

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

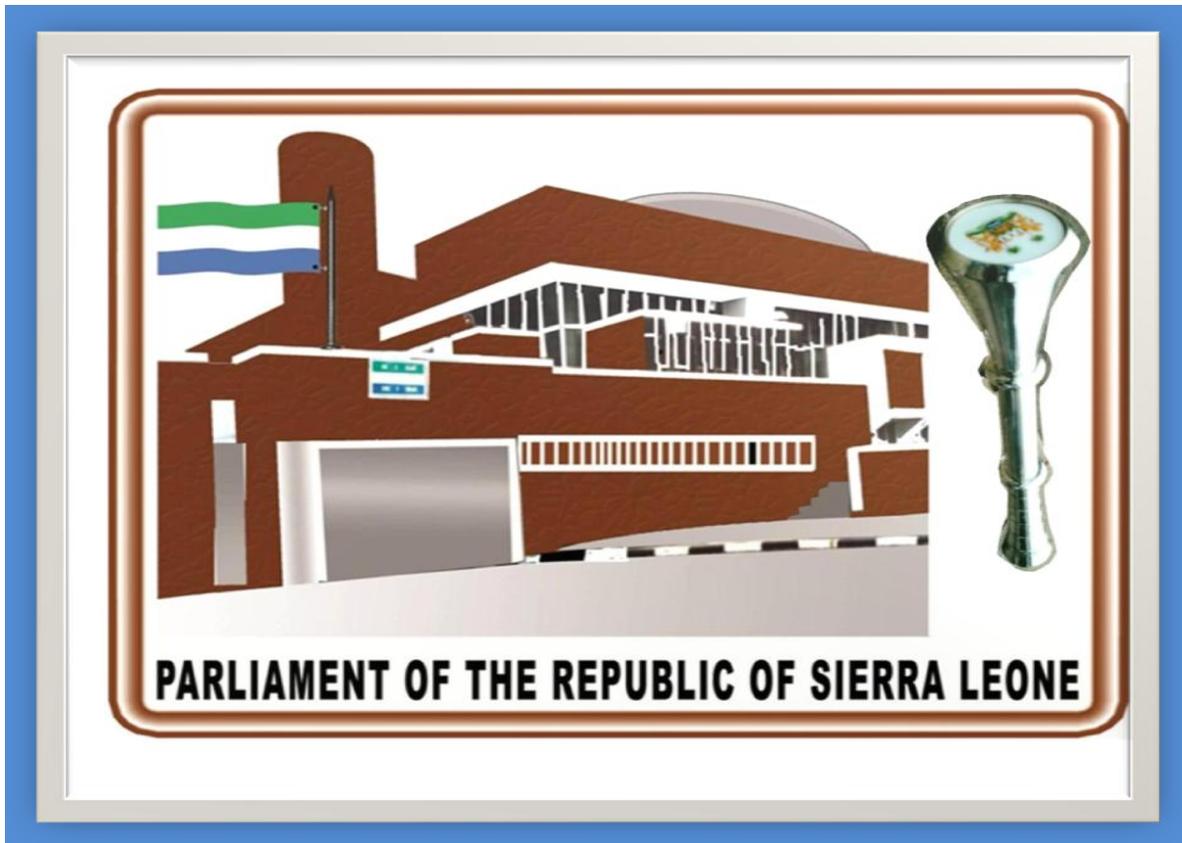
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING**

**MONDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

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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 Monday, 12th November, 2018.

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[FIRST ALLOTTED DAY]



*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 – FIRST MEETING  
OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:25 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

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk, do you have anything to say?

**HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]:** Good morning Honourable Members. It is announced from Mr Speaker that since the Votes and Proceedings for the sitting held on Friday sitting is not yet ready, I ask that that particular item on the Order Paper be deferred to the next adjourned date. We can proceed with the next item on the Order Paper.

**II. BILL**

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2019

BEING AN ACT TO AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR THE SERVICES OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 2019 AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

[SECOND READING]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

[FIRST ALLOTTED DAY]

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Minister, you may take your seat for the time being. Honourable Members, you would recall that the Budget was read here on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018 and I was told that it is only this morning the estimates have been presented to Honourable Members of this House. In light of that and taking into account the various comments that have come from Honourable Members about the need for us to be prompt with the issuance of documentation relevant to the debate of this House, I will now postpone the debate on the 2018 Appropriation Bill until Wednesday, when we shall commence the Second Reading and proceed on Thursday and Friday *[Applause]*

In that connection, Honourable Members, I want to reiterate the position I have expressed before that this Parliament is not a rubberstamp Parliament and nobody should take this Parliament as a rubberstamp Parliament. I would not allow that at all *[Applause]*. If you know that your document is important and it is going to form part and parcel of the discussions of the debate of this House, it ought to be made available

on good time *[Applause]*. Having said that, I give the Floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH** *[Leader of the Opposition]*: Mr Speaker, you may want to release the Minister?

**THE SPEAKER**: Yes, the Minister is released.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH**: Mr Speaker, I want to thank you very much and to also apologise for the delay because on several occasions, you have been asking for our confirmation regarding our contribution towards the 'Free Quality Education.' I hereby confirm that having consulted with my colleagues, we would like to be part of the scheme. In other words, we are going to contribute towards the project *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER**: I want to thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for that statement and I am most grateful to him and to the Members of his party for the endorsement given to the pledge I made towards this Project. I will now convey the collective endorsement of this House to the Chief Minister, who has written to me this morning, seeking to know the position of Parliament. With that statement you have just made, it is now clear that this Parliament is going to contribute towards the 'Free Quality Education.' Let me repeat what our pledge is, Honourable Members. I made a pledge on behalf of Members of this House and the deductions will commence at the end of January, 2019 *[Applause]*.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS**: Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to thank Members of the Opposition for supporting the Free Quality Education Programme. When we say Free Quality Education in this country, it is not about the government of the day; it is about Sierra Leoneans. They have proven that they are true Sierra Leoneans and on behalf of our party, I want to say a very big thank you to them. I hope this type of spirit will continue in this House. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER**: Honourable Shiaka Sama, you have the Floor.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O 23, under personal explanation. This past weekend, I hosted the Vice President, Dr Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh.

**THE SPEAKER:** What S.O are you standing on, Honourable Member?

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, S.O 23, under 'Personal Explanation.' Mr Speaker, can I proceed?

**THE SPEAKER:** You may not proceed, Honourable Member. Please check your Standing Orders again.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, I do not know whether this is the right time for me to give 'personal explanation.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, what S.O. did you stand on?

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, I said S.O. 23, under 'Personal Explanation.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, did you say S.O. 28?

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** No, I said S.O. 23.

**THE SPEAKER:** I do not think my hearing is defective, but I did hear S.O. 28 and that was why I referred you back to the Standing Orders.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** I am happy that you have finally heard me.

**THE SPEAKER:** You may proceed.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you very much. I want to announce to this House that I hosted the Vice President, Dr Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh in my constituency. He was sent by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio to go on a fact finding mission in relation to the land crisis at Malen Chiefdom. He held meetings with stakeholders, including the Paramount Chief, land owners and the people who were involved in the crisis. I want to also inform this House that they visited three communities in that Chiefdom. I want to state here that no Vice President has visited those villages.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy also to inform this House that the increasing tension at Malen Chiefdom before the arrival of the Vice President has improved and the people of Malen have been given some hopes that something would

be done about the crisis. We are very happy that the Vice President was with us and he gave hopes to the people of Malen. Mr Speaker, Members on this side are causing lots of noise. What do you want me to withdraw? There is nothing to withdraw.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, your language is un-parliamentary. You are provoking situations.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, I told the Honourable Member to keep quiet. I did not say shut-up..

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a better way you could have put it.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Instead of keep quiet?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Member.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** I told the Honourable Member to keep quiet and I did not say shut-up. If I said 'shut-up,' I am sorry.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member!

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I could only pretend that I did not hear you.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will give you one more minute.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, we are very happy for the visit of the Vice President. He went to our constituency he gave the people hope. He assured the people of Malen that this government will do everything within its power to resolve the issue that was created by the past government. We will be more grateful if this government resolves the matter. This problem was created by the APC regime. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I think it is our own duty on this side to make an additional statement to the statement made by the Honourable Member. His explanation is totally insufficient because he talked about a crisis which we know

nothing about and he spoke about the visitation of the Vice President to discuss a crisis which he has not properly explained to us. I will plead with you, Mr Speaker, to ask the Honourable Member to explain to us in full details the nature of the crisis.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, Honourable Member. I would not allow that again because he had sufficient time to have done that. He misused his time by listening to undertones.

**HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I still have to remind myself that I am a parliamentarian, but most of you still think of my immediate past as an activist or media practitioner. On the media platform, I know we have the Independent Media Commission [IMC] and I think we have approved the Chairman of that Commission. I would want to say that this is something I heard from fellow colleague, a media personnel bitterly complaining about the reconstitution of the IMC. If something happens, they will be taken to court because the IMC is yet to be constituted. So, I want to kindly ask the Committee on Appointments to ensure that they fast-track the approval of the nominees for that Commission. Thank you sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** In the absence of the Leader of Government Business, I have just been advised that the fault lies not with the Appointments Committee, but with some of the nominees who are yet to make themselves available to the Committee. And until that is done, I am afraid the Committee cannot proceed with its work. I hope that answers your concern.

**HON. SAMUEL P. GENEWAL:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. I heard some comments from my constituents, asking me about our stance on this situation about demanding so much money for our jobs. It seems we have been vilified as Members of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you really want to proceed with that matter here?

**HON. SAMUEL P. GENEWAL:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**HON. OSMAN A. TIMBO:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O 23 and I want to draw the attention of this Parliament that I have been reliably informed by

people from the Emergency Hospital that they are scaling down operations because they have asked for Local Medical Officers, but that had not happened as we speak. Mr Speaker, kids below the age of 14 are usually admitted, but only those in critical conditions are admitted because this has not been done. We ask that the Committee on Health takes cognisance of this, so as to ameliorate the situation. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** How urgent is this situation, Honourable Member? Is it one that can await the attention of the Committee on Health or maybe we need to invite the Honourable Minister of Health?

**HON. OSMAN A. TIMBO:** Mr Speaker, it is very urgent.

**THE SPEAKER:** If it is that urgent, then we need to invite the Minister of Health to this Chamber on the next adjourned date for us to receive an explanation on what is happening at the Emergency Hospital.

**HON. AHMED S. TURAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also stand on S.O 23. I just want to call the attention of the Committee on Education that since all of us have embraced the Free Quality Education, it is right for all of us in this country to benefit from this gesture. In my Constituency, Constituency 073, six schools are scaling down because of the Free Quality Education. This is because people are not paying to the authorities again and these schools have not been approved by government. Mr Speaker, since they have not been approved, it is the community that is taking care of the teachers. Therefore, now that the parents are refusing to pay and the teachers are refusing to go to the schools, there are no more schools in that constituency. I am talking about six secondary schools in Constituency 073. So, I call on the Committee on Education to conduct a survey and expedite the approval of those schools, so that the teachers could be sent to those schools.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for the concern he has just expressed. Let me quickly respond to the last speaker. Whilst the Committee on Education is taking note of the concern you have expressed, I will advise that you bring

your concerns immediately to the attention of the Minister of Basic Education. It takes a while for the Committee to take action. It would be sooner if you were to take upon yourself to visit the Ministry of Education and bring the issue to their attention.

Honourable Sorieba, do you still want the Floor? I think we have had enough, unless you have a very pressing problem that you want to bring under S.O 23. Honourable Sorieba, will you rise please? What are you wearing? You are not properly attired. Please take leave of us.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, just before you made a comment on the Honourable Member's attire, we had already started talking about it together with the Chief Whip on the other side. If we still want this law to prevail, particularly so for the start of the week, I also observed another colleague on the extreme side there.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please call the name of the Honourable Member.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Honourable Panda and Honourable Musa Moigua. This is not personal, but if that is the rule, it has to be equally applied.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Panda, will you rise? Please take leave of this House until further notice.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 10:55 a.m. and was adjourned to Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018  
at 10:00 a.m.]*