientific, Technical and functional experience and knowledge of Food Science, Nutrition, Administration/Management, Public Administration, policy Development etc. backed by a wealth of experience in teaching, Research and Administration.

Dr Janette Saidu viewed her nomination as a call to national service and a pay-back time for what this country has done for her. **"I promise to do my best,"** she said.

[iii] Mr Joseph Abdul Yamba Mansaray, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone State Lottery Company Ltd

Mr Joseph Mansaray is a Marketing and Sales Executive with extensive work experience as Sales Representative of the Aureol Tobacco Company. From 2004 - 2008, he served as a Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone State Lottery Company.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries about how to resuscitate the Sierra Leone State Lottery, he said, **"If I obtain the approval of this Honourable House, I will first of all ask to see the minutes of Board meetings for the last few years to know what was actually going on. Secondly, we will try to set up an aggressive sales and marketing team. I was there before as a Board member and was Chairman of the marketing sub-committee. Lotto is a marketing institution and one has to do a lot of marketing for Lotto to rise again."**

[iv] Mrs Williette Princess Ransolina Oluwakemi James, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]

Mrs Williette James is an acclaimed Media professional with proven skills and knowledge in News Production and Management, multimedia production and print media. She is currently serving as Head of Mass Communications Department, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Reacting to the concerns of Members, Ms James said **"the SLBC is a national institution that is meant to accommodate all shades of opinions irrespective of political party, ethnic or religious considerations. Hence it should not be politicized."**

[v] Mr James Bibi Maiah Vincent, Chairman, National Youth Commission

Mr James Vincent is an experienced Researcher and Consultant on Youth Development and Employment Creation Programmes, Governance, Agriculture, Development and Conflict-related issues in Sierra Leone and the Mano River Region. He also possesses expert knowledge in international and sustainable development, children and youth development and programme/project management. From 2015

to 2016 he served as Interim Education Coordinator [Volunteer basis] and Board Member of SOS.

Addressing the concerns of Members for the youths, Mr Vincent promised to do his best with the support of other members of the Board. **“As a team, we would be able to proffer solutions to the challenges facing the Commission. I have been working with youths since the early 1990s. My basic approach would be in not just using hardware. I would also try to use the software approach i.e. introducing them to the skills that will help them change their attitude, their behaviour and their approach to life and probably encourage them to develop and utilize their self-esteem,”** he said.

*[vi] Mr Edward Benedict King, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission*

Mr Edward King is a Media Practitioner and Public officer. He is currently serving as the Acting Director of Information.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries on his role as the representative of the Minister on the IMC Board, he said, **“the Ministry has a strong relationship with the Independent Media Commission and the Ministry oversees the IMC in terms of its functions and policies. It is therefore incumbent on the representative of the Ministry on the IMC Board, to inform the Ministry of the activities of the IMC, so that they will be synergy between the IMC and the Ministry of Information.”**

*[vii] Ms Alberta Josephine Demby, National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA]*

Ms Alberta Josephine Demby is the Principal of Saint Joseph’s Senior Secondary School, Freetown. She is also serving as the Financial Secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission [JPC], sacred Heart Cathedral, Freetown.

Answering to probing questions, Ms Alberta Demby said, **“I will ensure that the laws governing NaCSA are implemented to the letter and the objectives of the Commission will be assiduously pursued.”**

*[viii] Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo, Proposed Commissioner, Rights to*

*Access Information Commission [RAIC]*

Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo is a professional teacher with excellent communication skills. He is currently, the Head Teacher SLMB Primary School, Matotoka.

Mr Kargbo was commended across party line as a young, dynamic and patriotic Sierra Leonean, who is working very hard to help his people in the Matotoka Community. Mr Kargbo promised to continue working hard for the success of the 'New Direction.'

*[ix] Madam Mary Jeneba Coker, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]*

Ms Mary Jeneba Coker is a Public Sector Management expert with entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

Answering to probing questions, Madam Jeneba Coker said that as a Board Member, she will be representing the women of this country. She promised to ensure that the work of SLBC is not politicised.

*[x] Mr John Gbondo Margai, Proposed Member Board of Directors Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr John Margai is a Clearing and Forwarding Executive with advance training in clearing and forwarding operations. He is currently serving as the operations Manager, Deesimi Clearing and Forwarding Agency.

Mr Margai was commended for his popularity as a hardworking person, who without doubt, would deliver. He was admonished to cooperate with other Members of the Board for the good of the country.

*[xi] Alhaji Abu Bakarr Fofana, Proposed Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority [SLRSA] Board*

Alhaji Abu Bakarr Fofana is a popular Businessman and Muslim Cleric of no mean standing. Addressing the concerns of the Committee on the delays in the issuance of vehicle licenses, he said that the Road Safety Authority has its own laws and regulations about vehicle licensing and called for adherence, by the public to those regulations.

*[xii] Mr Sahr Johnny, Proposed Chairman Minerals Advisory Board*

Mr Sahr Johnny is a retired Diplomat and Public officer who served as Sierra Leone Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to the People's Republic of China. He is also a recipient of the Presidential Award of Grand Commander of the Order of Rokel [GCOR] for meritorious service to the nation in mining and diplomacy.

Mr Sahr Johnny was commended across party lines as a patriotic Sierra Leonean. Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Sahr Johnny deposed that he is coming from a diplomatic background. **"While I was a diplomat, I kept in touch with mining activities in my home district of Kono. Even in my diplomatic pursuit, I did talk to companies in China to come and help us with our mineral resources because, in my view, we are not deriving maximum benefit from our minerals. If I am approved by this Honourable House, I can assure you, Honourable Members, that I make a difference,"** he said.

*[xiii] Ms Rosaline Katimu Amara, Proposed Member, Board Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLCB]*

Ms Rosaline Katimu Amara is a Media practitioner with good interpersonal and leadership skills. She is currently serving as media monitor for Press Freedom. In her interview, Ms Amara said that being a media practitioner, she will do her best to take the SLBC to another level. She promised to ensure that SLBC is not politicised.

*[xiv] Mr Sillaty Daboh, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr Sillaty Dabor is a Mechanical Engineer with a wealth of experience in Administrative and Financial Management. From 2001 to 2003 he served as a Technician of UNAMSIL, Freetown.

Mr Daboh promised to cooperate with other Members of the Board to develop good policies for the good of the country. **"I will do my best"**, he said.

Twenty-Fourth Sitting of the Committee on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

[i] Mr Eke Ahmed Halloway, proposed Chairman, Anti-Corruption Advisory Board

Mr Eke Ahmed Halloway is a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Sierra Leone, who served as Attorney General and Minister of Justice from 2002 – 2004. Mr Eke Halloway was commended across party lines as being over-qualified for his proposed appointment. Mr. Halloway promised to give of his best for the good of his country.

[ii] Mr Sabieu Conteh, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Rokel Commercial Bank Limited

Mr Sabieu Conteh is a Public Sector Management specialist and administrator with a wealth of knowledge in Procurement Administration and International Competitive Bidding processes. From November 1992 to November 2013 he served as Assistant Director of the Petroleum Unit.

Mr Sabieu Conteh was highly commended across party lines as a hardworking man and a **"go getter."** Mr Sabieu Cotneh, while thanking the Honourable Members for their kind sentiments, promised to do his best to actualized His Excellency, the President's vision for this country.

[iii] Mrs Mary Wuyata Karimu, Proposed Commissioner Right to Access Information Commission [RAIC]

Mrs Mary Karimu is a Senior Lecturer at the Eastern Polytechnic. From 2013 to 2017, she served as Female Warden of the Eastern Polytechnic. Explaining what she would be doing on the Commission, Mrs Karimu said that information is power and information is required for development. Hence, Mrs Karimu promised to ensure that the people's right to information is respected and enforced.

[iv] Dr Joseph Maada Korsu Kandeh, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation [SALHOC] Board

Dr Joseph Maada Korsu Kandeh is a Geographic Information Systems Management Expert with over twenty years of experience in Humanitarian Assistance, Data Analysis and Project Management. He is currently serving as GIS/IMIS Consultant, Gietrenk Project of National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA].

Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Dr Kandeh said **"I am prepared for the job in spite of the huge challenges that lie ahead. I think I want to challenge myself. The Sierra Leone Housing Corporation was established by an Act of Parliament in 1992 and charged with the responsibility of providing affordable housing for the low income earners. The housing situation in the country is currently deplorable and this is because the Housing estates established by SALHOC, the OAU villas, Seventh Battalion, the Goderich estates etc. are not yielding the expected revenue needed to provide more houses. Tenants in most of these estates are just not paying their rents. This is where I think Government should intervene...."**

The Committee did not however agree with Dr. Kandeh because SALHOC is an independent entity given all the powers to take legal action against defaulting tenants.

#### *5. 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] Ms Alberta J. Nancy Demby, Member, National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA];
- [ii] Mr James Vincent, Chairman, National Youth Commission;
- [iii] Mr Edward King, Member, Independent Media Commission;
- [iv] Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo, Commissioner, Right to Access Information Commission
- [v] Ms Mary Jeneba Coker, Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation;
- [vi] John Gbondo Margai, Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- [vii] Ms Willette James Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation;
- [viii] Dr Janette E. P. Saidu, Proposed Member, Tertiary Education Commission;
- [ix] Mr Joseph Abdul Yamba Mansaray- Chairman, Sierra Leone State Lottery Company Ltd;
- [x] Dr Victor Massaquoi, Member, Tertiary Education Commission;
- [xi] Ambassador Sahr Johnny, Chairman, Minerals Advisory Board;
- [xii] Mr Sillaty Daboh, Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority
- [xiii] Ms Rosaline Katumu Amara, Member, Board of Trustees, SLBC



[xiv] Alhaji Abu Bakarr Fofana, Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority [SLRSA] Board;

[xv] Dr Joseph Maada Korsu Kandeh, Chairman Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation [SALHOC] Board;

[xvi] Mrs Mary Wuyata Karimu, Commissioner, Right to Access Information Commission;

[xvii] Mr Sabieu Conte, Member, Board of Directors, Rokel Commercial Bank Limited; and

[xviii] Mr Eke Ahmed Halloway, Chairman, Anti-Corruption Advisory Board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twenty-Second Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twenty-Second 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 SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Leader of the House for his presentation of the report. I want clarification if you do not mind on one little matter. I will invite him to the Table. My little matter has been clarified.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here to approve people who have been nominated to serve in various capacities by the President. Of course, it is a routine activity for Members of Parliament to approve Sierra Leoneans who have been scrutinised by the Committee on Appointments. We have no reason to believe or to think that they are not good enough to serve in the capacities they have been nominated. As we all know, we will not stand in the way of those who have been nominated to serve this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will humbly ask this House to approve these nominees, so that they will go and work for Sierra Leone. I want to admonish the nominees to put away party politics in place of national interest. You might have been nominated because of the role you played to help the process, but you are now going to serve the people of Sierra Leone. So, I want to ask my colleagues to approve these nominees. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank you for your contribution as usual, Honourable Member. I now recognise the lady to my right.

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is another glorious day for this country. His Excellency made no mistake in nominating these gentlemen and women to serve our country. From the nominees before us, I can state here that the President is giving more chances to the women. For example, there are five women who are amongst the nominees we have before us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Gbondo Margai, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. Mr Gbondo Margai is a very fine gentleman. He has served this country diligently and he is well known in this country, especially within the Sierra Leone People's Party. He is the brain behind the success of the SLPP. He was the chairman of the National Green Promoters Association. He has worked very well and he has supported me in particular to become an Honourable Member of Parliament. He has been all over the country and he knows no boundary. He cuts across ethnic lines in this country. He made us proud and he has proved his mettle. I have no doubt in his ability to perform and I think he will do better. We are now asking Mr Gbondo Margai to do more than what he has done for this country. Mr Gbondo Margai is being put in the right place and I believe he will do well. He will deliver *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to another person, a woman for the matter and that person is Mrs Mary Wuyatta Karimu. Mrs Wuyatta Karimu is loved by people of Kenema District. She is a woman of substance. She has delivered in Kenema district being a lecturer in polytechnic a lot of pupils have gone through her hands, she has done well. She was one of the aspirants, she did not win, not because she was not capable but because of small mistakes, that was the only thing but she can deliver. Being in that position, she cared for women; she promoted women of Kenema district and the entire Sierra Leone. She has been the district President of the female Caucus of all the aspirants not only SLPP, but all the political parties in Kenema district. So I am asking for an immediate approval of Mrs Wuyatta Karimu to go and do her job. The other person is Mrs Mary Jeneba Coker. Mrs Jeneba Coker

is a former councillor. I was in the council with her and she works very hard. She was the health Committee Chairperson after me. She has served in the council for Bo city council for two terms and she was very active promoting women empowerment at all levels. She is very good and she is ready to go and do her job. Mrs Coker, what I believe you have done in the past you will continue and do it even better. I thank His Excellency for giving us these fine nominees. I cannot talk about all the nominees. I therefore ask this House to approve them without further delay. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution to the debate. I will entertain only six more speakers on this particular item, three from each side of the aisle. I recognise the Honourable Member.

**HON. DR MARK M. KALOKOH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not bore this House with a lot of jargons this morning. I will start with Dr Victor Massaquoi. My colleague described him as a fine nominee. Well, I will further describe some of them as beautiful and handsome. Let me inform this House that the appointment of Dr Victor Massaquoi is no mean a trial because he is a very good person who is full of initiatives. He can strategise in a very short moment to produce positive results [*Applause*]. Having worked with Dr Victor Massaquoi over the years, I know he can perform well in his new assignment. However, I want to inform him that the University of Sierra Leone has numerous problems. For instance, one of such institutions is the National Council for Technical and Vocational Awards [NCTVA]. It was initially known as Institute of Education. As we speak, they still have certificates belonging to students who have graduated since 2000 to 2001 academic year. I am one of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Alhaji Abubakarr Fofanah. Alhaji Abubakarr Fofanah cuts across party lines. He initiated the temporal tags for vehicles and Sierra Leoneans are enjoying that facility and a lot of revenue is generated for the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage Mr Margai to maintain the description given to him by my colleague seated over there. In fact, the applause from the galleries is an indication to show that he is a popular man. I want him to

ensure that the Sierra Leone Ports Authority [SLPA] becomes more popular than you as an individual.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the two nominees for the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]. These nominees have enormous tasks to perform because there are lots of outstanding debts. You have to ensure that Government institutions that owe SLBC pay their debts. I want to believe Parliament is one of the debtors *[Laughter]*. So, go and ask for the records and trace all the debtors. You have to ensure that all the outstanding moneys are retrieved and no institution is exempted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to another fine gentleman, Mr Sabieu Conteh. We have worked together at the Petroleum Unit and I was representing the Civil Society Movement. Mr Sabieu Conteh is always respectful, very humble and dedicated to national service. In fact, he helped in the setting up of the foundation for the transformation of the Petroleum Unit to what we now call the Sierra Leone Petroleum Regulatory Agency [SLPRA]. Mr Sabieu Conteh is the architect of that innovation. For the other nominees, I want to inform you that the structures left by the former Government of the All People's Congress [APC] are still there *[Applause]*. The movers and shakers of those structures are the human beings. They are the arms and the legs of those structures, carrying out the functions of those structures and now they have left. There are still challenges and you cannot overcome those challenges overnight. We want you to ensure that those challenges are overcome within the shortest possible time. I want to call on my colleagues to speedily approve these beautiful and handsome nominees. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I recognise the Honourable Member at the back.

**HON. JOSEPH W. LAMIN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have nominees from His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. These are educated and experienced ladies and gentlemen. They have been tasked to undertake national responsibilities.

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**HON. JOSEPH W. LAMIN:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I comment on the nominees, I want to assure the Honourable Member on that side to rest his mind because the nominees were nominated on the basis of national coalition and national interest. It is imbedded in their DNA that they will perform and put national interest first. There is no doubt that they will prove their mettle.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Mr Sillaty Daboh, proposed Board Member, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. I believe he will perform his duty as he has done in other assignments for the interest of this nation. Again, I know all the nominees are very important, but I also want to call upon Madam Demby the two persons that are coming from a very renowned family background, which I have very close connection with. I want to remind you that you are going to represent your families in the performance of those responsibilities. Therefore, I crave your indulgence to put Sierra Leone on the map and do all you could to make the dreams of the 'New Direction' come true.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know the rest of the nominees, but I want to appeal to all of you to put Sierra Leone first. Please put national interest first and please make sure you perform your duties according to the 'New Direction.'

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I appeal to this noble House that these are fine nominees. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now recognise the Honourable lady of the C4C.

**HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have really not wanted to stand and say anything, but after hearing one, two and three names, I was tempted to say something. I was really moved and I will say thanks to the President for this particular appointment. I met Mrs Mary Karimu during the struggle for symbol. I am from C4C and she was from SLPP. We met in Kenema and I know the kind of woman she is. I know she is capable of delivering. When I heard that the symbol was taken from her, I shed tears in Kono because I was really dreaming to come to Parliament with this particular woman. We discussed

about a lot of things and we had lots of proposals as to how to support our fellow women. Mr Speaker, seeing this lady today as one of the nominees is not a mistake at all. I assure this House that Mrs Mary Karimu will perform beyond expectation. She will prove herself as a woman of substance. I want this House to speedily approve her nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other nominee is Ambassador Sahr Johnny, proposed Chairman, Minerals Advisory Board. Ambassador Sahr Johnny is my father. He is our father from Kono District. I have known him for a very long time. He has always been there and he is still there to provide pieces of advice to the Kono young politicians. Three weeks ago, we met at a function and he was there advising the people. He said: **"Rebecca, you are the first woman and I want you to prove yourself and make sure that by 2023, instead of you going out, we have more women from Kono joining you in Parliament."** Ambassador Sahr Johnny is a very good man and he has worked for this country for a very long time. His hands are clean and nobody will say he is a corrupt person. I have no doubt in his nomination because he is reservoir of knowledge in the Minerals sector. I want to inform this House that Mr Sahr Johnny will perform to the best of his ability and the President will not regret why he nominated him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr James Vincent, proposed Chairman, National Youth Commission. The President made no make mistake to appoint him as a Commissioner of the National Youth Commission. I have known him when he was going to Kono as a Researcher. In my district, I am one of the focal persons for researchers. Researchers usually ask for me and he has been there for a very long time, doing his research on issues he thinks will benefit the people of this country. I know he will not go to that Commission and sit complacently. I am sure he is going to develop proposals that will help the youth of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to Mr James Vincent to ensure that more women are brought on board. This is the Youth Commission or the Ministry of Youth Affairs have almost **90%** of workers who are men. Please, youth are not just men; we have female youth who are more vulnerable in this country. I find out that so many programmes just focus on male youth. If they decide to send

female youth representative, you will only see a handful female youth in some of those programmes. I want to appeal that if approved, go there and make a positive difference. Go and change the face of that Ministry in terms of ensuring gender balance. We want gender equity not equality in the Ministry and in the work of the Ministry. On this note, I want this House to speedily approve Ambassador Sahr Johnny, Madam Mary Wuyata Karimu and Mr James Vincent. These are the three [3] people I know and I have spoken about them. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. I can see more new Members rising to catch my eye. I however want to state here that we have another important item on the Order Paper. On that note, I will only recognise three [3] speakers from each side of the aisle.

**HON. ALHAJI S. TURAY:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for recognising me. I want to state here that today is another day for the 'New Direction.' The set of nominees we have in this Well, seeking the approval of this House means that the 'New Direction' has started a positive move [*Applause*]. I want to thank the President for the brilliant decision he has taken this morning to nominate these fine Sierra Leoneans [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo, proposed Commissioner, Right to Access Information Commission. He is a very important nominee from Matotoka [*Applause*]. Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo is my twin partner though he joins the green train and I boarded the red train, but we have the same characteristics [*Applause*]. This is the man who always advises me in that city. He always meets me to discuss important issues for the development of Matotoka and he is a hardworking man. He has a firm decision and he is very strict and straightforward. I wanted him to join the red train, but it was unfortunate for me to convince him. However, I am very happy for his nomination. It is like we are at the junction where both of us will choose where to go.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt in Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo's ability to perform. He is a man with the right decision. He took the right decision and today he is in the right place because he is a hardworking person. He is like a cockroach surviving in the city of chickens. He is a very strong man and the city of Matotoka is

a `Tolongbo` city *[Applause]*. This nominee is very loyal to his party. We fought very hard to bring him over to the APC, but he did not accept to join the train. So, I am very much happy for Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo. I will kindly ask this House to speedily approve him and the rest of the nominees. I thank you so much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Order! It is not often that we have the privilege of listening to the Honourable Tamemkoh. Today is an exceptional day for us. I think he deserves another round of applause *[Applause]*. I am going to disappoint the Honourable Members to my right, you know me by now. These are nominees from His Excellency the President and most of you on my right belong to the same area. So, let us listen to what other people have to say. I recognise a lady *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Madam, a very astute observer just told me or whispered to me that this happens to be your Maiden Speech, congratulations *[Applause]*. You have the Floor.

**HON. HAJA M. AMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my name is Honourable Haja Miatta Amara, representing Constituency 112, Western Rural. I would like to thank the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for keeping his promise, in terms of the **30%** women's representation in governance *[Applause]*. Today, is a very happy day for me. I am a Rosarian and seeing my sister also a Rosarian. We always do what we say. Women always stand by what they say. I am not talking about no lesser person, but Ms Alberta J. Nancy Demby. I have known Ms Demby for over thirty years. We attended the same school in Kenema and I am from Kenema too. She is a woman of substance and she is a woman of her words. I am not a praise singer like what Mr Speaker rightly said, I have never stood up to praise sing anybody because he or she is a nominee of the President. I do not sing praises, but I want to do that for Ms Demby. I know she will measure up. She was a teacher, but in less than ten years, she became Principal of a school. This is an indication to show that she is a dedicated woman. She is also a dedicated Christian and she believes in whatever she says. I am asking this House to speedily approve Ms Demby and all other nominees. I thank you *[Applause]*.



**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. I will call on another lady to take the Floor. The Honourable Zainab has the Floor.

**HON. CATHERINE Z. TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, you will not know what is going on and please mind your business. Thank you very much. I want to start by wishing our dynamic and wonderful Speaker a wonderful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**THE SPEAKER:** That makes her special [*Applause*].

**HON. ZAINAB C. TARAWALLY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a big thank you to His Excellency the President for standing on his unique and wonderful promises. He has given us Sierra Leoneans who are capable to run this country. The President cannot run Sierra Leone without all of us. He will do better if he brings us on board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again to approve another set of nominees from the wonderful man who is running the state. I want to thank him for nominating a man who has been a brother since my childhood days. We have worked together and he is here this morning for approval. He is no lesser person, but Dr Victor Massaquoi. He has been a long standing friend.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I used to call him 'Massaquoi' when we were at Kissy. Mr Speaker, the nominee in question is just a friend. I want to assure this House that he is capable, qualified, highly intelligent and eloquent. He has all the strength to run the Tertiary Commission. I want to wish him well and to pray that the wealth of experience he has gained over the years is utilised for the benefit of the people of this country. You have to ensure that Sierra Leone education is once again put on the map.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to support what the Honourable Member said in terms of recognising a personality who served in the Ernest Bai Koroma's regime. During my tenure as a first woman President of that University, Mr Abu Bakarr Kargbo was a student union Minister in my regime [*Applause*]. He is a man whom I have great respect for. He is a man of good character which every human being would like to imitate. Mr Kargbo stands for what he believes. In our cabinet,

all of us were APC during our University days, but Mr Kargbo was an SLPP. I want to wish him well and to admonish him to continue with what he has started. I want to assure this House that he is an intelligent man and a sober minded man. He is an eloquent man and he is a man of his words. I wish you well and I want to assure you of our support and cooperation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to a woman I met few days back in Bo city. We went to attend a retreat programme for all female Members of Parliament and Councillors. I met her in Bo and she has been a two [2] term councillor. Today, she is here for us to approve her nomination. Her name is Madam Mary Jeneba Coker *[Applause]*. Madam Mary Jeneba Coker has been an inspiring woman for the past three days I was in Bo. I know she is capable because she is an active and an energetic woman. She has been a woman who has served the women of Bo for a very long time. I want to assure Madam Coker that she has our support and I now ask this House to approve her nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another nominee I want to talk about is Madam Willette James. We have been in the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists [SLAJ] for a very long time and the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo has been our mentor. Madam Willette James, I want to wish you well. She has endurance in the educational arena and she has aspired for the presidency twice. I am however confident and I also admire her steadfastness. She has the capability to make things work and she is now a Leader of the Mass Communication. I know that the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation [SLBC] is your baby so it is nothing new. I know you have been working with Mr Kapuwa and others. Please, do your best to make the SLBC a unique broadcaster like the Africa Young Voices [AYV] and Star Television. We have trust in you and we know you are capable because you are a renowned broadcaster.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the last person that I have been hearing about but I do not know her is Mrs Mary Wuyata Karimu. When I was a student at the Ernest Bai Koroma University, I used to hear about Mrs Mary Wuyata Karimu *[Applause]*. I do not know you Madam, but I am very happy to see you here today, but I have heard a lot of things about you. I know you are a strong woman from the

Eastern Region. I want to wish you good luck. I know you are capable and you will make things work in that Commission. I want to wish you well and please take your experience to that Commission. Please, do everything possible to ensure that the Commission functions effectively. We want Sierra Leone to be a country like other countries in West Africa. I want to wish all the other nominees well and to assure you of our support and our cooperation. We wish you good luck and please try your level best. I wish you good luck *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to thank the Honourable Member for her constructive contribution. I will now recognise the following Members in the order in which I will name them. Honourable Tom I. Tucker, Honourable Tshombe, the only Eskimo in the House. Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina and the Chief Whip will be the last speaker before we wind-up the debate.

**HON. TOM I. TUCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to thank His Excellency Julius Maada Bio for these nominees. I will thank him because the nominees before us were screened by the Committee on Appointments and had found them to be competent and fit to hold the positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have special people amongst these nominees. One of them is Ambassador Sahr Johnny, proposed Chairman, Minerals Advisory Board. Ambassador Sahr Johnny has been a mentor to me and I have known him for quite a long time. We have been in the mining sector for a very long time. He is coming from the Foreign Affairs office, which I believe he has got a lot of knowledge. He is also a local miner. When it comes to Kono, he is one of the men I have always admired. He is very peaceful and always trying to bring the Kono people together. I want to make it clear that his nomination is not by chance. As Chairman of the Mineral Advisory Board, if this House approves, I think it is the right decision that has been made in the 'Right Direction.' I want to thank the President because this particular nomination is one of the most important decisions taken. If you looked at the mining sector, it needs competent people. If you do not have the competent people to manage and decide which companies to be issued mining licences, this Nation will not prosper. We have seen companies that are issued

mining rights but failed to perform. I believe Ambassador Sahr Johnny, being the Chairman of that Board, will make sure that the right things are done. Companies will not just come to this country and take concessions. Let us get companies that are competent to bring development in our mining sector.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this House to speedily approve these nominees, so as to give them the opportunity to prove themselves. They are here to work for this Nation not for themselves. Therefore, I want to admonish them to do their best in making this country a proud Nation. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Before we proceed, I see a certain pattern developing in the galleries. This time, I noticed a group of school girls in the galleries. I do not know whether they are on a study tour or they are here to support any particular nominee, but I make this observation because this is school time. If this pattern continues I am going to craft a new rule. We do not want to see school children in the galleries during school time *[Applause]*. You should be in school and not here. You should not be here except on study tours. I hope this is the last time. The time you have lost by coming here you should find time to gain it in your studies. You are here to study and learn, and not to express solidarity or support any particular nominee. I will not want to encourage that in future.

**HON. MOMODU E. MANSARAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I am about to say is not anything new because my colleagues have said everything about these nominees. However, we have a reason for coming here. It was the responsibility of our constituents to send us here, so that we can always make decision for them. We have many people who are about to take positions in the area of Education, National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA], etc. I will never stand here to talk about the remote Chiefdom in this country; i.e., Thiamso Chiefdom. So, I want to draw your attention to that particular Chiefdom because you are about to take certain positions like Education and NaCSA. Thiamso Chiefdom is in Koinadugu District. We have only one road, one health centre, one school and no church or mosque. We have people who have never heard the name Jesus Christ or Prophet Mohamed *[Peace be upon him]*. I wanted to draw your attention to these issues, so

that when you assume office, Thiamso Chiefdom would be considered. I heard about the number of schools to be built by the 'New Direction' and I would like you to ensure that Thiamso Chiefdom benefits from that project. Please, I want you to prove the people of Thiamso Chiefdom wrong. I will give you a case study about somebody who has proved the people of Thiamso Chiefdom wrong in this country. He is no lesser person but the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. He proved to the people of Kailahun that he was not a President for the APC, but a President for the entire country. We know what he did for the people of Kailahun District, despite the appalling votes from that part of the country. When he took office, he did his best for Kailahun. So, I am saying that regardless of the political beliefs of the people in that district, the new President has to prove them wrong. I will not hide the truth because the people of Thiamso Chiefdom are ardent supporters of the APC, but you to prove them wrong. Do you know what happened? I went there when the Presidential result was announced and the people said they were going to suffer again. I told them it would not happen because the 'New Direction' would prove them wrong. I said the 'New Direction' would do something in Thiamso. Therefore, you have to prove them wrong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that the entire Chiefdom has only one road, one school and one health centre with no church or mosque. I can state here that the de-amalgamation was meant to bring rapid development. Before now, when they were amalgamated seventy years back, five chiefdoms were brought together; i.e., Kayaka, Thiamso, Kasongo, etc., were brought together. So, the idea of our former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma was to bring rapid development. This is your time to prove us wrong. I heard the President saying that the other name for the 'New Direction' is 'Talk and Do.' Well, you have to prove to the people of Thiamso that the 'New Direction' is 'talk and do' government. If you want to prove your critics wrong, then we want to see something done in Thiamso because it is the most remote chiefdom in this country. We want to see a 'talk and do' situation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that this is a responsible Parliament with a responsible Speaker; and we will not refuse the

President's request to approve these nominees with all the qualifications and experiences they have got. We are not going to deny them approval at all. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us speedily approves these nominees.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish all of you 'a Happy Christmas' in advance. Please, do not forget about the people *Thamiso*; and if you do not know, I will lead you to the most remote Chiefdom in this country. I thank you all [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Emerson, you now have the Floor.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, while I will continue to thank His Excellency the President in concurrence with Section 61[1] of Sierra Leone Constitution, I would like to leave these nominees that will soon be approved in few minutes with three things; i.e., one time, two conscience and three eternity as you prepare to give your best to this Nation. All of you are adequately qualified to handle those offices and I believe Ms Willette James, as well as Mr King, will ginger up the media landscape. I hope positive things will begin to happen, especially an issue that has to do with the social media. Thank you very much His Excellency for nominating these fine citizens. I will talk about three people in my presentation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr James Vincent, proposed Chairman, National Youth Commission. The youth of this country constitute about **34%** of the population of this country. I recall the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [TRC] makes some recommendations, but there are still recommendations that **10%** of youth of this country should hold decision making offices as well as political offices. The recommendations are there and you have to do your best for those recommendations to become law. The late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba's Government put in place the Youth Scheme in 2002 and it did well to build the capacity of youth, so that they could become self-reliance. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma's Youth Commission that was established in 2007 did well by bringing youth on board to have a space in the Public Private Partnership [PPP]. We are yet to see what the 'New Direction' will offer the youth of this country. Perhaps,

the overreaching challenge you have at the moment is politicised and polarisation of youth. It is no doubt in the Northern Province that the youth in that part of the country are APC praise worshipers. In the Southern Province, the SLPP stands out clearly. This of course is not good for this Nation. We want to see the empowerment of youth at national level. We do not want to see political or parochial youth. You have a challenge in the Youth Commission. You have to ensure that you review the Youth Council because the design used is very challenging. I do not want to be nominated by the Paramount Chiefs or Politicians and another day the Youth Commission. That is very challenging.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Victor Massaquoi, proposed Member, Tertiary Education Commission. The Tertiary Education Commission is very important. Dr Victor Massaquoi will agree with me that the institutions of higher learning we have established to bring fine gentlemen and ladies to serve this nation have gradually faded away. It is now becoming a breeding ground for nudity, youth violence, cultism and corruption. I hope you will design punitive measures to hold the heads of those institutions and culprits to account.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Ambassador Sahr Johnny. The name is synonymous to Minerals. His background in the foreign sector will definitely bring a change in our Direct Foreign Investment [DFI]. This is because going to China will definitely bring a change in our DFI. He is a guru in mining sector and he will definitely advise His Excellency the President. He will however encounter some challenges. One of these challenges is the absence of generic document for the resettlement package of the villagers, where mining companies occupy. There is also no generic design for crop compensation to those villagers. We are yet to see a law for the management of the Diamond Area Community Development [DACEF]. It was just a recommendation from the TRC. Today, many people are referring to that money as annual shareholding by chiefs. We want to see a law and a policy that will actually direct that particular money how it should be utilised for the benefit of this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we still have the challenge of smuggling our precious minerals. The recently enacted 2018 Revenue Industries Act shows that

**15%** of minerals should be taken by the Government. This is still a challenge as smuggling is still on the increase. It is adverse to international best practice. In Liberia, it is **5%** and also **5%** in Guinea. This is why the Lebanese and Maraka businessmen prefer smuggling our diamonds to Liberia. Today, Liberia is standing progressing and they are using dual currencies; i.e., the Liberian Dollar and the USA Dollar. People prefer smuggling because they want to get the USA Dollar. Mr Johnny, I hope and I hold the belief that you will advise His Excellency the President on the management of our mineral sector.

With those few comments, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urged all of us to approve these fine Sierra Leoneans with the swiftness they deserve. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Leader of the C4C for his contribution.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [Chief Whip]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is one of the days I will give the shortest speech in this Well because I am so overwhelmed that I do not have much to say. This is because for over ten or twelve years, we were telling people in this country that the Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is the best man to rule this country [*Applause*]. I am happy that even the opposition Members of Parliament have attested to that because of the nominees in front of us. They were praised by Members of the opposition and that means our President has a foresight to develop this country. That is why he has given us fine nominees with not only good and envious educational backgrounds, but professional backgrounds. Let me joined you people in thanking His Excellency the President. I was not going to thank him if he had not done that because I know he is not doing anything new or he is not doing anything strange. However, one thing I can assure my colleagues on the other side is that we are not only going to surprise them, it is not going to be a surprise anyway, because Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio I know will work for this Nation. He will work for his Paopa Government and after his ten years, he will hand over power to the SLPP and that is the time we will surprise you more [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the nominees in front of us are suitably qualified. I do not want to say they are over qualified and they are up to the task,



but I will fail in my duty if I fail to recognise a particular person. The person is one of those who has improved my capacity. If I am Honourable Dickson Rogers, I owe a lot to that family. He is Alhaji Abu Bakarr Fofanah. Alhaji Abu Bakarr Fofanah is not only my 'demia' [S.O 2], but he is also my elder brother who has worked so much and has earned so much respect in this country. When I saw his name, I said wow! His Excellency knows how to find people with potentials.

With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I implore my colleagues to give him a very welcoming Christmas gift to His Excellency the President by speedily approving the nominees, including my brother in law. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I now recognise the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. When I listened to Honourable Dickson Rogers, he almost misunderstood our sense of patriotism on this side as if it was something strange. We accepted the fact long ago since after the elections that this country has a new President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio [*Applause*]. We are magnanimous enough, dedicated and patriotic enough to go by the Constitution and I thought we should clarify that. Whenever a good decision is taken by those in authority, especially the President, this side will recognise that good work. We do not criticise because we must criticise; we criticise only when it is necessary. This is how civilised this side is [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this exercise this afternoon is a statutory function. It is a job which the President has to do by appointing people to occupy important positions of state. I must state here that I have seen very impressive faces, people who have served this country well. I must mention Ms Willette James Member, proposed Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. She is a hard working lady I feel proud that she is not only professional, but also an academic. For those who do not fully understand, there is a difference between an academic person and a professional person. She is heading a very important institution at the University and at the same time by profession, she is a journalist. So, she combines both and I know she had performed remarkably well over the years. I will always vouch for her and I think her nomination was a very good one.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to a very modest man, Mr Edward King, Member, proposed Independent Media Commission. He worked under me when I was a Minister of Information and Communications and we introduced what we called **"The system that must take the message to the people."** He worked very hard to actualize that dream. He is a very modest man and today, he is here not only representing the President and the people of this country, but also the Ministry of Information and Communications. For those who have not read the Independent Media Commission [IMC] Act, there is a provision which insists that the government should have a nominee and this is why Mr King was nominated by the President to perform that function. Also, the Act says that there must be a nominee representing the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists [SLAJ] and this why SLAJ has a representation on that Board. So, this is a good choice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you will wonder why I am paying a lot of attention to SLAJ, the IMC and Access to Information Commission. It is because the present forms that you see today, the Access to Information was my creation and I am proud that I created it. I must pay tribute to Shears Moses for bringing the message to Sierra Leone that there was need for us to set up the Access to Information Commission. So, whoever is going there must understand that it was created for a deliberate purpose to ensure that the citizens of this country access information. However, I will not complete this component of my presentation if I did not make a point very clear. If there is what we called Access to Information in this country today, we say thanks to President Jimmy Carter of the United States. It was he who created the concept to us and it was he who invited Shears Moses and myself to Atlanta, Georgia to be part of the whole process. Today, it is here and when the whole process of putting the structures started, we were listed as number one and we came first. When there was a competition in Ghana, trying to find out who have done best in this whole process, Sierra Leone came first, Nigeria came second and Ghana came third. We must congratulate ourselves and whosoever is going to that institution is going to an institution that was well thought out and it was deliberately created to ensure that people have access to information.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Abu Bakarr Fofanah. He is not my 'komane' or 'demia,' S O2, but he was my school boy. I thought him in school. So if Honourable Rogers was there I would have taught him as well. I am happy that he has risen to this point. He is a man widely respected in Sierra Leone. He is a man who knows what to do; and therefore, it is not surprising that the President identified him as somebody who should perform the function for which she has been nominated. I hope he will perform well. I will not go to your office to greet you, but if you see me anywhere, you are always at liberty to say teacher, how are you sir? Congratulations for your nomination to this very important position.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Eke Ahmed Halloway, proposed Chairman, Anti-Corruption Advisory Board. His name is a household name and it will be very strange to discuss about these nominees without mentioning Mr Eke Halloway. He is not only a lawyer, but a great academic who went to one of the best universities in the world. He came back to this country and served this country well. He may have decided to be a member of the SLPP and I have remained to be an APC, but I have always respected him. When he was appointed as Attorney General, I had a small argument with him, but he defeated me in the argument by simply looking at the Constitution. I insisted that he should go through the Appointments Committee for screening, but he said no the Constitution did not say so. In the case of the Attorney General, he or she will already be in office to serve the new President because the new President will need an adviser at any time. We argued bitterly, but I was defeated. Mr Eke Halloway defeated us in the argument, but he is still here, strong, capable, intelligent and I am very certain that he is going to the right place. He is going to chair the Board that is responsible to fight corruption in this country. Mr Eke Halloway has always been around. For the young folks who believe you are enjoying yourselves, I want to state here they are not enjoying themselves because we enjoyed ourselves. Mr Speaker, Eke Halloway, myself and few others enjoyed ourselves in this country and I am not going to further elaborate on that, but the fact remains that Mr Eke Halloway is definitely a very good choice. I congratulate him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Sahr Johnny is the proposed Chairman, Minerals Advisory Board. He worked for the National Diamond Company [NDMC] when I was a Director. For some reasons, I have worked for everybody, either it is because of my dedication or intellect. I was the Director at the NDMC when Sahr Johnny was working there. I can vouch that he was one of our excellent officers. He even occupied our office in the United Kingdom [UK]. He is a very modest and honest man. However, when I became Minister of Information and Communications, when it became necessary for me to visit China, I found him there again as an Ambassador. Then he told me that he was not only in Beijing to perform his duties, but he also visited Hong-Kong and other places. I know that Ambassador Sahr Jonny is a hardworking man and he is a very good choice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Ms Alberta J. Nancy Demby, proposed Member, National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA]. I know the Demby family very well. One of the Chiefs went to me and told me that he wanted a Crocodile and I was rearing a Crocodile in my compound. I said no, this is a pet for me, but he was just kidding. But when we were in Bo and when it became very clear that Sierra Leone must always be seen as a united country, I see no difference between a Mende, Temne or Soso man. This is why we always go to Gerehun and other villages during the weekends to entertain ourselves. So, if we see a Demby here whose parents were very kind to me when I was a young man in Bo, I will celebrate for that family. I think she is a very good choice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the Speaker reminded us earlier, we still have other issues on the Order Paper to deal with. I want to state one point that there is no way this country can develop if we do not identify our good citizens and give them good assignments. I think this is what the President has done. However, for them to function effectively, they should also be able to do so within an environment of peace and that is what we have always be preaching from this side of the aisle. We want Sierra Leone to develop; we want these people who have been given these very important positions to perform their jobs well, but for them to succeed, they must do so within the milieu of peace, reconciliation and concord.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as far as I am concerned and as far as this side of the isle is concerned, I will speak on behalf of our party not as individuals that the nominations made by the President are good nominations and we ask that we accept them. Thank you very much [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition very much for his very incisive contribution and observation. Just aside, I have no doubt that the distinguished Legal Luminary, Mr Eke Halloway, had every reason to defeat you in the argument. All you needed to do was to look at Section 64 [2] of the Constitution. The only person appointed by the President without Parliamentary approval is the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice. I call on the Leader of Government Business to make his contribution.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as usual I want to thank my colleagues for contributing to this debate and accepting our nominees. However, before I make my comments, I just want to make a clarification especially for the pupils.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, they have gone.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** They have gone, but I am sure they will receive my message. The schools will get the message that Parliament is not against school children coming here at all. In fact, we will encourage school authorities to encourage their pupils to come to Parliament to learn from what we do here because I believe that will go a long way to help them in their education. What the Honourable Speaker was simply saying was that we do not want a situation wherein probably at the time when they are supposed to be in their classrooms, people in certain quarters convinced them to come and support them in their nominations. We want to encourage school authorities to encourage their pupils to come here in an organised and formal manner. If you want to do that, you have to write to the Clerk of Parliament or write the Honourable Speaker for your pupils to come here and witness the proceedings of Parliament.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think a lot has been said about all the nominees. I want to however talk about Dr Joseph Maada Korsu Kandeh, proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation

[SALHOC]. I must say you have an uphill task, but I want to assure you that we will give you the support you would need. I do not want you to be afraid of your tenants. If they do not pay, remove them there. We have very senior police officers who could help you. I am sure the police and the courts will support you. They will support you to ensure that you run an effective SALHOC. For far too long we have had unnecessary squatters. I say unnecessary because there are people who can afford to pay their rents, but they still occupy these premises without paying a dime to SALHOC. We have a Committee on Housing in this Parliament. Please utilise this particular Committee in executing your functions. If you have issues, please talk to the Honourable Speaker or you talk to me. I would be of help to you and I can go to the Minister to ensure that we evict all of them as long as they do not pay. Again, tenants who are paying but they do not take care of their premises. Well, they also have to be evicted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe a lot has been said about the nominees. I want to state here that SLBC is very important to us and I am sure the young lady sitting here, Ms Willette James, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, will ensure that the SLBC functions effectively. I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that SLBC continue to be a public broadcaster. We do not want a situation wherein the SLBC is politicised. We do not want that and it is not even in our interest to politicise the SLBC. We want to ensure that we have access to it the same way Honourable Hassan A. Sesay and Honourable I.B Kargbo will have access to it. So, please work very hard to ensure that it remains to be a public broadcaster.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the nominees in advance I want to assure them the support of this Honourable House. I want to encourage you to come here at any time you need support from us. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*  
*[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been approved]*

**THE SPEAKER:** It is now my pleasant duty on my personal behalf and on behalf of the House to extend our warmest congratulations and felicitations to all the

nominees who have been approved by the House and to wish them well in their new assignments. We have every confidence that you will live up to the expectations of His Excellency the President and this House. Good luck and a Merry Christmas.

#### **V. PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION**

PROPOSER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

SECONDER: HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House unreservedly condemns the increasing incidences of street violence in Sierra Leone and calls on the government to take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, before I put the question for a seconder, I want to know whether the security forces are ably represented in the Well of the House. We thank you very much ladies and gentlemen for your presence *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in our last session in this House, I rose on S.O [23] to raise something that is becoming very serious in our society; i.e., street violence by our own children. I did it on the basis that anybody's child is everybody's child. We all owe it to our children to make meaningful contributions to society, so that we live in a very conducive environment. They are our children and therefore we cannot let them do things the way they feel like. We must put in place corrective measures.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, very recently, there was a football match between Government Model Secondary School and Muslim Congress or one school from the East. The violence that characterised the streets of Freetown on that day was nothing to write home about. Furthermore, a Press Release issued by the American Embassy was a slap on our face. The American Embassy made an indictment on our security forces, stating that our security cannot provide what is needed in ensuring everybody is secured. As far as I am concerned, that is an indictment on our security forces by the American Embassy. Later on Social Media, the police did respond by saying that they had the capacity to secure the people of this country. I agree that they have the capacity, but we also have to show the

willingness to provide what is relevant for our children to know that we will not condole this act of lawlessness. Our children will not hold us to ransom *[Applause]*. This period is a festive period in our country. We know that Christmas period is a period when people normally come from abroad to pay visit to their families or to spend time with their families. If this is discouraged, where do we get our social life?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you will agree with me that the government decided to ban street carnivals and other activities they suspected could create disorder in our society. They did it because they think that we must put measures in place to provide security. However, providing security and depriving the people of their daily lives is not what we are bargaining for. We believe that people must go about their daily lives, irrespective of what our children say. They are our children and we make rules for them. They do not make rules for us. If that is the case, I think it is necessary for the Police to collaborate with the Military to ensure that we have a robust response to security threat. They have to put measures in place in order for us to enjoy our lives in peace and tranquillity. My senior colleague here was just talking about us living in concord and peace. I think it is against that backdrop that we raised this issue and that was why the Speaker did say that we should allocate this day for the debate of this issue in the presence of our security forces. We thank God that we have the Correctional Centre Officers here, together with the police and military officers. We want you to sit together and figure out how to address this very serious issue. We cannot allow ourselves to live under the direction of our children.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think it is necessary for us to discuss with all frankness and identify the shortfalls, so that we will tell the security forces what they are supposed to do. Let us come together and take collective efforts to ensure that we secure our country. This is our country and we owe it to ourselves to make sure that we live a life where we will be able to go out in the morning even if you may want to stay in the streets till 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., you will feel secured. We know the clique boys are there, but if measures are not taken to address those issues, we will definitely face problems. That is why whenever there is an issue of violence, the security forces are informed. They must take action to ensure that there is harmony.



Sometimes you might not know where it will end if you do not nip it on the bud. If some of these actions are not taken, I am afraid we may lose control. Sometimes people do not pay attention to things that are necessary. If those issues are not addressed, the spill over effects will be felt as people tend to believe that violence is a way of life. Let us put a stop to it if we want to be assured of living in peace and tranquillity.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rest my case to listen to what other Members will have to say. We must however find ways of addressing this menace. The security forces are there to protect lives and property. Of course, where there is need for collaboration and coordination, we will support them to make sure that we create a robust structure to ensure our country is secured and people who come will feel safe. That is why I think this debate is necessary and I thank the Speaker for giving us this day to talk about it here *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very constructive contribution. I recognise the seconder of the motion.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the mover of this Motion for introducing this topic. One of the famous leaders of our time, Barrack Obama, once said: **"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time."** I believe this is the time and it has to be us and now. Mr Speaker, let me state here that the Press Release that was issued by the American Embassy is unfortunate. That Press Release states that our police officers are not capable. I think that is an affront to our police officers and I want to say that is my personal opinion. It is not the opinion of this House. I also condemn them for that for that Press Release. However, I am glad that we are debating this issue and I want to agree with my colleague, Honourable Hassan Sesay.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the Honourable Member said, every child of somebody is the child of another person. In those days, if you found your neighbour's son or daughter misbehaving somewhere, you had the right to discipline the child and even take him/her to the parents. The parents will also slap that child. We were all our brother's keepers. Those were the days when you see your teacher coming, you will run into hiding, so that your teacher will not see you. That was the

time some of us came to learn the biblical dictum, **“Honor thy father and thy mother, so that your days may be long.”** The interpretation of that is very simple, Mr Speaker. The proverb is not referring to your biological parents alone, but whosoever is in the rank of your parents and even your siblings. Therefore, we use to fear our neighbours or anybody who is in the rank of our mothers or fathers. I want to however state here that those days are gone. Today, things have changed because if you see your neighbors, or friends, daughters or sons on the streets misbehaving and you attempt to slap him or her, the parent will not hesitate to say, S.O [2] ‘na u dae fed me pikin? Why u dae beat me pikin? This is if you see somebody’s son or daughter doing bad things on the streets, you will just go about your business. This is why the country is going this way.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are copying verbatim in the importation of these foreign disciplines of human rights. Today, if somebody misbehaves on the street and a police officer grabs that person, the same American Embassy will say it is a human right violation [*Applause*]. Where are they taken us to? In the United States, however, fifteen or twenty years ago, when they found out that all of those rights were attached to responsibilities, they went back to the drawing board and decided that rights should go with responsibilities. We are copying verbatim and we have given all the rights to our kids without responsibility.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me give this House a very short story. I was fortunate to bump into a woman who was arrested by the police in Bo because she closed the door after 1:00 p.m. and the daughter was still not in the house. She was arrested the following morning because she closed the door before her daughter and when I asked, the police said something bad could have happened to the child. So, are you expecting the poor woman to open the door at that odd hour? In as much as we want our police or security officers to help us fight this violence, we as law makers should also give them that power and right to do the rest. If you walk on the streets around 1:00 a.m. or 2:00 a.m., you will see students on streets who are supposed to be studying. If those ones are arrested by the police, you will be the people to rebuff that act.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want the police to engage so that we can have a way forward to this menace. We should also be in sympathy with them quite apart from the fact that they have logistical challenges. Few days ago, the mover of this Motion told this House that the budget allocation to the Police was small. All what we are saying is that they are not factoring this issue into their budget. The question is how are we expecting them to go around this Christmas to do what we want them to do?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say kudos to our police officers because I can tell this House that the crime rate in this country is reducing. When I said it is getting reduced, it means if it was **80%** and now **70%** reduction has taken place. In fact, even if it is **1%** or **2%** difference, it is still reduction. We should say thank you to our police and the military forces because they are trying their best. We need to give them more resources and support. We also need to continue to talk to our parents to discipline their kids. That is why I was very happy when the President introduced civic education. I think we need to start civic education in this country. We need to start telling our kids that this is wrong and this is right. We need our kids to respect their parents.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to support this Motion and I want to ask that we genuinely debate and map the way forward. This is because no matter what we say, these are our kids and we need to leave a better Sierra Leone for them. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very constructive contribution. Honourable Members, as we embark on the debate of this very important matter, I beg of you all to put aside partisan politics [*Applause*]. Let us put partisan politics aside because this is a very important national interest matter and our lives are at stake; the future of this country is at stake; the future of young people who are the future leaders of this country is at stake; and this is why we have summoned all the security apparatus to be represented here today. We simply cannot continue to tolerate the level of violence that is occurring on the streets of our country. Therefore, let us put politics aside and let us wear different spectacles

call the national interest spectacles in debating this issue. I recognise the Honourable Rosaline Bangura.

**HON. ROSEMARIE BANGURA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise this afternoon to lend my voice to this important debate because this is about our future, the future of our children who are the future leaders of this country. This House will not allow them to continue to go astray. On this note, I want to take the cue of our colleagues who have spoken so well that street violence should not be tolerated in this country *[Applause]*. We should not allow our children to continue to hold us to ransom. This is why we have to stand firm and say enough is enough. When we were growing up, we used to look forward to inter-secondary schools competitions. We used to go and enjoy ourselves and came back peacefully at home. Today, people would have to think twice before you allow your child to go and witness such activities.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw our attention to the biblical proverb which entreats us to train up our child in the way they should grow, so that when they grow, they will not depart from it *[Applause]*. We should train our children and it is our collective responsibility. As parents, we have that responsibility or that civic duty to train our children or wards. They are our future leaders and we should not allow their future to go in vain. This is our collective responsibility and many a time parents are allowing their children to watch Nigerian movies. It is high time we begin to censor what comes into the country because at the end of the day when they watch these movies, they want to practice what they see. They are looking for an avenue to practice what they have watched. There must be a censorship board and the Ministry of Information to be censoring what comes into the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, children are keeping late nights and it is the responsibility of the parents to make sure that they keep an eye on their children. Parent should not leave their children to go out without checking them. Few days ago, I saw a girl with mini skirt. They leave their homes to go and cause trouble. The 'Mr Massaquois' are there, waiting for such opportunity. As I said earlier, it is our collective responsibility as good parents to monitor our children. The pastors are there and they have to make sure that they preach in their churches to train up the

youth. Again, the Imams also have the responsibility. This is not something that has to do with the police alone. The police officers are responsible to ensure there is law and order. Now the Sierra Leone police are constrained. Last year, I was opportune to be a member of the Committee on Internal Affairs. When we went for oversight to the Kingtom Barracks, we saw lots of vehicles parked. Those were vehicles supposed to be used by the Sierra Leone police, especially during festive seasons to maintain law and order. If the youth notice the presence of Sierra Leone Police on the streets, they will be afraid to cause riots and havoc. That is why we are calling on the Ministry of Finance to look at the budget of the Sierra Leone Police and increase its budget allocation and make sure that they are well capacitated to carry out their functions very well. I do not want to take much of our time because other speakers want to contribute, but I want to reiterate here that our collective responsibility is to make sure that our children behave themselves properly in and out of our homes. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. I recognise the Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh.

**HON. QUINTIN S. KONNEH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe youth violence is one of the problems affecting the development of our country. This is because the country is progressing in a chameleon manner; i.e., sluggishly. I agree with the motion moved by my senior colleague, Honourable Hassan A. Sesay but again, I know most of us will be tempted to holistically blame the young people for what is happening today. What we should take note of is that the young people are always full of exuberance. Therefore, they are tempted to implement whatever may have happened at some point. However, I want to remind this House that for every problem, there must be a root cause. If we want to address issues relating to the youth or youth violence, we must be able to identify the causes. What are the factors responsible for violence across the country? You will agree with me that all of us in this Well are one way or the other connected to most of these violence perpetrated by young people. One of the causes of youth violence is not unconnected with the politicians because most of the time the young people are misused by us the politicians for our own selfish gains. We used them

negatively to perpetrate violence. So, if you want to address youth violence, we must also check ourselves and ask ourselves if we are ready to eradicate or minimise youth violence. We must stop using young people in negative ways. You will all agree with me that alcohol has negative impacts and influence on the human being, especially the young people. I am saying this because the unrestricted flow of alcohol in our country or the unrestricted manufacturing of alcohol in this country is tempting young people to consume huge volume of alcohol which most of the time affect their normal thinking.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you will also agree with me that in Sierra Leone, we have factories that produce high percentages of alcohol beverage for very reasonable prices. We have alcohol drinks like Bitter Kola, Mark Tyson and Van Dam, etc. These drinks are sold at very low costs with very high percentages of alcohol. What are we doing? We are supposed to monitor these factories and implement the laws, but what are we doing to control this menace? We need to look at that also and go back to our respective families. If you have a child who is constantly craving for your attention and yet you are refusing to give attention to that child, it may come to a point where the child may take his/her own action. As decision makers, are we paying attention to the concerns of the young people? We need to pay attention to them. Are we listening to them? We need to listen to them because until we start addressing their problems, then the youth violence will still continue to be on the increase.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the police force may not be adequately placed to curb this menace and we need to look at that area as well. Apart from that, we have limited livelihood opportunities for young the people in this country. Again, what are doing? Mr Speaker, due to the limited opportunities of livelihood for young people, there is tendency for young people to be idle and we all know the proverb that says 'an idle mind is the devil's workshop.' Young people are idle and because they are idle, they always go the extra mile to engage themselves in a very negative manner. Those are the things we should start looking at. Most of them are idle and once they are idle they may be tempted to take whatever request that comes their way. Most level headed people ask for support from them because they are idle. Again, another

idler will come to request for their services which will affect us as a country. These people are idle and we need to see how we can address idleness around them. I come from an extended family, but you will realise that most people believe in giving birth indiscriminately with the opinion that the more children you have, the more opportunities you will get in future. Unfortunately, you realise that there is this concept about garbage in and garbage out. Due to the huge number of responsibilities around these parents, they cannot control the number of children they give birth to. This is why the children, at their youthful ages, will go out to hustle for themselves. When they go out to hustle for themselves, they involve in violent acts to satisfy their desires.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the next area. We have the police force and other agencies responsible for such mishaps. However, until all of us decide to curb youth violence in this country, it will never stop. We need to involve and not looking at just the police force in curbing youth violence. What are the communities doing? Community members should support the effort of the police to make sure that we minimise or eradicate youth violence from our communities. Are we supporting violence's in our communities? Are the police doing their work well? I am asking these questions because some police officers even negotiate or collaborate with these hooligans to perpetrate violence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are some of the areas we need to look at. Are the police adequately placed to curb this menace? Are they in a position to do all of these things? Do we have the political will to listen to these people? These are some of the things we need to look at as a country. We have to curb youth violence in our country, otherwise we will continue to go round and round. We know that the young people are perpetrating these actions, but we need to check ourselves. I think all of us are responsible to work in our respective corners. Are we doing that? This is why I think it is necessary for us as a country and as a people to put hands on deck and say no to youth violence. We should start doing something in our little corners. Let us start doing our jobs in our respective corners; let us try to stop using young people; and let us try to avoid those things that will bring violence in our communities. If we do these things, I think youth violence will be a thing of the past.

As Independent Member of Parliament representing my constituency, I want to say I condemn youth violence and we must put hands on deck to ensure that youth violence is eradicated in Sierra Leone. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELLAH [*Leader of the NGC*]:** Since so many people want to intervene, let us restrict interventions to three or four minutes, so that everybody will contribute instead of all of us repeating the same things.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree and thank you for that observation. Let me also take this opportunity to interject a particular line of thinking. I am sure all of us agree that our police are doing a very good job in the maintenance of law and order in the country. If we perceived that there are shortcomings in that area, if what they are doing is not good enough and not the best solution, I think unless I am mistaking, but we have what is known as the Military Aid to Civil Police [MAC-P]. I have only seen it deployed during election time. I want to ask if that deployment should be limited to election time only. Is this the festive season we are approaching such an issue? I would want Honourable Members to pay attention to whether there are new mechanisms that can be thought about to assist the police in the execution of their duties. So, please in your contributions, please outline that issue to be addressed.

**HON. DANIEL A. KOROMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The problem of youth violence is multi-sectorial one. I want to start by saying that of the major problems is substance abuse. Talking about curbing youth violence, I think the major thing we need to look at as a Parliament and as a nation is the control of substances that are brought into the country; i.e., marijuana, tramadol and a host of other drugs that are consumed by our youth. If control measures are not put in place to stop or control the importation of tramadol, marijuana and all the other substances that are produced in the country, then we are wasting our time because there is a major problem. Where ever you go today, you will find youth taking tramadol and alcohol; and once they are under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, they become violent for no good reason.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we need to put laws in place to control the flow of alcohol and other dangerous substances. The laws are there, but I think



they need to be implemented. If we failed to do that, we would not be able to solve this problem. The parents have a big role to play and there is no child without a home. I believe the home has to take active role to ensure that children are properly taken care of. We have to ensure that the trouble causers are allowed to be dealt with law. As the saying goes, S.O [2] 'if home fail for mend u, d street go mend u.' This means that if the home fails to train you, the street will train you. If you do not want to be well disciplined at home, then automatically the law should discipline you. So, what we need today is that all of us must take active part in ensuring that law and order is maintained. Today you will give permission to the police and the next day when somebody is arrested because of youth violence, either a Member of Parliament or somebody in high authority orders his/her release. If this is not addressed, then the problem of youth violence will continue. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, we want to thank you very much for asking all of us to be very personate about this issue and put aside all political affiliations. I want to start by calling on this particular House to expedite the passage of the draft Criminal Proceeding Bill into law. We have a problem with that Bill and we also have a problem with our laws, particularly the Criminal Procedure Act because trials are taking very long period before they are disposed of. The criminal justice system in Sierra Leone is not working and unless the criminal justice system works properly, the deterrent will not be felt *[Applause]*. I have been saying on Media that it takes at least three [3] years for a criminal action to come to an end in Sierra Leone. Preliminary investigation takes at least one year six months or two years for the Law Officers Department to draft that indictment. It takes at least another year for that particular matter to come to an end in the high court. Mr Speaker, because of the long period of time, institutions are compromising and the judiciary is one that is been compromised. I remember some six years ago, a Sierra Leonean was killed by an institutional violence, the police investigated the matter and it was sent to court. However, that matter never came to an end and highly placed Sierra Leoneans had their children charged to court. I will safely say that the matter never came to an end. They are now in their

offices, but the fact remains that the person is dead. Again, six months ago, another student was killed by club activity. The police investigated and the matter was charged to court. If somebody does not follow up that matter, the matter will never come to an end.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move to the secondary schools. It goes without saying that there are specific secondary schools that are always been named in street violence. Any time they have school activities in Freetown, specific schools are involved. You will never hear about Grammar School or Prince of Wales School. If schools like Ahmadiyya, Congress, Colligate and Government Model are coming out today, people will start to run. I think the Conference of Principals should also take this issue very seriously.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, let us name and shame them *[Laughter]*.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** If you go to Ahmadiyya, the Principal does not know the number of pupils in that school. There are pupils in that school who do not know their colleagues in the same class *[Laughter]*. There is no procedure as how pupils should be admitted. When you have an uncontrollable number of pupils going out, it is going to be a problem. People who are not even part of the school but because the school does not have laws, they considered themselves as part of the school. When they hear that this school has an activity today, they will join them and these are the people who cause mayhem.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we address this issue with the security forces, I want to move that we involve the Conference of Principals. Two years ago, a colleague of mine whose friend was a Canadian was nearly killed along Sandas Street as she was driving. They opened her vehicle and she was sexually assaulted. They took her computer. On that day, it was the Ahmadiyya Secondary School that was on the street. It was a very serious situation. Even though we are talking about Free Quality Education, we also need to look at the number of pupils we admit in our schools. If you have more pupils in a particular school, Government can make provision for that, but we should have sizable number of pupils in our schools. We have to talk to the principals about this particular menace and give them guidelines. The principals should be held responsible for any abnormalities perpetuated by their

pupils [*Applause*]. I am sure the America Embassy issued a press release after two schools engaged in hooliganism. On that day, most parliamentarians and other Sierra Leoneans had their vehicles vandalised or damaged because of the clash between those two secondary schools.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot stop sporting activities in this country at secondary school level. That is the area where we can spot and identify talents. So, if we take a decision to ban inter-secondary sporting activities or games, we will not be doing ourselves any good. Nations like Brazil have made a mark because of sports. So, we have to deal with the situation by looking at the institutions that are notorious in hooliganism. Those schools with the tendency to cause mayhem should be put under control. Thank you very much [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I recognise the Honourable Member in the grey suit.

**HON. DOMIMIC J. L TSHOMBE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have looked into this matter and maybe I will mention three points. First, the attribute of the youth is something we have to look into. We usually say the youth are active, curious and they want to learn or admire other people. These are some of the major causes of youth violence. Sometimes if we have situations or concerns that are of public opinion and the state actors, either delay to take action or adjudicate unfairly, the aggrieved faction would like to revenge or take the law into their own hands because they know that there is no justice. So, lack of justice could be one. A Member of Parliament spoke an issue regarding a piece of land in the Waterloo axis. There has never been justice as far as that issue is concerned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the persistent negligence on the part of Government and other institutions to meet their own obligations is the reason we are hearing about frequent strike actions in mining companies. This is because salaries and other allowances of workers have not been paid. Therefore, workers are always in preparedness to revenge to take the law into their hands.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, due to the lack of certain basic facilities, normally when you hear that students are on strike, it is because the Lecturers are 'on go

slow or they are not in the class rooms.’ Therefore, the students resort to strike action because they think they have paid their fees and they are not getting the requisite services they have paid for. It happened in the case of Njala University and I want to make it known to this House that Mohamed Mark, who was shot during the last students strike, is still carrying a bullet in his ribs. The students went on the rampage not because the Government is not paying them, but because the lecturers were ‘on a go slow.’ There is also violation of human rights and increase in school dropouts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we have a lot of youth dropping out of school and we do not have recreational centres or provisions to rehabilitate them, it is a problem. They need to be reunited together, so that they become part of the society. There are certain individuals and groups who perpetrate violence or who are notorious, but they are admired by society. As I said earlier, the youth are curious and they are very agile. They admire people who society places credence on them. For instance, there are notorious killers or clique leaders, but because there is no justice, other people may try to imitate them. It may surprise you to know that there are people who call themselves ‘friends of the dead.’ They sleep in grave yards the Government knows about it and takes no action on them. Clique boys admire such people even if they dropped out of the system they will have a fall back which is obviously not good for society.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to recommend that punitive measures are taken against perpetrators. The Honourable Independent Member said that we have people who ignite violence. For instance, I was at a scene in Bo and a particular politician was going for nomination. The kids I saw processing with him to create an atmosphere of popularity were mostly in their seventeens. Majority of them were under the influence of drugs. Somebody said the politicians or leaders are also responsible for the violence. We have to strengthen the Judiciary for quick and fair decisions to be taken. Again, somebody also said that we have to revitalise community policing and all public gathering, especially in the urban centres to be monitored by the Police force. The bureaucracy of reporting public crimes must be reduced. Sometimes the reporters are not protected and sometimes when you

report syndicate crimes, bureaucracy will not allow the issue to be dealt with on time. Sometimes they leak information about you and you become endangered in the hands of the criminals.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government and other organisations like the Street Child, NaCSA and humanitarian organisations should come to the aid of the displaced or irresponsible battered youth in the streets. They need to be rehabilitated and I believe if organisation like the Street Child should go out and identify those cliques and try to rehabilitate them. I think they can do well in society. Thank you very much.

**HON. [RTD CAPT.] HAFIJU MAADA KANJA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this particular debate today is very vital for the security of this Nation. But if we are talking about security, we have what we called traditional threats and we have four types of traditional threats: espionage, subversion, sabotage and terrorism. We pray to the Almighty Allah to push Sierra Leone far from those traditional threats. However, if we are talking about security, the security must take security with vigilance. Let me come back to the traditional threats and draw the attention of this noble House to something that is happening in this country. We are seeing people from Arabic countries to Sierra Leone, selling dishes and giving loans for four to six months. They have been coming to this Parliament and nobody is paying attention to them. They are in good number and they are all over Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I went to the canteen to purchase water five minutes ago and somebody told me if you do not take your time to do this debate, you will be identified by cliques. I told him if we say we love this country and want to secure this country, we should not mind any threat. Let us assume we are free from threat, but I am drawing the attention of this House to monitor those guys selling dishes and giving loans. It is not secured for somebody from the Arab World to come to my house and give me loan for four months. They are all over the streets of Freetown, including our offices. If you go to Youyi Building, you will see them there. They come to Parliament and even go to other places, giving loans to people for six months. We do not know their origin and we need to investigate them. In Sierra Leone, we have syndicates all over this country that are responsible for

thieving in the streets. If your bag is missing and you go to PZ to find it, people will tell you we have an office where you will find your bag but you have to pay before we can direct you to that office. If you go there, you will see your bag, but you have to pay for it. It is a syndicate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a member of Sierra Leone Global Emerging Pathogen Treatment Consortium [GET]. It is a scientific organisation headed by Professor Sahr Moses Gevao. I am responsible for collecting bio risk materials. I collected all the left out materials during the Ebola fight. I was responsible to collect all the samples that were left in the fields by the field laboratories from various parts of the world that joined us to fight the Ebola. I collected all the Ebola samples that were left in the field. One of the questions that the International Federation for Bio-Risk Association [IFBA] used to ask is who is responsible for security? To secure this Nation is our responsibility and every individual is responsible to secure this Nation. We are all responsible and we are sitting here some of us have clique relatives. Some of us have thieves in the streets, but they are our children or relatives. We know about them and we are sending the responsibility to the security agencies. The responsibility to secure this Nation should be done by every individual. We are all responsible to secure this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Speaker spoke about MAC-P earlier. MAC-P is not designed only to take effect during elections. We all know that the Police are in charge of internal security and the Military is in charge of external security like defending our borders, both Land, Sea and Air. So, for them to join together to take care of internal security is a procedure that is not only designed for election. It is designed wherever the Police need help from the Military and that is why it is called Military Aid to Civil Power. The insecurity in the streets of Sierra Leone today is due to the fact that the police cannot perfectly take care of them and we need to invoke the MAC-P. The Police have to ask that this is the situation and we need backup. In other words, we need the Military to come to our aid. Three days ago, I was attacked at Lumley at around 10:00 p.m. The Independent Member of Parliament was talking about idle youth in the streets. That is one of the responsibilities of insecurity in the streets. We have a good number of youth who are standing

constantly at the Lumley round about shouting the names of Members of Parliament or other Government officials. They usually rush at people and 'u bɔbɔ dɛm dae ya' S.O. [2]. If you do not respond or give them money, they will jump into your vehicle and attack you in the presence of traffic police officers. Some of them were at the other side of the vehicle and by the time I realised, two of them were already in my vehicle, searching for my bag and phones. This is happening to other Government officials as well. When you leave your office going home in the evening, we all know the serious nature of the traffic at Lumley. We almost always face similar problems. It happens to many Government officials who are using that route.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you have a unique experience to share with this House. If one considers your background, would you say that for this festive season, which is a very sensitive period, that you would recommend to the Government to invoke MAC-P?

**HON. [RTD CAPT.] AFIJU KANJA:** Yes, Mr Speaker. The police are trained and experienced officers, but the enemies always deceive your experience and your effectiveness. That is what is happening now in the streets of Freetown and other areas. A month ago, we heard of an attack in Makeni. There were other attacks in other places. We also heard about an attack in Pujehun. They deceived the observation of the police and that is why I recommend that we invoke MAC-P for this festive season. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for that contribution. I will turn my attention now to the enclave from which I have been hearing negative responses.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are discussing a very important issue, an issue that has to do with the security of this Nation. Mr Speaker, I want to confirm that the existence of cliques and gangs is not only in Sierra Leone. In December, 2017 there was serious fight in the Republic of Liberia between two cliques. The same happened in Ghana and Ivory Coast. The question one would like to ask is that why the American Embassy singularly released a statement on Sierra Leone, excluding other countries where they also have their embassies? Those countries equally have cliques. Could this mean the Embassy has lost confidence in the security apparatus of our country? If the Embassy had known that our police are

capacitated and have all the resources to curb any violence, they would not have issued that release because they know that police officers are capacitated to put it under control in the twinkling of an eye.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us look at the release made by the Embassy, which is preceded by an Amnesty report against our security apparatus, especially the Police. What did we do as a country to change the face of our security apparatus? What did we do as a country to repose confidence in the international community? Do we have a Police Force that is capable of curbing any violence in our country? We did not do anything. We folded our hands and feet as if everything in this country was okay.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please allow me to talk to the police. You would agree with me that there have been lots of incidences in this country. We have had similar incidences in Bumbuna, Kabala, Calaba Town, Tonko Limba and Mile 91. Those incidences were perpetrated by the police. The question is, have we issued out any report relating to those incidences? Has any Police been held responsible? How could American Embassy repose confidence in the police? I was born and raised in a Military family. My father is an ex-Military officer and his nomenclature in the Military was 18161248. If you are a Military officer, you know what I am saying.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say the Police is an independent institution. I always go against those who think that when the Police do something bad, they should blame the Government. I always go against them because the Police are neither APC nor SLPP. They have their own institution and credibility to build as an institution. You would agree with me that the Amnesty International Report recommended that our Police should not participate in international peace keeping missions. Why did they prevent the Police? This is because they do not have confidence in them. Two months ago, I was on a forum with four other Civil Society members and a Government official who was Lahai Lawrence Leema, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that before you make any statement in the media, you must be quite sure that you have all the proofs. The police have the liberty to arrest you if you do not have proofs. They did that to



Kamaraimba Mansaray and four of us. It was only the Internal Affairs Minister that supported the Police and the Police also agreed that they are going to go by what the Internal Affairs Minister said. So, it is high time we said no to Government officials who are with the intention of controlling the Force because they are in governance. We have series of complaints in the past and we have still not known what is happening. The Police think when they do not do what a Minister tells them to do, they will lose their job. This is not good for the credibility of the Police. Government comes and goes, but the Police stay. We should not be seen destroying our own institutions because tomorrow you would not see SLPP Government in power. Yesterday, there was APC and today, there is an SLPP. We still have the Police as an institution. So, we want to see a Police that is independent; a Police that has the tendency to say no to political interference.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure if the America Embassy had seen that the Police was capable and potent enough to curb violence in our society, they would never have released that Press Release. They feel that their citizens are not protected by these Police officers. In Tonko Limba, they went with Police officers and there was a gunshot that left a fourteen year old boy dead. The Police know how many ammunition they gave to each Police officer that went to that operation. They should have asked those who went to curb that violence to produce the exact amount of ammunition they gave to each police officer. When I watched the Mile 91 incident, it was very pathetic and I almost shed tears. As we speak, no report has been released. The Police did not come out with anything, even in Kabala and Bumbuna. I appreciated when the Speaker said we should not politicise this debate because the Police is an independent entity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the release from the American Embassy is not unfortunate at all. I am sure it is in place because our security apparatus need to wake up. They need to wake up because they have integrity to protect. They have an image to protect and when the image of our security apparatus is doubtful to the international community, it affects us as a country. They would not repose confidence in our country. Somebody was suggesting that we invoke MAC-P. Well, we have tourists and other people who have left other countries to come and

celebrate the Christmas with us in Sierra Leone. To me, if we invoke MAC-P, it would confirm to the international community that our country is not safe and secured.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we should do as a nation is to capacitate the police and allow them to be independent in the exercise of their functions. I come from Lungi and the Police in that part of the country do not even have vehicles to trace thieves and other criminal gangs. You hardly see the police officers at night. There was an incident in my Constituency and I had to intervene. I went to the Police at night but unfortunately, they do not have patrol vehicles. How would you expect effectiveness from the police when they do not have vehicles? To me, security should be one of the *primus inter pares* in our country. I have said this insistently that Government should allow the police to operate as a separate entity. We should not politicise the police at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if the requisite facilities are given to the police, I am sure they will do better. We have professional Police officers who have been exposed to lot of international trainings, but how would they exhibit amidst political interference? When the Local Unit Commander [LUC] at Mile 91 said on radio that he was not informed of the raid, he was replaced and nobody commented on that action. Everybody was happy because he was being replaced. They did not even address the killing that took place; instead they advocated for the replacement of that Police officer who genuinely said they did not inform him before the raid was carried out.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have said it that Sierra Leone is the only country that we have. If we are not genuine to this country, posterity would judge us; but if posterity fails to judge us, our children would inherit a country that we are creating for them. We are saying that a single life is important in this country. Just like what the Honourable Dixon Rogers was saying that there are lots of incidences of violence in America, but one thing I can tell you is that, in America, their Police are not partisan. The American Police do not listen to Government officials. They are independent and they always protect the integrity of their institution. This is because they know that if the integrity of the Police is mismanaged, it would have an

overriding effect on them and not the Government. We have never seen a situation wherein a Police officer is reprimanded of doing bad.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, We have never witnessed a situation where a police officer was reprimanded for his/her actions. Let us begin from that point by holding police officers responsible for acts or deeds that they do that are not correct.

With those few words, I want to give chance to my twin partner in this Parliament to have a bite.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. I think you went beyond the allotted time, but thank you for your contribution. My attention has been drawn to a very interesting fact that you might want to factor into the debate. We made references to press releases from the U.S. Embassy. My attention has been drawn to a press release from the U.S. Embassy entitled, 'Travelling Advisory,' addressed to U.S citizens travelling to Sierra Leone. It is dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. I think something similar to that was again issued by the same Embassy on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. The idea that is being conveyed from this press or this travelling note to citizens of the United States coming to Sierra Leone is that this is normal routine by the Embassy to issue such notice to their citizens twice a year. As you can see, from the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 was in the immediate aftermath of the elections. What I cannot understand now is either it is because of festive season or otherwise, but I want you to bear this in mind as you debate the issues.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS [Deputy Speaker]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I genuinely think that as Members of Parliament, instead of taking the path of castigating the Police, we should congratulate them. They are doing their best with the little resources this nation provides to the security forces. They have been doing very well and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Police, the Military and the Prison Services or Correctional Services for a job well done. Keep on doing the good work for this nation and we are extremely proud of you. Of course, in every nation, you would certainly have deviants or people who go against the law. You can find such people everywhere in the World. There is no nation on this earth where you would not have deviants. They are all over the World, but our case is different. Do you know why our case is different? It is because we have tolerated

ours to certain extent. This is the only nation where you see leaders pamper criminals. This is a shame to this country. We have seen cliques being invited and given money. This is an open secret. They were given money at least to go and enjoy themselves. To me, it was like saying go and commit more crimes and I think we appreciate you for that. I considered that extremely terrible at that time. You should not invite people we consider as deviants and encourage them to that extent. The cliques in Ghana, in Liberia and other places would not come out openly in the street and begin to misbehave as we are experiencing in this country. We consider them heroes to the extent of undermining the effectiveness of the security forces. So, if we castigate the Police, we must take certain things into account. This is the only country where politicians use these criminals to intimidate their opponents. If we want to talk about the Police, let not forget our role in all of these. That is the why I started by congratulating and thanking them for the work they do. You would agree with me that what we give the Police Force and other security forces is pittance. Security is extremely expensive everywhere in the World. We have not accorded them the kind of resources needed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a writer said that when anything is going wrong in the society, let somebody says it before he or she dies, so that when things actually go wrong, somebody somewhere would get up to say that that person said it but we did not listen. The kind of security threats we have in Sierra Leone now is going off target. As politicians, until something is done about security of this nation, we will continue to be disturbed. We are the ready and easy target and that is why we must treat this topic very seriously. As a Parliament, we must be seen supporting the efforts of our security forces. I told a colleague that unlike other countries, including the sub-region, we have the most beautiful public order laws. If you check our Public Order Act and laws relating to public order, they are among the most beautiful you can find anywhere. The problem we have in this Nation is implementing these laws. The other day I was saying that you cannot change people's attitude through the erection of billboards. Did we actually need the Attitudinal Behavioural Change Secretariat? We did not need that as a nation. We were wasting a lot of money. We should have allocated those resources to the security forces and to the Court to implement our laws. Do we need to change our

attitude through the erection of billboards or radio jingles? I think we only need to implement our laws through support to the Police, the Military and Prison Services. I strongly believe that there will be a time in this nation when the people would say enough is enough. In fact, when somebody mentioned MAC-P, I heard some other people saying no. I think we need MAC-P now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we are not benefitting from the violence that is happening, I think there is nothing wrong in ensuring peace in this nation. I sensed some politics being diluted into this debate. You cannot blame a Government for youth violence in the street. What is the link between what is happening in the street and the instruction given to the Police? I refuse to see the link between what is happening in our streets now and what somebody said about Government officials. Is because we are refusing to look at the issues and deal with them by calling things by their names?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge this Honourable House to think about this situation seriously and let address it as it is. Let us give the Police, the Military, the Correctional Services the free hand to deal with this kind of violence we have now. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Speaker. Once more let me admonish all of us not to blind our vision with political affiliation. Let us try to debate this issue dispassionately. It is a national security issue that affects all of us as a nation, regardless of political affiliation. Let me begin to direct your minds to the outcome of this debate. What form should it be? What form should it take? I do not think it is just an opportunity for us to air out our views and then end it there. I am beginning to apply my mind as to what the outcome of this debate should be. Maybe this sitting of Parliament should begin to think about the possibility of setting up a special Committee out of this debate to address this particular issue. We may not be able to do so as a whole, but maybe a small Committee should be put together. I know other Committees exist, but this matter is very urgent. Let it be a special select Committee of this Parliament to address this issue. It is going to be an Ad-hoc Committee. I am advised to sit with the security forces and map a way forward in dealing with this issue, particularly at this festive time to advise the Government. All

we can do is to come up with ideas on how we can progress this matter and advise the Government of the day. So, let us continue with the debate and spend another hour before we conclude. I know this enclave has been very eager to participate.

**HON. ALPHA A. BAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must confess that I feel gratified for this debate this afternoon. It clearly confirms the urgency and seriousness of the problem this Honourable House is discussing. Mr Speaker, you clearly stated just now that you are applying your mind as to what would be the possible action points. My submission will be predicated on four points. First, I want to state here that anybody's child is everybody's child. The second point, as rightfully pointed out by the Honourable Dickson Rogers, is that change is not a something you can wait for, but it is something you go for. Again, the Speaker clearly admonished us to debate this issue devoid of party affiliations. We must be frank and genuine in discussing this issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, the problem of street violence is becoming a very serious situation in Sierra Leone. After the election of His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio into office, we have witnessed incidences of street violence in Tonkolili, Freetown and other parts of the country. Prior to that, we also witnessed incidences of violence across the country. This clearly shows that the issue of street violence in Sierra Leone, if not nip in the bud at this material time, definitely Sierra Leone will move backwards. At this material time, we need investors into Sierra Leone. However, if the condition of this country continues to degenerate, investors would be scared away or even create panic amongst investors, thereby driving them away. Investors will continue to invest into this country and the economic recovery plans that we are clamouring for will not yield good fruits.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of street violence is multifaceted as pointed out by the Honourable colleague Member of Parliament few minutes ago. It is a social, political and legal in nature. Socially, other Honourable Members have pointed out the issue of idleness and job opportunities. Again, other Honourable Members have pointed out the role of certain institutions like the churches, the mosques, the family and the schools. Socially, we have seen the role every Sierra Leonean is required to play in solving this problem.

Politically, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have realised that for a country to move forward, we need the political will. At this point, I must state here that I am yet to see that political will power from this current Government. I am saying this since the assumption of office by His Excellency the President, with all the reports concerning street violence from April to now, I am totally disappointed at the unprecedented silence of the President. There have been attempts to address this issue, for instance, the cross party committee that was set up and led by the Vice President. However, we know that we are being led by His Excellency the President and the people voted for him. We are all responsible and accountable to our electors. Since then to now, he is yet to make a singular statement condemning street violence. So, by extension, this serves as an incentive. It means the people are being encouraged to do what they are doing. It is not correct, Mr Speaker.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before now we used to have the red, blue and black flag. In recent times, we have the PAOPA brigade; we have the `Soja` team; and the green boys. It shows clearly that the situation is degenerating. We used to have four flags, but we now have eight flags. This means that the problem is not being solved. So, we are expecting the political will power from the President to come out strongly and act tough.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, with all due respect, I do not think you are adding value to this debate because all of us recognised that there is an existing problem that has motivated all of us to have this special debate. Let us proffer solutions to the problem and not try to blame somebody. Let us be innovative and be forward looking.

**HON. ALPHA A. BAH:** That is what I am about to do, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want you to note that Government is answerable to Parliament and Parliament is answerable to the people. What this implies is that this Parliament is entitled to examine every facet of Governmental administration and that is precisely what we are doing, the facet relating to the threat of national security, which is perpetuated by street violence and that is what has brought the greatest concern and has led us to this debate. I want to thank the Honourable Hassan Sesay for bringing it to our attention. Therefore, let us confine ourselves to the following:

recognised the fact that there is a problem and how do we solve this problem? How do we move forward?

**HON. ALPHA A. BAH:** Mr Speaker, in response to your call for solutions, one important solution is by ascertaining the root cause of the problem, which I have done in my first part of the debate. Now coming to the action point, since the problem is a social problem, there must be a situation whereby social institutions like the inter-religious Council of Sierra Leone and the Council of Imams are brought on board, together with other state institutions to solve this menace. The Police should constantly meet to find ways of solving this problem. These should be multi-faceted meetings between social and state institutions responsible for our security. Those institutions have been playing key role in ensuring peace and security in Sierra Leone.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to ask the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice to begin to look at the existing laws. Just a moment ago, Honourable Gevao spoke about the delay in accessing justice, especially the criminal justice system. Definitely, these are legal loopholes that must be addressed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. She must be called upon by this House to give us concrete solution as to how she thinks the existing legal framework can be improved upon, so as to solve this problem.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are all Sierra Leoneans and we have a common aspiration. I keep saying it in this House of Parliament that all of us aspired to see a better Sierra Leone. We do not have two 'mama Salone' S.O. [2] 'nar one Salone me get, ar nor get any two Salone. If Salone is good, e good for we all and if e bad, e bad for we all.' On that note, the people elected the President and a single statement from the President will solve this problem. Let him come out to condemn this violence and that will help solve this problem. I thank you all.

**THE SPEAKER:** I do not know about the first two points, but I do not think whether anybody can find any deficiency in His Excellency the President expressing himself on violence and violent situations in this country. Time without number, he has been condemning violence acts that have occurred in this country. I think we have short



memories, but my memory is still very active and long. I will now recognise Honourable Dr Roland F. Kargbo.

**HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to commend the Speaker for stressing the fact that we need to separate this problem from politics. I want to state here that the difficulties this House has had is to separate this important issue from politics. This shows how much we are polarised. However, I think there must be a time when we should put away politics and talk about things that are of common interest or things that are threatening the wellbeing of the state. If we are to look at violence in the last twelve months, it has taken a new dimension. There was a time when we had clique violence and there were killings everywhere. This situation has degenerated after the general elections.

*Suspension of S/O 5[2]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me assure you that this is the last sitting before we take a recess. I am quite prepared to extend the time of this debate for as long as there are speakers.

**HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In addition we heard that in the universities, there was killing relating to cultism. This also threatens our national security. In the last few days, we heard of institutional rivalry and fighting broke out. In each of these instances, we have had very little to show about what the Police did. What we can say is that the violence we had experienced is not of a national nature, but individual isolated cases. And this is where I have problem with MAC-P and the other suggestions involving the interference of the Military. When we have a national disorder which spreads all over the country to the extent that the Police cannot cover the entire country, other forces can intervene.

**THE SPEAKER:** No! Honourable Member, to the best of my recollection, we have heard instances of MAC-P in isolated cases during elections.

**HON. DR ROLLAN F. KARGBO:** Yes, that was then, Mr Speaker. We are discussing this special issue where we have heard that merrymaking in this festival season was postponed because of the threat of violence. If we are not careful, we will encroach on people's freedom for excuses that are too flimsy. We have refused

to manage things that can be managed. We should not encroach on the freedom of other people. We are going through difficult times and when there are celebrations that will help the people to forget about their difficulties, I think we have to give them the liberty they deserve. If we continue to postpone these activities because of the threats of violence, it seems we are being held captive by other people. We must do something towards that. I am saying that the issue of street violence can still be handled by the police without the involvement of the military. If there is a sporting activity at the National Stadium, we have to deploy 200 or 300 police officers. We must be able to predict the size of whatever disruption that is going to take place based on the size of the population of pupils.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the police and other intelligence agencies, should step up their activities and predict situations ahead of time and prepare accordingly. I think the police are being over taken by unpreparedness, not necessarily lack of strength or stamina. Usually, they are not prepared to take care of things that happen. If we have the National Stadium filled with students, we have to deploy police personnel. I also want to caution the idea of giving the police paramilitary guns to ensure order. That should be stopped. That is where the problem comes because where killing takes place, nobody takes responsibility. I think the police should use other weapons to control crowd. I want to believe that if their number is strong enough, they should be able to maintain order without using guns. Guns are for other purposes and they should be kept for those purposes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as you said, I agree with you entirely that we need to have a committee that will give time to this matter. We cannot continue to be held hostage by a small group of people. We are a free nation and we reject the idea of cancelling our social activities because of threats of violence. I think we have institutions that have been giving these responsibilities of maintaining law and order. If they are not able to do that, let them stand aside, but we should start holding people accountable for things that happen in this country, especially those in authority. If the police cannot maintain law and order, they should be accountable. This should be done without any political interference. I thank you, Mr Speaker

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me recognise the Honourable Member representing the NGC. I was hoping that your Leader would have been here. He was here a little while ago

**HON. FODAY M. KAMARA:** He is still here, Mr Speaker. He is around. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am glad that I finally caught your eye. I fear that we have moved away from the Motion brought by Honourable Hassan A. Sesay. I would have loved to see all of us stay tuned to this topic. These are our children we are talking about. The fear I have is that perhaps, we are not looking at this matter from the point of view of the commotion on the streets. It was not only caused by pupils from the schools. In circumstances, we also have hooligans, dropouts and thieves who will join the school children to cause havoc. When we look at it from that point of view, we now start to blame the police. I gathered from some speakers that the children have been named, the parents have been named, and the principals of secondary schools have also been named. So, we have the key characters in this issue. Now, we already know that we have a problem. This country has a problem. We are not looking at the magnitude of the problem. What we are talking as the magnitude is perhaps far beyond that, but if it were only the children we are talking about, the case would have been different. The parents and the principals will come together to make sure that the children are well behaved. However, we have dropouts and hooligans who usually join these school children. It is a big problem. School dropouts and hooligans are always ready to cause havoc.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Hafiju Kanja said he was cautioned by somebody to be careful what he would say. We have sacrificed ourselves for this country. This matter has come before us and we have to find an immediate solution. This is a festive season and we cannot run into our houses and say it is because of violent crises in the streets. Let us start saying that the police are there to maintain law and order.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the Honourable Dixon Rogers asked how to help the security forces. I think we have to enact a law here that will help the police to act swiftly. The police cannot act. It is this House that will tell the police to act. We have to say something if we are not shying away from our responsibilities. If school children continue to cause problem, like what the Speaker said, we have to

empower the police to arrest and detain the perpetrators until they are being identified. And in identifying them, they will bring their principals and parents to do so. When a parent identifies his/her child or ward, perhaps we cannot go further than that because you could have been put to shame. The police will ask the parent to sign an agreement that if the child is caught again, he or she will bear the consequences.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us have records of some of these law breakers. It is not a long process, Honourable Members. For now, what we have to do is to tell the police to arrest and detain law breakers. If we do not empower the police to arrest and detain, where do you think we are going? We would just be rounding the whole thing and at the end of the day, nothing will come out of it. We must do something. We have to empower the police to arrest and detain until identification is done. I want to support the Honourable Gevao when he spoke about justice in this country. Those who are found wanting should be imprisoned for five or ten years. It has happened. People who have been accused of killing have been released and they are seen walking in the streets of Freetown. That is more dangerous. Apart from the parents and principals, some authorities have also been named. This is a country when somebody is arrested, people in high places will call the police to release them. The person will say this is my child or cousin. Let us shame such people as well, so that this act will stop. We have to ensure that Sierra Leone is free from such hooligans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it has been said that we should not be partisan in this issue. I want to appeal to my colleagues Honourable members not to be partisan, but take punitive measures, like the ones we have suggested. I think we know the problem and we know the magnitude of the problem. We need solution to this problem. Let us suggest ways and means of curbing this violence in the country. Thank you, Mr Speaker

**THE SPEAKER:** I Thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Let me come back to Honourable Carew. I think he was magnanimous enough to concede when the Deputy Speaker rose. I now give him the Floor.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KARIM-CAREW:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think today is the beginning of a new era. My colleagues have done what they are supposed to do. We can blame the police, but I am going to talk about the Prisons Department. The Prisons Department needs a lot of work to do because when they arrest and detain thugs in prison, they usually release them. We are talking about rehabilitating our youth if we want to get out of this problem. Some of the problems we are talking about concern the youth. We need to rehabilitate them and we should stop the blame game. We blame the politicians, the police and the orders from the above. What about rehabilitating the youth? Let us focus on that as well. They have a lot to do for these kids to be rehabilitated. If somebody is learning pedicure, is that rehabilitation? We are talking about gangsterism. We need to put politics aside and think about Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker has told that the Press Release from the American Embassy is done every year. I beg to differ because the same thing happened in Nigeria. The Parliament of Nigeria summoned the American Consul in the Well of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** I was not justifying it. I was simply telling you that I have been advised that the American Embassy does that twice a year.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KARIM-CAREW:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not justifying their Press Releases. I was merely stating that it is stated to me that this is perfectly within their domain to do and they do it twice a year. So do not misunderstand me.

**HON. MOHAMED S. CAREW-KASIM:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Press Release started this year. If we are talking about building this Nation, I do not think MAC-P is the answer at this time because it will cause more havoc in the streets. We are not in a state of emergency and we should not justify that Press Release at all. We are here to solve this issue. I think we have to give the police the chance to correct their mistakes and let them be held accountable by this Parliament as we have done before if they fail to do their work. As a Parliament, regardless of our party affiliations, we will summon them here to justify their action. If something happens and we do not have a report, we have the right to summon them to explain to us. We have options and this is the most powerful House in this country. Let us use our

power so that the police cannot be controlled by any politician. No orders from above! I am pleading to this House to help the police, so that they can combat the issue of gangsterism. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to recognise the presence in our midst of the Minister for Youth Affairs [*Applause*].

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to speak to this Private Member Motion. The Coalition 4 Change [C4C] unreservedly condemns youth violence and all associated activities. Mr Speaker, until the underlining factors are dealt with thoroughly, the issue of curtailing youth violence would continue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the records, I come from Kono district. Between 2000 and 2002, That District accounted for the highest number of ex-combatants. In 2001, it was about **23%**. This is because it was in Kono District that the demobilisation or the disarmament ended. So, violence and violent activities were almost the order of the day in those early periods.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have just said that until the underlining factors are resolved and that will happen if we begin to implement the recommendations of Commissions. It will be a fine sign to deal with the issue of youth violence and other violent activities. Let us reminisce back in 2007, two people died in a fight between police officers and the youth. In 2012, two people also died. In 2015, two people died in a clash in Kono between police officers and the youth. The Jenkins Juston Commission of Enquiry and we have still not implemented the recommendations of that Commission. The killers are still seeing parading on the streets of Kono and nothing has happened. If we begin to implement the recommendations of those Commissions, it will be a fine sign to end youth violence. I have heard a lot on the narratives regarding the causes of this problem. So, it is high time we began looking at the solutions. In the first place, let us mentally transform our curriculum. When we begin to transform our curriculum, as a teacher at polytechnic level or at the university level, teaching gives students the values of civic education. It will go a long way to love this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the C4C platform, we always preach nation first. We put the Nation first in whatever we do. We have realised that the Grammar

School system touched this nation. In other words, if someone does not have six WASSCE or six 'O' Levels, he/she will not make it to the Grammar School pattern of education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that the age between 15 and 35 is a youthful age. The eleven year civil war left most of our youths hopeless. Today, they are no longer under the youthful age and most of the violent activities caused in those areas cannot be unconnected with them. The issue mistrust is also another panacea to curb youth violence. During the electioneering period, I cannot actually account for the correct number, but along the river line areas, there were certain boats given to youth. They were promised that those boats would be provided to the youth to manage themselves. Regrettably, when those were finally commissioned for livelihood of those youth, certain politicians were managing them. The youth never saw the proceeds derived from those boats. The same mistrust is now taking place in my district. We have a popular place called Cocomai Mining. Politicians made statement that upon their victory, you would be at liberty to go and mine irrespective of the artisanal laws. Today, we only have S.O 2 "short bar" where somebody will mine in a week's time and find fortunes. "Short bars" are no longer there, expect one has to use mechanised machinery for you to get to the gravel. The artisanal laws do not account for excavators and bulldozers because of that mistrust. It is also advantageous if we begin to talk about CCTV machines in our cities and urban cities and beef up the security sector. The CCTVs will go a long way to curb youth violence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, much have been heard from various speakers, but we can change the narrative today if we begin to transform our curriculum. We have to install CCTV cameras in our urban cities as a way of looking out for solutions rather than just looking at this issue from a political party lens. It will not help this Nation at all. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. It is now nearly 3:30 p.m. So I want to close this debate by 4:00 p.m. I will allow only two minutes per speaker because all of you want to take the Floor. I will recognise three speakers in this

order: Honourable Alusine Kamara, Honourable Sahr Charles and our celebrated proof reader. The lady will come later.

**HON. ALUSINE B. KAMARA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my take on this issue is respect. I want to say that the police officers in this country have lost respect from the people and that is why they cannot be able to enforce the laws in this country. The reason why we are calling on the military to provide support is as a result of respect. In Sierra Leone, if you see a police officer, the gang boys will just say let us go.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do not feel intimidated by that. What you say in this House is privileged.

**HON. ALUSINE B. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to call on the police officers to go back to the drawing board in trying to regain their lost glory or respect. It is common in this country that whenever you see a military officer, you will see the difference in any area. I think that is why people are suggesting for us to have the MAC-P, so that the military will support those police officers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other thing I want to talk about is enforcement of the law, particularly our bye-laws in our different communities. I think it is high time we started implementing our bye-laws in our local communities, particularly at our chiefdom levels. I am saying this because if you go to those remote areas, you will also meet these gang boys there. Most of them have moved from the cities to the villages and they are creating lots of problems for our people, particularly during festive seasons. If you go to those communities, you will definitely see the different gangs that are perpetuating these violence in those areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want the police to take those things into consideration. I want to call the police boss to tell his men to read the Constitution of this country. A good number of the police officers do not understand the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. This is a fact and please I am stating here. Let your police officers read the Constitution. I heard a police officer arguing with somebody S.O [2] 'ar nor need for salute a Member of Parliament, but ar dae salute Minister.' They do not understand the difference between a Member of Parliament and a



Minister. This is true and if they can read and understand the Constitution of this Nation, they can understand the difference between a Member of Parliament and a Minister in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my recommendation is that the police should understand the constitution. Somebody was talking about giving more powers to the police. What other power do they need? All the powers have already been spelt out in the Constitution. The other area is the concept of protocols. We misuse a lot of concept about protocols in this country. I think it is good for us to have people who will be responsible to explain protocols that have been signed, so that they can go down and explain to the grass root people. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his brilliant contribution.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Today is indeed a very important day. When the Speaker announced that today will be dedicated to the issue of violence, some of us were happy because the issue of violence is seriously affecting all of us. Recently, we concluded school league and I want to believe it was the 'last straw that breaks the camel's back' because it was that issue that propelled the right Honourable A. Hassan to move this motion, so that we can deal with it, especially for this festive season.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are all responsible for youth violence in this country; i.e., the parents, the religious leaders, etc. we all have a role to play in our societies. It is sad to note that when issues of this nature are brought to this House, some people tend to politicise them and that is very bad for the progress of this country. Let us be sincere to ourselves and to our people we represent here. The issue of violence is a grave concern and it has to do with the operations of the police. We have to say it here that the police should start to behave professionally. The police force is an independent institution and it is not a police force for neither the SLPP nor the APC or C4C, it is the police force that is there for every Sierra Leonean. In Kono, two weeks back, an incident occurred where the police officers illegally advised the people. The issue that had to do with the market traders, we advised them that this issue will bring violence. They refused to listen to us because they want to satisfy a particular political person. These are the things we are

advising the police to desist from. When we talk about violence at a time like this, it is very disheartening because we have tourists, visitors and Sierra Leoneans who want to come to this country and spend this festive season with us, but with the occurrence of violence in the city, it is disheartening.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to support the call of the Chairman of the Committee on Defence for us to invoke MAC-P. I am saying this not because of any political reason, but as a Sierra Leonean who is concerned about the safety of every Sierra Leonean, especially visitors to this country at this time. On that note, I encourage all my colleagues to also treat this issue seriously. As the Speaker has opined, if there is need for us to have an ad-hoc committee that will work with all the security apparatus, so as to come up with a resolution as soon as possible.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, S.O. [23], I want to announce to this House that today being the last day as announced by the Speaker for this year, I will be officially celebrating my wedding on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month and I have sent an invitation to the entire House. Join me to celebrate my wedding in Kono on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. I recognise our editor-in-chief.

**HON. ALIMAMY O. KAMARA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution on this important topic of discussion. The theme I want to give to this debate is 'Using a sledge hammer to kill a fly.' The reason is because during the civil war in Freetown, we had an intervention force from Nigeria. In administration, I have three golden rules which guide me even in my home and one of these rules is that I use the Wisdom of Solomon.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you can permit me to go to the Bible, we all know that Solomon was a very wise man. In a situation where you want to use the Wisdom of Solomon, you have to bring everybody together. In our case, therefore, we have to bring all the stakeholders together and tell them the implications of what they are doing and the way forward. If that failed, I use my second option; i.e., the bravery of Jonah. We know that Jonah was a very brave man. If Solomon's Wisdom failed, we have to apply the bravery of Jonah. We have to be brave in telling the offenders that if you go against the law, this will be my position. If those options

failed, I use the third option; which is the force of Samson. In our homes, for instance, you cannot use a sledge hammer to kill a fly. If we are not complicating matters, we were saying that the police are doing a very good job, which I endorse. If they are doing a very good job, why are we calling on MAC-P to intervene? MAC-P should be the third option; i.e., 'the force of Samson.' We only use MAC-P if the first option of Solomon and the bravery of Jonah have failed. There is no need at this time to use MAC-P at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with my military background, if you are engaged, you must make sure that you double the number of people you want to engage. For example, if you have ten police officers here and you want to engage them, you have to double the number to 20. If you put in place handful of police men to police about two thousand youth, the possibility for the non-occurrence of violence is very slim. They cannot function effectively. In the military, the use of withdrawal is accepted. When you know the enemy is stronger than you, you have no option, but to withdraw. If you do not withdraw, then you will be leaving your men to suicidal mission and you will not blame the police if they withdraw.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know that the police usually carry arms, but they cannot use them on innocent civilians. I want to know the difference between this festive period, and the past festive periods? There is nothing strange about this festive period. Why are we anticipating problems? You do not make mountain out of mud hills. Let us empower the police and use them instead of MAC-P. I believe we will get good results. If we anticipated problems when there are none, then we are not thinking positively for this country. I think we are relatively safe. If you result to the use of MAC-P, you will be sending a signal to the international World that we are in a situation of insecurity. It has the tendency to scare away visitors and investors. We do not want to scare away people who are coming to this country to invest. We want to celebrate our Christmas like we have been celebrating them before.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we should sit together as a family and ponder how we can resolve this situation amicably. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member.

**HON. SIRAJIN M.R. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here today because a police man save my life. The name of that police man is AIG Wellington, but he has retired. I think I have to be very much considerate. However, I think I want to disagree a bit with Honourable Segepoh Thomas. If we are happy with the police, we would not have invited them in this House at all. So, I want him to know that we are friends to the police and we want to help them do their work professionally, so that they can achieve the ultimate goal of policing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a gentleman at Eastern Police whose name was Kelvin. He knows all the places in this city where these cliques are located. But for some reason, politically or otherwise, he was just removed. I think the police need to be very professional. It is sad to see police chasing motorbikes instead of chasing those crime gangs in this country. You can see a lot of police on the street, putting premium on 'okadas' instead of going after these clique goys. However, I think politicians have to stop the habit of removing these gangs from prisons.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think I have been in a situation wherein a set of clique guys were arrested, but a powerful politician called and said S.O [2] "na me borbor bo, una lef am." I think we have also contributed badly to that effect and I do not support it because we still have a competent police that can do better things. It is just a matter of telling them that this is what you need to do. We have proposed that a committee to be established and I am sure the police can do better in handling ugly situations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, talking about the army, I have seen lots of foreign military men. I thought they were Mauritians, but I think they are from Somalia. I know some are from Mauritanian, but there are lots of foreigners in Sierra Leone and I am not sure if foreigners of that nature would come to this country to sell plastic bags or begging in the streets. They must have come through our land borders. I think this is where we should call on the military to intervene since they are in charge of external security. If you can conduct a survey, you would see a lot of them on the streets of Freetown and in other parts of the country. Few years ago,

the Al-shabab made a promise to us that since our army went to help in Somalia, they may want to pay us back. We should not just forgive easily, but we have to make sure that we check these guys properly to see what they are doing here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Gevao spoke about Ahmadiyya. I think Ahmadiyya is one of my Alma mater and it is injustice to the Ahmadiyya Secondary School because the school did not go to the finals. The incident was between Congress and Government Model School. For the Honourable Member to cite Ahmadiyya as example, I think that was an injustice to my school. I thought I should make that correction.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to see that the security apparatus should stop going to the ghettos. We have a lot of police men who sit with these guys in the ghettos, smoking marijuana. How would you arrest these guys when you sit with them and commit the same crime together? I would ask the police to make sure that these police officers are properly advised. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank you Honourable Member for your contribution.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this debate is first of its kind. I want to however take a different direction from what other Honourable Members have said today. For me, the people we blame today are just victims of circumstance or situation. And because they are victims of the situation, they end up paying those who cause the problems, which the society will end up blaming them again. It is a blame game.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the 70s and 80s, when the Speaker was a young boy, parents usually took responsibility of children. Today, however, after the late 80s, there are children without fathers to take up their responsibilities. The kids are left with their mothers and these kids are transferred to their grandmothers, where they are not well brought up. These are the children that end up terrorising society. Why are we blaming the police? If there are responsible men in Sierra Leone to take care of their kids, I think some of these problems would not have happened. Mr Speaker, when a man abandons his responsibilities, when a man thinks the best

place to keep time is in the bars and sport centres and Ataya Base, this is what society gets. We must accept our faults as men and as citizens of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here not to withdraw my words, but to say what I feel is the problem affecting society. I am not saying this out of anger, but the truth of the matter is that what we see now will be worse than the coming twenty years. Men are always at the cinema and Ataya bases to argue about football. You have to go home early and meet your children awake. There is no more transmission of knowledge and virtues from father to son in our society. We are killing the value chain of family relationship and this is what society gets. We keep blaming the children who are just victims of situations. In Sierra Leone today, if the father dies, his brothers will come and take possession of his property. The kids drop out of school and go back to the streets to fend for themselves. Society is quiet about it and this is the result. We are encouraging such to happen in our societies. When we have situations in which the religious leaders, the pastors and the imams are quiet about injustice to women and children, this is what we get.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. You have numerated the causes very well Please go to the solutions.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** First, we must have firm laws that regulate those who bring children from the provinces to Freetown in the name of giving them good life. These are the very children who are abandoned in the street. What do you expect Mr Speaker? Therefore, we must have a law that forbids bringing children and abandoning them in the streets. The Ministry of Social Welfare should monitor the children being brought from the provinces. The Ministry should know economic capacity of somebody before he/she is allowed to take a child.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the United States Embassy issued a press release, people said it was unfortunate. Today, I had the opportunity of driving to Parliament and I saw the convoy of the President. What I saw is a clear manifestation that our country is not secured. Again, the convoy of the Chief Minister suggests that our country is not secured. If the owners of this country cannot guarantee themselves of security, what would you expect from foreigners?

Mr Speaker, I do not want to say much today, but I must join the First Lady, Madam Fatima Bio and say 'hands off our girls.'

**HON. HARIYATU A. BANGURA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank God I am able to catch your eyes. Mr Speaker, I am born and bred in Sierra Leone and I have never, in my life, taken a full month in any other country.

Mr Speaker, Speaker, Honourable Members, the problem with violence has many factors. One of these problems is child labour. We have ratified the International Labour Laws. There are laws about child labour in this country. If you leave your children to sell on the streets, they fall in the wrong hands and at the end of the day, they become something else. We also have early child marriage and early child pregnancy in this country. What do you expect when a child is still undergoing training and decides to become a parent? If the child is thrown on the street without the right training, then she would become something else.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk to the police and the military without fear or favour. My elder brother is a police and I also have a military officer. I want to state here that the police are the fence of the country and when a police does anything wrong, it goes wide like harmattan fire. The military are clever people and whenever MAC-P is invoked, they mount checkpoints. The military usually push the police officers to go and solicit favour; and when they come, they share it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my first rented house after I left my parent was in a ghetto. In that ghetto, the neighbours informed the police that there are incidences of theft in the community, the police came to raid and after the raid, they bribed them. They would warn you to be careful with a particular person. There was one thing the wife of the ghetto master used to tell me each time there was a pending raid. I was teaching at that time and she would tell me a dream she had. She always dreamt and her dreams always come to pass. So until such a time little did I realise that she was trying to test the level of my secrecy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have worked for the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] and I can state here that the level of compliance with the police is very great. I have also been a member of the Perception Survey at the ACC. The police always comply more than most institutions in this country. But because they

are the face of the country, the problem of one police man affects all. I can however state here that they have professionalism and I have also seen instances where they displayed such. I think what we need to do is to give them the tools.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the solution is that let us digitalised our security system by bringing modernised technology. The World is moving with technology and this Parliament is not an exception. The police pushed us out of this Well on the day we wanted to participate in the election of the Speaker. There are no cameras to show the public how the police chased us out. As we speak, people are saying that the APC Members of Parliament walked out. We did not walk out. Let us have digitalised security to complement our security forces.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us improve the neighbourhood security. S.O 2 'watch your neighbour.' Let us make use of our vigilantes instead of MAC-P. MAC-P is scary and it is frightening. In fact, police who are patrolling the streets at night is also frightening. They usually stop your vehicle and make you look like a criminal, only to tell you later, S.O [2] madam, you 'bɔbɔ dae o. Water nɔ dae?' I was walking along the Lumley Beach Road with a tourist and he was so frightened that he asked me to take him back.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe MAC-P is not appropriate at this time. There are areas where MAC-P is more useful than the situation we are describing now. Let us ratify some of the conventions, vis-à-vis, the Maputo Protocol that talks about early child marriage. We have to capacitate our youth. The youth do not have jobs in my constituency, Constituency 116. I have more than fifteen Ataya bases along the Bai Bureh Waterloo High Way, starting from Portee to Congo Water. There are professionals without jobs. Please go there and crosscheck this statement. We usually call them idlers. If you go to any Ataya Bases, you would find learned people there. They do not have jobs and they want to work. An idle mind is the devil's workshop. Let us provide jobs for them. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I now recognise the Honourable Kandeh K. Yumkella, followed by Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo and then finally the Leader of Government Business will wind up the debate.



**HON. DR. KANDEH K. YUMKELLA** [*Leader of the NGC*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of course the issue we have put on the Table is very complex and I want to commend Mr Speaker for suggesting that we devote this day and also to commend our colleague, Honourable Hassan A. Sesay and Honourable Dickson Rogers for moving this Motion this morning. Everything that has been said here has some element of truth. My first comment is that I want to appeal to our colleagues from the security forces that this House wants frank dialogue. We are all fathers and we are not here to bash the security forces, but to provide an honest assessment of where we are as a nation. I want the security forces to take this in good spirit. That is why the Honourable Speaker said we should not discuss this issue to ourselves without you. We have to form a partnership to solve this issue. So, from what you heard from both sides was not meant to criticise you, but to critique the problem. That is the first spirit and we are together. If there is chaos, lawlessness or we start hiding from our children, it is a problem for all of us. So, I wanted to emphasise the spirit under which the Speaker asked for this debate. This is because I know that Sierra Leoneans will be saying S. O [2], 'den call di police en soja tiday, den don go tɔk pan den. We nɔ tɔk pan dem.' I heard a lot of speakers on both sides saying that the parents bear the greatest responsibility if we do not take care of our kids properly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was working in US, we use to say, if you keep pushing the problem to the parents, finally you would push it to the womb. In other words, you will say the kids did not have good nutrition. The fact is, we have an immediate problem and that immediate problem requires everything they have said here. Some of the solutions are long term, but we have a security problem as we speak. I believe the Speaker was hinting on it. We have to ask ourselves very honestly if our police are equipped enough to deal with this problem. If they are not, what can we give them to enforce the laws? Initially, I was convinced about the MAC-P solution, but when the misgivings started coming out, I said indeed this debate is necessary. So, I would not call it MAC-P, but if the police do not have the capacity in the short term, i.e., in the next six months, can they ask for help from the military and in what form? Well, it could be in the form of MAC-P, but not necessarily soldiers with guns. We could have soldiers without their guns. We are all

looking for immediate solutions. We could have joint patrols. We had it during the civil war and during the Ebola epidemic. I think we should have a modified version of MAC-P because when some of us hear about MAC-P, we think immediately that the weapons will be brought out. There should be joint partnership between the army and the police to secure this nation. I am fully convinced that we cannot deny the children to conduct their sports. The bad elements cannot scare all of us. When those kids go to the stadium or on their way to the stadium, they have to see real security around. It is necessary. Let the bad boys and girls say that S.O [2] 'to God tiday security dae na ya oh.'

Mr Speaker, what I have seen in the United States and elsewhere in those days is that no bags were allowed into the stadium. You stop them may be half a mile away and search them. All bags should be left at home, but we cannot deny our kids sports. Some of us are where we are because sports helped us to be competitive, disciplined and to aim high. I believe there should be maximum security, whether in Freetown, Bo, Kambia and other places where inter-collegiate activities are taking place on a rotational basis. We have to enforce maximum security. There are places where these people usually hide. There should be neighbourhood visitation, including security forces.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think parliamentarians, in collaboration with our local LUC's in our constituencies, need to take this message. We need to tell them that lawlessness is on the increase and we need security. I had a small incident in my constituency and I called everybody at the Court Barry. I also summoned the OC and he came well prepared. We told them that politics is over and the President is His Excellency Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. We told them that the 'chief and I are the authority here and that nobody will be tolerated to cause havoc.' We have to show zero tolerance. There is no room to accommodate indiscipline and violence. So, Members of Parliament should do the same in our localities. I am saying this for us to become part of that neighbourhood visit to explain to our children that this is no longer tolerated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to emphasise something here. The Honourable Gevao spoke about school authorities. If sporting activities are

announced, the teachers have a shared responsibility as Mr Speaker said. For those who went to Christ the King College School, Father Lawn used to talk to us. He used to say, you are going down to Bo town to compete with other schools, anyone of you caught misbehaving, you would be dealt with. However, everybody knew that the CKC boys were always behaving because Father Lawn made us understand that any single one of us who misbehaved and the teachers reported to him, you would be in trouble. So, I believe the schools also have a responsibility.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there were undertones about the lack of justice or delayed justice. Some Members of Parliament spoke about the lack of reports from the police. I have lived in this country for four years now and there had been incidences where people were imprisoned with impunity and nothing happened. We have not seen any enquiries and nobody wants to know. They usually say that if you are doing organisational management culture, you will eat strategy as breakfast. You can have the best plan, but if people believe the culture is impunity S.O [2] *'den kin do bad en na bof case'*, they will not listen to any of us. So, I believe those colleagues who have talked about injustice or delayed justice and the lack of reports, even when some of our security forces do not do the right thing, it sends a message that *'all tin na buff case,'* [S.O. 2] It begins to nurture in that culture that you kin do bad S.O [2] *'natin nor dae comot beyen.'*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let it be known to the public that we called this meeting for us to find solution. I was shocked when I left Parliament at 6:00 p.m. on a particular day and I met the procession along Circular Road and we had to park on the side and waited. We saw the kids running all over the place. So, when the Speaker proposed the following day, I agreed for this debate. The spirit here today is not to criticise the security forces, but to say the parents and security forces have a responsibility to ensure law and order is maintained in this country. We cannot hide from our kids at all. Discipline is important and you cannot succeed in your professional life if you do not respect authority or if you are not disciplined. We have a responsibility and that is why we are here. Whatever we can do to help you, we will want to do it, but we cannot have a nation of anarchist, a nation where *'all tin na buff case.'* Discipline and rule of law must prevail. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. He reminds me of the old adage, 'you cannot hide behind your fingers.'

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** We thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to start by congratulating Honourable Hassan A. Sesay and Honourable Dickson M. Rogers, who are coincidentally Whips of APC and SLPP respectively for bringing this Motion to this House. This Motion has allowed us to discuss a very important national issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by way of starting my brief intervention, may I state here that our own side believes that there must be a better way of helping the police in handling issues relating to the collapse of discipline in this country. We do not believe that MAC-P is the answer and we are not going to contribute to any discussion that has to do with MAC-P. However, Mr Speaker has provided leadership this afternoon by reminding us about many other things that ought to be taken into consideration. More importantly, you came up with the idea of a Select Committee to address this very important matter and lucky enough I have worked in all the arms of government and this is a parliamentary issue brought up by parliamentarians and presided over by you. This select committee must be supervised by Parliament. We would not want to see any case whereby the Executive is included to supervise an idea which is ours. I say this because I have worked in the cabinet and I was adviser to the President. I know how State House can take over issues in a very cunning way. However, your suggestion is welcome and we will cooperate with you in putting together a select committee to address this very important issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, indiscipline is not a novelty. When we were young, we had this unacceptable black September issue, where people invaded homes, stole people's property and killed people. We all remembered the Mammy Yoko Street incidence, where school boys were killed by their colleagues. We also remembered the Wellington Street Incident. The Mammy Yoko Street Incident made me to shed tears for the very first time. The then President said enough is enough and those young men of 17 and 19 years where executed. Their corpses were displayed at Pademba Road. That was the President's own idea of putting an end to that kind of activity. Ironically, for the next 15 to 20 years, nothing of that nature

happened again. We do not know whether that can be an answer now, but I would not suggest that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen the police develop to the point whereby today we have police officers with PhD degrees. We have police officers with Master degrees. This means we have highly educated police officers and I would not think that they cannot read and understand our Constitution. I think they can read and understand the Constitution, but what we must do is to address the issue of what they need to be able to perform their duties. I cherish communication, but the police in Sierra Leone do not have the capacity to improve their communication system. They cannot communicate with each other and because of the absence of effective communication system, they are handicapped. I would want to know whether the LUC in Kenema can effectively and urgently communicate with the LUC in Kabala. This is important and we have people in this country who can install systems to improve the telecommunication system in this country that will help the police to perform their duties. We have said we do not want to talk about MAC-P, but the military is also very important. These are people we should also be encouraged to be on the alert just in case something goes wrong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the Prisons Department. The late Justice Turay once told me a very interesting story. He had just sent a young man to jail for five years. As far as he was concerned, he has sent somebody to jail for five years and in deed he has sent other to jail. One day, he went to the NP at Brookfields for his car to be washed. He saw this young man coming with a bucket to wash his car and he said, were you not the fellow I sent to jail about one week ago? The fellow said, 'yes sir.' He asked, 'what happened? Why are you here?' The young man said S.O [2], 'den say leh ar go.' So, we need to do something about that. The Prison officers are here. There is a joke at Pademba Road called 'court rise.' There are people at Pademba road who sometimes spend long terms without going through the process or without going through proper trials. Sometimes they spend up to three to four years without being properly tried. This is why the poor Prison Officers usually take them to the court and spend the whole day without positive results. The trial will not take place and the inmates will be brought back. This continues up to

five years or six years. So, we should also take that into consideration. This is why my Lawyer friend from the SLPP side, made the point very clear that the judicial system must also be looked into very seriously. When you keep people in prison for a period of four years without trial, you will experience problems.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people sometimes can be bitter and angry. We are in a system where people feel angry for lack of jobs. Sometimes when we advertise for recruitment, we place more emphasis on work experience. In this case, we are not doing justice to those who have just graduated from Fourah Bay College or Njala University, etc. You are asking for five years job experience when the man has just graduated from university. How can he qualify for the job? In other words, you are already expelling him from the competition. These are some of the issues we must begin to address.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have young men who go to the ghettos. They have nothing serious to talk about rather than their plights. Things are very difficult. If drive my car to the junction, the young men will be there waiting because I must give them some money. They need it and if you do not help them, they will be in trouble. They have to buy the cookery in the morning and their fathers do not have the money to help them. Sometimes, parents actually send their daughters to go out to the streets to bring money. How will they bring this money if they do not go to men? They come with money in the morning and sometimes if they do not come with the money their parents are angry. So, these are some of the problems.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, talking about indiscipline, I went to a place to visit on a Sunday and I found this middle aged lady crying. She was crying because she was flogged by her own daughter. She put on the shoes of her own daughter and her daughter said you have no right to put on my shoes. You have to buy your own shoes, but the woman is poor. Well, this is how poverty can create problems.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I congratulate the Honourable Hassan A. Sesay and Honourable Dickson M. Rogers for this opportunity to discuss this very important issue. However, we cannot complete this debate at this point if we do not further address the more complicated issue that has to do with the poverty factors responsible for these problems. This explains why I agree with you and I am going

to repeat that we have to put in place a select committee to address this issue without further delay. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo. I would now invite the Leader of Government Business to have the last word.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like my colleague on the other side, the Acting Leader of the Opposition has just said, I want to congratulate the Whip on the Opposition Bench and the Chief Whip for this Motion. The issue of violence should not just be limited to youth violence. For the past years, we have witnessed an increase in violence against women and young girls. I believe it is becoming a societal problem that requires the attention of every one of us seated in this Parliament. I do not and I will never want to politicise it, but this is an issue this government must look into very seriously. It is a problem that was inherited, but it is not an excuse for us at all. We will not be in power and see things taking negative direction. I therefore believe that we must, as a government, ensure that youth violence and violence against women is completely dealt with in this country. We have listened to all the speakers in Parliament today and I believe this particular debate clearly shows that there is indeed a problem with our criminal justice system, our security forces, and the government. We must ensure that adequate provisions are made for our security forces to ensure that they do their jobs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have said this over and over that His Excellency the President has on several occasions, in my presence, denounced violence and at some point even appealed to the young people of this country to move away from violence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo said, enough is enough. Immediately after this sitting, I will go to State House, so that actions are taken against anybody or youth, irrespective of your age, who is involved in violence. It is no longer going to be business as usual [*Applause*]. As a Parliament and with your support, I want to announce the Select Committee that the Speaker was referring to and this Committee would be given few days to suggest solutions to

the problem we have at hand in addition to what I have just said. Members of the select committee are:

1. Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina - Chairman;
2. Hon. Dickson M. Rogers - Deputy Chairman;
3. Hon. Hassan A. Sesay - Member;
4. Hon. Rosemarie Bangura - Member;
5. Hon. Hindolo M. Gevao - Member;
6. Hon. Abdul Kargbo - Member;
7. Hon. Quintin Salia-Konneh - Member;
8. Hon. Dominic J. Tshombe-Lavalie - Member; and
9. Hon. P.C Sahr Youngai Kontanday Mbriwa II - Member

That is the composition of the Select Committee and the Honourable Speaker will give the terms of reference of this Committee, including the number of days you are going to report back to Parliament or if we are on holidays, you at least be required to report to the leadership in Parliament.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues Honourable Members for a brilliant debate. I have also heard a lot and trust me as Leader of Government Business and Leader of this House, I am going to ensure that there is discipline once more in the streets of Freetown. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Members who have taken the Floor on this very important topic.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, but that is the procedure.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have a leader.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Yes, but I proposed the motion so I must conclude. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank my colleagues.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is there anything new you have to say?

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Procedurally, let us do the right thing. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues for taking part in this debate and we have all done it genuinely. Mr Speaker did ask that we depoliticised the debate and I have always said that if we want to change this country, we can use



this Parliament as a change agent and act on issues rather than on our partisan affiliations. I want to thank my colleagues and since a Select Committee had been constituted to address this issue, I think we are moving forward and I am sure that issues of this nature will keep coming as they arise based on the demands or the dynamics of our society. We should not forget that the children are our children and we have to dictate what should happen. We must not allow them to hold us to ransom, therefore we ought to tell them. Let us also have in mind what they call the element of socialisation, starting from the home, the peer group, institutions, work place etc. If we have all of this in mind, those are all the things we take together holistically to address this issue and make sure that the issue of street violence becomes an issue of the past. I thank you very much for this debate and hope that the Select Committee comes out with something that will be more meaningful and live up to the expectations of the Speaker and this Honourable House. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to thank all Honourable Members, who have participated in this very important debate. I have nothing new to add except to do the following, there would be two questions that I would put to the House.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Private Member's Motion by Honourable Hassan A. Sesay has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** The second question has to do with the membership of the Committee, which was announced by the Leader of Government Business. I want it to be approved. Its mandate is to examine and inquire into this important issue of street violence in Sierra Leone and to make recommendations to this House and to the government. I repeat, the Committee, as announced by the Leader of Government Business, it has the mandate to examine this critical issue of street violence in Sierra Leone and make recommendations to this House and to the government, consistent with the resolution that we have just adopted.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Membership of the Special Select Committee to look into Street Violence has been approved]*

**THE SPEAKER:** The Committee will work and hopefully complete its work within one week because of the urgency of the problem. We cannot afford a very long delay. Let me end by saying that the Hansard of this particular debate should be made available within 48 hours maximum to the Committee that has just been established by this Parliament because the Committee would need to look through all the various contributions and recommendations that have been made during the course of the debate.

Honourable Members, I now wish to thank all those who participated in this debate. We are asking Members of the Committee to make the necessary sacrifice. I know you are eager to go to your different constituencies, but in the national interest and in pursuance of the interest that we have all manifested in the course of this debate, we are asking to make the necessary sacrifice to spend time here and address this important issue.

On your behalf, I want to thank all the security apparatus who have made themselves available in this House in the course of this debate. Thank you very much for your presence [*Applause*]. I will respectfully ask for your fullest cooperation with the Committee that we have just set up. Thank you very much.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I know we are tired, but I stand on S O 23 to officially inform this House and the general public that I am here again to promote the Bambay Bridge Project between Koinadugu and Kono Districts. This is an attempt to link the North to the East. It has begun since 2015 and work is approximately **20%** complete. Indeed, the Leader of Government Business and Leader of the Opposition paid some money. In fact, the current Secretary General of the SLPP, Honourable Kemoh Sesay, Honourable Hannah Bundu Sogowa and many others contributed. There was cooperation during the last Parliament. I cannot call all of them now. If I did not mention your name, it is due to time factor. As I speak, that bridge is very important. It has eight [8] important purposes here, but with your permission I will only state one importance. Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five [5] years living beyond this part will be able to access the hospital in central Kabala if this bridge is completed. This in turn will no doubt help to prevent lots of unnecessary deaths.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, **60%** of my constituents live beyond the river and the referral hospital for those people is in Kabala. The river is about a kilometre to the Chiefdom Headquarter. So, sometimes when the nurses call for the ambulance facilities, it takes hours before it gets there. However, after the month of June by next year, the ambulance will not be sure whether the water table is up or not. Sometimes people use hammock to convene pregnant women who are in labour to Kabala. So, **60%** ended up dying, including unborn children. So, that is one of the uses of that bridge. If that bridge is complete, the ambulance facility will be very effective. As we speak, you cannot leave Kabala to serve all the communities. It is equally difficult for business people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sorry for informing you late because of some organisational problems, but we will be having a life band show at China House today. It is Ladies Night. I am a Pastor and when I said Ladies Night, you should know what I meant. So, go with your lady. The time is 8:00 p.m. I am sorry for the late information, but I need financial help from Members of Parliament. I am pleased to inform you that we need it urgently. I know the nature of our pockets. You however have time to give a helping hand. This is a national project and with your permission, this is the design of the project it is like the Orogu Bridge which is prepared and approved by SLRA. It is **2.1Mln**, but now they are almost 80% complete we only need about **7Mln**. When we launched the operation "one man one bag cement" the people provided granite, sand, labour and food. So, all we need is iron rod, cement and few items like steel nails and other things. For the other items, the people are ready to provide them. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I need your moral and financial supports.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me speak for the entire House. We commend the effort of the Honourable Member for what he has achieved so far and we will encourage you to continue with those efforts until it is finally completed. We will urge all Honourable Members to give him every assistant to realise the fulfilment of his dream to have a bridge linking Kono and Koinadugu Districts. We wish you well. I will take two more. I can see the Rabbi again.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O 23. In the spirit of political tolerance, the Coalition for Change will be one year old on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. On this note, I want to invite the leadership of all political parties present in this Well, as well as the general membership, to Koidu City on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Thank you very much.

**HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23 as Chairman of the Human Rights Committee. You would recall that an incidence was referred to as 'alleged drowning' took place; and as a result, a Private Member's Motion was moved and an order was made for the closure of the Victoria Park. I am informed that the police have completed their investigation and have come to the conclusion that the death that ensued in that park was as a result of wet drowning. The report is in Parliament. This is the festive season and my colleagues children would want to visit the park and get some recreational activity. Those who know me can attest to the fact that I do not take money or bribe. I have high integrity in Sierra Leone. I want to crave the indulgence of this House to make that order for the National Park to be open to the public with an instruction that the pool remains closed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, when incidents occur, we have to ask whether there are remedies available. We ask ourselves the question, are there remedies available? Do you think closing the park will solve the problem? I will say no. Are there legal issues that emanate from that action? I will say yes. It might as well be negligence, but there are laws and remedies towards that, but closing the entire park prevents the kids who normally go there to get recreational facilities, particularly this festive period. I think it will not be in the best interest of the public. It is on that note I crave the indulgence of this House to reopen the park, particularly when the police report is out. They have said it was not as a result of foul play, but wet drowning. We want the kids to go there and have good times whilst we enjoy as adults in different places. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, there are two aspects to this. The Honourable Member is asking us to lift the ban on the closure of the park as well as maintain the ban that was imposed on the swimming pool. I am going to put it to the House for the ban on the swimming pool to be maintained and the ban on the

rest of the park to be lifted subject to the police report that he has made available to Members of this House. We would read that report and if it is in consonance with the advice he has given to us, well and good. If we come to the conclusion that it is otherwise, we would consider re-imposing that ban on that understanding.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to.]*

*[The ban on the closure of the Freetown Amusement Park has been lifted, but swimming pool remains closed]*

**HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, this has to do with Abess Conductors Transport. I think this happened two days ago. I dropped my wife at the bus stop to travel to Bo. I think when they reached Shell, the Company's driver announced that Bo and Kenema passengers would pay the same price and that was not the case. Then he has to come back to Rawdon Street with the passengers. When I was called upon, I went there to talk to him, but he said that his boss, Abess told him starting from the 5<sup>th</sup> December, the cost of transportation must shoot up because there is high demand. I think I want to bring this to the attention of the Chairman of Transport Committee, this is a private business man, maybe we cannot control him but maybe we may want to ask the Road Transport Corporation to make buses available so that the people will not reach to that point to suffer in the hands of such business people. For no reason prices just shoot up because they know that in the month of December there are so many passengers plying the rout.

**THE SPEAKER:** But are there not recommended transport fares?

**HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** They are. Some students in the bus actually stood against that, to my chagrin Mr Speaker, there were Military Officers and other senior states men.

**THE SPEAKER:** Then we refer this matter to the Transport Committee to look into the matter in consultation with the Ministry of Transport.

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Thank you very much sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. ALUSINE O. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Hafiju came up with a matter involving people of Arab decent moving around the

streets of Freetown giving loans to people with no collateral, they just give you something like Le500,000, the only collateral they want is your telephone number. I saw it on social media and my wife confirmed this, my wife does business at Malama Thomas street she confirmed that to me yesterday. They are giving some hardware's out, they are giving money out for no collateral at all and they are of Arab descent. These people have threatened us that because we sent peace keeping forces outside, they will infiltrate into Sierra Leone and cause havoc. We should not treat this with levity, the security personnel were here and they have left now, nothing was said about it. I want us to take this very seriously since we have seen what these people are capable of doing in other countries. So, this is my submission sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would recommend very strongly to the House that this matter be referred to the Committee on Internal Affairs working in consultation with the police. Internal Affairs Committee working in conjunction with the Police should investigate this matter and report to the House.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, two quick things. The matter of Abess like Honourable Member said, they will say Abess is a private entity. So I want this House to give us a stronger mandate because just in case you want to invite them because we had situations in this Parliament when they will say no, they are private people don't invite them. It is a very serious matter, it is not only Abess, Mr Speaker, most times when there is Christmas or Pray day or Easter, the petrol price remains the same but transportation fare increases.

**THE SPEAKER:** Are there not recommended transport fares?

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [Chief Whip]:** They are Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** From city to city

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [Chief Whip]:** They are.

**THE SPEAKER:** Supervised by the Ministry of Transport?

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [Chief Whip]:** Thank you sir, it is.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is why we have referred the matter to the Transport Committee, working in consultation with the Transport Ministry.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [*Chief Whip*]:** On that note is it possible for this House to give us the mandate to invite the Ministry and Abess?

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course. It is part of your Oversight duty.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [*Chief Whip*]:** Thank you sir, and the Drivers` Union. Lastly, Mr Speaker, the point the last speaker spoke about is not only of a security matter, but I think it also has to do with NRA. What I found out is that those people are evading taxes because they don't want to pay tax, they don't want to take offices and are doing black marketing and evading taxes. Therefore, I agree with you Mr Speaker for that matter to be investigated with the utmost urgency it deserves. It is not only link with security, but it is also linked with evading our taxes in this country. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Committee concerned will take that point on board.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]:** Mr Speaker, I just want to come back to the Chairman of Committee on Transport. I really want to make something very clear to Honourable Members, especially Chairmen and their deputies and Clerks of Committees. Please do not invite private companies to this House directly, but always go through the relevant ministries that may be concerned. Mr Speaker, We should not have any relationship with private companies. Let us deal with the relevant Ministries or Departments. Thank you.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Thank you Mr Speaker, I have tried to catch your eye throughout the day and finally I have been able to catch your eye. Thank you sir. Two issue sir under S.O 23. The first is incidences of drowning as a result of schools now engaged in activities of outing. Schools in the western area are highly engaged as part of their academic calendar. There is an incidence in my constituency, quite recently that we have 3 or 4 children of my constituency that were drowned because of outing organised by their schools. So I want this Honourable House to note and to see what we can do, we are not saying we are

against schools having activities but activities leading to the loss of lives is very critical and it is crucial to this nation. That is one.

Secondly, the Honourable Speaker has referred two matters in this House and I would want the Honourable Speaker and Members, particularly new Members of Parliament who constitute about **75%** of committees, that Committee is a group of people given specific mandate by a larger group, but that is not the case in Committees in the Parliament of Sierra Leone. Most Committees are yanked away from the general membership by the Chairmen and the Clerk. So I would want to say in a situation wherein reports come out and Members of that Committee discountenance those reports because I understand we should submit reports to the leadership and to the Speaker by these Committees and Members of those committees discountenance those reports, it should not be a shock to the Speaker, that those Members were not involved in the process but they were not part of those processes from which those reports emanate. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think there is a clear memorandum to the effect that Oversight Committees cannot undertake Oversight work without prior authority. It is very clear and I am repeating it again.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 5:05 p.m. and was Adjourned Sine Die]*